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Hazarat Mohammad

In 570-571 AD, in the Arabian city of Mecca, Islamic Prophet of God **Hazarat Muhammad** was born in a Quarish Family. His father died before he was ushered in this world and his mother died when he was 6 year old.

- ✓ The orphaned Muhammad was brought up by his uncle.
- ✓ At the age of 25, he married a 40 years Old **Khadijah bint Khuwaylid**. She was the first Muslim to embrace (after Muhammad) Islam.

At the age of 40, he received first revelation from God. Three years later he started preaching the revelations and proclaimed that "**God is one**". He also proclaimed that Complete surrender to God is the only way acceptable to him and he was a "prophet and Messenger" of the God.

The beginning of these proclamations invited harsh treatment and enmity with some of the Mecca Tribes.

- ✓ In 622 AD, Muhammad migrated to Medina and this event is called Hijra, marking the beginning of Islamic Calendar.
- ✓ So, derived from Hijra, the calendar is **called Hijri Calendar**.
- ✓ The first day of the this calendar marks the event Hijra. The year in Islamic calendar is suffixed AH. A few events in Islam, which are prior to the event of Hijra are suffixed with BH.

Hijri Calendar

The Hijri Calendar is a Lunar Calendar that has 12 Lunar Months with 354-355 days. Since in Gregorian Calendar year 622 marks the Hijra, one may deduct 622 from the current year to know the AH year.

But this calculation is wrong. This is because; the Islamic Calendar is a Lunar Calendar, while the Gregorian calendar is a Solar Calendar. There is always a drift of 11/12 days annually.

This is reason behind the fact that Muslim Festivals such as Eid don't synchronize with Seasons. The Seasonal relation is repeated in each approx. 33 years. To simply count the Hijri Year, we deduct 621.57 years and then divide the result by .97023.

For example year 2010 in Islamic Year is calculated as follows:

$$2010 - 621.57 = 1388.43 / 0.97023 = 1431$$

✍ However, on 7 December 2010 the new Islamic Year 1432 has started and it will conclude on 26 November 2011.

The primary use of the Islamic Calendar is only for religious purposes now.

The number of followers increased and in 630 AD Muhammad returned to Mecca and established his eminence. When he died in 632 AD, Islam had started propagating.

Punjab and Sind at the time of Harsha

The greater part of the Punjab region between the rivers Vyas and Indus was Huna Kingdom when Huen Tsang visited India. He mentions the name of the tyrant Mihirkula who started to conquer the neighboring countries.

✍ Mihirkula was hostile to Buddhism and is known to have destroyed Buddhist Monasteries.

During the visit of Huen Tsang, Sind was under a King of lower caste who patronized the Buddhism. Most parts of the central India were under the Control of Harsha. Harsha was the last native monarch prior to the Mohammedan conquest and was the paramount power of the North "Uttarapathpathi". Death of Harsha loosened the bonds and the disruptive forces started working as they did whenever there was no great Central Power binding the smaller countries together. This divided India was saved for next 500 years from the foreign invasions except some excursions of the Arabs in Sind and Gujarat. From the death of Harsha till the raids of

-: About this document:-

Mahamud of Ghazni, at the beginning of the 11th century, India was free to decide her destiny in her own fashion. The petty states when left to their own control, kept fighting with each other in the absence of a supreme Authority.

Kashmir : The Karkota Dynasty

The Kashmir Valley was under Asoka during the Mauryan Empire. It remained under the Kushana dominion under Kanishka and Huvishka. Kashmir was not annexed by Harsha but there are evidences that the king of this region was compelled by Harsha to pay tributes. The authentic history of Kashmir begins with **Karkota Dynasty** which was founded by one **Durlabhvardhana** during the lifetime of Harshavardhana.

Durlabhvardhana had a long reign and so had his son named **Durlabahaka**. Grandson of **Durlabahaka** named Lalitaditya Muktapida (724-760 AD) of this Karkota dynasty was later able to create an empire based on Kashmir and covering most of Northern India and Central Asia including most parts of Pakistan.

Lalitaditya Muktapida was able to extend the power of Kashmir beyond the normal mountain limits and in about 740 AD inflicted a defeat upon Yasovarman, the King of Kannauj. Lalitaditya was able to vanquish the Turks, Tibetans, Bhutias, Kambojas and others.

- The Martand complex of temples in the Anantnag district of Today's Kashmir perpetuate the memory of King Lalitaditya.
- These details are described in the Rajtanagini of Kalhana.

After Lalitaditya we know about two more important kings of Kashmir named Avantivarmana and Shankarvarman. But after death of Lalitaditya many territories declared their independence. The campaigns against these newly independent kings were stopped in Avantivarman's time but again started by his son and successor Shankarvarman. He made Kashmir strong-politically and economically.

✍ Kabul as well Kashmir was completely Hindu kingdoms during those times.

Kabul : The Kabul Shahi & Hindu Shahi

Kabul Shahi

The decline of the Kushana Empire in the portions of Modern Afghanistan was followed by the **Kabul Shahi** Kingdoms. They ruled from 4th century AD till 870 AD.

- ✍ Since the capital was Kabul, the kingdom was called **Kabul Shahi**.
- ✍ Its worth note that the word **Shahi** as a title was used by the Sakas, Kushanas, Hunas, Bactirans etc of Kabul.
- ✍ The Kushana used "Shao" and Mihirkula- the Huna tyrant used the word **Ssaha**.
- ✍ The Kushana also used the title **Shaonano Shao** (Shah-in-Shai). In the later part of 9th century the Kings of Kabulshahi were overthrown by a Brahmin officer called "**Lalliya**".

Hindu Shahi:

Lalliya was a minister in service of the Kabul's Kings. He founded the "Hindu Shahi" dynasty (or Brahman Shahi) in Afghanistan which lasted till 1021 AD, when it was overthrown by the Muslims.

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- ✍ The Capital of the Hindu-shahi Kingdom was "Hund", a village near Peshawar in Pakistan on the Banks of River Indus.
- ✍ Hund was the site where Alexander the great crossed the Indus river.
- ✍ Some of the rulers of the Hindu Shahi of Afghanistan were Lalliya, Kamala Toramana, Bhimadeva, Jaipala, Anandapala, Trilochanpala, Bhimapala etc. as mentioned by Kalhana.

The throne of Lalliya after his death was taken over by Jayapala who is also known as First King of Hindu Shahi (Janjua Shahi) dynasty by some scholars. Jayapala is known to have defended the Kingdoms from the frequent raids of **Turkic rulers of Ghazni**.

Jayapala was followed by an able prince Anandpala.

Anandpala also protected the Kingdom from various attacks but his last stand was against **Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni**. He is known to have signed a treaty with Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni and died later in peace. He is compared to ancient King Porus by some noted historians like Mazumdar.

Kashmir – Kabul Relations

During the latter half of the 10th century, in the times of Shankarvarman, a daughter of Kabul King **Didda** was married to the King of Kashmir called Khemagupta. She was daughter of a Lohar Sardar Simhraj. She was an unscrupulous woman who first ruled as queen consort, later as coregent for her Son, when he husband died and later independently. She ruled from 980 AD to 1003 AD and this 23 years time period is known for a mismanaged rule. In her time, the Kingdom suffered an attack of **Mahmud of Ghazni**, but remained independent mostly because of the inaccessibility due to mountains.

The later years were miserable for Kashmir but it was sovereign due to the Natural defense by the mountains.

A Local Mohammedan dynasty under **Shah Mir Swati** obtained power in 1339 and founded **Shah Miri Dynasty or Swati Dynasty**, as he came from Swat. The religion of Islam gradually spread in the valley. The Kingdom was naturally defended from the Sultanate rulers but finally Akbar annexed it in the **Mughal Empire in 1587**.

Sindh: Last Hindu Ruler Raja Dahir

Sindh was under the rule of Harshavardhana from 600-647 AD. During 8th and 9th century, Sindh was under the dynasties known as Sommar and Samma. In 644 AD, Islamic Forces had the first excursion during the reign of **Caliph Umar**. The Persian Empire extended till Sindh but interior Sindh was not conquered till the Arabs led by Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered it and made it the easternmost province of the **Umayyad Caliphate**.

The ruler of Sindh that confronted with Muhammad Bin Qasim was **Raja Dahir**.

- ✍ Raja Dahir who reigned till 712 AD was the **last Hindu Ruler of Sindh** and parts of Modern Punjab (Pakistan).
- ✍ The Arab conquest of Sindh is mentioned in the oldest Chronicle of Sindh called "**Chach Nama**".

Mohammad Bin Qasim

Mohammad Bin Qasim was a general of the Umayyad Caliphate who was sent by the **Caliph Walid I** to conquer India. This was time of fanatic Muslim rulers in Arab whose sole aim was to strengthen Islam and punish those who don't accept Islam. This was the time when religious fanatics dominated in Arab.

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Mohammad Bin Qasim entered Sindh with a force of 4000 Camels, 6000 Soldiers. He reached Debal, an ancient port city ^(near modern Karachi) and defeated the nephew of Raja Dahir, in-charge of the port city. The city was plundered and all the people who refused to accept Islam were killed. After Debal he crossed the river Indus and confronted with Raja Dahir. Dahir was defeated and killed. Enormous wealth was looted from Brahmanabad and this was the end of Hindu Kingdom of Sindh. After Sindh he conquered Multan and sent Abu Hakim to win Kannauj.

The Presence of Qasim was short. For the Umayyads , this was first alien land brought under their territory which was inhabited by the non-Muslims. After Qasim was recalled, the next governor of Arab died on arrival. Dahir's son Jaysimha recaptured Brahmanabad but converted to Islam later, thus remaining as a tributary of Arabs. The Arab rule continued for 3 centuries in Sindh. It was later under the Ghaznavid Empire and finally came under the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals. In 1747 Sindh became a vassal state of the Durrani Empire of Afghanistan. In 1839, Sindh was occupied by British.

The Ghaznavid Empire

We know from the unconfirmed epic legends that Ghazni (located in Modern Afghanistan) was founded by a King of Yadu Dynsty named **Raja Gaj** in Post-Vedic Era.

It was incorporated into the Persian Empire in the 6th century AD by Cyrus II, the Achaemenid King. It was a rich Buddhist center up to 7th century AD. Islam was brought here by fanatic Arab armies in 683AD.

It was ruled by a Persian **Samanid Empire** in the 10th century when the political fallout of this empire led a general of Central Asian Turkic origin from Balkh named **AlpTigin** cross the Hindukush Mountains and capture it and declare his independence.

Ghazni was actually seized by Subuktgeen, slave and later son-in-law of Alp Tigin.

- ✍ Subuktgeen founded the Ghaznavid Empire, an strategic empire located between Kabul and Kandhar in Modern Afghanistan.

In 977 AD Subuktgeen captured Kandahar and prompted the **Shahi King Jayapala** to launch a strike against the rising Ghaznavid Empire. Jayapal's 1 lakh strong army was defeated and he was compelled to pay heavy tributes. He defaulted in the payments and was again attacked and defeated.

In 1001, Subuktgeen son Mahamud came in Power and once more he attacked the Ghaznavid but defeated. Thus repeated defeats against the Ghaznavid humiliated him and unable to tolerate these humiliations he committed suicide by burning himself in funeral pyre.

Mahamud Ghaznavi & Rajput Confederacy

Mahamud of Ghazni was son of Subuktgeen who came into power in 971 and reigned till 1030 AD. The first conflict was with Jayapala. After Jayapala committed suicide, his son Anandpala prepared an alliance with 6 rulers of Ujjain, Gwalior, Kalinjar, Kannauj, Delhi and Ajmer). This was known as **Rajput Confederacy**. The combined army of the Rajput Confederacy met in 1008 near Peshawar. The Rajput army was initially victorious but an elephant of Anandapala began to run away from the battle field. There was a stampede in the Rajput army and Mahmud won this fierce battle. He was now undisputed ruler of Punjab, Multan and Sindh.

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Next raid of greedy Mahmud was on Nagarkot in 1009. The Hindus could not resist him and were looted and plundered. In 1011 he attacked and sacked Thaneshwar. In 1017 he looted and plundered Kannauj, Meerut, Mathura and while moving back along with heavy booty and tributes.

In 1021 the Mahmud attacked the last Shahi King Trilochanpala. The defeated Hindu king fled to Ajmer. Mahmud appointed first Muslim Governor in the east of Indus River.

Trilochanpala was later assassinated by his own people in 1023 AD. In 1024 Mahmud once again raided India. This time he sacked Ajmer, Kalinjar, Gwalior and Finally Somnath. The temple was destroyed. The Lingam was hammered and destroyed and its pieces were carted back to Ghazni where a Jama Masjid was built. He returned via Thar Desert to avoid the armies of Ajmer, though the Jats confronted him en route. During his last invasion he got Malaria and died in 1030 AD.

Delhi: The Dhillika of Tomars

Delhi has a long history and is known to be the city called Indraprastha during the epic times. But historically Delhi's name is associated with a **Tomar King named Anangpal**, who founded the Red Fort (Lal Kot) in the middle of the 11th century.

- ✍ The first reference to the name of Dilli as **Dhilli** comes from the work of an apbhransa writer **Vibudh Shridhar**.
- ✍ The **Lal Kot** is the place where Qutub Mosque stands now.
- ✍ The name of Anangpal is inscribed in the **Iron Pillar of Delhi**. This celebrated pillar of Chandragupta Vikramaditya was removed by Anangpal from its original position (probably Mathura) and set up in 1052 AD as adjunct to some temples in Delhi, which were later destroyed and a great mosque was constructed by the Mohammedans.

Anangpal was a ruler from Kannauj. His reign was from Agra to Hansi (Haryana) and Ajmer to Ganges. His dynasty lasted till 1151 when it was overthrown by **Chauhan King Bisal Deo** of Ajmer.

