

MUGHALS

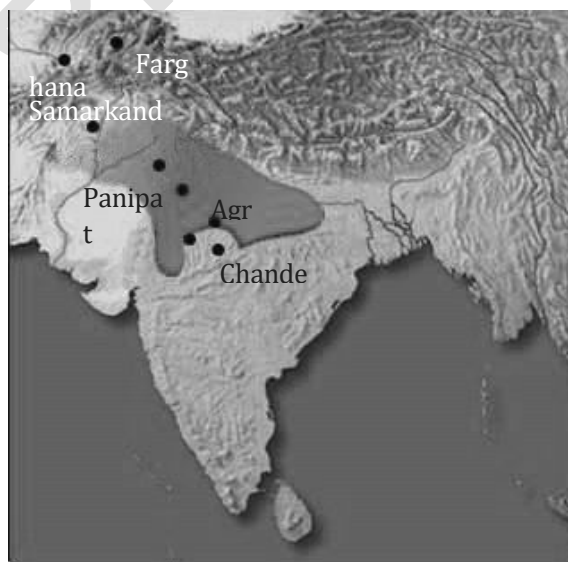
Mughal is a family name. It literally means a flower. Mughals were descendants of Timur, founder of the Timurid Empire in Persia, from paternal side and Chengiz Khan, founder of the mighty Mongol Empire, from maternal side. They initially ruled from Agra and later from Delhi until 1707. Thereafter, the Mughal rule came to an end in the year 1857.

Babur (1526–1530)

- He was the founder of the Mughal Empire in India.
- His original name was Zahiruddin Muhammad.
- He ascended the throne of Fergana or Farghana in 1495, at the age of 12. It is a small town in present-day Uzbekistan. In 1504, he conquered Kabul.
- Babur took interest in conquering India and launched four expeditions between 1519 and 1523.
- His fifth expedition began when he lost Samarkand. He captured Samarkand thrice but lost it all the times.

Conquests of Babur

- In 1525, he started from Kabul to conquer India. On his way, he occupied Lahore by defeating its governor, Daulat Khan Lodhi. Daulat Khan Lodhi was governor of Lodhi dynasty.
- The first battle of Panipat took place on 21st April, 1526. He defeated Ibrahim Lodhi, the then Sultan of Delhi.
- Despite Lodhi having larger army, the guns and canons used by Babur's army proved decisive in this battle.
- Both armies were face to face for a week before the battle. However, Ibrahim Lodhi was killed in less than 3 hours, once the battle begun. Babur introduced use of gunpowder in battle for the first time in India.
- It was the earliest battle involving gunpowder firearms and field artillery in India.
- New war tactics like tulghuma were introduced by Babur. Tulghuma meant dividing and subdividing the whole army into various units.



Other Conquests of Babur

- Battle of Khanwa took place in 1527 and Babur defeated Rana Sanga of Mewar. It is said that this battle was even tougher than the first battle of Panipat. Rana Sangha proved to be more formidable adversary than Ibrahim Lodhi.
- Battle of Chanderi took place in 1528 and Babur defeated Medini Rai, who was the ruler of Malwa (Madhya Pradesh) and one of the allies of Rana Sanga.
- Battle of Gogra/Ghaghra took place in 1529 and Babur defeated Afghan Confederates under Sultan Muhammad Lodhi and captured Bengal.
 - In 1530, he died at Agra. His tomb is in Kabul.
 - Babur was a great scholar of Arabic and Persian languages. Turki was his mother tongue. He wrote his memoirs, *Tuzuk-i-Baburi* (also called *Baburnama*) in Turkic language. Baburnama is known to be the first true autobiography in the Islamic literature. It was translated in Persian by Abdul Rahim Khan (son of Bairam Khan). Bairam Khan gave weapons training to Akbar.

