CHAPTER V

COINAGE AND METEOROLOGY OF THE TUGHLAQS

1. GHIYASUDDIN TUGHLAQ (AH 720-725/AD 1320-1325)

After the death of Qutubuddin Mubarak, Nasiruddin Mahmud ascended the throne of Dehli only for a few months. Then in AD 1320, Ghazi Malik founded the Tughlaq dynasty. Ghazi Malik adopted the style of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.* Though he was not young in years he was gifted with boundless enthusiasm, an unerring judgement, firm determination and desire to be methodological in all matters of administration.

According to the practice of time, he reconstituted the administrative machinery, including in it his friends, relatives and supporters. After setting the administration to the order finally, he appointed his son, Ulugh Khan** to restore the imperial position in Warangal and send his other nobles to deal with the rebellion in Gujarat. He himself marched to Bengal and Tirhut. In AD 1325 when he was returning from there, after a successful campaign, a temporary wooden pavilion was erected at Afghanpur, a small village at the distance of three or four karohs from the new town Tughlaqbad. This new town was founded by Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq on the eve of his eastern expedition as reported by Isami in his book *Futuh-us-salatin*. The wooden pavilion on which Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq was seated, fell all of sudden and the king died at the spot.1

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* According to Sir Wolseley that Tughluq was the personal name of the Sultan and not a tribal cognomen. Even this was confirms by contemporary historian Afif in *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi* (p.27), as he says that Sultan Tughluq was the name of the first ruler of dynasty and second one is Sultan Muhammad. 6

** Ulugh khan was the eldest son of Ghiyasuddin Tughluq, his real name was Malik Fakhruddin, the title Ulugh khan was given by his father. When he became the king he assumed the style of Mohammed Bin Tughluq.
1.1 Coinage

The gold copper, billon and silver tankas of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq issued from his capital dar-al-islam Delhi followed the coin types of Khaljis. After the conquest of Tilangana, tankas in both metals i.e. gold and silver with the mint-name mulk-i-Tilang was issued by him. These coins are unusually well, struck carefully and met with in good condition. Ghiyasuddin issued gold (Cat No.35&36, Pl. No. XIV, Fig. No.104ABC)) and silver (Cat No.365&37, Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.105ABC) coins with the legend as sultan al ghazi ghiyasuddiniya waldin abul muzaffar on one side and tughlaq shah al-sultan nasir amir-ul-mominin with the date and mint on the other. A very rare type of coins made of silver was jointly issued by local ruler of Bengal, Nasir al-din Ibrahim with the name of Ghiyasuddin Tuglaq. Legends of this coins is in Arabic and is as follows, al-sultan al muazzam nasir al-duniya wal din abu'l muzaffar ibrahim shah al-sultan bin-sultan on its reverse and al-sultan al-azam ghiyath al-dunya wa'l din abu'l muzaffar tughlaq shah al sultan on obverse. Mint name is not over there, probably they were struck in Lakhnauti. Unfortunately we have not come across to any date over it. On these coins the lesser titles al-sultan al mu'azzam has been used for Nasir-al-Din Ibrahim. It gives us idea he was ruling under the suzerainty of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in Bengal.

We find the term al-ghazi frequently on his coins. But some of the coins made of gold bearing the legend al-mutawakkil alallah abul muzaffar tughlaq shah on one side while ghiyasuddiniya waldin nasir amir-ul-momenin on the other side were also issued by him. Interestingly enough he also issued bilingual coins with Arabic and Devanagari legend. On obverse the legend is al-sultan al-ghazi ghiyath al dunya wa'l din and in a single circle tughlaq shah and around it sri sultan ghiyasuddin on reverse side dated in Hijri era 720 (AD 1326).3

Like his predecessors, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq also issued coins with short Arabic legends such as Tughlaq on obverse and Shah on reverse (Cat No. 37, Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.106) adl ghiyathi and bi-fakhrabad on
The weights of the coins of this first Tughlaq king remained unchanged. The gold and silver *tanka* being issued were of about 11 gm. while, the copper coins weighed 3.5 to 4 gm. The coins were issued by him from the mints of *dar-al-islam*, Delhi, Deogir fort, *mulk-i-tilang* (Warrangal in Telangana). Following are the metals and metrology of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's coins.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOLD</td>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>10.09-11 gm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>10.08-11 gm</td>
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<tr>
<td>COPPER</td>
<td>Two gani</td>
<td>3.5 gm</td>
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<td>Four gani</td>
<td>3.5 gm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Six gani</td>
<td>3.5 gm</td>
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<tr>
<td>BILLON</td>
<td>paika</td>
<td>4 gm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>paika</td>
<td>3.2-3.5 gm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adhi (half Paika)</td>
<td>2-2.3 gm</td>
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2. MUHAMMAD BIN TUGHLAQ (AH 725-752/AD 1325-1351)

