

## **Alauddin Khalji ~ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Alexander**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Alauddin Khalji - a name written in the medieval Indian history, never to vanish, a turning point of the great millennium. Khalji described himself as Sikandar-i-Sani and had moved heavens and hells to achieve it. His reign was the most important and crucial turning point of the medieval history of India. He unified India as a single political entity by conquering and annexing both Northern and Southern Indian territories. He made numerous reforms, in the fields of military, revenue, administrative and Social institutions and led India to a bright and beautiful future. He protected India against seven continuous Mongol invasions during 1296-1306 A.D., while also annexing various Indian territories into his kingdom. He was the perfect example of an autocratic leader and also a great King.

**Key Words :** Mongol, Sikander, Sultan, Turk, Rajput, Political unification, Battle, Invasion, Conquest, Reform

### **INTRODUCTION**

The rich heritage of India is the result of efforts of thousands of kings who have ever ruled in India. Every single King of Indian History has contributed a lot for the development of India and its heritage. If it hadn't been for them India wouldn't have been here where it is today. The Kings of Delhi Sultanate has specially contributed a lot for the development of India. Before the arrival of the Delhi Sultanate India was under the rule of Hindu rulers who had a fixed thinking and ideas for the growth and development of the people of India. With the arrival of Delhi Sultanate, the Islamic rule had flourished as a strong religion. Each one of the five dynasties of Delhi Sulatanate, Slave Dynasty, Khalji, Tughlaq, Sayyad and Lodhi who have ruled from 1206 A.D. to 1526 A.D. has their own significance in the history of Medieval India.

Alauddin Khalji of the Khalji dynasty was one of the most famous and brilliant King of the Delhi Sulatanate. He was the second ruler of Khalji dynasty. He was the most successful ruler of the Khalji dynasty. Born as *Ali Gurshasap*, Alauddin was the nephew and son-in-law of the first ruler of Khalji dynasty, JalaluddinKhalji. When Jalaluddin ascended the throne of Delhi, Alauddin was given the position of *Amir-e-Tuzk* (Master of ceremonies). He acquired the governorship for Awadh after suppressing a revolt against Jalaluddin. He ascended the throne of Delhi after killing Jalaluddin in 1296 A.D. He ruled India from 1296-1316 A.D. He was the first emperor of the Delhi Sultanate who had conquered Deccan regions, before him nobody had ever thought of attacking such powerful regions. He captured Gujarat, Ranthambhor, Malwa, Ujjain, Mandu, Dhar, chanderi except Bengal.

### **Alauddin's Theory of Kingship :**

Alauddin believed in the divine right of the King, that the King is a representative of God sent to earth by him to rule and safeguard it and hence is a King's territory to rule without any restraints, boundaries and repercussions.<sup>1</sup> The King's words are the law and everybody has to follow it without any questions and protests as King is the personification of God on earth. The people had to obey him. He used to say, "I do not know if this is lawful or unlawful, whatever I think to be for the good of the state or suitable for the emergency, I do". He never allowed anyone to interfere in his decisions. He is an autocrat and imperialist but, in the end, due to this very reason, he was successful in stopping Mongols from invading India.

He had only two greatest ambitions in his life; he wanted to found a new sect and he wanted to conquer the world like Alexander and hence to described himself as *Sikandar-i-Sani* (The Second Alexander). In order to achieve this epithet, he united India as a single political entity. He was the first ruler in the Delhi Sultanate who was successful in doing so, which no Sultan before him was successful in doing. He had done all this on the advice of his courtiers; Qazi Mughisuddin and Ain-ul-Muluk. Both of them advised him to forgot his first aim and unite the India as a single entity and raise it to the unimaginable heights that no one had ever thought of achieving it to become equal to Alexander the Great.<sup>2</sup>

Alauddin combined in himself all powers. He was the Commander-in-Chief, the Supreme Administrator, the Chief Justice and the Temporal Head as he believed that a King should be able to play every role efficiently be it the role of a ruler, Judge or the role of a soldier.