Humayun (1530–1540), (1555–1556)

- He was son of Babur and ascended the throne in 1530. His succession was challenged by the Afghans.
- Rani Karnavati, widow of Rana Sanga, sent a Rakhi to Humayun, calling him brother and asking for help against Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. He hastily concluded a treaty with the Afghan leader in the East, Sher Shah, and proceeded towards Gujarat. Humayun captured Gujarat from Bahadur Shah and appointed his brother Askari as its governor. Soon, Bahadur Shah recovered Gujarat from Askari, who fled from there. In the meantime, Sher Shah became powerful in the east.
- Battle of Chausa (in Buxar district of Bihar) happened in 1539 and Sher Shah destroyed the Mughal army, Humayun escaped and reached Agra.
- Battle of Bilgram/Battle of Kannauj happened in 1540 and Humayun was thoroughly defeated by Sher Shah.
- After losing his kingdom, Humayun lived in exile. Rana Prasad of Umerkot in Sindh gave shelter to him and his wife Hamida Bano. It was here that their son Akbar was born.
- After the death of Sher Shah Suri, his heirs were struggling for control. Humayun defeated Sikandar Shah Suri in Battle of Sirhind (1555) and recaptured the throne.
- Celebrating his victory, Humayun constructed a library at Dinpanah (the city he had founded earlier) in Delhi. On 27 January 1556, he fell off and died in the same library.
- His tomb in Delhi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the first garden tomb in the Indian subcontinent.
- Gulbadan Begum, daughter of Emperor Babur, is the author of *Humayun-Nama*. It is an account of the life of her half-brother, Humayun. She wrote this book on the request of her nephew, Akbar.

Humayun's Tomb

It is the first Indian building known as a classic specimen of the double-domed elevation. The building introduced the distinctive combination of red sandstone and white marble. Contrary to Taj Mahal, which a husband built in the memory of his wife; Humayun's Tomb was built by a wife, Haji Begum, for her husband.

The Sur/Suri Empire (1540–1555)

The founder of the Sur dynasty was Sher Shah.

Sher Shah Suri (1540–1545)

- Born as Farid Khan, he was the son of a jagirdar of Sasaram in Bihar.
- He served under the Afghan ruler of Bihar, who gave him the title Sher Khan for his bravery.
- After defeating Humayun, he became the ruler of Delhi in 1540 and took the title Sher Shah.
- He expanded his empire to the whole of North India except Assam, Nepal, Kashmir, and Gujarat.
- He died in 1545 during his conquest of Kalinjar. He died while cleaning the barrel of his gun.
- Although his rule lasted for 5 years, he organized a brilliant administrative system.
 - The central government consisted of several departments.
 - The king was assisted by four important ministers:
 - Diwan-I—Wizarat—also called Wazir—in charge of revenue and finance.
 - Diwan-I—Ariz—in charge of Army.
 - Diwan-I—Rasalat—Foreign Minister.
 - Diwan-I—Insha—Minister for Communications.
- Sher Shah's Empire was divided into:
 - Iqtas (i.e., Provinces) —headed by Haqim
 - Sarkars (i.e., Districts)—Chief *Shiqdar* (law and order) and Chief *Munsif* (judge) were the two officers in charge of the administration.
 - Parganas (*Taluka*)—*Shiqdar* (military officer), *Amin* (land revenue), *Fotedar* (treasurer), and *Karkuns* (accountants) looked after its administration.
- Land and Revenue Administration
 - Sher Shah was the first to introduce the Ryotwari system. Under the ryotwari system, land revenue was directly collected from peasants (or ryots).
 - He made a systematic survey and measurement of the entire cultivable land. He established the tax rate per Bigha of land (Rai), for the lands under continuous cultivation (Polaj) and the lands, which were kept out of cultivation temporarily (Parauti). Rai was average of three rates representing good, middle, and low yields. The Rai system was later adopted by Akbar.
 - He introduced a new revenue system called "Zabt System" which later became the basis of Raja Todar Mal's system of revenue collection. Under Zabt system, each province was divided into revenue circles with their own rates of revenue for each crop.
 - He introduced the Patta and Kabuliyat (or Qabuliyat) system of land deeds.
 - Under Patta system, the area sown, types of crops cultivated, and revenue share was duly written on paper.
 - The Qabuliyat system involved agreement between the peasant and the government. Qabuliyat system discouraged the Jagir system.
 - Sher Shah introduced new silver coins called "Rupia" along with "Mohar" (gold coin) and "Dam" (copper coin).
 - Sher Shah improved the communications by laying four important highways. They were (i) Sonargaon to Sind, (ii) Agra to Burhampur, (iii) Jodhpur to Chittor, and (iv) Lahore to Multan.

