

QUTUB-UD-DIN AIBEK (1206 AD - 1210 AD)

He was a Turk of Aibek tribe which in Turkish language means “Lord of the Moon”.

In his early life he was taken prisoner and sold as slave to a kind – hearted Qazi of Nishapur (Persia).

His master provided him education in Islamic theology and arts of warfare along with his sons.

After the death of the Qazi, his sons sold him off to Muhammad Ghori.

He was one of the trusted slave officers of Muhammad Ghauri.

He was appointed the in charge of Indian possessions by Muhammad Ghauri after victory in Second Battle of Tarain in 1192 AD.

After the death of Muhammad Ghauri, his empire was divided into two parts i.e. Ghazni and Empire of India.

Ghazni was captured by Tajuddin Yalduj and Aibek established his independent state in India.

He was the founder of Slave dynasty. This dynasty was also known as Mamluk dynasty. Mamluk is Quranic term for slave.

Qutubuddin assumed reigns of government as independent ruler at Lahore on June 24, 1206.

Defeated Yalduj and occupied Ghazni for a brief period in 1208.

Started his reign with the modest title of 'Malik' and 'Sipahasalar.

He did not strike coins nor got the Khutba read in his name.

He did not assume the title of sultan.

In 1208 – 09, **Ghias-ud-din Mahmud**, the nephew and legal successor of Muhammad Ghori, **who was content with his rule over the ancestral principality of Ghori, sent deeds of manumission and investiture to Qutubuddin and conferred upon him the title of sultan.**

Aibek as a ruler granted partial civil liberties to the Hindus in return for the payment of Jaziya and was known as the just monarch among his co-religionists.

He extended patronage to the learned and scholars. Hassan Nizami and Fakhre Mudir dedicated their books to him.

He founded Delhi Sultanate and became the first independent Muslim ruler of India

He is known as Lakh-Bakhsh (Giver of lakhs) because of his generosity.

Qutubuddin made Lahore his capital. Indraprastha was his main military centre.

He took recourse to matrimonial alliances to strengthen his position. Qutubuddin married himself with the daughter of Tajuddin Yalduj, married his sister with Nasiruddin Qubacha and married his daughter with Iltutmish.

He laid the foundation of the first of the so – called seven cities of medieval Delhi.

Died while playing Chaugan (Polo) from a fall from horse at Lahore.

Buried at Lahore.

Qutubuddin Aibek was succeeded by his inexperienced and incapable son Aram Shah who ruled at Lahore for about eight months before being defeated and deposed by Iltutmish.

SHAMSUDDIN ILTUTMISH (1211 AD – 1236 AD)

His father was an influential **noble of the Ilbari tribe** of the Turks.

He was handsome and intelligent. Iltutmish excited the jealousy of his half –brothers who deceitfully handed him over to a slave – trader.

After passing through many hands, he was, ultimately, **purchased by Qutubuddin Aibek** in Delhi at an exorbitant price of one lakh Jitals.

Iltutmish was manumitted by Aibek at the instance of Muhammad Ghori for the performance of Iltutmish in the campaign against the Khokhars in 1205 – 06.

He was Governor of the Iqtas of Gwalior and Baran (Buland Shahr) in succession before becoming Sultan.

Iltutmish fought battle with the Aram Shah for the thrown of Indian empire and captured the thrown after defeating Aram Shah.

Iltutmish made Delhi his seat of governance in preference to Lahore.

The seat of governance of the sultans was called Dar – ul- Khalifa, which literally means house of the Khalifa.

Iltutmish created an entirely new class of the ruling elite which comprised his own Turkish slave officers, headed by their Forty powerful military leaders - nicknamed the Chalisa (Chihalgani or Chehalgan), the Forty. They held charge of the iqtas or regions into which the kingdom was divided, and wielded great influence at the court.

Iltutmish secured a Letter of Investiture from the Abbasid Caliph Al – Mustansir Billah of Baghdad in February 1229.

