

# THE KHALJI DYNASTY

**The Khaljis/ Khiljis**, wrongly believed to be Afghans, were actually **Turks** who had for a long time settled in the region of Afghanistan, called **Khalji** had adopted Afghan manners and customs. Their coming to the throne of Delhi is called “**Khalji**” revulsion. The Ghazani’s and Ghori’s invasions, and Mongol pressure from Central Asia had pushed them into India.

The term **Khalji** was their designation, meaning in Turkic languages “**swordsman**”. Although they had played a conspicuous role in the success of Turkic armies in India, they had always been looked down upon by the leading Turks, the dominant group during the Slave dynasty.

## **Jalal-ud-din Firoz Khalji (1290-1296 A.D.)**

- He was the founder of Khalji Dynasty.
- He was also called as “Clemency Jalal-uddin” as he followed peace and wanted to rule without violence.

### **Domestic Policies of Jalal-ud-din Firoz Khalji**

- He suppressed Malik Chhajju’s revolt at Kara
- He appointed Ala-ud-din Khalji as the Governor of Kara. Alauddin was his son-in-law and also nephew.

### **Mongol Invasion**

- In 1292 A.D. Jalal-ud-din defeated the Mongols who had come up to Sunam.

### **End of Jalal-ud-din**

- Jalal-ud-din was treacherously murdered by Ala-ud-din Khalji his son-in-law.
- Jalal-ud-din’s policy of peace was not liked by many.

## **Ala-ud-din Khalji (1296-1316 A.D.)**

He was a nephew and son-in-law of Jalaluddin Khalji. Alauddin Khalji killed him and succeeded the throne in 1296. He was the first Turkish Sultan of Delhi who separated religion from politics. He proclaimed ‘Kingship knows no Kinship’.

### **Alauddin’s Imperialism:**

1. Alauddin annexed Gujarat (1298)
2. Ranthambhor (1301)
3. Mewar (1303)

4. Malwa (1305)

5. Jalor (1311).

In Deccan, Aluddin's army led by Malik Kafur defeated Ram Chandra, PratapRudradeva, Virballal III and Vir Pandya. He built HauzKhas and JamaitKhana Mosque. He seized the famous Kohinoor diamond from the ruler of Malwa.

### **Economic Reforms (1304)**

1. The most important experiment undertaken by him was the attempt to control the markets.
2. He sought to control the prices of all commodities, from food grains to horse, and from cattle and slaves to costly imported cloth.
3. Introduction of Dagh or branding of horses and Chehra or detailed description of each soldier
4. Confiscation of the religious endowments and free grants of lands
5. Creation of new department viz Diwan-i-Mustakhraj to enquire into the revenue areas and to collect them
6. Establishment of separate markets for food grains cloth, horses, fruits etc.
7. Khuts were a new set of intermediaries who arose at the parganah or shiq (district) level. Amir Khusrau, for the first time, referred to them as zamindars.
8. Zabita regulation Biswa declared as the standard unit of measurement of cultivable land.
9. Land revenue (Kharaj) was fixed at half of the produce on the basis of paimash (measurement) in the Doab i.e., the territory between the Ganga and the Jamuna. Suppression of the hereditary revenue collectors-Rai, Rana, Rawat (top level) and Khut, Muqaddam, Chaudhari (village level). House tax (ghari) and pasture tax (charai) were also levied.

### **Market Control or Economic Regulation**

1. According to Barani, the economic regulations were primarily a military measure, i.e., to maintain a large and efficient army for keeping the Mongols in check. But, Amir Khusrau considers it a welfare measure to ensure the supply of important commodities at reasonable rates.
2. Zabawit or detailed regulations were made to fix the cost of all commodities from food grains to horses cattle and slaves.
3. He established three separate markets in Delhi for - food grains, costly cloths, horses, slaves and cattle.
4. The markets were controlled by two officers, Diwan-i-Riyasat and Shahana- i-Mandi.

5. He gave loans to the rich Multan merchants for purchasing cloth from different parts of the empire and to bring them for sale in the Sarai-Adl (cloth market at an open place inside Badaun gate.)
6. Horses were sold directly to the military department (Diwan-i-Arz),
7. Food grains were stocked at the warehouses set up by the state itself and were released during famine or shortage of supply.
8. The Karwanis or Banjaras carried the grains from villages to Delhi. No hoarding was allowed and all merchants were registered at state daftars.

### **Administrative Reforms Ordinances**

1. Reorganised the Spy system
2. Prohibition on use of wine in Delhi
3. Nobles should not intermarry without his permission.
4. Confiscated the properties of Nobles classes.
5. He separated religion from politics. He proclaimed – 'Kingship knows no Kinship'.

### **Military Reforms**

1. Introduced the first permanent standing army of India
2. Abolition of Iqtas of royal troopers and the payment of their salaries in cash.
3. Regular muster of the army.
4. Introduction of three grades of soldiers: Foot soldiers; Soldiers with one horse (ek-aspa); Soldiers with two horses (do-asps)

### **Art and Learning**

1. Though Alauddin was illiterate, he was a great patron of art and learning.
2. Both Amir Khusrau and Mir Hasan Dehlvi enjoyed his patronage.
3. He built a new city called Siri, enlarged the Qutabi mosque and erected a gateway.
4. He built the Jamait Khana Masjid at the dargah of Nizam-ud-din Auliya, and Alai Darwaza near Qutb Minar.
5. He began the construction of Alai Minar near Qutub Minar but could not complete it.

After the death of Alauddin, his favourite Kafur, tried to usurp the throne. He placed Shihab-ud-din Omar, an infant son of the late sultan, on the throne. But Kafur was murdered after

five weeks. Mubarak Khilji, another son of Alauddin ruled for four years. He abolished all the agrarian and market control regulations of his father. He was murdered by Khusrau Malik.

Khusrau Shah proved a great tyrant and was defeated and beheaded by Ghazi Tughluq, the warden of the marches and the Governor of Punjab. Ghazi Tughluq became the new ruler of the Delhi sultanate under the title of Ghias-ud-din Tughluq. Thus, Khilji dynasty was replaced by Tughluq dynasty.