

hearing that Muẓaffar Shāh I of Guḍjarāt was advancing towards Dījawnpūr, withdrew to save his capital. Maḥmūd took advantage of Ibrāhīm Sharḳī's retreat to occupy Baran (Bulandshahr) and Sambhal.

It was, however, **Khīḍr Khān** who proved to be Maḥmūd's most dangerous enemy. He had consolidated himself in the *wilāyat* of Multān and the *shikk* of Dīpālṭūr and, on the plea that Tīmūr had appointed him his viceroy, he directed his attention towards Dihlī. In Sha'ḅān 809/January 1407, he occupied Ḥiṣār-Firūza, Samāna and Sirhind; and although the next year Maḥmūd reoccupied Ḥiṣār, it was a temporary success, for in Ramaḍān 811/January 1409, **Khīḍr Khān** sent Malik Tuḥfa, one of his lieutenants, to plunder the Dō'āb, while he himself set out towards Dihlī and besieged Maḥmūd in Sirī and **Ikhtiyār Khān** in Firūzābād. Lack of provisions due to famine compelled **Khīḍr** to withdraw. But in 813/1410-11 he conquered Rohtak, and the next year he again invested Dihlī. **Ikhtiyār**, who held Firūzābād, submitted, but Maḥmūd held out in Sirī, and **Khīḍr** was once again compelled to withdraw on account of the lack of provisions. Maḥmūd died in Raḍjab 815/November 1412, and Dawlat **Khān** Lodī became the ruler of Dihlī. In Ramaḍān 816/November-December 1413, **Khīḍr** for the third time advanced on Dihlī and besieged Sirī. After holding out for four months, Dawlat **Khān** surrendered. He was imprisoned in Ḥiṣār-Firūza, and **Khīḍr** obtained possession of Dihlī on 17 Rabī I 817/6 June 1414, thus laying the foundations of the short-lived Sayyid dynasty.

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MAḤMŪD, the name of three mediaeval rulers of Guḍjarāt, [q.v.] in India.

1. **MAḤMŪD I**, SAYF AL-DĪN, BEGAḤHĀ or BEGRĀ, a younger brother of Sulṭān Kuṭb al-Dīn and son of Muḥammad Shāh, ascended the throne on 1 Sha'ḅān 863/3 June 1459, at the age of thirteen, with the title of Abu 'l-Faḥ Muḥammad Shāh, after the nobles had dethroned his uncle Dāwūd. He is known as Maḥmūd Begafhā because of the two forts (*garhs*) of Girnār and Čāmpāner which he conquered.

Four months after his accession, Maḥmūd was faced with a conspiracy of some leading nobles aimed at overthrowing his able minister, Malik Sha'ḅān. They told him that the minister was plotting to depose him and thereby secured his imprisonment. But on discovering that the charges were false, Maḥmūd secured his release. Realising that the Sulṭān had come to know of their designs, the conspirators decided to attack him; however, as their followers deserted to the Sulṭān, they fled. Maḥmūd had thus crushed the plot by his courage and presence of mind. Malik Sha'ḅān, though restored to his office, soon retired and Maḥmūd took the reins of government in his own hands.

In 866/1462, Maḥmūd marched to the help of Nizām Shāh Bahmanī, whose kingdom had been invaded by Maḥmūd **Khaldjī** I [q.v.] of Mālwa. But learning that Nizām Shāh had been defeated, he entered **Khāndesh** [q.v.] and thereby cut off the retreat of Maḥmūd **Khaldjī** who had to make his way back through Gondwāna after much hardship. Next year again Maḥmūd **Khaldjī** invaded the Dakhan, but withdrew on hearing that Maḥmūd Begafhā was coming to Nizām Shāh's assistance. Henceforth, the **Khaldjī** ruler never again committed aggression against Nizām Shāh.

In 867/1463, Maḥmūd invaded Dūn, situated between Guḍjarāt and Konkan, because of its Rāḍjā's acts of piracy. The Rāḍjā was defeated and his fortress occupied; but it was restored to him on condition of an annual tribute.

In 871/1466, Maḥmūd attacked Girnār (Djūnāgafh), and compelled its chief, Rao Mandalik Cudāsama, to pay tribute. But although Maḥmūd received the tribute regularly, he decided to annex Girnār and led an invasion. The Rao retreated to his citadel of Uparkot, situated north-west of the town, but as supplies ran short, surrendered on 10 Djumādā II 875/4 December 1470. Maḥmūd had to undertake three campaigns in four years to subdue the Rao. Girnār was annexed and its chief, having entered the service of the Sulṭān, embraced Islam and was given the title of **Khān-i Djahān**. At the foot of the Girnār hills the Sulṭān founded the city of Muṣṭafābād, which became one of his capitals.

Maḥmūd next marched against the frontier tribes of the Sumrās, Sodhās and Kahlās who lived on the Kačēh border and who, although claiming to be Muslims, were in fact ignorant of the *Shari'a*. They surrendered without offering any resistance and agreed to send their leaders to Aḥmadābād to be taught the tenets of Islām.

In 877/1473, the **Djāt** and **Balūč** tribes rebelled against Maḥmūd's maternal grandfather, Djām Nizām al-Dīn. Maḥmūd crossed the Rann of Kačēh in order to suppress the rising, but the rebels dispersed without offering any resistance. It was suggested to Maḥmūd that he should annex Sind but he refused, saying that his mother belonged to its ruling family.

On his return from Sind, Maḥmūd heard that Mawlānā Maḥmūd Samarḳandī, a poet and philosopher, who had long been in the service of the Bahmanī rulers, while sailing in a ship bound for Hormuz, had been driven to Dwārkā, situated in the north-western corner of Kathiāwār, where pirates had robbed him of all his belongings, including his womenfolk. After many hardships, the Mawlānā arrived in Muṣṭafābād. Angry at his plight, the Sulṭān marched towards Dwārkā. Its Raḍjput chief, Bhīm, took refuge in the island-fortress of Bet or Sankhodhar. Maḥmūd marched through dense forests, full of wild animals, and invested it. Bhīm was defeated in a sea fight and taken prisoner. The Mawlānā's goods were now restored to him.

Tired of the Sulṭān's constant wars and his plans of invading Čāmpāner, which would be a prolonged affair, the Guḍjarāt nobles plotted to overthrow him and set up his son on the throne. But Ray Rayān, an important Hindū noble, revealed the plot to the *wazir* Bahā' al-Dīn, who, in turn, reported it to Maḥmūd. To test the reaction of the conspirators, the Sulṭān announced that he had decided to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Realising that Maḥmūd had been informed of the conspiracy, and that they would not succeed in their aims, they requested him to undertake the campaign for the conquest of Čāmpāner, and then proceed to Mecca.