# MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF INDIA

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## 1. Muslim Invasion of India

### Administration and Socio-Economic Impact of Arab Rule in Sindh

- The Arab conquest of Sindh (712 CE) is primarily depicted in the Chachnama (or Fathnama-i-Sindh).
- According to Chachnama, the capital of the Indus Country in the 6th and 7th centuries was Arod (Aror/Alor).
- In Sanskrit texts and inscriptions from the 8th to 14th centuries, terms used to denote Muslims included Turushka, Tajika, and Parashika.
- In Islam, offering prayers five times a day is called Salat.
- The Arab traveller Suleman (Sulaiman) presented an account of the period of Mihir Bhoj (Pratihara ruler).
- Vikramashila, a prominent center of learning in medieval India, was established by King Dharmapala of the Pala dynasty.

### Arab Invasion of Sindh: Causes and Context

- India's earliest contact with Islam occurred through Arab merchants on the Malabar coast in the 7th century CE, predating the invasion of Sindh.
- The Arab invasion of Sindh in 712 CE marks the first successful Muslim military expedition into India.
- Primary Cause: The expansionist policy of the Umayyad Caliphate.
- Immediate Cause: Piracy off the coast of Debal (Sindh). Ships carrying gifts/orphans from the ruler of Sri Lanka to Caliph Al-Walid and Governor Hajjaj bin Yusuf were plundered.
- The ruler of Sindh, Raja Dahir (a Brahmin), refused to compensate or punish the pirates, prompting retaliation.

- Governor Hajjaj bin Yusuf (of Iraq) dispatched his nephew and son-in-law, Muhammad bin Qasim, to invade Sindh.
- Muhammad bin Qasim successfully invaded Sindh in 712 CE, defeating and killing Raja Dahir.
- Key conquests included Debal, Nerun, Brahmanabad, Aror, and Multan (often called 'City of Gold').
- The Arab rule remained largely confined to Sindh and Multan, having limited political penetration into the rest of India.
- The invasion facilitated cultural exchange, especially the transmission of Indian knowledge (mathematics, astronomy, medicine) to the Arab world.

## Background and Precursors: Arab Incursions into Persia and Central Asia

- North Indian trade and commerce experienced decline between 7th and 10th centuries.
- A contributing factor to this decline was the collapse of the West Roman Empire.

## Causes for the Success of Turkish Invaders against Indian Kingdoms

- Political Disunity: North India fragmented into numerous independent kingdoms (e.g., various Rajput states), lacking a centralized authority or united front against invaders, often engaged in internal conflicts.
- Military Superiority:
  - Turkish forces employed superior cavalry, horse archers, and better strategic tactics, discipline, and maneuverability.
  - Indian armies often relied on slow-moving elephants and less agile infantry, making them vulnerable to swift Turkish attacks.
- Motivation:
  - Turkish invaders and soldiers were highly motivated by economic gain (plunder of wealth and resources) and religious zeal (jihad).
  - Indian armies, primarily feudal, lacked the same level of direct economic incentive for their soldiers.
- Social Structure: The prevalent caste system in India contributed to social divisions and disunity, hindering collective societal and military resistance.

## Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: Qutb al-Din Aibak and Initial Consolidation

- Bakhtiyar Khalji, a general under Muhammad Ghori (and later Qutb al-Din Aibak), was the first Muslim conqueror of Bihar.
- Bakhtiyar Khalji destroyed Nalanda Vihar and Vikramshila Mahavihara.
- He is considered the real founder of Turk rule in Bihar.
- Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered Bengal (capital Nadia/Lakshmanavati) in the early 13th century (circa 1202-1206 AD).
- The earliest detailed account of Bakhtiyar Khalji's invasions of Bihar and Bengal is found in Minhaj-ud-din Siraj's 'Tabaqat-i Nasiri'.
- Timur captured Delhi in 1398 AD.

