

(Part-III)

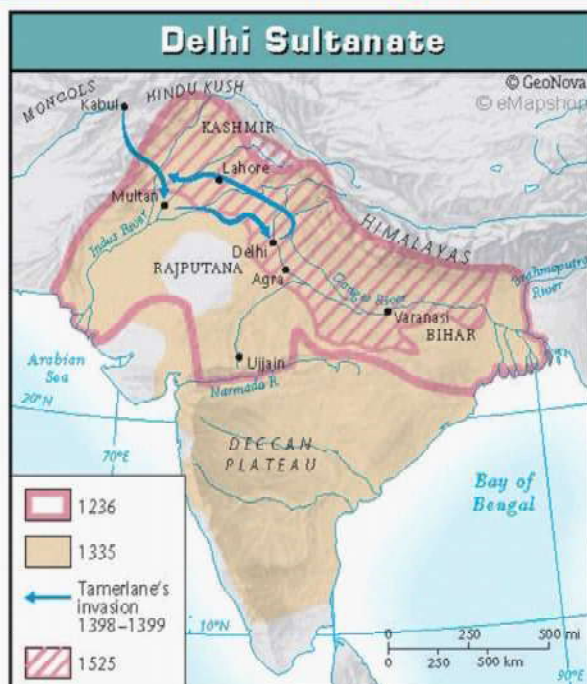
■ Sultanate Period (1200 AD - 1526 AD)

■ Mughal Period (After 1526 AD)

- **Political** : 1. Political expansion (State, Empire, Dynasty)
2. Administration
- **Economic** : Agriculture, Industry, Trade, Currencies and Urbanisation
- **Social** : Horizontal and Vertical division of society and status of women
- **Cultural** : Religion (Bhakti and Sufism), language and literature, Architecture, Paintings and Music

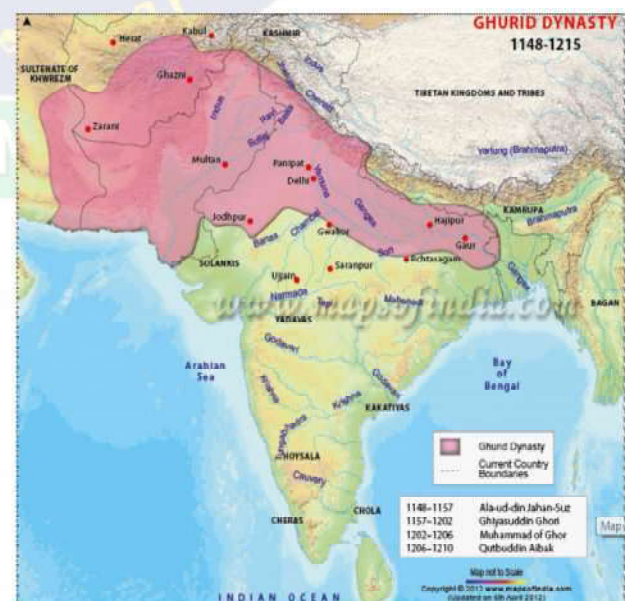
Sultanate Period

Since the establishment of Islam, there have been persistent efforts by the Islamic army to conquer India. However, it was only in 712 AD that the Arab invaders found an opportunity to conquer Sindh. Despite their aspirations to expand into North India, they faced limited success. In contrast, the Turks from Central Asia achieved relatively greater accomplishments. Mahmud of Ghazni, in the early 11th century, launched frequent attacks on northern India with Punjab as his base, but he did not directly establish control over the region. In a significant turn of events, Muhammad Ghori emerged victorious in the second battle of Tarain in 1192 AD, capturing Ajmer and Delhi. This marked the establishment of the Turkish state in North India.



Ilbari or Mamluk dynasty (1192 AD—1290 AD)

The founder of this dynasty was Muhammad Ghori (1192-1206). However, his primary interests lay in the regions of Ghazni and Gaur. It was his slave, Qutbuddin Aibak, who effectively administered the affairs in India. In the battle of Chandawar in 1194 AD, Muhammad Ghori defeated Jaichand and seized control of Kannauj. Muhammad Ghori passed away in 1206 AD.



■ **Qutbuddin Aibak (1206-1210 AD)** - Qutbuddin Aibak selected Lahore as his capital and pursued territorial expansion in the upper

doab of Ganga-Yamuna. Hasan Nizami, a renowned scholar, was part of his court and wrote the book 'Taj-ul-Maasir'. However, Qutbuddin Aibak's reign was tragically cut short by his sudden demise in 1210 AD.

■ **Iltutmish (1211-1236 AD)** - It is considered the architect of the Delhi Sultanate as it not only reclaimed independent Indian states but also implemented significant administrative reforms. The establishment of the 'Turk-i-Chahalgani', a body consisting of 40 nobles, in key positions contributed to effective governance. Recognizing the economic significance of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab, it facilitated the settlement of Muslim communities in that region. It holds the distinction of being the first Sultan to receive ruling authority from the Khalifa, marking the beginning of the legitimate Sultanate period.

■ **Razia (1236-1240 AD)** - Razia proved herself as a capable ruler, but her tenure was cut short due to the envy of the Amirs and the Ulemas. Unfortunately, after the battle of Kaithal in 1240 AD, Razia met a tragic end and was killed.

■ **Bahram Shah (1240-1242 AD)** - During his reign, in 1241, the first Mongol invasion led by Tair Bahadur occurred.

■ **Mas'ud Shah (1242-1246 AD)**

■ **Nasiruddin Muhammad (1246-1266 AD)** - He was the youngest son of Iltutmish. During his reign, Balban, a member of the Turk-i-Chahalgani, held actual power. The court also patronized the renowned writer 'Minhaj-us-Siraj', who authored the Persian work 'Tabaqat-e-Nasiri'.

