




Class 7 - ICSE

History



Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate: The Khilji and the Tughlaq Dynasties

Notes

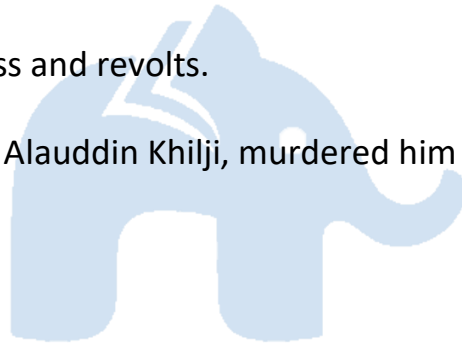
Year- 2023-24

End of the Mamluk Dynasty

- The Mamluk dynasty ruled the Delhi Sultanate from 1206 to 1290 CE.
- Delhi Sultanate passed into the hands of the Khilji dynasty.

The Khilji Dynasty

- Jalaluddin Khilji ended the Mamluk dynasty and founded the Khilji dynasty in 1290.
- Jalaluddin Khilji was a mild and pious ruler.
- He forgave the rebellious nobles and treated them well.
- This led to lawlessness and revolts.
- Jalaluddin's nephew, Alauddin Khilji, murdered him and ascended the throne.



Alauddin Khilji

- Ascended the throne of Delhi in 1296 CE, was a brilliant general and a shrewd administrator.
- Dreamt of conquering the whole world
- **Alauddin Khilji (1296- 1316 CE)** was the first Turkish sultan to build an empire in India.
- Expanded the Delhi Sultanate's boundaries beyond the Vindhya up to the Deccan.
- Reached new heights of power and glory during his reign.



Fig. Alauddin Khilji

Conquests:

Gujarat:

Alauddin sent an expedition to Gujarat, which was conquered and annexed. Malik Kafur, a slave bought for 1,000 dinars, rose to become a general in Alauddin's army.

Rajasthan:

- Alauddin captured the fort of Ranthambore and then attacked Chittor, the capital of Mewar.
- The Rajputs fought bravely but lost the battle, and the women performed jauhar, burning themselves to death.
- Alauddin's forces also captured the important cities of Mandu, Ujjain, Dhar, and Chanderi in Malwa.

North India:

By 1305 CE, Alauddin became the master of the whole of north India. The conquest of Malwa opened the door to the south.

The Deccan:

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Alauddin was the first Turkish ruler to send an expedition to the Deccan.

The rugged terrain and distance from Delhi had discouraged rulers of north India from venturing beyond the Vindhya earlier.

- The Deccan expeditions were led by Malik Kafur, who defeated the rulers of Devagiri, Warangal, and Dwarasamudra.
- Madurai in the far south was attacked and plundered.
- Alauddin extended his influence south of the Vindhya through this successful campaign, acquiring enormous wealth and enhancing his power and prestige.



Fig. Deccan Ruler

Deccan policy:

- After winning the Deccan, Alauddin did not capture it because of the distance from Delhi.
- His main aim was to get money from the south for his large army administration etc.

Class 7 History (ICSE) | Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate: The Khilji and the Tughlaq Dynasties | Notes

- Which he obtained by getting supremacy over the rulers of the south on them annually.

Mongol Invasions:

- During the reign of Alauddin, Mongols invaded India five times, which Alauddin failed.
- Repaired the attacked forts.
- Aurangzeb killed the Mongols who had settled in Delhi during the time of Jalaluddin.

Measures against Nobles:

- Alauddin made the following reforms to control the rebels.
- Ban on inter-caste marriage without permission, ban on party without permission so that Nobels could not conspire against him together.
- Had developed an elaborate efficient espionage system.
- All feudal land grants were confiscated.
- New landholders were no longer the owners of the land.
- They only got a fixed amount, they could not impose additional tax on the farmers.

Recognition of the army:

- Alauddin was the first Sultan of Delhi to have a permanent standing army. He introduced the stain and face practice system.
- Keep spies in every unit of the army.
- Nobels were not allowed to have an army.
- The salaries of the soldiers were reduced and fixed.

Revenue Reforms:

- Alauddin introduced revenue reform.
- The revenue of the state was fixed according to the size of the land.
- Special revenue officers were appointed to collect taxes.
- The Sultan increased the tax to one-third of the crop.

