



Discussion on Early Medieval Indian History

PRESENTED BY RAMILA MAJUMDER

① Mahipala I

↳ 2nd founder
Pala

② 1022
Nagabhata

Coim → Kapardak

Religion → Buddhism
→ Vajrayana

Langurje → Bengali

Jagaddal

AHishk Dipankar

→ Ind Buddha

→ Nanyafal

→ Madan Pal

→ Vijay sen

Sultan M I.

1001

Mahipala - I

Odontopurvi - Gopal

2nd



Indian's with the Asian Countries

- India maintained contacts with its Asian neighbours since Harappan times. Many Harappan seals between 2400 B.C.-1700 B.C. have been found there.
- From the beginning of the Christian era onwards, India maintained commercial contacts with China, South-East Asia, West Asia and the Roman Empire. Indian land routes were connected with the Chinese Silk Route.
- India sent its missionaries, conquerors and traders to the neighbouring countries where they founded settlements.
- The propagation of Buddhism promoted India's contacts with Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China and Central Asia.
- In the early centuries of the Christian era Buddhism spread from India to Burma (modern Myanmar). The Burmese developed the Theravada form of Buddhism.
- The Burmese and Sri Lanka Buddhists produced a rich corpus of Buddhist literature, not to be found in India. All the Pali texts were compiled and commented upon in Sri Lanka.
- Beginning with the reign of Kanishka a large number of Indian missionaries went to China, Central Asia and Afghanistan for preaching their religion.





Indian's with the Asian Countries

- In the early centuries of the Christian era the pallavas founded their colonies in Sumatra.
- Eventually these flowered into the kingdom of **Sri Vijaya**, which continued to be an important from the fifth to the tenth century A.D.
- The Indian settlements in java and Sumatra became channels for the radiation of India culture. The process of founding settlements continued afterwards.
- In indo- china, which is at present divided into Vietnam, Combodia and Laos, the Indians set up two powerful kingdom in Kamboja and champa.
- The powerful kingdom of kamboja identical with modern Cambodia was founded in the sixth century A.D. its rules were devotees of Shiva.
- They developed kamboja as a centre of Sanskrit learning.
- The king of Champa was also a Shaiva, and the official language of champa was Sanskrit. This country was considered to be a great centre of education in the Vedas and Dharmashastras.
- The greatest Buddhist temple is found in **Borobudur** in Indonesia.
- Considered to be the large Buddhist temple in the whole word, it was constructed in the eight century A.D, and 436 images of Buddha were engraved on it.
- The temple of **Ankorvat** in Cambodia is larger than that of Borobudur.
- This temple belongs to medieval times. The stories of the Ramayana and Mahabharata are narrated in relief on the walls of the temple.
- The story of the Ramayana is so popular in Indonesia that many folk plays are performed on its basis. The Indonesian language called **Bahasa** Indonesia contains numerous Sanskrit words.



- It would be wrong to think that religion alone contributed to the spread of Indian culture. Missionaries were backed by traders and conquerors.
- Trade evidently played a vital part in establishing India's relations with Central Asia and South-East Asia.
- The very names Suvamabhumi and Suvamadvipa given to territories in South-East Asia, suggest Indian's search for gold.
- Trade led not only to exchange of goods but also to that of elements of culture.
- It would be inaccurate to hold that Indians alone contributed to the culture of their neighbours. It was a two-way traffic.
- The Indians acquired the craft of minting gold coins from the Greeks and Romans.
- They learnt the art of growing silk from China, that of growing betel leaves from Indonesia, and several other products from the neighbouring countries.
- Similarly, the method of growing cotton spread from India to China and Central Asia.
- Indian contribution seems to be more important in art, religion, script and language.



The Sena Dynasty of Bengal belonged to the Brahmana-Kshatriya clan of Karnata in South India. After the palas, Senas became the ruler of Bengal. The remote ancestor of the Sena Dynasty was one Virsena whose name we have found in the Puranas. The Senas were known as the Brahma-Kshatriya as because they were at first Brahmin but became Kshatriya afterwards.