His believes in Machiavelli's rule of conduct that state should be benefitted at any cost despite of any religious conflict of interests or any person's personal benefits is very similar to the rule of conduct of *Kautilya's Arthashastra*.

Alauddin's desire to conquer the world was derived from his theory of Kingship. Alauddin wanted to be the ruler of the entire world, to be like Alexander but on the advice of the kotwal of Delhi, he gave up this idea but determined to bring the whole of India under his sway. And he was successful in doing so and became the first Muslim ruler of India to unify both the Northern and Southern territories of India.

He believed that an autocratic rule was very necessary for the stability and consolidation of an empire. Accordingly, he took various severe measures to keep the power of the nobles in control. He confiscated the property of several nobles and banned the large gatherings of nobles. He established an efficient spy system to keep himself well informed of the affairs of the state.

Alauddin has been described in the history as some cruel tyrant but despite all these nobody can deny that he saved India from the fate worst of his own rule, from the hands of the cruel and stone-hearted *Mongols*, Mongols tried to invade India six times during the reign of Alauddin as Sultan of Delhi and every time were defeated.<sup>3</sup> It was all because of Alauddin's brilliance as a general, the discipline of his army and their superior military tactics.

Alauddin Khalji despite all his faults, actually safeguarded the heritage and culture of Indian continent at that time, including the culture of not only Muslims but also of Hindu, Jain and Buddhist, from the enormous harm and destruction.

### **Mongol Invasions :**

The north-west frontier of India had always been a source of trouble for the rulers of India. Most of the invasions of India had been done by the north-western frontier of India. The Mongols also invaded the Indian territories from the north-western frontiers during the reign of Delhi Sultanate.

They appeared first time in India in 1220-1221 A.D. during the reign of Iltutmish, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ruler of Mamluk dynasty under the leadership of Chengiz Khan, the leader of Muslim. But Iltutmish was a diplomatic and intelligent ruler. Hence, the newly born Delhi Sultanate was saved from the Mongols due to the diplomacy of Iltutmish.

Before accepting the Islamic religion, the Mongols were the followers of Buddhism and were deadly enemies of the Muslims. They had destroyed several Muslim kingdoms in Central Asia and killed innocent persons like sheep and without caring about them, be it a woman or a child. Hence their entry into India was considered an omen of bad luck. Later they were successful in capturing territories like Punjab and Sindh up to river Ravi.

They also came to India during the reign of Ghiyas-ud-din Balban, the 9<sup>th</sup> ruler of Mamluk dynasty. Balban was successful in defeating them with the power and strength of his large army and was successful in keeping Delhi out of the hands of the Mongols, for this he had to give up his dream of expanding his empire to the whole India.

The Khaljis had to face their first Mongol invasion during the reign of Sultan Jalaluddin Khalji, who was unable to stand against them. When Alauddin ascended the throne of Delhi, the Mongols wanted to conquer India. They tried to dethrone Alauddin Khalji and in order to do so they made quick one after another attack on north-western frontiers of India. They not only disturbed the peace of Punjab but also tried to establish their authority over Delhi and Doab. They were supported by Khokhars and the Afghans who joined their army out of greed for the booty. The nobles who were dis-satisfied with Alauddin also helped them during their raids.<sup>4</sup>

### **Alauddin Khalji and Mongol Invasions :**

During the reign of Alauddin, seven fierce invasions of the Mongols took place but Alauddin was successful in defeating them the whole seven times. By taking inspiration from Balban, Alauddin formulated a strong and a systematic frontier policy. But instead of fighting defensively, he decided to attack the Mongols instead. He believed in "Fight to win and fight to live". He wanted to teach Mongols a lesson that India was his and nobody can take it from him.

This aggressive and offensive policy of Alauddin made Mongols afraid of the Alauddin's army.

In the winter of 1297 Mongols attacked the first time during the reign of Alauddin Khalji. The Mongolian army was successful in attacking and capturing the territories of Punjab and as well as Kasur, but the Mongolian army was defeated by Alauddin's army led in the supervision of Ulugh Khan in 1298.<sup>5</sup>

In 1299, the Mongols attacked Sindh but they were defeated by Zafar Khan, many of them were arrested and brought to Delhi as captives. They were forced to change their religion if they wanted to live, some of them were not ready to submit in front of Alauddin and were successful in escaping from Delhi to Gujarat which was at that time under the rule of Karna Deva and were given century there. Due to this reason Alauddin had sent an expedition under the supervision of Ulugh and Nusrat Khan to capture the rebels.

