

# Past Paper Question

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Q# : Give an account of the evolution of the Muslim Society in the Sub-continent from 1206-1526. (2000)

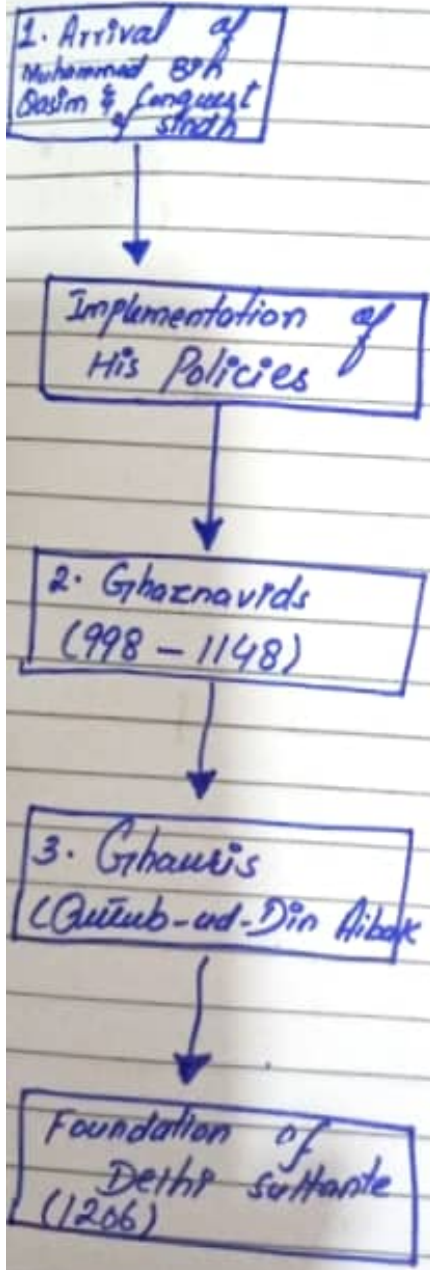
## Introduction

Although the advent of Islam in the Indian Sub-continent is dated back to the arrival of first Muslim expedition under Mualab-bin-Sagheera in 644 AD and arrival of Muhammad Bin Qasim in 712, but the establishment of proper Muslim administrative control over the Indian Sub-continent is credited to the **Delhi Sultanate**. Delhi Sultanate was the Muslim empire in the Sub-continent that stretched over large areas of Indian Sub-continent for 320 years (1206-1526) based in Delhi. The era of Delhi Sultanate was a unique epoch as a minority established its rule over the region which not only defended the empire against foreign invasion but also established an efficient administrative system in the region. This efficient administrative system, later proved to be the foundation for the great Mughal empire.

## Historical Background

The first Muslim expedition under Mualab-bin-Sagheera reached the coastal area of Sub-continent in 644 AD during the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar (R.A). They conquered the coastal areas but did not establish their rule over the areas due to several issues. Then Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered Sindh in 712 and establish its control, and introduced several policies for efficient administration. But his rule was short and after his death, his policies were still under implementation. After Muhammad Bin Qasim, Mahmud Ghazni, a central Asian ruler over Ghazni Afghanistan