KING HEMANTA SEN -FOUNDER OF SENA EMPIRE IN BENGAL

- Samantasena was a noted general who distinguished himself in various wars in South India. In his old age he settled at Radha in Bengal and laid the foundation of future greatness of the family.
- His son Hemanta Sena took the title of Maharajadhiraj and founded an independent kingdom in Radha taking advantage of the disintegration of the Pala Empire by the Kaivatha revolt of Divya. Raja Hemanta Sena is believed to be the founder of Sena Dynasty. From Radha the Senas gradually extended their empire to the other parts of Bengal.
- How the Senas came in Bengal and captured the royal power is not known to us clearly. Possibly they came to Bengal along with the invading army of Chalukya king Vikramaditya VI. According to some scholars when Rajendra Cholas army invaded Bengal the Senas accompanied them and might be some Karnata official of the Palas established an independent kingdom at Radha taking advantage of the weakness of their master.
 - Hemantasena held the position of a feudatory chief in the Pala empire.**
 - He is also described as rajaraksasudaksah (protector of king) in Barrackpur plate of Vijayasena**

Sena Dynasty (1097-1230)

- Sena dynasty ruled from Bengal through the 11th and 12th centuries.
- The empire at its peak covered much of the north-eastern region of the Indian subcontinent.
- The rulers of the Sena Dynasty traced their origin to the south Indian region of Karnataka.
- Nabadwip was the capital of Sena dynasty.
- Sena rulers were brahmin by caste and kshatriya by profession.
- They consolidated the caste system in Bengal

750
8th century

Vijaya Sena (1097-1160)

- Vijaya Sena was a subordinate ruler in Rarh under the Palas.
- Middle of 12th century, he defeated Palas and founded the independent rule of Senas dynasty.
- He conquered Kamarupa and Kalinga.
- Vijaya Sena has two capital, Vijayapuri in West bengal and Vikramapura in Bangladesh.
- His Barrackpur copper plate was issued from Vikramapura.
- Vijaya Sena had a very long reign of about 62 years.
- He assumed the imperial titles' of Paramamaheshvara, Paramabhataraka, Maharajadhiraja. (Kalyan)
- Vijaya-prashasti was written by famous poet **Sriharsa**.
- Sulapani** was a famous artist in this reg

Perkam Saugata

Deo Patan Prashasti

↳ Umapathi dhar

West
Bengal

Vijaya Pur

East Bengal

Vikram Pur

Ballala Sena (1160-78)

→ Nisanka Shankar
Gondeswar

- Ballala Sena ended the Pala Empire by defeating Govindapala.
- He conquered Magadha and Mithila.
- Ballala Sena married Ramadevi a princess of Western Chalukya Empire.
- Two epigraphs of the time of Vallalaseana, **Naihati copper plate** and the Sanokhar Image Inscription.
- Ballala Sena introduced the practice of Kulinism in Bengal.
- He wrote the Danasagara in 1168 and started writing the Adbhutasagara in 1169 but could not complete.
- Vallalachairta composed by Anandabhatta in 1510

Havi^phala, Pitridulika

Anandabha^{ra} → Ballal
Charik

↳ Dan

Kulinism



- **Kulinism** Hindu social institution asserting social and religious superiority over others. Any race or community or caste or eminent family which enjoys social dignity is traditionally known to have been eager to defend its socially respectful position as well as status as a kula. This eagerness is known from the days of the Ramayana (c 2nd century BC-c 2nd century AD). Thus Kulina means belonging to a noble, good family, and according to Vachaspati Mishra, marked with the qualities of achara (ceremonial purity), vidya (learning), vinaya (discipline), pratistha (reputation for purity), tirtha-darxana (pilgrimage), nistha (piety), tapasya (ascetic meditation), avrtti (marriage among equal ranks) and dana (liberality). Such qualities were usually in the Brahmin family, though the kayasthas and Vaidyas acquiring these qualities together with wealth, education, good deeds etc were also considered to be kulinas. Marriage relations with such qualified families caused jatyutkarsa, and that might open to an individual of a particular caste the door to become kulina socially. This might have introduced the social institution of Kulinism.
- Kulinism was prevalent among the Brahmins of Radha and Varendra. They are supposed to have been the descendants of the five Kanyakubja Brahmins-Ksitisha, Medhatithi, Vitaraga, Sudhanidhi and Sambhari - who are said to have been invited by king Adishura. It should be noted here that the historicity of Adisura is not beyond doubt. SHASHANKA, the king of Gauda and Harivarman, the Varman king, are also known to have brought Sakadvipi Brahmins and Vedic Brahmins respectively. It is said that the establishment of social relations with such Brahmins resulted in the introduction of Kulinism in Bengal. The Sena king Vallalasena is also credited to have introduced Kulinism in Bengal though there are no Sena records, literary and epigraphic, to support this claim. The Bangaon copperplate of Vighrahapala III points to his officer Ghantisa's ancestral connection with the Kolancha (Kanyakubja) Brahmin Kachchha through his great great-grandmother. Thus Kulinism is traced during the Pala rule.
- Brahmanas, belonging to various gotras, pravaras and branches of Vedic school and performing shrauta rites, had settled in large number all over Bengal by the 6th and 7th centuries AD. Their number constantly increased by fresh immigrants from northern India for which there is abundant epigraphic evidence. A large number of inscriptions from the 8th to the 12th century AD refer to the settlement in Bengal of Brahmanas hailing from Lata (Gujarat), Madhyadesha and such individual localities as Krodanchi or Krodanja (Kolancha), Tarkari (in Shravasti), Muktavastu, Hastipada, Matsya-Vasa, Kuntira and Chandavara. In course of time the Brahmanas in Bengal were divided into various branches such as Radhiya, Varendra, Vaidika and Shakadvipi.



