

As the end of Rajput rule, the Muslim rulers of the Northern India were known as Sultans and their period of rule was known as Delhi Sultanate. These sultans were of Turkis and Afghanistan origin. Shahibuddin Ghori, who had defeated Prithvi Raj Chauhan, had established the Delhi Sultanate. Five dynasties ruled over Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526). After the origin of Delhi Sultanate, India had passed through social and political changes.

Origin and Development of Islam

The origin of Islam took place in Arabia during 7th century A.D. Prophet Muhammad preached Islamic religion. However Islam has significant influence from the North Africa to West Indian Territory nearly 400 years. Islam stretched almost all over the world in terms of political, social and religious power. The Islam believes that Allah is one and they worshiped only one God. Their holy book is the Quran. According to Muslim belief, Prophet Muhammad taught them how to live life in accordance with God's will. After the death of Muhammad, his successors were known as Caliph, led the Muslim Community.

Muslim Invasions over India

There were uncountable attacks from Muslims on India from the 8th century to 12th century. Due to these attacks huge changes took place in India. List of attacks of Muslims on India are described chronologically in detail as given below.

Arab Invasion

Umayyad Caliph's General, Muhammad Bin Qasim, conquered the part of North -West India (712 C.E), with the purpose to extend the empire and Islamic political strategies as well as to spread Islamic religion in India. He ruled West Asia, Iraq, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, North Africa and some parts of East Africa to some extent Egypt and Iran. In this way, Arabs were at the peak of power during the first decade of the 8th century. The Arab traders spread among the Islamic states that as to how prosperous India was. As a result they were fascinated towards India's prosperity. However, the attack on Sindh was not a part of Islamic conversion, but local causes were responsible. Dubal's pirates looted the Arab Ships. Dahir, the King of Sindh refused to take any action against these pirates.

As a result, Iraq's Sultan Hajjaje Muhammad Qusim sent a team of soldiers against Dahir. Dahir was defeated and died in the war. Muslims captured important forts and palaces of Sindh. As a result, most of the local businessmen left Sindh. Qasim ruled over Sindh for two years. During that time many of the migrating Arabs settled there hence emerged a new society and culture in Sindh.

However, this Arab (didn't have much impact because) attack was limited to Panjab and Sindh the rest of India kept away from the invasion. Not only this, the Arabs could not go ahead towards Delhi or middle India. That is why the invasion is not considered to be very prominent.

Invasion of Mahmud Ghaznavi

Mahmud Ghaznavi attacked India 17 times. His father, Sabuktigin founded the Ghaznavi dynasty in Ghazni. He was a Turki commander. Later his son, Mahmud became Sultan of Ghazni. He frequently attacked India to expand the area of his state and to establish his authority in central Asia. Firstly, he attacked Punjab's king, Jaypal. Later he attacked Multan in 1019. Soon after, he made destructive attacks on Nagarkot, Thanesar,

Mathura and Kannauj. One of the most caustic attacks by him was on the temple of Nagarkot. After that his attack on Somnath Temple of Saurashtra was considered one of the most massive attacks (1025 A.D.). After his massive attack on Somnath temple, he gained great fame and popularity; as a result, he established his political authority in Central Asia. However, he did not try to set up his kingdom in India. Later Ghaznavi successors occupied surrounding areas of Punjab. These attacks revealed the political and military imperfection of India, which opened the door for the upcoming attacks on India by Turks and also a way to establish the Delhi Sultanate in India.

Invasion of Shahabuddin Mahmud Ghori

The chief town of Afghanistan, Sabutgin had established Ghazni dynasty in Ghazni. He was a Turk soldier. Later his son Mahmud, became sultan of Ghazni. He kept on attacking India to spread his Kingdom and power in central Asia. Mahmud Ghazni attacked India 17 times. When Shahabuddin Mahmud Ghori came to the throne of Ghazni, at that time Khwarazmian Empire was very powerful in Central Asia. As a result he began to focus on India; shortly he invaded India and implemented his expansionist policies in India rather than in Central Asia. His plan was not to destroy the fame and prosperity of India but to rule in India. So he carefully planned his policies and strategies to establish his authority in India. Thus, he got remarkable place for his attacks in Indian history. His successive victories are discussed in detail as below.

Invasion on Punjab and Sindh

Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori invaded Multan and started his rule. At the same time he defeated Rajputs of Kutch. But he was defeated by the widow queen Naikadevi, mother of Mulraj Solanki. Despite it, without deseperating he continued attacking India. He conquered Punjab and Lahore by defeating them. Furthermore he won Sialkot, Debol, Multan, Sindh and Punjab and proceeded further towards Doab.

Battle of Tarain (1191 AD)

Shahabuddin Mahmud Ghori established his empire in Punjab and went towards the region of Ganga River. He invaded powerful ruler, Prithviraj Chauhan. Prithviraj Chauhan by winning small kings of Rajput; became strong and powerful ruler and established his empire in Delhi and proceeded towards Bhatinda. At this time the war between Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori and Prithvi Raj Chauhan had begun, wherein Chauhan defeated Ghori. However, Ghori barely saved his life from the hands of Prithviraj Chauhan. Prithviraj Chauhan won over Bhatinda and celebrated his victory. But he went away from Bhatinda without proper arrangements. So, Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori got a second chance to attack India; he attacked second time in the following year.