## First Battle of Tarain (1191 AD) and its Aftermath

- First Battle of Tarain occurred in 1191 AD.
- It was fought between Muhammad Ghori (Ghuran forces) and a confederacy of Rajput rulers led by Prithviraj Chauhan III of Ajmer and Delhi.
- Prithviraj Chauhan emerged victorious in the First Battle of Tarain.
- Muhammad Ghori was defeated and forced to retreat to Ghazni, suffering a significant loss.
- Prithviraj Chauhan did not strategically pursue the retreating Ghori army, allowing Ghori to reorganize and return with greater force.
- The chronological order of the specified Chauhan rulers is: Chamundaraj, Durlabhraj III, Vigraharaj III, Prithviraj I.

## Impact of Ghaznavid Raids on North-Western India

- Ghaznavid raids by Mahmud (c. 1000-1027 AD) primarily aimed at plundering wealth

and weakening Indian kingdoms, not permanent rule.
- Raids significantly weakened the Shahi dynasty in North-Western India, paving the way for future invasions.
- Al-Biruni (Abu Rayhan Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Biruni): A Persian scholar who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni to India.
- Al-Biruni authored the famous literary work 'Kitab-ul-Hind' (Book of India) also known as 'Tahqiq-i-Hind' (Researches on India).
- 'Kitab-ul-Hind' was written in Arabic language.
- The book provides a detailed description of 11th-century Indian society, religion, philosophy, sciences, customs, and geography, especially of North India.
- 'Kitab-ul-Hind' mentions the Sun Temple of Multan.
- The Sun Temple of Multan was also mentioned by other travelers like Hiuen Tsang, Abuzaiyid, and Al Masudi.
- The pilgrimage to Sambapur was associated with Sun worship.

## Indian Resistance to Ghaznavid Invasions

- Shahi Dynasty (Hindu Shahis): Formed the primary line of defense against Ghaznavids in Afghanistan and Punjab. Key rulers included Jayapala and Anandapala, who fought multiple battles against Mahmud of Ghazni.
- Gurjar Pratiharas: A major power in northern India, though their empire was in decline by the time of Mahmud's major raids. Their earlier strength had checked western incursions for centuries.
- Mathan Dev: A Gurjar Pratihara ruler of a local branch. He ruled from Rajorgarh (Rajyapura) in the Alwar region, as documented by the Rajorgarh inscription.
- Rajput Confederacies: Various Rajput kingdoms across North India, including Chauhans, Tomars, Parmaras, Chandelas, and Solankis, periodically formed alliances to resist Ghaznavid incursions.
- Chandelas of Jejakabhukti: King Ganda offered resistance against Mahmud during his campaign towards Kalinjar.
- Tomars of Delhi: Participated in the larger Rajput confederacies against Ghaznavid forces.
- Solankis of Gujarat: King Bhima I confronted Mahmud of Ghazni during his infamous raid on the Somnath temple (1025-1026 CE).

## Mahmud of Ghazni: Motives, Campaigns, and Destruction of Indian Temples

- Mahmud was the Sultan of Ghazni.
- Main motive for Indian invasions was to acquire wealth (plunder) to finance his Central Asian empire.
- Conducted multiple campaigns into India, famously against the Hindushahi ruler King Jaypala.
- Destroyed the Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1025 AD.
- Historian Al-Biruni (Abu Rayhan Biruni) accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni on several expeditions to India.
- Al-Biruni was a contemporary of Mahmud of Ghazni.
- Al-Biruni authored the book "Tahqiq-i-Hind" (or "Kitab-ul-Hind").
- Al-Biruni criticized Mahmud's behavior towards Hindus.
- The Persian poet Firdausi, who composed 'Shah Namah', was associated with Sultan Mahmud's court.

## Muhammad bin Qasim's Campaigns and Conquest of Sindh (712 AD)

- First successful Muslim invasion of India.
- Led by Muhammad bin Qasim (Arab general).
- Year of invasion and conquest of Sindh: 712 AD.
- Ruler of Sindh at the time: Raja Dahir (Hindu king).
- Muhammad bin Qasim defeated and killed Raja Dahir.
- Primary source detailing the history of Sindh and its conquest by Arabs: Chach Namah (also known as Fateh-namah-i Sindh).