Lakshmana Sena (1179 – 1206)

Lakshmana Sena assume the title of Gaudeshvara.

- He completed the *Adbhuta Sagara*, a incomplete book of his father.
- Lakshmana Sena was devout to Vaishnava.
- **His court was an assembly of several renowned poets**
 - Jayadeva, the author of Gitagovinda
 - Dhoyi, the composer of *Pavanduta*
 - Govardhana the author of *Arya-saptasati*
 - Shridharadasa, compiled the *Saduktikarnamrta*, an anthology of the Sanskrit verses during his reign.
 - His Chief Minister and Chief Judge was Halayudha Mishra, who wrote the *Brahmanasarvasva*.
 - Umapatidhara, the author of the *Deopara Prashasti*



- Minhaj-us-Siraj, the author of the tabaqat-i-nasiri, designated him as a 'great Raa' of Bengal and compared him with Sultan Qutbuddin.
- In 1203, Bakhtiyar Khalji attacked Nabadwip and defeated Lakshman Sen.
- He captured northwest Bengal and eastern Bengal remained under Sena control

Later Rulers (1206-30)

- Vishvarupa Sena and Keshava Sena was last two rulers of Sena dynasty.



Deva Kingdom

- The Deva Kingdom was a Hindu dynasty of medieval Bengal
 - Deva Kingdom ruled over eastern Bengal after the collapse Sena Empire.
 - Their capital was Vikrampur in present-day Munshiganj District, Bangladesh.
 - Madhava Dasharatha-Deva extended his kingdom to cover much of East Benga
-



Jayadeva, who wrote 'Gita Govinda' was the court poet of?

- ~~a) Laxman Sensation of Sena dynasty~~
- b) Dharmapala of Pala dynasty.
- c) Gopala of Pala dynasty
- d) None of the above

Ramacharita written by Sandhyakara Nandi in the AD 12th century was the?

- a) Story of Lord Rama in a popular poetic style in Oriya language.
- b) First translation of Valmiki's Ramayana into Telugu language.
- c) Story of a love affair between a rich merchant of Pataliputra and a beautiful courtesan.
- d) Story of the conflict between the Kaivarttha peasants and a Pala prince.

→ Mahipati I

MUHAMMAD BIN QASIM'S ADMINISTRATION:

- Muhammad bin Qasim's task was to set up an **administrative structure** for a **stable Muslim state** that incorporated a newly conquered alien land, inhabited by non-Muslims.
- He adopted a **conciliatory policy**, asking for acceptance of Muslim rule by the natives in return for non-interference in their religious practice, so long as the **natives paid their taxes and tribute**.
- He established **Islamic Sharia law** over the people of the region; however, Hindus were allowed to rule their villages and settle their disputes according to their own laws.
- **The village headmen (rais) and chieftains (dihqans)** were maintained.
- A Muslim officer called : **amil** was stationed with a troop of cavalry to manage each town on a hereditary basis.
- Everywhere **taxes (mal)** and **tribute (kharaj)** were settled and hostages taken — occasionally this also meant the custodians of temples.
- **Non-Muslim** natives were excused from **military service** and from payment of the religiously mandated **tax system** levied upon **Muslims called Zakat**, the tax system levied upon them instead was the **jizya - a progressive tax**, being heavier on the **upper classes and light for the poor**.
- In addition, **three percent of government revenue** was allocated to the **Brahmins**.

