

Twitter Thread by Vibhu Vashisth ■■

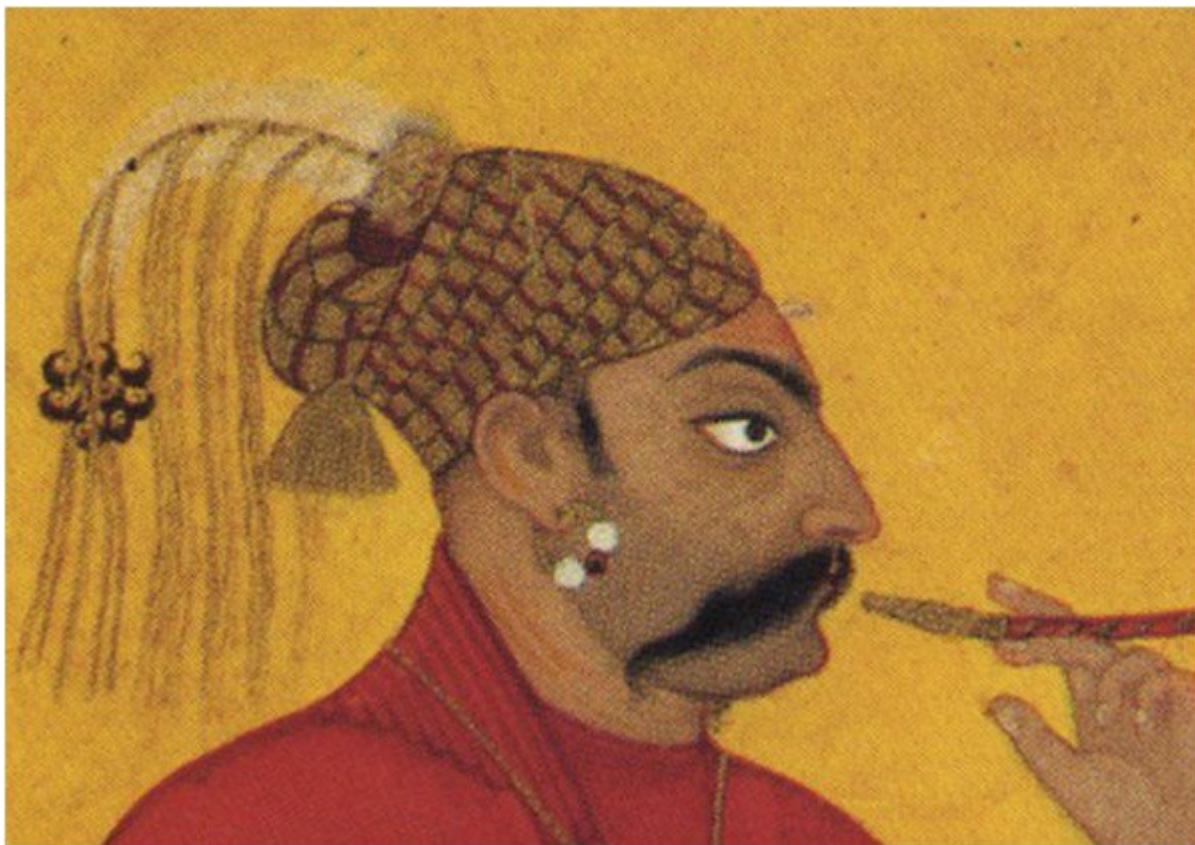


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For a very long time we had heard that Mahmud Ghazni attacked India from 1001 AD- 1027 AD but DO YOU KNOW ?

It was Maharaja Jayapala of Hindu Shahi Dynasty who decided to invade Ghazni twice.



During the period of 870 CE the Hindu Shahi lost Kabul and were forced to retreat. This temporary loss of the great Hindu Shahi kingdom was the beginning of another chapter in the medieval history of the Indian Sub-continent.