■ **The Balban (1266-1286 AD)** - Balban is recognized as the real architect of the Delhi Sultanate. Despite being a member of Turk-i-Chahalgani, he dismantled their power to consolidate the Sultan's authority. He played a pivotal role in shaping the Mongol policy during the Sultanate era, establishing two defensive lines in the northwest to guard against Mongol invasions..

■ **The Kaiqubad (1286-1290 AD):**

After Balban's demise, his grandson Kaiqubad ascended to the throne. However, he proved to

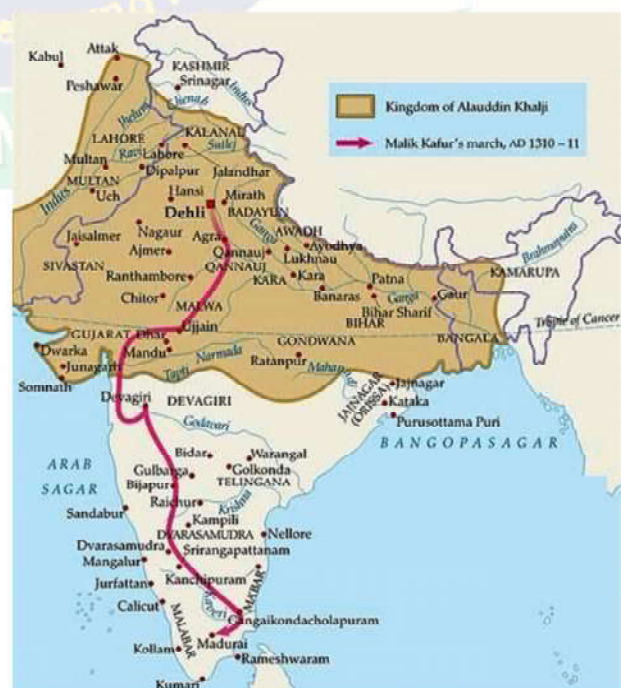
be a weak and ineffective ruler. His reign was marred by political instability, leading to a state of chaos. Exploiting this opportunity, Jalaluddin Khilji, Muqti of Samana, seized control of Delhi.

Khilji Dynasty (1250E—1320E)

■ **Jalaluddin Khilji (1290-1296 AD)** - Jalaluddin Khilji founded the Khilji dynasty and ruled from 1290 to 1296 AD. However, his rule was cut short when he was overthrown by his nephew and son-in-law, Alauddin Khilji.

■ **Alauddin Khilji (1236-1314 AD)** - Alauddin Khilji ushered in an era of imperialism in India. His reign saw extensive territorial expansion, reaching its pinnacle during the rule of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.

Initially, Alauddin Khilji consolidated his power in North India by conquering regions such as Gujarat (1299 AD), Ranthambore (1301 AD), Chittor (1303 AD), and Malwa (1305 AD). He then launched military campaigns in South India under the leadership of his general Malik Kafur. These campaigns included the first military expedition against Devagiri and Warangal in 1306-07 AD, followed by a second expedition against Dwarasamudra and the Pandya kingdom. While Alauddin Khilji extracted revenue and received tributes from these southern states, he did not directly administer them.



■ **Mubarak Shah Khilji (1316-1320 AD)** - Mubarak Shah Khilji became the first Sultan to declare himself as Caliph and assumed the title of 'Al Wasiq Billah'. Departing from Alauddin Khilji's policy of limited expansion, Mubarak Shah successfully conquered Devagiri and incorporated it into the Delhi Sultanate.

■ **Khusrau Shah (1320 AD)** - After the demise of Mubarak Shah Khilji, his minister **Khusrau** proclaimed himself as the Sultan under the name 'Khusraushah'. However, in 1320 AD, Ghazi Malik, the governor of Dipalpur, launched an attack on Delhi, resulting in the death of Khusro and the establishment of the Tughlaq dynasty.

Tughlaq dynasty (1320 E—1412 E)

■ **Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320-1325 AD)** - After assuming the title of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, Ghazi Malik ascended to the throne. During his reign, his son Jauna Khan successfully conquered Warangal in 1324 AD, incorporating it into the Delhi Sultanate. Unfortunately, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq met with an untimely demise in 1325 AD due to an accident while returning from a campaign in Bengal.

■ **Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq (1325-1351 AD)** - The reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq is often regarded as a highly controversial period in history. While he had progressive ideas, his policies were marked by repeated failures. These failures led to widespread rebellion and ultimately resulted in the disintegration of his empire.

He expanded his empire extensively, establishing the All Indian Empire. During his rule, he embarked on various experiments such as changing the capital, introducing token currency, implementing progressive taxation in the Doab region, launching military campaigns in Khurasan and Karachil. However, all of his experiments met with successive failures, leading to the gradual disintegration of his empire.

- **1335 AD:** Mabar (Madura) kingdom gained independence led by Ahsan Shah.

- **1336 AD:** Vijayanagara kingdom declared

independence under Harihara and Bukka.

- **1338 AD:** Bengal achieved independence under Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah.
- **1347 AD:** Bahmani kingdom became independent under Bahman Shah.



■ **Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388 AD)** - The emphasis of Firoz Shah Tughlaq was on the following policies -

1. He focused on religious fanaticism as a policy to appease dissident Ulemas.
2. He implemented public welfare programs within the state.
3. Emphasizing extensive construction projects, he commissioned the translation of Sanskrit texts on music into Persian.
4. He prioritized irrigation development, constructing canals from the Yamuna and Sutlej rivers.

