UNIT 13 : THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

UNIT STRUCTURE

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13.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this Unit, you will be able to:

- discuss the political condition on the eve of Mughal invasion,
- discuss the process of foundation of the Mughal empire in India, and
- describe the political development under the Mughal rulers,

13.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous Unit, we have discussed the political situation that emerged after the downfall of the Sultanate rule. Many independent provincial kingdoms rose after the disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate

A political vacuum was created with the disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate. The country was divided into a number of small kingdoms like

Bengal, Gujarat, Malwa, Mewar, Jaunpur, Orissa, etc with a struggle for political supremacy amongst these kingdoms. No strong central government was there that could keep the small kingdoms under control and present a united front to the enemy. As such, the political condition of the country on the eve of the advent of the Mughals was vulnerable to enemy attack. This political instability paved the way for the establishment of the Mughal Empire in India.

13.3 POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN INDIA

- **Political Condition on the Eve of Mughal Invasion**

On the eve of Babur's invasion the political condition of India was very deplorable. India was divided into small states, which quarrelled among themselves. In South India, the same condition prevailed.

During the Sultanate period, Delhi occupied a high and prestigious position. But with the disintegration of Sultanate, it lost its earlier position. Ibrahim Lodi was the last of the Lodi rulers whom Babur defeated in 1526. Due to the obstinate temperament of Ibrahim Lodi, Daulat Khan Lodi, who was in-charge of Punjab, declared his independence. His son Dilawar Khan was greatly humiliated by the Lodi rulers. Malwar also declared its independence during the reign of Feroze Tughlaq. The conflict between its ruler and its ministers continued till Babur's invasion. Most of the states were busy with their internal as well as external disturbances. All these testify to the fact that there was a fertile ground for the Mughal invasion during that time.

On the eve of Babur's invasion, India was all shattered and broken under the Turko-Afghan rule. The Delhi Sultanates had lost their popularity. Moreover, the Sultanate was the "outcome of individual military skill" and glory. The rulers lacked the strength to eliminate the weakness deep rooted in the Empire and thus fell easy victim to the external force.

The states of Kashmir, Punjab, Sind, Gujrat, Malwa, Khandesh, Bengal and Orissa had lost their power and played no active role after the

disintegration of the Sultanates. The tyranny of the Delhi Sultanates compelled the chief of Punjab to side with Babur who welcomed the latter with open arms. Sind was struggling under the conflict between the two dynasties for power - the Summa dynasty and the Arghun dynasty.

Malwa was buried under conspiracies among the nobles. Medni Rai, the Rajput Prime Minister under Mahmud II of Malwa, had become powerful. Thus, the nobles tried to depose him from power which led Rana Sanga of Mewar to join hands with Medini Rai in defeating the royal nobles. However, with the fall of the fort of Mandu in 1531 AD, Malwa had to surrender to Bahadur Shah of Gujrat.

Khandesh, under Raja Faruqui, asserted its independence from the Delhi Sultanate in 1370 C.E. It remained away from the periphery of Delhi politics.

Mewar rose to great heights under Rana Sangram Singh who was a gallant soldier and a great general. He conquered Bhilsa, Sarangpur, Chanderi, Ranthambor and other provinces. He fought against the Delhi Sultans and even secretly sent invitations to Babur and hoped that the latter would help him in his pursuit of the policy of gaining supremacy in Northern and Central India. However, his dreams were soon to be shattered.

Bengal had gained its independence from the Delhi Sultanate during the rule of Firuz Shah. The province made peace with the Sultanate rulers and later with Babur.

In the South, after the fall of the Bahmani kingdom, there emerged five petty kingdoms and their constant struggle amongst themselves kept them away from interfering in the politics of Northern India.

The advent of the Mughals on the Indian scene introduced a new epoch of Indian history. On April21, 1526 India witnessed the foundation of the Mughal rule on her soil. The Mughals, who came from Central Asia, defeated Ibrahim Lodi of the Lodi dynasty and established their rule in the country.

13.4 BABUR

Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire in India, was born on February 14, 1483 in the Central Asian state of Farghana. He was a descendant of Timur on his father's side and Chengiz Khan on his mother side. His family belonged to the Chaghtayid section of the Turkish race which was commonly known as 'Mughals'.

Babur succeeded his father as the ruler of Farghana in 1494. Since 1504 he developed an interest in the conquest of India. From 1519 to1524, Babur led four expeditions to India, but without any significant result.

In 1519, Babur started his campaign and reached Chenab. Here, he attempted to negotiate with Ibrahim Lodi but without any concrete result. So he returned after conquering Chenab and Bhera Khushab. In between 1520-1522, Babur captured Badakshan and Kandhar. In the year 1524, Babur was flooded with invitations from Daulat Khan Lodi, the Governor of Punjab, Aluadin, uncle of Ibrahim Lodi, and Rana Sanga seeking his help. Babur was not the one to miss such an opportunity. When Babur reached Lahore, Daulat Khan was ousted by an Afghan chief. Babur defeated the Afghan chief and then appointing Alaudin as the governor of Lahore. However, after his return to Kabul, Alaudin was compelled by Daulat Khan Lodi to flee and then Daulat Khan Lodi replaced him.

- **Battle of Panipat**

This situation forced Babur to make another journey to India for which he came prepared and on arriving he had first to deal with Daulat Khan Lodi, whom he defeated. He had to meet Ibrahim Lodi next and both armies came face to face in the battlefield of Panipat. Despite the numerical strength of Ibrahim's military force, Babur gained the upper-hand. This time Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi, and the ruler of Delhi, in the first battle of Panipath on April 21, 1526. He occupied Delhi and Agra. The significance of the battle of Panipat was manifold. First, it made way for the establishment of the Mughal kingdom in India. Second, it brought the Lodi dynasty to an end.

Soon after the victory, khutba was read in his name. However, even after the brilliant victory, Babur had to face many challenges.



LET US KNOW

Khutba:

The khutba is the prayer recitation read in the name of the Khalifah of the Islamic World, and in the name of the ruling monarch of a region.