The Origin of Rajputs & Agnikula Legend

The term **Rajput** starts coming in use from the 6th Century AD. They rose to prominence from the 6th century till 12th century and kept ruling in different parts of the country from Sultanate to Mughal Era and as rulers of the princely states till the departure of British from the country in 1947. Several theories exist about the origin of the Rajputs. They important theories are as follows:

A. **Foreign origin:** Rajputs are descendents of the races like *Sakas, Kushanas, Hunas* etc. This theory was put forward by **Col. James Todd**.

- ✍ **Col. James Todd** was the celebrated author of **Annals and Antiques of Rajasthan**.
- ✍ He has detailed the history of Rajputana and Central India.
 - The main argument of James Todd behind the foreign origin of the Rajputs was that these people worshipped Fire and Fire was the main deity of the Sakas and Hunas.

B. **Kashtriya Heroes:** This theory says that the Rajputs are NOT from the foreign origin and they are descendents of the mythological Aryan Heroes like Rama. They worship fire as the Aryans did and worship of fire was not the tradition of the Foreigners only.

C. **Mixed Origin:** This theory as put forward by V A Smith says that Rajput is a mixed race. Some of them were descendents of the Aryans while some of them were from the foreign races such as Hunas, Sakas etc.

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D. **Agnikula Thoery:** This theory comes from the *Prithvirajraso of Chandarbardi*. The Rajputs descended from Agni. The theory is based upon the **Agnikula Legend** of *Bhavishyapurana* which says

- "There will be Bindusara
- "Like the father, there will be Asoka and his sons who will rule
- "At that time there will be a Brahmin in Kanyakubja Clan
- "He will do Brah-hom at Mount Abu
- "Four Kstariyas will be Born from the Infleunce of the Mantras
- "Parmara from Samved, Chaphani from Yajurveda
- "From Three vedas there will be Chu
- "from Atharva Veda there will be Pariharak.

So, this theory says that the forefathers of the **Rajputs were born at Mount Abu**. The four Rajput clans from Agnikunda are **Chauhans, Chalukyas, Parmaras and Pratiharas**.

The Hegemony of Gurjar Pratiharas

The Gurjar Pratiharas ruled much parts of the Northern India from the 6th to 11th Century AD. They find their origin from Ujjain or Mandsaur.

- ✍ Due to the prowess of Gurjar Pratiharas, Arabs were confined to Sindh from 7th to 11th century.
- ✍ The founder of this Dynasty was Harichandra in 6th century.
- ✍ The successors of Harichandra established Marwar in Rajasthan and built the Temple city of Osean, near Jodhpur.

The first important ruler of this dynasty was **Nagabhata-I** (730-756 AD) whose reign was from Mandore (Jodhpur) to Malwa, Gwalior and Bharuch.

His capital was Avanti in Malwa.

- ✍ **Battle of Rajasthan:** It was during the times of **Nagabhata I**, when Junaid, another Arab commander invaded India after Mohammad Bin Qasim. Nagabhata I along with his feudatories such as Chauhans and Guhilots defended the western frontiers but the Arabs were capable of doing a lot of damage to their western Frontiers. **Junaid** was defeated and his successor Tamin was compelled to run back to Arab defeated and wounded. This is known as **Battle of Rajasthan**.

He was succeeded by **Vatsaraja** who captured Kannauj and came in direct conflict with the Palas of Bengal. He conflicted and defeated Dharmapala. In 786 AD the Rastrakuta King Dhruva defeated him. He died in 805 AD.

Vatsaraja was succeeded by **Nagabhata II**. Nagabhata was initially defeated by Rastrakuta King Govinda III but later recovered and captured Kannauj.

Nagabhata II was the most important and powerful rulers of the **Guarjar Pratiharas**.

- ✍ With his feudatories such as Chauhans and Guhilots, Nagabhata II was
- ✍ **Nagabhata II** is best known for rebuilding the **Somnath Temple in 815**, which was destroyed by Arab armies of Junayad in 725 AD. This was a large structure of Red Sandstone which was again destroyed in 1024 by Mahamud of Ghazni.

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Next important King of this dynasty was Mihirbhoja who ruled till 885 AD was assumed the title of *Adivaraha*. Mihirbhoja was one of the great empire builders, who after some initial defeats conquered the territories of modern Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The Teli Mandir at the Gwalior fort perpetuates his memory.

The beginning of the 10th century brought weakness in the Gurjar Pratiharas. In 912 AD, the Gurjar Pratihara King **Bhoja II** was overthrown by a Pala King Mahipala-I. The feudatories took the advantage of the temporary weakness of the Pratiharas and declared their independence.

The major feudatories Guhilots captured Chittor and founded the Mewar Kingdom, Chauhans established the Chauhans Kingdom in Ajmer.

The Chauhans of Ajmer

The **Chauhans** were the feudatories of the Gurjar-Pratiharas who in the Battle of Rajasthan assisted Nagabhata I to defeat and protect the borders from the Arab Invasions. But in the 10th century, when Gurjara Pratiharas got weakened, the feudatories asserted their independence.

- ✍ The Chauhan king of Sakambhari Ajayaraj Chauhan established a City Ajayameru, which was later known as Ajmer.
- ✍ His successor Vigraharaj captured Dhillika (Delhi) from the **Tomar Kings** and extended the empire from Ajmer to Delhi, including most parts of Today's Haryana.

This was the time when Feudatory system in Rajput Administration was on its climax.

The most important successor of Ajayaraj Chauhan was **Prithvi Raj Chauhan III** who is known as "Chauhan King of Delhi" or "**Rai Pithora**". He was a chivalrous lover and doughty Champion who united Ajmer and Delhi.

The daring abduction of Sanyogita, the not-unwilling daughter of Jaichand, the Gaharwal King of Kannauj well places him as a daring lover. His conquest against the Solankis of Gujarat and king of Mahoba established himself as a great warrior. He was able to resist the Mohammeden invasions in the beginning, until he was defeated and executed by **Mohammad of Ghor**.

Bundelkhand: Chandelas of Jejakabhukti

The ancient name of the Bundelkhand is Jejakabhukti, which corresponds to the old mahajanapada of Chedi. In medieval period, these countries had two dynasties named Chandelas and Kalachuris.

Both of them had marital relations and were constantly in touch with each other as foes or friends.

- ✍ The Chandelas came into notice for the first time in 9th century when a Chandela called **Nanuka overthrew the Parihara Chieften** and established the dynasty of Chandals of Jejakabhukti.
- ✍ This dynasty built the famous Khaujraho temples.

The first king who started construction in Khajuraho was Harsha who built the 64 Yogini Temples. The most notable prince of this dynasty was King Dhanga whose time is known for building the most beautiful Khaujraho Temples of Parsvanath and Vishwavanath.

- ✍ His grandson **Vidyadhara** built the Kandariya Mahadev Temple.

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Dhanga was one of the Kings who joined the Rajput Confederacy against Subuktgeen and shared the disastrous defeat in Peshawar. When Mahamud Ghaznavi threatened to overrun rest of India, his son Ganda (1002–1017) joined a new confederacy organized by Anangpala of Lahore, which again failed to check Mahmud.

In due course of time, the king of Kannauj made terms with Mahmud. Ganda attacked Kannauj and killed the king, and was in turn compelled to surrender to Mahmud. The fort of Kalinjar was surrendered to Mahmud by Ganda.

The last notable King of this dynasty was **Paradidev (Parmadi)** who fought **Prithviraj Chauhan-III** in 1182 AD. The battle was **Battle of Mahoba**. His generals Alha and Udal were great fighters, still sung in the folk songs of Bundelkhand. The story goes in the famous book **Allah Khand or Parmal Raso**.

The Kalachuris of Chedi

The name Kalachuri is used for two dynasties. One of them ruled in Central India in Madhya Pradesh and Parts of Rajasthan and other ruled in Karnataka. The one that ruled in North India were called "**Northern Kalachuris**" or "Kalachuris of Chedi".

The important ruler of this dynasty named **Gangeya Deva** (1015-1040) was contemporary of the Chandela king Ganda. He tried to establish the paramount power in Northern India. His suzerainty was accepted up to Tirhut.

His son Karnadeva (1040-1070AD) joined Bhima, the King of Gujarat to crush Bhoja, the **Paramara King of Malwa** in 1053 AD.

The Chandelas lingered as local chiefs up till the 16th century but none of them has a general importance. The Kalachuris of Chedi disappeared by the end of 12th century.

Malwa: The Parmaras of Malwa

The Parmaras established themselves rulers of Malwa in central India in 9th century, ruling from *their capital Dhar*.

They were able to rule till 1305 when Malwa was conquered finally by Alauddin Khilji.

The Parmaras are one of the 4 Agnikula clans of Rajputs. Their origin is uncertain. Various scholars have various views about the origin of the Parmaras. The territory under them was the region north of Narmada and was known as "**Kingdom of Ujjain**".

The Paramara Dynasty was founded by a chief called Upendra (Krishanaraja) at the beginning of the 9th century. One of the successors of Upendra named **Munja** was a patron of the poets & scholars and a great poet himself.

✍ Munja was able to defeat Chalukya King **Taila II** for 16 times but was defeated, captured and executed in the 17th attack.

His nephew **Bhoja** who is famous as "**Raja Bhoj of Dhar**" was philosopher king and a polymath of the Central India. He ascended the throne of Dhar in around 1000 AD and reigned gloriously for more than 45 years. His path was similar to other Rajas, indulging in wasteful struggles with the neighbors. Bhoja is honored as a **Model King**. Works on astronomy, architecture, poetry, mathematics etc. are attributed to Bhoja. Many scholars compare Bhoja with Samudragupta. Some important works of Bhoja are as follows:

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- ✍ *Saraswatikantabharna*: A treatise on Sanskrit Grammar
- ✍ *Rajmartanda*: a major commentary on Patanjali's yoga sutra
- ✍ *Samarangana Sutradhara* : a Treatise on Civil Engineering
- ✍ *TattvaPrakasha*: A treatise on Tantras
- ✍ *Rasarajamriganka*: A treatise on chemistry (ores) and drugs.

The Bhojeshwar temple at Bhojpur near Bhopal was established by him. The temple is incomplete and is dedicated to Shiva.

✓ The Bhojpur Lake, a beautiful water body neat Bhopal was built during his time by massive embankment closing the outlets in a circle of mountains was one of the greatest work of Raja Bhoj. The dam was later destroyed by **Hoshang Shah**.

- ✓ It was probably the fear of Bhoja's organized army that Mahmud Ghaznavi returned via Thar Desert.

He was able to defeat the Chauhans of Shkambhari. The enmity with Chandelas took his life as well as glory of his dynasty. The Chalukyas had made an alliance with the Rastrakutas and Kachhchawahas and defeated him. His death in 1053 AD (some sources say 1060-62 AD)) reduced his dynasty as a local power until Malwa was sacked and annexed by the **Tomara Clan**. Tomaras were defeated by Chauhans and from whom the crown passed to Mohammedan Kings in 1401. Akbar suppressed the local dynasty and incorporated Malwa in Mughal Empire in 1569.

Gujarat: The Solankis of Gujarat

The Solankis were also one of the Agnikula clans of the Rajputs, however, it is believed that they descend from the **Badami Chalukyas**.

- ✓ The Capital of Solankis was Anhilwara which is now Sidhpur Patan.
- ✓ The Solankis were patrons of the **Somnath Temple**.

The dynasty was established by one chief named **Mularaja** who reigned from 942 to 996 AD.

- ✓ The Mularaja period is known as beginning of the Gujarati Culture, language and script.

The territories were known as Gujardesj, Gurjarashtra and now Gujarat. The successors of Mularaja were overshadowed by Raja Bhoj of Dhar and they were reduced to vassals of the Malwa Kingdom. One important ruler of this dynasty was **Bhimdev I** who reigned from 1022-1063 AD. He was a vassal of the Malwa King Bhoj. When Mahmud Ghaznavi attacked Somnath, he fled and took shelter in Kutch. It was Raja Bhoj that chased Mahmud and Mahmud returned via the Thar Deserts.

When Raja Bhoj died Bhimdev declared himself independent. Bhimdev was succeeded by Karnadeva. All other successors were less important. The Solanki dynasty lost control over Gujarat in 1243 and in 1297; Gujarat was conquered by the **Delhi Sultanate**.

Bengal, Bihar , Orissa: The Pala Empire

When Harsha was on zenith of his power, he is known to have exercised certain amount of control over the whole of Bengal as parts of Kamrupa (Assam). After his death , his empire quickly disintegrated and the local rajas declared their independence.

-: About this document:-

Gopala:

Palas were Buddhists. In around 750 AD, a Chieften named Gopala became ruler of Bengal. He founded the **Pala Dynasty** and all the subsequent kings of this dynasty used the last morpheme Pala in their names.

- ✓ Gopala is regarded as "**First Buddhist King**" of Bengal.

He had probably succeeded the Gauda rulers of Kamarupa who lost their stronghold after death of Shashanka. His father was probably a military officer in the Gaud Kingdom. Nothing much is known about Gopala's family, some scholars believe that his forefathers came from *Kamboja or Gandhara*.

Towards the close of his life, after a reign of around half a century, Gopala extended his power westwards over Magadha. So Bengal and most parts of Bihar were under Palas, when Gopala died.

- ✓ Gopala was a pious Buddhist. He constructed a monastery at the Odantapuri in Bihar.

He was succeeded by his son Dharmapala, who is assigned a period of 770-810 AD.

Dharmapala:

- ✓ During Dharmapala rule, the Palas became the most dominant power in the Northern and Eastern India.

But the extension of empire was not an easy task for Dharmapala. He struggled with the Gurjar Pratiharas, Rastrakutas and Chalukyas. Initial career was with some defeats which include a humiliating defeat in the hands of Nagabhatta II, the Gurjar Pratihara.

When Dharmapala died, his empire covered entire Bihar and Bengal. The Kings of Kannauj , Madra, Kamboja, parts of Rajputana were his Vassals.

