

# Medieval India (The Delhi Sultanate)



## Political history and administration (Qutbuddin Aibak, Alauddin Khilji and Muhammad Bin Tughlaq).

The period between 1206 and 1526, when five dynasties successively ruled from Delhi is known as the period of Delhi Sultanate. It was so called because the rulers of various dynasties which ruled from their capital at Delhi were called the Sultans.

**Qutbuddin Aibak** was the founder of Slave/ Mamluk dynasty. He was Slave of Muhammad Ghori. He started building Qutub Minar which was later completed by Iltutmish his slave and Son in Law.

## THE SLAVE DYNASTY

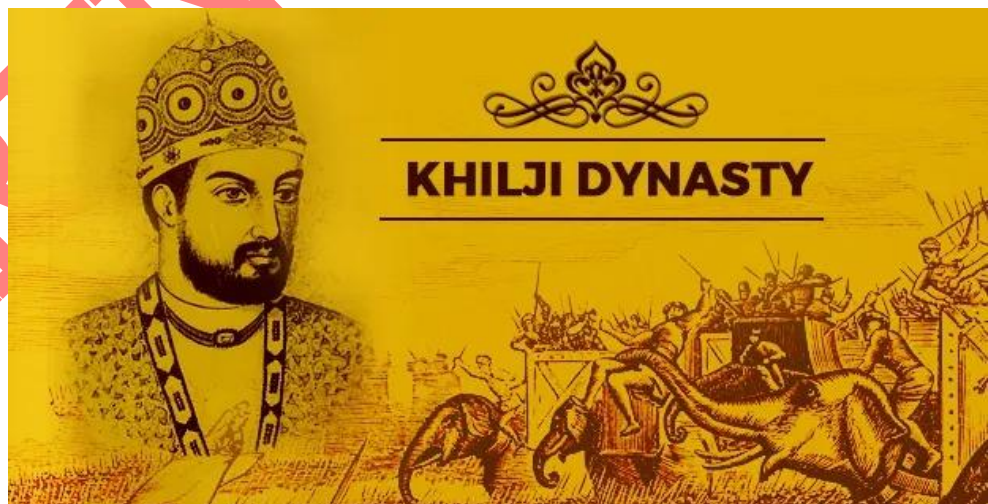
There were five successive ruling dynasties, namely, the Slave, Khilji, Tughlaq, Sayyid and Lodhi dynasties. Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan at the Second Battle of Tarain in 1192.



## Slave Dynasty (Ghulam Dynasty)

## THE KHILJI DYNASTY

Jalaluddin Khilji was the founder of the Khilji dynasty, who came to the throne after killing Kaikubad, the last king of the slave dynasty. He was murdered by his nephew Alauddin Khilji, who proclaimed himself as the Sultan.



## Market Regulations

Alauddin is best known in history for his market regulations. He fixed the cost of all commodities such as foodgrains, sugar and cooking oil.

Each market was put under the charge of a controller of market (Shahna). Very strict punishments were prescribed for cheating and underweighing goods.

## Deccan Expedition

Alauddin Khilji was the first Sultan, who after conquering the bulk of northern India, sent an expedition to Deccan under Malik Kafur. The rulers of Deccan were forced to accept the overlordship of Alauddin Khilji and to pay annual tribute to him.



## Measures against Nobility

- (i) The Nobles were not allowed to hold parties or festivities or to form marriage alliances without the permission of the Sultan.
- (ii) The use of wine and intoxicants was banned.
- (iii) Gambling was forbidden and gamblers were severely punished.
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- (iv) He stopped paying the soldiers in land and introduced cash salaries.
- (v) He established an efficient spy system to keep a check on the activities of the nobles.



## Military Reforms

Alauddin Khilji was the first ruler of Delhi who laid the foundation of a permanent standing army. He imported quality horses and started the system of branding horses (dagh) so that the soldiers could not replace them with inferior quality horses. He also introduced the system of chehra, i.e., giving a kind of identity card for every soldier.



## MUHAMMAD BIN TUGHLAQ

Ghiyas-ud-din's son Jauna Khan ascended the throne and took the title of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq was one of the most remarkable rulers of his age.



### Transfer of Capital:

He shifted his capital to Devagiri near modern Aurangabad and renamed it Daulatabad.

Daulatabad was centrally located from where he could control the Deccan territories;

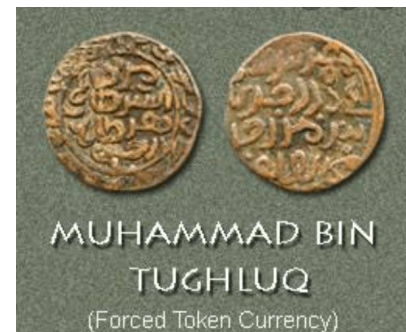
Delhi was in the grip of severe famine; and

Delhi was constantly threatened by the Mongol invasions.

He ordered the people of Delhi including religious heads to shift to Daulatabad.

### Token Currency:

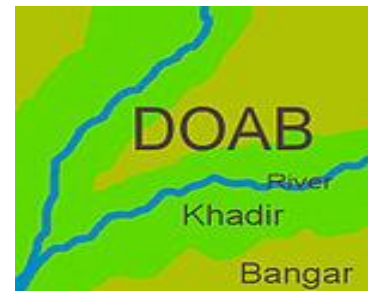
It meant introduction of bronze tanka in place of silver tankas, This was done because of the shortage of silver. But this experiment failed due to the circulation of counterfeit or fake coins on a very large scale, which caused chaos in trade and commerce.



### Taxation in Doab:

Muhammad bin Tughlaq wanted to conquer territories not only in India but also in Central Asia.

At the same time, a severe famine broke out in the area and the people refused to pay the extra taxes and rose in rebellion.



### Plan of Conquests:



Muhammad bin Tughlaq dreamt of conquering the world. So he organised a huge army and paid one full year's salary in advance to his soldiers. He then decided to conquer Khurasan, Persia (Iran) and Iraq.

## SULTANATE ADMINISTRATION

The Sultan was the supreme executive, legislative, judicial and military authority. The key figure in administration was the Wazir, who acted as the Prime Minister.

The minister in charge of the army was called 'ariz-i-mumalik'. There were two other important departments, namely, the diwan-i-risalat and the diwan-i-insha. The diwan-i-risalat dealt with religious matters and was presided over by the Chief Sadar, who was generally a leading qazi. The qazi was the head of the department of justice and advised the Sultan on civil and religious matters. The diwan-i-insha dealt with state correspondence.

During the Sultanate the empire was divided into provinces called 'iqtas'. Each province was placed under officials called 'muqtis'.

**Nobles:** (During this period, the practice of giving grants of revenue from a territory came to be known as the iqta system. Those who were given iqtas were called 'iqtadars'.

