



**MODULE-2**  
**DELHI SULTANATE,**  
**VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE &**  
**BHAMINI KINGDOM**  
**TOPIC- ALAUDDIN KHILJI-**  
**MILITARY MEASURES AND**  
**ECONOMIC REFORMS**

**PRIYANKA.E.K**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**LITTLE FLOWER COLLEGE, GURUVAYOOR**

- At the time of Alauddin accession, despite almost 90 years of rule, the Turkish slave aristocracy had been only partially successful in establishing hold in India
- Punjab, beyond Lahore was frequently jolted by the revolts of Khokars
- Rajput states also become independent
- Gujarat was under Vaghelas
- Bengal, Bihar were also independent of Delhi
- South too was beyond its jurisdiction
- There were also threat posed by Mongols



# CONQUESTS

- **1299**- Alauddin ordered the imperial army to march against Gujarat by way of Rajasthan
- On their way to Gujarat they raided & captured **Jaisalmer**
- Gujarat Ruler **Rai Karan Vaghela** escaped to Devagiri
- Sultanate army resorted to wholesale plunder & devastation of Gujarat
- Capital **Anhilwara** & other prosperous towns were sacked
- **Somath temple** rebuild in 12<sup>th</sup> c was again demolished
- Nor were the wealthy Muslim merchants of Cambay spared it was here that **Malik Kafur**, who later led the invasions of south India was captured



- Gujarat now passed under control of Delhi
- With the help of Ramachandra, the ruler of Deogir, the ousted ruler Rai Karan managed to hold on to a portion of south Gujarat-this was a cause of war between Delhi & Yadavas of Deogir
- **1301-** Alauddin turned his attention to the consolidation of **Rajasthan**
- first he turned his attention against **Ranthambor** , ruled by Hamiradeva, Chauhan successors of Prithviraj
- After Gujarat campaign , on their way back to Delhi, Mongol soldiers rebelled & rebellion was crushed & followed by a massacre



- Two Mongol nobles escaped & sought refuge in Ranthambhor
- Alauddin asked Hamiradeva to either expel them or kill them
- But Hamiradeva was not ready because of his dignity
- Alauddin dispatched his army under his general to attack Ranthambhor but repulsed
- Then Alauddin himself march against Ranthambhor
- After 3 months of close siege, Jauhar ceremony took place, all men came out to fight to the last



- Next Sultan turned against **Chittor**, another powerful state in Rajasthan
- Its ruler **Ratan Singh** refused to give permission for Alauddin's army to march to Gujarat through Mewar territories
- Chittor dominated the route from Ajmer to Malwa
- Alauddin himself marched against Chittor
- Tale of Padmini, queen of Chittor ruler Ratan Singh, immortalised by **Malik Mohammad Jaisi** in his famous *Padmavat*



- After a valiant resistance by the besieged for several months, Alauddin stormed the fort in 1303
- Rajputs performed jauhar & most of the warriors fought fighting
- Ratan Singh was captured alive & kept a prisoner for some time
- Chittor was assigned to Alauddin's minor son Khizir Khan
- Alauddin did not try to establish direct rule over Rajasthan; instead, he allowed Rajput rulers to rule by paying tribute
- Thus Rajasthan was thoroughly subdued



- **Deccan & south India Campaign:**
- **1306-07-** Alauddin planned 2 campaigns
- First against Rai Karan, who hold Baglana on the border of Malwa after his expulsion from Gujarat- Rai Karan fought bravely, but could not resist for long
- Second against Rai Ramachandra, the ruler of Deogir, who had been in alliance with Rai Karan
- Rai Ramachandra agreed to pay yearly tribute to Delhi but had fallen into arrears
- Malik Kafur marched against **Deogir**, Rai Ramachandra surrendered to Kafur





- 1309-1311-Alauddin's slave, Malik Kafur undertook 2 campaigns against south India
- First against **Kakatiyas of Warrangal** in the Telengana area, & other against **Dwar Samudra(modern Karnataka), Mabar & Madurai(Tamil Nadu)**
- 1308- marched against Warrangal & forced ruler to pay war indemnity
- 1310- attacked Hoysala kingdom- plundered temples- compelled the ruler, Vira Ballala III to accept vassalage



- Kafur then marched to Pandyan kingdom for the first time Sultanate army reached Madhurai-looted & destroyed temples like Chidambaram
- Returned to Delhi in 1311 with plundered wealth
- Even though Alauddin was not interested in the direct administration of south Indian states, his successors tried to maintain their control over these south Indian states





# MARKET CONTROL

- Was considered as one of the great wonders of the world
- After his return from Chittor campaign, Alauddin sought to fix the cost of all commodities from food grains, sugar & cooking oil to a needle & from costly imported cloth to horses, cattle & slave boys & girls
- he set up 3 markets at Delhi
  1. Market for food grains
  2. Market for costly cloth
  3. Market for horses, cattle & slaves



