

# 4

## The Creation of an Empire

### Lesson Plan

#### Contents

- ▶ An overview of the Mughal Empire in India
- ▶ To understand the succession of the Mughal rulers and their rule

#### Objectives

- ▶ To understand the Mughal Empire and its rulers, as well as the rule of Sher Shah Suri
- ▶ To learn about their succession and their rule
- ▶ To know about their administration and significant achievements
- ▶ To appreciate the impact on the art and culture of the time

#### Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe
- ▶ Pictures, charts, atlas and historical wall maps
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

#### Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the background to the emergence of the Mughal empire and its significance.
- ▶ Explain the administration and impact of Sher Shah Suri.
- ▶ Students should be encouraged to know places, locations and their placement on the maps.

#### Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., pausing to examine and explain the data in the boxes.
- ▶ Particularly focus on the rule of the Mughals and its significant impact on the administration, art and culture of the times.

## **Timeline of the Mughal Empire**

- ▶ 1526–1862: Period of Mughal rule by eleven rulers.
- ▶ List of rulers and duration of the rule by each is given.

### **Babur**

- ▶ Lost the kingdom of Fergana and began to look for another place to rule.
- ▶ Situation in India disturbed under Ibrahim Lodhi–Daulat Khan Lodhi and Rana Sanga invited Babur to invade India, hoping he would then go away–Babur planned to take this new kingdom–he was a descendant of Timur.

## **The Mughal Empire**

### **The First Battle of Panipat**

- ▶ Ibrahim Lodhi defeated by Babur [21st April 1526]–Babur’s able command, disciplined and well-equipped artillery.

### **Battles of Khanua and Ghaghra**

- ▶ 1527: Battle of Khanua–Rana Sanga of Mewar defeated.
- ▶ 1528: Battle of Ghaghra–Afghan chief of Bengal defeated.
- ▶ These two victories helped Babur establish rule from Delhi to Agra–laid the foundation of the Mughal empire.

### **End of Babur’s Rule**

- ▶ Babur–strong and capable–known for leadership qualities–fell ill and died at age of 48–sons: Kamran, Askari and Humayun–Humayun succeeded his father.

## **Humayun**

- ▶ Assumed title of Padshah–fought against Sher Shah Suri of Bihar and Bahadur Shah of Gujarat–was defeated and ousted–wandered through Rajasthan and Sind for shelter–married Hamida Banu–Akbar was born during this period.

### **Humayun’s Warfare**

- ▶ 1532–defeated Sher Shah Suri–captured Chunar fort.
- ▶ 1534–attacked Bahadur Shah–took Gujarat and Malwa–but had to return because Sher Shah occupied Bengal and his capital again–Bahadur Shah took back his territories.
- ▶ Marched to Bengal–brother Hindal betrayed him–returned to Agra.
- ▶ 1539–Sher Shah attacked and defeated him at Battle of Chausa–escaped.
- ▶ 1555–recaptured Delhi and Agra–re-established Mughal rule.

## **Sher Shah Suri [1540-1545]**

- ▶ Son of Hasan Khan Suri, a jagirdar at Sasaram, Bihar, original name: Farid Khan.
- ▶ Joined as regent to minor ruler of Bihar—later became ruler, ousted Humayun—laid foundation of the Sur dynasty—annexed Punjab, Sind, Multan, Gwalior, Malwa, parts of Rajasthan.

### **Administration**

- ▶ Excellent administrator—empire—47 provinces called sarkars, under supervisors—divided into districts called parganas.
- ▶ Chief Qazi—for judicial matters—in districts: Amin for civil cases and Qazi for criminal cases.
- ▶ Currency called rupia—still use the word.
- ▶ Branded horses—had an identity record—descriptive roll.
- ▶ Land revenue—collected by Muqadams—strict at collection, lenient in assessing—state took one-third of produce—revenue collected directly from farmers—Kabuliyat [agreement] signed from tenants and a patta [deed] was given to them.

### **Trade and Commerce**

- ▶ Built network of roads connecting towns—Grand Trunk Road—levied customs only on frontiers and at point of sale—transport and sale made easy—planted trees on both sides of roads—built sarais.

### **End of Sher Shah's Rule**

- ▶ 1545: Died in an explosion at Bundelkhand—son Islam Shah succeeded—others followed till Sikander Suri—Humayun had returned to Kabul and re-established his position among the nobles—came back after 12 years but soon died of a fall from the stairs of his library.
- ▶ Akbar—his son—came to the throne when he was 14 years old—Bairam Khan the regent—attack of Adil Shah's general, Hemu—Bairam Khan defeated him in the Second Battle of Panipat.

