

**MODULE-3**  
**FORMATION OF MUGHAL EMPIRE**  
**TOPIC-AKBAR**



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**LITTLE FLOWER COLLEGE, GURUVAYOOR**



- Jalal-Ud-din Mohammad Akbar, son of Humayun was born at Amarkot (in Sind) on 15 October, 1542 in the house of a Rajput chief.
- Akbar spent his childhood under conditions of adversity and un-certainty as Humayun was in exile.
- Arrangements for his formal education were made by Humayun after his restoration to the throne of Kabul but Akbar was more interested in sports and martial exercises than in studies.
- In 1551 Akbar was made the governor of Ghazni and he remained its governor till November 1554 when Humayun embarked on an expedition for the conquest of Hindustan.



- Akbar was given nominal command of the army of Indian invasion and was given the credit of Humayun's victory at Sirhind in January 1555.
- After his occupation of Delhi Humayun, declared Akbar to be the heir apparent and assigned to him the Governorship of the Punjab.
- Humayun died in January 1556 as a result of the fall from the staircase of his library.
- At that time Akbar was just a boy of 14. When the news of his father's death reached, Akbar was at Kalanaur 15 miles west of Gurdaspur in Punjab.
- His guardian Bairam khan took immediate steps to enthrone him on brick-platform and performed the ceremony thereby proclaiming him the emperor on February 14, 1556

# Challenges before Akbar



- Though Humayun had recovered Delhi in June 1555 he had not been able to consolidate his position in India therefore everything was in a chaos.
- Akbar's position was very shaky, he was only a nominal ruler of a small part of the Punjab.
- India in 1556 presented a dark as well as a complex picture.
- In the Northwest Mirza Muhamed Hakim, Akbar's half-brother governed Kabul independently.
- Kashmir, Sind, and Multan were also free from imperial control after the death of Sher Shah.
- Orissa, Malwa and Gujarat were independent of the control of any overlord.
- In the eastern provinces the Afghans were strong under their king Adil Shah.



- The Rajputs also possessed considerable strength. The important Rajput princes were those of Mewar, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur.
- Gondwana was being ruled by Rani Durgavati in the name of her minor son.
- Beyond the Vindhayas lay the extensive Vijayanagar Empire and the Muslim sultanates of Khandesh, Berar, Bidar, Ahmednagar, Golkonda and Bijapur which felt no interest in northern politics.
- By this time even the Portuguese had established their influence on the western coast of India and possessed Goa and Diu.
- Thus there was hardly any territory which Akbar could call as his own at the time of his accession. His heritage was of a precocious nature and his task of building up an empire was indeed a very difficult one.

# Second Battle of Panipat : (Nov. 1556)



- The greatest rival of Akbar at this time was Hemu the Hindu Prime Minister of Muhammed Adil Shah
- On hearing the news of the death of Humayun, Hemu marched towards Delhi and Agra and occupied the same by defeating Tardi Beg the Mughal governor of Delhi.
- Hemu assumed the title of Raja Vikramaditya.
- He thus became the first and the only Hindu to occupy the throne of Delhi during the medieval period of our history.
- Hemu was a man of extraordinary personality, and one cannot fail to admire his qualities of leadership and his prompt attempt to banish alien rule from the country.
- In fact being a real native of the soil his claims to the throne of Delhi were superior to that of the Mughals



- The Mughals were alarmed at the fall of Delhi and Agra. Some advised Akbar to retire to Kabul but Bairam Khan was in favour of recovering Delhi and Agra and Akbar accepted his advice.
- By this time Hemu had consolidated his position by winning over many Afghan officials and soldiers and he was preparing himself to meet the Mughal advance.
- The two armies viz the army of Hemu and of Akbar met on the historic battle field of **Panipat in 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1556.**
- The Mughals fought valiantly but Hemu seemed to carry the day. However, he was struck by an arrow in the eye and he became un-conscience.
- This caused panic in his army as it began to disperse in confusion. It marked a turning point in the battle. Hemu was put to death and Mughal victory was complete.