Ulugh Khan ascended the throne in AH 725/AD 1325, under the name of Muhammad, and was usually referred to as Muhammad bin Tughlaq. His tenure as Sultan proved to be the most remarkable of all Dehli Sultans but the precise sequence of events is difficult to ascertain. According to Habib and Nizami that "perhaps no other Sultan of medieval India has excited so much curiosity about himself and provoked so much criticism of his policies as Muhammad bin Tughlaq." Muhammad was a man of great contrasts. He was an energetic and innovative administrator, a fine military leader, had a keen sense of justice and morality, and was very generous. He was also learned in a variety of subjects and literature. His tenure of twenty-six years as Sultan of Dehli is a fascinating but tragic story of schemes and projects which were correctly conceived, badly executed and disastrously abandoned. He could never establish that rapport and the mutual understanding with his subjects, which are so necessary for the successful implementation of his schemes. He doubted...
the intentions of the people. The other side people suspected his motive. He introduced new economic and administrative measures to lessen the tax burden, to develop agriculture, improve the administration of justice and other things. As I have already mentioned that intentions were good but poor implementation as experienced officials were replaced by inexperienced and highly unreliable ones. This caused much unrest. Serious revolt broke out in Daulatabad and Gujarat. He was more successful in Gujarat. But uprising of Daulatabad led to the formation in due course of the Bahmanid states. Because of all his failure steps, a wide gap appeared between the king Muhammad Bin Tughlaq and his subjects and it went on widening with the passage of time and finally he became ill and died. His three main experiments which failed are as follows for which he is known by some modern historians as a mad king.

(i) Capital Transfer from Dehli to Deogiri.

(ii) The Khurasan and Karachil expeditions.

(iii) The introduction of token currency.

2.1 Coinage

Except the introduction of token currency honestly we have little to do with his first two steps which he had taken. The main ambition of Muhammad bin Tughlaq behind the introduction of token currency was to reform the coinage system, which has been little understood and much condemned. This experiment was launched by him after exodus to Deogiri in 1329-30. A silver coin, in those days was known as tanka, a copper coin was known as jital. Muhammad bin Tughlaq issued bronze coins, in place of silver and demanded its acceptance as a token coin equivalent to the silver tanka.7

The experiment in token currency was not new in Asia. Under Qublai Khan (1260-94) of China and Kaikhatu Khan of Iran (1293) similar attempts at introducing a token currency had been made. The token currency made of paper introduced by Qublai Khan was known as chan which had lasted throughout his reign till his death in 1294. It had been accepted by everybody even by foreign traders. This fact was widely known and it is
mentioned to by Ziauddin Barani to explain the background of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq's action.

The token coin of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was distinguished from the ordinary currency in the following respect.

(a) According to Barani these coins were made of copper but Ferishta has suggested that it was of brass or bronze. Ferishta is more accurate in his observation.\(^8\)

(b) Most of the medieval coins are of the baser metals so it is difficult to decipher, but here in token currency special care had been taken to make the legend more clear and legible.

(c) The coins which bear the legend in Persian are as follow, \textit{muhr shud tanka raij dar ruzgar-i-ummidwar muhammad tughlaq} (minted \textit{tanka}, current during the days of Muhammad (bin) Tughlaq, who hopes for divine favour).\(^9\) The word 'current' in the legend of this coins make it clear that coin owed its value to the credit of the Sultan and not to the value of its metal.

(d) But the token coins the Arabic legends also they are following as english translation "He who obey the Sultan obeys the God". This was on appeal to the religious sentiments of the people to honour the token currency.

Now the question is why did the Sultan introduced this token currency? According to the contemporary historian, Barani\(^10\) that the Sultan's project to conquer foreign lands and his boundless generosity and munificence had depleted the treasury, and it was device to face the crisis of bankruptcy. But before going into details about his token currency one will have to keep in mind the shortage of silver not only in India but all over the world in the period under research. This thing is greatly dealt by Deyell in his book 'Living without silver'. The second reason about its introduction is very much related with the first one that he was the ruler who ruled the

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largest territory by any Muslim ruler in India, so he needed a metal for his coins which would be available in abundance*.

This experiment of the introduction of token currency failed because the Sultan was unable to prevent forging of the new coins. Barani¹¹ in his picturesque language says that the "house of every Hindu became a mint". Unlike the precautions taken to prevent the imitation of the Chinese paper notes there was positively no check upon the authenticity of the bronze token and no limit on the power of production by the masses at large. Because of this forging of the coins trade and commerce began to be disrupted. Hence in anger, Muhammad bin Tughlaq cancelled his orders and redeemed the token coins by the coins of gold and silver. This would have been done only for the coins issued the royal mints. The failure of the token currency must certainly have affected the treasury adversely. But it was not too serious a blow nor did it upset public life. It was given up by AD 1333, three years after its introduction. Thus, no issues of the token coins are available after AH 732 or AD 1332-33. The token coins are not mentioned by Ibn Battuta who come to Dehli in 1334. This shows that entire episode was forgotten speedily.