633 — 634

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Old English

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Lalor

Bk

Bengal

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MAHMUD OF GAZNI'S ADMINISTRATION:

The administrative system that **Mahmud** established—using a **predominantly Turkish elite**, often of slave origin, promoted to **army commands**, and a **Persian elite responsible for civil and revenue administration**—was used in Moslem India for several centuries.



Lahore - Delhi

QUTBUD DIN AIBAK ADMINISTRATION:

He was the control of the **northern Indian Ghurid territories**, and after the death of **Mu'izz ad-Din**, he became the ruler of an independent kingdom which evolved into the **Mamluk dynasty-ruled Delhi Sultanate**. A **Turkestan native**, Aibak was sold as an **infant to slavery**. He was bought at **Nishapur in Persia by a Qazi**, where among other abilities he **practiced archery and horse-riding**. He was later resold in Ghazni to **Muizz ad-Din**, where Aibak rose to the **royal stables officer's position**.

ILTUTMISH ADMINISTRATION:

Ilutmish was one of the most outstanding **rulers of Medieval India**. In true terms, history of the **Muslim sovereignty** in India begins with him. He gave the sultanate a capital, a **legitimate sovereign state** (he got an investiture from **Caliphate**, and that was a **proof of sovereignty** in that time), **monarchical form of government** and a governing class or nobility called **Chahalgani or Turkan-i-Chalgani or Chalisa** (a **group of forty**) which was the ruling elite of the period. The majority of the nobles in **Ilutmish's nobility** were Turks followed by Tajiks who were Iranians from the **transoxiana** and **Khurasan** regions. He divided his empire into numerous big and small iqtas, as assignment of land in lieu of salary, which he distributed to his Turkish officers. Ilutmish also used this **institution** as an instrument for liquidating the feudal order of the Indian society and linking up the far-flung parts of the empire to one centre.