## Muhammad Ghori's Further Campaigns and Consolidation of Turkish Power

- Battle of Chandawar (1194 AD): Muhammad Ghori defeated Jaichand, the Gahadavala ruler of Kannauj.
- Jaichand was killed in the Battle of Chandawar.
- Chandawar is located in the Etawah district of U.P., on the bank of the river Yamuna.
- Bakhtiyar Khalji's Campaigns (Subordinate of Ghori):
- Conquered Bihar (1193 AD), destroying Nalanda and Vikramshila universities.
- Invaded Bengal in 1202-03 AD.
- During his Bengal invasion (1202-03), Khalji attacked Tirhut.
- Raja Narshimhadeva, the ruler of Tirhut, agreed to pay tribute, and his territory was restored by Khalji.

## Rise of the Ghaznavid Dynasty and Turkish Incursions

1. Alptigin: A Turkish slave commander, founded an independent kingdom in Ghazni (modern Afghanistan) c. 962 CE, separating from the Samanid Empire.
2. Sabuktigin: Successor and son-in-law of Alptigin. He consolidated Ghaznavid power and was the father of Mahmud of Ghazni.
3. Sabuktigin's Incursions: Was the first Ghaznavid ruler to conduct significant raids into India, defeating Jaipal, the Hindu Shahi ruler of Punjab, and annexing Peshawar.
4. Mahmud of Ghazni (998-1030 CE):
    - Son of Sabuktigin.
    - Carried out 17 major raids into India between 1000 and 1027 CE.
    - Primary motive: Plunder wealth (especially temple treasures) to finance his Central Asian campaigns and consolidate power.
    - Notable campaigns included attacks on the Hindu Shahi kingdom (defeating Anandpal), Multan, Thanesar, Kannauj, Mathura.
    - Most famous raid: Sacking of the Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1025 CE.
    - Impact: Weakened the political and economic power of various Indian kingdoms, paving the way for future Turkish conquests.
    - Patronized scholars like Al-Biruni (author of 'Kitab-ul-Hind' or 'Tahqiq-i-Hind') and Firdausi (author of 'Shah Nama').
5. Nature of Incursions: Ghaznavid invasions were primarily plundering raids, though they did establish control over Punjab, which became their eastern frontier. They did not aim for widespread permanent annexation deep into India initially.

## Second Battle of Tarain (1192 AD) and its Decisive Significance

- Second Battle of Tarain took place in 1192 AD.
- It was fought between Muhammad Ghori and Prithvi Raj III (Prithviraj Chauhan).
- Muhammad Ghori's forces decisively defeated Prithvi Raj III.
- Ghori's victory was primarily due to superior war technology, which included better cavalry, more effective tactical maneuvers (like feigned retreats and flanking), and a highly disciplined army.
- This battle is considered decisive as it laid the foundation for Muslim power and rule in India.

## The Ghurid Invasion: Background and Objectives of Muhammad Ghori

- Muizuddin Muhammad Bin Sam, popularly known as Muhammad Ghori, was a ruler of the Ghurid dynasty originating from Ghur (present-day Afghanistan).
- Muhammad Ghori's primary objective in invading India, unlike Mahmud Ghazni, was to establish a permanent Islamic empire and extend his dominion, not merely to plunder.
- His first major campaign in India commenced in 1175 AD, targeting Multan and Uch.
- For his initial invasions into India, Muhammad Ghori primarily utilized the Gomal Pass, rather than the Khyber Pass.

- In 1178 AD, Muhammad Ghori advanced towards Gujarat but faced a significant defeat by the Chaulukya (Solanki) ruler Bhimdev II (also known as Mularaja II, under the regency of his mother Naikidevi) near Anhilwara.
- Note: Taimur (Timur) was a distinct invader from Samarkand who invaded India in 1398-99, primarily for plunder and destruction, differing from Muhammad Ghori's empire-building ambitions.