- The Second battle of Panipat was a decisive battle. It brought to a close the Afghan-Mughal contest for supremacy in India by giving a verdict in favour of the latter.
- If Hemu had been victorious the Mughals would have been compelled to retreat to Kabul.
- His death doomed the Afghan cause and allowed time to the restored Mughal sovereignty to take root.
- The Mughals occupied Delhi and Agra.



# Regency of Bairam Khan (1556-1560)



- After the death of Humayun, Bairam Khan was guardian of Akbar from 1556 to 1560.
- The most important achievement of Bairam Khan during this period was the Mughal victory in the second battle of Panipat which marked the real beginning of Mughal Empire in India.
- After the battle Bairam Kahn by virtue of his wisdom, age and experience was able to acquire a considerable influence over Akbar and became virtually the ruler of the country.
- He also made arrangements for Akbar's education and appointed Abdul Latif as his tutor who was a distinguished scholar and liberal in his religious views.



- Besides this Bairam Khan looked after the administration and also conquered Gwalior and Jaunpur.
- Bairam Khan did not remain in power for long.
- He was dismissed by Akbar in 1560 as Akbar was determined to take the reins of Government into his own hands.
- The removal of Bairam Khan did not alone enable Akbar to assume fully the reins of Government into his own hands.
- From 1560 to 1562, Akbar's foster mother, Maham Anaga and her son Adam Khan and their relatives exercised great influence in the matters of the state.
- Akbar was able to emancipate himself from the harem influence in 1562 and became independent.

# Imperial Policy of Akbar



- Akbar was a strong imperialist by instinct therefore soon after assuming the reins of government in his hands he decided to extend the boundaries of his kingdom.
- It was Akbar who first thought of founding an All India Empire. It was certainly inspired by a longing for fame and glory.
- But according to Abul Fazal his imperialism was also inspired by a philanthropic motive that is he desired to bring peace and prosperity to people suffering under the selfish misrule of petty princes.
- He wanted to establish a strong central government. Therefore the political unification of the country and the establishment of an all powerful Central Government with a uniform system of administration throughout the land became the ideals of his life.



- Akbar and later on his successors did not aim at mere extension of territory nor did they base their authority on mere force.
- Upto the time of Shah Jahan they wanted to broad-base their power on the consent of the governed.
- They tried to evoke loyalty and respect rather than fear and awe. Aurangzeb adopted a comparatively narrow outlook and he reaped its fruit in ruin and disintegration.
- Akbar's career of military exploits which started with the expedition to Malwa in 1560 and culminated in the conquest of Garh-Katanga in 1601 forms a glorious chapter in the military history of India.

# The conquests of Northern India:



- Malwa (1561) :
- This was the first conquest of Akbar after the exit of Bairam Khan.
- The ruler of Malwa, Baz Bahadur was indifferent to politics and war, as he was interested in music and pleasures.
- Rupmati was his famous mistress.
- The administration of Malwa was naturally weak.
- Adam Khan son of Maham Aanga accompanied by Pir Mohammad led the expedition against Malwa.
- Baz Bahadur was defeated and he fled leaving the kingdom in the possession of the Mughals.
- Huge treasure and booty fell into the hands of the victors. Both Adam Khan and Pir Mohammad inflicted terrible misery on the people.



- The former was recalled by Akbar, the latter was drowned by crossing the river Narmada.
- Baz Bahadur returned to Malwa and reoccupied but his success was short lived.
- He was soon driven out by the Mughals.
- Baz Bahadur remained in exile and finally submitted to Akbar who enrolled as a mansabdar in the imperial court

# Jaunpur and Chunar



- The Afghans of the Eastern provinces under the leadership of Sher Khan son of the Late Muhammad Adil Shah collected a large army and made a bid to recover their lost power.
- But their attack on Jaunpur failed. At the same time the Mughals got the peaceful surrender of Chunar from the hands of the Afghans.
- The strong fortress of Chunar thus became an important outpost of the empire in the East.