Vikramshila University

Dharmapala, the pious Buddhist King of Pala dynasty is best known for **Vikramshila University**. Along with Nalanda University, it became the excellent center of Buddhism studies in India.

The Vikramshila university is located at Kahalgaon near Bhagalpur in Bihar.

Dharmapala had also built a Vihara at Somapuri, another at Paharpur and yet another Vihara at Odantapuri.

- ☞ These five places viz. Nalanda, Vikramshila, Somapuri, Paharpur and Odantapuri are called Five Mahaviharas.
- ☞ The Vikramshila University was destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1200 AD.
- ☞ *Atisa Dipankara*, who is founder of Sarma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, was a scholar at Vikramshila University. ↩

After 40 years rule, Dharmapala was succeeded by his son **Devapala** (810 AD to 850 AD).

Devapala:

Devapala was again a powerful ruler. He is said to have conquered the Kamarupa, Pragjyotisha (Assam) and Utkal (Orissa).

- ✓ There are evidences that Devapala procured Horses from the Kamboja / Kabul for his army.

The Pala armies carried out successful campaigns at various parts of India and Pala Empire emerged as one of the greatest empire under Devapala. Devapala was succeeded by his son Mahendrapala who was an insignificant

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ruler. Mahendrapala was succeeded by his cousin Vigrahapala. After a lineage of insignificant successors a great king Mahipala, who was 9th ruler of the dynasty ascended the throne.

Mahipala

The reign of Mahipala was from 995-1043 AD. He is known as second founder of the Pala Dynasty. He was able to recover the lost territories of his predecessors and checked the disintegration of the empire. When he ascended the throne, his territory was limited to Magadha i.e. parts of Bihar only. Bengal was under **Kambojas**, which was recovered by him. In 1021 AD, the Chola armies campaigned against the Palas. He was probably defeated by the Cholas.

Mahipala 50 year reign was otherwise peaceful. In the evening of his life he turned religious and did some excellent social works.

None of the successors of Mahipala was a significant ruler. The empire ultimately got disintegrated and finally swept away by the torrents of the Mohammedan invasions.

Atiśa Dipankara Shrijnana

Atiśa Dipankara was a Buddhist Scholar during the Pala dynasty and was a scholar at the Vikramshila University. He established the Sarma lineages of the Buddhism with Konchog Gyalpo and Marpa Lotsawa. The most important work of Atisa is **Bodhipathapradīpa**. Apart from this around 79 extant compositions on Buddhism are ascribed to Atisa.

Charyapada

Charyapada is a collection of Buddhist poems composed most probably during the Pala Dynasty (However, there are various controversies on the origin). These mystic poems are from the tantric tradition. The writers of Charyapada are called *Mahasiddhas* and they were from Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam.

↳ Charyapada is the **earliest example of the Bengal Poetry** and Bengali literature.

Sandhyakar Nandi

Sandhyakar Nandi was the composer of the great epic poem in Sanskrit named Ramacharitam during the Pala Empire.

Somapura Mahavihara

Somapura Mahavihara is **now located in Bangladesh**. It is one of the best known Mahaviharas of Buddhism in Indian subcontinent and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Sena Dynasty

Around the time of Mahipala's death in around 1043 AD, a vassal of the Palas named **Hemanta Sen** founded the Sena Dynasty.

This Dynasty appeared in 11th century and disappeared in 12th century.

However, independent rule of Senas in Bengal was established in his son Vijayasena's time.

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- ✍ Vijayasena (1097-1160) is called as real founder of the Sena Dynasty. He was able to snatch away parts of Rarh region of Bengal from the Palas and some parts of Gauda Kingdom from the Assam regions.
- ✍ His son Ballala Sena (1160-1178) introduced the *social reforms in Bengal known as Kulinism*.
- ✍ Ballalsena was succeeded by Lakshamanasena.

Most of the history of the Sena Kings has been corroborated from the Copper Plates. They struggled with Palas, Gauda and their struggles were confined in Bengal, Assam and parts of Orissa. In 12th century, their territories were won by a Deva dynasty. The Deva dynasty was finally swept away by the invasion of Bakhtiyar Khilji and later we find the Mamluk Dynasty of the Slave Kingdoms as rulers of Bengal and Bihar.

Invasion of Mahmud Ghaznavi

The main objective of Mahmud Ghaznavi's invasion was the wealth of the Indians. But being an ardent Sunni Muslim, he was called the "**Idol Breaker**" and eagerly destroyed the temples of Jwalamukhi, Kangra, Mathura, Somnath etc. Each time he returned with enormous wealth but it is clear that there was no permanent impact of his attacks on India.

Al Beruni

The discussion about Mahmud Ghaznavi will be incomplete until we discuss Al Beruni.

Abu Rayhan Beruni or **Alberonius** (Latin) was a Persian Scholar and polymath of the 11th century. He accompanied Mahmud in his conquests to South Asia.

- ↳ Al Beruni was the First Muslim Scholar to study India and its Brahmanical tradition.
- ↳ He is called father of Indology.
- ↳ He is also called the First Anthropology.
- ↳ He is called one of the earliest and greatest polymath of the Islamic World.
- ↳ A 77 kilometer impact crater in moon is named after him : **Al-Beruni Crater**
- ↳ Al Beruni, though travelled with Mahmud, but his successor Masud was his real patron.
- ↳ Apart from his writing languages Arabic and Persian, he knew Sanskrit and Greek.

Al Beruni's 146 works are on Astronomy (35 books (maximum)), Astrology, Chronology, Time Measurement, Geography, cartography, Mathematics, Mechanics, Medicine, Pharmacology, Gems, India, Literature etc.

- ↳ Its worth note that about India, he did not write much on battles and wars. He wrote on contemporary culture, traditions and customs.
- ↳ His book **Tahqiq mā l'l-Hind** ("al-Bīrūnī's India") is also called "Indica" and is a work related to Indian Philosophy and religion.
- ↳ The other book Kitab al-Qanun al-Mas'udi (Mas'udi Canon) is about Astronomy, Geography and Engineering, named after Mas'ud, son of Mahmud of Ghazni, to whom he dedicated.
- ↳ Using astrolabe, he first calculated the height of the mountain by going to two points at sea level with a known distance apart and then measuring the angle between the plain and the top of the mountain for both points.

Why Rajputs failed?

The Rajputs, though patriotic, Courageous and zealous were suffering from the political myopia and could not estimate the dangers coming their way. They adopted and followed the epic era rules and customs of war such as not attacking the fleeing enemy, not attacking the enemy with no arms etc. The invaders took advantages of this lack of political foresight of the Rajputs and the result was that within a century, all the Hindu dynasties of the country were swept away by the torrent of the Muslims.

-: About this document:-

Succession of Mahamud Ghaznavi

At Ghazani, Mahamud Ghaznavi was succeeded by Muhammad Ghaznavi. Muhammad was soon captured, blinded and imprisoned by his brother Masud. Masud kept him in imprisonment for 9 years.

Seljuq dynasty, Tugril Beg and Battle of Dandanqan

We know about a contemporary Sunni Muslim Dynasty called Seljuq dynasty of the Central Asia and Middle East. This dynasty established the Turkic Power in the Middle East and Persia. In Persia, they adopted the Persian culture and developed the Persian Culture, art, literature and language. The Seljuq dynasty rulers were the cultural ancestors of presents Turks living in Turkey, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

A ruler of this Seljuq dynasty, named **Tugril Beg** had ascended the power in 1016 AD. He was attacked and defeated by Mahamud Ghaznavi and was forced to flee westwards at **Khwarezm**, in modern Uzbekistan. He organized an army and attacked Masud, son and successor of Mahamud. Masud was defeated and he fled towards east to Lahore. Ghazni was sacked in this decisive **Battle of Dandanqan**.

This battle was decisive and it placed a permanent barrier towards **west** for the successors of Mahamud. They continued to keep Punjab (present Pakistan) and the areas adjacent to it. But still the authority of them was uncertain.

Lahore as Capital of Mahmud's successors

Masud made Lahore his capital and Ghazni passed into the hands of **Tughril Beg**. During the course of this withdrawal, his army mutinied and he was toppled by the army and his blind brother Mohammad was placed on the throne. Mohammad imprisoned Masud and killed him.

But the blind Mohammad soon became a victim of intrigue of the officials. He was killed by Masud's son **Maw'dud Ghaznavi**. **Maw'dud** seized the throne of Ghaznavid Empire.

The western parts of empire were already overrun by the Seljuqs and the Indian realms also were lost by Maw'dud. He was able to keep hold on only the Afghan realms and some parts of the Indus Valley. A century later, Punjab became the last refuge of the Mahmud's descendants.

Ghori Dynasty

The force that uprooted the Ghaznavid was neither from east nor west but grew up midst of them at Ghor between Ghazni and Herat.

Today, Ghor is a province of Afghanistan.

In 1010 Mahmud of Ghazni had attacked a fortified castle at Ghor in the rugged hills of Ghor. A local chief **Muhammad Soor** was made prisoner and brought to the King. But he consumed poison and killed himself within hours. Ghor was annexed to the territories of Mahmud.

For 150 years it was in the hands of the Ghaznavids and Seljuks. In 1161 **Ghiyasuddin** became chief of Ghor and with his accession, the Afghan highlanders entered into a new phase of activity. He recovered Ghazni and placed his brother Muhammad Ghori on the ruined throne of Mahmud.

-: About this document:-

Mohammad Ghori

- ✍ Muhammad Ghori led a series of the campaigns in India which recalled the days of Mahmud Ghaznavi , 200 years back.
- ✍ The first thing Muhammad Ghori did was to bring the Muslim provinces of India under his control.
- ✍ He began with Multan in 1175 against a Muslim ruler and got victorious.

Battle of Gujarat (Battle of Kayadra) 1178

The First battle of Muhammad Ghori against a Hindu ruler was with **Raja Bhimdev II** of Gujarat who was a member of Solanki Dynasty. This is called "Battle of Gujarat" and took place at Kayadra near Mount Abu. Raja Bhimdev II was a young man and real regent was his mother Naikidevi. Naikidevi inflicted such a major defeat to Muhammad Ghori that this invasion became Muhammad's first and last attack on India from the Gujarat side. He never turned to Gujarat later on.

In 1179, he took Peshawar from Khusrau Malik , the last successor of Mahmud, who was a weak , gentle king , who submitted to Ghori easily and gave his son as a Slave to him. In 1181, he ravaged Lahore and fortified Sialkot. He did not leave the successors of Mahmud. Khusrau and his son were taken to Ghor and confined in the fort, where after five years they were put to death. Within a decade, Muhammad Ghori had got rid of all the Muslim forces in India. Now he could turn to Hindus.

The First Battle of Tarain 1191

Muhammad Ghori's first encounter with the brilliant and formidable array of the Rajputs was like to have been the last.

The two armies met at Tarain (Near Karnal, in Haryana) in 1191. The blast of the Muslims got powerless in front of the Hindu Rajputs.

He tried to save the day in a personal combat with Prithivi Raj Chauhan's brother **Govind-Raja**, the viceroy of Delhi and with his spear was able to drive his teeth down his throat, but the exposure nearly cost him of his life.

He was saved by a Turkic retainer mounted on the horse behind him who carried him off the field. The Rajput forces chased the Muslims for 40 miles. The army of Islam had never had been so worsted as by this torrent of the Rajputs. Muhammad did not stop at Lahore but was so much shocked that he hastened to cross the Indus and get back to his own country Ghazni.

Second Battle of Tarain 1192

The unforgettable disaster of 1191 gave the Sultan sleepless nights, but India saw him next year with a well prepared army of 120,000 Afghans, Turks and Persians.

Muhammad took lesson from his previous campaign. In the first battle of Tarain he had divided his army in three flanks. This time he divided it into 5 flanks, 4 to harass the Rajputs from 4 sides and a fifth, a reserve force of 12000 horsemen in steel armor. The proud army of Rajput chiefs once shaken tottered to its fall like a building and lost in its own ruins. Most of the Rajput Chiefs were killed. Prithviraj mounted himself on a horse and fled but was captured and "Sent to Hell".

The cities of Ajmer, Hansi, Saraswati, Samana etc. faced a ruthless slaughter, there was a general destruction of temples and idols.

-: About this document:-

The throne of Ajmer was left to **Gola**, a son of the late Raja as a vassal of Sultan, on the condition of regular tributes.

Delhi was soon captured. The armies of Muhammad soon advanced towards east. Under his general Qutub-ud-din, his armies sacked Ayodhya in 1193 and in 1204 he defeated Lakshaman Sena of Sena dynasty in Bengal, but Bengal was not conquered.

Muhammad Ghori, the founder of Muslim Rule in India was without any offsprings. He treated his Turkic slaves as his sons. Almost all slaves except Qutub-ud-din Aibak were not true to him.

After his assassination, his empire was divided among his slaves. One of his slaves Nasir-ud-Din Qabacha became ruler of Multan, another Taj-ud-Din Yildoz became ruler of Ghazni and yet another Ikhtiyar Uddin Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji became ruler of Bengal.

In 1206, Muhammad appointed his slave Qutub-ud-din as Naib us Sultanate (Viceroy) of his empire in India and bestowed him the title of Aibak (The axis of faith).

In 1206 only, there was a rebellion in Punjab. Mohammad returned from Ghazna and crushed the rebel, but when he was returning, he was killed at **Jhelum**.

Legacy of Muhammad Ghori

Muhammad Ghori rose from smaller beginnings than Mahmud Ghaznavi, but he carried arms farther and left indisputable footprints in India. He conquered India but did not declare himself as Independent King of India and remained a loyal brother to Ghiyasuddin. He returned to Ghazani and tried to subdue the revolts in the western parts, which were strategically more important for the survival of the Ghori Dynasty. After he was killed, the Ghor Dynasty relapsed into insignificance. But in India, his victory was not lost and further consolidated under the other rulers. Though India was not something which could be won in one generation, but till 1857, we find always a Muslim Ruler on the throne of Delhi.