Second Battle of Tarain (1192 AD)

Second battle of Tarain was considered one of the greatest battles in the Indian history. Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori made great preparations for the war. Turks and Rajputs once again came in the field of Tarain. He made strategic planning and situated his army at perfect locations and invaded Indian army. As a result, this large numerical Indian army could not take their position in front of skilled Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori's army. In this war, Ghori used modern technology for his cavalry. Horse—shoe was set in the legs of horses, so that horses could gallop fast. Not only this ricab was also used so that riders could keep the balance and fight effectively. Thus, he defeated Indian army. Then he won the castles of Hansi, Sassuti and Samana and headed towards Delhi and Ajmer. He crossed the Yamuna River and defeated Jayachanda, king of Kannauj in the battle of Chandiwan. The battle of Tarain and Chandiwan laid the foundation of Turkish rule in India.

Shihabuddin Mohamad Ghori's attack on India had an important and long time influence on the Indian politics. He established Turkish rule in India. After the death of Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori, his slave General Qutb-uddin Aibak became the first Sultan of Delhi Sultanate in 1206.

Various sources and books are available to know the history of Delhi Sultanate. Many of them are written in Turkish and Parsian languages. Thus, you can find information regarding this period from literary books (autobiography, Farman, Tawarikh) and from the travelogues. The archiologicial documents have been available in big number. We have seen earlier to this, many of the literary books to know the history of the middle ages of India.

Besides this, many of the books are to be reffered to regarding the Sultanic period. They are the improtant sources to know the history of the time. Along with this, the Sultanic architecture, coins are also the archeological remains to know the history of the time. Many of the cities established during this period are also the sources to know history.

Administration of Delhi Sultanate

Delhi Sultanate was divided among the rule of five dynasties. Many of intellectual Sultans became its rulers like Qutb-Ud-din Aibak to the last sultan, Ibrahim Lodhi. During this era, these sultans adopted distinguished policies. Here we shall examine it in detail.

The Slave Dynasty or Mamluk Dynasty (1206 AD-1290 AD)

The Slave dynasty was founded by Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori's slave Qutb-uddin Aibak. This dynasty was also known as Gulam or Slave Dynasty. Qutb-uddin Aibak was the first General of Hansi. The credit of all the victories of Shahbuddin Mahmud Ghori goes to Qutb-uddin Aibak. Having he got freedom from slavery; he became the first Sultan of Delhi Sultanate. He ruled on Delhi for five years but was unable to take administrative actions; still he was considered as powerful and strong Sultan in the history. Scholar Hasan Nizami was a celebrity of his court. He constructed mosques like Quwwat-ul-Islam in Delhi and Adhai din ka Jhonpra in Ajmer.

He started erecting the world famous Qutub Minar in Delhi. He died while playing a game of Polo falling accidently from horseback in Lahore.



Qutub Minar

Iltutmish (1210 AD-1236 AD)

After Qutb-uddin Aibak, his slave as well as his son-in-law, Iltutmish came to the throne. Certainly he established firm sultanate when he was on the throne. Iltutmish was elected as sultan because Qutb-uddin Aibak's son Aram Shah was unable to take any political responsibilities. Earlier Iltutmish was a governor of the Badaun reign. He formed a team (40 experienced people) of Turkish to stabilize the Sultanate. Thus, he established rich and powerful empire during his dynasty. It was very necessary to do so in the beginning of Dynasty. He was the first Sultan who received the Caliph's investiture in his rule. He shifted the capital from Lahore to Delhi. Famous scholars like Minhaz -Us- Siraz and Malik Tazuddin were the celebrities of his court. He completed the construction of the Qutub Minar, erected by Qutb-uddin Aibak. Moreover he erected Mosque in Ajmer. Iltutmish's sons were incapable to do the task of administration; he nominated his daughter, Razia as his successor Razia was the first and the last female sultana of Delhi Sultanate. She won the third battle of Tarain during her time.

Razia Sultana (1236 AD -1240 AD)

After the death of Iltutmish his opponents conspired because he announced his talented daughter Razia as successor to the throne. Especially her bothers and other 'Srimant' (rich class) resisted and conspired against her. However, she faced them with shrewdness throughout her tenure of four years. But 'Srimant' (rich class) longing for power and rule, tendency not to accept woman as their Sultana and continued uprising to put her rule to an end. So she deprived the upper caste elites from higher positions and placed some lower caste Muslims on the higher positions. Similarly she announced Jamalud-din-Yaqut an Abyssinian siddi (Habshi) as Amir-I-Aakhur. At last, Alturia's resistance and conspiracy against her shattered her empire.

After Razia Sultana, her brother name Muizuddin Bahram Shah ascended the throne. He started the position of 'Nayabsultan'. Later Alauddin Masud Shah ascended to the throne. After him, ruler named Nasiruddin Mahmud ascended to the throne. At that time he was one of the most talented ruler during the period of Balban.

Ghiyas- Ud- din Balban (1266 AD -1287 AD)

Warrior Balban was an Iibari Turk Muslim. During the reign of Razia Sultana, he was the Amir-I-Shikar or Lord of the Hunt. He was the Nayab during the reign of Nasiruddin Mahmud. Nasiruddin Mahmud had attributed the title of 'Ulughkhan'. After Nasiruddin Mahmud's death Balban received the military and political responsibilities. During his reign Balban ruled with an Iron Fist. He broke up the 'Chahalgani', a group of the forty most important nobles in the court. Firstly he dominated Tughrils of Bengal and caught the entire reign under his authority during this period. He also oppressed the resistance of Mewatis. He employed spies, Diwane-E- Arizs, to watch over his officials. He introduced the theory of 'Divine Rights of Kingship', court discipline such as prostration before king. He increased fame and popularity of his court to show his power and glory as the reign of Iran. After him his son, Shamsuddin Quiqabad ascended the throne. But Jala-Ud-din Firuz Khilji dethroned him and established Khilji Dynasty.

