

MODULE-3
FORMATION OF MUGHAL EMPIRE
TOPIC-BABUR(1526-1530)

PRIYANKA.E.K
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
LITTLE FLOWER COLLEGE, GURUVAYOOR

- Babur was born on 14 February 1483 in the town of Andijan in the Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan.
- He belonged to the Mongol tribe that also embraced Turkish and Persian.
- Babur is a Arabic word which means tiger, the nickname given to him because of his attitude shown in battles which he fought there before coming to India.
- His actual and full name was **Zahiruddin Muhammad**, yet he was commonly known as Babur.
- His father, Omar Sheik, was king of Ferghana, a district of what is now Russian Turkestan.
- Omar died in 1494, and Babur, though only twelve years of age, succeeded to the throne.

- An attempt made by his uncles to dislodge him proved unsuccessful, and no sooner was the young sovereign firmly settled than he began to meditate an extension of his own dominions.
- In 1497 he attacked and gained possession of Samarkand, but in 1501 his most formidable enemy, Shaibani (Sheibani) Khan, ruler of the Uzbeks, defeated him in a great engagement and drove him from Samarkand.
- For three years he wandered about trying in vain to recover his lost possessions and finally at last, in the year 1504, he gathered some troops, and crossed the snowy Hindu Kush mountain besieged and captured the strong city of Kabul.

- But due to the political uncertainties in Central Asia, Babur finally took decision to reassemble his army of 12,000 strong, with some pieces of artillery and marched towards India.
- Ibrahim Lodi, with 100,000 soldiers and numerous elephants, advanced against him.
- The great battle was fought at **Panipat on the April 21, 1526**, when Ibrahim was slain and his army routed.
- Babur at once took possession of Agra and **established the Mughal dynasty in the year 1526 AD.**

- Babur the Mughal had many interests.
- He wrote his memoir **Tuzuk -i -Babari** in Turkish language.
- His memoirs reflect that he had an interest in reading, society, hunting, nature, politics and economics.
- He had wonderful ideas about architecture, administration, and civilization.
- Babur was a great patron of cultural activities, and welcomed poets, authors and *litérateurs* at his court.
- He was adept in Arabic, Turkish and Persian.

- Although Babur ruled only four years in India, his love of nature led him to create gardens of great beauty which became an intrinsic part of every Mughal fort, palace and state buildings during the centuries that followed
- While alive, Emperor Babur laid out the classical Mughal-style gardens located on a high point in west Kabul which comprised a series of beautiful landscaped hillside.
- He suffered from ill health during the last years of his life and died at the age of 47 on **26 December 1530**.
- He was succeeded by his son, **Humayun**.

- **The achievements of Babur** can be stated as follows:
 - ❑ Babur **established the Mughal dynasty** in India by defeating Ibrahim Lodi, the last Delhi Sultan, bringing an end to the Delhi Sultanate, in the 1st Battle of Panipat in 1526 AD.
 - ❑ In 1527 AD, Babur also **defeated the Rajput confederacy** which was formed by Rana Sanga of Mewar along with a number of other Rajput kingdoms like Marwar, Gwalior, Ajmer, Ambar, etc. under the leadership of Mahmud Lodi, the brother of Ibrahim Lodi, in the Battle of Khanwa(Rajasthan).

❑ In 1529 AD, Babur defeated the Afghans i.e. of Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, etc., who has formed a powerful alliance with Mahmud Lodi, in the Battle of Ghagra. It temporarily weakened the anti-Babur strategies and saved the fledgling Mughal reign. Due to the conquests of Babur, the Mughal Empire extended from Kabul in the west to Ghagra in the east, from the Himalayas in the north to Gwalior in the south.