

## **CC-7 : HISTORY OF INDIA(c.1206-1526)**

### **II. SULTANATE POLITICAL STRUCTURE**

#### **(A-4). RISE AND FALL OF SYED DYNASTY**

Before his departure from India, Timur appointed Khizr Khan as the governor of Multan. Khizr Khan, from his childhood days was brought up by Malik Nasir-ul-Mulk Mardan Daulat, Governor of Multan. Khizr Khan was given the Jagir of Multan by Firoz Shah Tughlaq. After the death of Firoz Shah Tughlaq Khizr Khan was besieged and captured by Sarang Khan. But Khizr Khan managed to escape and in 1398 joined hands with Timur.

After the death of Sultan Nasiruddin Muhammad, the nobles of Delhi acknowledged, the most powerful member of the nobles, Daulat Khan Lodhi as the next Sultan of Delhi. In 1414 CE Khizr Khan marched up to Delhi and defeated Daulat Khan and took possession of Delhi. Khizr Khan was not only the founder of the Syed dynasty but also its ablest ruler. He ruled for seven years and tried to control the disorders prevailing in Delhi during that time, with the help of his loyal minister Taj-ul-Mulk. Though he tried to consolidate the Delhi Sultanate but could not do much in his short tenure of rule of only seven years. He died in 1421 after designating his son Mubarak Shah as his successor.

During the reign of Mubarak Shah there were rebellions in all parts of the empire and measures were taken by the Sultan to suppress them. His successful expeditions against Mewatis, Katihar and the Gangetic Doab enabled him to collect revenue from that region. Mubarak Shah was a just and kind ruler and it was during his reign Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi was written by Yahya-bin-Ahmad Shirhindi. Also the city of Mubarakabad was founded on the bank of Yamuna by the Sultan. Mubarak Shah was assassinated by some of his own nobles in 1434 CE.

Mubarak Shah did not have a son of his own so after his death the nobles of Delhi put to throne the son of his brother. Muhammad Shah, the new Sultan ascended the throne in 1434 CE. His reign witnessed rebellions from various parts of the country, but instead of taking actions against the rebels Muhammad Shah remained in his capital sunk in indolence and pleasure. It was during the reign of Muhammad Shah, Mahmud Shah Khilji of Malwa advanced as far as Delhi. Bahlul Khan Lodhi, the governor of Lahore and Sirhind came to aid of

the Sultan and checked the advancement of Mahmud Shah Khilji of Malwa. It was during this time the commanding qualities of Bahlul Khan Lodhi first attracted attentions. Muhammad Shah died in 1444 CE.

Muhammad Shah was succeeded by his son Ala-ud-din who took up the title of Alam Shah. He proved to be an incompetent Sultan and the weakest of the Syed rulers. The sultanate began to crumble during his predecessors and by the time Alam Shah came to the throne the kingdom only consisted of Delhi and the neighbouring villages. In 1447CE Alam Shah went to Badaun and found the city so attractive and beautiful that he decided to live there permanently instead of living at Delhi. He appointed a Governor for Delhi to look in to matters of the Sultanate. Alam Shah's Wazir invited Bhalol Lodhi to take charge of the army. Alam Shah realised that it would be difficult to continue as the Sultan of Delhi by staying at Badaun. In 1451 CE Alam Shah transferred the sovereignty of Delhi to Bahlul Lodhi and retired to Badaun permanently. Alam Shah continued to live in Badaun till he died in 1478 CE. Thus the sultanate of Delhi peacefully passed into Afghan hands.

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