In late 1299, another Mongol invasion was dispatched led by Qutlugh Khwaja, son of Duwa. Alauddin tried to delay the battle, waiting for the reinforcement of his provisions. His army General Zafar Khan attacked the Mongols without his permission and was killed in the battle with the Mongol after inflicting a heavy loss on their army. The mongos had to retreat due to the death of their leader.

In 1303 A.D. when Alauddin dispatched an army to Warangal, under the leadership of Malik

Chhaju in order to capture Telangana and himself went on an expedition to annex Chittor, Delhi was left unprotected. Mongols got a perfect opportunity to attack and capture Delhi. Alauddin was successful in reaching Delhi before the invasion but was heavily unprepared for the invasion, so he took a shelter in a heavily guarded camp at Siri Fort. Mongols attacked Delhi but was unable to breach the Siri Fort and was forced to retreat. This was an eye-opener for Alauddin that Mongols power was increasing day by day and his army will not be able to handle them much longer. This was the main reason that he implemented economic reforms so as to maintain his army to full efficiency and a constant supply of revenues for the military development.

In 1304, Duwa Khan proposed a joint Mongol attack on India with Yuan dynasty but it was not accepted by the Yuan dynasty and the campaign ended before its starting.

In December 1305, Duwa Khan sent army to Gangetic Plains along the Himalayan foothills. Alauddin's army led by Mongols at the battle of Amroha. A large of Mongols were either captured and killed by Alauddin's army.

In 1306, Duwa Khan led another expedition up to the Ravi river, capturing the territories along the way. Alauddin's army under the leadership of Malik Kafur and defeated the Mongols badly. Duwa Khan died later in the same year and due to the dispute of his succession, the Mongol raids in India ended.<sup>6</sup>

During the times of Mongol invasions Alauddin had took several measures to safeguard his Kingdom from the Mongols. Such as following: -

1. Old forts were repaired and were heavily guarded under the faithful eyes of experienced troops.
2. New forts were built and put under the charge of well trained and experienced soldiers.
3. Arms Industries were set up and skilled engineers and technicians were appointed.
4. A permanent and separate well trained army was prepared for the defense of the North-West Frontier.
5. A special governor was appointed for the protection of the North-West Frontier.
6. Separate armies were stationed in the frontier areas of Dipalpur, Samana and Multan.
7. Armies were re-organized and were enhanced with better weapons and horses.
8. Experienced generals like Zafar Khan, Ghazi Malik, Ulugh Khan and Malik Kafur were entrusted the responsibility of defending the territories from the Mongol Invasions.

Alauddin's frontier policy proved very successful. The Mongols were afraid of the army of Alauddin and of leaders like Zafar Khan and Malik Kafur. The governor of the North-West Frontier attacked Kabul, Ghazni and Kandhar and plundered the territories of the Mongols and had it to the territories of Khalji dynasty.

#### **Military Conquest of AlauddinKhalji :**

AlauddinKhalji was a great militarist and strategist, he had one of the strongest armies of medieval India. His army was powerful, well-trained equipped with advanced weapons and were far larger than armies of any other ruler of his time.

He was ambitious and wanted to rule over the whole Indian empire and in order to so he started capturing the powerful and rich territories of India which were at that time under the rule of various Hindu rulers