Market Control Policy:

Alauddin set up three markets in Delhi: one for food grains, one for cloth and expensive items like sugar and dry fruits, and the third for horses, slaves, and cattle. Each market was supervised by an officer known as the shahna.

- The policy aimed to compensate for reduced soldier salaries and heavy taxes on peasants by introducing price control measures.
- Prices of all commodities were fixed, and essential items were kept at low prices.
- Market officers were appointed to closely monitor prices, weights used, and traders' activities.
- Stringent punishments were imposed for hoarding goods or cheating customers in price or weight. Merchants selling commodities with less weight than stated had an equivalent amount of flesh cut off from their bodies.
- State warehouses were established and stocked with food grains to address famines or shortages.

Art and Learning:

- Alauddin Khilji was a patron of art and learning, fostering cultural development during his reign.
- Noted Persian poet Amir Khusrau lived in his court, showcasing his support for literature.
- Alauddin displayed a keen interest in architecture, leading to the construction of large and impressive monuments.
- The Alai Darwaza, an entrance to the Qutb complex, stands as a remarkable example of Khilji architecture.
- He established a madrasa within the Qutb complex and constructed palaces and mosques.
- Among his significant architectural creations were the Siri Fort and the Palace of Thousand Pillars.
- Alauddin's death in 1316 CE led to political turmoil as his successors struggled to effectively govern the kingdom.



**Fig. Alai Darwaja, built at the entrance
of the Qutb Minar**

THE TUGHLAQ DYNASTY

In 1320 CE, the last Khilji ruler was killed, marking the beginning of the Tughlaq dynasty under Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.

Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq:

- Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq was the son of a Turkish father and an Indian mother.
- He was an effective and able administrator. He reformed a lot for the welfare of the people, suppressed rebellions and established peace and stability in the state.
- After his death, his son Jauna Khan, who came to be known as Muhammad bin Tughluq, ascended the throne.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq:

- Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1324-1351 CE) was a highly learned and accomplished scholar with a thirst for knowledge.



Fig. Muhammad bin Tughlaq

- He had an extraordinary memory and keen intellect, mastering various subjects like logic, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and physical sciences.

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- Muhammad bin Tughlaq was a lover of Persian literature, poetry, calligraphy, fine arts, and music. He enjoyed the company of learned individuals.
- Historians have differing views on his character, with some considering him mad, while others describe him as an idealist and visionary.
- As a ruler, he undertook numerous projects, which were well-conceived but poorly executed, leading to constant failures.

Taxation in the Doab:

Recognizing the need for a strong military, he increased the land tax in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

- However, the region suffered a severe famine, and the peasants refused to pay the enhanced taxes, leading to ruin.
- The tax collectors showed no mercy, causing peasants to abandon their lands and flee to the jungles.
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq tried to address the situation with relief measures like free kitchens, loans to farmers, and improved irrigation facilities, but it was too late, and agriculture suffered greatly

Transfer of the Capital (1325):

- Muhammad bin Tughlaq decided to transfer the capital from Delhi to

Class 7 History (ICSE) | Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate: The Khilji and the Tughlaq Dynasties | Notes

Devagiri (renamed Daulatabad) in the Deccan.

- Two major reasons influenced his decision:
 - a. Central location:** Devagiri was centrally located, making it nearly equidistant from Delhi and other important places in the Tughlaq empire.
 - b. Mongol invasions:** Delhi faced repeated Mongol attacks, while Daulatabad was at a safe distance from the invaders.
- The sultan ordered the transfer of the entire population to Devagiri, not just his court and officials. The journey covered almost 1,250 km from Delhi.
- Preparations for the journey included building a broad road with trees on both sides and setting up temporary huts along the way. Provisions were made for free food and drinks during the journey.
- The journey turned out to be long and difficult, leading to many deaths along the way. Survivors found it challenging to adapt to the new and unfamiliar conditions of the new capital.
- Modern historians dispute the notion of a mass exodus, as there is evidence suggesting that construction work continued in Delhi during the transfer period.
- In the absence of the sultan, Delhi became vulnerable to renewed Mongol attacks, prompting Muhammad bin Tughlaq to shift the capital back to Delhi after two years.

Class 7 History (ICSE) | Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate: The Khilji and the Tughlaq Dynasties | Notes

- The failed experiment resulted in great resentment among the people, draining the treasury and weakening the once grand capital of Delhi. Daulatabad, a symbol of misdirected energy, turned into a deserted city.

