

TUGHLAQ DYNASTY

The **Tughlaq dynasty** also referred to as Tughluq or Tughluk dynasty, was a Muslim dynasty of Turkic origin which ruled over the Delhi sultanate in medieval India. Its reign started in 1320 in Delhi when Ghazi Malik assumed the throne under the title of Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq. The dynasty ended in 1413.

The dynasty expanded its territorial reach through a military campaign led by Muhammad bin Tughluq, and reached its zenith between 1330 and 1335. It ruled most of the Indian subcontinent.

ORIGIN

The etymology of the word "Tughluq" is not certain. The 16th-century writer Firishta claims that it is a corruption of the Turkic term "Qutluq", but this is doubtful. Literary, numismatic and epigraphic evidence makes it clear that Tughluq was the personal name of the dynasty's founder Ghiyath al-Din, and not an ancestral designation. Historians use the designation "Tughluq" to describe the entire dynasty as a matter of convenience, but the dynasty's kings did not use "Tughluq" as a surname: only Ghiyath al-Din's son Muhammad bin Tughluq called himself the son of Tughluq Shah ("bin Tughluq").

Tughluq's court poet Badr-i Chach attempted to find a royal Sassanian genealogy for the dynasty, but this can be dismissed as flattery. The Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta states that Tughluq belonged to the "Qarauna tribe of the Turks", who lived in the hilly region between Turkestan and Sindh, based on the claim of a Sufi saint Rukn-e-Alam. However, this is not corroborated by other contemporary sources. Another Tughluq's court poet Amir Khusrau in his *Tughluq Nama* makes no mention of Tughluq's arrival in India from a foreign-land, which seems to imply he was born in India. His own court poet states that Tughluq described himself frankly as a man of no importance ("*awara mard*") in his early life and career.

Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq or Ghazi Malik (1320 – 1325 A.D.)

- Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq or Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq or Ghazi Malik was the founder of the Tughluq dynasty.
- He rose from a humble origin.

Domestic and Foreign Policies

- Ghiyas-ud-din re-instated order in his empire.
- He gave more importance to postal arrangements, judicial, irrigation, agriculture, and police.
- In 1320 A.D. he ascended the throne

- He brought Bengal, Utkala or Orissa, and Warangal under his control
- The Mongol leaders who invaded North India were seized and confined by him.

End of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq rule

- In 1325 A.D. Ghiyas-ud-din was crushed to death while attending an event for his victories in Bengal.
- Junakhan, the crown prince succeeded him.

Muhammad Bin Tughlaq (AD 1325-51)

- Jauna Khan succeeded his father in AD 1325 under the title of Muhammad- bin-Tughlaq.
- He was the most learned scholars of his time. He knew both Arabic and Persian and had comprehensive knowledge of philosophy, astronomy, logic, mathematics and physical science.
- The Sultan maintained good relation with foreigners and received an envoy from the Chinese ruler.
- Toghan Timur (AD 1341), who came to seek permission to rebuild Buddhist Monasteries, in the Himalayan region which were destroyed during the crucial expedition was during his reign.
- The sultan gave the permission and sent Ibn Batutah to the court of the Chinese emperor in 1347.
- Ibn Batutah was a traveller from Morocco. He came to India in 1333 and was appointed as the chief Qazi of Delhi by Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.
- He has left an invaluable account of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq's reign.

Reforms and Experiments

Sultan lacked political judgement and common sense and, rather obsesses with his theoretical knowledge, indulged in lofty theories and visionary projects, which failed.

Economic Reform-Token Currency

- One of the most unique reforms of the sultan is said to be inspired by the introduction of paper token currency in China and Iran.
- In his first reform, he replaced the old gold and silver coins weighing 175 grains by new coins

- **Dinar gold coins - 200 grains**
- **Adali silver coins - 140 grains**
- Then he ordered the Tanka to be minted in bronze instead of silver and fixed the value of the new bronze coins at par with the silver tanka.