His next formidable foe was Rana Sanga of Mewar. Initially, Babur had to face some setback, but he soon reorganised his forces. The forces met at the battle of Kanwah (1527) and Babur defeated Rana Sangram Singh or Rana Sanga of Mewar, the greatest Rajput ruler of that time. With the defeat of Rana Sanga, the Rajput confederacy was shattered for a long time. Babur assumed the title of ''Ghazi'' and the sovereignty now passed from the hands of the Rajput Hindus to Babur.

Next, Babur moved towards Chanderi and captured it from the Rajput chief Medni Rai. The occupation of the fort of Chanderi in 1528 had a great importance. For after the event, the Rajputs no longer gave any trouble to Babur.

However, the Afghans were still to be subdued. Mahmud Lodi, the brother of Ibrahim Lodi, had taken refuge in Bihar where he strengthened his army and marched towards Chunar. Babur marched against him and on his way to Buxar, many Afghan chiefs laid down their arms and submitted to him. In the meantime, Mahmud Lodi had taken shelter in Bengal and even though Nusrat Shah, the ruler of Bengal, gave assurance of his friendly ties with Babur, the latter decided to march against him. Thus, the battle of Ghagra (1529) was fought, in which Babur defeated Mahmud Lodi and his ally Nusrat Shah of Bengal.

After the battle of Ghagra, Babur attempted to consolidate his newly founded empire by providing an efficient system of administration. However, he failed to provide a sound administration as he died on December 26, 1530. He was buried in Kabul. An erudite scholar of Persian and Turki, Babur invented a new style of verse in Persian known as Mubaiyan. His memoirs Tuzuk-i-Baburi was written in Turki. He also wrote a Vakai orTurki history. Babur even excelled in music and other fine arts.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

1. In which year was Babur born?

   .....

2. Whom did Babur defeat in the first battle of Panipath?

   .....

3. In which year did Babur assume the title of Ghazi?

   .....

4. Who was Nusrat Shah?

   .....

13.5 HUMAYUN

Nasiruddin Muhammad Humayun was the eldest son of Babur. He was born in Kabul on March 6, 1508. At the young age of 12 in 1520 he was made the governor of Badakshan. Later, he looked after the administration of Hissar-Firuzpur and Sambhal. He took part in the battles of Panipath and Khanwah. Before his death Babur nominated Humayun as his successor.



LET US KNOW

Literally the meaning of Humayun is 'fortunate'. But through most part of his life, he remained unfortunate. The reign of Humayun included two spells one from 1530-40 and the other from 1555-56.

On December 30, 1530 Humayun ascended the throne of Delhi. He had to face several difficulties right from the time of his accession. Following the Timurid legacy, Humayun divided the empire among his three half-brothers Kamran, Hindal and Askari. But they were dissatisfied with their portions. Humayun also faced a potent threat from his three half-brothers, his brother-in-law Muhammad Zaman Mirza and some other Timurid princes and Afghan chiefs.

Humayun followed a policy of generosity towards his brothers and kinsmen. But he adopted an aggressive policy towards the Afghans. In 1531 he led an expedition against King Prataprudra Dev of Kalinjar as he was supposed to be sympathetic towards king Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. Humayun besieged Kalinjar, but failed to capture it as he had to turn his attention towards the Afghan attack under Mahmud Lodi and the capture of the fort of Chunar by Sher Khan Sur of South Bihar. However, Humayun secured war indemnity from King Prataprudra Dev. The Afghans under Mahmud Lodi attacked Jaunpur and captured it from the Mughals. But shortly afterwards, in July 1532, Humayun defeated the Afghans in the battle of Dadrah. Then, from September to December 1532, he besieged the fort of Chunar held by Sher Khan Sur. Sher Khan submitted to Humayun and made a compromise with him. Humayun committed the blunder of giving up the chance of subjugating Sher Shah by crushing his power. Next Humayun turned his attention towards king Bahadur Shah of Gujarat who, by conquering Malwa, Raisin, Chanderi, Ranthambore, Ajmir, Nagaur and Chittor, posed a threat to the Mughals. Humayun seized the fort of Mandu and Champanir. In 1535 Humayun had conquered Central Gujrat. However, he failed to retain it for long.

In the meantime Sher Khan Sur consolidated his position in South Bihar. He was also strengthening his hold on Bengal and by defeating the ruler of Bengal in 1534 and 1536, he had become more powerful. He proved to be the most formidable enemy of Humayun a fact the latter overlooked and had to pay the price for it.

Humayun laid siege of Chunar and from there moved towards Benaras. When any kind of negotiation failed to win over Sher Khan, Humayun decided to launch an expedition and marched towards Bengal but Gaur was blocked by Jalal Khan, son of Sher Khan. In the conflict that ensued, Jalal Khan had to retreat. By 1538 Sher Khan Sur occupied Gaur. In the meantime, Sher Khan gained full control over the area between Kosi and Ganga. Humayun made no attempt to give a fight and returned to Agra.

Sher Khan and Humayun faced each other at Agra for months without

attacking each other and finally with the onset of the rain, Sher Khan took the opportunity to fight the forces of Humayun. Finally, in 1539, at the battle of Chausa, Sher Khan defeated Humayun and declared himself as Sultan with the title of 'Sher Shah'. Humayun somehow managed to reach Agra. A year later, again in April 1540, the armies of Humayun and Sher Shah met at the battle of Kanauj where the Mughal forces were completely routed. After this humiliating defeat Humayun became a fugitive and had to pass 15 years (1540-55) in exile. Sher Shah became the master of Delhi and the sovereignty of Hindustan once again passed into the Afghan hands.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

5. In which year did Humayun ascend the Mughal throne?

   .....

6. Name the half-brothers of Humayun.

   .....

7. When was the battle of Chausa fought?

   .....

8. Why did Humayun send an expedition against King Prataprudra Dev of Kalinjar?

   .....