① = 48
Silver

Gold tank a
Bait bank

122 | → 7

1215 → 16 → Jud B Title of

→ Graphs → javain

Taj Uddin Ildus

1217 → ~~10~~

1229



Sultanah - J

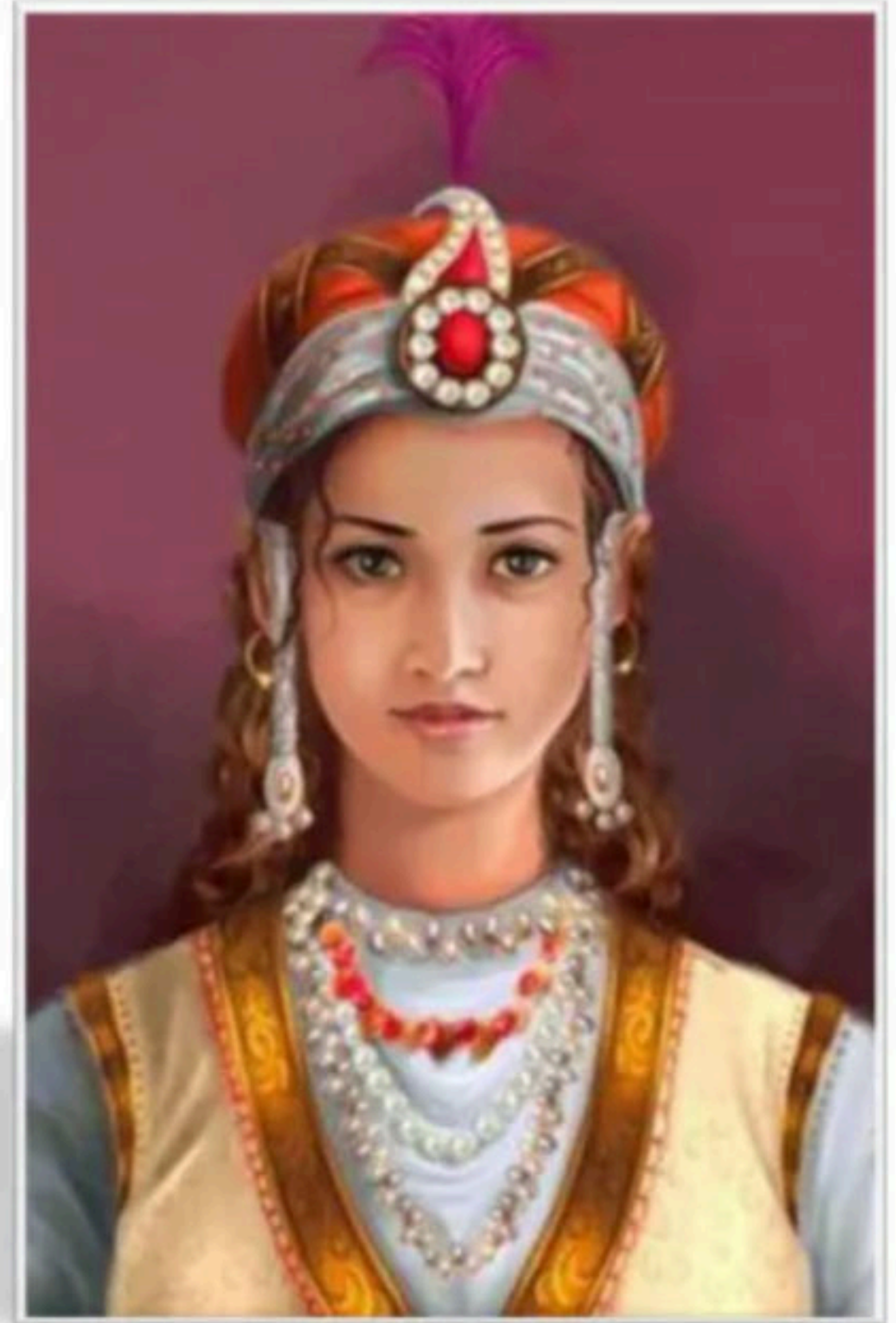
Azam

Al Mustansin
Billah



RAZIA SULTAN'S ADMINISTRATION:

Razia Sultan was born in year **1205** and her ruled the country **from 1236-1240**. Razia Sultan was the **first Muslim woman** who was involved in the **throne of Delhi**. She succeeded her father Shams-ud-din Iltutmish and turned into the Sultanate of Delhi in **1236**. Razia Sultan was very wise, an **excellent administrator**, brave and a warrior like her father. In spite of the fact that her rule was only for **time of three years** her deeds has been saved in the pages of history.



Razia

→ Nobel

Yakut
Khan

Alfuzid

ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF GHIYAS-UD-DIN BALBAN



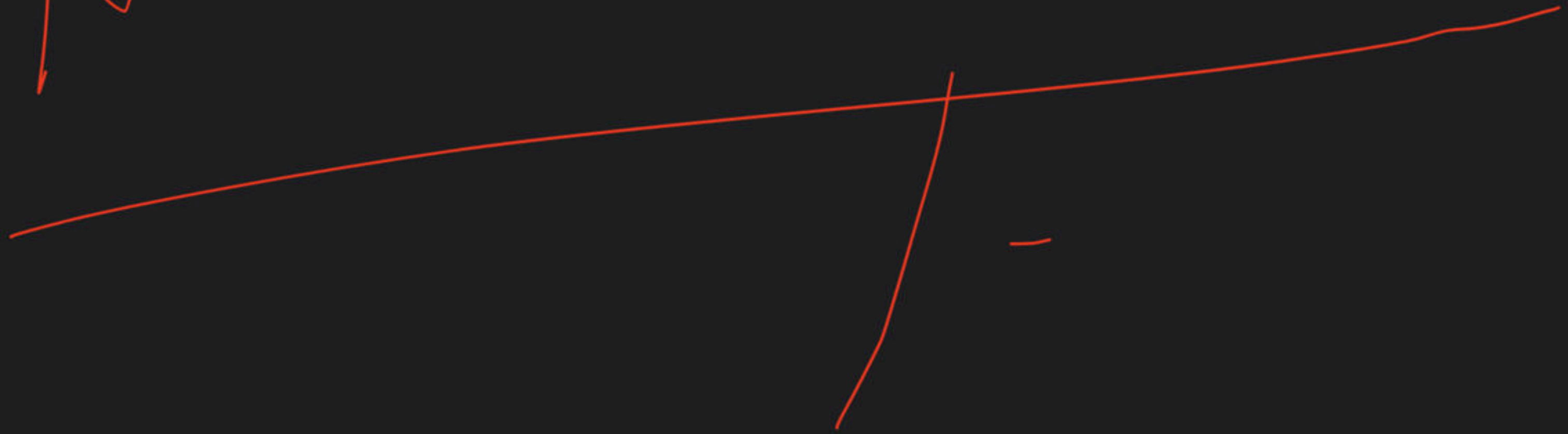
Destruction of “The Forty”