## 2. Delhi Sultanate: Slave Dynasty

### Administrative Structure of the Mamluks

- Sultan: Supreme authority (executive, judicial, military head).
- Naib-e-Mumalik (Regent): Most powerful position after the Sultan, exercising royal powers.
- Balban held the post of Naib-e-Mumalik under Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud (1246-1265).
- Wazir (Diwan-i-Wizarat): Head of the finance department, responsible for revenue collection and expenditure.
- Ariz-i-Mumalik (Diwan-i-Arz): Head of the military department, responsible for recruitment, organization, and inspection of troops.
- Diwan-i-Risalat: Department dealing with religious affairs, appeals, or foreign correspondence.
- Sadr-us-Sudur: Head of religious endowments and charities.
- Qazi-ul-Quzat: Chief Justice of the Sultanate.
- Barid-i-Mumalik: Head of the intelligence department and state news agency.
- Vakil-i-Dar: Superintendent of the royal household.
- Iqta System: Land assignments (Iqtas) granted to military commanders/nobles (Iqtadars/Muqtis) in lieu of salary, who were responsible for revenue collection and maintaining troops for the Sultan.

### Art and Architecture: Qutb Minar complex and early Indo-Islamic styles

- Qutb Minar: Initiated by Qutbuddin Aibak (first storey).
- Qutb Minar: Completed by Iltutmish (adding three more storeys, total four).
- Qutb Minar: Named after Sufi saint Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki.
- Qutb Minar Repairs/Additions:
  - Firoz Shah Tughlaq: Repaired after lightning strike, replaced damaged 4th storey, and added a 5th storey.
  - Sikander Lodi: Repaired and strengthened upper storeys in 1503 AD.
- Qutb Minar Materials: Primarily red sandstone, with marble used in upper storeys (added by Firoz Shah Tughlaq).
- Qutb Minar Style: Early Indo-Islamic architecture, showcasing a blend of traditional Indian and Islamic elements.
- Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque (within Qutb Complex):
  - First mosque built by Delhi Sultans in India, constructed by Qutbuddin Aibak.
  - Built by demolishing and reusing materials (spolia) from existing Hindu and Jain temples.
  - Expanded by Iltutmish and Alauddin Khalji.
- Iron Pillar (within Qutb Complex): Pre-Islamic origin, dating back to the Gupta period (Chandragupta II). Known for its rust-resistant composition.
- Tomb of Iltutmish (within Qutb Complex): Represents one of the earliest tombs of a Sultan in India.

### Challenges to Mamluk Rule: Internal rebellions and Mongol threat

- Mongols under Changez Khan (original name: Temuchin/Temujin) appeared on India's northwest frontier during Iltutmish's

reign (c. 1221 AD), pursuing Jalal-ud-din Mangabarni.
- Iltutmish wisely refused asylum to Mangabarni, thereby averting a direct Mongol invasion of Delhi.
- Balban's reign (1266-1287 AD) also faced a continuous Mongol threat from the northwest.
- Balban abandoned a policy of conquest in favor of consolidation primarily due to the ongoing Mongol threat and internal revolts.
- Internal revolts and the willingness of Indian kings to assert independence were key challenges to Mamluk rule.
- Govindraj of Ajmer established himself at Ranthambore during Qutubuddin Aibak's reign.
- Tughril Khan, the governor of Bengal, raised a standard of revolt during Balban's reign (c. 1279 AD).
- The Tughril Khan rebellion took place in Bengal and was ruthlessly suppressed by Balban.