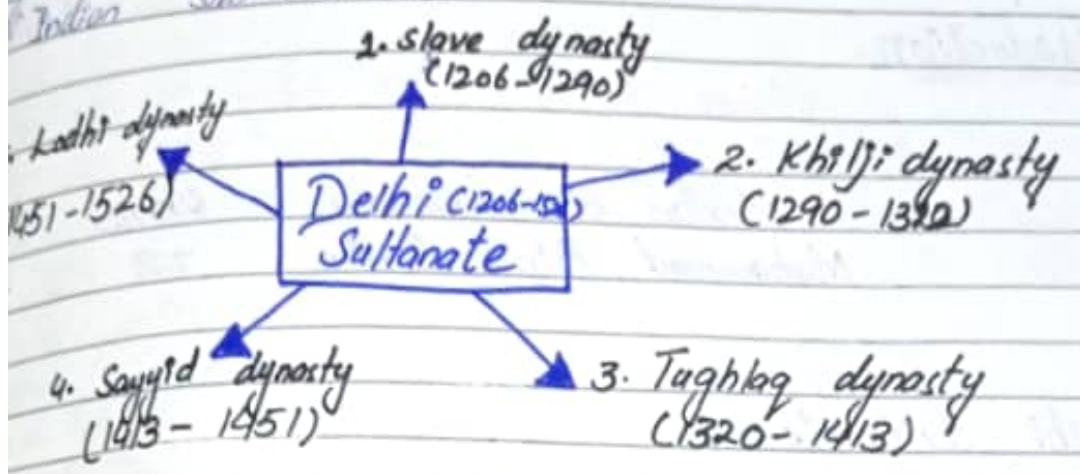
launched 17 attacks on India and was able to annex Punjab in 1021 to its empire and he established his rule in the area. Ghaznavids were overthrown by **Ghiyas ud-Din Ghauri** and his younger brother **Shahab-ud-Din Ghauri** became the ruler and extended the empire from Multan, Peshawar to Sialkot and Lahore. Finally one of the slave of Shahab-ud-Din Ghauri named **Qutub-ud-Din Aibak** captured Delhi and laid the foundation of Delhi Sultanate and became the Sultan.





# Dynasties

Delhi Sultanate was divided into five dynasties which ruled for 320 years in the Indian Sub-Continent.

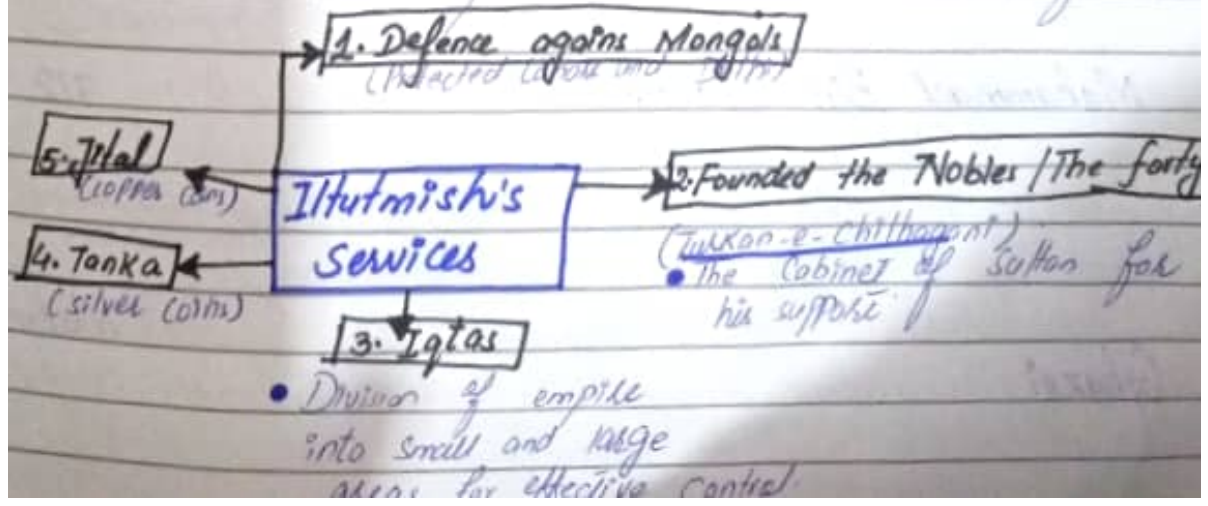


## Slave dynasty (1206-1290)

The first Muslim dynasty in India which was founded by Qutub-ud-Din Aibak and ruled for 84 years. Also known as "Mamluk dynasty", Mamluk an Arabic word, meaning slaves. Qutub-ud-Din Aibak was the founder who left no stone unturned for establishment of his strong rule over the region. He shifted his capital from Ghazni to Lahore then to Delhi.

### Ilutmish

After Qutub-ud-Din Aibak, the prominent leader of slave dynasty was Ilutmish. He was a great soldier and efficient administrator. The services he rendered to his empire are summarized as follows:



Iltutmish declared his daughter Razia Sultana as her successor due to her better administrative skills, but due to strong opposition of the army, she was dethroned from the throne.

• Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban

Another prominent ruler of slave dynasty was Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban, whose reign is known for his policies that were deviations from Islamic laws.