To understand the coins issued by Muhammad bin Tughlaq, this can be divided into four categories.

1. Coins struck in the memory of his father and his name too.
2. Coins struck in his own name. (normal issue)
3. Coins struck in the name of the Abbasid Caliphs.
4. Token or forge currency.

1. This group of coins were issued in gold (Cat No. 38&39, Pl.No.XV, Fig. No.108ABCD), silver (Cat No.39&40, Pl.No.XV, Fig. No.109AB) and billon (Cat No. 40, Pl.No.XV, Fig. No.110). Along with the name of Ghiyasudin Tughlaq Shah, these coins bear the legend shaheed (Martyr)¹² and the legend end with the words anara

* Probably Mohammed Bin Tughluq never thought about forging of the coins made of bronze before the introduction of token currency
_allah buhan hu_ (may Allah illumine his proof). It is said because of the contemporary evidence that Muhammad Bin Tughlaq conspired to kill his father, who died during a stage collapse. In fact the stage was constructed under guidance of Muhammad bin Tughlaq and was deliberately made weak. This act of Muhammad bin Tughlaq might have annoyed the people. Therefore in order to give a good impression about his character he issued coins in the name of his father and called him 'shaheed'.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Four pagodas</th>
<th>16 gm</th>
<th>140 rati</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tanka</td>
<td>11 gm</td>
<td>96 rati</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>tanka</th>
<th>10.08-11 gm</th>
<th>96 rati</th>
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</table>

|        | Six gani     | 3.6 gm | 32 rati |

In this group the coins were struck in gold, silver, billon and copper. These consisted of various varieties. In these coins, he reintroduced _Kalima_, which were not noticed after Ilutmish. Besides the first _Kalima_, that is _Kalima-i-Taiyyaba_ (Cat No. 41, Pl.No.XV, Fig. No.111) (There is no God except Allah and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah), which were first reported on the coins of Mahmud of ghazna13, the _Kalima-i-Shahadat_ (Cat No. 40, Pl.No.XVI, Fig. No.112) (Ashhado ana la ilaha illallaho wa ashhado anna Muhammadan rasul Allah) also appeared on his coins. Besides this _kalima_ and his name several religious title adopted by him such as _fi-sabil Allah, raji rahmatullah_ etc are also reported on his coins. Interestingly enough for the first time he issued the coins bearing the names of four great caliphs, i.e., _Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Umar, Hazrat Usman_ and _Hazrat Ali_.

Metrology of this type of coins are listed below:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dinar</td>
<td>12.8 gm</td>
<td>112 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>10.8-11 gm</td>
<td>96 rati</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adli</td>
<td>9-9.1 gm</td>
<td>80 rati</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half Dinar</td>
<td>6.4 gm</td>
<td>56 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half Tanka</td>
<td>5.5 gm</td>
<td>48 rati</td>
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SILVER

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>96 rati</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>10.8-11 gm</td>
<td>96 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adli</td>
<td>9-9.1 gm</td>
<td>80 rati</td>
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BILLON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9 gm</th>
<th>80 rati</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>9 gm</td>
<td>80 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirham</td>
<td>3.9 gm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight gani</td>
<td>3.6 gm</td>
<td>32 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six gani</td>
<td>3.6 gm</td>
<td>32 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two gani</td>
<td>3.6 gm</td>
<td>32 rati</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COPPER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4.2 gm</th>
<th>40 rati</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paika</td>
<td>4.2 gm</td>
<td>40 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paika</td>
<td>3.6 gm</td>
<td>32 rati</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Coins bearing the name of the Abbasid Caliph were issued by all the Mameluk Sultans and Jalaluddin Firuz of Khalzi dynasty. But after Jalaluddin Firuz (the uncle and father-in-law of Alauddin Khalzi), no coins of the Dehli Sultanate are noticed with the name of Abbasid caliph till Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. He struck coins in the names of the Abbasid Caliphs al-Mustakfi and al-Hakim-II. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was very much concerned to get his sovereignty legitimised by the reigning Caliph but it took sometime before he established who and where that person was, the later Abbasid Caliphs in Egypt being if a rather obscure nature. He immediately set about striking coins in the name of Al-Mustakfi (Cat No. 41, Pl.No.XVI, Fig. No.113) and continued doing so until AH 744/ AD 1343 in Dehli and the following years in Daulatabad. Unbeknown to him, Al-mustakfi had actually died in AH 740 (AD 1339). Later after a year or two he was succeeded by Al Hakim II. In AD 1343 an envoy from Al-Hakim-II arrived here in Dehli with a patent conferring on him the title of nasir amir al-muminin. These coins were issued predominantly in gold\(^{15}\) and billon\(^{16}\) with few silver\(^{17}\) and copper\(^{18}\) coins too. As we can see for the purpose of its minting, only Dehli and Daulatabad had been used. Dates on the coins of these category appear both in words and numerals.