■ After the Firoz Shah Tughlaq

After the reign of Firoz Shah Tughlaq, a period of weak rulers ensued, with frequent changes in leadership. The final ruler of this dynasty was Nasiruddin Mahmud. During his rule, Timur invaded India in 1398 AD, further weakening the empire's prestige. Subsequently, the empire faced disintegration. By 1401 AD, Gujarat, led by Jafar Khan, Malwa, led by Dilawar Khan, and Jaunpur, led by Khwaja Jahan, declared

independence. Khwaja Jahan, titled 'Malik-us-Sharq,' established the Sharqi dynasty in Jaunpur. Nasiruddin Mahmud died in 1412 AD, and Khizr Khan, the governor of Punjab under Timur, captured Delhi.

Sayyid dynasty (1414 AD—1451 AD)

Khizr Khan, an officer of Timur, established the Lodi dynasty. Mubarak Shah was succeeded by Khizr Khan. In Khizr Khan's court, the writer Yahya bin Ahmad Sirhindi composed 'Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi.' The final ruler of this dynasty was Alam Khan, who later abdicated the throne in favor of his general, Bahlol Lodi. This marked the establishment of the Lodi dynasty.

Lodi dynasty (1451 AD—1526 AD)

The Lodi dynasty, the first Afghan dynasty in India, was founded by Bahlol Lodi. His capable successor, Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517 AD), proved to be a skilled Sultan. He successfully conquered Jaunpur and incorporated it into the Delhi Sultanate. In 1504 AD, he strategically founded Agra to exert control over eastern Rajasthan. Sikandar Lodi also made efforts to instill discipline among his noble (Amirs). Moreover, he gained recognition in the literary world for his poetic compositions under the pen name 'Gulrukhi.'

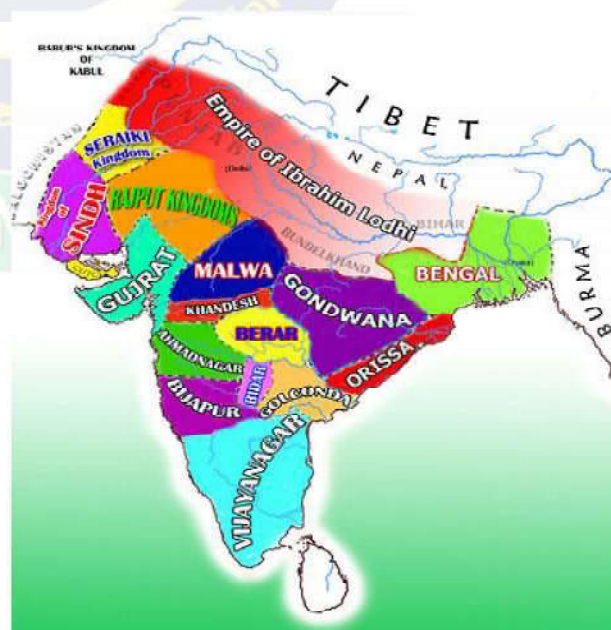
Ibrahim Lodi (1517-1526 AD) succeeded Sikandar Lodi. He attempted to impose discipline on the Afghan nobles (Amirs), which led to their rebellion. In 1518 AD, he launched an attack on Maharana Sanga, the ruler of Mewar, but suffered defeat in the battle of 'Khatoli. Meanwhile, as the Rajputs and Afghans were fighting for supremacy in North India, Babur was preparing to invade Hindustan. Ibrahim Lodi met his demise while fighting against Babur in the first battle of Panipat in 1526 AD.

Notably, the 16th century marked a period of political upheaval in North India. The political landscape of India during this time was

decentralised, which created a favourable environment for potential invaders. During this period, the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi, aimed to establish a centralised empire. However, challenges to his authority arose from various quarters. Daulat Khan Lodi, the Subedar of Punjab, and Ibrahim Lodi's uncle, Alam Khan Lodi, contested his rule. Additionally, Rana Sanga, a Rajput ruler, also challenged Ibrahim's supremacy.

In a bid to overthrow Ibrahim from the Delhi throne, Daulat Khan sent an envoy to Babur, led by his son Dilawar Khan. The purpose was to seek Babur's assistance in removing Ibrahim and installing Alam Khan Lodi as the ruler. Babur himself recounted this incident in his autobiography, detailing how he received the ambassadors of Alam Khan Lodi and Rana Sanga when he was in Kabul. This scenario underscores how the dynamics of mutual political struggles had an impact on Babur and consequently influenced the political landscape of the Sultanate. Eventually, Babur defeated Ibrahim and established the foundation of Mughal power in India.

Mughal Period (after 1526 AD)