Khilji Dynasty (1290 AD - 1320 AD)

Khilji Dynasty was founded by JalaluddinFiruz Khilji. He declared himself as a Sultan in front of Kaikobad and established Capitan in the Kilokhari. Later he entered in the reign of Delhi; the incident was known as 'Revolution of Khilji'. However, according to some sources he was cast off by his people. Thus he stayed at Kilokari for some time. Khilji was of a Turkish Muslim origin. But he had long been settled in present day Afghanistan before proceeding to Delhi, India, as a result he was discriminated by Turkish Muslims. In 1290 a Subedar named Malekchhaju of Kara Manekpur opposed Khilji but he controlled him. Then Halahu's grandson Abdula attacked India. Later Alauddin killed his own uncle and usurped the throne.

Alauddin Khilji (1296 AD -1316 AD)

Alauddin Khilji was considered most powerful king in the dynasty. He was uneducated but was ambitious, reformist and very intelligent. After his father's death Alauddin was not only brought up by his uncle, Jalaluddin but also he gave his daughter in marriage to him. Moreover, Jalaluddin declared him as the Subedar of Kara-Manekpura. But he killed such placid man and usurped the throne. To repress his opponent's voices, he styled himself as Yamin-ul- KhilayatNasiri-ul- Momnin. He was known for his incredible victories. He won the reigns

of Gujarat and South India. He started to pay his Jamindars salary through cash. Alauddin's slave, Malik Kafur won and plundered the wealthy states of South India and collected lots of money and property for the court of Alauddin. He defeated Pratap Rudradev, the king of Kakya dynasty and got one of the largest known diamonds in human history, the Koh-i-noor. He employed spy named Barid, chased Amir Umrao and 'Muhatashibani' with an intention to control the dishonesty.

Administrative Reforms

He proved his competence by introducing innovative administrative reforms. He established permanent army in Delhi instead of depending on the army of the rulers. Along with these he prepared special identification mark for local ruler's army's horses with the mark like 'Daag' and 'Huliya'. He systematically filled places of armies and paid them 19.5 percent per month by way of payment. In this way he formed the new administrative system. His economical reforms were also very important in his period. Books like Amir Khusrow's *KhazainulFutuh*, Isami's *Futuh Us Salatin* and Barani's *Tarikh E Firoz Shahi* were considered important sources of information of Alauddin's economical reforms. According to sources he formed market called *Shahana-i-Mandi*. Malik Yaqub was the first *Shahna-yi-Mandi*. He established *Diwan-E-Rasalat* for the outsider merchants who came for business in Delhi. After Alauddin's death, Mubarak Khilji usurped the throne ((1316 C.E-1320 C.E). but he disregarded the authority of Khalifa of Islam. However, he declared himself as Khalifa. After him the last successor of Khilji dynasty was Nasiruddin Khushroo Shah usurped the throne. Later Alauddin's Subo Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq devastated him and established Tughlaq Dynasty.

Tughlaq Dynasty ((1320 AD - 1412 AD)

As we observed how Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq wiped out the dynasty of Khilji and established Tughlaq dynasty. The name of Tughlaq dynasty rulers are listed as below.

Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320 AD - 1325 AD)

Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq played an important role as the governor of Punjab under Alluddin Khilji dynasty. He stood against Mongol attacks on the border of Vayavya and proved himself as a great militant during Alluddin Khilji's time. He planned to create canals to protect the people from the fear of famine. But he died before completing this project. He won the Bengal reign. After his victory, he was welcomed for the honour of his victory but the wooden structure was built without foundation as a result the structure collapsed and at the very moment he died. But some sources said that the incident was pre-planned by his son Muhammad Tughluq. He divided Bengal into three parts: *Lukhnauti*, *sonargav* and *satgav*.

Muhammad Bin- Tughlaq (1325 AD - 1351 AD)

We considered Muhammad Bin- Tughlaq as great and intelligent ruler after Alauddin Khilji. His original name was *Ulugh Junakhan*. He was an extraordinary man and he had ability to understand and apply the new policies. Thus all his policies were called as whimsical projects. However Muhammad Tughlaq's period was also considered the era of rebellions. He faced around 34 defiants. He shifted his capital from Delhi to *Daultabad* and later from *Daultabad* to Delhi. By changing he showed his whimsical experience. His plan of introduction of copper Currencies was also a failure.

After the death of Mohammed Tughlaq Sultan Timur (Taimurlangey) of Osciana attacked India. During this time the last sultan of Tughlaq Dynasty Nasirussin Mohammed was the ruler.

Firoz Tughlaq (1351 - 1388 AD)

After Mohammed, his cousin Firoz Tughlaq was annointed to he the Sultan in Thatta itsself. This Sultan was a welfare worker of people. However, he introduced tax on Brahmins the lax called Jajiya. He established Jonpur in memory of Mohammed Tughlaq. He was a great lover of history and culture. He brought the Ashok's columns of Topra and Meerat in Delhi and asked the language scholars to decipher the inseriptons on them. He had started the transaction of coins made out of copper and silver. Moreover, he had established a special department Diwane-e-kherat, which was related to donation and charity. He established employment bureau to give jobs to the unemployed. Famous historians Ziauddiu Barni and Shamse-Siraj-Afif, were valuable gems of his court in his time. The dome of the makbara of Firozshah Tughlaq is based on octagonal form, hence it is a model of architecture.

After the death of Firoz Tughlaq, the Sultan of Trans Oxia, Timure (Taimur Linga) attacked India. At this time the ruler was Nasiruddin Mohammed. He was the last ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty.