Balban was responsible for the destruction of “The Forty”. He knew full well that “The Forty” would never allow him to exercise all the powers of Sultan. He had not forgotten that they had reduced the Sultan to the position of a figure-head by usurping all his powers. Balban promoted junior Turks to important positions and put them on a position of equality with “The Forty”.

Spy System

Balban organised a very efficient system of espionage. Secret reporters were put in every department. Secret news-writers were stationed in every Province and in every district. The news-writers were given good salaries and kept independent of the Governors and the Commanders and they were required to send correct news unmindful of the person involved. They were severely punished if they failed in their duty. It is stated that the news-writer of Balban did not report the conduct of malik Baqbaq and consequently he was hanged over the city gate. It was with the help of this spy system that Balban was able to strengthen his position.

Vasiruddin Mahmood^dslah



12



ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF GHIYAS-UD-DIN BALBAN

Army

Balban put Imad-ud-Mulk in charge of the army. He was appointed Diwan-i-Ariz or Army Minister. He was a very competent officer. He was made independent of the Minister of Finance. He looks keen interest in matters relating to recruitment salaries and equipments of the troops. The result was that strict discipline was enforced in the army which became really efficient.

Cancellation of Grants

Balban reorganized his army and made it an efficient instrument. In the time of Iltutmish, some land had been granted on condition of military service. The grantees continued to enjoy those lands although some of them were dead and others had become old. Their descendants had "taken possession of the grants as an inheritance from their fathers and had caused their names to be recorded in records to the Ariz (Muster-master)." There was a general tendency on their part to evade service in the field. Balban resumed the old grants but allotted subsistence allowances j to the grantees according to their age. There was lot of discontentment and ultimately Balban cancelled the orders for the resumption of lands. The result was that the abuse continued.

ADMINISTRATION OF ALAUDDIN KHALJI:

- 1. He established the **control of the state over religion.**
- 2. He used to believe in the universality of the king and did not seek permission from the **Khalifa** to **expand his kingdom.**
- 3. To **increase the income of the empire** he imposed **taxes on the actual income** of the land.
- 4. He had a huge army in the **centre** and he gave them **wages in cash.**
- 5. He established a number of new departments and to control the regular affairs of the state such as **Public Distribution System.**