- Each market was under control of a high officer called *shahna*., who maintained a register of the merchants & strictly controlled the shopkeepers & the prices
- Regulation of prices especially food grains was a constant concern of medieval rulers because without the constant supply of cheap food grains to the towns, they could not hope to enjoy the support of the citizens & the army stationed there
- Alauddin had some additional reasons for controlling the market



- Mongol invasions of Delhi had the need to raise a large army to check them
- He could maintain this large army only by keeping their salaries & prices low
- To ensure a regular supply of cheap foodgrains, he declared that the land revenue in the doab region , that is ,the area extending from Meerut near the Yamuna to the border of Kara near Allahabad would be paid directly to the state, i.e, the villages in the area would not be assigned in iqta to anyone



- Land revenue was raised to half of the produce
- By raising the state demand & peasants need to pay it in cash, the peasants were forced to sell their foodgrains at lower price to banjaras who carry them to the towns & to sell them at prices fixed by the state
- To ensure there was no hoarding, all the banjaras were registered
- The state itself set up warehouses & stocked them with foodgrains which were released whenever there was a famine or a threat of a shortfall in supply



- Alauddin kept constantly informed of everything & very harsh punishment was given if any shopkeeper charged a higher price or tried to cheat by using false weights & measures
- Control of prices of horse was important for Sultan because without the supply of good horse at reasonable price to the army , the efficiency of the army maintained
- Good quality horses could be sold only to the state
- The price of cattle & slaves were strictly regulated





- Delhi became the biggest market for fine cloth, the price of which was fixed & traders from all places flocked to Delhi in order to buy it & sell it at a higher price elsewhere
- Realization of land revenue in cash enabled Alauddin to pay his soldiers in cash
- He was the first Sultan to do so
- The salary fixed by Alauddin was low, & the control of the market was, therefore necessary
- Barani- major objective of Alauddin's control of markets was his desire to punish Hindus since most of the traders were Hindus & it was they who resorted to profiteering in foodgrains & other goods



- It also affected the trade controlled by Khurusans & Multanis who were Muslims
- Not clear whether it was applied in Delhi alone or other towns
- Barani- regulations concerning Delhi always tended to be followed by other towns also
- Army was stationed not only in Delhi but in other towns also
- All people irrespective of religion benefitted from the cheapness of foodgrains



# AGRARIAN REFORMS

- Took important step in land revenue administration- to maintain a large army at low cost
- First monarch in Sultanate who insisted that in the doab, land revenue would be assessed on the basis of measuring the land under cultivation
- This implied that rich & powerful landlords in the villages could not pass on their burden to the poor
- Alauddin wanted that the landlords of the area called Khuts & Muqaddamas- should pay the same tax as others



- Under Alauddin, *kharaj* in the form of proper land tax was levied over large part of northern India at the rate of 50% of the produce
- Main source of information on Alauddin's fiscal policies are the chronicles of Barani
- Barani links the Sulthans policies to a conscious attempt to reduce the power of the Hindu chiefs, & later to the Sulthans desire to maintain large army at the lowest possible cost, as a safety device against Mongol invasions



- Main features of land tax system were the high revenue demand, the manner of its implementation, additional levies imposed on the peasantry
- Sultan ordered all cultivable land be measured per biswa( $1/20^{\text{th}}$  of a bigha)
- Yield was also estimated per biswa
- Estimated yield was multiplied by the total number of biswas held by a cultivator in order to calculate his overall produce
- State demand was fixed at half of this estimated produce



- Land tax was normally required to be paid in cash, which forced the peasants to enter the money market
- Barani recounts that the Sulthans agents were so grasping that the peasants were compelled to sell their standing crops to the grain merchants to meet their tax obligations
- In the doab area, the kharaj was collected entirely on grain & stored in state grain houses for release in times of scarcity
- In addition to kharaj, Alauddin realised 2 more taxes from peasants



- 1. charai- grazing tax
- 2. garhi- tax on dwellings
- Alauddin's policies were not harsh on peasantry, but also seriously undermined the position of Hindu intermediaries like khuts & muuqaddams
- Intermediaries traditionally collected land revenue from the peasants on behalf of the state, in return for certain benefits
- Alauddin, taxed intermediaries at the same rate as the peasants & also made them liable to the charai & ghari taxes



- Barani states that the khots & muqaddams were so impoverished by these measures
- Further to reduce their chances of rebellion, Alauddin forbade them from riding & bearing arms
- Fiscal measures of Alauddin was forbade by his successors.
- Barani stated that the regulations enabled Alauddin to raise a large & efficient army which enabled him to defeat the subsequent Mongol onslaughts & to drive them beyond Indus
- It marked an important step towards closer relationship with the rural areas