The full titles of the two Caliphs are as follows. Al mustakfi billah abul rabi sulaiman ibn al Hakim bi amr allah for caliph al-mustakfi and al-hakim bi-amr allah abul abbas ahmad bin al-mustakfi billah for caliph al-hakim.
4. As we have already discussed that Muhammad bin Tughlaq was probably the first ruler of India to have introduced token currency. They were made of bronze and known as tanka weighing about 9 gm. Muhammad bin Tughlaq asked his people to accept these at the value of silver tanka which was in circulation at that time. It is sometimes said that this experiment was much ahead of his time. People were not familiar with the token currency and found it hard to accept a low value bronze coin at a higher value. The legend of his token currency gives us an idea that Muhammad Bin Tughlaq even made an appeal to the masses to accept it. These coins bear the legend muhr shud tanka raijdar ruzgar-i-banda-i-umidwar muhammad tughlaq (minted tanka currency during the days of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, who hopes for divine favour). The other side has a legend man ata arrahman faquad ata ar rahman (Cat No. 42,43 Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.114ABCDE) (He who obeys the sultan obeys the God, obeys and the Prophet).

2. Metrology of these coins are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coin Type</th>
<th>Weight (gm)</th>
<th>Rate (rati)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Tanka</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter tanka</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight gani</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two gani</td>
<td>1.6-1.8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Dirham</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. MAHMUD BIN MUHAMMAD TAGHLUQ (AD 1351)

After the death of Mohammed bin Tughlaq in AD 1351 his cousin Firuz Tughlaq, who was in Sind on an expedition, was accepted as the next ruler by the royal army. Meanwhile when news of Muhammad Bin Tugluq's death reached to Dehli, a powerful noble Khwaja Jahan who was incharge of Dehli, unaware of this, placed Mahmud the son of Mohammed bin Tughlaq on throne. But when Firuz Shah returned to Dehli, Mahmud was set aside. During his brief period, Mahmud issued coins of gold, silver and
billon. The gold tankas turned up surprisingly to be of ten but the other coins are extremely rare. His name on the coins appeared as Ghiyasuddin Mahmud Tughlaq. His gold (Cat No. 43, Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.115) and silver (Cat No. 44, Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.116) coins bear the legend yamin amir-ul-momenin ghiyath al-dunya wa'l din abu'l mazaffar on one side and mahmud shah bin muhammad shah bin tughlaq shah al-sultan on the other side.\textsuperscript{19}

4. FIRQUZ SHAH TUGHLAQ (AH 752/AD 1351-1388)

When from Sind, Firuz reached near Dehli he was greeted by crowds of people from the city, ulema, mashaikh, sufis, qalanders, darweshes, traders, merchants and Brahmin.\textsuperscript{20} All paid their homage to him. Finally the royal cavalcades proceeded and finally entered the city of Dehli on Thursday 25\textsuperscript{th} August 1351. Then and there Abn'i Muzaffar Firuz Shah\textsuperscript{21} as Sultan ascended the throne in true regal pomp and glory and celebrated his coronation. This was a bloodless coronation as reported by Ziauddin Barani.\textsuperscript{22} During the first decade of his reign he made two attempts at invading Bengal but was not only unable to defeat the independent rulers there but implicitly recognised their status. In AD 1356 a robe of honour arrived for him from the Caliph Al-Hakim. In AD 1359 during his second journey to Bengal, he founded the city of Jaunpur*. The following year, Firuz decided to invade Orissa, an area not yet invaded by any muslim ruler. His invasion was successful, he destroyed the renowned temple of Jaganatha in Puri and he obtained the submission of the local king, but the return journey was poorly planned and the army suffered many privations. In AD 1361, Firuz invaded Nagarkot in north, whose ruler submitted, and then undertook a disastrous expedition into Sind. Later he undertook another campaign of Sind and this time he was successful.

Firuz was a religious man and cared about the well being of his subjects. He abolished the dreadful punishments inflicted under the previous rulers, he had an enlightened attitude towards slaves, who later

\* In the memory of late sultan Muhammad bin Tughluq, he was also known as Jauna.
became active in many walks of life. He also abolished various unjust taxes. He founded a number of important towns which, including a new capital for himself in the Dehli area, called Firuzabad and other towns which came to be known as Jaunpur. He undertook significant public welfare works, including five canals for irrigation, the longest of which ran for 150 miles, and the sinking of many welfare wells. He was also responsible for the construction of dams, mosques, colleges, palaces, caravanserais, reservoirs, hospitals, public baths, bridges, gardens etc. The various irrigation schemes led to an increase in agricultural production. The legal system was simplified. He was also an avid scholar. He was not, however, a good military leader, not a particularly dynamic administrator and, as time went on, his government became lax and this laxness was to have serious consequences for the Sultanate in the future.