Taimur's Attack Over India

Taimur was attracted by the wealth of India and so he decided to attack it. His advisors explained to him all the hurdles he would have to face and advised him against it but Taimur's son Shahrukh insisted on getting the enormous wealth of India to his country and end idol-worship in India. Finally after robbing all the wealth and ending idol worship they decided to return. In his autobiography Taimur has mentioned fighting Non-Muslims as the reason to attack India. He reached Delhi in December. He set his camp six miles away from Delhi. Nasiruddin Mehmood and his advisor Mallu Iqbal got their army together and tried to face him. A fierce battle was fought at Ferozabad between them. They could not fight Taimur's soldiers for a long time. Finally Taimur unfurled his flag at Siri Fort in Delhi.

The Hindus of Delhi picked up weapons to face the cruel ways of Taimur. They then became desperate and attacked the invaders. But Taimur's soldier killed them ruthlessly and looted, burned and destroyed Delhi. After that he took the severed heads of the Hindus, placed them one on another and created a minaret. Such acts gave Taimur a lot of joy. |Delhi was facing such an eventuality for the first time.

This human massacre lasted for a fortnight during which Taimur spent all his time in pleasure and passion. He had not come to Delhi to rule. During the beginning of January 1399 C.E., he started his return journey.

Syed Dynasty (1414-1451 AD)

After the end of Tughlaq dynasty, Khijar Khan who was appointed as a ruler of Multan, Lahore and Deepalpur by Tughlaq, established the Syed dynasty. He took the title 'Raiyyat-E-Aala'. After him there were two more sultans namely, Mubarak Shah and Alauddin Alam Shah. Bahlol took away the throne from Alam Shah and established the Lodhi dynasty. Chinese marble has been used on the tomb of Mohammed Shah of this dynasty.

Lodhi Dynasty (1451 - 1526 AD)

Lodhi's were considered as Afghanis so Bahlol Lodhi is known as the first Afghan ruler. He ruled for a long time. After him his son Sikander Lodhi alias Nizam Shah who was the best sultan of Lodhi dynasty came to the throne. He set up Agra city and made it the capital. He like Alauddin Khilji had, the land measured for which he invented a new method that came to be known as *Sikanderi* yard and it was in use for a very long time. He banned *Tazyias*. He was a patron of literature. He had the Sanskrit Ayurvedic doctrine translated into Persian as 'Farhand-e-Sikanderi'. He also had an epic on music developed by the name of 'Lajjat-e-Sikanderi'. Ibrahim Lodhi who came to the throne after him was the last sultan of Lodhi dynasty. He misbehaved with the Turks so his Uncle Alam Khan invited Babar to attack India. He lost against Babar in the first battle of Panipat (25 April, 1526) and died. During the rule of the Sultanate he was the first ruler to die on the battlefield.

Provinces during the Sultanate Period

Gujarat

Gujarat was the most important province during the reign of Sultans. It was known for its business and trade and also was known as the 'Garden of India.' After Mohammed Gaznavi attacked Gujarat, the Muslims became anxious to establish their rule here. Alauddin Khalji attacked Gujarat and brought it under the Delhi Sultanate. After the downfall of Delhi Sultanate due to the attack by Timur, Tatar Khan (1403CE) took the title Mohammed Shah and became the sultan of Gujarat. After that Zafar Khan (1407 CE) took the title Muzaffar Shah and took the reign in his hands. He retired after giving the throne to his grandson Ahmed Shah.



Bhadra Fort - Ahmedabad

Ahmed Shah (1410 - 1442 AD)

Ahmed Shah established independent Sultanate in Gujarat. He established Ahmedabad city on the banks of Sabarmati near Asaval. He also established Bhadra Fort, Shahi Mahal, Masjids, Three Gates and Jama Masjid. He was a just ruler. He followed the Islamic laws but still gave orders to demolish Hindu temples. After him Mohammed Shah II and Kutub Shah came to the throne. In 1451 AD, Kutub Shah had constructed Hauz-e-Kutub means Kankaria and Nagina Wadi constructed.

Mehmood Begdo (1458-1511 AD) is considered the most influential sultan of Gujarat. He came to the throne at the tender age of 13. He spread his kingdom by attacking and winning over Junagadh, Champaner, Kutch, Sindh and Dwarka with the arrival of Portuguese in India, he signed a treaty with the Turks and decided to send



Jama Masjid - Ahmedabad

the Portuguese away but he was not successful at it. The ambassadors of Jaunpur, Delhi, Bengal, Kashmir, Iran, Rome and Egypt came to his court. He came to be known as ‘Begdo’ because he won over two forts of Champaner and Junagadh. He was very powerful. He patronised Sufi saints and muslim scholars. Many important architectural monuments were constructed during his rule. After Mehmood Begdo, Muzaffar Shah and Bahadur Shah were some noteworthy sultans. Later on with the establishment of the Mughal Empire in Delhi, Akbar the Great made Gujarat a part of it in 1573 AD.

Khandesh

Malek King Faruki took the title of Khan and established independent rule over Khandesh in 1370 AD. His son Malek Nasir Khan followed him to the throne. This region became a victim of the attacks as it is situated between Gujarat and Baham. Later Akbar took over Khandesh into Mughal Empire.

Malwa

Malwa became a part of Delhi Sultanate since Alauddin Khalji won over it. A landlord name Dilawar Khan Ghorī took advantage of the chaotic situation of Delhi sultanate and established Malwa as an independent province with its capital at Dharanagri. After him his son Hushang Shah came to the throne. He tried expanding his kingdom by attacking Orissa. He also fought battles with the rulers of Gwalior, Jaunpur and Delhi. He built the famous Fort of Mandu in India.

After Hushang Shah his son Mohammed Shah came to the throne. He was very extravagant. His vazir Mehmood Khalji killed him by poisoning him and established the Khalji dynasty. Mehmood Shah Khalji ruled for a long time. He was very powerful. He got a seven storey minaret constructed in Mandu. Malwa prospered during his reign. He expanded his kingdom by winning over Bundelkhand, Ranthambhore, Bayana, Bindu and Kota. He was a lover of art and literature. After him there were sultans like Giyasuddin, Nasiruddin, Alauddin Mehmood II. Later on Humayun and Sher Shah won over Malwa and finally Akbar made it a part of Mughal Empire.