Indian subcontinent on the eve of Babur's Invasion

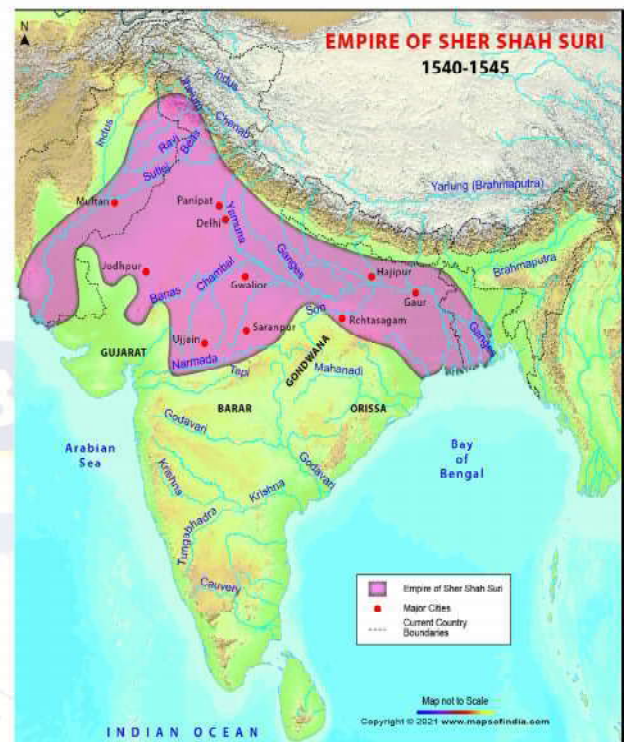
■ **Babur (1526-1530 AD)** - After successfully capturing Kabul in 1504 AD, Babur turned his attention towards India. In 1518 AD, he achieved a significant victory in the fort of Bhira, marking the first use of cannons in his conquests. Subsequently, in 1525 AD, Babur conquered Punjab. The decisive first battle of Panipat took place in 1526 AD, where Babur emerged victorious against Ibrahim Lodi by skillfully combining cannons with the Tullgama system. In 1527 AD, he defeated Maharana Sanga in the battle of 'Khanwa'. Babur continued his expansion by capturing Alwar in 1528 AD and emerging victorious in the war of Ghaggar against the Afghans in 1529 AD. However, his journey to suppress the rebellion in Kabul was cut short when he passed away in Lahore in 1530 AD.

■ **Humayun (1530-1556 AD)**- Soon after ascending to the throne, Humayun encountered numerous challenges. The most formidable among these were the Western Afghan and Eastern Afghan conflicts. On one side, his ambitious brother Kamran seized control over Kabul, Kandahar, Lahore, Punjab, and Hisar-Firoza. On the other side, Humayun emerged victorious over the Eastern Afghan forces in the Battle of Daurah in 1532 AD. Subsequently, he faced a challenge from Bahadur Shah, the leader of the Western Afghans. However, by 1534 AD, Humayun conquered Malwa and Gujarat, although he eventually lost control over these territories. Nevertheless, Bahadur Shah's power was significantly weakened.

In the eastern region, Humayun's greatest adversary was Sher Shah. After suffering defeats in the Battles of Chausa in 1539 and Kannauj in 1540 against Sher Shah, Humayun was forced to flee to Iran.

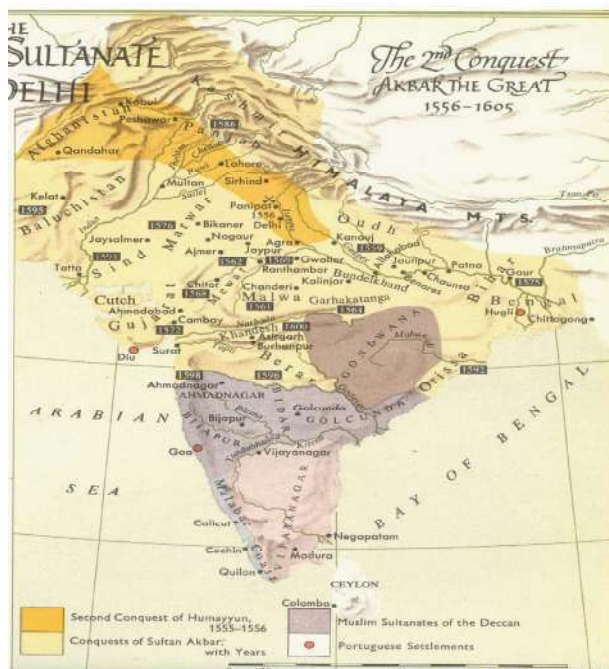
With the support of Iran, Humayun managed to regain his lost territories. He reclaimed Kandahar in 1545 AD and Kabul in 1553 AD from his brother Kamran. Following Sher Shah's demise and the subsequent fragmentation of the

Afghan Empire, Humayun seized Punjab in 1555 AD, as well as Delhi and Agra in the same year. He met his untimely demise in an accident in January 1556 AD.



■ **Akbar (1556-1605 AD)**- Akbar, one of the greatest rulers in Indian history, was renowned not only for his vast empire-building but also for his transformative state policies. Upon assuming the throne, his first notable achievement was the victory in the Second Battle of Panipat against Hemu, which he achieved with the assistance of Bairam. Subsequently, between 1556 AD and 1560 AD, Akbar successfully captured Ajmer, Gwalior, and Jaunpur.

After his triumph in the Battle of Merta in 1562, other Rajput states followed suit and surrendered to his authority. Akbar's expansion continued as he annexed Gujarat in 1573 AD, Bihar in 1575-76 AD, Kabul in 1585 AD, and Kashmir in 1586 AD. By 1601 AD, his empire spanned from Kashmir in the north to Berar, Balaghat, and Khandesh in the south, and from Kandahar in the west to Bengal in the east.