4.1 Coinage

Firuz Shah struck several varieties of coins made of gold, silver, copper and billon. Though the silver coins (tanka) are rare. But the bulk of Firuz’s coinage was in billon and copper. Afif in his Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi23 wrote that Firuz issued coins called chihl-o hashtgani, bist-o panjgani, bist-o chahargani, dwazdahgani, dahgani, hastgani, Shahgani, and the jital. But they are difficult to identify in the finding of the coins.

The coins made of gold and silver were generally issued with the name of Abbasid Caliph Abul Abbas Al-Hakim Il, Abul Fatah Al Mustasid and Al-Mutawakkil I along with Firuz’s name and title such as saif amir-ul-momenin (swords of Caliph) etc. Coins without the name of Caliph is also issued by him. These coins carry the name and title of the Sultan, Firuz is called naib amir-ul-momenin (Deputy of the Commander of faithful) on these coins. Surprisingly no gold coins of Firuz Tughlaq is available to us before AH 759 (AD 1358-1359) i.e. after he had reigned seven years.24 The reason is not clear.

The billon coins are more or less same as the gold ones in legend i.e., firuz shah sultani darabat bi-hadrat Dehli on obverse and al khalifat amir al muminin khulidat khilafatuhu on reverse side (Cat No. 44,
Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.117). Billon coins were issued in two denominations of about 9 gm (Cat No. 44, Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.118) and 3.5 gm (Cat No. 45, Pl.No.XIV, Fig. No.119). Like the first two Tughlaq Sultans the copper coins of Firuz too are having short legends such as firuz shah sultani on obverse and dar al mulk Dehli (Cat No.45&46, Pl.No.XVII&XVIII, Fig.No.120ABCD) on reverse. The most common denomination in copper is of about 4.2 to 4.4 gm. Though the coins are of at least three other denominations weighing about 9 gm, 2 gm and 1 gm were also issued by him. Firuz billon and copper coins were so popular that they continued to be struck long after his death with posthumous dates. Dehli was the principal mint of Firuz Tughlaq however another mint name sahat-i-sind is also seen on some of his coins.

Following are the metrology of the coins of Firuz Shah:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOLD</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>11 gm</td>
<td>96 rati</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SILVER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>11 gm</td>
<td>96 rati</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BILLON</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanka</td>
<td>9 gm</td>
<td>80 rati</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3 gm</td>
<td>80 rati</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.6 gm</td>
<td>38 rati</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.7 gm</td>
<td>32 rati</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jital</td>
<td>1.1 gm</td>
<td>10 rati</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COPPER</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Jital (2 falus)</td>
<td>9.1 gm</td>
<td>80 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jital (Falus)</td>
<td>4.5 gm</td>
<td>40 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jital (Falus)</td>
<td>3.6 gm</td>
<td>32 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Jital (1/2 falus)</td>
<td>2.2 gm</td>
<td>20 rati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Jital (1/4 falus)</td>
<td>1.1 gm</td>
<td>10 rati</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **FATH KHAN (AH 760 /AD 1359-1360)**

As we know from the coins that in AH 760 (AD 1359-1360) Firuz Shah invested his son Fath khan with the royal insignia, so he got an opportunity to issue coins in his name during his prince hood. It has been observed by Nevill that 'it seems clear that Firuz Shah did so by virtue of his appointment of that prince to the viceroyalty of the eastern portion of his dominions'.

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This eastern region was known as *Iqlim al-Sharq*, which later became the independent Sultanate of Jaunpur.

Fath khan's coins are known in gold and billon, though a few copper coins are reported as well. His gold coins bear his name along with that of his father Firuz Tughlaq on one side and the name of Abbasid Caliph and the mint name on the other, such as *fathkhan firuz shah jail allha zillalahu Jalalahu* on obverse, and *fizaman al imam amir al-muminin abil fath almustasid billah khulidat khilafatuhu* on reverse side dated AH 761. The billon coins also have his name as well as his father's name. These are found in two weight standards, viz 80 and 32 *rati* (Cat No.47, Pl.No.XVIII, Fig.No.122). The former correspond closely in intrinsic value to the 80 *rati* billon *tankahs* of firuz. All his billons bear indications of provincial mintage.

The gold coins of Fath khan were issued from two mints as it appeared on coins, first, *Iqlimul Sharaq* (probably located in Jaunpur, where he was serving this region as viceroy) and second is *shahr-i-patna* (the modern capital of Bihar).

