





MODULE-2
DELHI SULTANATE, VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE & BHAMINI
KINGDOM
TOPIC- REFORMS OF MUHAMMED-BIN-TUGHLAQ

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- Important schemes and reforms undertaken by Muhammad bin Tughlaq(1324-51) are:
 - a. Heavy taxation in the Doab
 - b. Transfer of the capital to Deogir
 - c. Issue of token currency


Taxation in the doab-1326 CE


- First administrative measure that introduced by the Sultan
- In order to raise resources of the state the sultan increased the taxes by ten to twenty times more.
- Barani ascribed this measure to the sultan's tyranny and bloodthirstiness, and spoke in detail about the suffering caused to the people due to rigorous exaction of taxes.
- The increase in taxes in the Doab coincided with the outbreak of famine owing to the failure of rains.


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- Peasants were not in a position to pay this enhanced taxes
 - As a consequence the rich were reduced to poverty, the cultivators abandoned their lands and vast areas became depopulated.
 - Barani- “The backs of the Ryots were broken. Those who were rich became rebels. The lands were ruined and cultivation was arrested, Thousands of people perished”
 - According to Dr. A.L. Srivastava, the sultan made an attempt to help the cultivators by giving them loans to buy seeds, bullocks etc. He also made arrangements for digging of wells for irrigation, but the policy failed.


Transfer of capital- I 326-27 CE


- One of the most controversial steps taken by Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq, early in his reign, was the decision of transfer of capital to Deogiri or Devagiri which was renamed Daulatabad, and the alleged orders of the sultan ordering a mass transfer of the people from Delhi to the new capital.
- Devagiri had been a base for the expansion of Turkish rule in South India.
- The attempt to bring the entire South India under the direct control of Delhi had led to serious political difficulties.
- The people of the area were restless under what they felt was an alien rule.

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- A number of Muslim noble had tried to take advantage of the situation to proclaim their independence.
 - It appears that the Sultan wanted to make Devagiri a second capital, so that he might be able to control South India better.
 - In 1327 AD he made extensive preparation for the transfer of his royal household, the Ulema and Sufis from Delhi to Devagiri.
 - Sultan even built a road from Delhi to Devagiri.
 - It was renamed as Daulatabad

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- The main reasons behind the shifting of capital were as follows:
 - (i) According to Barani, Devagiri was made the capital as the new place was centrally located. The new capital had equal distance from Delhi, Gujarat, Lakhnauti, Telanga, Dwarasamudra etc.
 - (ii) Ibn Batuta is of the view that the people of Delhi wrote abusive letters to Muhammad Tughlaq. The Sultan, therefore, wanted to teach them a lesson by depriving them of the capital. The above view is also supported by Isami.

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- (iii) Gardner Brown ascribes the reason of the transfer of capital as the constant danger of the Mongol's attack at Delhi.
 - (iv) There was a revolt of a great magnitude in the South and accordingly the Sultan desired to strengthen his position there.
 - (v) It is stated by some historians that poets like Amir Khusraw had created a great fascination in the mind of the Sultan for the beauty of Devagiri.
 - (vi) The Sultan wanted to create another major administrative centre so that Muslim population could be increased in the Deccan.

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- Muhammad Tughlaq took up all possible measures for providing comfort to people in the course of their journey from Delhi to Daulatabad as well as to settle in this new place.
 - People were given free food and drinking water after every three kilometres of journey. Shady trees were planted all along the roads and at a distance of every two miles halting stations were set up.

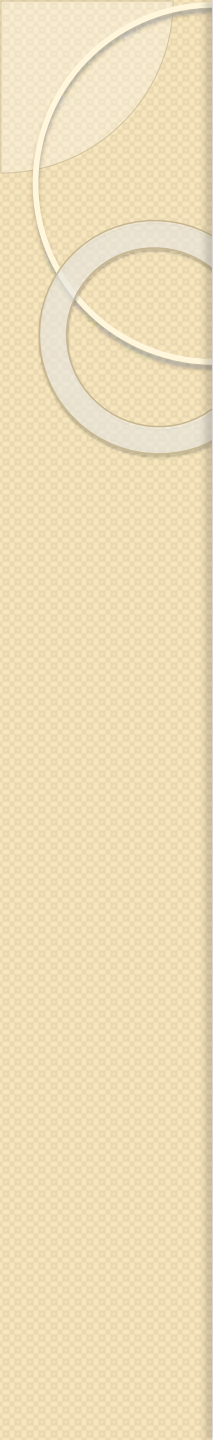
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- Nevertheless, most of the migrants were not happy and for them Daulatabad was alien land full of infidels.
 - Realizing that his scheme had failed completely, Muhammad Tughlaq gave permission to the people to return back to Delhi between AD 1335-37.
 - Sultan found that just as he could not control the south from Delhi, he could not control north India from Daulatabad
 - Lanepoole – Daulatabad remained a monument of misdirected energy



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REASONS FOR FAILURE


- Several reasons have been given for the failure of the scheme.
- i. The Sultan at first, should have shifted only his 'court' and courtiers, the rest would have followed themselves.
- ii. The Sultan shouldn't have asked the people and even the elite of Delhi first to go Daulatabad enmasse because common people were neither prepared to shift to an unknown distant place nor was there any necessity of it.