### **Akbar the Great**

- ▶ Diplomatic relations with Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Golconda unsuccessful—defeated Chand Bibi of Ahmednagar—she was killed later by her own nobles—
- ▶ 1586—annexed Kashmir
- ▶ 1587—Kandhar and Kabul
- ▶ 1590—Sind
- ▶ 1596—Berar
- ▶ 1601—Khandesh—empire extended from Hindukush in northwest to Brahmaputra in east; Himalayas in the north to Godavari in the south.
- ▶ Strengthened northwest frontier—trade with Central Asia and the west.
- ▶ 1605—death of Akbar—mausoleum at Sikandra near Agra.

## Art and Culture

- ▶ Patron of art, literature and buildings – navratnas in his court: Abul Fazl – historian: 'Akbarname' and 'Ain-i-Akbari' dealing with the revenue system – Faizi: Poet who translated the 'Ramayana' and the 'Mahabharata' into Persian – Abdur Rahim Khan-I- Khana: Wrote poems and dohas in Hindi – Todarmal: Revenue minister – Man Singh: General – Birbal: Known for his wit – Tansen: Classical Hindustani singer [Rag Darbari] – Baswan and Daswant: Famed painters.
- ▶ Constructed new capital at Fatehpur Sikri – birthplace of Salim Chishti – secular outlook – scholars from all religions invited for discussion at Ibadat Khana – abolished Jazia – 1652: Founded new religion Din-i-Ilahi.

## **Jahangir**

- ▶ Salim became the Emperor – title was Jahangir.
- ▶ Annexed through conquest and matrimonial alliances.
- ▶ Sense of justice – chain of justice with 60 bells – anyone could call for justice.
- ▶ Foundation of Shalimar Bagh in Kashmir – completed Akbar's tomb at Sikandra.
- ▶ Revolt by son, Khusrau – executed Guru Arjun Dev, so enmity with Sikhs – lost Kandhar and Ahmednagar.

## **Nur Jahan**

- ▶ Jahangir attracted to Mehrunnisa, daughter of Mirza Beg, a noble – married her, titled Nur Jahan – she ruled the kingdom – son Khurram – during their rule, English King James I sent Captain William Hawkins and Sir Thomas Roe to get trade concessions in India.

## **Shah Jahan**

- ▶ 1628 – 1658: Conquests – Bundelkhand; controlled Portuguese in Bengal; Ahmednagar – sent Aurangzeb to Kandhar but the mission failed – his period is considered the Golden Age of the Mughal empire.
- ▶ 1612 – married Mumtaz Mahal – when she died, ordered construction of mausoleum Taj Mahal – fell ill.
- ▶ War of succession among sons – Dara Shikoh, Shuja, Murad and Aurangzeb – Aurangzeb victorious.

## **Aurangzeb**

- ▶ Came to throne with title Alamgir – policies with negative impact – unrest in the empire – weakened it and led to its collapse – problems of Ahoms in Assam; rise of the Marathas; revolt of Rajputs; rebellion of Afghan tribes; protest of Jats in Punjab.
- ▶ Aurangzeb – conservative Muslim – austere life – opposed music and dance – empire too vast to be controlled – also confronted by British traders.

## Mughal Administration

- ▶ Mix of Indian and Persian styles—centralised—based on authority of king and strength of the army—king considered God—supreme commander of armed forces—gave attention to common people—heard them in Diwan-i-Aam—guests received in Diwan-i-Khas.
- ▶ Assisted by other officials: (a) Wazir/Wakil—income, expenditure, collection of revenue, financial matters; (b) Mir Bakshi—army and military equipment; (c) Chief Sadr/Chief Qazi—charities, religious affairs, education and police; (d) Daroga-i-Dakchowki—post; (e) Diwan-i-tan—matters relating to jagirs.
- ▶ Kingdom divided into subas or provinces—under charge of subedars—further divided into sarkars and further into parganas—with groups of villages forming them taken care of by panchayats.

## Mansabdari System

- ▶ Arabic 'mansab' means rank or position—a graded system in which every officer was given a mansab and called a mansabdar—a mansabdari was a ruling group—maintained a fixed number of elephants, camels and carts—paid in cash while others received jagirs—a unique system introduced by Akbar.
- ▶ Agriculture—Todarmal looked after the revenue system—land the source of income—called khalisa—divided into four categories—polaj, larauti, chachar, banjar [lowest quality of land]—Bigha unit of land measured by small sticks—state's share was one-third of produce payable in cash or kind.

## Assessment Corner

### Oral Assignment

- Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm the right answers. Let them write down the correct answers if they like in their books.

### Written Assignment

- The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask the students to write the answers on their own. Then the teacher can announce the correct answers to the students and ask their partners to cross-check them.

In either case, the answers can be written as homework and teacher can check in class.

### Think Tank

- HOTS question:** Discuss the three questions in class and let the students write the answers to G and H as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.