6. **MUHAMMAD BIN FIRUZ (AH 789-790/ AD 1387-1388)**

As we know because of the increasing infirmity after the death of Fatah Khan. Firuz Shah Tughlaq made his son, Muhammad as his regent in AH 789/AD 1387 and associated him in the administration and ruled jointly with him from AD 1387. Firuz allowed him to issue the coins bearing both names. Muhammad, however, did not take his duties seriously, dismissed the officers who tried to rouse him from his lethargy, replacing them with sycophants, because of his style of ruling finally the nobles of the court rose against him. But in AD 1388 Firuz died so, the succession went to Tughlaq Shah II, the son of his eldest son Fath Khan and Muhammad Bin Firuz retired to Nagarkot.

Muhammad Bin Firuz during his regency issued coins of billon and copper in joint names. During his early period he continued the *tanka* at 80 *rati*, but later on he introduced the billon *tanka* of 96 (Cat No.47,
Pl.No.XVIII, Fig.No.123) rati and retained the 80 rati coins as a lower
denomination.

The main obverse legend on his billon coins is sultani firuz shah
muhammad shah and al-khalifa abu abd allah khulidat khilafatuhu.27 (Cat
No.47, Pl.No.XVIII, Fig.No.124) The copper coins generally bear the
short legend such as firuz shah or firuz shah sultani on obverse and
Muhammad shah or muhammad shah sultani on reverse side.28(Cat
No.48, Pl.No.XVIII, Fig.No.125).

7. TUGHLAQ SHAH (AH 790-791/AD 1388-1389)

When Muhammad bin Firuz retired to Nagarkot because of the
opposition of nobels, the succession went to Tughlaq shah, the son of Fath
khan. Fath Khan was the eldest son of Firuz who died in AD 1374. But the
naib wazir, Ruknuddin Jundah, who was the head of the slaves of Firuz,
revolted against Tughlaq Shah. On 24th February, AD 1389, they first killed
a high officer in broad day light and when Tughlaq Shah and his
wazir, Malikzada Firuz tried to escape from Firuzabad palace by a door leading to
the Yamuna river, they captured and killed Firuz and hung up his severed
heads on the palace gate.29

7.1 Coinage

Except coins made of silver he issued the coins of gold, copper and
billon. But the gold tanka are very rare (Cat No.48, Pl.No.XIX,
Fig.No126.) and none of his coins are common. In billon, he issued tanka
of 96 rati (10.8 gm) and other coins are of 80 rati (9.1 gm), 48 rati (5.4 gm)
32 rati (3.6 gm).30 Generally he followed the pattern of Firuz Shah’s coins.
As Firuz Shah’s coins, the coins of Tughlaq Shah too bear the name of
Abbasid caliph Abu Abdullah on reverse side and on obverse his own
name and title. Some billon coins were also issued without the name of
Caliph. These coins bear the title naib amir-ul momentin (deputy of
commander of faithful i.e., Caliph).

Copper coins are known with short legend of darul-mulk Dehli or
hazrat Dehli on reverse and tughlaq shah sultani on obverse (Cat No.48,
Pl.No.XIX, Fig.No.127). His copper coins weigh about 4.2 and 2.2 gm.
Dehli is the only mint appearing on his coins sometimes with the epithet *darul mulk*.

8. FIRUZ SHAH ZAFAR (AH 791/ AD 1389)

Firuz Shah Zafar succeeded Tughiaq II but rule only for a few months. Surprisingly enough we do not have any evidence in the contemporary source such as *Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi* about Firuz Shah Zafar's accession to the Dehli throne. But because of the help of the coins issued by him we came to know about him.

As the previous ruler, his coinage consists of a rare gold issue, various billon issue, most of which are rare, and along with some copper coins. He continued largely with the same denominations as the earlier rulers of the Tughlaq dynasty and introduced also a billon coin of 64 *rati*, which would have been equal to two-thirds of a 96 *rati tanka*. The gold coin which he issued was of 10.8-11 gm and bearing the legend on obverse as *al-sultan al-azam firuz shah zafar ibn firuz shah al sultani and fizaman al-imam amir-al-muminin abu abd allah khulidat khilafatu hu* on reverse side issued from mint of *hadrat Dehli* dated AH 791/ AD 1389. (Cat No.49, Pl.No.XIX, Fig.No.128). It is important to note here that some coins were bearing the legend *firuz shah zafar ibn firuz shah* which indicate that he had established his claim for throne no longer depend on the help of his parentage. But the standard of the billon coins by him gives us idea about its deterioration and makes it difficult for us to distinguish between billon and copper coins. As we know this was the period of decline for Tughluq dynasty and most of the powerful governors such as those of Malwa, Jaunpur, Bengal, Gulberga, Gujarat etc had become quite powerful and gradually carved out independent kingdoms. We can gauge that because the tussel between Firuz Shah family member continued upto three years for capturing the royal throne. It certainly created a lot of pressure on the royal treasury.