Jaunpur

Feroz Tughlaq established the city of Jaunpur in Vayavya, 34 miles away from Banaras in memory of his paternal cousin brother Jauna Khan (Sultan Mohammed Tughlaq). After the death of Feroz Tughlaq a landlord named Sarvar set the independent province of Jaunpur. He later on came to be known as Malek Sarwar. This province was ruled by rulers like Malek Sarwar, Khaja Jahan, Karankul, Shrahmamsuddin Ibrahim Sharki. Sultan Ibrahim Shah was the most noteworthy ruler of this dynasty. He was a patron of art and literature. He promoted art and architecture. Jaunpur was considered as Shiraz-e-Hind for Islamic studies during his rule. He constructed the famous Ataladevi Masjid in India along with other architectural monuments. After him his son, Mohammed Shah who was as brave as his father came to the throne. Sultan Sikander Lodhi attacked Sharki province and brought an end to it.

Bengal

Mohammed Khalji won over Bengal and included it in the Mughal Empire. Bugra Khan adopted the title of Sultan Nasiruddin and established an independent rule as there were repeated revolts in Bengal. The province of Bengal expanded during the rule of his sons Ruknuddin and Feroz. Chhatgaam and Sonargaam

were the important centres. Sikander Shah was an important ruler. Alauddin Hussein Shah is considered the most noteworthy ruler as he developed good administration. He started a new sect 'Satyapeer' as he wanted to bring Hindus and Muslims under one cultural umbrella.

Sindh

The Sumra tribe of people ruled over Sindh. Later on they accepted Islam as their religion. After the rule of Alauddin Khalji and during the rule of Mohammed Tughlaq the people of Sama tribe residing in Sindh and Kutch established their independent rule. Nizamuddin Jam was a noteworthy ruler of this tribe. A ruler named Jam Feroz also ruled here and finally during Akbar's reign this also became a part of the Mughal Empire.

Vijaynagar

Harihar and Bukka Rai established Vijaynagar. They were the followers of a scholarly sage named Madhav Vidyaranya. They set the base of Vijaynagar at Gundi fort opposite Hampi on the banks of Tungbhadra River. Vijaynagar is basically ruled by four dynasties. The first dynasty is Sangam dynasty which had important rulers like Harihar, Bukka Rai, Harihar II, Devraj II. The second dynasty is the Salu dynasty which was started by Narsinh Salu. This dynasty also hasd Narasnayak whereas the third dynasty is the Tulu dynasty. Tulu dynasty had rulers like Virnarsinh and the great ruler of Vijaynagar Krishnadev Rai. He was not only a great ruler of Vijaynagar but also of Hind. He defeated the Gajpatis of Orissa and the Muslim rulers of Bahamni. He won the regions of up to Golkunda and Sinhchalam. He also won the Raipur Fort. Krishnadevrai was not only a great ruler but also an able administrator. He also patronised art and architecture. He had very good relations with the Portuguese. During his rule Vijaynagar was the most powerful kingdom. The travellers who visited Vijaynagar during his reign found it very praiseworthy. Portuguese travellers Domingos Payez and Fernando Nooniz have termed Krishnadevrai as a very brave and multi-talented ruler. There is no other ruler as brave as him in South India.

Krishnadevrai always provided shelter to scholars, poets and artists. He was known as *Andhrabhoj* as he himself was a very good writer. He wrote the poem 'aamukta-malyada' in Telugu language. He established a new city by the name Nagalpur and also had temples of Hajara and Vitthalswami constructed. As weak rulers came to the throne after the death of Krishnadevrai, Bahamani regions like Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golkunda and Badir united and defeated Vijaynagar in the Rakshasitangadi battle fought at Taalikota. This battle became the reason for the downfall of Vijaynagar.

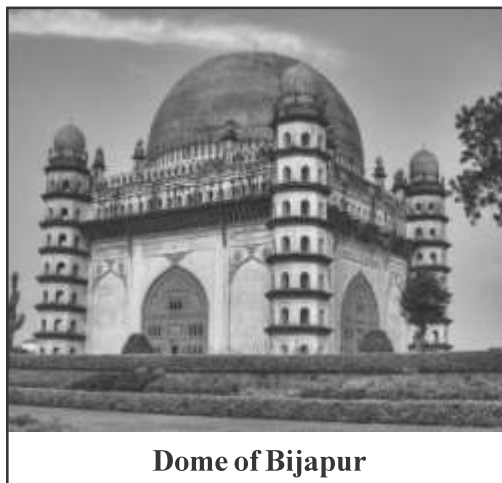
Bahamni

Like Vijaynagar Bahamni region developed in South India in 1347 AD. It was established under the leadership of an Afghan Amir Hasan Zafar Khan. He took control of the Bahamni province after taking the name- Alauddin Bahaman Shah. He established peace and security in the region after becoming the sultan and declaring Gulbarg, situated on the banks of Bhima river in Daulatabad. After him Mohammed Shah I came to the throne. There were constant fights going on with Vijaynagar during his rule. After him Alauddin Mujahid and Mohammed II came to the throne. Ahmed Shah I was known as Vali and was a noteworthy ruler of Bahamni.