13.3 AKBAR'S POLICY OF EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION

The throne of Hindustan was not a bed of roses for Akbar. He had to deal with dissenters and rebels. In the very first year of his reign, he marched against Hemu, the prime minister of the Bengal ruler, Mohammad Shah Abdali. Akbar on the advice of his guardian, Bairam Khan, decided to go to war and the armies of Akbar and Hemu met on the historic battlefield of Panipat in November, 1556. In the battle that ensued Hemu initially gained an upper hand but his fate took a fatal turn when he was struck in his eyes by an

arrow. Thus, the battle turned in favour of the Mughals and the Mughal army captured Delhi and Agra.

When Baz Bahadur (an Afghan noble) captured Malwa, Adham Khan (Akbar's brother) was sent to lead the Mughal army against him and Khan was assisted by Pir Mohammad. In the battle that was fought, Baz Bahadur suffered defeat. But the weakness of the Malwa chief caused the re-emergence of Baz Bahadur on the political scence, and he managed to re-capture Malwa. However, his victory was short lived as he was defeated by the Mughal army led by Abdullah Khan Uzbeg.

Akbar also had to deal with the Uzbeg nobles who had openly revolted against him. Abdullah Khan Uzbeg, a trusted officer of Akbar and one who had fought brilliantly in Malwa, revolted in 1564 along with other Uzbeg nobles. He joined hands with another Uzbeg ruler of Jaunpaur, Khan Zaman and soon other Uzbeg nobles rallied around them. The common factor that brought them together was their resentment towards Akbar for his favourable attitude towards the Persian officers, and their fear of losing their positions in the Mughal court. Akbar began an extensive military expedition against them. In 1565, Khan Zaman was defeated. In 1567, Akbar himself took the lead and landed a surprise attack on the Uzbeg rebels and in this attack, Khan Zaman was killed and his brother Bahadur Khan was captured only to be executed later.

Next, Akbar marched against the ruler of Gujarat (Muzaffar Shah III) in 1572. Akbar faced no resistance from Muzaffar Shah when he entered Ahmedabad. He was successful in establishing Mughal authority in Gujarat but it was only in 1584 that Gujarat finally came under the Mughal Empire.

Daud Khan, the ruler of Bengal, had to face the wrath of Akbar, by his act of capturing the fort of Zamania. Akbar immediately sent the Mughal force against him but Daud Khan could not be subdued and hence another Mughal force under Todar Mal was sent against him. Between 1576 and 1580, after a long series of military exploits, Bengal was annexed to the Mughal Empire. In 1592, Bengal soon revolted under the leadership of the Afghan nobles.

Bengal was, however, soon re-conquered.

Akbar next marched against Yusuf Shah, the ruler of Kashmir. Raja Bhagawan Das led the Mughal army and was successful in subduing the Shah to surrender. However, the latter's son continued the struggle but he too was forced to surrender. Kashmir was annexed to the Mughal Empire and was made part of the Kabul province.

Sind occupied a great importance for Akbar as it could prove a determining factor in conquering Qandhar. Bhakkar was occupied in 1574, but a large area of Sind still remained un-conquered. The Mughal army under Mirza Abdur Rahim (Governor of Multan) led the troops against Sind to success and the ruler of Sind had to surrender.

Meanwhile, due to the pre-occupation of the Shah of Persia with the Turks and the Uzbegs, Akbar finally annexed Qandhar. At the same time, the Uzbegs and Yusufzais, who had turned against Akbar were making serious attempts to create troubles for Akbar. A large Mughal army under the command of Prince Murad and Raja Todar Mal was sent against the revolting forces. The Uzbegs and the Yusufzais were crushed in the consequent military campaign.

In the meantime, the Raushaniya (followers of Bayazid) Movement had managed to create tension in the neighbouring areas from the foot Mountains of Kashkar (Chitral) to Qandhar. The successors of Bayazid continued the struggle for a long time. The struggle under the leadership of Abdul Qadir against the Mughal army led by Zaffar resulted in the defeat of Abdul Qadir who was forced to surrender. However, Abdul Qadir was later inducted in the Mughal army as the commander of 1000 men. The decline of the Raushaniya Movement in the North West Frontier brought an end to the troubles caused in that region for the Mughal Empire.



LET US KNOW

Bayazid preached a separate form of Islam which was based on two features- Communism and the destruction of those who were anti-Islam. He was

influenced by the Ismailia doctrine preached by Mullah Ismailia and the 'Mahdavia" or Mahdi tenets (the deliverer from all problems) of Syed Muhammad Jaunpuri. Thus, the teachings of Bayazid were a confluence of both the doctrines.

His religious quest was to gain a spiritual superiority among the Pakhtun people. However, his spiritual doctrine was severely criticised and he was dubbed as Bayazid pir-e-Ta'rik (Pir of Darkness).

Akbar next marched towards the Deccan provinces. His first expedition was led against Ahmednagar in 1595. Abdur Rahim and Prince Murad led the Mughal army which was a failure due to the fall out between Prince Murad and Abdur Rahim and the other reason was the example of bravery and courageousness showed in the battlefield by Chand Sultana, the ruler of Ahmednagar. Time soon favoured the Mughals who took the advantage of the murder of Chand Bibi and the internal dissensions that followed. Akbar took charge and successfully took hold of Burhanpur. It was soon followed by the annexation of Ahmednagar by Prince Daniyal and Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan.

As for Akbar's policy towards the Rajputs, it must be said that he carried a relentless war with them. First, the fort of Merta was captured after a heroic fight put up by the ruler Jai Mal Rathod in 1562. In the year 1564, the Mughal army under the charge of Asaf Khan marched against Gondwana. Rani Durgavati, the Governor of Gondwana on behalf of her minor son Vir Narayan, gave a tough fight and fought against the Mughals till her last breathe. With the fall of Vir Narayan, Chauragarh, the capital of Gondwana fell under the Mughal command.