In copper coins of Firuz there is a unique 4.3 gm, which was more or less similar to the senior Firuz Shah Tughlaq's *Jital*, with its mint name *darul mulk* on reverse side.
9. ABU BAKR SHAH (AH 791-793/ AD 1389-1390)

After the death of Firuz Shah Zafar, his son Abu Bakr Shah became the Sultan. He ruled for a year or so, his tenure as Sultan was very much disturbing for him because Mohammad, the son of Mohammad Bin Firuz, who had been associated with his father and issued coins in his own name in AH 789/ AD 1387 as mentioned earlier, was still alive. He making frequent attempts to dethrone Abu Bakr from the power. One of these eventually succeeded and finally at last Abu Bakr Shah was captured and ended his day as a prisoner in Meerut.

9.1 Coinage

The coin of Abu Bakr Shah is similar to that of his predecessor in as much there were coins struck in gold, which are now rare and silver tanka, have been found. The billon coins which are debased many of which types are also rare, issued by him along with limited copper coins. The deterioration of the billon currency which are very clear now so it is easy to confuse the billon coins with copper. The metrology of this coins is as the same as of the preceding ruler. His gold coins bear the legend al-sultan al-azam abu bakr shah bin jafar bin firuz shah al-sultani on its obverse side and fizaman al-imam amir ai muminin abi abd allah khulidat khilafatuhu on reverse dated AH 791 (Cat No.49, Pl.No.XIX, Fig.No.129) AD 1389 of 11 gm. They struck the coins of the weights of 96,80,64,48 and 32 rati. But amount of silver in them is almost nominal.

Three types of coins which had been issued by him create some problem for us. These coins were issued in the name of firuz shah bin abu bakr shah or some time sultani is added later on, and to of them are dated AH 792 (1389). Abu Bakr was the son of Firuz Shah Zafar, but the word Zafar is not there. Nothing is known of a Firuz Shah, son of Abu Bakr, but it does not mean that there was no such person. It might be possible that towards the end of Abu Bakr reign, one of his son had pretensions to the throne. All these coins related to this type are very rare.
10. MUHAMMAD BIN FIRUZ (AH 792-795/AD 1390-1392/3)

Muhammad bin Firuz who got the first taste of sovereignty when his father Firuz died in 1388 became the king, who was the son of his eldest son Fath Khan. Muhammad bin Firuz had to retired to Nagarkot. But after the death of Tughlaq Shah, he reasserted the claim of the royal throne and finally after the death of Abu Bakr Shah became the king once again, so, in AD 1390 the coins of both these rulers are known to us. Like his previous coins that were issued in billon and copper coins but in second term we have the evidence of gold coins too.33

In the billon series Mohammed Bin Firuz made an important innovation. He advanced his father's billon tanka from a piece of 80 to one of 96 rati and at the same period he retained the 80 rati piece of lower denomination. They remind us of the silver tanka and adli of Muhammad Tughlaq. These coins weigh 110 grains and are probably, therefore, the double of 32 rati piece which Firuz Shah took over from Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. These copper coins bear short legend consisted of name of the king Muhammad Shah, date of issue and its mint. Muhammad also introduced a new denomination in copper series too. They are of 30 rati (8.5-9.1 gm), (Cat No.49, Pl.No.XIX, Fig.No.130) 40 rati (4.4 gm), (Cat No.50, Pl.No.XIX, Fig.No.131) 32 rati (3.4-3.6 gm), (Cat No.50, Pl.No.XIX, Fig.No.132) 20 rati (2.2 gm) (Cat No.50, Pl.No.XIX, Fig.No.133) and 10 rati (1 gm).

11. SIKANDAR SHAH-I (AH 795/AD 1393)

After the death of Muhammad bin Furuz his son Sikandar* became the king but he too died only after forty-five days. The sultanate was disintegrating fast with factionalism and with outlying officers openly defying central authority. So, there are no coins made of gold and silver known to us. In his short period he issued billon coins of 80 and 32 ratis only and the falus of 40 rati, its double, (Cat No.51, Pl.No.XX, Fig.No.134) half (Cat No.51, Pl.No.XX, Fig.No.135) and quarter (Cat No.51, Pl.No.XX, Fig.No.136) in copper. He used the same mint as his father i.e. dar-ul-

* His real name was Humayun, but when he became king he assumed the title of Alauddin Sikandar Shah
mulk Dehli. Except in helping to make out a genealogy of the Tughlaq ruler these coins do not help us in any other way.

