



and Katehar also shows his blood and iron policy to increase the power and prestige of the Sultan.

Justice as a pillar of governance: Balban tempered his despotism by laying great emphasis on justice. His sense of equality among all the citizens and nobles in case of justice won him support of his subjects as described by Barani. He appointed spies (barids) in all the cities, districts and iqtas to keep himself informed of the doings of the officials, and to ensure that no act of oppression or high – handedness was perpetrated by them on anyone, including their slaves and domestic servants.

Conclusion: The concept of **Zawabit** and **Jahandari** as laid by Illtutmish was further strengthened by Balban's policies. And the three pillars of Balban's sovereignty- Power, Prestige and Justice were the result of the prevailing political circumstances and the need of a strong iron-willed ruler to consolidate the Sultanate against these political and military challenges.

GIST OF THE ANSWER

- **Source:** Jiauddin Barani's account
- **Concept/Principle in Body:** Highlight the symbol of power and prestige like Divine authority of Sultan, Paibos, Sijda etc and the purpose of these policies. Show the sense of Justice of Balban and the use of spies as an instrument to check the abuses of nobles.
- **Conclusion:** The three pillars of Power, prestige and justice were driven by the motive of consolidation of the Sultanate.
- **Must use Key-words:** Divine right of King, Sijda, Paibos, Blood and Iron policy, Zawabit, Jahandari.

(c) The rise of Rajputs to political prominence appears to be accidental. Critically comment. (10 marks)

Ans: Introduction: The rise of Rajput kingdoms like Gurjara Pratihara, Chahamanas etc (in early medieval period) has been a debated issue among historians. Few like D.R.Bhandarkar believe in the Agnikula origin of Rajputs as described in Chand Bardai's **Prithviraj Raso**. But others like B. D.Chattopadhyay sees their gradual rise in the background of prevailing socio-economic and political conditions.

Body: B.D.Chattopadhyay, on the basis of the study of the inscriptions and literary sources, has traced the following developments which were directly linked to the process of the emergence of Rajputs:

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