Akbar had to meet a formidable force in Rajasthan, Mewar, the capital of which was Chittor. Akbar had his eyes set on Gujarat. Therefore, it became necessary for him to bring Chittor under his control. Moreover, he was also convinced that the fall of Chittor would lead to the subjugation of all Rajput principalities. And it turned out to be true. In 1567, Akbar marched with his troops against Chittor, where the Rajput nobles fought bravely, but there was no chance of winning against the superior force of the Mughals. Rana

Udai Singh was forced to retreat to the Aravali forests. Next fell the princely state of Ranthambhor in 1569. Surjan Rai Hara after a prolonged fight sued for peace and later gained entry in the imperial service.

The capture of the Kalinjar Fort brought the Rajput states of Jodhpur and Bikaner under the Mughal control. Shortly afterwards Rawal Har Rai of Jaisalmer also accepted the suzerainty of Akbar. Thus, except for Mewar, all other major Rajput states came under the Mughals by 1570. The state of Mewar bravely defied the Mughal authority despite numerous handicaps and obstacles. Akbar was not motivated in his Rajput wars by any whim of

fanaticism or religious persecution. He waged wars against both Hindus and Muslims in order to consolidate the empire and bring the whole country under one central authority. During Akbar's time Mewar did not come to the alliance with the Mughals.

Maharana Pratap stood for independence while Akbar had imperialist dreams. Maharana Pratap was not in favour of entering into a matrimonial alliance with the Mughals. The first battle between the Mughals and Maharana took place in the Pass of Haldi Ghati in 1576. Raja Man Singh commanded the Mughal army and was assisted by Asaf Khan. Maharana fought hard but he sustained an injury that led him to retire to the hills. The Mughals emerged victorious in the battle of Haldi Ghati.

Akbar followed a policy of reconciliation and never annexed the Rajput

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

9. Who was dubbed as Bayazid pir-e-Ta'rik (Pir of Darkness)?

.....

10. Who was Rani Durgavati?

.....

11. In which year did Akbar march against Chittor?

.....

12. Name the Rajput province that did not come into alliance with the Mughal Emperor.

.....

AKBAR'S DIPLOMATIC ALLIANCES

Akbar's diplomatic alliances were directed towards the Rajputs who were known for their calibre as a warrior group. The Rajput policy of Akbar was a strategic element in strengthening the foundation of the Mughal Empire. He was also not ignorant of the military power of the Rajputs who were known for their loyalty. He entered into matrimonial alliances with the Rajputs while being fully aware that the population of Mughal Empire were non-Muslims who must be taken into trust. He sought their friendship and cooperation and thus opted for a policy of matrimonial alliances with them.

While it cannot be denied that he did wage battle against them, but he definitely made efforts to win them over by marriages and offering high revenue and military posts.

He married the Rajput princesses of Amber, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and it was possible only for the broadmindedness and liberal religious outlook of Akbar. In matters of appointments too, Akbar made no discrimination and the Rajputs were installed in high places. The Ain-i-Akbari mentions 137 mansabdars of 1000 rank, out of which 14 were Hindus. The Rajputs were also offered mansabs and watan (home principalities) jagirs for their services. Even though he assigned the hereditary title like Rao or Raja to the chiefs, it did require his confirmation on that issue.



LET US KNOW

The Rajput princes were granted their own native domain or hereditary land as jagir and hence it was termed watan jagir. It was Akbar who first introduced watan jagir.

The distinction between the ordinary and watan jagir was first noticed in a farman to Raja Rai Singh of Bikaner dated around 1604. Thus, watan jagirs were non-transferable and given on a permanent basis. It was totally at the discretion of the emperor to create watan jagir for a noble and it was expected that such noble would have a long term association with the place.

The rajas were given autonomy in the administration of their principalities. However, in matters of succession in case of the death of a chief, the Emperor held the right to intervene. In 1576, Akbar deposed Duda, the eldest son of Rao Surjan Hada of Bundi on the charge of collaborating with Rana Pratap and transferred the chiefship to his younger brother Bhoj Hada. Again, in 1592, Akbar rejected Bikramjit as the chief of Bhatta after the death of Baghela on the ground that his approval was not sought and Duryodhan was installed as the chief of Bhatta.

Raja Todar Mal rose up to the rank of a revenue master while Raja

Birbal, a Brahman, became the court jester. Raja Man Singh was made the commander of the military forces. Raja Bhagwan Das was also enlisted in the Mughal service and later his daughter was married to Akbar's son, Prince Salim.

The abolition of Jizya (1579) and pilgrimage tax was a part of Akbar's Rajput policy to win them over to his side. He wanted a willing cooperation from the Rajputs to run his Empire and this farsightedness of Akbar yielded great results.

When Akbar read the khutba, it was a clear indication that he was asserting his leadership of both the political as well as the spiritual world. In the year 1579, Shaikh Mubarak produced a document by which Akbar became the final interpreter of the Muslim law (Imam-i-Adil). This document was termed as the Infallibility Decree, by Dr. Smith. Akbar made an attempt through this decree to free himself from the domination of the spiritual leaders. Akbar was eagerly anxious to be recognized as a true Muslim by the religious leaders of his court. However, his sincere attempt was severely criticised. The conservative Muslims were not happy with the growing tolerance policy of Akbar and his showing favour to the Hindus.

Despite the resentment among the Muslims, Akbar continued with his religious propaganda and his next endeavour was the promulgation of the Din-i-Illahi or the Tauhid-i-Illahi. Akbar aimed at establishing a common religious faith for the people based on the goodness and truth found in every religion. Certain ceremonies associated with the Din-i-Illahi are stated in the Ain-i-Akbari by Abul Fazl.

The followers of the new faith were graded according to their readiness to sacrifice to the Emperor their property, honour and religion. Sadly, the new faith found very few takers and after the death of Akbar, Din-i-Illahi silently disappeared. Birbal was the only Hindu, who agreed to join the new faith. Scholars have different views of Din-i-Illahi, ranging from some ridiculing it as Akbar's folly and others praising it for its rational basis. Some have refused to accept the terminology of religion given to Din-i-Illahi. They

are of the opinion that Din-i-Illahi had no priest, religious books, no ceremonials and belief system. However, according to S.R. Sharma, Din-i-Illahi as a new order of faith was a brilliant experiment in national idealism by Akbar. Even though Din-i-Illahi ceased to exist after the death of Akbar, yet it cannot be denied that this new order of faith had some sincere and rational objectives.

