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THE KHALJIS AND TUGHLAQS

1. Describe the conquests of Ala-ud-din Khalji?

Ala-ud-din Khalji is known as one of the greatest rulers of India as well as medieval India. He was a great military genius. He added many territories to the Muslim Empire. He also planned to conquer the entire world so he assumed the title of Sikandar-i-Sani. His conquests can be divided into two phases.

- i] Conquest of North India
- ii] Conquest of South India.

i] Conquest of North India (1297-1305 AD)

Conquest of Gujarat ~~and~~ Jaisalmer (1297 AD)
 First of all Ala-ud-din conquered Gujarat, a prosperous state with its capital at Anhilwala. He had already heard of richness and fertility of the Gujarat province. He sent two of his most faithful generals - Ulugh Khan and Muizzat Khan to conquer Gujarat. After conquering Jaisalmer Muslim forces reached Gujarat. The King of Gujarat Raja Karna Deva with his daughter Deva Devi fled towards Devagiri and was cordially received by its

ruler. Raja Karna Deva's wife Kamal Devi fell into the hands of the muslims and was brought to Delhi. where she was married to Ala-ud-din. The famous Somnath Temple was once more looted and its idols broken and sent to Delhi.

The expedition of Gujarat was successful.

- Conquest of Ranathambore [1299-1301 A.D.]

Ala-ud-din Khalji two years after wanted to invade Ranathambore because once it had been a part of the muslim Empire so it was a duty to conquer. Before his invasion he wrote a letter to Rana Hamir Deva the Chauhan king of Ranathambore to hand over all the prisoners new muslim, who revolted at time of conquest of Gujarat and took shelter with him. Ala-ud-din knew it well that according to Rajput traditions the Rana would never send them to him. Thus he sent Nusrat Khan and Ulugh Khan to conquer Ranathambore in 1299 A.D. On the way Nusrat Khan was killed. Rana Hamir Deva and his Rajputs defended the strong hold so Ala-ud-din himself marched against the ruler. After

a prolonged siege of about one year the fort fell into the hands of Sultan in 1301 AD. due to the faithlessness of Rannal the minister of Rana Hamir Deva. The Rajput ladies performed Jauhar and all people in the fort died fighting. Having left Rana Hamir Deva under the charge of Muchkhan, Ala-ud-din returned to Delhi.

Conquest of Mewar [1303 AD]

In 1303 AD the royal army of Delhi marched against Chittor (Capital of Mewar) its ruler Rana Ratan Singh ascended the throne in 1301 AD and belonged to Guhila clan of Rajput. Ala-ud-din made Rana Ratan Singh his captive later under the leadership of Gora and Badal freed the king from captivity of muslims. After the rescue of Rana Ratan Singh a bloody war was fought between the muslims and Rajput. Rana Ratan Singh died fighting on the battle. The Rajput ladies and children

jumped into the flames led by Rani padmini. After capturing mewar of Chittor Ala-ud-din appointed his son Khizr Khan ^{Governor} and fortress was renamed Khizrabad. Chittor could not be held for long time by the Khalji.

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Conquest of Malwa (1305 AD)

1305 Ala-ud-din sent an army under Ain-ul-Mulk the governor of Multan to conquer Malwa which was being ruled by Raja Mahlak Deva. He was defeated and succeeded. Ala-ud-din appointed Ain-ul-Mulk as the governor of Malwa.

Conquest of Sivana (1309 AD)

In 1309 AD Ala-ud-din marched against Sivana which was being ruled by the palamala Rajput ruler Shital Deva. Ala-ud-din captured the fort and killed Shital Deva and handed over the territory to Kamal-ud-din Gurg and returned to Delhi.

Conquest of Jalor (1309 AD)

Next he turned his attention to capture Jalor being ruled by Raja Kanha Deva. The reason for capturing Jalor was that the king boasted that he was prepared to face Ala-ud-din in the battle. So to teach him a lesson sent troops against him. Kanha Deva was defeated and the territory was annexed.

ii) Conquest in South India:-

Ala-ud-din Khalji was the first muslim ruler who tried to conquer Deccan. The health of

Deccan was another attraction for Ala-ud-din Khalji. Malik Kafur, the slave from Gujarat was entrusted with the task of conquering the Deccan. He proved to be an able general who conquered Devagiri, Warangal, Warahanunda and Madhurai territories of Deccan within a period of six years.

ATTACK ON DEVAGIRI :- [1306-07 AD]

Devagiri was ruled by Ramachandra Deva in March 1306 AD under Malik Kafur. Ala-ud-din sent his expedition because Ramachandra Deva had not paid his tribute to him for last three years and also given shelter to Rajakalan Deva the ruler of Gujarat. Another consideration which prompted Ala-ud-din to send an expedition against Devagiri was Kamala Devi the wife of Raja Karna Deva of Gujarat who married to Ala-ud-din wanted her daughter Deval Devi. Malik Kafur first of all proceeded to surrender Deval Devi but he refused. Then Karna Deva sent his daughter Deval Devi along with some escort to Devagiri but she fell into the hands of Alp Khan and sent her to Delhi where she was married to Khizer Khan the eldest son of Ala-ud-din Khalji.

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Conquest of Telingana (Warangal) [1209-12]

Ala-ud-din made first attempt to conquer Telingana in 1203 AD but the same proved a failure. The prataprudra Deva the ruler of Telingana offered stiff resistance to the Delhi force. He sued for peace. Ultimately Raja agreed to give 100 elephants; 7000 horses and huge quantities of jewels and coined money. He also agreed to send tributes to Delhi every year.

Conquest of Dwaramudra (1300AD)

Ala-ud-din sent another expedition under Malik Kafur against the Hoysala ruler Vira Ballal III. Malik Kafur succeeded in defeating Vira Ballala III and captured his capital Dwaramudra. and collected lot of gold; silver, pearls and gems and sent them to Delhi.

Conquest of Pandya Kingdom [1311AD]

After the conquest of Hoysala kingdom Malik Kafur proceeded against the Pandya Kingdom of Madurai. At that time a war of succession was going on between Sundara Pandya and Vira Pandya. Sundara

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Pandya sought help from Ala-ud-din
he responded quickly and
sent Malik Kafur to Madurai. When
his forces reached Madurai Vitapandya
left the city and ran away.
A huge booty fell into the hands
of the invaders.

The Last Deccan Expedition (1312 AD)

After the death of Ramachandra Deva
of Devagiri his son Shankar Deva
ceased to pay the annual tribute
so Ala-ud-din sent his General Malik
Kafur once again to south. Shankar
Deva was defeated.

Thus by the end of 1312 AD
Ala-ud-din empire almost the
whole of the north and south India.