- (i) He declared himself as the shadow of God on Earth.
- (ii) He promoted Sajdah and Kissing feet of the emperor.
- (iii) He controlled the revolts of the army by murdering and banishing some of them. The army became powerful against death of Iltutmish and started to conspire against the state.

• End of slave dynasty:-

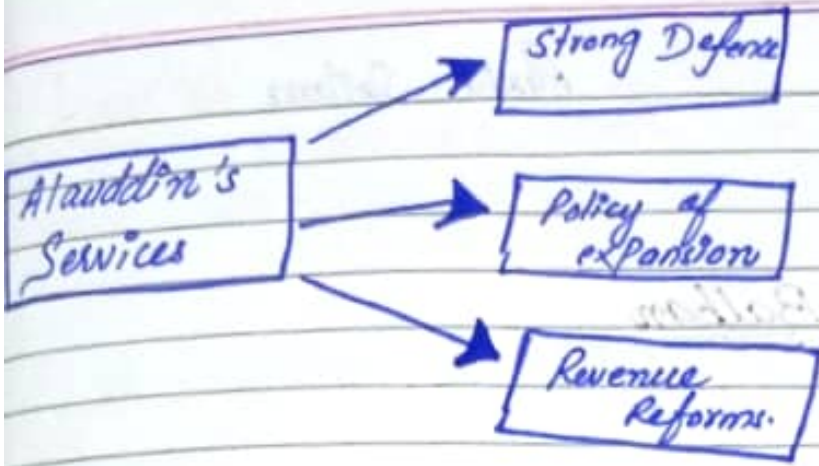
Weak successors of Balban could not withstand the empire and slave dynasty came to an end by capturing of Delhi by Alauddin Khilji who laid the foundation of Khilji dynasty in 1290.

2. Khilji dynasty (1290-1320)

• Jalal-ud-Din feroz Shah was the founder of Khilji dynasty. He was murdered and his nephew and son-in-law Alauddin Khilji became the Sultan of state.

• Alauddin's reign is marked as Golden age of Khilji dynasty. He rendered following services to his empire:-





### • Strong defence:-

Alauddin following the defence policy of Balban was able to defend his empire against ravages of strong Mongols.

### • Policy of expansion:

He worked hard for the expansion of his empire. For this he sent an army under the command of Malik Kafur to Conquer South India. His empire extended to Gujarat, Malwa and Rajasthan.

### • Revenue Reforms:

Introduction of following revenue reforms is credited to Alauddin:-

- (i) Measurement of land.
- (ii) Brought some land under the state control.
- (iii) Abolished Iqtas.
- (iv) He forced small village chiefs and officers to pay taxes to generate revenue for the state.

End of slave dynasty:- During the reign of Alauddin his empire was divided into two parts and finally after his death in 1316, the empire became weak and cannot withstand the Tughlaq revolt and finally came to an end.

### 3. Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1413)

(6)

Ghazi Malik, a Turk noble laid the foundation of 3<sup>rd</sup> Muslim dynasty in India. The prominent rulers of Tughlaq dynasty are:

- (i) Ghias-ud-Din Tughlaq
- (ii) Muhammad Tughlaq
- (iii) Feroz Shah Tughlaq

#### (i) Ghiasuddin Tughlaq:

Ghazi Malik the founder of Tughlaq dynasty ascended the throne with the title "Ghias-ud-Din Tughlaq". He was a great combatant and efficient administrator. His reign is marked by following events:

- Conquered Bengal.
- Abolished the strict policies of Balban and brought peace and prosperity in the empire.
- Built a new fortified city Tughlaqabad in Delhi.
- During his reign Ibn-e-Batuta visited India and was appointed as Chief Qazi in Delhi and later he was sent as an ambassador to China.

#### Muhammad Tughlaq

After Ghias-ud-Din Tughlaq's death, his son Muhammad Tughlaq ascended the throne. He was the man of words not actions and launched three failed projects:

- Transfer of Capital from Delhi to Devagiri was failed project due to unavailability of water.
- Introduction of Token Currency failed due to circulation of counterfeit currency.
- Compensation of monetary loss, to compensate monetary loss he increased land tax in Doab area suffering due to famine. The discontentment of public raised

#### (ii) Feroz Shah Tughlaq

He was prominent and favourite among masses due to his interest in public work. He took following steps for the betterment of his empire.