12. MAHMUD SHAH BIN MUHAMMAD (AH 795-815/ AD 1393-1413)

Mahmud was the son of Muhammad Bin Firuz. His reign was very stormy. He had given the title of malik-al-sharq (king of the east) to khwaja Jahan and sent him to quell rebellions in the east but instead set himself up in Jaunpur and founded an independent Sultanate known as Sharqi dynasty. In AD 1394 son of Fath Khan, Nushrat Shah declared himself a king and both ruled from the different corner of Dehli, while the rest of the empire was practically ruling by powerful nobles. On the eve of Timur's invasion in 1398 without facing Timur's army he fled away from Dehli and did not return till AD 1401. Till AD 1405 Dehli was practically ruled by Mulla Iqbal Khan, and for a time Mahmud retired to the fief of Qanauj (Kanauj) when the Mullah Iqbal Khan died, Mahmud was recalled to Dehli and remained the king till he died in AH 815/AD 1413.

He issued the coins of gold, silver, copper and bronze. In gold coins the ruler's titles is mentioned as abul muzaffar type on observe and Fizaman al imam amir al-muminin khulidat khilafutuhu (Cat No.52, Pl.No.XX, Fig.No.137ABC) on reverse side. The name of mint and date of issue appeared on its margin. These gold coins is of more than 11 gm weight and even his silver (Cat No.53, Pl.No.XX, Fig.No.138AB) Coins had the same weight.

It has been observed by Nelson Wright that somewhere about in 1398 there was a revision in the weight of silver and gold coins. Gold coins of AD 1393 to AD 1396 are of normal weight that is 168 and 171 grain respectively. But the coins kept in the British museum issued in AH 800 /AD 1397-1398 are of 174.2 grain. The silver coins issued by Mahmud in AH 795 are of 164.8 grain but the two silver coins of the British museum weight of 171 and 174 grain. Even in a silver coins documented in the Numismatic supplement to the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, of the same type, with weigh 174 grain was issued by Mahmud which is dated AH 814. This certainly gave more strength to the observation of Nelson
Wright. Like the later Tughlaq rulers he too did not introduce any new type of the coins.

13. **NUSRAT SHAH (AH 797-802/ AD 1395-1399)**

Nushrat Shah was the son of Fath Khan. He put forward his claim for the royal throne during the period of Mahmud Shah bin Muhammad. For several years both ruled as king of Dehli from different corners of the city. From AH 797 till AH 801 he issued coins. When Timur left Dehli after looting and plundering the city, Nushrat Shah reoccupied Dehli but his coins are not seen after AH 802/AD 1399.

Except billon he issued coins of three metals. Gold *tanka* of Nushrat are very rare and probably they were not for circulation but were struck for special occasions (Cat No.53, Pl.No.XXI, Fig.No.139). In copper coins he issued three types of the double *fulus*, including the rare coins having the name of the mint *darul mulk Dehli* on reverse and *shah nushrat sultani* on the bottom of observe side. Besides it we have the evidence that he also issued several varieties of *fulus* and half *fulus*.

14. **IQBAL SHAH (AH 802 / AD 1399)**

As we have already mentioned earlier that when Timur invaded Dehli in year AD 1398, the present Tughlaq king Mahmud Shah bin Muhammad fled away from here and returned only in AD 1401. In the absence of Mahmud, Dehli was ruled practically by Mulla Iqbal Khan. During his limited period of Kingship Mulla Iqbal Khan issued coins with the name of Iqbal Shah. Unfortunately till date we have come across only one gold coin issued by him dated AH 802 (AD 1399-1400). This coin bears the legend *al-sultan al-azam abul mansur Iqbal shah al-sultan* on its observe and *fizaman al-imam amir al-muminin khilidat khilafatu hu* on reverse and is of 10.4 gm. (Cat No.54, Pl.No.XXI, Fig.No.140).

15. **DAULAT KHAN LODI (AH 815-817/ AD 1413-1414)**

Historically he was the last ruler of Tughlaq dynasty but unfortunately we do not recover any coins which had been issued by him. He issued probably posthumous coins of Firuz Tughlaq (Cat No.54, Pl.No.XXI, Fig.No.141) and Mahmud bin Muhammad (Cat No.54,
Pl. No. XXI, Fig. No. 142) because their coins were dated the period of his reign. But those coins available to us belong to AH 816 / AD1413-1414. Except gold he issued coins in silver, copper and bronze. The silver tanka of 11.1 gm bearing the legend on its observe side the name of Mahmud bin Muhammad on its obverse and fizaman al-imam amir al-muminin khulidat khilafatuahu on its reverse side. The billon and copper coins bears the name of Firuz Tughlaq. The available coins of billon and copper are having the weight of 9 and 4.5 gm respectively.
CHAPTER-V

COINAGE AND METEOROLOGY OF THE TUGHLAQS

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