

**NEXT IAS**

**HISTORY OF  
MEDIEVAL INDIA**

**CIVIL SERVICES  
EXAMINATION 2025**

*Published by*





**MADE EASY Publications Pvt. Ltd.**

Corporate Office: 44-A/4, Kalu Sarai  
(Near Hauz Khas Metro Station), New Delhi-110016

Contact: 011-45124660, 8860378007

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**History of Medieval India**

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First Edition: 2017

Second Edition: 2018

Third Edition: 2019

Revised & Updated: 2020

Fourth Edition: 2021

Fifth Edition: 2022

Sixth Edition: 2023

**Seventh Edition: Nov. 2023**

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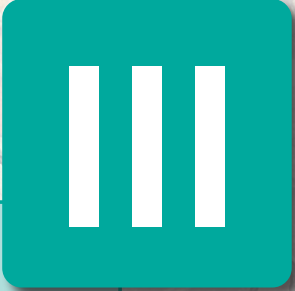
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دو صد سپید کاغذ در جوی ملی میدانی باو در آمدند در همین جوی کثر  
خود با سمد کمر را کشند چنانچه یکی از آنها شمیری اگر فتنه آ



**Unit**



# The Era of Mughals

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# STRUGGLE FOR NORTH INDIA (1525-55 AD)

## 9.1 Mughals

The fifteenth century was the age of change and empire building in Central and West Asia. From the ruins of Mongol and Timurid empires, three great empires were in the making again. In the north of Trans-Oxiana (present Uzbekistan) were the Uzbeks, in the West it was the Safavid dynasty in Iran and Ottoman Turks in present day Turkey. Remarkably, Babur laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire in the Indian subcontinent.

## 9.2 Babur



Babur

Babur was a descendent of the Mongol Emperor Genghis Khan and Timur, thus a Timurid Prince. At a young age of 12, he ascended to the throne of Ferghana, a small state in Trans-Oxiana. To expand his kingdom, he made several attempts to acquire Samarqand, which had great prestige in the entire Islamic World, from his uncle.

However, this infighting among the Timurid Princes, ultimately led to the Uzbek Chief, Shaibani Khan overrunning their kingdoms. This forced Babur to move towards Kabul which he conquered in 1504. When the Herat province was also overrun by Shaibani Khan, it led to a direct conflict between the Uzbeks and the Safavids as both coveted the Khorasan area (Herat and the surrounding area). In a famous battle in 1510, Shah Ismail, the Shah of Iran, defeated and killed Shaibani Khan. This enabled Babur to become ruler of Samarqand with Iranian help. However soon, the Uzbeks recovered from their defeat and retook Samarqand thus forcing Babur to return to Kabul. Finally, Shah Ismail himself was defeated by the Ottoman Sultan in 1514, thus leaving the Uzbeks as the masters of Trans-Oxiana. These developments forced Babur to look towards India.

### Conquest of India

Babur's conquest of India was influenced by the following factors:

- **Lure of wealth and resources of India:**

Like countless other invaders from Central Asia, Babur was drawn to India by the lure of fabulous wealth and resources. Since early childhood, Babur had heard stories of the ransacking and plunder of Delhi by his ancestor Timur during the reign of Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud Shah Tughluq in 1398. After the Delhi massacre, Timur had carried away a vast treasure and many skilful artisans who helped him to consolidate his Asian Empire and beautify his capital. He also annexed some areas in Punjab. When Babur conquered Afghanistan, he felt that he had a legitimate right to these richly endowed areas of Punjab.

- **Meagre resources of Kabul and the ever-present Uzbek threat:**

Kabul yielded a meagre income as it was not resource-rich like Punjab. With these meagre resources in areas that he ruled (Badakhshan, Qandhar and Kabul), Babur could not provide well for his begs (noblemen) and kinsmen. Moreover, the Uzbek threat was always present on Kabul. So Babur considered India to be a good place of refuge with immense wealth and thus, a suitable base for operations against the Uzbeks.

- **Chaotic political situation in North India:**

The political situation in northwest India was suitable for Babur's entry into India as it was chaotic. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, India was a confederacy of a number of small independent states which could easily fall prey to any strong and determined invader. After the death of Sikandar Lodi in 1517, Ibrahim Lodi succeeded him. Ibrahim Lodi's plan to create a strong, centralised empire had alarmed the Afghan chiefs and the Rajputs. The chief among them were Daulat Khan Lodi, who was governor of Punjab and Rana Sanga, the chief of Rajput confederacy. At various times, they sent embassies to Babur to invite him to India and suggested that he should displace Ibrahim Lodi since he was a tyrant. Finally, in 1525, after multiple attempts, Babur became the master of Punjab.



Delhi Sultanate During Babur's Invasion 1526

## Battles

Beginning with the Battle of Panipat in 1526, Babur had fought a couple of battles, which paved the way for establishment of Mughal Empire in India.

### First Battle of Panipat (1526)

In Panipat, near Delhi, a war took place between Babur and the ruler of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi. Babur was a master strategist and battle hardened. He used gun powder in artillery to his great advantage. He strengthened his position by resting one wing of his army in the houses of the city of Panipat and protected the other by means of a ditch filled with branches of trees and a defending wall. He created a device called as Ottoman (Rumi) device which was a combination of defence and attack positions. Moreover, Babur had two Ottoman master-gunners, Ustad Ali and Mustafa, in his ranks to operate the artillery attacks.

At the same time, Ibrahim Lodi was unaware about Babur's war strategy and his strongly defended position. After a week of war, the two extreme wings of Babur's army attacked Ibrahim's forces from the side and rear. Babur's gunners used their guns with good effect from the front. Lodi was caught in between and was attacked

from all sides by Babur. Babur gives a huge credit to his bowmen for the victory.

The battle of Panipat is regarded as one of the decisive battles of Indian history. Its real importance lies in the fact that it opened a new phase in the struggle of domination of North India. It broke the back of Lodi power, and brought under Babur's control the entire area upto Delhi and Agra. The treasures stored by Ibrahim Lodi at Agra relieved Babur from his financial difficulties.



Sketch of first Battle of Panipat

### Battle of Khanwa (1527)

It was a battle in which the Mughal Emperor Babur defeated a confederacy of Rajputs and Afghans which was headed by Rana Sanga of Mewar.

Babur's decision to stay in India invited the hostility of Rana Sanga who began his preparations for a showdown with Babur. Rana Sanga had domination over Eastern Rajasthan, Malwa. Thus the establishment of an empire in the Indo-Gangetic Valley by Babur was a threat to Rana Sanga. At the same time, Babur accused him of breach of agreement. He says that Sanga had invited him to India and promised to join him against Ibrahim Lodi, but made no such move. It is not known what precise promises Rana Sanga had made. However, Babur's decision to stay on in India completely changed the situation.



Painting of Battle of Khanwa

Rana Sanga received widespread support. Almost all Rajput rulers sent contingents to serve under him. Many Afghans, including Mahmud Lodi, a younger brother of Ibrahim Lodi, Hasan Khan Mewati, the Ruler of Mewat etc. rallied to him. The reputation of Rana Sanga and his early success against some of the outlying Mughal posts such as Bayana, further demoralised the war-weary soldiers of Babur. To inspire them and rally them together, Babur solemnly declared the war against Sanga to be a Jihad. On the eve of the battle, he emptied all the wine jars and broke the wine flasks to demonstrate what a staunch Muslim he was. He banned the trade in wine and abolished custom taxes on Muslims.

The battle of Khanwa was fiercely contested and was an example of astute military strategy. Babur carefully selected a site and entrenched himself at Khanwa, near Agra. Like in battle of Panipat, Babur greatly strengthened his position by combination of defence and offence. He lashed together a number of wagons as an outer bastion and dug a trench in front for double protection. Gaps were left in the defences for his musketeers to fire and

advance behind wheeled tripods. The masterful usage of cavalry, artillery and flank attacks by Babur hemmed the Rana Sanga forces and they were defeated after a great slaughter. Rana Sanga escaped and wanted to renew the conflict with Babur but he was poisoned by his own nobles. Thus, died most valiant warriors produced by Rajasthan. With his death, the dream of a united Rajasthan upto Agra also suffered a serious setback.

It was a decisive victory of the first Mughal Emperor Babur and it consolidated Mughal power in India. It affirmed Babur's superior generalship and organizational skills and exposed the outdated warfare strategy and technology of India. The cannon and gun powder artillery of Babur played a critical role in his victory. The victory secured Babur's position in the Delhi-Agra region and led to expansion of Mughal Empire in the north East and central India.

### Battle of Chanderi (1528)

After the battle of Khanwa, the power of Rajputs was only crippled but not crushed. To further consolidate the gains and strengthen his position, Babur conquered a chain of forts-Gwalior and Dholpur towards east of Agra. He also annexed large part of Alwar from Hasan Khan Mewati. On receiving news that Rana Sanga had renewed war preparations to renew the conflict with him, Babur decided to isolate Rana by inflicting a military defeat on one of his staunchest allies Medini Rai of Chanderi in Malwa.

Chanderi was a stronghold of Rajputs. The Rajputs decided to fight till the end and it was captured after the Rajput defenders had died fighting to the last man and their women burnt themselves by performing Jauhar. After the battle of Chanderi, Babur's authority was not challenged by the Rajputs.

### Battle of Ghaghra (1529)

It was fought between the forces of Babur and the Eastern Afghan Confederates under Sultan Mahmud Lodi and Sultanate of Bengal under Sultan Nusrat Shah.

Although the Afghans had been defeated, they had not been reconciled to the Mughal Rule, especially in Eastern UP. They had ousted the Mughal officials in Eastern UP and had reached up to Kannauj. The Afghan Sardars were being backed by Nusrat Shah, the ruler of Bengal, who had married a daughter of Ibrahim Lodi. However, they lacked a popular leader. After some time, Mahmud Lodi, brother of Ibrahim Lodi, who had fought against Babur at Khanwa, reached Bihar. The Afghans hailed him as their leader and mustered strong support under him.

This was a threat which Babur could not ignore. After crossing the Ganga near Banaras, he faced the combined forces of the Afghans and Nusrat Shah of Bengal at the crossing of the river of Ghaghra. Although Babur crossed



the river and compelled the combined forces of Bengal and Afghan armies to retreat, he could not win a decisive victory. Being ill and anxious about the situation of Central Asia, Babur decided to patch up an agreement with the Afghan Chiefs. He also patched up a treaty with Nusrat Shah of Bengal. The Battle of Ghaghra was important to the extent that it finished the challenge of last of the Lodis.

### Challenges Faced by Babur in India

Many of his begs (Nobles) were not prepared for a long campaign in India. They longed for their kinsmen and the cool climate of Central Asia in this strange and hostile land. With the onset of the hot weather, their misgivings had further increased. However, Babur knew that the resources in India alone would enable him to build a strong empire and satisfy his begs. Thus, he proclaimed his intention to stay on in India, and granted leave to a number of begs who wanted to return to Kabul. He also faced remarkable hostility from the common citizenry who had bitter memories of genocide of Timur. Moreover, he had to continuously wage battles to lay foundation of his nascent kingdom.

### Significance of Babur's Advent

- **Political Reorganisation:** His expedition led to the establishment of an all India empire. In north India, Babur smashed the power of the Lodis and the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga, thus destroying the balance of power. This was a step in the direction of the establishment of an all-India empire.
- **Security from External invasions from North West:** Babur and his successors were able to give to India security from external invasions for almost 200 years. It was for the first time since the downfall of Kushan empire, that Kabul and Kandhar became integral parts of an empire comprising north India, hence staging of attacks from North West could be prevented.
- **Trade and Commerce:** India could take a greater share in the great trans-Asian trade. The control of Kabul and Kandhar strengthened India's foreign trade since these two towns were the starting points for caravans meant for China in the east, and the Mediterranean seaports in the west.
- **Military Strategy and Modern Warfare technology:** Babur showed to the Indian Chiefs and soldiers a new method of warfare. Through his 'Tulugma' strategy, Babur started the system of dividing the army into sections in the battlefield and keeping some army in reserve. Gradually, horses took the place of elephants in the battlefields. Before Babur's advent, gun-powder was not widely used in wars in India. However, after the First Battle of Panipat, machine-gun and gun-powder came to be used widely in India. He introduced new mode of warfare and showed what a skilled combination of artillery and cavalry could achieve. His victories led to rapid popularisation of costly gunpower

and artillery in India. Since, artillery and gun powders were expensive, it favoured rulers with large resources thus introducing an era of large kingdoms.

- **Foundations of Secular State in Medieval India:** Babur was the first Muslim ruler of India to do away with the practice of owing allegiance to the Caliph, the Head of the Islamic World. It enhanced the prestige of the crown. It was Babur who declared himself to be 'Padshah'. He thus severed all his connections from the Khalifa and made himself independent of all theocratic influence both in principle and practice. He endeared himself to his begs and army by his personal qualities also. He declared the war against Rana Sanga as jihad for political reasons and not on religious grounds.
- **Culture:** He was deeply learned in Persian and Arabic, and is regarded as one of the two most famous writers in the Turkish language. His autobiography, Tuzuk-i-Baburi is regarded as one of the classics of world literature. He was in touch with famous poets and artists of his time and was a naturalist. He set up many gardens with running water and thus established a trend. He was deeply inspired by Persian Culture.

Thus, Babur introduced a new concept of State which was to be based on the strength and prestige of the Crown, absence of religious and sectarian bigotry and the careful fostering of culture and the fine arts. Hence, he provided a precedent and a direction to his successors.

## 9.3 Humayun

### Introduction



Humayun

After the sudden demise of Babur, he was succeeded by his oldest son Humayun. Humayun is probably the only king in the history of India whose rule included two spells, one from 1530-1540 and the other from 1555 to 1556 after his fifteen years' of exile from India. Humayun, literally means 'fortunate' but through most part of his life, he remained 'unfortunate'.

He inherited a rich-legacy of difficulties but he made it richer by his own blunders. As a ruler he lacked foresight and was incapable of taking a long term view of political and military problems. He faced many challenges in firmly establishing the Mughal empire. Due to untimely death of Babur, the administration had not yet been consolidated. Babur spent almost his time in wars and could not take suitable steps to organize the administration of the territories he conquered.

The Mughal army was a heterogeneous body of several races – Chaghatais, Uzbeks, Mughals, Persian, Afghans

and Hindustanis, etc. Such an army could be kept under control and disciplined only under the leadership of a capable, dashing and inspiring commander like Babur. Humayun was too weak for this purpose.

The finances were precarious. After getting enormous wealth from the royal treasuries of Delhi and Ajmer, Babur distributed it so lavishly among his soldiers and nobles that very little were left for Humayun to conduct the affairs of his administration. In due course, these nobles became very powerful and they posed a great threat to the stability of the Mughal Empire.

Babur did not urge Humayun to follow the Timurid tradition of dividing the empire among all the brothers as the Empire itself was in infancy. However, on his deathbed, he had counselled him to be kind and forgiving towards his three brothers. Humayun made Kamran the ruler of Kabul and Kandhar, Askari, the ruler of Rohilkhand and Hindal, the ruler of Mewat (comprising the modern territories of Alwar, Mathura and Gurgaon).

Thus, his sphere of influence and power was reduced. Moreover, there was ungratefulness and incompetency of Humayun's brothers.

### Retreat and Rise of the Afghans

Even after the Battle of Ghaghra, the Afghans had not been subdued, and were nursing the hope of expelling the Mughals. The Afghans who were ruling Delhi a few years back still had ambition to capture power again.

Bahadur Shah, the ruler of Gujarat, was also an Afghan. He was also ambitious of the throne of Delhi. But the most important and powerful Afghan, who later drove away Humayun, was Sher Shah in the East. Hence it was Bahadur Shah in the West and Sher Shah in the East which hemmed in Humayun and he fought many battles with them.

Humayun failed to estimate the growing power of Sher Shah Suri. He should not have accepted the half-hearted submission of Sher Shah when Humayun besieged the Chunar fort. In fact he should have nipped him in the bud. But Humayun lacked resolution and sustained energy, foresight and quick grasp of situation. In the Battle of Kannauj, he made blunders in choosing a low land for encampment and for remaining inactive before the enemy for two months. Thus, many of the troubles of Humayun were of his own making. He did not understand the nature of Afghan power. Due to existence of large numbers of Afghan tribes scattered over north India, the Afghans could always unite under a capable leader and pose a challenge. Without winning over the local ruler and zamindars to his side, the Mughals were bound to remain numerically inferior.

Sher Khan was superior to Humayan in preparing and planning battles and in fighting the enemy. Sher Shah had more experience, more knowledge of strategies, and more organizing capacity. He never missed an opportunity

and could use wily tricks and crafty means to conquer the enemy.



Painting: Drowning of Bahadur Shah

Even in the case of Bahadur Shah, Humayun lacked military strategy and quick decision making thus kept losing opportunities. Rajputs requested him for assistance and entreated him to attack Bahadur Shah at Chittor. However, Humayun wasted time, thus allowing his opponents to make adequate preparations and to consolidate their positions. But, still the Gujarat Campaign was not a complete failure. While it did not add to the Mughal territories, it destroyed forever the threat posed to the Mughals by Bahadur Shah. Soon after, Bahadur Shah drowned in a scuffle with the Portuguese on board one of their ships.

During Humayun's Malwa Campaign, Sher Shah had further strengthened his position and became unquestioned master of Bihar with widespread support of the Afghans. Soon after, he acquired Bengal also. But Humayun was not prepared to leave Bengal to Sher Khan as it was the land of gold, rich in manufactures, and a centre for foreign trade. Humayun's march to Bengal, was the prelude to the disaster which overtook his army at Chausa almost a year later. His brother Hindal rebelled against him and Humayun was cut off from all news, supplies and reinforcements. Then Humayun showed bad generalship and political sense by crossing the Karmnasa river and being very weakly positioned against Sher Khan's onslaught. Humayun barely escaped with his life from the battlefield, swimming across the river with the help of a water carrier. This defeat in battle of Chausa greatly weakened his position. Moreover, again in the Battle of Kannauj, Humayun was defeated. This battle decided the issue between Sher Shah and the Mughals. Sher Shah became the new ruler of North India and ordered Humayun to leave India.



## Humayun's Later Life

After ruling for ten years, Humayun was forced to spend 15 years out of India. Humayun became a prince without a kingdom. He wandered in Sindh and its neighbouring regions for the next two and a half years, hatching various schemes to regain his kingdom. But neither the ruler of Sindh or Marwar nor his brothers were willing to help him. Worse, his own brothers turned against him, and tried to have him killed or imprisoned. Ultimately, Humayun took shelter at the court of Iranian King of Safavid Dynasty, and with his help recaptured Qandhar and Kabul from Kamran in 1545.



Humayun's Library

Although not as vigorous as Babur, Humayun showed himself to be a competent general and politician till his ill-conceived Bengal campaign. In 1555, following the breakup of the Sur empire, he was able to recover Delhi.



Humayun's Tomb

Humayun's life was a romantic one. He went from riches to rags, and again from rags to riches. It is not doing justice to Humayun when it is said that he was a failure. True, he failed against Sher Shah but after Sher Shah's death, he seized every opportunity to come to power. But his spirit was not subdued. Even after 15 years of exile, he could recapture his throne of Delhi and restore the power and prestige of the Mughals. However, he did not live long to enjoy the fruits of victory and died from a fall from the first floor of the library building in his fort in Delhi within six months of coming to power.

## 9.4 Sur Dynasty

### Introduction

Sher Shah re-established the Afghan Empire which had been taken over by Babur. Sher Shah Suri, also known as Sher Khan, was the Emperor of India from 1540 to 1545. He established the Sur dynasty by dethroning Humayun, the Mughal emperor. The Sur Empire may be considered in many ways as the continuation and culmination of the Delhi Sultanate.

### Sher Shah Suri

Sher Shah Suri, whose original name was Farid was the founder of the Suri dynasty. He became the administrator of his father's jagir which prospered by his efforts. He had extensive administrative experience and was a feared warrior. The title of Sher Khan was given to him by his patron for killing a tiger (sher), or for the services rendered. In spite of not being born with a silver spoon in mouth, he was a real soldier and a rose to the position of ruler of Hindustan.



Sher Shah Suri

### Polity

Sher Shah defeated the combined forces of the Lohani chiefs of Bihar and Mohamud Shah of Bengal at Surajgarh. With this victory, whole of Bihar came under Sher Shah. He also plundered Bengal several times and by capturing Gaur, the capital of Bengal, forced Mohammad Shah to seek refuge with Humayun.

### Encounters: Humayun and Sher Shah

Humayun and Sher Shah had three major encounters:

1. Encounter on the fort of Chunar in 1538 and Sher Shah's diplomatic surrender.
2. Battle of Chausa with Humayun in 1539 and Sher Shah's victory.
3. Battle of Kannauj in 1540 and Sher Shah's decisive victory over Humayun.

With the victory at Kannauj, Sher Shah became the ruler of Delhi. Agra, Sambhal and Gwalior etc., also came under his sway. This victory ended the rule of the Mughal dynasty for 15 years.

In the West, he conquered Malwa, and almost the entire Rajasthan. Sher Shah was able to bring under his control a substantial part of India. The frontiers of his empire extended on the one hand from Punjab to Malwa and on the other from Bengal to Sind. With large areas under his control, he was able to provide a sort of uniformity to the administrative system of India.



**Administration**

- Sher Shah Suri *established a sound and strong administrative system*. His reign lasted only for five years, but even within this brief period, he evolved a system of administration which remained substantially unchanged till the advent of the British in India. Akbar’s system of government was fundamentally based on that of Sher Shah.
- He divided the empire into a number of administrative units known as Paraganas.
- The Paragana was under the charge of the shiqdar, who maintained law and order and general administration.
- The Munsif or Amil looked after the collection of land revenue.
- Above the Pargana was the Shiq or Sarkar under the charge of the Siqdar-i-shiqdaran and a Munsif-i-Munsifan.
- A number of sarkars were clubbed into provinces.
- He took special care for organizing *the revenue administration* of his kingdom.
- *Land was surveyed on a uniform system with each holding being separately measured.*
- The lands were divided into good, bad and middling. The assessment was liberal but the collections were

strict, as *one-third of the gross produce of land was taken as revenue.*

- People could pay the taxes directly either in kind or cash.
- He took special care to protect the interest of the peasants.
- The rights of the peasants were duly recognized and the liabilities of each were clearly defined in the kabuliyat (deed of agreement), which the State took from him, and the patta (title-deed), which it gave him in return.
- It minimised the scope for confusion and oppression.
- The military administration was also efficiently reorganized and Sher Shah borrowed many ideas like the branding (dagh) of horses with imperial signs from Alauddin Khalji.
- Each soldier had his descriptive roll (chehra) recorded.

**Religion**

- Sher Shah was the first, among the Muslim rulers to recognize the fact that India was the land of the Hindus and the Muslims alike and he tried his best to reconcile the two elements as far as possible.
- He extended equal treatment to all sections of his subjects irrespective of the faith they professed.



- Some of the most responsible officials, civil and military, were recruited from among the Hindus.
- He administered justice with strict impartiality and kept effective vigilance on the conduct of the judicial officers.
- Sher Shah did not, however, initiate any new liberal policies.
- Jizya continued to be collected from the Hindus, while his nobility was drawn almost exclusively from the Afghans.

### Economy

- He introduced a reformed system of currency and struck fine coins of gold, silver and copper of uniform standard in place of the debased coins of mixed metals. His silver coin was known as Rupiya and copper coin was known as Daam.
- His silver rupee remained a standard coin for centuries after him. He is credited with the introduction of custom duty.
- He also considerably improved the means of communication.
- He restored the famous Grand Trunk Road running from Bengal to Punjab, and planted trees and established resting places (Sarai) along the roads to facilitate movement of the troops and to give boost to trade and commerce.
- He also linked places like Chittor to the seaports of Gujarat. Moreover, he ensured law and order with very severe penalty for harming the traders and directed his governors to treat merchants and travellers well in every way.
- Also, Sher Shah introduced a system of horse-posts or mail service carried by the horses and was very solicitous for the welfare of the peasantry.

### Art and Architecture

- He built many inns, mosques and laid down the network of roads the most famous among them being the Grand Trunk Road.
- He also built an entire city near Delhi on the banks of Yamuna.
- He also had a refined taste in architecture. It is evident in the Rohtas Fort built by him.
- Sher Shah Suri Masjid in Patna and Qila-i-Kuhna mosque at Purana Qila, Delhi were his other great contributions.
- His mausoleum is considered a masterpiece of Indo-Islamic architecture and is famous as Sher Shah Suri Tomb situated in Sasaram, Bihar.



Sher Shah Suri Tomb



Qila-i-Kuhna Mosque

### Importance of Dynasty

Sher Shah ruled for five years only and even within this brief period he had left the traces of administrative talents permanently impressed. Had he lived longer, he would have founded a stable Afghan Empire and the Empire of the Mughals would not perhaps have come into existence in India. Of all the rulers of medieval India, he was undoubtedly the greatest.

He was an able general, consummate soldier, and a determined ruler. His reforms were well calculated to secure the interests of the people. So great was his personality that his greatest enemy, Humayun, on his death referred to him as 'Ustad-I-Badshahan', teacher of kings.

The changes made by him were adopted by Akbar and his successors as the basis of their government. After the fall of the Mughals, the English East India Company also retained the same administrative machinery more or less intact. It is clear that the genius of Sher Shah continued to affect the destiny of India for centuries.

### Reasons for Decline

- The last campaign of Sher Shah Suri was against *Kalinjar* where he was injured during an accidental gun powder blast and died.

- *Sher Shah's state system revolved around his personality*, it was extremely *top heavy*.
- The level of institutionalization of administration was very low.
- As a result of this, the Sur Empire collapsed within 10 years of Sher Shah's death. He was succeeded by his second son, *Islam Shah, who ruled till 1553*.
- Islam Shah was a capable ruler and general but most of his energies were occupied with the *rebellions raised by his brothers and with tribal feuds* among the Afghans.
- His death at a young age led to a civil war among his successors.
- Sher Shah's *successors were thoroughly incompetent and unfit* to carry on his work of reconstruction.
- Instead of trying to secure the support of all the sections of society, they created dissensions and group-rivalries.
- There was no national solidarity among the Afghans. Rivalries and jealousies ruined the Afghans.
- The successors of Sher Shah *ignored the lot of the peasantry*. There was no proper collection of revenues.
- The examples of Sher Shah were forgotten. Also, they did not bother to give justice to the people.
- This *provided Humayun the opportunity* he had been seeking for recovering his empire in India.
- In two hotly contested battles in 1555, he defeated the Afghans and recovered Delhi and Agra.

**Struggle for North India (1525-55 AD): Important Facts**

**Babur's Indian Expedition**

**Reasons**

- The Ottomans defeated the Safavids and the Uzbeks controlled Transoxiana forcing Babur's imperial impulses towards India.
- Meagre income of Kabul
- Desire to emulate Timur
- Punjab was part of the Timurid province and hence was considered a legal patrimony of the Timurids.
- Apprehension of Uzbek attacks
- He was invited to attack India by Daulat Khan Lodi, Subedar of Punjab; Ibrahim Lodi's uncle Alamkhan Lodi and Rana Sanga.

**Note:** He was successful in his 5<sup>th</sup> expedition. In the Battle of Panipat on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1526, he finally defeated Ibrahim Lodi. Babur was the first one to entitle himself as the 'Padshah'.

**Major Battles**

- Battle of Panipat (1526) – Defeated Ibrahim Lodi
- Battle of Khanwa (1527) – Defeated Rana Sanga
- Battle of Chanderi (1528) – Defeated Medini Rai

**Significance**

- After the Kushans, he was the first to bring Kabul and Kandahar into the Indian empire, which provided stability since it was the staging post of invasions of India.
- This helped in promoting trade since these towns were the starting points of caravans meant for China in the east & Mediterranean in the west.
- He smashed Lodi and Rajput power, destroying the balance of power which paved the way for an empire.
- New mode of warfare was introduced with combination of artillery and cavalry.
- He restored the prestige of the crown after Feroze Shah Tughlaq.

**First Battle of Panipat**

**Significance**

- It made the beginning of the Mughal rule in India.
- The victory in the battle made Babur the master of Delhi and Agra, the two political centres of northern India.
- The treasures that Babur acquired from the royal treasury of Delhi made him financially very strong.
- The Battle of Panipat ushered in a new chapter of Mughal-Afghan contest that continued even after the death of Babur.
- The real importance of the first battle of Panipat lies in the fact that it opened a new phase in the struggle for domination in North India.

### First Battle of Panipat

#### Reasons for Babur's success

- Use of artillery brought from Central Asia which was new to the Lodi Army.
- A smaller but better trained cavalry.
- Battle formation of soldiers in a way that they could easily move from one part of the battlefield to another.

### Humayun

#### Campaigns

- 1530 – Kalinjar : The Raja offered nominal submission.
- 1532 – Muhamud Lodi defeated at Dauhrua.
- 1533 – Siege of Chuna, Sher Khan (later Sher Shah) offered nominal submission by sending son Qutb Khan to Humayun's court.
- 1539 – Battle of Chausa. Humayun was saved by Nizam, the water carrier (saqqa). 1540 Humayun was again defeated by Sher Shah at Kannauj.

- Humayun built Dinpanah at Delhi as his second capital.
- His sister, Gulbadan Begum, wrote his biography Humayunama.
- Humayun died while climbing down the stairs of his library in 1556.

### Sher Shah

#### Campaigns

- In 1539, he defeated Humayun in the battle of Chausa and assumed the title Sher Shah as emperor.
- In 1540, he defeated Humayun in the battle of Kannauj/Bilgram and annexed Kannauj.
- Conquered Malwa (1542)
- Ranthambhor (1542)
- Raisin (1543)
- Marwar (1542)
- Chittor (1544)
- Kalinjar (1545)

- In 1527-28, he joined Babur's service and then returned to South Bihar as deputy and guardian of the minor king Jalal Khan Lohani, son of Bahar Khan Lohani.
- Sher Shah usurped throne as Hazarat-i-Ala. He gained Chunar by marrying Lad Malika, the widow of governor of Chunar Fort.
- During his brief reign of 5 years he introduced a brilliant administration, land revenue policy and several other measures to improve the economic conditions of his subjects.
- He issued the coin called Rupiya and fixed standard weights and measures all over the empire.
- He also improved communications by building several highways. He re-built the Grand Trunk Road (G.T. Road).
- He set up cantonment in various parts of his empire and strong garrison was posted in each cantonments.
- He introduced the principle of local responsibility for local crimes. Muqaddams were punished for failure to find culprits.
- Land was measured and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the average was fixed as land tax The peasant was given a patta (title deed) and qabuliyat (deed of agreement) which fixed the peasant's rights and taxes. Zamindar were removed and the taxes were directly collected.
- He built Purana Quila at Delhi.
- He died in 1545 while conquering Kalinjar.

#### Administrative Unit

#### Head

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Iqta (Province)   | Haqim and Amin                          |
| Sarkar (District) | Shiqdar-i-Shiaqdar and Munsif-i-Musifan |
| Pargana (Taluka)  | Shiqdar and Munsif                      |
| Gram (Village)    | Muqaddam and Amil                       |