He introduced a purely Arabic currency of gold and silver. His standard silver tanka weighed 175 grains.

He encouraged the Muslims to make settlements in the Hindu habitats, particularly, in the mountainous and forest regions so as to exert pressure over the Hindus and discourage them from harbouring rebellious feelings towards the sultanate.

Started the system of division of empire into 'iqta', an assignment of land in lieu of salary and distributed them among the Turkish officers.

Coming of Mongols under the leadership of Chingez Khan to the frontiers of India (1220 AD).

Invaded Ujjain and destroyed the temple of 'Mahakal'.

Founded Nasiriya College of Delhi in the memory of his son Nasiruddin Mahmud. Qazi Minhaz ud Din Siraj was appointed its principal later by Razia Sultan.

ILTUTMISH AND THE MONGOLS

The Mongols were original inhabitant of Mongolia. They had not yet entered the fold of Islam. They were Shamanists by faith, which was a varied form of Buddhism.

The Mongols also threatened India during his rule. Iltutmish saved India from Mongol devastation through diplomacy.

Alauddin Muhammad, the Khwarizm shah, one of the greatest Muslim monarchs of his age, had to eat a humble pie at their hands. He fled towards the Caspian Sea, while his eldest son, Jalauddin Mankbarni, escaped towards Afghanistan. Jalauddin Mangbarni was followed close upon his heels by Chengez Khan. Mangbarni entered the Indus valley and demanded help from Iltutmish against the Mongols.

Ilutmish put the envoy of Mankbarni to death and refused to oblige the Khwarizm prince by sending a diplomatic reply that the climate of India would not suit him. Thus, through a diplomatic stroke, he saved himself from the wrath of Chingez Khan.

RIVALS OF ILTUTMISH

The accession of Ilutmish was challenged by other rival contenders to throne.

Tajuddin Yalduj, the Sultan of Ghazni tried to assert his dominance over Ilutmish. Tajuddin Yalduj was defeated by Alauddin Muhammad, the Khwarizm shah. Yalduj escaped towards Punjab and Ilutmish gave a crushing defeat to Yalduj at Tarain. Yalduj was taken prisoner and put to death after a brief confinement at Badaun. This battle is known as 3rd Battle of Tarain.

Nasiruddin Qubacha, the governor of Uchh (Sindh) and Multan occupied Lahore and declared his independence. After the death of Chingez Khan in 1227, Ilutmish launched an offensive against Nasiruddin Qubacha from two sides i.e. Lahore and Delhi. Multan and Uchh were captured and Qubacha was besieged in the fort of Bhakkar on the bank of the Indus. Surrounded from all sides by the enemy and totally exhausted, Qubacha made his last bid to escape by plunging into the river, and was drowned.

At the time of Ilutmish's succession to the throne, Ali Mardan had set up an independent state of Bengal with his capital at Lakhnauti. Rebels were crushed and the

province of Bengal and Bihar was divided into two parts. Ilutmish appointed two separate governors, one for Bengal and other for Bihar.

WARS OF ILTUTMISH

He launched a full - fledged campaign against the Rajputs in 1226.

Ranthambhor was recovered from the Chauhans first, Mandisor, the head - quarters of the Parmars, was acquired next. The Chauhan ruler of Jalor was compelled to acknowledge Turkish suzerainty. Thereafter, the territories of Bayana, Ajmer and Sambhar were reconquered after many a bloody engagement with the

Rajputs.

A big slice of Jodhpur state, including the town of Nagaur, was annexed by 1230.

The Pratihar ruler of Gwalior was subjugated in 1230 - 31 after a year - long siege of the fort.

Ilutmish led an attack on Nagada, the capital of Guhilots but suffered a defeat at the hands of Rana Kshetra Singh.

Ilutmish's army was also repulsed with heavy losses by the Chalukyas of Gujarat.