## Decline and Fall of the Slave Dynasty: Weak successors and the Khalji Revolution

- After the death of Sultan Balban in 1287 AD, his chosen heir, Prince Muhammad, had already died.
- Balban's second son, Bughra Khan (governor of Bengal), declined the throne.
- Balban's grandson, Kaikobad, son of Bughra Khan, was raised to the throne by Fakhr-ud-din, Kotwal of Delhi, in 1287 AD.
- Kaikobad proved to be an incapable and pleasure-loving ruler, neglecting state affairs.
- He suffered a paralytic stroke, leaving the administration in chaos.
- His infant son, Kaimur (or Kyumars), was briefly made Sultan.
- Jalal-ud-din Firuz Khalji, who was the `Ariz-i-Mumalik` (Minister of War) under Kaikobad, seized power.
- Jalal-ud-din Khalji orchestrated the murder of Kaikobad (and later Kaimur).
- In 1290 AD, Jalal-ud-din Khalji usurped the throne, ending the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty and establishing the Khalji Dynasty.
- This event is known as the 'Khalji Revolution', marking the end of the Turkish aristocracy's monopoly on power and opening the administration to broader sections of Muslims.

## Establishment of the Mamluk/Slave Dynasty

1. The Mamluk/Slave Dynasty established the Delhi Sultanate in India.
2. Qutb-ud-din Aibak, a former military slave (Mamluk) of Muhammad Ghori, founded the dynasty.
3. The Mamluk/Slave Dynasty was established in 1206 AD, upon Muhammad Ghori's death.
4. The Mamluk/Slave Dynasty ruled from 1206 AD to 1290 AD.
5. Key rulers of the Slave Dynasty in chronological order include: Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish, Raziya Sultan, and Ghiyas ud din Balban.
6. Rulers like Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish, and Balban were slaves in their early lives before ascending the throne.
7. Raziya Sultan, daughter of Iltutmish, was not a slave.
8. Alauddin Khilji (from the subsequent Khilji Dynasty) was also not a slave.
9. The chronological order of Delhi Sultanate dynasties is: Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty (1206-1290), Khilji Dynasty (1290-1320), Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1414), Sayyid Dynasty (1414-1451), Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526).

## Ghiyas ud din Balban: Theory of kingship and administrative centralization

- Ghiyas ud din Balban belonged to the Mamluk (Slave) Dynasty.
- He adopted the "Blood and Iron" policy, a method of ruthless governance and military suppression.
- Balban's Theory of Kingship emphasized divine right; he called himself 'Zil-i-Ilahi' (Shadow of God) and believed the Sultan was God's shadow on Earth.
- He aimed to restore the prestige and authority of the Sultan, centralizing all power in his hands.
- To reinforce the Sultan's superiority, he introduced Persian court customs like 'Sajda'

(prostration) and 'Paibos' (kissing the Sultan's feet).
- He introduced the Persian festival of 'Nowruz' (New Year) in India.
- Balban crushed the power of the 'Chahalgani' (Corps of Forty), a group of powerful Turkic nobles, to eliminate internal threats to the Sultan's authority.
- He reorganized the military (Diwan-i-Arz) and established an efficient spy system (Barid) to maintain control and monitor nobles.
- A major reason for his strong rule and administrative centralization was the need to protect the Sultanate from recurring Mongol invasions from the North-West.
- His empire was regarded as a part of Dar-ul-Islam due to his strong adherence to Islamic principles and consolidation of Muslim rule.
- His elder son, Prince Mahmud, was known as "Khan-e-Shahid" (Martyr Prince) as he died fighting the Mongols in 1285.
- Balban is not associated with the transfer of capital, which was done by Muhammad bin Tughluq.

## Iqta System and Currency Reforms under Iltutmish

- Iltutmish was the first Sultan of Delhi to declare Delhi as the capital of his empire, shifting it from Lahore.
- Iqta System: Introduced by Iltutmish in the Delhi Sultanate.
- Iqta System: It was a land assignment system, where large tracts of land (iqtas) were granted to military commanders and nobles in lieu of cash salaries.
- Iqta System: Holders (Iqtadars, Muqtis, Walis) were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting revenue, and supplying troops to the Sultan when required.
- Iqta System: The grants were generally non-hereditary and transferable, though tendencies towards hereditary succession emerged later.
- Currency Reforms: Iltutmish was the first Sultan of Delhi to issue regular currency and pure Arabic coinage.
- Currency Reforms: Introduced two principal coins: the silver Tanka and the copper Jital.
- Currency Reforms: The silver Tanka weighed 175 grains.
- Currency Reforms: These coins had standard weight and purity, marking a significant step in the standardization of the monetary system of the Delhi Sultanate.