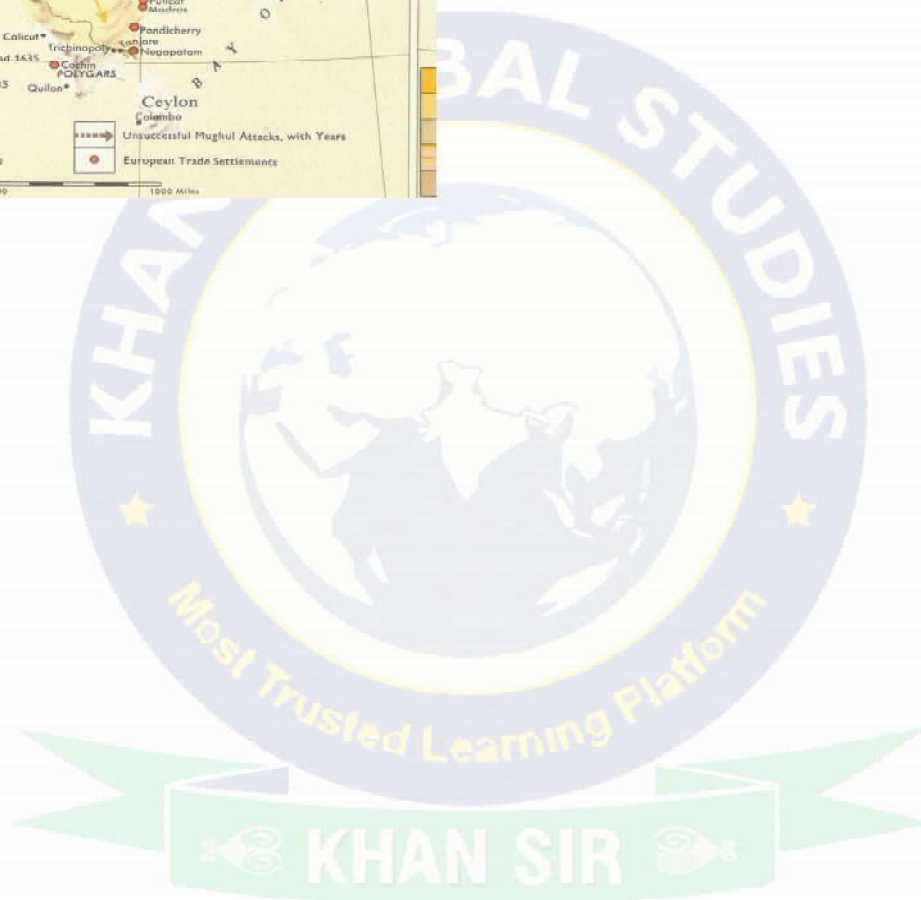
■ **Jahangir (1605-1627 AD):** During Jahangir's reign, there were no major territorial expansions. In the south, Shahzada Khurram achieved victories over the armies of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, and Golconda. Pleased with his accomplishments, Jahangir bestowed upon him the title of 'Shah Jahan'. Amar Singh, the ruler of the Sisodia dynasty and the successor of Maharana Pratap, surrendered for the first time during Jahangir's rule. However, in 1622 AD, the Iranians captured Kandahar.

■ **Shah Jahan (1628-1658 AD):** Shah Jahan faced several challenges during his reign. Bundela Sardar Jujhar Singh revolted, followed by the rebellion of Khan-i-Jahan Lodi, the Subedar of Deccan. Shah Jahan decided to conquer Ahmednagar and successfully achieved this goal in 1633 AD, integrating it into the Mughal Empire. Although he temporarily obtained Kandahar in 1638 AD, the Mughals ultimately lost it in 1648 AD.



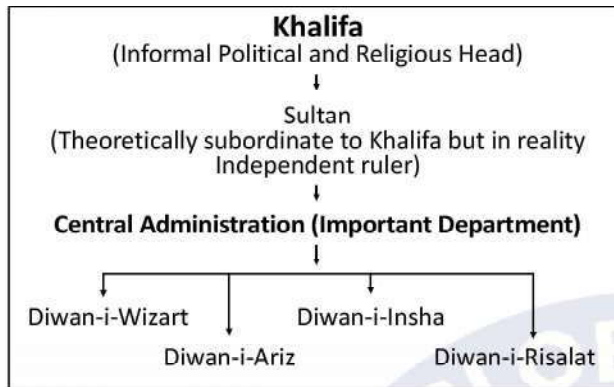
■ **Aurangzeb (1659-1707 AD):** In 1658 AD, Aurangzeb engaged in a war of succession with his brothers during Shah Jahan's illness. Eventually, he ascended the throne in 1659 AD. His reign was marked by various rebellions, including the Jat rebellion, the Satnami rebellion, the Afghan rebellion, the Rajput rebellion, the Sikh rebellion, and conflicts with the Marathas.

Aurangzeb faced a major challenge in the south with the Marathas. He made a second mistake by aggressively expanding his empire in the region, conquering Bijapur in 1686 AD and Golconda in 1687 AD. These territories were incorporated into the Mughal Empire. Aurangzeb's policy of expanding southward from the Krishna River resulted in disastrous consequences, and he found himself embroiled in a long struggle in the south that lasted for 25 years. Eventually, in 1707 AD, Aurangzeb passed away while these conflicts were still ongoing.



Sultanate Administration

■ Central Administration



The main center of administration in the Delhi Sultanate was the Sultan, who held authority over civil, military, and judicial affairs, despite being theoretically subordinate to the Khalifa. Alongside the Sultan, Barani mentions four major departments in the central administration.