Sadak-i-Azam/Grand Trunk Road

This road is one of the greatest legacies of Sher Shah. It was initially built to connect Agra to his hometown Sasaram. It was later extended up to River Indus in West and Sonargaon (Bangladesh) in East.

Mughals extended Sadak-i-Azam up to Kabul.

Britishers improved and renamed it as "Grand Trunk Road." The road connected Calcutta to Peshawar.

- Sher Shah borrowed Alauddin Khilji's idea of branding the horses. Horse branding helped in identification of horses. Thus, it helped in preventing theft of royal horses.
- He built Purana Qila on the banks of the River Yamuna near Delhi.
- He built his mausoleum at Sasaram. It is considered as one of the master pieces of Indian architecture. It is the only mausoleum, which is surrounded by water.
- Malik Muhammad Jayasi wrote the famous poem *Padmavat* during his reign in hindustani language. This poem mentions Jauhar by Rani Padmavati of Chittor along with other women.
- Abbas Khan Sarwani wrote *Tarikh-i-Shershahi* on Sher Shah's administration.
- Sher Shah was succeeded by Islam Shah. Islam Shah died in 1554. He was succeeded by his son Firoz Shah, 12 years old boy. Firoz Shah was assassinated by Muhammad Adil Shah.

Muhammad Adil Shah (1554–1555)

- He appointed Hemu as his Wazir.
- He was the last ruler of the Sur dynasty.