He attacked Vijaynagar and pressurised it to sign a treaty. He was fond of art and literature. As there were continuous battles between Bahamni and Vijaynagar, both the regions continued to become weak. Mehmood Gawan is considered the most important. He used to live in Bidar. The Bahamni kingdom was divided into five territories namely, Nizamshahi (1490-1637 AD), Adilshahi in Bijapur (1489-1686 AD), Kutubshahi in Golconda (1518-1687 AD), Baridshahi in Bidar (1526-1619 AD) and Imadshahi in Varad (1484-1574 AD). Different rulers of different dynasties ruled over these five territories. These sultans of Bahamni ruled over it for 179 years.

Administration During Sultanate Period

Before Sultanate Arabs ruled over some parts of Sindh and Punjab which did not leave any significant impression on Indian



Dome of Bijapur

culture. But as a result of this, the doors for business and spread of Islamic culture opened in India. The rule of the Turks was the second phase in which the Mamlook clan, Khalji clan and Tughlaq clan are included. After them the Syeds and Lodhi Afghans ruled.

In the administrative system of the Sultanate, the Sultan would appoint his follower to the throne in his lifetime only. The throne of sultan was not ancestral. The right to be a sultan was common and open for all Muslims. In the earlier sultans of the Turk dynasty details about birth, ancestors, status made a lot of difference to the descendants of the sultans appointed by the Amirs and sultans themselves. The position of Sultan was limited to the Turks who came to India from abroad. It was also limited to the ruling family only.

The form of administration was very dictatorial in nature because the wish of the sultan was the law. The administration is good or bad depended on the nature of the sultan.

The department regarding the sultan's family was very important. The chief of this department was the *Vakil dar* (keeper of the keys, faithful officer). There were many factories in this department wherein all the things required for running the court, royal clothes, arms and weapons were produced there. There was a post of Malek Nayab (Nayab-ul-Maamaalik) also. The weak sultans were puppets in the hands of Malek Nayab. Thus power depended on the capability of the sultan. In the absence of the Sultan, he was the chief to look after the kingdom.

The chief of the local land administration was known as *Wazir* 'Srimant'. He had control over the finance department. That designation was very dignified and carried a very large salary. He kept the sultan abreast about the common people's needs and guided him in matter of general administration. He decided about the expenditure and tax policies. He also looked after providing shelter to the scholars and giving charity to the poor. In short from the smallest matter of a government job to matters of relations with the ruler of other countries, he looked after everything.

The *Wazir* was assisted by his deputy. The *Nazir* used to keep an eye on the tax collection department. *Diwan-e-kaza* was the chief of legal matters and made sure that the *shariat* laws were followed properly. He took care of religious matters, holy places and education department were under his control. The chief of these departments was called Sudrusasudur (the chief of Judiciary department was Chief Justice). Deewan-e-Eesha looked after the royal communication and he was always a very faithful person who was appointed as the chief of this department as an Amaldaar. The finance department covered the accounts department, construction and agriculture department.

Muslims who came from Iran and Middle Asia only enjoyed the senior positions. The Indian Muslims and Hindus were appointed at the lower positions only.

The system of administration and governing bodies progressed only in the Sultanate age. They were perfect duplication of the Irani system and culture. A group of courtiers was appointed who made sure that the protocol in the court was followed properly wherein kissing the ground in front of the sultan was one of it.

Persian was the language used in the court in those times. The Arabic-Persian names given to different institutions, positions and departments and continued for a long time.

The sultans had constructed roads and trees planted on either sides of the roads and also developed lodges for the comfort of the travellers. They also set up the postal department and formed policies for help during famines. They build canals and set up proper taxation system to promote agriculture.

It was believed that there was only one Khilafat in the world and the Khalifa was its chief. During his grandeur whoever Muslim won over other territories had to take his approval (sanad). He had the same powers like the Khalifa in his own region and was considered as the deputy Khalifa for that region. The coins minted during his time would have the Khalifa's name on it and also involved his name in the sermons given in the mosques. This tradition continued till Hulaku Khan killed the Khalifa.

The rulers were dependent on the soldiers for ruling the sultanate and the soldiers were very religious by nature. The Ulemas used to teach them to remain under the shelter of Islam and earn wealth and be ready for sacrifice. The main ethos of the Sultanate were to end idol worship and convert all kafirs (according to them Hindus).

Sultan Alauddin Khalji was the first person to object to the interference of the Ulemas in the rule. He claimed to be the representative of Allah on earth. The Ulemas did not like the intellect of Mohammed Tughlaq and believed that he was harming Islam. They did not let any of his policies to be successful just because of this reason. The Ulemas became strong due to the weak descendents of Mohammed Tughlaq. They reduced the taxes and fixed them according to the Quran and Shariyat. They also gave weapons to the workers so that they could torture the Hindus. During the rule of Sultan Sikandar Lodhi the Hindus were converted using a lot of undue pressures and there were many prohibitions put on them.

Many Sultans did not allow constructing new temples or even repair the old temples. Sultan Alauddin Khalji and Sultan Sikandar Lodhi actually demolished many temples. The Hindus were not allowed to perform any religious ceremonies in public. Though the Hindus were in majority in the sultanate, they did not have any importance. Sultan Giasuddin Balban was the first Turk ruler to perform systematic civil administration. He did three basic works namely to protect his sultanate against the rebels of Mongals, crush the rebellion of rebel officers and control the Hindus.

The civil administration of Sultan Alauddin Khalji was note worthy. He started the practice of paying a salary to the soldiers instead of giving them land. He consolidated market regulation policy and banned the purchase and selling of intoxicating substances like alcohol. All these policies were a great step towards development in terms of ruling the kingdom is undoubtedly a big fact.

Giasuddin Tuglak did not bring any change in the system of administration but at the same time during the short tenure of his rule he did not also take any steps that would harm the dynasty. He was very justified in terms of tax collection. He established a beautiful arrangement for post and legal departments. Mohammed Tughlaq though was unsuccessful in his policy of shifting the capital but his generous nature does not allow us to look at these faults. Setting up shelters and providing food in the seven hundred mile long distance between

Delhi and Daulatabad, providing relief during famines and banning the practice of Sati such works show his positive attitude as a ruler.