He carried out an expedition into Malwa in 1234 - 35 and plundered the towns of Bhilsa and Ujjain.

The campaign in the Gangetic valley was launched under the charge of Nasiruddin Mahmud, the eldest son of Ilutmish. The territories of Badaun, Kanauj and Benaras were conquered from the Hindu chieftains.

Katehar (Rohilkhand), with its capital Ahichhatra, was also conquered after a long struggle, more than a lakh of the Turkish soldiers are said to have lost their lives in this campaign.

In 1235, Ilutmish made an attempt to bring the Khokhars under his subjugation.

Ilutmish fell sick, returned to Delhi and breathed his last in April 1236.

He was buried in the magnificent tomb which he had got constructed for himself in Delhi

RUK-UD-DIN FIROZ (1236)

Ilutmsh is said to have nominated his daughter, Raziya, as his heir, but this was disregarded by his nobles who raised his son, Ruknuddin Firuz, to the throne

Ruknuddin's brief and inglorious reign was dominated by his mother, Shah Turkan, originally a Turkish handmaiden.

RAZIA SULTAN

When Razia rose to the throne the prestige of sultanate had sunk very low. The capital was under attack from the four governors of Lahore, Multan, Hansi and Badaun. They were the ringleaders of the Shamsi nobles.

Khutba was read and coins were struck in Razia's name as Sultan Raziat-al-Dunia wali Sin bint-al-Sultan.

She proved to be the first and last female sultan of Delhi.

She became sultan in the name as well as the fact.

Khwaja Muhazzabuddin was the Wazir of Razia.

Razia discarded the Purdah, adorned the male attire and held the open court. She supervised the various departments of administration and issued orders to the governors to restore law and order in their Iqtas. She listened to public grievances and administered even handed justice.

The fort of Ranthambor had been recovered by the Chauhans after the death of Ilutmish. Razia sent the newly appointed Naib-i-Lashkar Malik Qutubuddin Hasan Ghorī for its reconquest. The fort was recaptured and razed to the ground lest the Rajputs might recover and garrison it once again.

The proud Turkish nobles thought it beneath their dignity to be governed by a woman, especially the one who did not allow them to have a say in the state affairs.

Rumours were set afloat about her character. One such rumour was about her romance with the erstwhile Abyssinian slave, Jalaluddin Yakut, whom she had promoted to the post of Amir-i-akhur (Master of the Royal Stables).

Ikhtiyar-ud-din Aitigin, the Lord Chamberlain (Amir-i-hajib), was the ring-leader of the rebellious act against Razia.

Kabir Khan Ayaz, the Governor of Lahore and Multan, and Altunia, the Governor of Bhatinda also revolted. Razia moved against them but was defeated and imprisoned by Altunia.

The conspirators at Delhi led by the traitor Aitigin raised Razia's brother Behram, the third son of Ilutmish to the throne.

Razia befriended and married Altunia to recover her position. Both of them made the last bid to recover Delhi from the hands of the rebels. They were deserted by most of their followers. They gave a heroic fight to the enemy near Kaithal but were defeated and taken prisoners on October 13, 1240. Both of them were beheaded the next day.

BEHRAM SHAH

He sat on the throne of Delhi for about two years but was a mere puppet in the hands of the Shamsi nobles.

Ikhtiyar-ud-din Aytigin carried on administration on behalf of the sultan in his capacity as Naib-i-Mamlakat (the Viceroy)

During the reign of Behram Shah, the mongols invaded India under their leader Tair in 1241. They were repulsed by Kabir Khan governor of Multan.

ALA-UD-DIN MASUD SHAH (1242AD - 46AD)

Izzuddin Kishan Khan was one of the Shamsi nobles, declared himself the Sultan on his deposition of Behram Shah but his colleagues did not approve of his action.

They instead placed Alauddin Masud Shah who was a grandson of Iltutmish (son of Ruknuddin Firoz) on the throne.