#### **Northern Conquest of Alauddin Khalji : Conquest of Gujarat (1299) :**

Gujarat kingdom was famous for its riches and the vast fortune that they acquired from sea-borne trade with the Arabs and Persians. In 1299 Alauddin had sent military expedition to Gujarat under the command of his two most reliable generals Nusrat Khan and Ulugh Khan. At that time Gujarat was under the rule of King Karna Deva of Vaghelas who the feudatories of the Solanki Rajput rulers were also called Chalukyas. Alauddin's military invaded Anhilwad, the capital of Gujarat. As it was a sudden attack, Karna Deva was caught unaware and had fled to Yavada kingdom of north Deccan. He fled but his chief wife Kamala Devi was captured by the army and who later became one of the favorite wives of Alauddin. A large war booty was acquired by the army by the plunder of the right port of the Cambay. Malik Kafur one of the best military general and Malik Naib of the Khalji dynasty was captured by Nusrat Khan during the conquest.<sup>7</sup>

#### ***Conquest of Ranthambore (1301) :***

In 1301, Alauddin launched an expedition against Ranthambore, due to the reason that Hammira, the Chauhan King of Ranthambore had given asylum to mongols rebels from Delhi in 1299. He refused to kill them or hand them over to the Delhi Sultanate resulting in a war. Alauddin's forces under the command of Ulugh Khan attacked Ranthambore resulting in the death of Hammira's brother Bhoja and army general Bhimasimha, but Ulugh Khan was defeated by the joint efforts of Hammira's generals and the rebel mongols. Another expedition under the command of Nusrat Khan was sent to capture Ranthambore but Nusrat Khan was killed before he can breach the fort, in the end Alauddin himself led his army to Ranthambore. King Hamiira and his forces were either killed or maimed, his wives, daughters and other women committed *Jauhar*. Alauddin captured the Ranthambore fort and was successful in capturing the mongol rebels.<sup>8</sup>

#### ***Conquest of Chittor (1303) :***

After the capture of Ranthambore, Alauddin attacked Chittor in 1303. At that time Chittor was under the rule of Rana Ratansimha famously known as Rana Ratan Singh. Alauddin marched to Chittor with a large army. After arriving near the fort, his army then surrounded the fort from all the sides. The army of Ratansimha was powerful and faced Alauddin's forces with their head held high, that's the reason that the siege went for long 8 months. After these 8 months Alauddin ordered the fort to be pelted by the stones while his army attacked it from all sides, resulting in the weakening the defense of fort. Alauddin was successful in capturing the fort and had ordered to kill the whole population of Chittor, resulting in the death of more than 30,000 Hindus, according to the Amir Khusrau. After the defeat of Rana Ratnasimha, Chittor was renamed as *Khizrabad*, after Prince Khizr, the son of Alauddin.

The later legend of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Malik Mohammad Jaisi's epic poem *Padmaavat* state that Alauddin invaded Chittor to obtain Padmini, the queen of Rana Ratan Singh, the King of Chittor. However, Padmini does not find a mention in the earliest records of Alauddin's conquest of Chittor, such as the chronicles by Amir Khusrau, Isami and Barani. The legend of Rani Padmani has been rejected by many historians.<sup>9</sup>

#### ***Conquest of Malwa (1305) :***

After the capture of powerful territories like Gujarat, Ranthambore and Chittor, Alauddin sent an expedition to Malwa in 1305 under the leadership of Ain ul Mulk Multani. Nearly all the neighbouring territories were under the rule of Alauddin except Malwa. Malwa was ruled by King Mahlak Deva but he was a weak ruler and his general HarnandaKoka was the main power. They

were both killed during the fight between Alauddin's army and Malwa's forces. Malwa with its centres of power like Dhara, Mandu and Dhara and Chanderi fell into the hands of the victor and Ain-ul-mulk Multani was appointed governor of the province.<sup>10</sup>

### **Alauddin Khalji's Conquest of the South :**

By the end of 1305, Alauddin had the whole Northern India as a putty in his hands, he could very easily afford to direct his attention towards the conquest of the Deccan. Deccan had a lot of wealth which was too tempting for Alauddin to avoid.