SHER SHAH SURI AND HIS EXPANSIONIST POLICY

- **Background**

From an obscure Sur family of Rahori in Afghanistan, Sher Shah Suri rose to prominence by dint of his personal merit. His original name was Farid. With the administration of his father's jagir at Sasaram, Sher Shah began his career.

For twenty one years (1497-1518) Sher Shah successfully managed the jagir, but was treacherously removed from his post by his step mother and half-brothers. Sher Shah left Bihar and entered into the services of Daulat Khan Lodi. Through his new master, Sher Shah requested Ibrahim Lodi to bestow on him the jagir of his father which was however rejected by the Sultan. But on the death of his father Hassan Ibrahim Lodi conferred on Sher Shah the jagir of his father. Still, because of strong opposition of his half-brothers, Sher Shah could not take full possession of his father's jagir.

Sher Shah then entered into the services of Bahar Khan Lohani, the Afghan governor of South Bihar. After the defeat of Ibrahim Lodi at Panipath, Bahar Khan Lohani declared himself an independent ruler of South Bihar and made Sher Shah his deputy governor and the tutor of his minor son Jalal Khan. But as Bahar Khan Lohani was instigated against Sher Shah, the latter had to enter the Mughal services where he remained for a very short time, from 1527 to 1528.

Sher Shah helped Babur in his campaign against Chanderi for which he got back his paternal jagir as a reward from the Mughal emperor. Again, Bahar Khan Lohani reappointed Sher Shah to his earlier position as the

deputy governor and tutor of his minor son Jalal Khan. But in October, 1528 Bahar Khan Lohani died and his widow Dudu Bibi too followed him. Now, Sher Shah became the guardian and regent of the minor Jalal Khan who remained only as the nominal ruler. Slowly Sher Shah started grabbing all the powers of the kingdom. He virtually became the independent ruler of South Bihar and styled himself as Hazrat-i-Ala. Bahar Khan Lodhi gave the title of 'Sher Khan' to Sher Shah for killing a tiger single handedly.

The first great achievement of Sher Shah was the acquisition of the fort of Chunar as a consequence of his marriage with Lad Malika, widow of Taj Khan, governor of Chunar. Then in 1533, Sher Shah defeated the combined forces of the Lohani chiefs of Bihar and Mohammad Shah of Bengal at Surajgarh. By this victory he brought the whole of Bihar under his control. He defeated Mohammad Shah of Bengal thrice in 1536, 1537 and1538 securing large wealth of Bengal and even occupied the capital city of Gaud for a short period. All these victories enhanced the power and prestige of Sher Shah who tactfully kept Humayun busy in Gaud and cut off all lines of communication between Bihar and Delhi. On the return journey of Humayun from Bengal to Agra, Sher Shah effectively blockaded his way and inflicted a crushing defeat on the Mughal army in the battle of Chausa on June 26, 1539. Humayun somehow managed to save his life.

Emboldened by this victory, Sher Shah retrieved his authority in Bengal and crowned himself at Gaud as Sher Shah ‘Sultan-i-Adil’. The very next year in 1540 Sher Shah again defeated Humayun in the battle of Kannauj or Bilgram and occupied the throne of Delhi. Sher Shah re-established the Afghan Empire which he ruled for five years, from 1540-1545.

During this short period Sher Shah proved himself to be a conqueror. He sent an expedition against Malwa and with the submission of the governor of the fort of Gwalior, Malwa was conquered in 1542. The fort of Raisin was captured by Sher Shah after a desperate struggle offered by Pooran Mal. Multan, Punjab, and Sindh were occupied in 1543. Jodhpur under Maldeo had become powerful and Humayun was offered shelter by its ruler. This infuriated Sher Shah who took it up as a pretext to raid Jodhpur. Maldeo was

defeated and Marwar was conquered in 1544. His last expedition was against the Raja of Kalinjar and it was during the raid on the fort at Kalinjar that Sher Shah lost his life due to a grievous injury caused by a blast to blow off the walls of the fort. Kalinjar was won in 1545.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

13. What was the original name of Sher Shah?

.....

14. Who was Lad Malika?

.....

15. Who offered shelter to Humuyan?

.....

13.7 JAHANGIR

Jahangir ascended the Mughal throne in 1605 AD. This ascension was followed by the release of prisoners and the striking of coins in the name of the new Emperor. His first campaign was against his own son, Prince Khusrau, who had revolted against him.

Khusrau met a dreadful end and so did the rebels who had joined him. Guru Arjun, who is said to have blessed Khusrau in his campaign, was also executed.

He also led a campaign against Mewar, which had grown strong. In 1614, Prince Khurram was sent against the Rajputs. This resulted in the retreat of the Rajput forces. Jahangir however meted out a generous treatment towards the vanquished and honoured Karan Singh, son of Amar

Singh, by raising him to a mansab of 5000. Thus, he was able to bring peace after a long drawn struggle between the Mughals and Rajputs. Jahangir continued Akbar's policy of giving favours to the leading Rajput Rajas and of entering into matrimonial relations with them

Jahangir's next campaign was the conquest of the fort of Kangra in 1610 AD which proved hazardous. As stated earlier, Akbar was the first Mughal emperor who extended the Mughal suzerainty over the Deccan states. Jahangir also followed his father's policy of territorial expansion beyond the river Narmada. The first target was the half-conquered Sultanate of Ahmadnagar. Ahmadnagar under Malik Ambar started challenging the Mughal power. He succeeded in getting support of Bijapur also. From 1608 onwards a number of campaigns were sent by Jahangir against Ahmadnagar. But he failed to achieve any notable success. Despite the expenditure of millions of rupees and loss of thousands of lives, the Mughal frontier in Deccan did not advance a single mile beyond the limits achieved by Akbar. Similarly, Kandahar was lost due to the internal conflict of the Mughals. Prince Khurram was sent against the Khorasans who were instigated by the Shah Abbas, the Persian ruler. Though Kandahar fell yet it could not be conquered. Jahangir also had to face the revolt of his son Prince Khurram who was ill treated by Nur Jahan. Jahangir soon died in 1627 AD.