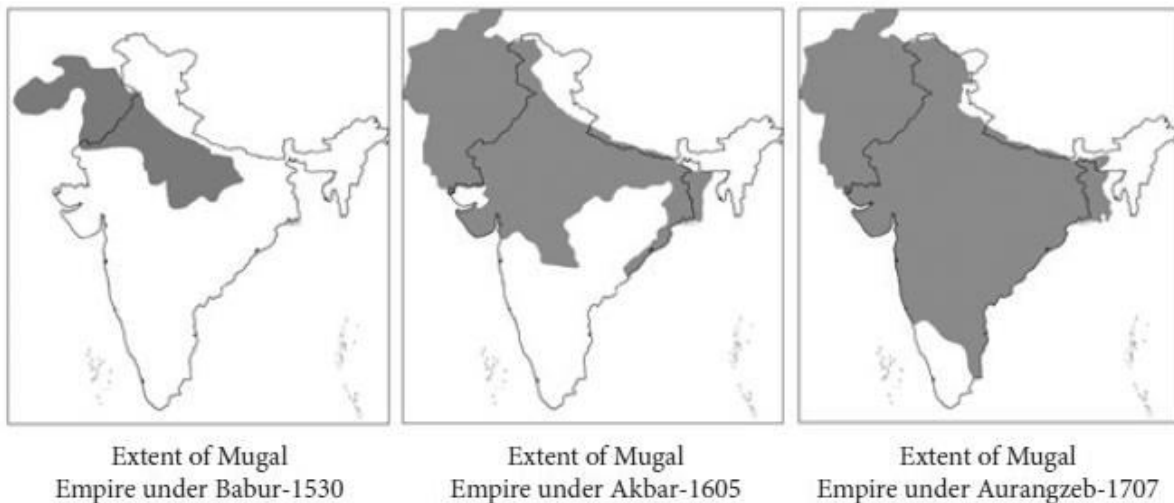
Akbar

- Death of Humayun provided an opportunity to Afghan leaders to re-capture throne. Afghan rulers of Bihar sent their general Hemu to occupy Delhi. On capturing Delhi, Hemu declared himself as the king and took the title Raja Vikramaditya. He was the last Hindu king to sit on the throne of Delhi.
- Meanwhile, Akbar underwent training in Sindh under Bairam Khan. Bairam Khan declared Akbar as ruler of Hindustan.
- Akbar ascended the throne at the age of 14 at Kalanaur in Punjab under title "Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar Badshah Ghazi."
- Second battle of Panipat happened in 1556 in which Bairam Khan killed Hemu. Mughals won the decisive battle for control over North India.
- 1556–1562—Shadow administration/Petticoat government—Bairam Khan acted as regent and ran administration along with mothers of Akbar as he was too young to rule.
- Akbar decided to take control in 1562. He went to Agra and issued orders to Bairam to hand over administration. Bairam Khan left for Mecca. He was killed enroute by an Afghan. Akbar made Bairam's son—Abdul Rahim—a mansabdar in administration.

Akbar's Conquests

- Akbar defeated Baz Bahadur of Malwa (M.P.) in 1562.
- Akbar defeated Rani Durgavati of Gondwana in 1564.

- Akbar conquered Gujarat in 1572. To celebrate his victory over Gujarat, he got Buland darwaza constructed as a symbol of victory. Moreover, he shifted his capital to Fatehpur Sikri from Agra. However, after some years, he decided to shift back to Agra.
- In 1576, Akbar conquered Bengal.
- In 1576, Battle of Haldighati took place. Raja Man Singh of Amber sent by Akbar defeated Maharana Pratap of Mewar.
- Akbar added Kabul to territory in 1581.
- Kashmir was annexed by Akbar in 1586.
- Akbar conquered Odisha in 1592.
- In 1600, Abul Fazl, on behalf of Akbar, conquered Ahmednagar defeating Rani Chand Bibi. This was last major conquest of Akbar.



Religious Policy

- Largely tolerant; His religious policy of tolerance was influenced by various factors
 - His contacts with the Sufi saints.
 - Teachings of his tutor Abdul Latif.
 - Marriage with Rajput women.
 - Association with intellectual Sheikh Mubarak and his two sons—(i) Abul Faizi and (ii) Abul Fazl.
 - Ambition to establish an empire in Hindustan.
- Soon after marrying Jodha Bai of Amber, he abolished the pilgrim tax (Jizya). It was a tax on non-muslims.
- He forbade forced religious conversions.
- He sent delegations to Hajj and money was sent for distribution among the needy and the poor in Hijaz (islamic holy province).

- In 1575, Akbar constructed Ibadat Khana at his new capital Fatehpur Sikri for religious discussions on every Thursday. He invited learned scholars from all religions.
- In 1579, he issued the "Infallibility Decree" by which he asserted his religious powers.
- In 1582, he promulgated a new religion called "din-i-ilahi" or divine faith.
 - It believed in one God.
 - It contained good practices of all religions.
 - Its basis was rationality and its main theme was "Sulh-i-Kul" which means universal peace.
 - However, his new faith proved to be a failure. People were reluctant to adopt new religion.
 - It had only 15 followers including Birbal (only Hindu follower).
 - Akbar did not compel anyone to follow his new faith.

Relations with Rajputs

- Matrimonial alliance: He married the Rajput princess Jodha Bai, the daughter of Raja Bharmal. It was a turning point in the history of Mughals.
- Raja Bhagwant Das and Raja Man Singh were given senior positions in the administration by Akbar. Bhagwant was the eldest son of Raja Bharmal and succeeded him after his death. Raja Bhagwant was also the elder brother of Akbar's consort Mariam-uz-Zamani, popularly known as Jodha Bai. Man Singh (son of Raja Bhagwant Das) was the Rajput Raja of Amber, a state later known as Jaipur in Rajputana.
- However, the Ranas of Mewar continued to defy Mughals despite several defeats. In the Battle of Haldighati, Rana Pratap was severely defeated by the Mughal army led by Man Singh in 1576. Following the defeat of Mewar, most of the leading Rajput rulers accepted Akbar's suzerainty.

