

# Statecraft, Military Innovation, and Political Centralisation during the Reign of Alauddin Khalji: Assessing the Legacy of the Delhi Sultanate

**Banshi Ghuku and Dr Raj kumar**

Scholar, OPJS University, Churu, Rajasthan

Associate professor, OPJS University, Churu, Rajasthan

**Abstract:** *The reign of AlauddinKhalji (1296–1316 CE) represents one of the most significant phases in the political and military history of the Delhi Sultanate. His administration witnessed unprecedented reforms in governance, military organisation, fiscal administration, and market regulation that transformed the Sultanate into a centralised imperial state. Faced with internal rebellions, Mongol invasions, and the challenge of territorial expansion, Alauddin introduced innovative administrative and military measures that strengthened royal authority and reduced the influence of hereditary nobles. His policies included systematic revenue reforms, establishment of a permanent standing army, branding of horses (dagh), descriptive rolls of soldiers (chehra), strict intelligence networks, market control regulations, and extensive land revenue administration. These reforms not only enhanced the military efficiency of the Sultanate but also laid the foundations of centralised governance in medieval India. Although some of his policies were authoritarian and economically burdensome, they significantly contributed to political stability and imperial expansion. This paper critically examines AlauddinKhalji's statecraft, military innovations, and administrative centralisation while assessing their long-term influence on subsequent rulers of the Delhi Sultanate and later Mughal administrative practices. Using historical and analytical methodologies, the study argues that AlauddinKhalji was one of the earliest rulers in medieval India to institutionalise a highly centralised bureaucratic state supported by military professionalism and economic regulation.*

**Keywords:** AlauddinKhalji, Delhi Sultanate, Statecraft, Military Innovation, Political Centralization, Market Reforms, Revenue Administration, Mongol Invasions, Medieval India.