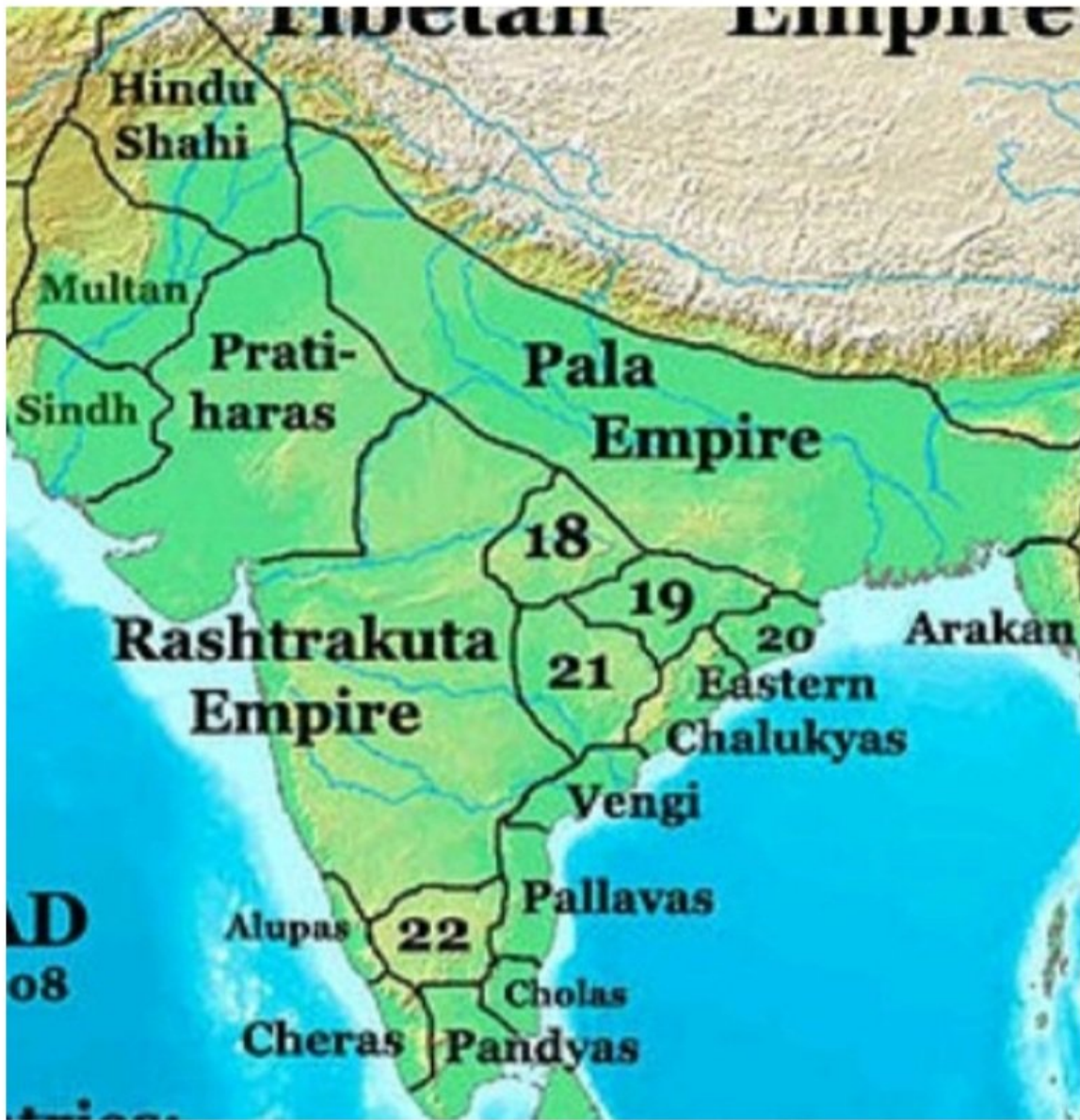
The introduction of the Turk warlords completely changed the mentality and the conduct of war. The establishment of this new Muslim Turk authority in Ghazni completely changed the policy of the Muslims.