ADMINISTRATION OF MUHAMMAD TUGHLUQ

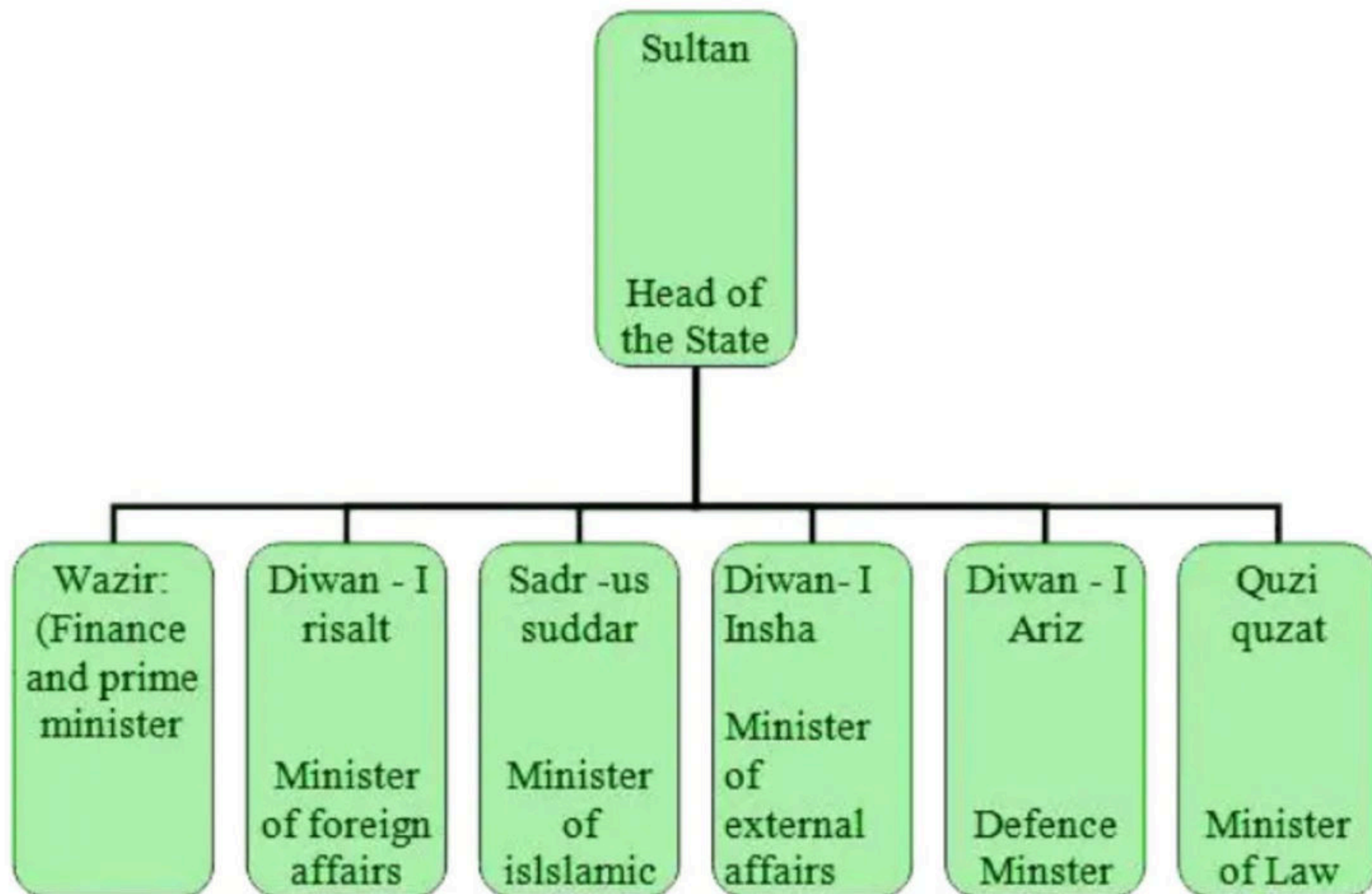


- 1. He campaigned **into Kashmir** which was a disaster. He then gave up his plans to invade **Transoxiana** and **disbanded his large army**.
- 2. His **administrative** measures **created problems**. He shifted the residents of the old city to the new capital of **Daulatabad in the south**. People did not like this step taken by **Muhammad Tughluq**. They resented collectively.
- 3. Tughluq, in order to meet the expense of maintaining a large number of soldiers, levied additional taxes which increased the burden of common people.
- 4. The famine in the **Ganga-Yamuna belt** led to widespread rebellion.
- 5. Muhammad Tughluq's policy of '**token**' currency also proved a failure. People of the **14th century** did not **trust this currency**. They were very smart. They saved their gold and silver coins and **paid all their taxes** to the state with the **token currency**. This **cheap currency** could also be counterfeited easily.

ADMINISTRATION OF FIROZ SHAH TUGHLAQ



- General administration
- Since he was half Muslim, got a religious temperament, probably to prove himself equal to the **Pure Muslims**. He started seeking advice of **the Ulemas** and ruled as per the **Shariat**. **All the taxes** which were **unlawful as per Shariat** were abandoned by him. **Chungi (Octroi)** was one of these **taxes** which was **abolished by Firoz**. **The Brahmins** were **NOT** exempted from **the Jaziya tax** levied on their **pilgrimages** but **abolished Jaziya** for those who **accepted Islam**. He ordered that the **Muslim women** should not come out of their houses and visit the tombs. He **publically burnt a Brahmin** for **preaching the Muslims**. A lot of **Hindu temples** were **destroyed** and **mosques** were erected. He **imposed water tax** on the **agriculture land** which was irrigated by the waters of the **canals dug** by the state. He acquired **numerous slaves** and employed them in the **royal workshops**.



- The Delhi Sultanate period extended from 1206 A.D. to 1526 A.D. for almost 320 years.
- The administration was based on Islamic laws (Sharia).
- A Theocratic and a Military State.