Agrarian Reforms

- He raised the land revenue in the Doab and imposed many other taxes.
- Instead of actual produce- standard yield was taken into account based on the officially assumed prices.
- Unfortunately, the rain failed and there was a terrible famine in the country. The taxes were collected rigorously. The peasants revolted in the doab. Later, several measures were taken by the Sultan.
- He created an agricultural department, "Diwan-i-Kohi" under the charge of "Diwan-i-Amir-i-Koht" to bring barren (ban jar) land under cultivation.
- Sondhar (agricultural) loans were advanced to dig wells and to buy seed and implements.
- Shiqdars were appointed and given large sums of money to implement the scheme, but they were incompetent and the scheme failed. However, the scheme became a part of the agricultural policy of the Mughals.
- The failure of the schemes of the Sultan caused a crisis in the empire. The political stability and economic prosperity of the empire began to disintegrate. Revolts broke out throughout the country.
- The earlier two revolts by Baha-ud-din Gurshap (Deccan) and Bahram Aiba Kishlu Khan (Sind and Multan) were suppressed. But, later, many states declared their independence.
- Jalal-ud-din Ahsan Shah set up independent Muslim kingdom of Madura.
- Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah - Bengal
- Ain-ul-mulk - Oudh and Zaf- arab ad
- Prolaya Nayaka and Kapaya Nayaka organised a Hindu national movement with Hoysala king, Balal III against Muslim rule and established the kingdom of Vijayanagar in Telinga (AD 1336).
- Abul Muzaffar Alauddin Bahman Shah established a Bahmani kingdom in Devagiri (AD 1347).
- In AD 1351, sultan was attacked with fever while chasing the rebels in Sind and died near Tattah.
- The chiefs elected his cousin, Firuz Tughlaq, to be the next sultan.

About Ibn Battuta

- In 1325, when Ibn Battuta was 20 years old, he started travelling, as he wanted to go on a Pilgrimage to Mecca, which is called as Hajj as all Muslims wanted to go there so he was also interested to go there. But, in actual his travelling time went to about 29 years and during which he almost covered 75,000 miles distance, and this was actually equivalent to that of 44 modern countries.
- During his travelling, he had much adventurous life, and also he met with many dangers on his way, like once he was attacked by bandits, and once he was almost drowned in a sinking ship.

He had a few marriages, lovers during his travelling and he also became the father of several children, all this happened during his travelling.

- Today we can easily read the travelling stories of Ibn Battuta in “Rihla- My Travels”, which was written on the insist of the Sultan of Morocco, during the end time of Ibn Battuta's life.
- Dal al-Islam is the area inside the black border was made by Ibn Battuta, as he mainly travelled to those countries which had a Muslim rule.
- He also had made or established many small Muslim communities, during his travel in various regions of the world.

Ibn Battuta’s Memoir

Arrival in India: In 1334, Ibn Battuta arrived in India all the way through the mountains of Afghanistan, during the time when Tughlaq dynasty was at its height.

On his approach towards Sultan Muhammad Tughlaq, he learnt that the great Sultan liked to take gifts from his visitors, and in return the Sultan, used to give gifts, which are of far superior worth to visitors.

Ibn Battuta, on meeting with Muhammad bin Tughluq, presented him with arrows, camels, thirty horses, slaves and some other goods. In return Muhammad bin Tughlaq responded him with a welcoming gift of 2,000 silver dinars, a furnished house and the job of a judge with an annual salary of 5,000 silver dinars.

Memories about Tughlaq dynasty: In the memories of Tughlaq dynasty, Ibn Battuta studied and wrote about the history of the famous **Qutb complex**, and also about **Quwat al-Islam Mosque** and last but not the least about the famous Qutb Minar.

Famine: Ibn Battuta also noted about the long famine which lasted for about seven year from 1335 AD, which killed many people near Delhi, and during this time the Sultan was busy in attacking the rebellions.