Mughal's relations with Assam began in the reign of Jahangir. Islam Khan, the Mughal subedar of Bengal, invaded and annexed Kamrup or Koch Hajo, the western part of Assam, in 1613 from its Koch ruler Parikshit Narayan. The annexation of Kamrup led to a series of battles between the Mughals and the Ahoms, who ruled in the eastern part of Assam. The Mughals ruled over Kamrup uninterruptedly from then to 1658 till the war of succession among the sons of Shah Jahan began.

Jahangir was also a liberal Muslim King. He never launched a policy of destruction of Hindu places of worship. He also did not re-impose Jiziya, nor did he believe in forcible conversion to Islam.

It is alleged that he took harsh steps against the Sikhs and the Jains.

But in support of him, it is generally said that the victims of his wrath were only individuals- Guru Arjun Singh, Man Singh Suri and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and not the religious communities as such. Jahangir visited the ashram of Jadrup Gosain (a Hindu religious leader) and discussed Hindu philosophy with him. He imprisoned some Sunni religious leaders for expressing some opinions disliked by him.

Jahangir, who possessed an excellent literary taste, extended his patronage to scholars and men of letters. His autobiography is second only to that of Babur in matter, style and merit. Among the learned men who adorned his court, of whom the Iqbalnamah-i-Jahangiri has given a comprehensive list, we may mention the names of Ghiyas Beg, Naqib Khan, Mutamid Khan, Niamatullah and Abdul Haqq Dihlawi. Some historical works were written during Jahangir's reign, the most important of these being the Maasil-i-Jahang-i, the Iqbalnamah-i-Jahangiri and the Zubd-ut-Tal Varikh. It was during his reign that W. Hawkins and Sir Thomas Roe visited the royal court and left behind valuable sources of information about his reign.



LET US KNOW

Jahangir was a great patron of the art of painting. He paid generously for exquisite paintings. Abdul Hasan and Ustad Mansur were two most eminent painters of his reign. Displaying realism in paintings was one of the characteristics of his age

Less emphasis was given to book illustration during the period of Jahangir (1605-1627). Instead, Jahangir preferred cult scenes, portraits and animal studies, which were assembled in albums, many of them with richly decorated margins. The style shows technical advancement in the fine brush-work. The compositions are less crowded. Colours are more subdued and movement is much less dynamic. The artist of the Jahangir period exhibited a sensitive understanding of human nature and an interest in the psychological subtleties of portraiture. Noted painters of the period were Abu-al-Hasan, who was called the "wonder of the age"; Bisharidas, praised

for his portraiture; and Ustad Mansur who excelled in animal studies.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

16. Name the Sikh Guru who was executed for helping Prince Khusrau?

.....

17. Who was Shah Abbas?

.....

18. Name a foreign travellers who visited the court of Jahangir.

.....

13.8 SHAH JAHAN

Prince Khurram ascended the Mughal throne under the name of Shah Jahan in 1627. He is said to have been responsible for the death of his rivals who were mostly his relatives.

Shah Jahan had to face the Bundela Rajputs who had united under Jujhar Singh, son of Bir Singh Bundela. After a desperate struggle, the Bundelas surrendered themselves and Jujhar agreed to pay indemnity to Shah Jahan. His next expedition was against Khan Jahan Lodi who entered into alliance with Ahmednagar and revolted against the Mughals. Azim Khan, the Mughal general, was able to force the rebels to retreat. Khan Jahan Lodi had to flee from place to place and his allies made quick submission to Shah Jahan. Shah Jahan also sent army against the Portuguese in his bid to seize Hugli and the latter were forced to surrender.

In his campaign against the Deccan, Shah Jahan was successful in destroying the Nizam Shahi dynasty. He had to confront the Sultan of Bijapur who defied his orders to recognise his sovereignty. Mughal army under Khan Dowran was sent against the Sultan. The Sultan was compelled to submit and agreed to offer peace. During the reign of Shah Jahan, Rajput contingents served with distinction in such far-flung areas as the Deccan, Balkh in Central Asia and Qandahar. However, no Rajput Raja was appointed governor of a

province and no matrimonial relations were made with the leading Rajput Rajas - though Shah Jahan himself was the son of a Rathor princess.

By the time Shah Jahan ascended the throne in 1627 a change in the climate of tolerance and liberalism seemed to have taken place. Islamic precepts now began to exercise control over the affairs of the state as was evident from a change in the practice of paying salute to the emperor. Akbar had introduced in his court the practice of Sijda or prostration, but Shah Jahan abolished it since this form of veneration was deemed fit for the Almighty only. Shah Jahan substituted Chahar Taslim for Sijda. Moreover, the author of Amal Salih informs us that seventy six temples in the region of Benaras were demolished at the order of the emperor. However, the old ones built before Shah Jahan's accession were left untouched.

What is remarkable is the fact that in spite of deviation in some respects from the norms laid down by Akbar and followed by Jahangir, Shah Jahan did not impose Jiziya on the non-Muslims. Nor did the number of the Hindu Mansabdars fall below the number under his predecessors.

Mughal architecture reached its zenith during the reign of emperor Shah Jahan (1628-1658), its crowning achievement being the magnificent Taj Mahal. This period is marked by a fresh emergence in India of Persian features that had been seen earlier in the tomb of Humayun. The use of the double dome, a recessed archway and park-like surroundings are all typical of the Shah Jahan period.