Before Alauddin, no Muslim ruler had been successful in capturing the southern territories of India. In 1305, there were mainly 4 kingdoms in southern India; Yedava kingdom of Devagiri under the rule of Ram Chandra Deva, Telangana under the rule of Pratap Rudra Deva I, Hoysala Kingdom under Viva Ballala III and Pandaya Kingdom under of Madura under MaravarmanKulasekhara. The Hindu rulers of the South were quarrelling among themselves and consequently they were not in a position to put up a united front. No wonder, they were disposed of one by one.<sup>11</sup>

### **Conquest of Devagiri (1307) :**

In March, 1307, Alauddin sent his army under the leadership of Malik Kafur. As the ruler of Devagiri had not paid the taxes to Alauddin from the last three years and had also given refuge to Raja Karan Deva of Gujarat Malik Kafur was also asked to bring with him Deval Devi, daughter of Queen Kamla Devi, who had escaped at the time of the conquest of Gujarat.

Malik Kafur had captured Deval Devi, who was later married to Khizr Khan, elder son of Alauddin. King Ram Chandra was arrested and brought to Delhi. A large war booty was acquired by Malik Kafur. Ram Chandra was treated with respect and dignity by Alauddin. He came to an agreement with Alauddin and was sent back to Devagiri to ruler under the command of Alauddin.<sup>12</sup>

### **Conquest of Telangana (1310):**

Alauddin sent an expedition to Warangal, the capital of Telangana under the supervision of Malik Chhaju against the Kakatiya ruler Prataparudradeva in 1303, but was not successful in conquering Telangana as Prataparudradeva was a brave and strong ruler and had an steel will and an even stronger army and was successful in winning against Alauddin's army.

In 1307 another expedition under the supervision of Malik Kafur was sent to Telangana. Alauddin's main motive was not to annex Telangana but to force its ruler to acknowledge Alauddin's authority over his territory as due to the failure of 1303, many questions were asked about the strength of Alauddin's army and Alauddin himself. He wanted to prove it for once and all that he was the most powerful and nobody can challenge his authority and power.

Malik Kafur marched towards Telangana, through Devagiri, Prataparudradeva, the ruler of Telangana was not ready for such an attack and was caught offguard. He put an stiff resistance against the Mughal army but was forced to sue for peace in 1310 as the fort of Warangal was besieged and he had no way to win against such a large army without any preparation and was not ready to face the consequences of such an action would have on him and his kingdom. He had to give 100 elephants, 7,000 horses and large quantity and jewels and coined money to Malik Kafur as war booty and had also agreed to send a tribute to Delhi every year as a sign of peace and friendship to Alauddin. In the words of Amir Khusro, "*Malik Kafur came back to Delhi carrying a large war booty on a thousand camels.*"<sup>13</sup>

**Conquest of Hoysalas and Pandayas (1310 and 1311) :**

In 1310 AD, Ala-ud-din sent Malik Kafur to attack against Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra. Malik Kafur raided Dwarsamudra, the Hoyasla Capital in 1310 A.D. and ransacked its temples and stripped off their riches and wealth. The country was reduced to tatters. Sultan army defeated ViraBallala III of Dwarasamudra and the king paid huge amount of indemnity to Delhi Sultan and accept his protection and over lordship.

After the capture of Dwarsamudra, Kafur advanced to the Pandya Capital of Madura in 1311. There a war of succession was going on between the brothers Sunder Pandya and Vira Pandya. Sunder Pandya invited Malik Kafur to help his cause. Hence the expedition was made in 1313. Vira Pandya was defeated and exterminated.

Malik Kafur successfully taken possession of the sea ports of Dabhol and Chaul. The conquest of Deccan was now completed. Almost the whole of Southern India was now brought under the authority of Khalji dynasty but it was not annexed with the empire of Delhi. Only a few garrisons of troops, mostly Turkish, were stationed in important towns of the deccan.

