

Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Class VII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 8
The Mughal Empire

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about the coming of the Mughals to India. By the early sixteenth century, the power and prestige of the Delhi Sultanate had declined considerably. This had given rise to numerous regional kingdoms. It was at such a time that the Mughals conquered India and established a strong empire.

Babur was the founder of the Mughal Empire in India. He belonged to a small kingdom called Farghana in Central Asia. After being driven out of Farghana by the Uzbeks, Babur conquered Kabul in 1504. At this time, Ibrahim Lodi ruled over Delhi. His rivals invited Babur to invade India for deposing him.

In 1526, Babur met Ibrahim Lodi in Panipat. Though Lodi army was bigger but Babur who had a battle hardened cavalry and an efficient artillery defeated Ibrahim Lodi and conquered Delhi and Agra.

The Battle of Khanwa was fought in 1527 between Babur and Rana Sanga. Babur's superior artillery and military tactics led to the defeat of Rana Sanga. The Battle

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of Chanderi fought in 1528 between Babur and Medini Rai in which the latter was defeated. In 1529, Babur defeated the Afghan chiefs in the Battle of Ghaghara.

These battles secured Babur's position in India. Babur was not only a brilliant general but also an accomplished poet and a writer. His autobiography is called Tuzuk-i-Baburi or Baburnama. In it, Babur has described the physical features, climate, animals, birds, flowers, fruits and other details of the places he visited.

Besides his military successes, Babur has other achievements to his credit. He introduced the concept of garden palaces in India. He also introduced a new mode of warfare in India. He showed how the combined use of artillery and cavalry could turn the fate of battles. He reestablished the prestige of the king.

Babur was succeeded by his son Humayun who had to face many problems in the beginning only. The empire was still without a proper system of administration as Babur could rule only for four years and could not do anything in particular with regard to it. Humayun's brothers Kamran, Hindal and Askari were dissatisfied with the territories they had got. The empire was under threat

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from all sides. But Humayun considered the Afghan threat as the gravest. In 1532 he defeated the Afghan forces at Dadrah. He laid siege to the fort of Chunar which was under the Afghans. Sher Khan was allowed to keep the fort on condition that he would remain loyal to Humayun.

Humayun then marched against Bahadur Shah who fled without fighting Humayun. The Mughal and the Afghan forces met at Chausa in 1539. The Mughals were defeated and Humayun barely managed to escape from the battlefield.

In 1540 Humayun met Sher Khan at Rancey. He chased Humayun out of his own kingdom. Humayun escaped to Persia and spent the next fifteen years in exile. Meanwhile Sher Shah had died and with the help of the ruler of Persia Humayun reestablished Mughal rule in India in 1555. Shortly afterwards he died in an accident.

MCQ

1. Babur
2. Farghana
3. Samargand
4. Ibrahim Lodi
5. Son

Fill in the blanks

1. Babur, Rana Sanga
2. Baburnama
3. garden
4. Humayun, Sher Khan
5. tiger