## Military Reforms and Mongol Policy under Balban

- Balban focused on consolidating the Sultanate and defending its borders, prioritizing military strength.
- Military Reforms:
    - Abolished the 'Chahalgani' (Corps of Forty), effectively curbing the power of Turkish nobles.
    - Reorganized and strengthened the army (`Diwan-i-Arz`).
    - Made the military department (`Diwan-i-Arz`) directly under a loyal officer, independent of the `Wazir`.
    - Increased salaries and maintained strict discipline among soldiers.
    - Emphasized a strong central army over feudal levies.
- Mongol Policy (North-West Frontier Policy):
    - Balban adopted a "blood and iron" policy towards internal revolts and external threats, particularly the Mongols.
    - He was the first Sultan to formulate a systematic north-west frontier policy for defense.
    - Avoided expansionist wars to concentrate resources on defense against Mongols.
    - Repaired old forts and constructed new ones along the frontier (e.g., Lahore, Samana, Sunam).
    - Garrisoned these forts with strong Afghan soldiers (`ghazis`).
    - Divided the frontier into two commands: the region of Samana and Sunam (initially under Sher Khan, later Bughra Khan) and the region of Multan, Sindh, and Lahore (under Prince Muhammad).

- Prince Muhammad, Balban's eldest son, died fighting Mongols in 1286 near Multan.
- His policy was primarily defensive, ensuring the Sultanate's security from recurring Mongol incursions, which were a significant threat throughout his reign, even though Genghis Khan's initial threat was during Iltutmish's reign.

### Qutb al-Din Aibak: Foundation and early challenges

- Qutb al-Din Aibak was originally a slave of Turkestan origin.
- He was purchased by Qazi Fakhruddin Abdul Aziz Kufi in Nishapur and later sold to Muhammad of Ghur.
- He served as Muhammad Ghori's general and successor in his Indian territories.
- Aibak founded the Slave/Mamluk Dynasty (first dynasty of Delhi Sultanate) in 1206.
- His reign lasted from 1206 to 1210.
- He initially ruled from Lahore; Delhi was established as the capital by Iltutmish.
- He was known as "Lakh Baksh" (giver of lakhs) due to his generosity.
- Qutb al-Din Aibak died in 1210 after a fall from his horse while playing Chaugan (polo) in Lahore.

### Razia Sultan: Accession, challenges, and downfall

1. Razia Sultan (1236-1240 AD) was the daughter of Sultan Iltutmish of the Slave Dynasty.
2. She was nominated by Iltutmish himself as his successor, overriding his sons.
3. She became the first and only female Muslim ruler of the Delhi Sultanate.
4. Razia discarded traditional female attire and purdah, appearing in public dressed as a man, which was resented by conservative Turkish nobles.
5. She faced strong opposition from the 'Turkan-i-Chahalgani' (Corps of Forty), a powerful group of Turkish nobles formed by Iltutmish.
6. Her appointment of non-Turks, particularly Jamal-ud-din Yakut, an Abyssinian, to high offices (Amir-i-Akhur or Master of Stables), further fueled discontent among the Turkish nobility.
7. A major rebellion was led by Ikhtiyar-ud-din Altunia, the governor of Bhatinda (Tabarhind).
8. Yakut was killed during this rebellion, and Razia was imprisoned at Tabarhind.
9. Razia married Altunia to reclaim the throne from her half-brother Bahram Shah, who had been enthroned by the Turkish nobles.
10. Razia and Altunia were defeated by Bahram Shah's forces near Delhi.
11. She was defeated and assassinated by bandits (or her opponents) near Kaithal, Haryana, in October 1240 while fleeing.
12. Turkish nobles were instrumental in her deposition and eventual downfall.