Delhi Sultanate

In 1206, India found a Mohammeden King **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** ruling not from outside of India but at Delhi itself.

- ✍ Qutb-ud-din Aibak was the first of the 34 Muslim Kings who ruled at Delhi from 1206 to 1526 when India was conquered by Babur.
- ✍ These 34 Kings belonged to 5 dynasties and are collectively called "**Delhi Sultanate**".

The five dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate are

1. **Mamluk dynasty (1206–90):** also known as Slave Dynasty. Turkish Origin
2. **Khilji dynasty (1290–1320) :** Turkish Origin
3. **Tughlaq dynasty (1320–1413):** Turkish Origin

The continuance of the three Turkish origin dynasties was disturbed by the **invasion of Timur** in 1398, which put an end to the Tughlaqs and the Kingdom of Delhi was broken up in pieces. It was taken over by the Sayyid Dynasty which were actually nobles and claimed Arabian descent from the dynasty of Hazarat Muhammad.

4. **Sayyid dynasty (1414–51) :** Disputed Origin
5. **Lodi dynasty (1451–1526) :** Afghan Origin

-: About this document:-

In South India we see the Bahamani Kingdom which was founded by **Ala-ud-Din Hassan Bahman Shah** in 1347 with a revolt against the Tughlaqs of Delhi and Vijaynagar Empire which was founded in 1336 by **Hakka and Bukka**, the generals of **Veera Ballala III**, the great Hoyasala King in Karnataka. The Vijaynagar Empire lasted till 1565 when it was swept away by the confederacy of the Deccan sultanates in the Battle of Talikota.

The Slave Dynasty 1206-1290

Qutb-ud-din Aibak

Qutb-ud-din Aibak began his career as Malik or Sipahasalar under Muhammad Ghori. His chief exploits were achieved in his viceroyalty only. After Delhi, Ranathambore and Koil fell. He led the Ghorian army to Benaras and sacked it in 1194. After this triumph Sultan Muhammad Ghori returned to Ghazani and Qutb-ud-din Aibak suppressed the revolt of vassal raja of Ajmer. He conquered Gwalior and compelled Raja Solankhpal to pay tribute (1196).

In 1197, he was able to defeat the Raja of Anhilwara and Kingdom of Gujarat which was not won by Muhammad Ghori was won by Qutb-ud-din Aibak. The Chandelas fell in 1202, before Qutb-ud-din Aibak attacked them.

The reign of Qutb-ud-din Aibak was a short one of 4 years. In 1210, when he was playing Chaugan, fell from Horse and died at Lahore.

- ✍ Qutb-ud-din Aibak was known as **Lakha Baksh Sultan** after his generosity.
- ✍ He laid the foundation of the Qutub Minar and named it not after his own name but after the name of a Sufi saint Khwaja Qutb-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki.
- ✍ Qutub Minar was later finished by Iltutmish
- ✍ The Quwwat Al Islam mosque was commissioned by him.
- ✍ His tomb is located in Anarkali Bajar at Lahore.
- ✍ His successor Iltutmish was his son in law.

Meanwhile Bakhtiyar Khilji who was one more slave of Muhammad Ghori raided the oldest universities of the world i.e. Nalanda and Vikramshila in 1193. At Nalanda he is said to have committed execution of the Buddhist monks and many of the monks were burnt alive and beheaded. Bengal's ruler Lakshaman Sen was defeated and Bakhtiyar made Lakhnauti his capital.

Iltutmish: (1211-1236)

Iltutmish was one of the slaves of Qutb-ud-din Aibak who later became his Son-in-Law. . He was from the **Ilbari tribe of the Turks** and that is why some scholars call the slave dynasty has **Ilbari dynasty**.

Chihalagani/ Chalisa/ Corp of Forty

It's worth note that the Ilbari tribe used to have administrative & military elite called "**Chihalgani**" or the "**Corp of Forty**". Immediately after Qutb-ud-din died, the Chihalgani appointed one Aram Shah as is successor. However, Aaram Shah was ill qualified and very soon through a conspiracy appointed "Iltutmish" has Sultan of Delhi. Iltutmish was Governor of Badaun at that time. There was a war with Aaram Shah at Jud (Delhi). Aaram shah was defeated easily and after that what happened to him, nobody knows. What was relation of Aaram with Qutb-ud-din is not certain.

-: About this document:-

Hauz Shamsi

Ilutmish is known to have built the Hauz-i-Shamshi near Mahrauli in Delhi. On the edge of this reservoir, the Jahaz Mahal was built by the Lodhi Rulers. His eldest son when died he made built the First Islamic Mausoleum Sultan Garhi in Delhi.

Qutub Minaar:

The Foundation of the Qutub Minar was laid by the Rajputs and the present Qutub Complex was a complex of temples built by Tomaras and Chauhans. However, it was turned into a Minar of victory by Qutb-ud-din who used the same material to build the Minar. The first storey was built by Qutub-ud-din and rest of the work was completed by Ilutmish.

Iqta System

The Iqta system was a practice of Tax farming that was introduced by Ilutmish in Delhi Sultanate. It was basically grant of revenue from a territory in lieu of salary. This grant was not hereditary and was subject to passing from officer to officer. Iqta system linked the farthest part of the Sultanate linked to the Central Government.

Organization of Army:

Ilutmish organized the army of the sultanate and made it the "King's army" which was centrally recruited and centrally paid.

Coins: Tanka and Jital

Ilutmish introduced Silver Tanka and Copper Jital , the two coins of the Delhi Sultanate.

The coins prior to Ilutmish were introduced by the invaders which bear the Sanskrit characters and even Bull and Shivalinga. Ilutmish was the first to introduce a "Pure Arabic Coin" in India. The Coins were engraved with "*The Mighty Sultan, Sun of the Empire and the Faith, Conquest-laden, Il-tutmish,*" after he received an investiture of Sovereign Sultan of Delhi from the Caliph of Baghdad. The Silver Tanka issued by Ilutmish was weighing 175 grains. Gold Tanka of the same weight was later issued by Balban.

Mongol Attack:

During the times of Ilutmish, the Mongols attacked under **Chengez Khan**. The Mongols were able to conquer the area around Indus River and crossed to invade Punjab. But fortunately their eyes were set at the west and they returned quickly from the Punjab towards Sind, Multan & Qabacha. Chengez Khan died in 1227. This was followed by an attack of Ilutmish on Western territories won by Mongols and placed Lahore and Multan under Delhi Sultanate. After that he campaigned against the Rajput territories viz. Ranathambore, Mandsaur, Bayana, Ajmer, Sambhar, Nagaur, Gwalior etc. In 1235, Ilutmish sacked Ujjain and destroyed the Mahakal Temple. He died in 1236. He is buried at Qutub Complex in New Delhi.

Razia Sultan (1236-1240)

A decade from the death of Ilutmish was tumultuous for the Sultanate.

Ilutmish's eldest son had died prematurely. All other sons were ill qualified and Ilutmish was aware of this fact. He had declared Razia, his daughter who was given military training as his heir apparent.

-: About this document:-

But "The Forty" had become very strong during the reigns of Qutub-ud-din & Iltutmish and they did never want that a woman sits above them. So, Iltutmish was succeeded by his son **Rukn ud din Firuz**, a handsome, generous and young fool, who was overindulged in sensuality, spent money on singers and dancers and once known to have showered gold upon the admiring crowd when he was passing the bazaars, drunk. The affairs of the state were managed by his widowed mother. Both the son and mother duo were assassinated within 7 months.

Raziya was chosen at his place who became first female Sultan of India in 1236.

She was a great monarch, wise, just and generous possessing all qualities of a King except sex.

She sat on the throne of Delhi in 1236 and reigned for only three and half years till 1240. She did all what she could do to prove her a "Man". She wore manly dress and showed her face bravely, but the **Chihalgani** or "The Forty" of the Turkish Chiefs could not be convinced that they should be ruled by a woman.

The wise politician in Raziya was able to keep the Turkish Nobles in check but her preference for the Abyssinian **Yakut**, though seems innocent, roused the jealousy of the dominant Turks.

Turko-Afghan Nobles were not able to endure an Abyssinian sitting over them side by side a women. They rose in rebellion when Yakut was appointed the superintendent of the Stables. The rebellion was joined by Malik Altunia, the Governor of Bhatinda and there was a battle. Yakut was killed and Raziya was taken prisoner.

Being a woman, Raziya was able to subdue her capturer **Altunia by marrying him**. But, meanwhile her brother **Muizuddin Bahram Shah** usurped the throne, while she was at Bhatinda. Both Raziya and her husband tried to take the sultanate back, but were defeated and fled towards Kaithal. Their forces abandoned them and both of them were captured by the Jats and assassinated.

Muiz ud din Bahram reigned for 2 years and these two years were spent in plots and counter plots and cruel murders. He was killed by his own exasperated army.

His was followed by his son Ala-ud-din Masud, who played as a puppet of the chiefs. He soon became infamous for his love of wine. In due course of time he acquired the habit of seizing and killing the Nobles. He was removed and replaced with his uncle Nasir-ud-din Mahmud, youngest son of Iltutmish. His reign was from 1246 to 1266. Meanwhile another Turk Balban rose to power and succeeded him for, Nasir ud din Mahmud had no son.

Balban (1266-1287)

Nasir-ud-din-Mahmud was just a nominal King; the real power was in the hands of Ghiyas-ud-din Balban, a slave of Iltutmish, who belonged to the Ilbari tribe of the Turks.

The Slave and the Bhisti

He was captured by Mongols in his childhood and was brought to India. Iltutmish had bought him in 1232. At first, Sultan refused to buy him because of his shortness and ugliness, but Balban begged him to buy him and he was bought and placed among the **Bhists** (water bearers).

The Huntsman and the Noble

But Balban was fit for other better jobs. In due course of time he was enrolled in the "Corp of Forty", served Raziya as her chief huntsman, retained his post under Baharam. When Baharam was removed, Balban was a rebel, later getting the governorship of Hansi.

-: About this document:-

The General and Minister

The feeble successors of Iltutmish invited frequent rebels among the Hindus and Balban had dedicated his energy in leading his troops through Doab, Ranthambore, Malwa, Kalinjar etc. He became too powerful that Nasiruddin, prejudiced against his achievements and had banished him from the court, but he was later taken back and returned all his honors. He served his sultan Nasir-ud-din Mahmud for 20 years indefatigably and overcame all the rebellions, plots, conspiracies and frequent Mongol Alarms.

Nasir-ud-din Mahmud was a religious person. He lived a life of Darvesh, spending his time in copying the Holy Koran, and had no female servants, mistresses etc. He was actually not worthy of becoming the 13th century Sultan of India, but it was Balban who could fill his space and care for the Government.

But it was not an easy task. Years after years, the rebels of Hindus as well as plots and counter plots of the Turkish chiefs wanted a strong man to keep in check and Balban's opulent energy was able to do this task. He became the Sardar of the Nobles.

✍ Overtaking the powers of *Chihalgani* showed distant results. Now Sultan was important and not the "Corp of Forty".

The Impeccable Sultan

Death of his master Nasir-ud-din Mahmud was followed by his natural ascending on the throne. The impeccable King in Balban subdued all the rebel forces with a iron hand and pounced upon the disturbing placed like a lion and killed the rebels without mercy. He was terribly severe towards the officers, executing them without mercy.

Crushing the Mewatis

The power of the Mewatis in the outskirts of Delhi was so dreadful that the gates of the city were closed in the evening after the evening Namaz. It is documented that Balban crushed the infidel Mewatis and ordered clearing the forests. The jungles were cleared and everyone who came in the way was killed taking the toll to 100 thousand. The dacoits in the Doab region were dealt with Iron hand.

Reorganization of army

To counter the Mongols, he organized and disciplined his army to the Highest point of efficiency. He refused to entrust any authority to Hindus.

Revolt of Tughril Khan in Bengal:

The Bengal rulers were a great headache to the Delhi Government. The local governors declared their independence whenever there was a chaos at Delhi. In 1279, the subedar of Bengal Tugril Khan neglected the aging Sultan of Delhi and declared his independence. The irritated Sultan sent a Big army under Aziz Khan, but he was defeated by Tugril Khan. Aziz Khan fled away. Balban send another army , which met with no better faith.

Now, the Sultan himself led a bigger army to Bengal. Hearing about Balban's march towards Bengal, Tugril Khan fled from the capital Lakhnauti and hid himself in forests. He was searched, tortured and killed. A mass killing at Lakhnauti was ordered and all the sympathizers of Tugril Khan were killed. The Bengal's affairs were now given to Balban's second son **Bugara Khan** and Sultan returned back to Delhi after suppressing this revolt. Bugara Khan and five of his descendents ruled Bengal for next 5 decades.

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Death, Legacy and succession

Balban died in 1287, after 20 years of rule as a general & Minister and 20 years as a Sultan of Delhi.

- ✍ Balban was the first king who understood the conditions and requirements of being a Sultan of Delhi and fulfilled them practically. He is known as one of the severest kings of India.
- ✍ He introduced "**Zaminbosi**" or "**Practice of Sijda**", the people would kneel down and touch the ground with their head to greet the Sultan.
- ✍ He forwarded the Iranian **Theory of Divine Rights**, that Sultan is the representative of God on Earth.
- ✍ He executed the "Corp of Forty" and ended its influence.
- ✍ To counter the Mongols, he organized his military. For this he made some changes like abolition of the post of the Naik and creating a new department of military affairs known as Diwan-i-arz. The in charge of Diwan-i-arz was Ariz-i-Mumalik.
- ✍ He kept Hindus away from army or other authorities.
- ✍ He instructed the Ulemas to confine themselves to the religious affairs only.

Balban had destroyed the powerful group of slaves called "Chihalagani" who were true inheritors of Iltutmish. His hopes for his own succession were focused around his eldest son who died before him. His second son, **Bugara Khan**, who was governor of Bengal, was offered the throne but Bugara Khan preferred to stay at Bengal. In irritation, Balban left the throne to his deceased son's son named **Kaikubad**, a young lad of 17 years as his heir apparent.

