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Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh
Class VII

8/7/24

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 4
The Delhi Sultanate - I (continued)

Good Morning Students!

This week we will continue with the chapter and study about the Khalji Dynasty. which ruled for about three decades. The first ruler of the dynasty was Jalal-ud-din Firuz Khalji. He was a weak ruler who adopted a lenient policy towards the Mongols. He even married one of his daughters to Ulugh Khan.

The next ruler Alauddin Khalji was the most powerful ruler of this dynasty. Soon after coming to rule, he set about his goal of establishing an all-India empire. Alauddin conquered Gujarat and Malwa in 1297. Between 1301 and 1303 he campaigned in Rajasthan and conquered Ranthambhore and Chittor. In South, he sent Malik Kafur who defeated the Yadavas, Kakatiyas, Hoysalas and the Pandyas. He also carried away a large war booty that included precious metals, elephants, horses and slaves. The defeated kings were allowed to rule - but they had to pay tribute to Alauddin and acknowledge his overlordship.

Mongol Invasions:- There were a series of Mongol raids during Alauddin's reign.

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He undertook various measures to counter the Mongols effectively.

1. New forts were built along strategic places.
2. The army was reorganized.
3. Frontier provinces were placed under efficient commanders.
4. The Mongol leaders were captured and put to death.

Suppression of Rebellions :-

1. He kept a strict control over all provinces.
2. He posted spies in different parts of the empire. They kept him informed of all developments.
3. He curbed the power of the nobles. He forbade social gatherings among nobles.
4. He stopped the use of liquor and other intoxicants.

Reorganization of the Army

In order to build and strengthen a large empire Alauddin Khalji introduced reforms in the army.

1. Alauddin paid his soldiers in cash.
2. He started branding of horses (dagh) to prevent the substitution of good horses with the inferior ones.
3. A full description (chehra) of each soldier was also kept.

4. Alauddin supervised the organization and maintenance of the army.

Economic reforms.

Alauddin Khalji introduced reforms in land revenue system and came up with a market control policy. He lowered the prices of all essential items such as food grains, sugar, cooking oil, cloth, etc. Shopkeepers were asked to charge rates fixed by the sultan. He appointed special officials called Shahana-i-mandi to keep a check on the shopowners. Whoever was caught charging a little extra or cheating with weights was severely punished.

Alauddin ordered the measurement of the land under cultivation. The land was divided into different categories and land revenue fixed accordingly. In some areas land tax was increased. He ensured that the peasants paid the revenue directly to the king. This weakened the position of the middlemen.

Alauddin was a patron of art and architecture. Poets like Amir Khusrau and Amir Hasan were there in his court. Fort of Siri and Hazar Siton was built by him.