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- iii. Even the theory that the Sultan wanted to shield the empire from the invasion of Mongols do not seem appropriate because Daulatabad, being a distant city from the north-west frontier, was no good choice to be the second capital of the empire. From Daulatabad it was very difficult to resist invasions of Mongols.
 - iv. Thus, the Sultan made a wrong choice of the place and took wrong methods too in order to build his new capital. So, his scheme failed completely.

ISSUE OF TOKEN CURRENCY- 1330CE


- Sultan called as the Prince of Moneyars
- Reformed the entire coinage system
- In 1329-30, the Sultan introduced a token currency which remained in circulation until 1331- 32 AD.
- The scheme was designed to fill the gap in the gold and silver reserves, emerged as a result of the two frontier expeditions.

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- Bronze coins were issued by the Sultan which was to have the same value as the silver tanka
 - Idea of token currency was a new one in India, & it was difficult to induce traders & common people to accept it
 - Govt had been not able to prevent people from forging the new coins
 - This resulted in economic chaos.
 - Trade was paralyzed and government incurred heavy losses.
 - The token currency was kept in the market only for three to four years and Sultan withdrawn the entire token currency.
 - The people were asked to return token coins for which they were paid back in gold and silver coins by the royal treasury

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- According to Professor Habib, the people were responsible for the failure of this scheme because they failed to discriminate between genuine and imitated false coins.
 - But the rest of historians have put the blame on the Sultan himself for the failure of the scheme.
 - According to them, it was a blunder on the part of the Sultan that he did not take proper precautions to check imitation of coins issued by the royal mint.

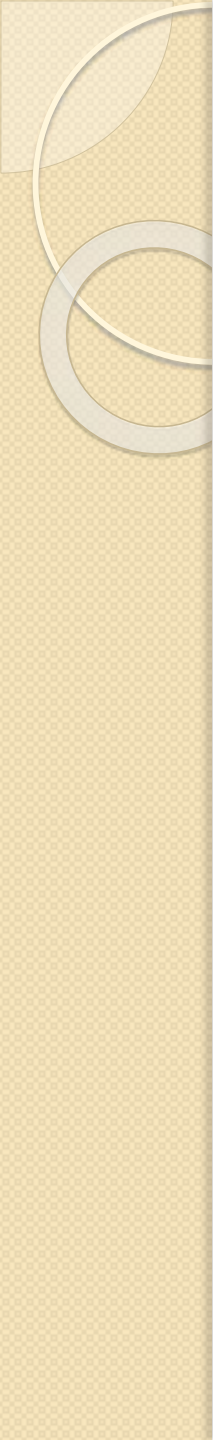
Department of Agriculture


- Muhammad Bin Tughlaq realized that for an uninterrupted flow of revenue into the treasury, improvement of agriculture was essential.
- For this purpose he set up a separate department of agriculture-***Diwan-i-kohi*** under a minister, ***amir-i-kohi***.
- Its main task was to increase the land under cultivation by giving loans to the cultivators & induce them to cultivate superior crops
- According to Dr. A. L. Srivastava, a large tract of land sixty miles square in area was chosen for state farming.
- The land was cultivated and different crops were sown in rotation. In three years the government spent over seventy lakh tankas on this experiment.


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- In spite of all efforts the experiment ended in a failure and the scheme was abandoned after three years.
 - Poor quality of land chosen for the experiment, corruption among the officials and indifference of cultivators were some of the reasons for the failure of the well-intentioned experiment.
 - Moreover, the scheme was given up in haste. Besides, three years was a short period for any tangible result.

The Khurasan & Qarachil Expedition

- Desire to make Sindh & the Punjab safe all time from the danger of recurrent Mongol invasions
- After the death of Chengiz Khan, 2 branch of descendants- Chaghtai branch dominated Turkistan & Transoxiana- another branch led by Halaku captured Iran, Iraq etc
- Ghur, Ghazni, Afghanistan which provided access to India was a bone of contention between them

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- Mongols became weak due to internal dissensions
 - Muhammad wanted to overthrow the descendants of Chingez
 - Khurasan was used vaguely to describe the area- Barani add sometimes Iraq & Trans-oxiana to it
 - Mongols under their leader Tarmashrin burst into Sind & a force reached up to Meerut, about 65 km from Delhi

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- Muhammad not only defeated the Mongols in a battle near the Jhelum but also occupied Kalanaur & for sometime his power extended beyond the Indus up to Peshwar
 - Sultan recruited a large army in order to occupy Khurasan & Iraq
 - After one year the army was dispersed

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- Qarachil expedition-1333- soon after Khurasan expedition
 - Aimed at Kulu-Kangra region of Himachal
 - Badayuni & Ferishta- calls it the expedition to China & Himachal
 - Expedition proved a failure-However the hill rajas accepted the over lordship of Delhi