After his death in 1287, Kaikubad was "placed" on the throne. Kaikubad, the young chap was carefully brought up under his grandfather. He was never allowed to see the young girls and enjoy the wine. This young man had been taught of all the good things and none of the bad things. All of a sudden, he found himself as master of India and now everything his youth desired was available to him.

The result was that he indulged in so much of drinking and debauchery, that he found himself struck with paralysis. When a mercenary was sent to kill him, he was found in his bedroom in a lovely Sheesh Mahal (palace of mirrors) at Kilughari, a few miles from Delhi at the Bank of River Yamuna and was sent to hell without much hassle.

The Kingdom crippled and a series of murders followed. The heirs designate of Balban, the son of the Martyred Prince Kaikubad, who was declared king at the age of 3 years was killed. There was a war of the races in Delhi, all the Turks, Afghans and Pathans were now to try their sword to decide the fate of India.

Khalji Dynasty:**Jalal ud din Firuz Khilji (1290-1296 AD)**

The power that swept away the Slave Dynasty was Jalal-ud-din Firuz Khilji. His original name was Malik Firuz. Malik Firuz was appointed in the army at Baran by Kaikubad.

When Kaikubad debauched himself to paralysis, Firuz marched to Delhi. Meanwhile, Kaikubad was killed and the nobles placed the three year old son of Kaikubad on the throne. The men (Brothers, sons and nephews) of Firuz dashed in Delhi, captured the 3 year old Sultan of India, defeated the forces and compelled the nobles to

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surrender, killed the infant king and threw his body in Yamuna. On 13 July 1290, the dynasty at Delhi had changed and now a new Dynasty that is Khilji Dynasty was there to rule the country and decide its fate.

The Khalji clan was from the **Afghan village of Khalj** was of most probably Turkish origin but had become Afghan in character. Khalji and the Turkish slaves were partners in many successful campaigns in India. Under Muhammad Ghori, Bengal was won by Bakhtiyar Khalji, who ruled there. They were in many high level posts in the Ghor army and successive armies in India.

When Jalaluddin set at the throne of Delhi, he was an old man of 70 years and he deputed his brothers, sons and nephews at various "strategic" posts in the government. The old man was not ready to shed more blood, and when **Malik Chajju**, a nephew of Balban marched with an army to dethrone the new Sultan of Delhi, he was defeated, captured but freed and posted at Manikpur.

Jalauddin was obsessed with mercy. He pardoned all kinds of criminals alike thugs, traitors, conspirators etc. etc. In his time, Mongols attacked once more but this time (**under Halaku**), negotiations caused the "partial" retreat of the Mongols and not the open war.

The next invasion of Mongols was under Ulugh Khan. He accepted Islam and the old Sultan gave his daughter to him in marriage. He started staying near Delhi and later created sorts of troubles for the kith and kin of Sultan.

This behavior of the King, who was probably preparing himself for the next world, was incomprehensible and exasperating for the companions. His wit, learning, way of life and way of ruling was not appreciated by anybody.

The sedition grew quickly and then all of a sudden we find his nephew Alauddin, who was his son-in-law too, plot a conspiracy. He trapped his uncle unarmed and unguarded at Kara where he was posted, and when actually the uncle was fondling this traitor nephew, one of the meanest murder of the history of India was accomplished. The old Sultan of India, Jalaluddin Khalji was stabbed, beheaded and thrown down at the feet of his nephew, he had ever trusted, perhaps more than anyone else.

Alauddin Khalji (1296-1316)

Nevertheless, the traitor nephew Alauddin Khilji whose original name was **Ali Gurshap** reigned vigorously in India for next 20 years and established himself as most power ruler of the Delhi Sultanate.

Great Warrior

Before he became the Sultan, he had a bright career as a warrior. He had killed his uncle at **Kara near Allahabad, where he was deputed by his uncle**. Prior to he became the Sultan, his aunt (widow of Jalauddin) Malika Jahan placed her son Rukunddin Khalji at the throne. Alauddin marched from Kara to Delhi, entered with his uncle's head on a spear and proclaimed himself the Sultan of Delhi.

Lesson to Traitors

The two sons of Jalauddin were blinded and the poor aunt was placed in prison, his wrath fell upon the officials and nobles who, interestingly shared with him the plot against his uncle. They were captured, imprisoned; some of them blinded and others were killed. The wealth they had received from Alauddin was seized and their houses were confiscated. Only three nobles who did not ditch Jalal could survive, a lesson was taught to the disloyal.

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He was able to expand the territory to down south. He was first and foremost, an able soldier. He was so illiterate that was not able to read his name. But he was good in commanding the army and carry out arduous campaigns. Shortly before he became Sultan of India, he had won a great prestige by the conquests in Deccan. The stretch of Sultanate of Delhi was from Indus to Bengal and from Himalayas to Vindhyas. Till that time, no Muslim invader had been able to cross the Vindhyas, Satpuras and Narmada River and conquer the Deccan plateau. In 1294, just two years before he became Sultan, while dealing with rebellions in Malwa and Bundelkhand, he carried his army to Devagiri and took the fort un-resisted. The ruler of Devagiri Raja Ramchandra was taken by the surprise and fled to hills. The way to Deccan was open and was never closed for him as well as future generations of the Mohammedan rulers.

Invasion of Mongols:

In 1294, **Duwa Khan**, a successor of Kublai Khan had tried to establish the Mongol empire in India. He was resisted in the Punjab by **Zafar Khan**, the general of Sultan Alauddin in 1297 and got defeated at Jalandhar.

There was again an attack under **Saldi**. **Saldi** was able to capture the fort of Siri and again faced a crushing defeat by general Zafar Khan. 2000 Mongols were made prisoner and were paraded before the Sultan. This was the worst defeat , the Mongols had faced in India.

The worst invasion of the Mongol forces took place in 1299 under **Kutlugh Khwaja**. Kutlugh Khwaja was a son of Duwa Khan and grandson of Kublai Khan. He brought with himself 2, 00,000 nomads who blocked the streets and created a sort of famine. The newly built capital of Alauddin "Siri" was in no state of defense. Sultan was advised to temporize with the invaders but he actively refused this advice. He met the Mongols in the battle field. His right wing was under gallant general Zafar Khan. Zafar Khan was cut off by an ambush and was killed. But the Mongols were repelled.

Elimination of New Muslims

One important result of these repeated invasions of Mongols in Delhi was that hoards of these nomadic people established themselves near Delhi and accepted Islam. They were called "New Muslims" lived in poverty and misery. Alauddin discovered a conspiracy among them and ordered that all the New Muslims must be eliminated in one day. The order was followed and around 40 thousand Mongols were killed inhumanly leaving the women and child , who were made prisoners and thrown into slavery.

Other Invasions of Mongols

There was yet another invasion under **Targhi**, whose 12000 army confined the Sultan in the Siri. Sultan did not come out of the fort for two months. Targhi changed his mind and withdrew his forces. Similar invasions took place under **Tartaq, Kebek, Iqbalmand Khan**. By 1308, Sultan's army had become strong and he sent troops under **Ghazi Malik** to Kandhar, Ghazni and Kabul to teach a lesson to Mongols. These campaigns crippled the Mongols and they could not gather courage to invade India again till next invasion took place under **Timur during the Tughlaq Dynasty**.

Fool's Paradise

Alauddin was an illiterate, bad tempered, obstinate and hard-hearted man who never got in touch with the learned. The success after success made him cherish the widest desires and impossible goals. He **tried to imitate Hazarat Muhammad** and establish a new religion, he dreamt of becoming second Alexander to subdue the earth,

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ordered the Muslims to take his name in the Namaz and ordered to engrave his name as "**Second Alexander**" in **his coins**.

But there were some wise people around who advised him to leave the job of establishing new religions to the prophets and rather than subduing the whole of earth, subdue the parts of India which were under the infidel Hindus such as the Rajputs of Rajasthan and rulers of Malwa, Dhar, Ujjain etc.

Seize of Ranthambore:

After coming out of his "Fool's Paradise" he found out the just Ranthambore was enough to make him lose all his energy. One of the rebels of the Sultan, named Muhammad Shah was given shelter by Raja **Hammir of Ranthambore**. The fort was besieged by the Sultan's army in 1299 and returned in 1301 exhausted. Only a conspiracy could help him to capture the fort of Ranthambore that too with the help of a **Rajput traitor Ranmal Hammir Dev** as well as Muhammad Shah was killed and Ranthambore was given to Ulugh Khan. Sultan returned to Delhi.

Seize of Chittor

Rawal Rattan Singh was 42nd ruler of Mewar. His wife Rani Padmini was an eternal beauty and Alauddin came to know about her. Besides, to make a stronghold on Gujarat and Deccan, Chittor was essential to be won by Alauddin. Chittor was seized for 8 months, and finally came under the Khaljis.

Padmani and other women of the Fort performed Jauhar which is huge pyre was lit and followed by their queen Padmini, all the women of Chittor jumped into the flames and deceived the lustful enemy waiting outside.

- ✍ *Padmavat* of Malik Muhammad Jayasi is a poem about the beauty and Jauhar of Padmani.
- ✍ When Khalji attacked Ranthambore, Chittor, Malwa and other places, Amir Khusro remained with the king in order to write chronicles.
- ✍ *Khazain-ul-Futooh* (The Treasures of Victories) is one of Amir Khusrau's controversial books in which the war of Chittorgarh has been mentioned.
- ✍ **Gora and Badal** were two warriors who fought from the side of Rawal Ratan Singh.
- ✍ **Khijra Khan**, son of Alauddin Khalji was made governor of Chittor and its name was changed to Khijrabad.

In 1303, Chittor was besieged by the marauding army of Alauddin Khalji, who had coveted Padmani, Rani of Chittor. The siege was followed by "Jauhar" wherein Rani Padmani, consort of Rawal Ratan Singh, led the ladies of the fort into death by self-immolation, "to find security from dishonor in the devouring element" as says James Tod. The next morning, the men folk of Chittor rode out to face certain death on the field of honor.

Meanwhile Daughter of Raja Karndev, the ruler of Gujarat was taken to Delhi and was married to **Khijra Khan**, son of Alauddin Khalji.

Conquests in Deccan

After reducing the two Hindu Fortresses of Ranthambore (1201) and Chittor (1203), Alauddin was now to turn against the Deccan.

He sent an army under **Malik Kafur**, a handsome castrato (male castrated before puberty) from Gujarat who was Hindu by birth and converted to Islam, fascinated the Sultan and allegedly had homosexual relations with him.

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Alauddin had so much faith on **Malik Kafur** that he became the most important person after Sultan in due course of time.

He was sent in 1308 to recover **Devagiri** which was won by Sultan 15 years ago and the Raja had refused to pay tributes. The Raja was captured and taken as prisoners. Malik brought the Raja and his son to Delhi. The Sultan treated them with all honor, gave him a royal canopy and a title of "**Rai Rayan**" (King of Kings) and returned him to Devagiri to rule as a vassal of the Delhi Sultanate.

In the following years Malik Kafur took his troops to Warangal and was able to get the famous (infamous rather) Kohinoor diamond from the King Prataprudradev of the Kakatiya dynasty. The next campaign was against **Veera Ballala III**, the great Hoyasala, who was able to repulse the armies of Delhi Sultanate, but Kafur returned with a great Booty.

Legacy

- ✍ Alauddin had made Siri his capital and had built a fort out there "Mainly to avoid Mongol Invasions".
 - ✍ He introduced the reforms in the army and started the system of branding the horses "Daq" and biometric information about the soldiers "Chehra". Regular muster for army was introduced by him.
 - ✍ He confiscated the lands granted to nobles and checked free grants of lands. He forbade them to marry among each other's families and hold celebrations.
 - ✍ To know about the revenue arrears and collect them, he introduced a new department of *Diwan-i-mustakhraj*.
 - ✍ He is known to have established separate markets for food grains, cloths etc.
 - ✍ He also created new posts of *Diwan-i-riyasat* and *Shahna-i-mandi* to control the markets.
 - ✍ He organized and introduced a countrywide spy system.
 - ✍ He was the First Sultan who set up a "permanent Standing Army" of the sultanate.
 - ✍ He abolished the Iqta System introduced by Iltutmish and started paying them salary in cash.

The conquest of Deccan by Malik Kafur was the climax of the Career of Alauddin Khalji.

Death

The violent temper and infatuation for Malik Kafur brought envy and disunion among his governors. His bad temper was made worse by an increasing disease. His sons prematurely indulged into the drink and debauchery. There were revolts in all sides of his empire. Amid chaos, Alauddin died in 1316. This was an end of a bloody tyrant but a strong and capable ruler of India who left long footprints in the history of India.

Succession

None of his successors was able to fit in the shoes of Alauddin Khalji. Malik Kafur enthroned the 6 year old child prince Shihabuddin as Sultan of Delhi and became his protector.

Malik Kafur sent two of Sultan's elder sons to the next world mercilessly. This reprobate was plotting a mass murder of the Nobles, when one night he was killed by the soldiers in his bedroom.

Mubarak Shah

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Another son of Alauddin, Mubarak Shah became the acting regent over his younger brother. Soon, he blinded that child and sent him to jail. What happened to the ill fated child, nobody knows. As soon as he became Sultan, to gather cheap publicity, he released 17 thousands of prisoners and abolished all the taxes and penalties his father had imposed.

Mubarak, the young chap of 17 years was a slave of his own desires and orgies. He paid the army 6 months advance salary and distributed the grants indiscriminately. The result was that wine started flowing in Delhi which was banned by his father. The markets went wrong, commodities became costly. All the market reforms introduced by his father tottered like a building and there was a general corruption in Delhi.

Khusru Khan

Like his father, Mubarak also had a beautiful Hindu pariah from Gujarat whom, he had styled Khusru Khan. He openly started calling the dancing girls and prostitutes took him to the height to indecency and debauchery.