He held the crown as a nominal sultan for about four years but all powers of the state were wielded by the nobility headed by the Malik Naib Qutubuddin Hasan Ghori.

Muhazzabuddin continued to be the Wazir as before but was dismissed after some time and Nizam-ul-Mulk was made the Wazir.

Balban one of the Forty, rose into prominence into the state politics during this period as Amir-i-Hajib. He married one of his daughters to the young sultan.

In June 1246, Masud Shah was deposed and supplanted by Nasiruddin Mahmud through the connivance of the Forty.

NASIR-UD-DIN MAHMUD (1246-66 AD)

He was the posthumous child of Shahzada Nasiruddin (son of Iltutmish)

He did not take much interest in the state affairs.

He kept himself aloof from all administrative problems.

Minhaj, the author of Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, was the Chief Qazi of Delhi under Nasiruddin.

Isami tells us that the Sultan expressed no opinion without their permission, he did not move his hands or feet except at the order. You would not drink water nor go to sleep except with your knowledge. He states that Ulugh Khan served the King and controlled all his affairs. The king lived in the place and Ulugh Khan governed the empire.

He was a good calligraphist and as a pastime he used to write copies of the Quran which gave currency to the popular belief that he made his living by selling his scripts alone.

GHIYAS-UD-DIN BALBAN (1266- 86AD)

His original name was Bahauddin.

In his youth he fell into the hands of the Mongols along with some other members of his family.

In 1232, Balban was purchased by Iltutmish who made him his personal attendant (Khassa-Dar).

He was Amir-i-Shikar (Lord of the Stables under Behram and Amir I Hajib (Lord Chamberlain) under Masud.

The territories of Hansi and Rewari were held by him as personal estate.

He played a prominent role in the installation to Nasiruddin Mahmud to the throne.

Balban as Nasiruddin's minister

Balban was the ex-governor of Badaun and was given the title of Amir I Hajib.

He was appointed Wazir with the title of Ulugh Khan by Sultan Nasir-ud-din Mahmud.

He was appointed as the Naib-i-Mamlakat or the Viceroy in 1249 though he had been the de-facto ruler of the state from the very first day of his appointment as Wazir.

In 1247-48, Balban carried out a punitive expedition against the refractory Zamindars of the Doab.

In 1253, a conspiracy was hatched against Balban by some disaffected nobles who felt jealous of his rising power. Imad-ud-din Raihan who was an Indian Muslim and Kishlu Khan were the ring leaders. They were close to the Sultan Nasiruddin. They poisoned the ears of the sultan against Balban and also made an unsuccessful bid to murder the Malik Naib. When Balban came to know of it, he volunteered to resign the post. He was sent to Hansi as its governor and Raihan became the Naib-i-Mamlakat.

Imad-ud-din Raihan, however, failed to run the government effectively and incurred the displeasure of the Sultan. The Shamsi nobles made a common cause with Balban and staged a comeback by the show of force. Balban was reinstated as Malik Naib with absolute powers of government in his hands.

Balban adopted a three fold policy to consolidate his position and protect the sultanate from disintegration (a) Suppression of the rebellious Turkish nobles (b) Vigilance against the rising power of the Hindu chiefs and (c) Stemming the tide of Mongol menace.

In 1255, Jalaluddin, the half-brother of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud, was appointed in charge of frontier areas.

Towards the close of 1257, the Mongols advanced into the territories of Uchh and Multan. Balban established diplomatic contacts with Mongol King Halaku Khan. The Mongol emissaries visited Delhi in 1258-59 and were impressed by the power of Delhi Sultanate.

The contention of Isami is that Nasiruddin was poisoned to death by Balban.

Balban as Sultan

He was the consolidator of the Sultanate of Delhi.

He received the title of Ulugh Khan (the Great Khan) after successfully repelling a Mongol invasion in 1246.

He was the 1st sultan to put forward his views about Kingship. According to it, the king was the shadow of God, his representative and king rules by divine sanction.