Mansabdari System

- Akbar introduced the Mansabdari system in his administration. In this system, the nobility, bureaucracy, and the army, all were given common grades. It was based on the Mongols system.
- Under this system, every officer was assigned a rank (mansab). The lowest rank was 10 and the highest was 5000 for the nobles. Princes of royal blood received even higher ranks.
- Mirza Aziz Koka and Raja Man Singh were honored with the rank of 7000 each.
- Depending upon ranks, *mansabdars* were of three categories—(i) Mansabadars (below 500 Zat), (ii) Amirs (More than 500 but below 2500 Zat), and (iii) Amir-i-Umda/Amir-i-Azam (More than 2500 Zat).
- The ranks were divided into two—(i) Zat and (ii) Sawar.
 - Zat was the personal rank and fixed the person's status and also the salary that a person would receive.
 - Sawar indicated the number of cavalymen (*Sawars*) a person was required to maintain.
- The *Mansab* rank was based on merit and not on hereditary.
- All appointments and promotions as well as dismissals were directly made by the emperor.

Terms of the Time

Mir Bakhshi: Head of military department. The branding of the horses called Daggh was under his supervision.

Subedar: Governor of Suba (province).

Mir Saman: Official in charge of Royal workshops (Karkhanas).

Sadr-us Sudur: Official to protect the laws of the Shariat.

Waqia Navis: News reporters.

Barids: Intelligence officers.

Amalguzar: Official for assessment and collection of the land revenue.

Khalisa: Group of villages, income from which went directly to royal exchequer.

Inam: Lands, which were allotted to learned and religious men.

Jagir: Land allocated to nobles, members of royal family including the queens.

- The *Akbarnama* (Book on Akbar) by Akbar's court historian, Abul Fazl, is the official chronicle of the reign of Akbar. It was written in Persian and in multiple volumes. The *Ain-i-Akbari* is the third volume of the *Akbarnama*, containing information regarding Akbar's administration.
- Abdul-Qadir Badauni also referred as Mullah Badauni was an Indo-Persian historian. He wrote *Muntakhab al-Tawarikh*, which is a critique of religious policies of Akbar. He also translated many Sanskrit tales and the Hindu epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.
- Nizamuddin Panipati, who was Akbar's Mir Bakshi, translated Yogavasistha into Persian. Yogavasistha, also known as Maha-Ramayana, is a historically popular and influential syncretic philosophical text of Hinduism.
- Navaratna (nine jewels of Akbar's court) were

Abul Fazal

Abul Fazl was one of the nine jewels in Akbar's court. He was a distinguished scholar who was even aware of the discovery of America by the Europeans and expressed appreciation for European paintings.

Akbar appointed him as military commander in the Deccan in 1599. He distinguished himself both as a soldier and as an administrator. He was called back to court during rebellion by Akbar's son Salim. At the instigation of Salim, he was assassinated en route.

Faizi

Faizi was Abul Fazl's brother. He was a great poet. The father of Abul Fazal and Faizi was Mubarak Nagori, a scholar in the philosophy and literature of Greece as well as Islamic theology.

Tansen

Earlier, Tansen was disciple of Swami Haridas. Thereafter, he became disciple of Hazrat Muhammad Ghaus (Gwalior, M.P.). Initially, he was a court musician with the prince of Mewar. Later on, he was appointed by Akbar as his court musician. The actual name of Tansen was Ram Tanu Pandey. He was given title of 'Tansen' by Raja Man Singh Tomar of Gwalior. Emperor Akbar gave him title of 'Mian'.

Raja Birbal

He was a poor Hindu brahmin. His original name was Maheshdas. Akbar gave him title of Raja Birbal. He was appointed to the court for performing military and administrative duties on account of his intelligence.