- **Token Currency (1329-30 CE):**

- Muhammad bin Tughlaq's failed schemes had put a strain on the royal treasury, leading to a financial crisis.
- To tackle the crisis, the sultan introduced token currency in 1329-30 CE.
- Copper coins were issued, with the same value as gold and silver coins, and people were mandated to use these tokens in all transactions.
- The sultan did not establish a government monopoly on minting coins, allowing every house to become a mint. This resulted in rampant counterfeiting, with fake coins flooding the market.
- Lack of control over minting and circulation of fake coins led to foreign merchants refusing to accept the token currency, causing trade to come to a standstill.
- Even taxes were paid using fake coins, leading to further economic collapse and instability.
- Due to the chaos caused by the misuse of token currency, Muhammad bin Tughlaq had to withdraw it.
- The idea of token currency was progressive for its time, but its implementation lacked proper execution.
- The failure of the token currency scheme had severe consequences for the government resources and damaged the sultan's prestige

Expansion Schemes:

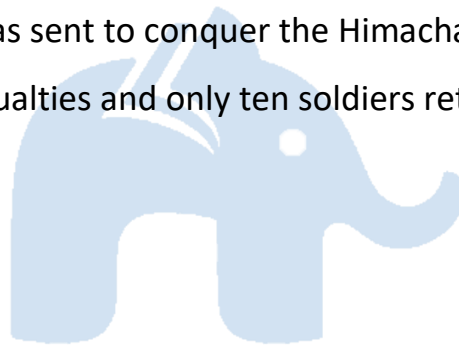
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq aspired to establish a world empire and planned to conquer Khurasan, Persia (Iran), and Iraq.

A massive army was raised, paid one year's salary in advance, and equipped for the expedition.

- The ambitious project was abandoned a year later due to the realization that sending such a large army across the snowy Himalayan passes was not feasible. This decision further depleted the royal treasury.

- Another expedition was sent to conquer the Himachal region, but it ended in disaster, with heavy casualties and only ten soldiers returning to Delhi.

Results of the Schemes:



- Muhammad bin Tughlaq's experiments and poorly executed schemes drained the treasury and weakened the prestige and position of the sultan.
- Revolts erupted in different parts of the Sultanate due to the dissatisfaction with the sultan's policies and governance.
- The Rana of Mewar successfully recovered Ranthambore and Chittor, establishing a powerful kingdom in Rajasthan.

In the south, the Hindu Vijayanagar kingdom and the Muslim Bahmani kingdom emerged, leading to the independence of the Deccan and south India. Bengal and Sind also asserted their independence.

Class 7 History (ICSE) | Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate: The Khilji and the Tughlaq Dynasties | Notes

- Historians have differing views on the failure of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's schemes.
- Some blame his character, citing lack of practical sense, whimsicality, and unpredictability.
- Others argue that the projects failed due to the prevailing conditions and people's resistance to radical reforms.
- The ulemas lack of support was attributed to the sultan's reluctance to let them influence state affairs.
- After a reign of over 25 years, Muhammad bin Tughlaq's death in 1351 CE left the Sultanate in a state of decay and disintegration, with challenges to its unity and stability.

- **Firoz Shah Tughlaq:**

- Firoz Shah Tughlaq succeeded Muhammad bin Tughlaq, nominated by the ulemas and nobles. He ruled from 1351 to 1388 CE.



Fig. Firoz Shah Tughlaq

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- Firoz Shah was known for being a peace-loving, just, and benevolent ruler, with the welfare of his subjects as his primary concern.

Economic Reforms:

Firoz Shah introduced economic reforms, reducing land taxes in the Doab and cancelling all loans given during the famine.

- Many taxes were abolished to ease the burden on the people.
- He focused on irrigation, repairing old canals, constructing new ones, digging hundreds of wells, and building dams. These measures boosted agricultural production, making peasants prosperous.
- Firoz Shah initiated the establishment of new towns like Hisar Firoza (present-day Haryana) and Jaunpur (present-day Uttar Pradesh).

Public Utility Measures:

- To improve living conditions, Firoz Shah implemented various public utility schemes, including building rest houses for travelers and traders and setting up free hospitals for the poor.
- He established a charity department to assist widows, orphans, and other needy individuals.

Class 7 History (ICSE) | Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate: The Khilji and the Tughlaq Dynasties | Notes

- An employment bureau was created to provide job opportunities for the unemployed.
- Firoz Shah also set up a separate department to look after the welfare of slaves.