In this type of architecture, symmetry and balance between the parts of a building were always stressed. The delicacy of detail in decorative work during Shah Jahan's reign has seldom been surpassed. White marble was a favourite building material. After the Taj Mahal, the second major undertaking of Shah Jahan's time was the palace fortress at Delhi, the Lal Qila or Red Fort, which begun in 1640. Among its notable buildings are the red sandstone-pillared Diwan-i Am (Hall of Public Audience) and the Diwan-i Khas (Hall of Private Audience), which housed the famous Peacock Throne. Outside the citadel is the Great Mosque (Jama Masjid, begun in 1644). The impressive mosque sits on a raised foundation and is approached by a

majestic flight of steps, with an immense courtyard in front. The elegance and richness of style of the Jahangir period continued during the reign of Shah Jahan but with an increasing tendency to become cold and rigid.

Shah Jahan followed his predecessors in patronizing learned men. Besides many poets and theologians, there flourished in his court some famous writers of history like Abdul Hamid Lahori, author of the Padshah-Namah, Inayat Khan, the author of the Shah Jahan-Namah, and Muhammad Salih, author of Amal-i-Salih, all of whom were important authorities on the history of Shah Jahan's reign. The scholarly works of Prince Dara Shikoh are masterpieces of Persian literature.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer the following questions:

19. Under whom did the Bundela Rajputs revolt against the Mughals?

    .....

20. Name the Muslim commander who was sent against the Sultan of Bijapur.

    .....

21. Define "Sijda"?

    .....

22. Name the building that housed the Peacock Throne.

    .....

13.9 AURANGZEB

Aurangzeb ascended the Mughal throne in the year 1658 and assumed the title Alamgir. On the eastern frontier, under his able general Mir Jumla, who was appointed the Governor of Bengal, the Mughal forces reached Cooch Bihar and Assam. After the death of Mir Jumla, Shayista Khan continued to the fight and captured Chittagong and the Island of Sondip. In the North West frontier, the Afridis and the Khattaks joined their forces against the Mughals. Aurangzeb tried to win over the Afghans by diplomacy,

arms and gifts.

Aurangzeb caused serious rift in the Mughal-Rajput relation by his policy of annexation of Marwar (Jodhpur) in 1679. He wanted to annex Marwar after the death of its ruler Raja Jaswant Singh by de-recognizing the claim of his son Ajit Singh to the throne. The war against Marwar continued with fluctuating fortunes for nearly thirty years. From the side of Marwar the campaign was conducted by the Rajput chief Durga Das. The Sisodias of Mewar also joined hands with the Rathors of Marwar. Aurangzeb's policy towards Marwar and Mewar was clumsy and blundering and brought no advantage of any kind to the Mughals. Particularly the Marwar venture of body politic of the Mughal Empire.

Aurangzeb proved to be a great political mistake and it affected the whole body politic of the Mughal Empire.

Aurangzeb brutally crushed the Satnami revolt. The Satnamis were the Hindu militant group. The Jats of Mathura too revolted against the Mughal tyranny as they suffered much under the Faujdar of Mathura. Gokal was the first Jat leader to rebel and after his defeat it was Raja Ram who continued the struggle. He too was defeated and killed. But the Jats continued to revolt after the death of Aurangzeb under Churaman. Similarly, the Bundela Rajputs revolted under the leadership of Champat Rai and Chhatrasal.

The Sikhs, who had suffered immensely in the hands of the Mughal Emperors revolted under their leader Guru Teg Bahadur. Aurangzeb was irked by the activities of Guru Teg Bahadur and had him executed in 1675 AD. After him Guru Govind Singh and Banda Bahadur carried on the struggle.

In the Deccan, Aurangzeb had to restrain the Marathas who had emerged as a strong power. Aurangzeb invaded Bijapur which was ruled by Sikandar Adil Shah and annexed it to the Mughal territory in 1686. His next campaign was against Abul Hassan Qutub Shah of Golconda. The campaign against Golcondo went on for a long time until Aurangzeb intervened in 1687 and the Mughal army finally conquered Golconda. The Deccan campaign drained the Mughal treasury and it also undermined the reputation of the

Mughal army.

The Mughal relation with Assam took a drastic turn during the time of Aurangzeb, who was disheartened at the loss of Kamrup which was occupied in 1658 A.D. Aurangzeb sent Mir Jumla, the Mughal governor of Bengal, in 1661 to occupy Assam. Mir Jumla, after capturing Kamrup, defeated the Ahoms and captured the Ahom capital of Gargaon. Later, a treaty at Ghiladharighat was concluded in 1663 between Mir Jumla and Jayadhwaj Singha, the Ahom king. But the victory of the Mughals was short lived. The Assamese thereafter defeated the Mughals in a number of battles. Hence, Aurangzeb sent Raja Ram Singh of Amber to Assam to retrieve the Mughal position. At the famous battle of Saraighat in 1671, the Ahom general Lachit Barphukan decisively defeated the Mughals. Aurangzeb did not send any force after this debacle. The Mughal army finally decided to withdraw from Assam in 1682.

Aurangzeb's reign is shrouded in controversy. The opinions of the scholars are sharply divided especially on matters pertaining to religion. Aurangzeb forbade the kalima (Islamic confession of faith) from being stamped on his coins lest the holy words might be desecrated under foot or defiled by the non-believers. Nauroz (the New Year Day of the Zoroastrian calendar) celebrations that were practised by his predecessors were abolished. Old mosques neglected earlier, were ordered to be repaired, and imams and muezzins, were appointed on a regular salary.

A censor of Morals (Muhtasib) was appointed "to enforce the Prophet's Laws who put down the practices forbidden by "Him" (such as drinking spirits, commercial sex). The ceremony of weighing the king against gold and silver on his two birthdays (i.e. according to the lunar and solar calendars) was stopped.

He forbade the Hindu festivals of Holy, Diwali and the spring festivals. The practice of jharokha darshan was discontinued after the eleventh year of his reign. The emperor considered it to be unIslamic because the groups of the darshanias regarded their sovereign as their earthly divinity (and

therefore they did not eat anything before they had the darshan of the king). The famous Somnath temple at Patna, the Biswanath temple at Baranasi and Keshab Rai temple at Mathura were destroyed by his order. Mathura was renamed as Islamabad.