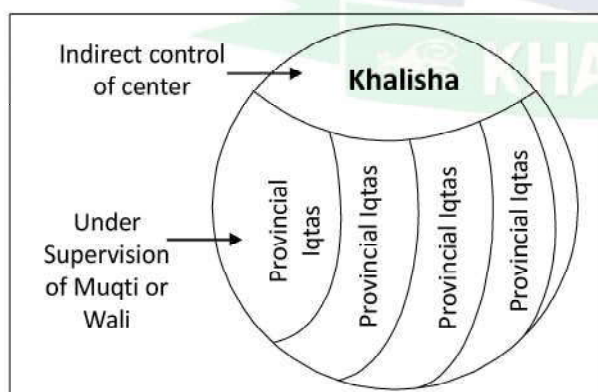
1. **Diwan-i-Wizarat**- The department under the officer known as the 'Wazir' held the responsibility of land revenue assessment, accounting for various types of revenue, and their recovery. Wazir formally held the position of prime minister.
 2. **Diwan-i-Ariz**- The 'Diwan-i-Ariz' department, established by Balban, played a crucial role in the efficient military system, which formed the basis of the state's power. This department was responsible for the recruitment, maintenance, training, and allocation of salaries for soldiers. While the Sultan held the position of chief commander and led the army in times of war, the 'Ariz-i-Mumalik' served as the head of military affairs after the Sultan.
 3. **Diwan-i-insha**- The state correspondence department, headed by the 'Dabir-i-Mumalik', was responsible for handling all matters related to state communication. Its primary role was in managing foreign correspondence. This department issued state decree and ensured their delivery to provincial authorities.
 4. **Diwan-i-Risalat**- The religious department, headed by Sadr us Sudur, provided assistance and grants to scholars. The department also handled cases related to religious practices. The judicial work was managed by the department of Qazi. However, the Sultan had the ultimate authority as the final appellate for justice. Often, the positions of Qazi and Sadr were held by the same person.
- The various departments established from time to time by different sultans:
1. **Diwan-i-Waqoof**- Established by Jalaluddin Khilji, this department operated under Diwan-i-Wizarat and was responsible for estimating expenditures.
 2. **Diwan-i-Mustakhraj**- Established by Alauddin Khilji, this department operated under the Diwan-i-Wizarat and was responsible for the recovery of arrears. Government officials were authorized by Alauddin Khilji to collect land revenue.
 3. **Diwan-i-Riyasat**: Alauddin Khilji established this department to ensure the effective implementation of market control systems.
 4. **Diwan-i-Kohi**: Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq established this department to promote progressive farming in the Ganga-Yamuna doab. It operated under the patronage of Diwan-i-Wizarat.
 5. **Diwan-i-Khairat**: Firoz Shah Tughlaq established this department to provide grants to poor Muslims for their daughters' marriages.
 6. **Diwan-i-Ishtiaq**: Firoz Shah Tughlaq established this pension department to support elderly individuals. It was directly supervised by him.

7. **Diwan-i-Bandagan:** Firoz Shah Tughlaq established this department to oversee the welfare and protection of slaves during night time. He also banned the export of slaves.

There were several officers under the Delhi Sultanate who held independent charges and were not attached to any specific department. These included:

1. **Naib-i-Mamlikat** - This position served as the Vice-Sultan under the Sultan, usually created during times when the Sultan's position was weak.
2. **Sar-i-Jandar** - This position was responsible for leading the personal bodyguard of the Sultan.
3. **Amir-i-Majlis** - This officer played a key role in organizing state festivals and ceremonies.
4. **Mir-i-Atish** - This officer held the position of Chief of Artillery.
5. **Barid-i-Mumalik** - This officer headed the Intelligence Department.
6. **Diwan-i-Bayutat** - This officer served as the head of the state (karkhana) office.
7. **Amir-e-Hajib** - This officer was responsible for maintaining court discipline and determining the hierarchy among the nobles.

■ Provincial Administration (Iqta Administration)



During the Sultanate period, there was no standardized provincial administration. Instead, the Iqta system was introduced to collect revenue from remote areas. Under this system, the state distributed land (called Iqta) to nobles. Iltutmish

improved this system by dividing the empire into large provincial iqtas, each headed by a Muqti or Wali. The Mukti's job was to collect revenue, manage administration and military affairs, and deposit the surplus to the central government. The position of Mukti was not hereditary and could be transferred.

On the other hand, Khalisa land was reserved for the Sultan's income. It had a separate administration led by an officer called Shahna, Amir, or Malik. These officers were responsible for governing the Khalisa areas.

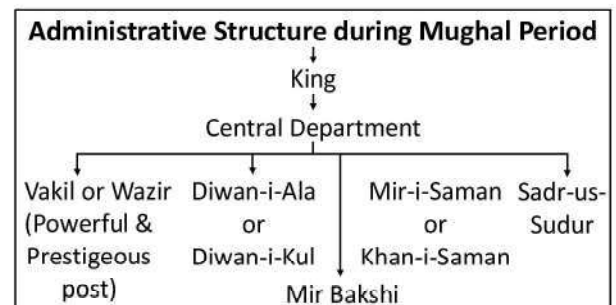
■ Local Administration



During the Sultanate period, local administration is not well-documented. However, it is believed that there were administrative units called Shiqs and parganas. The province was divided into Shiqs, each led by a Shiqdar. Shiqs were further divided into parganas, overseen by a Chaudhari. The village was the smallest administrative unit, where Muqaddams or mukhiyas were in charge of village affairs. Assisting them was the Patwari, a semi-official who handled land documents.

Mughal Administration

■ Central Administration



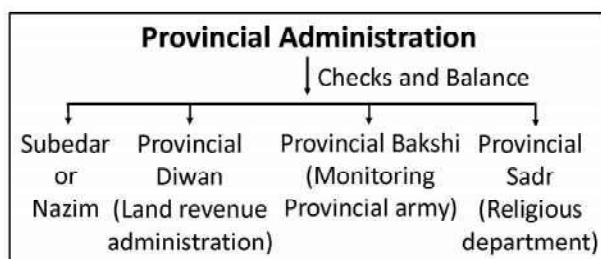
The administrative structure showed both continuity and change from the Sultanate period to the Mughal period. During the Sultanate

period, efforts were made to adapt Persian institutions to local conditions, and these institutions were further developed and reformed during the Mughal period. The Mughal administrative structure emphasized uniformity and checks and balances through various departments in the central administration.

The king held the highest authority in the administration and exercised absolute power as the final decision-maker, administrator, judge, and military leader. Several departments operated during the Mughal period to support the administration.

