

TURKISH RULE IN INDIA : GHIYASUDDIN BALBAN (PART-3)

(भारत में तुर्की शासन)

(UG , SEM-4, PAPER MJC-7)

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GHIYASUDDIN BALBAN

- **Estimate of Balban**

Balban was one of the greatest Sultans of Delhi Sultanate. He was a great warrior, administrator and statesman. He established an absolute monarchy and consolidated the Turkish rule in Northern India. He did not launch unnecessary wars of expansion but kept a firm hold over the territorial heritage of his illustrious master Iltutmish. Together, they laid the foundations of Turkish rule in Delhi. Balban protected the Delhi Sultanate from internal disorders and external danger from the Mongols; he re-established perfect law and order in his territories

GHIYASUDDIN BALBAN

and suppressed the insubordinate officials and anti-social elements by following the policy of **Blood and Iron**. He not only advocated the theory of divine rights of kingship but also possessed a high sense of the sovereign's duty. He was an extremely conscientious and hardworking man. He administered evenhanded justice to the public and showed no mercy even to his relatives if found guilty. His punishments were rather excessive and cruel which struck terror in the hearts of the people. Balban was a strict disciplinarian who demanded abject submission and loyalty from the nobility and never tolerated any negligence in the administrative affairs on the part of the government employees.

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He was a great patron of learning; an assembly of scholars, saints and poets, including Amir Khusrau adorned his court. He presented an ideal moral character and encouraged his children and nobles to do likewise. He was a devout Muslim and spent his leisure in the company of the saints and scholars. He was very respectful towards the *ulema* though he did not permit them to interfere in state affairs. Balban won the goodwill of the Central Asian fugitives by granting them asylum and huge privy purses and made himself famous in the distant lands.

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