The next major measure was the re-imposition of Jiziya in 1679 which was abolished by Akbar long ago. Another step related to the issue of orders (in 1665) was asking the Hindus to pay 5% custom duty on goods, as against 2 ½% by the Muslim merchants. Another Farman was issued in 1671 to the effect that the revenue collectors of the khalisa land must invariably be Muslims. Later on, he unwillingly allowed the Hindus to be employed in certain departments only, provided that their number was kept at half of that of the Muslims.

Aurangzeb, no doubt, was an enigmatic personality. In contrast with his acts of intolerance stated above, we find him inducting a large number of non-Muslim officers in the state bureaucracy. Aurangzeb did not reduce the percentage of Hindus in the Mansabdari system; rather, it was higher compared to his predecessors. Many Hindus held high posts, and at least two were appointed governors. It is also significant that the emperor who demolished so many places of worship, simultaneously issued grants in several instances for the maintenance of temples and priests. His orthodox religious policy became responsible to some extent for the downfall of the empire.

The monuments of Shah Jahan's successor, Aurangzeb (1658-1707) represent a distinct decline. Though some notable mosques were built before the beginning of the eighteenth century, subsequent works lost the balance and coherence characteristic of the mature Mughal architecture.

A zealous Sunni, Aurangzeb was a critical scholar of Muslim theology and jurisprudence. He had no taste for poetry. He was opposed to the writing of histories of his reign, so much so that the Muntakhab-Ul-Lubab of Khafi Khan had to be written in secrecy. There are some well-known works of this kind, such as the Alamgirnamah by Mirza Muhammad Kazim, the Maasir-i-

Alamgiri of Muhammad Saqu, the Khulasat-ut-Tawarikh of Sujan Rai Khatri, the Nushka-i-Dilkusha of Bhimsen and the Fatuhat-i-Alamgiri of Ishwar Das.

The growth of Hindi literature received a setback during the reign of Aurangzeb, owing to the stoppage of court patronage. During this period not much of Urdu poetry was written in Northern India. But some famous writers of Urdu verse flourished in the Deccan.

In painting genre, scenes - such as lovers on a terrace, or ascetics gathered around a fire - became frequent and the trend continued in the reign of Aurangzeb (1658-1707). Mughal painting also flourished at the courts, such as the ones at Lucknow and Murshidabad. The technique of Mughal painting in the initial phases, often involved a team of artists, one determines the composition, a second doing the actual coloring and perhaps a specialist



13.9 LET US SUM UP

After going through this Unit, you have learnt that:–

- that the Mughal empire founded by Babur filled the political vacuum which was created after the disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate. By occupying Delhi, Babur laid the foundation of a central empire. But Babur did not get enough time to provide stability to his newly founded empire with an efficient machinery of governance.
- After his ascension to the throne, Humayun was faced with a lot of problems. The Mughal empire at that point of time could be held together only by the might of the sword. But Humayun was neither a capable general like Babur nor a good strategist like Sher Shah. He failed to understand the political strategies of Sher Shah and had to face two humiliating defeats at his hands. This resulted in the decline of the newly founded Mughal empire and re- establishment of the Afghan empire in the form of the Second Afghan Empire or Sur Empire



13.10 FURTHER READING

1) Majumdar, R.C., Raychaudhuri, HC. & Datta, K. (2007). *An*

Advanced History of India. Delhi, India: Macmillan.

2) Prasad, Ishwari. (1965). *A Short History of Muslim Rule in India*. (2nd edt.) Allahabad, India, The Indian Press.

3) Richards, John F. (1996). *The Mughal Empire.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

13.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to Q. No. 1: 14 February, 1483

Answer to Q. No. 2: Ibrahim Lodi

Answer to Q. No. 3: 1527

Answer to Q. No. 4: Nusrat Shah was the ruler of Bengal who had offered shelter to Mahmud Lodi.

Answer to Q. No. 5: 30 December, 1530

Answer to Q. No. 6: Kamran, Hindal and Askari

Answer to Q. No. 7: 1539

Answer to Q. No. 8: The reason was his supposedly, sympathetic attitude towards king Bahadur Shah of Gujarat

Ans to Q No. 9: Bayazid

Ans to Q No. 10: Governor of Gondwana

Ans to Q No. 11: 1567

Ans to Q No. 12: Mewar

Answers to Q. No. 13: Farid

Answers to Q. No. 14: Widow of Taj Khan

Answers to Q. No. 15: Maldeo, ruler of Jodhpur

Answers to Q. No. 16: Guru Arjun Singh

Answers to Q. No. 17: The Persian ruler who instigated the Khorasans to siege Ahmednagar

Answers to Q. No. 18: Sir Thomas Roe

Answers to Q. No. 19: Jujhar Singh

Answers to Q. No. 20: Khan Dowran

Answers to Q. No. 21: Sijda is prostrating before the king as a gesture of showing honour to him.

Answers to Q. No. 22: Diwan-iKhas



13.12 MODEL QUESTIONS

(A) Very Short Questions (answer each within 50 words):

Q.1. In which year was the Battle of Khanwah fought?

Q.2. When was the battle of Ghagra fought and between whom?

Q.3. Name the new style of verse in Persian invented by Babur.

Q.4. Name the memoir of Babur.

Q.5. What was the original name of Sher Shah Suri?

(B) Short Questions (answer each within 150 words):

Q.1. What do you know about the early career of Sher Shah Suri?

Q.2. Write briefly what was the political condition of India on the eve of the Mughal invasion.

Q.3. What do you know about the family background of Zahiruddin Mohammad Babur?

Q.4. Write a short note on the successors of Sher Shah Suri?

(C) Long Questions (answer each within 300-500 words):

Q.1. Discuss the foundation of the Mughal rule in India.

Q.2. Discuss the career and achievements of Humayun.

Q.3. Write a note on the events that led to the defeat of Humayun.

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