Under the Turks, the raids on the Hindu Shahi's and later on northern India became even more aggressive and lethal. The first Hindu king who faced this wave of the Turks was Jayapala, who fought till his last breath in order to protect his kingdom of people.

The Hindu Shahi after 870 CE transferred their capital to Udabhandapura as they had suffered heavy losses from the war against the Arabs and also from the defeat they suffered from a Turkish leader Yaqub ibn Layth.

Hindu Shahi kingdom under Maharaj Jayapal was stretched from Sirhind to Lumghan & Kashmir to Multan. A historian named Minhaj-i-Siraj calls Jayapal the greatest kings of Hindustan. He also adds that he is in a very powerful state whose army was more numerous than the stars of heaven



The Hindu Shahi Kingdom

Initially there was a temporary alliance between King Jayapala and Alpatgin's general Subuktigin. But when the latter became the ruler of Ghazni, he broke the alliance and decided to invade the territories of Jayapala through frequent raids.

But king Jayapala was aware of this rising threat and before Subuktigin could raid his territory, the former assembled an army of almost all of his fellow allies and prepared to invade the strong hold of Subuktigin Ghazni.

This plan of raiding the territory of the powerful Turks, who were not only superior in arms, cavalry logistics but, were ruthless warriors too was the bravest decision ever taken by a Hindu king.

The invasion or raid on Ghazni took place somewhere in 986-87 CE.

The battle lasted for several days and the Hindu army of Jayapala were able to secure the upper hand in the battle. According to al-Utbi the Turkish army of Subuktigin, including the young prince Mahmud (Mahmud Ghazni) were reduced to despair.



But a snowstorm & inhospitable weather completely changed the course & the outcome of the battle. Due to the storm the army of Jayapala which was fighting far from their homeland decided to settle for peace. Temporary peace was established between the Hindu Shahi & the Ghaznavids.

But after witnessing this invasion Subuktigin was well aware of the threat. To suppress his enemy , he started raiding the territories of Lamghan of Shahi kingdom.

In return, Jayapala decided to organize a united hindu front against Subuktigin.



The neighboring kings of Chahvans, Chandelas, and Tomars organized their armies to help Jayapala. This was the last hope of the Indians to crush the Turks once and for all. The two armies then met on the fields of Lamghan.



One of the largest ever gatherings of Hindus was on the battle plains of Lumghan, Afghanistan

Shahi army had a united front but against the superior Turkish Cavalry, it was helpless. With the military capability of Subuktigin and their fierce cavalry, the battle resulted in the defeat of the Shahis after a fierce battle and the territory of Lamghan was annexed by the Turks.



The Rajputs fought on for many days in the Afghan lands in a do-or-die struggle for Dharma

After this battle the conflict between Shahis & Ghznavids continued for almost two decades. Mahmud rose to throne of Ghazni in 989CE & in 1001CE he invaded Peshawar.

Although alone & helpless but full of indomitable courage king Jayapala decided to stop the advance of Mahmud Ghazni

Although prior to this battle Jayapala didn't get enough time to mobilize his army in front of Mahmud, whose army was more than him. Jayapala's army consisted of 12,000 cavalry, 30,000 infantry and about 200-300 war elephants.



The battle resulted in the defeat of the Shahi king and he along with his family members was taken captive. But after some time Jayapala was released by Mahmud in exchange of 50 war elephants.

But Jayapala, after his captivity at the hands of the idol breaker, who didn't have any respect for Hindus and was only focusing on plundering cities & temples considered himself unworthy of the throne and declared that he had failed in protecting his kingdom from the Mlecchas.



He ordered a funeral pile and set fire to it and attained martyrdom.

However, the struggle against the Ghaznavids was continued by his successor Anandpala and Trilochanapala for almost two more decades.

Such is the glory of our great, fierce and valiant Hindu Kings and Queens, for whom surrender was never an option and who preferred to die rather than surrendering.