1. **Vakil or Wazir** - In the Central Asian and Timurid tradition, the Vakil held significant power and prestige. This influential position involved overseeing different government branches, such as the revenue and military departments. When Bairam Khan assumed the role of Vakil, the position's authority grew even stronger. However, after Bairam Khan's rebellion, the significance of this post began to decline, and although it continued to exist formally, its power became limited.
2. **Diwan-i-Ala or Diwan-i-Kul**- This department was established by transferring financial powers from the Vakil (Wazir). It dealt with revenue assessment, revenue recovery, and maintaining records of income and expenditure. Its main responsibility was to inspect the state treasury and ensure accurate accounting. The Diwan personally oversaw all transactions and payments across departments. No appointment or promotion order could be issued without the Diwan's approval. To diminish the significance of the Diwan's position, multiple Diwans were appointed to establish effective checks and balances among them.
3. **Mir Bakshi**- The third important department in the Mughal Central Administration was the department of Mir Bakshi. This department had a counterpart called 'Diwan-i-Arz' during the Sultanate period. Mir Bakshi held the highest position and received the highest salary in the empire. He was responsible for disbursing payments to all military and civil officials. He played a key role in recommending the appointment of Mansabdars and granting them Jagirs, while the actual granting of Jagirs was carried out by the Diwan-i-Ala with the emperor's approval. This system allowed both departments to maintain checks and balances on each other. Additionally, Mir Bakshi personally inspected the quality of horses and the appearance of soldiers. He informed all military-related matters directly to the emperor.
4. **Mir-i-Saman or Khan-i-Saman**- During the Sultanate period, there was no specific department dedicated to overseeing the royal family. However, in the Mughal period, a separate department was established and entrusted to Mir-i-Saman or Khan-i-Saman, who was the head of the royal harem. The Mir-i-Saman had additional responsibilities, including the supervision of royal factories (karkhana) and the procurement and storage of items for the royal palace. Moreover, he oversaw the production of various goods, ranging from weapons to luxury items. To ensure proper checks and balances, the accounts of this department were also examined by the Diwan's department.
5. **Sadr-us-Sudur** - An important department in the central administration was the Department of Sadr-us-Sudur, which was led by Sadr-us-Sudur himself. This department was responsible for religious affairs and served as the chief religious advisor to the emperor. Its primary role was to safeguard Sharia law and ensure its implementation. Additionally, the department was responsible for the distribution of religious endowments and handling cases related to religious matters.

■ Provincial Administration



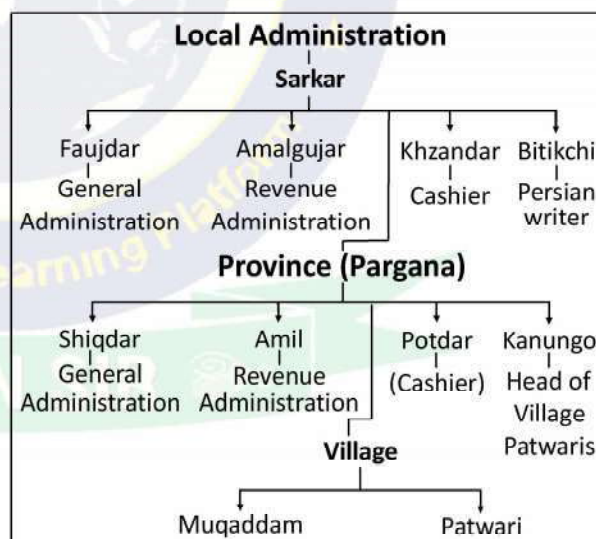
The Mughal period saw the introduction of a systematic provincial administration, with Akbar being credited for this development. Akbar divided his empire into twelve subas (Province), which later expanded to fifteen during his reign. Akbar's administrative policy was guided by two key principles: administrative uniformity and checks and balances.

- 1. Subedar or Nazim** - The provincial administration mirrored the structure of the central administration. The Nazim, Subedar, or Sarsuba served as the head of the provincial administration. Their appointment, recommended by the Central Diwan and approved by the Emperor, lasted for three years. They held the position of commander of the provincial army and were responsible for upholding law and order, overseeing general administration, and ensuring the welfare of the subjects.
- 2. Provincial Diwan** - The emperor appointed the provincial Diwan based on the recommendation of the Central Diwan. This independent officer directly reported to the central administration. The Provincial Diwan held the position of the head of the revenue department in the province. Their responsibilities included overseeing the collection of revenue from the province and maintaining comprehensive records of salaries, expenses, and other financial matters related to the officers and employees in the province. By separating the Diwan from the Subedar and assigning financial responsibilities to the Diwan, the Mughal rulers effectively curbed the power of the Subedars.

- 3. Provincial Bakshi** - The appointment of the Provincial Bakshi was made based on the recommendation of the Central Bakshi. Similar to Mir Bakshi, who served at the center, the Provincial Bakshi was responsible for overseeing the army in the provinces. Their duties included inspecting the horses and soldiers maintained by the Mansabdars in the province. They issued pay slips to the Mansabdars and soldiers. Additionally, the Provincial Bakshi served as the head of the intelligence service, responsible for transmitting sensitive information regarding the empire's security directly to Mir Bakshi.

- 4. Provincial Sadr** - Following the model of the Central Sadr, the position of a Sadr was also established in the provinces. The Sadr Alim in the province was responsible for recommending grants for Fazils (scholars) and served as the head of the Justice Department.

■ Local Administration



Sarkar – The unit below the province was called the Sarkar. The key officers at the government level were Faujdar, Amalgujar, Khazandar (treasurer), and Bitikchi.

