

MODULE-3
FORMATION OF MUGHAL EMPIRE
TOPIC- BATTLE OF PANIPAT



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The Battle of Panipat (21 April, 1526)



- A conflict with Ibrahim Lodi, the ruler of Delhi was inevitable
- Babur marched upon Delhi via Sirhind and reached Panipat village near Delhi Where the fate of India has been thrice decided.
- Sultan Ibrahim also reached Panipat at the head of a large army. 100,00 men & 1000 elephants
- Babur had an army of 12000 men while the forces of Ibrahim were immensely superior in number one lakh according to Babur's estimate.
- Ibrahim Lodi had no idea of the strongly defended position of Babur



- After skirmishing for 7 or 8 days, Ibrahim Lodi forces came out for battle
- But they hesitated seeing the strength of Babur's position
- While Ibrahim reorganising his army the 2 wings of Babur's army attacked Ibrahim's forces from side & retreat
- The battle was thus joined on April 21st 1526. Ibrahim's soldiers fought valiantly but stood no chance of success in the face of Babur's artillery and superior war tactics.
- Within a few hours about 15 to 16 thousand soldiers lay dead along with their leader Ibrahim Lodi.



- The first battle of Panipat occupies a place of great importance in the history of medieval India.
- The military power of the Lodi's was completely shattered. It led to the foundation of the Mughal Empire in India.
- As far as Babur was concerned, Panipat marks the end of the second stage of his project of the conquest of Northern India.
- Though after his victory he became king of Delhi and Agra yet his real work was to begin after Panipat.
- He had to encounter a few formidable enemies before he could become king of Hindustan but Panipat gave him a valid claim to its sovereignty.



- The victory at Panipat was quickly followed by Babur's occupation of Delhi and Agra.
- On 27th April 1526 Khutba was read in the name of Babur in Delhi and alms were distributed to the poor and the needy.
- Offerings were sent to the holy places in Mecca, Medina and Samarqand.
- But Babur's real task began after Panipat.
- Taking advantage of the confusion that followed Ibrahim's death many Afghan chiefs established themselves independent.
- Moreover as Babur proceeded towards Agra the people in the country side fled in fear and he could get provisions for his men and fodder for his animals with great difficulty.



- The soldiers and peasantry ran away in fear. Babur's main task was to restore confidence among the people.
- Some of his own followers began to desert him on account of the hot climate of country.
- Babur showed his usual patience and strength of character and made it clear to them that he was determined to stay in India.
- With the result that most of them decided to sink or swim with their leader.
- The determination of Babur to stay In India was bound to bring him into conflict with the greatest Rajput ruler Rana Sangha of Mewar.