Mubarak had flayed alive late Raja Rama Deva of Devagiri. The haunting shades of past gave him the fate he deserved. One night his favorite Khusru Khan murdered him.

Khusru Khan mounted the throne as **Sultan Nasiruddin**. He ordered mass killing in the Harem of the Sultan and everybody alive was killed. Khusru, a Hindu convert, took the revenge of his forceful covert by eliminating the whole of the Khalji dynasty and this was the end of another dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate in 1320 AD.

Tughlaq Dynasty

After killing Mubarak Shah, Khusru Khan mounted the throne as **Sultan Nasiruddin**. He ordered mass killing in the Harem of the Sultan and everybody alive was killed. Khusru, a Hindu convert, took the revenge of his forceful covert by eliminating the whole of the Khalji dynasty and this was the end of another dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate in 1320 AD.

☞ The Rajput Forces were still powerful. It was a time, when, if any of the Rajputs had ever made a bid to the throne of Delhi, probably, there were chances that the Rajput Kingdom could be revived.

But it was probably the destiny of India that no Indian of any creed or race tried to follow Khusru Khan. The severity of Khusru Khan continued for few weeks. All members of the Alauddin Khalji had been killed. The Muslims were in abject fear of this Hindu convert followed by a Hindu uprising in Delhi and all their hopes were now on **Ghazi Malik**.

Ghiyas ud-Din Tughluq 1321-1325

Ghazi Malik was a general of Alauddin Khalji. During tenure as in charge of the frontiers, he had led successful campaigns against the **Mongols** on western border of the sultanate and secured Multan, Sindh and Uch for his master. His son Fakhr Malik ^(who later became Sultan Muhammad Bin Tughlaq) was in Delhi and was aware of the critical state of affairs in Delhi. He went to Multan secretly and told his father what was happening in Delhi. The father son duo, i.e. Ghazi Malik and Fakhr Malik, both great warriors, marched towards Delhi to save Delhi from this Hindu convert devourer.

Fearful **Khusru Khan**, with all the troops he could gather, emptied the treasury and scattered the hoard in among the soldiers. The Muslim soldiers took the money but did not take up arms against **Ghazi Malik**. Khusru, with his limited number of Hindu men and a few rebel Muslims tried to withstand Ghazi Malik, the champion of the

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Alauddin's faith. The result was obvious. Khusru was slaughtered in August 1321 and the 4 months of one of the worst tyranny in the history of India ended. The reign of terror ended, and India passed in the hands of another foreign dynasty.

There was no challenge from any of the kith and kin of Alauddin, instead he gathered the nobles and invited survivors of Alauddin's family, if any to take throne. But none came forward. Ghazi Malik became the Sultan of Delhi with the name **Ghiyas ud-Din Tughluq in 1321.**

- ✍ Ghiyas ud-Din Tughluq reintroduced the food market laws which were earlier implemented by his master
- ✍ He tried to revive all the reforms which were necessary and were earlier implemented.

Ghiyas ud-Din Tughluq successfully attempted to bring the peace and prosperity. Under his elder son **Fakhr Malik or Jauna or Ulugh Khan**, Deccan Provinces were recovered. A campaign was launched against Bengal, which had never subject to Delhi since demise of Balban.

This gallant old Sultan met his end in 1325 when a roof fell and crushed him beneath its ruins. His son **Fakhr Malik** ascended the throne in 1325 as **Muhammad Bin Tughlaq** and reigned for 26 years till 1351.

Muhammad Bin Tughlaq 1325-1351

Muhammad Bin Tughlaq is known as a "**Man of Ideas**" and can be said one of the most striking sultan of medieval India.

He was a trained intellectual, a keen student of Persian poetry and a philosopher, lover of science and mathematics. He is known for the idea of a **Central Capital** and experiments with a nominal **token Currency**. These ideas were all good, but he was in hurry and impatient of the slow adoption of his measures. All those who could not keep pace with his imagination, became victim of his wrath and were punished severely. The result was that Muhammad Bin Tughlaq, as a sultan proved himself a complete failure before the history of forces toppled him.

- ✍ We know about the period of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq from the material of **Ziauddin Barni**. Barni's main works are **Twarikh-i-Firuzshahi** and **Fatwa-i-Jahandari**. We know about first 6 years of Tughlaq rule from Barni's works.
- ✍ Then another important work is left by **Ibn Battuta**. Ibn Battuta has discussed his travels and incursions in contemporary Islamic world and documented them in **Rihla**. He was appointed as **Qazi by Muhammad Tughlaq** and was also appointed ambassador to China.

Ibn Battuta gives details about the later part of his rule. Portrait of Muhammad bin Tughlaq in Batutta's words, "*his gateway is never free from a beggar whom he has relived and never free from a corpse, he has slain*"

Foolish Donor

Muhammad Bin Tughlaq generously scattered almost incredible wealth among the foreign visitors, learned men, poets, officials, beggars, diseased and so on. He impoverished the treasury. His project to conquer Persia (**Khurasan Expedition**), his dream to keep a huge standing army and his plans to invade China (**Quarachil Expedition**) finished his finances. His idea of invading China met with a disastrous in the passes of Himalayas where men and money got split like water.

Horrible Tax Reforms

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The empty treasures needed fresh taxations. He wanted 5-10% more revenue from the Doab region which was the fertile land of his reign. The oppressive taxes reduced the farmers to beggars. They stopped tilling the lands, lost confidence and burnt their stacks. The cattle were turned loose and moved to Jungles. The Tax reforms of Sultan got failed. Miffed Sultan hounded the wretched Hindu subjects and massacred them. Every man captured was slaughtered like sheep. This was followed by a famine and the unfortunate subjects were left in deplorable conditions for many years to come.

Transfer of Capital

The inconvenience to rule the wealthy Deccan induced the Sultan to take step and transfer the seat of the government to **Daulatabad** (near Pune). The idea might have been practical and reasonable if he had ever thought of shifting the official court of Delhi. But, he wanted to transport the whole population of Delhi to the new capital. The inhabitants of Delhi were made to leave their homes and were forced to march 700 miles down south with their women, children and all such belongings they could carry. Many were killed on the way in this forty days journey and few could survive. Daulatabad became the burial ground of the Sultan's exiled subjects. Sultan got enough wisdom to realize his failure and ordered the people back to Delhi; result was only few could survive to return. Delhi's houses were deserted now. Sultan "imported" learned men, traders and landholders to repopulate the deserted Delhi, but they could not flourish.

Diwan-i-Kohi

Sultan also got enough wisdom to understand the distress caused by the Famine and the result of the excessive taxation. In 1341, he abolished all the taxes and started sitting twice a week to hear the complaints of the oppressed.

He started distributing daily food to the people of Delhi. He also established a loan system to the peasants. He created a department of Agriculture named as "**Diwan-i-Kohi**". He established a "**Famine Code**" to relive the victims of Famine.

Experiments with Token Currency

The heavy drains of the treasury led him to do another disastrous experiment of a token currency.

The Idea of token currency was probably borrowed from Paper Money issued by his near contemporary Kublai **Khan** in China. He introduced the Copper/ brass coins which were to pass at the value of the contemporary Silver Tanka.

✍ The silver coin introduced by Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was called Adl.

✍ The Gold coin, which was finely engraved was called "Dinar"

He did not foresee the consequences of this monetary experiment. He was aware that the value of the token money depends upon the credit of the treasury ^(which was full with Gold after his Deccan conquests) but forgot that none other than the state should issue the tokens.

Any skilled Hindu engraver could copy the inscriptions and strike the copper tokens of the values of the Tankas. The result was that "house of every Hindu turned into a mint and the Hindus produced coins in tens of millions". They paid their tribute, purchased horses, arms, cloths and all the other things with this forged currency. The local Rajas and village headmen became rich but the government became poor. The value of these coins fell so low that they became worth pebbles. This forced Sultan to repeal the edict and he gave order to bring the copper

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coins to the treasury and exchange them with old coins of silver / gold. Thousands of men from all corners flocked with these copper coins to the capital and exchanged them with Gold and Silver Tankas. So much of copper coins were brought to the treasury that heaps of them raised like mountains. The experiment got its disastrous end.

Death and Succession

The innovations of the Sultan exasperated the people and Sultan became unpopular. There was widespread discontent and rebellion. Bit by bit the empire disintegrated, one province after another revolted. Sultan could suppress the rebels at one point but could not be everywhere. Amid chaos and confusion, in 1351 Muhammad Bin Tughlaq died. He had no sons but his cousin Firoz Shah ascended the throne.

Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388 AD)

When ascended to the throne of Delhi, Firoz was a man of 45 years. His mother was a Hindu princess of Dipalpur, who gave herself to his father Razzab (the younger brother of Ghazi Malik) to save her people from the demands and oppressions of the half-breed Turks.

Firoz was trained in the art of the administration under his late cousin, the "man of ideas" Muhammad bin Tughlaq. Muhammad kept him with himself like his son. Once becoming Sultan, he reversed every order of his predecessor.

✍ Firuzshah Kotla (in Delhi) is the city established by him. It was destroyed by the later rulers.

The empire which was broken during his cousin Muhammad's reign was to be recovered back. He campaigned against Bengal for two times, planned a new city Jaunpur in memory of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.

General administration

Since he was half Muslim, got a religious temperament, probably to prove himself equal to the Pure Muslims. He started seeking advice of the Ulemas and ruled as per the Shariat. All the taxes which were unlawful as per Shariat were abandoned by him.

- ✍ Chungi (Octroi) was one of these taxes which was abolished by Firoz.
- ✍ The Brahmins were NOT exempted from the Jaziya tax levied on their pilgrimages but abolished Jaziya for those who accepted Islam.
- ✍ He ordered that the Muslim women should not come out of their houses and visit the tombs.
- ✍ He publically burnt a Brahmin for preaching the Muslims.
- ✍ A lot of Hindu temples were destroyed and mosques were erected.
- ✍ He imposed water tax on the agriculture land which was irrigated by the waters of the canals dug by the state.
- ✍ He acquired numerous slaves and employed them in the royal workshops.

Gentle to Peasants

The Firoz shah's regime was utmost gentle towards the peasantry. His predecessor Muhammad Bin Tughlaq had introduced a system of government loans for the peasants. The peasants were not able to repay these loans. By the advice of one of his vazirs named Makbul, he destroyed all the records in his presence, ceremoniously and gave clean chit to the peasants. This was one of the remarkable decisions taken by Firoz Shah Tughlaq which

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brought general peace and prosperity in the sultanate. In 32 years rule there were almost no rebels in India under Firoz and this might be one of the reasons.

Passion of founding cities

Firoz Shah was also a remarkable builder. He had a passion of founding and naming the towns. When his son **Fatah Khan** was born on his march to Delhi, he founded a town at the site of the happy event as Fatahabad (now in Haryana). During his Bengal campaign he renamed two towns and founded **Jaunapur**, in honor of his late cousin. He established second **Firozabad** on the banks of Yamuna River near Delhi. Here he established one of the Asokan Pillars which he had removed from its original places.

✍ He also founded a city of *Hissar-i-Firoza* in the modern Haryana which is now the town of Hisar.

Canal System

- ✍ To support the newly founded city of *Hissar-i-Firoza*, in 1355 he constructed a **Double System of Canals from Yamuna to Sutlej**.
- ✍ They are referred to as **rajwahas** in the Indo-Persian historical texts.
- ✍ This Yamuna canal was repaired for irrigation purposes during the time of Akbar.

Public Works

According to *Farishta*, a later historian, not less than 845 public works were done during the times of Firoz Shah Tughlaq which included canals, dams, reservoirs, bridges, baths, forts, mosques, schools, monasteries, and inns for pilgrims and travelers.

- ✍ He also repaired the **Qutub Minar** (1368) which had got damaged previously in an earthquake and many of the tombs of Delhi.

Succession

In all, Firoz was adored by the people. He reformed abuses, checked extortions, reduced taxation and increased irrigation and did all that which could lead to a general prosperity of the public.

In old age he got surrounded by problems. His crown prince Fatah Khan died and this tragedy had shaken the old Sultan.

During his rule the government had supported around 180,000 slaves in Delhi, who turned miscreants after his death. Sultan died in 1388 amid sorrow and gloominess. Fatah Khan, the hope of his father had already died, his next son Zafar had also gone. His grandson, **Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq II**, a young and foolish lad addicted to wine and licentiousness sat on the throne and was killed within 5 months.

Another grandson **Abu Bakr** succeeded him but he was opposed by his uncle **Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah III**, who lotted the throne for around 4 years from 1390-94. This four year reign saw the series of rebellions. Muhammad's son who was proudly entitled "Alexander" was slaughtered after just hanging around for 4 weeks.

Muhammad's brother Sultan Nasir-u Din Mahmud occupied the throne. During the times of Sultan Nasir-u Din Mahmud, India faced invasion of a new tyrant **Timur**.

Invasion of Timur : 1398

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In 1398, when Delhi was in a chaotic state of the kingdom, Timur attacked Delhi with his 92 regiments of 1000 horsemen each.

- ✍ Timur, the fourteenth-century conqueror of Western, South and Central Asia was the founder of the Timurid dynasty (1370–1405) in Central Asia and was an ancestor of Babur who established Mughal Kingdom in India.

Timur was induced by the surpassing riches of India and by the duty of the "Holy War" against the infidels. The objective of Timur to invade India was *"to lead a campaign against the "Infidels" and convert them to true faith as per the command of Hazarat Muhammad and purify the land from the pollution of misbelief and overthrow the temples and the idols placed inside them"*.

Crossing the Indus and all the five rivers of Punjab, Timur almost unopposed reached capital on December 17, 1398 where a decisive battle was fought. Before he entered Delhi, more than 100000 Hindus were taken as prisoners. As a precaution to the war elephants of the Sultan, he made a defense camp with brushwood and trees, followed by a store and cattles and the Hindu women. His horsemen were stationed with the women prisoners. The women prisoners were raped and tortured. Before leaving for the battle, Timur ordered all of the 1 lakh men to be slain in cold blood.

