

Invasions of Muhammad Ghori

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Introduction

- **Venue:** Various Parts of India
- **Year:** 1175-1206 AD

Muhammad Ghori's Invasions on India

- **Conquest of Multan and Sindh, 1175-1178:** The first invasion of Muhammad Ghori was in 1175 AD when he attacked Multan, defeated the ruling Ismailian Heretics and was successful in capturing Multan. From Multan, he captured Uch in Upper Sindh in 1178 AD and established a fort there. He also conquered Lower Sindh later.
- **Anhihvara, Capital of Gujarat, 1178:** During the same year, he also invaded Gujarat but suffered defeat from Gujarat ruler Bhimdev at the battle of Kayadara. This was his first invasion against a Hindu ruler in India and he had to go back to his kingdom

- **Conquest of Punjab and Lahore, 1179-1186:** Muhammad Ghorī realised that the main place to conquer India was not Sindh and Multan but Punjab. In 1179 AD, he captured Peshawar. In 1181 AD, he attacked Khusrāu Malik, who did not fight against him and gave him gifts as compensation and also his son as a hostage. In 1185 AD, Ghorī invaded Punjab once again and this time he looted the countryside and occupied the fort of Sialkot. Khusrāu Malik took the help of Khokhars to take over Sialkot but was not successful. In 1186 AD Muhammad Ghorī attacked Punjab once again and this time he besieged Lahore.
- **The First Battle of Tarain, 1191:** In 1191, to conquer the whole of India, Ghorī marched towards Delhi and he captured Sirhind. It was the Rajput King of Delhi and Ajmer, Prithavi Raj Chauhan, who put up a brave fight with his soldiers against Ghorī in Tarain, a place near Karnal in the present Haryana state of India. In this first battle of Tarain, Ghorī was badly injured and defeated and he had to retrace back his steps.

- **The Second Battle of Tarain, 1192:** In 1192 AD, Muhammad Ghori invaded India again, this time he came with an army of 1,20,000 soldiers, which also included the help of Turks, Afghans, Persians etc. In the second battlefield of Tarain, Prithavi Raj Chauhan could not restrain the strong army of Ghori. Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithavi Raj, he was captured and killed. Thus, Ghori was successful in capturing Delhi and Ajmer.

- **The Battle against Jai Chand Rathor in Kanauj, 1194 AD:** Jai Chand Rathor, the king of Kanauj was not in good terms with Prithavi Chauhan and was happy when he was captured and killed. But, in 1194 AD, when Muhammad Ghori invaded India again, this time he attacked Kannauj and defeated Jai Chand Rathor, in the battlefield of Chandawar. After this invasion, Qutab-ud-Din Aibak became the viceroy of Muhammad Ghori. After this, while Ghori returned back to the west to carry out his conquests in the western frontiers, Qutab-ud-din Aibak continued his conquests in India.

- **Conquests of Gujarat, Bundelkhand, Bengal and Bihar, 1195-1202 AD:** Qutab-ud-Din Aibak attacked Bhindev, king of Gujarat. He was defeated first but in the next battle he defeated Bhimdev and conquered Gujarat. His next target was Bundelkhand, ruled by the Chandel Rajputs. He defeated them also and conquered Bundelkhand. During this time, Muhammad Khilji, a slave of Muhammad Ghori attacked Bihar in 1197 and Bengal in 1202. Both Bengal and Bihar came under the control of Ghori, and Khilji became the viceroy of Bengal and Bihar.

- **Revolt of Khokhars, 1205 AD:** In 1205, Ghori again came to India, and this time the Khokhars stood against him. But he defeated them.

Death

- In 1206, when Ghorî was going to Ghazni, he was killed by someone in Dhamyak district of Jhelum (now in Pakistan). Some say that this act was the result of the revenge for the massacres that took place in India due to Ghorî's invasions of India.