Minister to Sultan

Wazir – Prime Minister and Finance Minister

Diwani-I-Risalt – Foreign Affairs Minister

Sadr-us-Suddar – Minister of Islamic Law

Diwan-I-Insha – Correspondence Minister

Diwan-I-Ariz – Defence or War Minister

Qazi-ul-quzar – Minister of Justice

Central Administration

The Sultan was the head of the empire.

He possessed vast powers.

Also other officials were appointed to take care of the administration.

Provincial Administration

The empire was divided into a number of Iqtas.

Iqtadars administered the Iqtas.

Iqtas further were divided into smaller units called

Parganas, Shiqqs, and the villages.

Amil or Munsif – an important official of the Pargana.

Local Administration

The village was the smallest unit of administration.

The village administration was carried out by local hereditary officers and the Panchayats

The Panchayat looked after education, sanitation, justice, revenue etc.

The Central Government did not interfere in the village administration.

Revenue Administration under Delhi Sultanate

Land revenue was the main source of income.

Judicial Administration

The Sultan was the highest judicial authority.

Qazi-ul-quzar – the Chief Judicial officer.

A **Quazi** was appointed in every town.

Criminals were punished severely.

Military Administration

The Sultan was the Commander of the army

The **four divisions** of the army were

1. The Royal army
2. Provincial or Governor's army
3. Feudal army and
4. War Time army

Social life of the Sultanate period

The people in the society were divided based on their nationality and they are:

- Foreign Muslims
- Indian Muslims
- Hindus

Economic conditions of the people

- The people were mainly involved in agriculture and industry
- Textile industry was the primary industry.
- Paper Industry, metalwork, pearl diving, ivory and sandal works, stone cutting, Sugar industry were the other industries of this period.

Textiles

Indian textiles were in great demand in foreign countries.

Bengal and Gujarat were famous for their quality fabrics.

Cotton, woollen and silk of different varieties were produced in large quantities.

The clothes had **gold, diamonds, pearls, silver and stoneworks**.

Alberuni

- ❑ An Arabic and Persian scholar patronized by Mahmud of Ghazni.
- ❑ He learnt Sanskrit and translated two Sanskrit works into Arabic.
- ❑ He was impressed by the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita.
- ❑ In his work Tarikh-ul-Hind, he had mentioned the socio-economic conditions of India.

Amir Khusrau

- ❑ He was a great Persian poet.
- ❑ He is said to have written four lakh couplets.
- ❑ He was a great singer and was given the title 'Parrot of India'.

Impact of Turkish Conquest

The Turkish conquest of India had its impact on various fields.

It paved the way to a centralized political organization.

It re-established relations with the rest of Asia and parts of Africa.

A permanent army was established.

Trade was established due to the uniform legal system, tariff regulations and currency.

Persian became the court language and brought uniformity in the administration.

Disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate

- The disintegration of the **Delhi Sultanate** had begun during the **Tughluq period**.
- The invasion of **Timur** and the incompetent and intolerant nature of some of the **Sayyid** and **Lodi rulers** led to the collapsing of the **Delhi Sultanate**.
- The rulers of the **Vijayanagar** and **Bahmani Kingdom** in the South were the first to **break free from Delhi**.
- Other regions like **Assam, Bengal, Khandesh, Gujarat, Jauripur, Kashmir, Multan, Malwa, Sind, and Orissa** also became independent.
- **Babur** ended the **Lodi Dynasty** by defeating **Ibrahim Lodi** in the first Battle of **Panipat** in **1526 A.D.**, which brought the downfall of the **Delhi Sultanate** in India.

1. Which Sultan introduced the concept of token currency?

(a) Ghiyasuddin Balban (b) Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq (c) Sikandar Lodhi (d) Firoz Shah Tughlaq

2. Who introduced the iqta system?

A. Qutub-din-Aibak B. Razia Sultana C. Iltutmish D. Alau-din-Khilji

3. The zakat was a tax which was paid by.....

A) Hindus B) Muslims C) All D) None of these

4. Jazia was a tax to be paid by

A) Muslims B) Non-Muslims C) All D) Soldiers

5. The first Turkish ruler to introduce Arabic coinage was

A) Iltutmish B) Amir Khusrau C) Amir Hasan D) None