The armies of Sultan Nasir-u Din Mahmud attempted to withstand this tyrant's forces but were defeated. Timur left Delhi in December 1398 and marched on Meerut. Then he attacked Haridwar and overran the city in 1399. At Bhokarhedi, he faced stiff resistance from the Hindus. In 1399 he returned his capital with numerous slaves and 90 captured elephants laden with precious stones and gold looted from India. He returned to his capital Amu Darya and built a mosque at Samarkand.

- ✍ This mosque named Bibi-Khanym Mosque is located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan was built by Timur and is named after wife of Timur.

Sayyid Dynasty 1414-1451

The impact of the Invasion of Timur was that Delhi was not able to get her old ascendancy. After a series of successions the Tughlaq dynasty had ended.

In 1414, **Khizra Khan**, the founder of the Sayyid dynasty, who claimed his descent from the Arabian Prophet, took control as a deputy of Timur in India. 4 Kings of the Sayyid dynasty indulged in perpetual struggle to retain some sort of control. **Khizra Khan** was succeeded by his son Mubarak Khan after his death on May 20, 1421. But he was murdered soon. Last ruler of this dynasty was **Ala-ud-Din Alam Shah**, who voluntarily abdicated the throne of the Delhi sultanate in favor of **Bahlol Khan Lodi** on April 19, 1451 and left for Badaun, where he died chanting names of the god.

India was once again disintegrated in smaller independent states and petty rulers ruled the territories, some of which were as small as 20-30 miles.

- ✍ In South India first independent Islamic Kingdom in South Bahamni Kingdom had already formed by a vassal of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.
- ✍ In Karnataka the Vijayanagar empire was on its climax.

Lodi Dynasty

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The entire 15th century saw the power of Delhi vanished, following the collapse of the Tughlaq Dynasty, after the invasion of Timur. The Sayyid utterly failed. The Lodi Afghans showed some energy and wisdom but could not regain the old power and pomp. The last feeble Sayyid was supplanted by Bahlol Lodi in 1451.

Bahlol Lodi 1451 – 1489

Bahlol Lodi was a good soldier and governor of Sirhind. After taking some minor principalities near Delhi, he was able to recover Jaunpur and surrounding territories expanding the territories as far as Bihar. He had married a Hindu Goldsmith of Sirhind and the offspring of this matrimony was Sikandar Lodi, who succeeded him after his death in 1489.

Sikandar Lodi 1489-1517

Sikandar Lodi was the second son of Bahlol, so naturally there was a power struggle between him and his elder brother **Barbak Shah**, who was then viceroy of Jaunpur. But since, Sikandar was nominated as heir apparent by his father, there was no bloodshed and Barbak Shah kept ruling Jaunpur. Sikandar ascended the throne in 1489 AD.

The campaigns of Sikandar Lodi began to recall the earlier supremacy of Delhi. He was able to subdue the rajas of Bihar, Bengal, Dholpur, Chanderi, Gwalior, Awadh, Tirhut, Bundelkhand etc.

- ✍ In 1503 he **established the city of Agra** and in **1506, transferred his capital from Delhi to Agra**.
- ✍ Sikandar, like Firoz Tughlaq was harsh to Hindus and is known to have burnt alive a Hindu Brahmin who preached that "*Islam and Hindu are both ways acceptable to God*".
- ✍ He razed temples such as Jwalamukhi temple at Nagarkot. He imposed Jaziya on Hindus and did all what he could do to prove the supremacy of Islam.

The dream of conquering the Gwalior fort could never come true in his life. He attacked 5 times to win this mighty fort but each time he was defeated by raja Mansingh of Gwalior. He died in 1517 and was succeeded by his son Ibrahim Lodi, who was the last Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate.

Ibrahim Lodi: 1517-1526

Ibrahim Lodi was obsessed with the Royal prerogative. He made the Afghan chiefs on whose swords his dominion rested, stand motionless in his presence with folded hands and they got so much vexed with his petty rules that discontent rose among them.

Ibrahim tried to subdue the inferno with the blood of some of the elite and result of this bloodshed was that Afghans rose in arms. There was a rebel in all of his sides. The chiefs of Oudh, Jaunpur and Bihar chose **Darya Khan** as their leader. In Punjab there was a revolt under **Daulat Khan**. The rule of Ibrahim became so intolerant that one of his uncles **Aalam Khan** fled to Kabul and invited **Babur** to invade India. In Mewar, a new power under **Rana Sanga** was on its zenith. Under these circumstances Babur attacked India and closed the chapter of Delhi Sultanate.

Mughal Empire

Babur 1526-1530

Zahir ud-din Muhammad Babur is one of the most captivating figures of Indian history.

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Babur was a link between the predatory swarms and the imperial government, a link between Timur and Akbar. The blood of Mongols, Turks, Chengez Khan and Timur was mixed in his veins.

A descendent of Timur through his father and descendant of Changez Khan through his mother, Babur represented the culture and urbanity of the Persians and spread it in India. He laid foundation of the splendid fabric which was completed by his grandson Akbar.

- ✍ Babur has written his biography i.e. **Baburnama** which is also known as *Tuzk-e Babri*.
- ✍ Babur and Jahangir are the only two emperors of Mughal Empire who wrote their own biographies.
- ✍ **Baburnama** is also known to be the first true autobiography in the Islamic literature.
- ✍ Baburnama was written in **Chagatai Turkic**, which was Babur's mother tongue.
- ✍ In contrast *Jahangirnama* or **Tuzk-i-Jahangiri** was written in Persian.

Babur was born in 1483 at Fargana situated between Persia and Turkestan i.e. modern Uzbekistan and spent 36 years of his life in that country.

During the time period between Timur's invasion on India in 1398 and Babur's birth in 1483, none of the successors of Timur was capable to consolidate the common heritage of the large Timurid Empire.

So when Babur took birth this large empire was broken into pieces which were being ruled by a large number of Timurid princes. Likewise, Babur's father Umar Sheikh Mirza had inherited the Kingdom of Fargana.

When Babur was just a young boy of 11 years Umar Sheikh Mirza died and Babur succeeded him. But soon he became busy in countering the plots and intrigues of his uncles and cousins. He was exiled but was able to take Fargana back later.

Like his great grandfather Timur, Babur wanted to win the Samarkand, capital of Transoxiana. He attacked Samarkand in 1497 and was able to retain it for 7 months, but a rebellion at home led him to march towards Fargana which is 200 miles of Samarkand. But during this march, his troops at Samarkand deserted him and he lost it.

In 1501, he tried to win Samarkand and was defeated by **Muhammad Shaybani**. Muhammad Shaybani took Herat too in 1507. The only lasting success of Babur in his initial career was Kabul. At Kabul, as soon as 1523, the Afghan nobles began to intrigue with him to dislodge Ibrahim Lodi. In his encounter with the people of his own race, he took a lesson that only way to establish a large empire is to go beyond Indus and win Hindustan. Babur started contemplating winning India, but till the age of 36 years, he could take anything beyond Kabul & Ghazni.

- ✍ The first attack of Babur in India was on **Bajaur in 1519** with 2000 horsemen. It was followed by capture of Bhira on Jhelum River in Punjab. Babur claimed this land in right of his great Grandson Timur's conquest a century ago. But he was repelled by the Hindus and Babur's occupation was nothing but a fleeting raid.

The discontent at Delhi led Aalam Khan , one of the uncles of Ibrahim Lodi and a claimant to the throne of Delhi flee to Kabul and appeal him for "action", which was already "granted".

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- ✍ Gun Powder was used for the first time during his expedition to Bajaur. In successive expeditions he used Gun powder and Canons which were perhaps new to the Indians.

Prior to take on Ibrahim Lodi, Babur had led 4 expeditions. In one of these expeditions he was able to defeat Daulat Khan Lodi, the Governor of Punjab. The Kabul troops of Babur routed the Lahore troops of Daulat Khan and plundered Lahore Bazaars. Babur rested only for 4 days in the Capital then passed to Dipalpur, sacked the town and massacred the soldiers and civilians. Alam Khan was appointed at Dipalpur and a Mongol was also left to watch this coat changer. Then he returned Kabul. His fifth and final expedition was in November 1525 which ended in 1526 with victory at Delhi.

First Battle of Panipat 1526

Babur's eldest son Humayun had brought a contingent of warriors from Badshahkhan and this time the trustiest generals of Ghazni led the army. After crossing Jhelum, the troops of Lahore also joined him, as Daulat Khan pretended to support them. But he stood against Babur and his 40 thousand troops melted away at Babur's approach. Daulat Khan was killed.

The decisive battle of Panipat was fought with Ibrahim Lodi on April 21, 1526. Babur collected 700 gun-carts and linked them together with twisted bull hides and arranging the shields between each pair of them to protect the operator.

He placed his canons and matchlocks in the center. On 21 April, the 1 Lakh army of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi with 300 elephants was engaged by the strategically arranged much less in number troops of Babur , from all sides. By noon the invaders had broken the great army of the Sultan of Delhi. The Sultan of India was beheaded and his head was brought to Babur. The victorious troops were divided into two parts, one of which was sent to capture Agra. On 27 April 1526, the Public Prayer in Delhi was said in the mosque in the name of the new emperor of India - **Babur**.

- ✍ The Guns and Canons proved decisive in this battle as well as successive battles of Babur.

The treasure of Delhi and Agra was looted and divided among the Begs of Babur and in celebration of this victory silver coins were distributed in Kabul.

- ✍ The celebrated Kohinoor was brought by Humayun to his father, who returned it to the young prince.

Babur had little love for wealth and precious stones and was happy in giving it away, earning the prestigious nickname of "**Kalandhari**".

Babur's Resolution

When Babur, the new King moved to Agra, it was a hot season, adverse to his soldiers and the local people were hostile to the strangers. Each big or small state was prepared for stiff resistance. The soldiers started feeling

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homesick, and having their prize money secured wished to go back to the cool air of Kabul and started getting ready. But Babur summoned all the chief officers and spoke to them. He recalled the past "toil" and "hard work" of his army and asked them that after winning throne of Delhi, was it good idea to turn back from all they have accomplished? Nobody said yes.

A bold resolution was made and Babur decided to stay here, at the heart of India, among the foemen and hostile countries.

He was able to win many of the small enemies very soon. Humayun led an army to east to suppress the Afghans, and made them flee beyond Ganges. Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Ayodhya were taken. The only formidable rival left in Hindustan was the great **Rana Sanga of Chittor**, the venerable head of all the Rajput Kings of Rajasthan.

Rana Sanga of Chittor

The Old Rajput Hero Rana Sanga who counted 80 wounds on his body and lost one arm and one eye in the battle field, commanded a vast army of a Rajput confederacy with 120 chieftains leading 80 thousand war horses and 500 war elephants.

Rana Sanga of Chittor had defended his kingdom bravely from repeated invasions from the Muslim rulers of Delhi, Gujarat and Malwa.

- ✍ He was the most powerful of the Hindu kings of that era.
- ✍ Mewar touched the pinnacle of prosperity during the rule of Rana Sanga.

The reign of Rana Sanga is marked by continuous battles. He fought with rulers of Delhi, Gujarat and Malwa. Prior to confrontation with Babur, **Battle of Gagron** was his major battle.

Battle of Gagron 1519

The first major battle of Rana Sanga was the "Battle of Gagron" in 1519, with **Sultan Mahmood of Malwa**. Sultan Mahmood was trounced and taken prisoner in the war. Rana Sanga extended traditional chivalry and benevolence to him. Sultan Mahmud was treated like a guest and his kingdom was restored to him by the Rana.

- ✍ Before the battle of Gagron, Ibrahim Lodi also engaged with Rana Sanga in "**Battle of Khatoli and Bari**" in which Ibrahim Lodi's forces were defeated. This enmity kept Rana Sanga neutral in the Battle of Khanwa, otherwise Babur could be defeated.

Babur's Preparations

Babur sent small cavalry to test the courage of Rajputs. The Rajputs slaughtered and reduced this cavalry to pieces.

The armies of Babur camped at Sikri, ^{which later became capital of his grandson}. A force from Bayana got with them here. The preparations took 25 days.

- ✍ It was at this point that Babur renounced wine and poured out liquor on the ground.
- ✍ He called his chiefs, who got disheartened by hearing the stories of the Rajput chivalry and prediction by a foolish astrologer that Rajputs cannot be won over,

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✍ Here Babur made another resolution to stay in the battle field till their bodies are parted from their souls.

A peace talk was initiated in which Shiladitya represented the Rajputs. The talks failed and this triggered the "Battle of Khanwa"

Battle of Khanwa 1527

On March 16, 1527 the two armies met. Attack was launched by Rana Sanga. A combined Rajput confederacy fought the Mughal in the Battle of Khanwa, but the Mughal artillery wreaked havoc in the Rajputs closed ranks.

The Canons did the fearful execution. The cannon fire was new to the Rajputs and this caused the elephants in the Rajput army to stampede. Rajputs went ahead stuffed themselves in the mouth of the cannons to silence them. The maximum loss was caused by Mughal Cavalry and later Rajputs started perishing, fled in every direction.

The great Rajput army soon disintegrated into the disordered crowd and their gallantry was turned into massacre.

The Rajput chiefs fell and the fallen Rajput chiefs were beheaded and their heads were rose in ghastly tower erected by the victor. Babur had a passion of making towers out of the heads of infidels.

End of Hindupat

Rana Sanga fled from the battle, wounded, and assisted by Rao Maldev. He vowed that unless he defeats Babur, he will not return to Chittor. In a fear that Rana was pushing the Rajputs to another battle, his own Knights poisoned him, and this was the end of "**Hindupat**" who was once thought to establish the Hindu rule in India. The battle was so awful for the Rajputs that all the remaining kingdoms fell one by one without much resistance.

✍ Rana Sanga was the last Hindu king, who tried to establish Hindu Rule in India and all castes of Rajputs made a Rajput confederacy under him.