### Shams ud-Din Iltutmish: Consolidation of the Sultanate and administrative reforms

- Shams ud-Din Iltutmish was referred to as 'a slave of a slave' as he was a slave of Qutbuddin Aibak, who was a slave of Muhammad Ghori.
- Shifted the capital of the Delhi Sultanate from Lahore to Delhi.
- Successfully consolidated the Sultanate by defeating powerful rivals: Tajuddin Yeldoz (ruler of Ghazni), Nasiruddin Kubacha (ruler of Multan and Sindh), and Ali Mardan/Ghiyasuddin Iwaj Shah (ruler of Bengal).
- Malik Altunia was a rival/opponent of Razia Sultan, not Iltutmish.
- Averted a major Mongol invasion by strategically refusing asylum to Khwarezm Shah Jalal-ud-din Mangabarni, who was being pursued by Genghis Khan.
- Received 'Manshur' (letter of investiture) from the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mustansir Billah of Baghdad in 1229, officially recognizing him as the Sultan of Delhi.
- First Sultan to inscribe the name of the Caliph of Baghdad on his coins, which significantly legitimized the Delhi Sultanate's rule.
- Introduced the Iqta system, where land assignments (iqtas) were given to nobles in lieu of cash salaries, establishing a decentralized administrative framework.

- Reformed currency by introducing pure Arabic coinage: the silver Tanka (approx. 175 grains) and the copper Jital, which became standard for the Sultanate.
- Organized the 'Turkan-i-Chahalgani' or 'Chahalgan' (Corps of Forty), a powerful council of loyal Turkish slave-nobles.
- His direct successors included his children: Rukn-ud-din Firoz Shah, Razia Sultan, Muiz-ud-din Bahram Shah, and Nasir-ud-din Mahmud.

### Turkan-i-Chahalgani (Council of Forty)

- Organised by Sultan Iltutmish (1211-1236 AD) during the Slave Dynasty.
- Known as 'Turkan-i-Chahalgani', 'Turk Forty', or 'Amir-i-Chahalgani' (meaning 'Council of Forty').
- Comprised a group of forty powerful and trusted Turkic slave officers/nobles.
- Purpose was to assist the Sultan in administration and establish a loyal group of supporters for the throne.
- Gained immense power and influence after Iltutmish's death, often acting as kingmakers.
- Its power was systematically crushed and ultimately broken by Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban (1266-1287 AD).
- Balban, himself once a member, dismantled it to curb the influence of powerful nobles and consolidate central authority.

## 3. Khalji Dynasty

### Alauddin Khalji: Usurpation and consolidation of power

- Alauddin Khalji, nephew and son-in-law of Jalaluddin Khalji.
- Murdered Jalaluddin Khalji at Kara in 1296 after the Devagiri campaign to usurp the throne.
- Proclaimed himself Sultan in 1296.
- Destroyed the political dominance of Ulemas; separated religion from state affairs.
- Assumed titles: "Yamin-ul-Khilafat" and "Nasir-e-amir-ul-Momineen".
- Known for his military prowess and successful generalship.
- First Delhi Sultan to attack Southern kingdoms, campaigns led by his general Malik Kafur.
- Malik Kafur was known as 'Hazar-Dinari' (bought for 1000 dinars).
- The famous poet Amir Khusro was patronized in his court.
- Ala-ul-Mulk, Kotwal of Delhi, advised Alauddin to consolidate his empire over Hindustan and secure its routes (e.g., Multan), rather than pursuing world conquest or founding a new religion.