- Built new cities (Hissarpur, Ferozpur, Ferozabad)



- Built Conqs, dams, Sarais and over 1200 state control fruit gardens.
- Impose Jiziya as a separate tax on Brahmins.
- To get support of Ulama, military and Nobles, he granted them some land and founded Mosques and madaris.

### End of Tughlaq dynasty

Nasiruddin Tughlaq was the last ruler of Tughlaq dynasty. On Timur's invasion in 1398, a Mongal King, in India resulted into Delhi massacre and disintegrated the Tughlaq dynasty into numerous parts.

### 4. Sayyid Dynasty (1413-1451)

- As a result of Timur's invasion, the Tughlaq dynasty disintegrated and numerous new Kingdoms arose:
  - In Western India: Gujarat and Malwa.
  - In Eastern India: Bengal and Jaunpur.
  - In Northern India: Kashmir.
  - In Southern India: Deccan, Vijayanagar and Bahamani.
- In 1414, when Timur was leaving India, he nominated Khizra Khan as his successor. Khizra Khan founded fourth Muslim dynasty, "The Sayyid Dynasty" in India and ruled by Timur's name. He tried to reintegrate several independent states but was able to rule over 200 miles from Bengal only. Delhi, some areas of western Punjab, Sindh and western Uttar Pradesh were under Delhi Sultanate. After his death, his son ascended throne but was killed.

### End of Sayyid dynasty

Sayyid dynasty due to its political instability, was overthrown by the powerful Lodhi dynasty.

## 5. Lodhi Dynasty (1451-1526)

- The first and last Afghan dynasty to rule in India which was founded by Bahlul Lodhi in 1451. He <sup>managed</sup> ~~took~~ to capture many independent states during final days of Tughlaq and Sayyid dynasty. He was able to capture Punjab and finally ascended the throne of Delhi. Nizam Shah (Skander Shah) was the most important and capable ruler of Lodhi dynasty who ruled from Ganges valley to Bengal.

- He countered the opposition of his relatives and established just Islamic administration system in India. He also built new city Agra and changed his capital from Delhi to Agra. After his death war of succession started between his sons Ibrahim and Jala.

- Ibrahim Lodhi succeeded in ascending the throne and proved to be the last sultan of Lodhi dynasty as well as Delhi sultanate.

### • End of Lodhi dynasty

Ibrahim Lodhi was the last ruler of Lodhi dynasty, who was overthrown by Babur of Feroz shahana in first battle of Panipat (1526). Finally Delhi sultanate came to an end with the death of Ibrahim Lodhi.

## Impacts of Delhi Sultanate

Impacts of Delhi Sultanate  
in Indian Subcontinent

1. Effective Defence
2. Establishment of Muslim rule
3. Spread of Islam
4. Promotion of Knowledge
5. Foundation of Mughal empire



## Establishment of Muslim rule:

The Delhi Sultanate era was a unique epoch when a minority in ratio of one to thousands was able to establish strong administrative control over vast areas of Indian sub-continent for 320 years.

## Spread of Islam:

Numerous Delhi Sultanate Sultans, not only expanded Muslim empire in sub-continent but also played vital role in spreading of Islam. Like Nazim Shah founded mosques and madaris and allotted lands of Ulmas to support them.

## Effective Defense System:

Strong and effective defence system of Delhi Sultanate allowed the rulers to protect the empire against mighty Mongol hordes during the reigns of Ilkhanish, Babbar, Alauddin etc.

## Promotion of Knowledge:

The era of Delhi Sultanate produced many scholars who did unprecedented services for promotion of literature and architectural developments.

## Foundation for Mughal Empire:

The Delhi Sultanate proved to be the foundation for great Mughal empire due to its educational, administrative, defence and architectural developments.

## Critical Analysis

The rise and fall of Delhi Sultanate is of great importance to the leaders of contemporary Muslim world. Circumspect analysis of the reasons of the fall of Delhi Sultanate suggests that it declined due to internal conspiracies, political instability, weak and incapable rulers and strong foreign

invaders. In Contemporary world, Muslim Countries are facing the same issues which can prove devastating for their stability. Hence it is need of the hour that Muslim leaders must take on account of these problem and should ~~ever~~ unite to form a strong Muslim hold in the world.