

# The Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1414) Part-1

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# INTRODUCTION

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Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq was the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty in 1320. They belonged to the Qurauna Turk tribe. They provided three competent rulers: Ghiyasuddin, his son Muhammad Bin Tughlaq and his nephew Firoz Shah Tuglaq. The first two sultans ruled over an empire which comprised almost the entire country. The empire of Firoz was smaller but even then it was as large as that ruled over by Alauddin Khalji. After the death of Firoz, the Delhi Sultanate disintegrated and north India was divided into a series of small states.

Main sources for the study of Tughlaq period- *Tarikh-e-Firozshahi* of Zia-ud-din Barani and *Rehla* of Ibn-e-Batuta.

# GHIYASUDDIN TUGHLAQ (1320 – 1325)

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Ghiyasuddin was also known as '*Ghazi Malik*' and simply '*Tughlaq Shah*'. He played an important role during the time of Alauddin Khalji in driving out Mongols. Later he served as the governor of Dipalpur (Punjab). Finally, he overthrew Khusrau Khan, the last king of Khalji dynasty and occupied the throne of Delhi Sultanate. The service rendered by Ghiyasuddin can be divided into three categories- (i) Administrative reforms(ii) Conquests (iii) Patron of arts and letters.



# ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS OF GHIYASUDDIN

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Ghiyasuddin was an experienced warrior-statesman and an able administrator. The administration of Ghiyasuddin was based *on principles of justice, benevolence and public welfare*. He *liberalized administration* in certain respects. He restored the lands of those who had been deprived of them by Alauddin Khalji. He suppressed the followers of Khusrau by confiscating their lands. The practice of physical torture in case of economic offence and recovery of debts was given up. He also *discarded Alauddin's system of measurement of land for the assessment of land revenue*. The rate of land revenue was also reduced to one-third of the produce.

# CONQUESTS

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The most important event during his reign was the *conquest of Warangal*. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq sent his son *Juna Khan alias Ulugh Khan* in 1321 to subdue Prataparudra II of Warangal and to reassert Delhi's authority. But the campaign failed in its mission and the heir apparent returned to Devagiri. Once again Juna Khan had another expedition against Warangal in 1323. He successfully captured Warangal and took Prataparudra as prisoner. Prataparudra committed suicide on the way to Delhi and the Kakatiya territories annexed to the Thuglaq empire. The city of Warangal named as Sultanpur.

*Bengal*, which was torn by civil war between the various contenders for the throne, attracted the attention of the Sultan, who marched against it and brought it under Delhi's control. Nasiruddin was put on the throne of west Bengal as a vassal of Delhi and east Bengal was annexed to Delhi.

# CONQUEST

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In 1324 the Mongols invaded northern India but they were defeated, their leaders were captured and brought to Delhi.

Juna Khan also led an *expedition on Jajnagar* and acquired a vast booty. When the Sultan returned to Delhi, his son Ulugh Khan hastily built a temporary wooden pavilion, however, was not strong enough and collapsed. Both the Sultan and his younger son were crushed to death. The story is described in detail by *Ismail and Ibn Battuta*. Both accuse Ulugh Khan of parricide but some later writers consider Ulugh Khan to have been innocent.



# PATRON OF ARTS AND LETTERS

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He was patron of learning and there were many scholars and poets in his court. He patronized *Amir Khusrau*. He was fond of buildings and constructed a new city *Tughlakabad*, near Delhi with fort to protect Delhi Sultanate from Mongol attacks.

It was a new touch to the architecture of the Sultanate period.

(To be Continued)