✍ The battle of Khanwa was a decisive battle which established Mughal rule in India.

✍ In Baburnama, Babur writes that Rana Sanga was treacherous.

✍ Rana Sanga was having 80 wounds on his body.

✍ Babur assumed the title "**Ghazi**" after this battle.

Battle of Ghaghra 1529

Babur was now almost undisputed emperor of Delhi. The Rajputs were now not a problem. In 1529, Muhammad Lodi, brother of Ibrahim, who was the last Lodi claimant of the Delhi Throne, was defeated at the **Battle of Ghaghra**. The Battle of Ghaghra was important to the extent that it finished the challenge of last of the Lodis. Muhammad Lodi was joined with the Sultan of Bengal Nusrat Shah, who accepted the peace terms with Babur.

✍ The Battle of Ghaghra was last of the major engagement of Babur. He continued to consolidate the power and engage the Jagirs to Royal nobles.

The ill effects of heavy drinking and Hashish intoxication ruined his health. At the age of 47, on December 26, 1530 Babur died in his garden palace in Agra of an unknown disease. He was buried in Agra and now lies in peace in his favorite garden in Kabul, a city he had always loved, and chosen himself, surrounded by the people he loved, the fragrance of flowers. In Uzbekistan & Kyrgyzstan he is a National Hero.

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Humayun's First Reign: 1530-1540

When Babur left the throne to his eldest, lovable son Humayun, it was not a bed of roses. When he ascended the throne, he was a young man of 23 years, but not without experience. He was one of the commanders of his father and governed the frontier province of Badakshan, beyond Hindukush.

The young prince was lovely fellow, warm hearted, emotional, courteous, witty and accomplished like his father but lacked character and resolution. The quality of sustained efforts like his father was not his own trait. Even a moment of triumph would take him to bury himself in harem and dream away precious time in Opium. He had an attractive character but not the dominating one. Life of this gentleman but indolent King was an utter failure.

✍ Humayun was portrayed in his biography "**Humayunnama**" written by his sister Gulbadan Begum.

Babur had not conquered the entire India. His territory comprised little more than today's Afghanistan, Pakistan, India's Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and partially Bihar. He had neither annexed West Bengal, nor Malwa nor Gujarat. Malwa and Gujarat were now united under one King. The Rajputs of Rajasthan were only restrained but not subdued; the Afghans were still dominant and had not forgotten that a ruler at Delhi was Afghan a few years back.

Humayun was also not safe from the intrigues and plots of the family members. There was not one of his 3 brothers who did not plot against him. His younger brother Kamran was ruler of Kabul, who annexed Punjab, but it was Humayun's brotherly affection that he tolerated this usurpation. With Kamran taking North West territories of the empire, the main recruitment ground for the Mughal army was crosscut for; the hill tribes of Afghanistan restored the fighting strength of Muslims in India.

The army already in India depleted due to battles and "natural causes". Two other brothers were also dangerous who engaged in worthless treacheries against their magnanimous brother. Further, two cousins of Humayun also made their futile bids for the throne. This was added by the division of the army.

There were three major problems for Humayun

1. In North west, it was his brother Kamran
2. In east it were the Afghans
3. In south it was Bahadur Shah the king of Gujarat and Malwa.

The Rajputs were also sitting at a striking distance from Agra.

1531: Kalinjer Expedition

In 1531, he first invaded Kalinjer and laid the siege of Kalinjer. But rather than crushing the King, he concluded peace and accepted indemnity.

1531: Battle of Dauhariya

Humayun marched towards Bihar and disposed off Mahmud Lodi in the decisive battle of Dauhariya.

1532: Siege of Chunar & submission of Sher Shah

In 1532 he laid the siege of Chunar which was under Sher Shah Suri. Instead of following up his success by crushing the routed Pathans, he accepted submission of Sher Shah and abandoned the siege of Chunar. This

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nominal submission left the most capable of the Afghans, Sher Shah, to mature his plans and strengthen his power, when Humayun was away, busy in south.

The abandoning of Chunar siege was actually induced by the fear of the Bahadur Shah who was aiming the conquest of Delhi. He had annexed Malwa and Humayun arrived at Malwa in the end of 1534. He found Bahadur Shah busy in siege of the great Rajput Fort of Chittor.

Battle with Bahadur Shah, the King of Gujarat 1535-36

Before Humayun could confront with Bahadur Shah, the Gujarati foe had seized the fort of Chittor.

Background: After the Battle of Khanwa in 1527, Rana Sanga died in 1528 poisoned by his own people. He was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Rana Ratan Singh, who was assassinated in 1531. Ratan Singh was succeeded by his brother Rana Vikramaditya Singh. During Vikramaditya Singh's reign, Sultan of Gujarat Bahadur Shah had attacked Chittor in 1534.

Udai Singh, the fourth son of Rana Sanga and Rani Karmavati (she was princess of Bundi) was sent to Bundi for safety. At the time of attack by Bahadur Shah, Karmavati sent "Rakhi" the "holy thread" to Humayun and requested for help. But Humayun did not "reply" in time. Chittor was in siege by Bahadur Shah and Karvavati performed Jauhar.

The timely interference of Humayun at Chittor could win him the inestimable friendship of the Rajputs, something which was the need of the hour. But, he decided to standby till the quarrel was fought out. This was an unusual incident where Humayun, despite his capability, did not attack Bahadur Shah, probably because his Muslim enemy was waging a "Holy war" against the "Infidel Hindus".

Bahadur stormed Chittor. Rajput women performed Jauhar to escape the shame of the Muslim Harems and Rajput men sallied out to be slaughtered. Bahadur Shah was victorious, but was not able to confront the Mughal canons and was advised by one "Rumi Khan" of his army to not to confront with the Mughal army.

This victorious Gujarat army confided itself into a camp and the soldiers inside got starved, as the Mughal enemy cut their supplies. In the dead of the night, Bahadur shah fled the scene and his army immediately dispersed in all directions. Humayun, all of a sudden found himself in undisputed possession of the camp.

Bahadur Shah was chased to Mandu but was neither killed nor arrested. From here, Bahadur shah fled to Champaner, then Ahmadabad, then Cambay and finally Diu. The almost entire region of Malwa and Gujarat, which was equal in area to the rest of the Humayun's Kingdom, fell into the hands of Humayun like a ripe mango.

End of Bahadur Shah

Humayun had destroyed the power of Bahadur Shah, but the local population could not be handled by the Mughals. Finding Mughals off the guard, Bahadur shah returned and was welcomed everywhere.

Meanwhile, The city of Bassein was already given to the Portuguese by Bahadur Shah in 1534, and now he signed another treaty with them and gave them Daman & Diu, Mumbai and Vasai, thus purchased their support. But the Portuguese like other devourer Europeans wanted more. In 1537 while Bahadur shah was visiting them on a Portuguese ship anchored off the coast of Gujarat, he was killed by the Portuguese and his body was thrown in Arabian Sea.

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The conquest of Gujarat was one of the easiest for Sultan and the cherry in the cake was the booty of Chittor, which was left by the troops of Bahadur Shah. The pleasure loving Emperor Humayun wasted one entire year in Agra in burying himself in harem and opiated indolence. Meanwhile the Afghan Sun named **Farid**, the Sher Khan had risen in the east.

Sher Shah Suri 1540-1545

The real name of Sher Shah was Farid. He was almost of same age of Humayun's father -Babur. (Babur Born 1483, Sher Shah Born 1486). He descended from the Royal house of Sur, the kings of Ghor, and in early career, rose from the rank of a smalltime administrator (jagirdar) to be the prime minister of one of the Lohani Afghans.

Early Career of Sher Shah

His father was in the service of an Afghan Noble Jamal Khan in Punjab. Jamal Khan was transferred to Jaunpur during the times of Sikandar Lodi and was handed over the Jagirs of Sasaram, Khwasapur and Tanda. Farid's Father was stationed in Sasaram. He had two wives to which he sired 8 children. Farid, being a son of elder wife, who was less cared by his father, was not happy to live in Sasaram and entered in the service of Jamal Khan directly. By the intervention of Jamal Khan, he was appointed to manage the Jagir of Sasaram.

But it was challenged by his "younger mother". Farid attempted to avoid this difficulty by entering in the service of **Bahar Khan Lohani**, a self styled independent ruler during the times of Babur. Bahar Khan impressed by the valor of young Farid, who killed a mature tiger, gave him the title of Sher Khan.

In service of Babur

This brave young man soon was envied by the other officials and Bahar Khan expelled him. In 1527, he joined the military of Babur. When Babur invaded Bihar, Sher Khan guided his troops and as a prize, got his Jagir restored.

✍ His very presence in the Mughal army itself was enough for him to learn about the weakness and strength of the Mughal army and administration.

He left the Mughal army and once again joined Bahar Khan as Prime Minister. After death of Bahar Khan, he became the ruler of the territories under him.

Siege of Chunar

His first confrontation with Humayun was in 1532, when Humayun had laid siege on the Chunar Fort which lasted for 4 months and ended in a submission.

But this submission did not let him abandon his dream to become the sovereign.

Extending Power

When Humayun was busy in south, he conquered Gaur, the capital of Bengal. Prior to the decisive battle of Chausa, he left his son Jalal Khan to hold the pass near Rajmahal Hills and placed his booty, treasure and family in the Rohtas fort, the major fort of a Hindu which was captured by the Afghans. He seized every road he leading from Bengal and proclaimed himself as King of Rohtas with the title of Sultan Sher Shah. The news was enough for Humayun to arouse from torpidity.

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But Mughal troops were demoralized and dissipated. The army marched and reached at Chausa, close to Buxar where once more the fate of India had to be decided 2 centuries later.

Battle of Chausa 1539

In the battlefield of Chausa, the imperial army was checked by Sher Shah. The two forces camped opposite each other, but none of the two warranted an attack for two months. In these two months the Mughal forces suffered the scarcity of food and supply, leading death of cattle and horses. In the desperate situation, Humayun opened the negotiations and arrangement for a treaty was made.

As per this treaty, Sher Shah was to retain Bengal and parts of Bihar. In return, he would give recognition to emperor and accept his suzerainty.

The men from two armies on the point of this possible settlement started coming on friendly terms and all of a sudden there was a blast. One fine day, on the break of the dawn the Afghans struck the unsuspecting Mughals from all sides. Many of the Mughal soldiers were slain in sleep, few killed mounted on horses.

Humayun was saved by a Bhisti, who supported him on his water skin across the river Ganga. Most of the army was drawn in Ganga or captured or killed and the luckless emperor of India came almost alone to Agra in 1539.

Battle of Kannauj 1540

For one year, the two sides consolidated their forces. In May 1540, the armies met once again opposite Kannauj and the Mughal Empire was put to an end for a while.

At Kannauj, the Afghans were able to scatter the Mughal army, which mere by panic, fled in confusion. Humayun again escaped from the battle field and from that day , for next 15 years he lived like a wanderer.

Via the deserts of Thar, he reached Sind where he lived for 3 years. Here, he fell in love with **Hamida**, a 15 year old girl, who was daughter of a sheikh of his brother. In 1542, on October 15, Hamida gave birth to Akbar, who would become the most adorable emperor of India, only after Asoka.

Sher Shah : Important points and Legacy

In Sher Shah, we find a benevolent autocrat. He introduced many reforms which are greatly appreciated.

Sarkars and Parganas

The first five year of Sher Shah's administration were used in setting up a new template for civil administration in India. He divided the entire Kingdom in 47 divisions and called them "Sarkars". These Sarkars were divided into Parganas. Every Pargana was under a *Shikqdar*, who looked into the law and order of his Pargana. At Pargana Level:

- ✍ *Munsifs* were appointed to collect the revenue.
- ✍ *Amir* was to hear the Civil Cases
- ✍ *Qazi or Mir-i-adal* was to hear the criminal cases.
- ✍ *Muqqadams* were to chase and arrest the culprits, and if they failed to do so, were liable to get punished.

India's First Rupia

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- ✍ The first Rupee (Silver coin) was introduced by Sher Shah and was called "Rupia" which remained in use throughout the Mughal rule.
- ✍ He issued copper coins which were called **Dam**, **Half Dam** and **quarter Dam** as per the denomination.

Raja Todar Mal and Land measurement

Todar mal Khatri, prior to become a celebrity under the reigns of Akbar as Raja Todar Mal was groomed in Sher Shah's administration. Whether, he did any finance and revenue related works with Sher Shah is not clear, but it is believed that he acquired considerable experience in revenue affairs.

- ✍ The land was measured and for this measurement Sikandari Gaj was used which was equivalent to 39 inches. The Sikandari Gaj was introduced by Sikandar Lodi.

Taxes, Revenue and Lands

- ✍ The Patta system was introduced during the reign of Sher Shah, where the area sown, types of crops cultivated and revenue share was written on a Paper.
- ✍ He introduced direct remittances of the taxes to the Central Government so that the taxpayers are saved from any exploitation by the middle officers.
- ✍ Jagir system was discouraged and a new arrangement **Qabuliyat** was introduced. Qabuliyat was a deed of agreement between the peasant and government.
- ✍ The survey charge was fixed at 2.5% that was called **Jaribana** and the collection charge was fixed at 5% that was known as **Muhasilans**.

Infrastructure: Sadak-i-Azam

A major road running across the Gangetic plain was built by Sher Shah for administrative and military reasons.

- ✍ This "**Sadak-i-Azam**" was the precursor of the **Grand Trunk Road**.
- ✍ This Road was initially built by Sher Shah to connect Agra to Sasaram, that was his home town.
- ✍ It was extended to Multan in west and Sonargaon in West^(Sonargaon is now in Bagladesh).
- ✍ This road is one of the greatest legacies of Shershah. During the Mughal era, this Sadak-i-Azam extended till Kabul.
- ✍ The same road was improved by the British and renamed as Grand Trunk Road that ran between Calcutta to Peshawar.

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