**The differences between the Northern and Southern Indian Conquests :**

The objectives of AlauddinKhalji's northern and southern campaign were not the same. Hence the Deccan policy of AlauddinKhalji was different from the policy he followed in Northern India. The conquest of Northern India was only for one reason and that was to expand the territories of Alauddin's kingdom. Gujarat, Ranthambore, Chittor, Malwa etc. the states that were won in Northern India were annexed and included in the kingdom's territory. The Southern India, however was invaded for a different reason. The main reason of Alauddin's conquest of southern India was economic and political. Alauddin was impressed with the riches and wealth of Devagiri and was of the view that if a single southern state has so much wealth than the collective riches of the southern India would be unimaginable. He needed this money to maintain his army and to bribe his antagonists at Delhi. Alauddin dream of world conquest could not be fulfilled. But he desired to be known as a great conqueror. Successful campaigns to the south while extended his sway over the territory also brought prestige to his name. His policy was not to assimilate the Southern States into the Sultanate but only defeat them and to let it be under the rule of its own rulers on the condition of getting their kings acknowledge the sovereignty of Delhi and paying annual tributes. This was indeed a wise and statesman decision as the distance of the Southern States from Delhi was large and it was not possible for Alauddin to rule on Deccan while having his central base in Delhi and *vice versa*. So it was a beneficial and profitable solution for him.<sup>14</sup>

**Reforms of AlauddinKhalji :**

**Revenue Reforms :**

After facing multiple rebellions from his nobles, Rajputs, feudal chiefs and family members, Alauddin implemented four practices to prevent rebellions. The nobles of his reign were getting more powerful due to unlimited wealth acquired by their ancestors and by land revenues. Alauddin viewed them as a potential threat against his reign and implemented different measures to weaken the strength of the nobility. He was also unhappy with the haughtiness as well as direct or indirect resistance of Hindu village heads who used to control the agricultural production, as they had too much power over the market production. He implemented revenue reforms to weaken the power of his perceived enemies and to strengthen his own position.<sup>15</sup>

***Confiscation of Private Lands:***

The Sultans of Delhi used to grant land and large territories to their nobles as “Iqta” (administrative grants) and gave them the full rights to collect taxes from those territories directly. The taxes were directly transferred to the nobles, who use this money to raise a local army to support the Sultan and a part of money is given to Sultan.

As a part of his land reforms Alauddin bought a large fertile land. After assassinating his predecessor Jalaluddin in 1296, he had made a large number of land grants to gain support of the nobles. But after consolidating his powers in 1297, he disposed a large number of nobles who used to serve Jalaluddin from the fear of being betrayed. He had the thinking that if they can betray Jalaludin for him, they can also betray him for someone else. He confiscated their property and took the land granted to them as “Iqta” under his own authority.

***Direct Revenue Collection:***

Before the reform of Alauddin, the Delhi Sultanate used to collect revenues indirectly from the peasants. The peasants used to pay the land revenues to their immediate revenue collectors known as *Muqaddamas*, *Khuts* and *Chaudharis* who were in charge of a single village or a group of villages. These chiefs used to surrender a fixed part of revenue to the Sultan and rest used to keep it for themselves. They used to fight each other over the collection of revenues. They lived a lavish lifestyle and didn't bother to pay much to Sultan. This all was noticed by Alauddin. He on the advice of Qazi Mughisuddin started collecting taxes directly from the cultivators. The cultivators had to 50% of their revenues to Sultan. The chiefs lost their source of income and all priviliges.<sup>16</sup>

Alauddin's government used to accepted the revenue in both cash and kind. In the fertile regions near Delhi, the government preferred taking revenue in kind: the grain collected as a result was taken to the state granaries. The peasants were not allowed to take the surplus grain to their homes and were forced to sell it in the market or to the transporters at a low price.

***50% Tax on Agriculture Production:***

The land revenue for each territory represented by an intermediary was fixed irrespective of the cultivation area in that territory. The fixed amount was probably based on tradition. Alauddin imposed a 50% *Kharaj* (tax on agricultural land) in a substantial part of northern India. The peasants were required to pay 50% for their agricultural production as tax. The village chiefs were forced to pay same taxes as the others and in this way, they were banned from imposing illegal taxes on the peasants. The nobles and *Iqtadars* were forced to pay large amount of taxes as they used to own large area of lands. The implementation of 50% taxes greatly reduced the wealth owned by the Hindus who used to dominate the agricultural production. It was also successful in prevent rebellion as the village chiefs were deprived of their wealth. The conditions of those Hindus got so bad that their wives had to work at Muslim's house for wages. Due to this reform the Hindus suffered the most, but the nobles, *Iqtadars* and village chiefs were also affected negatively.<sup>17</sup>