- **Faujdar** - The Faujdar held a crucial position as the direct representative of the Mughal Empire in local administration. He served as the executive head of the government, primarily responsible for maintaining law and order. In

addition to this, the Faujdar provided assistance to the Amil or Amalgujar in revenue collection and oversaw the local forces. Depending on the situation, there could be multiple faujdars within a Sarkar, or sometimes one Faujdar would be appointed for two Sarkars.

- **Amalguzar-** After the Faujdar, another important official in the government was the Amalguzar, who served as the chief revenue collector. The primary duty of the Amalguzar was to assess and supervise revenue collection conducted by the officers under his jurisdiction. A competent Amalguzar aimed to promote agricultural growth in his area and encourage farmers to pay their revenue willingly, without resorting to force. He also held the responsibility of managing various types of accounts and regularly reported the details of daily collection and expenditure to the provincial Diwan. Additionally, there were two other officers working under the Amalguzar - the Vitikchi, which means 'writer' in Persian, and the Khazandar.

Pargana- The administrative unit below the Sarkar was the Pargana. The following officers were associated with the pargana-

- **Shiqdar-** The executive officer of the pargana was Shiqdar. He was the guardian of law and order and assisted the Amil in the collection of land revenue.
- **Amil** – It was associated with administration of the land revenue.
- **Potdar-** cashier
- **Kanungo** – The Kanungo held the position of the head of the village Patwaris and supervised the agricultural land. His role involved maintaining the land records for his area. According to Abul Fazl, the Kanungo served as the protector of farmers as he meticulously recorded information about crops and the local population.
- **Village Administration-** The village served as the smallest unit of administration, and it had two important officers: the Muqaddam and the

Patwari. Muqaddam held the position of village head, while Patwari was responsible for maintaining revenue accounts at the village level. Additionally, during the Mughal period, a system of village panchayats existed, which operated independently from the Mughal administrative system.

Mansabdari System

'Mansab' is a Persian word that translates to 'post.' Akbar introduced this system in the 19th year of his reign, i.e., 1575 AD. The Mansabdari system can be described as the strong foundation of the Mughal administration. It aimed to establish a connection between the wealthy class, civil officers, and military officers. Through the Mansabdari system, Akbar sought to integrate these different groups. Each officer's rank in the system was expressed using two factors: Zat (personal rank) and Sawar (number of cavalymen under their command). For example-

Zat Rank / Sawar Rank

5000/5000

4000/3000

3000/1000

The first number, Zat, determined the personal salary, status, and position of the Mansabdar within the hierarchy. The second number, Sawar, indicated the number of horses and horsemen that the Mansabdar was required to maintain, with a fixed amount allocated for their upkeep.

- According to Abul Fazl, there were originally 66 grades of Mansabdars ranging from 10 to 10,000, but in practice, only 33 grades were utilized.
- Generally, Mansabdari appointments did not exceed a Zat rank of 5,000. Exceptions were made for individuals having familial ties or high-ranking nobles. For instance, during Akbar's reign, Rajput Mansabdar Raja Mansingh, and during Aurangzeb's reign,

Sawai Jai Singh and Jaswant Singh were granted Mansabdari positions with a Zat and Sawar rank of 7,000.

- Typically, the Sawar rank could not surpass the Zat rank, although there were special circumstances where this was allowed.
- While some Mansabdars received cash payments and were referred to as cash (Nagadi) Mansabdars, bigger Mansabdars were paid through jagirs. These jagirs, known as “Jagir-e-Tankhwaha,” were not land allocations but rather revenue assignments.

■ Types of Jagir

1. **Jagir-e-Tankhwah:** This was the most popular type of jagir granted to Mansabdars. The annual salary of a Mansabdar was determined based on their Zat and Sawar ranks, and they were then assigned a jagir with the revenue equivalent to that salary.
 2. **Watan Jagir:** This jagir was hereditary and specifically granted to Rajput Mansabdars. It constituted the territory over which the Rajput rulers held control, and the state recognized their authority over it.
 3. **Mashrut Jagir:** This type of jagir was conditional and awarded to Mansabdars for a specific task or purpose. Once the designated work was completed, the jagir was withdrawn. It helped cover the expenses related to additional horsemen.
 4. **Altamgha Jagir:** Muslim Mansabdars were granted this jagir following a similar pattern as the Watan Jagir.
- **Duh-Aspah Sih-Aspah system:** This system was introduced during the reign of Jahangir. It allowed the number of horsemen (sawars) under

a mansabdar to be doubled (duh aspa) or tripled (sih-aspa) without increasing their Zat rank. The purpose was to utilize the services of important mansabdars without altering their Zat rank.

- **Difference between the Iqtadari system and the Jagirdari/Mansabdari system:** In the Iqtadari system, muqtis were initially granted Iqta (land grants), and then their responsibilities and salaries were determined accordingly. However, in the jagirdari system, the Mansabdars’ responsibilities were determined first, their salary was fixed accordingly, and they were then assigned a jagir. The jagirdari system did not allow for fawazil (additional benefits). Additionally, in the Iqta system, the muqti had administrative authority, whereas in the Jagirdari system, the administration was the state’s responsibility, and the jagirdar had the right to collect revenue solely from their jagir.

- **Difference between the Jagirdar and the Zamindar:** Mansabdars/Jagirdars were government officials appointed by the state and received their salary, usually in the form of a jagir. The jagir included the revenue from multiple villages. On the other hand, zamindars were hereditary landowners in rural areas who had existed prior to the Mughal Empire. They claimed a portion of the peasants’ produce as an ancestral right. The Mughal Empire aimed to regulate their activities and ensure discipline. The zamindars were also involved in land revenue collection and received a share of the produce (around 10%) as ‘Naankar’. The state, however, took precautions to prevent them from gaining excessive power and creating problems. Both the Faujdar and Jagirdar kept a close watch on the zamindars’ activities.

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