Torture during Tughlaq dynasty:

- The sultan was tough both against non-Muslims and Muslims. For this consider an example, a week was not passed without the spilling of Muslim blood and the running of streams of gore ahead of the entrance of his palace, which included the cutting of people in half, skinning them alive, chopping off their heads and displaying them on poles or making prisoners tossed about by elephants with swords attached to their tusks - which is a warning sign to other people.
- Even the Sultan was ready to shed blood of people at any time. He used to punish people of his empire on small faults. Without the respect of persons, whether the fault is of anyone, they were brought to his hall, and punished.
- In Tughlaq dynasty, the punishments were even given to those people who were of Muslim religion, and were suspected as a rebellion. Consider an example, of Sheikh Shinab al-Din, this briefly explains the way he was imprisoned and tortured: On fourteenth day of prosecution, the

Sultan sent him food, but Sheikh Shinab al-Din, refused to eat it. After that, when the Sultan heard this that sheikh Shinab al-din has refused to eat, then he was ill treated by Sultan.

- Ibn Battuta also wrote that when he was in Delhi, the Sultan's officials demanded bribes from him, and also deducted 10% of sums from the gifts which was given to him by the Sultan.
- Ibn Battuta developed a friendship with a Sufi Muslim holy man, during his end term of stay in Tughlaq dynasty, but after hearing this the Sultan ordered to arrest both. After sometime Sultan allowed Ibn Battuta to take his depart from India, but the Sufi Muslim was killed. The way he was killed is described as follows: The Sultan used to pluck the beard of the holy man's hair by hair, and then made him to get banished from Delhi. After a while the Sultan ordered Holy man to return to court, but he refused. Then, the man was arrested, tortured in the most horrible way, and then beheaded.

This was all written in the Ibn Battuta, *Travel Memoirs, of the year from 1334 to 1341, and the place was Delhi.*

Firoz Tughlaq (1351-1388 A.D.)

- In 1351 A.D. Firoz Tughlaq was the son of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq's younger brother. He succeeded the throne.

Administrative Reforms

- He withdrew all Taquavi (agricultural) loans granted by Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.
- He raised the salary of the revenue officers.
- He brought to an end to all unlawful and unjust taxes.
- He collected four important taxes which are:
 - Kharaj- 1/10 of the produce of the land
 - Khams- 1/5 of the war booty
 - Jizya-Poll Tax
 - Zakat-Tax on Muslims for specific religious purposes

He constructed 150 wells, 100 bridges, and 50 dams, and also dug many irrigation canals.

He constructed towns like Firozabad, Hissar, Jaunpur, and Fatehabad.

Firoz banned all kinds of damages and torture.

He levied Jizya on the Brahmins.

He established hospitals (Dar-ul-shafa), Marriage Bureau, (Diwani-i-kherat), and an Employment Bureau.

He also established Diwan-i-Ishtiaq to give financial aid to the poor.

Foreign Policy

- Firoz Tughlaq surrounded Bengal in 1353 A.D. and 1359 A.D.
- He seized Jainagar.
- He devastated the Jagannath Temple at Puri.

Importance of Firoz Tughlaq in Medieval Indian History

Firoz proved his prominence by -

- His generous measures and contributions to the affluence of the people.
- Futuhat-i-Firoz Shahi is an autobiography of Firoz Tughlaq.
- He patronized scholar Zia-ud-din Barani.
- During his reign, several Sanskrit books on medicine, science, and arts were translated into Persian.
- Kutab- Feroz Shahi – a book which dealt with Physics

Later Tughlaqs – successors of Firoz

- Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq Shah II
- Abu Bakr Shah,
- Nasir-ud-din Mohammed Tughlaq

End of Tughlug Dynasty

- The successors of Firoz were not very strong or competent.
- By the end of the 14th century, most of the territories became independent.
- Only Punjab and Delhi remained under the Tughlaqs.
- Timur's invasion took place during the Tughlug period.

Timur's Invasion (1398 A.D.)

- The fabulous wealth of India attracted Timur the ruler of Samarqand.
- During the period of Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Tughlaq, he invaded India.
- In 1398 A.D. Timur captured Delhi and caused the annihilation of the Tughlaq dynasty by pillaging and slaughtering people.