***Other Taxes:***

Alauddin imposed a number of taxes on Muslims as well as Hindus. He implemented *Kharaj* (Tax on agricultural land) which was sanctioned by the Islamic law. He levied a tax on residence known as *Ghari* and a tax on grazing known as *Charai*. Unlike *Kharaj*, *Ghari* and *Chari* were not sanctioned by the Islamic Law but were implemented by Alauddin's wishes. He imposed *Jizya* tax on the Non-Muslim people living under Muslim law. Women, Children and the people who were



mentally and physically challenged were exempted from *Jizya*. The Muslims had to pay *Zakat* instead of *Jizya*.<sup>18</sup>

### **Military Reforms :**

Alauddin's position of power was threatened by the revolts of the dissatisfied nobles and Rajput Kings who were not happy under his rule and his authority and small rebellions were arisen every other day. On the other hand, the rapid Mongol invasions were also proving harmful for the army of Alauddin. Alauddin based his kingship on his military power. He was fully aware that he had acquired power by force, which can only be maintained by force and his force was his army. His military power was decreasing day by day and he needed to improve his military powers to maintain his position of power and to keep rein over his provisions. In order to achieve all this, he made several reforms in his army.

For the first time the army was paid in cash and that too from the royal treasury. Alauddin was the second highest paid King of the 14<sup>th</sup> century after Akbar, which was even more than the salary paid by Sher Shah which was "230 tankas", Alauddin used to pay "234 tankas" and Akbar used to pay "240 tankas". A new rank "Ariz-i-Mamlik" (Army Minister) was formed who used to directly recruit the soldiers to the army himself.<sup>19</sup>

Alauddin was the first Sultan to have a standing army at the center, after the Mongol invasion of 1303 at Delhi, he could not tolerate to be dependent on feudal chiefs for the supply of soldiers. So he formed a standing army at Delhi in case of any emergency. Only the officers who were proved loyal to boot and were capable of working under stressful situations were appointed at high ranks.

To stop the corrupt practices like giving inflated figures of soldiers and horses, Alauddin instituted the practices of "Hulia" or "Chehra" (description) of every soldier and "Dagh" (branding of horses). To check that this was properly implemented a periodical inspection was made and the arms of horses and soldiers were thoroughly checked.<sup>20</sup>

The army was given brutal training to survive and to win. The army was well-equipped with powerful and advanced weapons which were especially made the armed manufacturers and technicians of the Khalji dynasty. Old forts were remade and a tight security was assigned to these forts and supplies were regularly sent to the soldiers guarding these forts. The various grains were always stored in these forts so as to use it in the time of emergency. He used to control and regulate the prize of the essentials commodities, so the soldiers were able to make a good living with their salaries.

He had a well-maintained spy system. He had a spy in every rank of the army, who used to provide him status report of the activities of the various military officials. Hence, he was able to remain safe from many betrayals which have been his fate to face if he had not taken suitable measures against it.<sup>21</sup>

### **Conclusion :**

Alauddin without a doubt was one of the most famous and successful Kings of Medieval India. The growth and development that had been done in his reign have not been seen in his predecessors. His ideologies are very similar to that of the policies of *Kautilya*. They both believed that the King should be the one to wield most of the power of the state as he is the representative of God. They both had centralized their state power from the decentralization policies. As they believed the safest hands were of their own. Alauddin like *Kautilya* had noticed the fact that the nobles had enjoyed an unlimited power and had taken measures to control them so to bury any and

every rebellion that the nobles may be able to start against them. Alauddin had an amazing spy system, nobody was able to identify even if the person standing next to them was a spy or not.

He had ruled over his state as an autocratic leader, but he was able to achieve the goal that the others before him and after had only dreamt of achieving. He was able to win almost the whole Indian territories and add it to his own empire and was rightly *Sikandar-i-Sani*. Mongols attacked India 7 times during his reign and he was able to defeat them each and every time. If it had not been for him and his reforms then India would have been lost to the Mongols and would have been ruled by *Changez Khan*.

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