Judicial Reforms:

- Firoz Shah undertook judicial reforms, making the system more humane. He abolished the savage practice of torturing suspected criminals.
- Even when suspects were found guilty, they were given mild punishments instead of brutal ones.

Patron of Architecture and Learning:

- Firoz Shah Tughlaq was a great patron of architecture, contributing significantly to works of public utility. He built various towns such as Firozabad (Firoz Shah Kotla), Firozpur, Jaunpur, and Hisar.
- Around Delhi, Firoz Shah laid out 1,200 gardens and orchards that became a rich source of revenue for the state treasury, producing abundant fruit.



Fig. Firoz Shah Kotla

- Firoz Shah was a strong advocate of education and learning. He established many schools and colleges during his reign.
- Learned scholars were encouraged to translate Hindu religious texts, books on music, and other works from Sanskrit to Persian, promoting cultural exchange and knowledge dissemination.

Foreign Policy:

- Firoz Shah's foreign policy lacked the qualities of a strong military leader. His attempts to recover Bengal ended in failure.
- He showed no interest in reclaiming the provinces that had become independent during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, leading to the disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate.

Invasion of Timur:



Fig. Amir Timur

- Amir Timur invaded India in 1398-99 CE, taking advantage of the weakened Tughlaq rule, and plundered the country's wealth.
- Timur's invasion resulted in mass killings, and he returned to his capital without establishing rule in India, taking vast amounts of looted wealth with him.

THE SAYYID AND THE LODI DYNASTIES:

Timur appointed Khizr Khan as his viceroy before leaving Delhi. Khizr Khan overthrew the last Tughlaq sultan and established the Sayyid dynasty in 1414 CE.

- The Sayyids ruled Delhi for 38 years until 1451 CE when the Afghan Lodis, founded by Bahlul Lodi, replaced them.
- The Lodi rule was limited to Punjab and the Doab area. Sikandar Lodi, one of the greatest rulers of the Lodis, was succeeded by the harsh and unpopular Ibrahim Lodi.

Class 7 History (ICSE) | Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate: The Khilji and the Tughlaq Dynasties | Notes

- Ibrahim Lodi's reign ended with his defeat by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat in 1526 CE, marking the end of the Delhi Sultanate and the beginning of Mughal rule in India.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE KHILJIS AND TUGLAQS:

Contrasting Foreign Policies:

- Alauddin Khilji followed a sensible foreign policy, successfully expanding the boundaries of the Sultanate through military expeditions, enhancing its power and prestige.
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq's highly ambitious foreign policy with unrealistic goals, like 'world empire,' ended in failure, leading to the disintegration of the empire established by Khilji.

Military Reforms:

- Alauddin Khilji created a permanent standing army and introduced radical military reforms to make it disciplined and efficient.
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq's military ventures and lack of strong defense systems resulted in constant threats from the Mongols and eventual capital shifting.

Handling of Nobles:

- Alauddin Khilji curbed the power of the nobles through harsh rules and regulations to maintain control.
- Firoz Shah adopted a policy of conciliation, increasing salaries and allowances, and reintroducing the hereditary iqta system, leading to the re-emergence of powerful nobles and undermining the sultan's position.

Approach to Rule:

- Alauddin Khilji enforced strict schemes, demonstrating ruthlessness in maintaining authority.
- Firoz Shah displayed kindness and mercy, implementing reforms and public utility measures for the welfare of his subjects.

Capital Shift and Mongol Threat:

- Alauddin Khilji built a strong defense system to repulse Mongol raids, while Muhammad bin Tughlaq shifted the capital to Daulatabad to avoid Mongol attacks.

Religion and Politics:

- Alauddin Khilji separated religion from politics, challenging the authority of the ulemas and keeping them away from government affairs.
- Firoz Shah ruled according to the shariah and sought advice from ulemas, regaining their support.

Leadership Qualities:

- Alauddin Khilji lacked formal education but excelled as a military general and efficient ruler.
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq was a learned scholar but failed as a general and administrator.

➤ **Basic Similarities:**

- Both Khiljis and Tughlaqs ruled with absolute authority, where the sultan's command was law.

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Both rulers introduced schemes for the welfare of their subjects and patronized art, architecture, and learning.

Both had ambitious dreams of establishing a world empire.