### Alauddin Khalji's administrative reforms: Land revenue, judiciary, centralisation

- Increased land revenue demand (kharaj) to one-half (50%) of the produce.
- Introduced land measurement (Paimaish/ Masahat) as the basis for revenue assessment.
- Abolished privileges of local revenue collectors (Khuts, Muqaddams, Chaudhuris), forcing them to pay taxes like others.
- Appointed new revenue officials like 'Mustakhraj' to collect arrears from corrupt officials.
- Introduced grazing tax (Charai) on cattle and a house tax (Ghari).
- Curtailed the powers and autonomy of Provincial Governors and local chiefs, bringing their administration under greater central control.
- Confiscated land grants (Inam, Waqf, Milkiyat) and converted them into Khalisa (crown land) to increase state revenue.
- Reduced the political influence of the Ulemas and nobility in state administration.
- Established an elaborate spy system (Barids) for effective central control and monitoring.

### Alauddin Khalji's market control and economic reforms: Price regulation, supply management

- Alauddin Khalji introduced the comprehensive Market Control Policy and Price Control System.
- Primary objective: Maintain a large, efficient army at lower cost by ensuring cheap and fixed prices for essential commodities, thus enabling soldiers to live comfortably with low salaries.
- Prices were fixed for various items including food grains (wheat, barley, rice, pulses), sugar (jaggery, refined sugar), cooking oil, cloth, horses, cattle, slaves, and general merchandise.
- Three distinct markets were established:
    - `Mandi`: For food grains.
    - `Sarai-i-Adl`: For expensive items like cloth, sugar, and oil.
    - A third market specifically for horses, slaves, and cattle.
- Supply Management: Land revenue was largely collected in kind (grain) from the Doab region to fill state granaries, ensuring consistent supply.
- Strict administrative control and enforcement:
    - `Diwan-i-Riyasat`: Overall supervisor of the market department.
    - `Shahna-i-Mandi`: Superintendent posted in each market to enforce price regulations, ensure proper weights, and prevent hoarding.
    - `Barids` (secret informers) and `Munhiyans` (secret spies) provided intelligence on market activities.
- Severe punishments were meted out for violations, such as short-weighing or charging higher prices.

### Alauddin Khalji's military campaigns and territorial expansion (North India and Deccan)

- Alauddin Khalji was the first Turkish conqueror to cross the Vindhya Ranges and the first Sultan to extensively organize expeditions to conquer the Deccan.
- First major Muslim incursion into the Deccan (Devagiri) occurred in 1296, led by Alauddin Khalji (then governor of Kara) during the reign of Jalaluddin Khalji.
- North Indian Campaigns (Chronological):
    - Gujarat (1299): Led by Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan. Ended the Vaghela dynasty, annexed Gujarat to Delhi Sultanate. Malik Kafur was captured during this campaign.
    - Jaisalmer (1299/1306-07): Bhati women performed Jauhar.
    - Ranthambore (1301):
        - Ruler: Hammirdev.
        - Jalaluddin Khalji's earlier attempt failed (he stated, "I do not give as much importance to even ten such forts as a single hair of a Muslim.").
        - Alauddin's campaign was provoked by Hammirdev sheltering Mongol general Muhammad Shah.
        - Nusrat Khan was killed by a manjaniq stone during the siege.
        - Rao Hammirdev was betrayed by his ministers Ranmal and Ratipal.
        - After conquest, charge of the fort was given to Ulugh Khan.
    - Chittor (1303):
        - Ruler: Rana Ratan Singh.
        - Commander Gora and Badal died fighting Alauddin's army.
        - Historian Amir Khusrau accompanied the expedition and described it in his work Khazain-ul-Futuh (or Tarikh-i-Alai).
        - Chittor was renamed Khizrabad after Alauddin's son, Khizr Khan.
    - Malwa (1305): Ruler: Mahalakdev. Conquered by Ain-ul-Mulk Multani.
    - Siwana (1308): Ruler: Sheetal Dev. Renamed Khairabad.
    - Jalore (1311):
        - Ruler: Kanhad Dev.
        - Earlier, in 1298, Khilji generals Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan