

# Development of the Mughal Empire

## 1. Origin of the Mughals

- **Mughals = derived from Mongols**
- **Genghis Khan** united Mongol tribes → established the Mongol Empire (13th–14th century).
- **Timur**, a Barlas Turk, claimed descent via marriage and declared sovereignty.
- **Babur**, descendant of Genghis Khan, founded the Mughal Empire by defeating **Ibrahim Lodi** in the **First Battle of Panipat (1526)**.

## 2. Babur (1526–1530)

### Background

- Timur had annexed parts of Punjab; Babur saw these as his rightful inheritance.
- Looked to India for **wealth, refuge, and a base against the Uzbeks**.
- Invited by **Daulat Khan Lodi** and **Rana Sanga** to invade India.

### Major Battles

- **Panipat (1526)** – Babur defeats Ibrahim Lodi.
- **Khanwa (1527)** – Defeats Rana Sanga; secured Delhi–Agra region.
- **Chanderi (1528)** – Defeats Medini Rai; captures Chanderi.
- **Ghaghara (1529)** – Campaign against Afghans; truce allowed them to rule Bihar.

### Other Points

- Died **26 December 1530**.
- An orthodox Sunni but **not a bigot**.
- Wrote **Tuzuk-i-Baburi** (Turkish).

### Significance of His Conquest

- Brought **Kabul & Qandhar** into the North Indian empire → secured the NW frontier.
- **Increased India's trade** with China and the Mediterranean.
- Defeat of Lodis + Rajput confederacy → foundation of an **all-India Mughal Empire**.
- **Popularised artillery & gunpowder** warfare.
- Built a **strong crown-centric state**.

## 3. Humayun (1530–1540; 1555–1556)

### Challenges

- Infant empire consolidation.
- The Timurid tradition of dividing the empire among brothers.
- Afghan hostility.
- Threat of **Bahadur Shah of Gujarat**.

## Campaigns

- Defeated Bahadur Shah; briefly held Gujarat & Malwa; lost soon after.
- **Sher Shah** rose while Humayun was in Gujarat.

## Defeat

- **Battle of Kannauj (1540)** → Sher Shah defeated Humayun.
- Humayun became a **king without a kingdom**; fled to Iran.

## Reasons for Defeat

- Misjudged Afghan unity under Sher Shah.
- Faulty Bengal campaign.
- No support from brothers.

## Return

- With the Sur empire's breaking (1555), he recovered **Delhi**.
- Died in **1556** from a fall.
- Tomb built by **Bega Begum**.

# 4. Sur Empire (1540–1555)

## Sher Shah (1540–1545)

- Ruled the strongest empire since Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
- Added **Malwa, Rajasthan**.
- Succeeded by **Islam Shah (till 1553)**.
- Succession struggles → fall of the Sur rule.

## Sher Shah's Contributions

- Restored **law and order**.
- Improved **communication networks**; rebuilt the **Grand Trunk Road**.
- Built **sarais & inns** → many became qasbas.
- **Currency reforms**, standard weights & measures.
- **Land revenue system**:
  - Measured sown land.
  - State's share = **one-third of the average produce**.
- **Sasaram tomb** = culmination of Sultanate style, start of new Mughal style.

## 5. Akbar (1556–1605)

### Expansion

- Won the **Second Battle of Panipat** (Bairam Khan vs Hemu).
- Conquered **Ajmer, Malwa, Garha-Katanga, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bengal**.
- Rebellions in 1580–81 were suppressed by Todar Mal, Man Singh, etc.

### Frontier & Deccan Policy

- Secured the **North-West frontier** due to the Uzbek threat.
- Captured **Odisha, Dacca** → political integration of North India.
- Entered Deccan due to:
  - Sectarian rivalries,
  - Portuguese activities & proselytization.
- Captured **Khandesh (1601)**, Berar, Ahmadnagar, and parts of Telangana.

## Akbar's Land Revenue System

### Dahsala / Zabti

- 10-year average of **produce + prices** calculated.
- State share = **one-third**, paid in **cash**.
- Linked with **Todar Mal**.

### Other Systems

- **Batai/Ghalla-bakshi**: divide produce in proportion; cash or kind.
- **Nasaq**: another assessment method.
- **Taccavi loans** for peasants.
- Land classified by quality.

## Mansabdari System

- Officers allotted ranks (**mansab**) from 10 to 5000 (later 7000).
- Rank determined:
  - **Zat** (personal status),
  - **Sawar** (cavalry quota).
- Maintained **2 horses per cavalryman**.
- Paid via **jagirs** or sometimes in cash.
- Crucial for both the **army organisation** and the **nobility structure**.

## Rajput Policy

- Continued Humayun's alliance policy.
- Matrimony is **not compulsory**.
- Only **Mewar (Rana Pratap)** resisted.
- Rajputs were treated **at par** with Mughal nobles.
- Cemented by **religious tolerance**.
- Continued by **Jahangir & Shah Jahan**.

## Religious Policy

- Based on **sulh-i-kul** — universal toleration.
- Built **Ibadat Khana (1575)** at Fatehpur Sikri.
- Attempted **Tauhid-i-Ilahi** (Divine Monotheism).
- Reforms:
  - Restricted sati; widow remarriage legalized.
  - Marriage age → girls 14, boys 16.
  - Restricted wine & spirits.
  - Revised education → moral & secular subjects.

## 6. Jahangir (1605–1627)

### Achievements

- Settled the **Mewar dispute**; strengthened Rajput alliance.
- Subjugated the Deccan but avoided deep involvement.
- Suppressed the Afghan rebellion in Bengal.

### Issues

- **Persia captured Qandhar**.
- Shah Jahan refused to go → rebelled due to court intrigues.
- Jahangir's declining health further weakened control.

## 7. Shah Jahan (1628–1658)

### Deccan Policy

- Needed control over **Ahmadnagar** → sought alliance with Bijapur.
- Bijapur later switched sides → Mughals failed.
- Shifted focus to **Bijapur**; later, both signed the **Treaty of 1636**.
- Mughal suzerainty was established in the Deccan.
- The rise of **Shahji** and **Shivaji** + Golconda nobles, kept the region unstable.
- Arrival of **Aurangzeb as Deccan viceroy** deepened the crisis.

### Administration

- Akbar's system largely continued.
- **Mansabdari modified:**
  - Jahangir: introduced **du-aspah sih-aspah**.
  - Shah Jahan: reduced troop numbers due to financial stress.
- Despite issues, the system worked due to strong wazirs.

## 8. Aurangzeb (1658–1707)

### Accession

- Won the succession war; imprisoned Shah Jahan.

### Empire

- The Mughal Empire reached its **maximum territorial extent**.
- From **Kashmir** → **Jinji, Hindukush** → **Chittagong**.

### Religious & Social Policies

- Orthodox Sunni.
- Demolished temples; re-imposed **jizyah (1679)** → resentment.
- The Rajput alliance weakened due to harsh policies in **Marwar & Mewar**.

### Conflicts

- Fought **Jats, Afghans, Sikhs**.
- Gave Marathas space during the crucial phase of consolidation.

### Deccan Campaign (1681–1707)

- Defeated **Bijapur & Golconda**.
- The occupied parts of the Maratha territory were occupied, but the **Marathas were not subdued**.

### Death

- Died **1707** → empire internally strained and destabilised.

## MCQs

1. Babur's defeat of Ibrahim Lodi in 1526 is associated with which battle?

- a) Battle of Khanwa
- b) Battle of Panipat
- c) Battle of Ghaghara
- d) Battle of Chanderi

**Answer: B) Battle of Panipat**

**2. Sher Shah's land revenue system was based on:**

- A) Measurement of sown land and one-third share of produce
- B) Cash-only system
- C) Ryotwari-like individual settlements
- D) No standard weights

**Answer: A) Measurement of sown land and one-third share of produce**

**3. Akbar's Dahsala/Zabti system was based on:**

- A) Yearly measurement only
- B) Produce divided in proportion
- C) 10-year average of produce and prices
- D) Revenue fixed permanently

**Answer: C) 10-year average of produce and prices**

**4. In the Mansabdari system, 'Zat' referred to:**

- A) Quality of land
- B) Personal status/rank of the officer
- C) Cavalry quota
- D) Revenue collection right

**Answer: B) Personal status/rank of the officer**

**5. Which emperor introduced du-aspah sih-aspah in the Mansabdari system?**

- A) Babur
- B) Akbar
- C) Jahangir
- D) Shah Jahan

**Answer: C) Jahangir**