Sultan Firoz Shah established cannal irrigation which helped in the production of necessary gains in the country. Sikandar Lodhi centralised civil administration. He paid a lot of attention towards government income and expenditure and also provided a lot of subsidies to the farmers. He started the practice of releasing the prisoners on festivals. The civil administration system set up by him continued till the attack of Babar.

Army

Delhi Sultanate was based on the military system. It had nothing to do with the approval or disapproval of its people. There were army stations at many places in the region. As there was foreign rule in the sultanate the army had two basic duties first- to protect the sultanate and second- to collect land revenue.

Infantry (Bow and Arrow barriers), Elephant soldiers and cavalry were three important parts of the army. Turks, Iranis, Afghans, Mongals and Indians were appointed in it. Sar-E-Khail was the lowest rank of the soldiers. He had ten horse driven soldiers under him. There was ten Sar-E-Khail under Salar. One Amir over Sipah-Salars, one Malek over ten Amirs and one Khan over ten Maleks was the army set up.

Music

Amir Khusro is considered most noteworthy poet and musician. He developed the new style of singing called 'Qawwali'. He invented the Sitar by improvising the Veena. Musicians like Hamid Raja, Mohammed Shah and Behroj were his contemporaries. Mohammed Tuglak was also fond of music.

Painting

Islam doesn't hold any place for painting but still the Muslim rulers were attracted towards it. Samples of this art can be found in Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Golconda. There were paintings about flowers and creepers during their time.

Bhakti Movement

The rise and spread of movement and Sufi movement is considered as a great event in Indian history. This tradition of devotional revolution which began in south India in 10th century gained momentum and spread to different parts of India in different forms. It attacked the traditional Hindus and their beliefs.

According to historians certain reasons can be considered as important to the rise of devotional revolution :

1. Coming of Islam to India and rise of Sufism.
2. Equalitarian (society wise equal rights) society
3. Social and economic changes in the medieval times.

Devotional movement rose from the literature of devotional scholars. This revolution began so to bring changes in the Hindu religion and slowly changed the thought process.

Devotional movement was started by Ramnuj Acharya. This saint from South India adopted the path of devotion and gave the message of attainment of God through it.

Great saints like Ramanand started his movement in North India. Let us understand this movement on the different thought processes. It is based on:

Devotion of Oneness

Kabir is the oldest saint poet of the tradition of one God. He was weaver by profession. The poems by this great saint can be seen in the Great Guru Granth Sahib- the holy book of Sikhs. His collection of poems is called 'Bijak'. Raidas is another great saint who was inspired by Kabir.

Guru Nanak from Punjab was Khatri and a Dhanna Jaat.

All these saints preached about one God. They believed in :

- (i) No caste discrimination.
- (ii) Unity in all religions and communities.
- (iii) According to them God was omnipresent, omniscient, indescribable and all knowledgeable.
They believed in devotion without any expectation of returns.
- (iv) They opposed idol worships and rituals.
- (v) Their literary writings were in the language of common people.

Tradition of Vaishnavism

Ramanad began this practice in the 14th and 15th century. This South Indian saint was in Banaras. He was an important link of the devotional movement between the North and the South India. He was the leader of devotion of Ram. His followers were known as Ramanadi and was against caste discrimination.

Saint Tulsidas was a noteworthy saint of Vaishnav devotion. Surdas, Mirabai and Narsinh Mehta were great devotees of Krishna Bhakti.

There were great saints and followers of Chaitanya Krushnabhakti in Bengal, who left great impression on the minds of Indians which is visible even today. Saints of Krishna devotion developed the tradition of bhajans, devotional dance and devotional group singing.

In Maharashtra the devotional movement is linked to Bhagwat and Shaivisim. The most eminent Saint was Gyaneshwar. He created the criticism on Bhagwat Gita as 'Gyanshewarni Geeta Jadwi'. Saint Namdev, Choka, Sonar, Saint Tukaram and Saint Eknath were some of the important devotional saints. The vision of Tukaram is covered in his Dohas which are known as Gatha.

Sikhism

Guru Nanak was very important in projecting the image of India. His Philosophy includes Leadership (Guru), Thought (Shabad) and Unity (Company). He analysed the prevalent religions and set up new religion. He criticised incarnation, idol-worship, pilgrims and rituals. He preached that to attain salvation, we should go to the true guru. Sermons on truth, Halal (honest earning), Khair (prayer for the security of people), Niyat (dedication and devotion) and serving God. He set up the tradition of *Langar* (community meals) as he was against caste discrimination.

The tradition of Gurus began in Sikh religion after the death of Guru Nanak. There are ten Gurus in this culture. Guru Govindsinh was the last Guru. After his death the tradition of having Gurus ended and now Guru Granth Saheb is the only guide to Sikhism.

Sufi Movement

Devotional and Sufi movement hold an important place in the cultural history of Medieval India. This religious and cultural revolution that took place during the Turk and Moghal rules gave birth to a new command understanding to the Hindu Muslim culture and started a new age.

India has been a place of cultural amalgamation of different civilizations since ancient times. Indian culture mixed with the different culture and thus started new religious traditions thought process and new cultural forms and types. Bhakti and Sufi movement are at a peak of cultural understanding in India.

Sufism

The word Sufi expresses the mysterious religious thought process of Islam. It was wide spread in the 11th century. It began in the 8th century in middle Asia. Saints like Rabia, Al Junaid and Baijeed were important in spreading it. The main idea of Sufism is to develop a relationship of love between god and human being. It believes that human being was developed out of soul (rooh), *kurbat* (proximity to god) and principles of *halool* (meeting with godly elements) and due to the relation between man and god love (religious and passionate) and *fanna* (dedication) came into existence. So Sufi is a word used for people who are holy at heart and believe in the principles of love to attain god. To give up yourself to god you have to pass through different phases. Sufism started appearing in India in the 11th century. The oldest Sufi saint of India is Al-Hujweeri (of lahore) is most famous. There were four schools of orders (silsila) of Sufism which are (I) Chisti (II) Suharvardi (III) Kadri and (IV) Naqshbandi are included.

During the Sultanate, Chisti and Suharavardi became very popular. Both the traditions extended to Delhi, Rajasthan and to the western part of Ganga. During the Mughal age, it became prevelant in Bihar, Bengal and up to the South. These saints spread the principle of the Islamic religion 'Vahadut-ul-vajud-' (oneness of life). He developed the habit of 'Ziharat' (habit of going to mosque regularly).

Chisti Order

Moinuddin Chisti started this movement in 1206 in Ajmer. After his death he became famous as a Sufi saint. Sultan Mehmood Khalji of Malwa got domes and masjids constructed and thus the tradition of Ajmer Sharif began. Akbar had also provided shelter to him.

Apart from Moinuddin Chisti, Bakhtiyar Haqi, Baba Fariduddin-Ganj-E-Shakar, and Nizamuddin Aulia were noteworthy. Sheikh Burhanuddin Garib and Mohammed Banda Nawaz were Chisti saints from South India.

The saints of Chisti school of thought believed that love is the only thing that connects humans to God. They also believed that there should be a common ground among all religions and we should follow the path of betterment of mankind. They studied Indian religious traditions by connecting with Hindu and Jain monks.

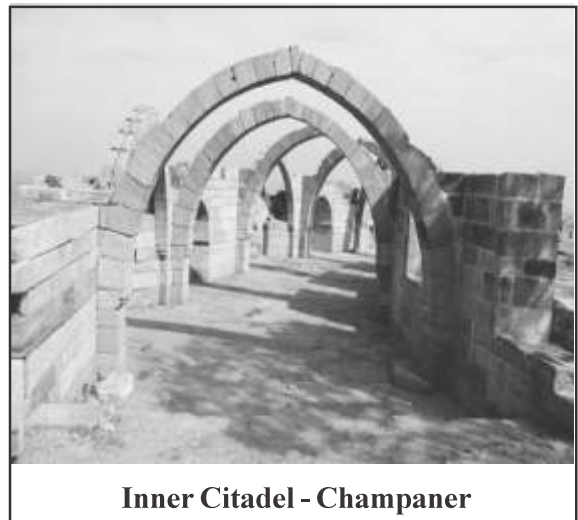
They also followed yoga in their ashrams (khankaah). They used the language of the common man. The Chisti saints believed that simple, easy and humble life help in attainment of God. They did not have any links with the ruling of the province and gave importance to serving the poor.

Suhravardi Order

Shiabuddin Suhravardi of Baghdad established it. Bahauddin Zahariya brought this thought process to India. In contrast to the Sufi thoughts this school of thought had links with the government and was dependent on it. They believed that they should accept gifts from the government to serve the poor and to gain knowledge. They believed in the commonality between Elm (intellect) and religious mysteries. They were very famous in Punjab and Sindh.

Naqshbandi school of thought

Khwaja Naqshbandi was the pioneer of this thought process in India. They were firm in following *shariat*. Saint Barki Billah and Sheikh Ahmed Sarhindi were noteworthy saints of this thought. They were against the Hindus and Shia Muslims.



Inner Citadel - Champaner

Kadri school of Order

Sheikh Abdul Kadri started this school of thought in Punjab. Miya Meer and Shah Badbaksh were most noteworthy saints of this tradition. They believed that the one who has received the knowledge of truth is a believer. Patan and Ahmedabad were the important centres of Sufism in Gujarat.

The Sufi saints emphasised on the unity of Hindus and Muslims and worked towards it. The Indians revered them for their simplicity and service.

EXERCISE

1. Answer in Detail :

- (1) Describe in detail the instruments used to know the history of Delhi Sultanate.
- (2) Write about the reform undertaken by Alauddin Khalji.
- (3) Explain the policies of Mohammed Tughlaq.
- (4) Give an idea about the economic situation during the rule of the Sultanate.
- (5) Explain the system of administration of the Sultanate reign.

2. Answer in brief :

- (1) Write a note on the rule of Kutubuddin Aibak.
- (2) Write briefly about Amir Khusro
- (3) Specify the taxation policy during the Sultanate reign
- (4) Which were the important provinces after the downfall of the Sultanate?
- (5) Write Short note on Vijaynagar kingdom.

3. Choose the correct option from the given alternatives and give answers :

- (1) Who attacked India from 1000 to 1026 AD?
(A) Muhammed Bin Qasim (B) Hajjaz
(C) Mehmood Gaznavi (D) Shahbuddin Mohammed Gori
- (2) Who were the founders of the 'Daag' and 'Huliya' systems?
(A) Alauddin Khalji (B) Mohammed Tughlaq (C) Feroz Tughlaq (D) Sikander Lodhi
- (3) Who is associated with Qawwali and sitar?
(A) Amir Khusro (B) Alauddin Khalji (C) Hasan Nizami (D) Badayun
- (4) Which sultan is famous for Tarangi projects?
(A) Alauddin Khalji (B) Mohammed Tughlaq (C) Feroz Tughlaq (D) Sikander Lodhi
- (5) When was the first battle of Panipat fought?
(A) 1526 AD (B) 1546 AD (C) 1761 AD (D) 1556 AD