He was also a poet. He wrote under the pen name "Brahma". He died while controlling the unrest

amongst Afghani tribes in Northwest India.

Raja Todar Mal

Raja Todar mal was Hindu by religion and Khatri by caste. He was Akbar's finance minister. He overhauled the revenue system in the kingdom.

Raja Man Singh

Raja Man Singh was prince of Amber. He was also the grandson of Akbar's father-in-law Bharmal.

Raja man Singh was honoured with rank of 7000 Mansabdari and was ablest among Akbar's military commanders. He assisted Akbar in many battlegrounds including check on advancing Hakim (Akbar's half-brother) in Lahore.

Mirza Aziz Koka

Mirza Aziz Koka aka. Khan-i-Azam or kotaltash was also honoured with rank of 7000 Mansabdari. He was one of the leading nobles and also foster brother of Akbar. He also served as governor of Gujarat.

Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana

Abdul Rahin Khan-I-Khana is well known for his Hindi couplets. He was the son of Bairam Khan, who was Akbar's trusted general and tutor.

Fakir Aziao-Din

Fakir Aziao-Din was a sufi saint and an advisor to the king.

- Tulsidas, who wrote *Ramcharitmanas*, also lived during Akbar's Period.

Jahangir (1605–1627)

- He was named Salim because he was born with the blessings of Salim Chishti.
- When Akbar died, Prince Salim succeeded with the title Jahangir (Conqueror of World) in 1605.
- To overcome his bad reputation, he promised better administration. He issued 12 decrees, which demonstrated his policies.
- He hanged a bell of justice (*Zanjir-i-Adal*) at gate of his palace in Agra. This bell could be used by anyone who wished to appeal him.
- Captain William Hawkins arrived at the royal court of Jahangir in 1609 to seek permission to establish English trading center at Surat. However, it was refused by the Mughal Emperor due to Portuguese pressure. However, he was given the Mansab of 400. Jahangir called him "English Khan."
- Later in 1612, Jahangir issued a Farman (permission letter) to the English and they established a trading factory at Surat in 1613.
- Sir Thomas Roe came to India as Ambassador of James I, the King of England to the Mughal court in 1615. He obtained permission from Jahangir to establish English trading factories in different parts of India.
- In 1611, Jahangir married Mehr-un-nisa (popularly known as Nur Jahan). She was widow of Sher Afghan Khan - a jagirdar of Burdwan (presently Bardhaman).
- His eldest son, Khusrau, revolted against him. Khusrau was defeated and imprisoned.

has received help from Arjan Dev, fifth Sikh Guru. After Khusrau's defeat, Arjan Dev was put to death.

Nur Jahan

- Some historians argue that Jahangir was completely under Nur Jahan's influence. Nur Jahan dominated the royal household and started issuing farmans.
- All members of her family also benefited from this alliance.
 - Her father, Itimad ud Daulah, was appointed as chief diwan.
 - Her elder brother, Asaf Khan, was appointed as Khan-i-Saman.
 - Her daughter (from previous wedding), Ladli Begum, was married to Shahryar, son of Jahangir.
 - Asaf Khan's daughter, Arjumand Banu Begum (later known as Mumtaz), was married to Jahangir's another son, prince Khurram (later known as Shah Jahan).
- She formed a group of "junta" comprising of her father, brother, and prince Khurram. However, this group was short lived as Khurram was considered as next sultan instead of Noor Jahan's own son in law Shahryar. Shahryar was not a good administrator.
- In order to put her son in law to throne, she ordered Khurram to go to Kandahar, which he refused. This was treated as rebellion against the king.
- Mahabat Khan—a powerful Mughal commander—was sent to capture Khurram. To Nur Jahan's dismay, he joined hands with Khurram and occupied Delhi. He is famous for this "coup of Jahangir."
- *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri*, also referred to as Jahangirnama, is the autobiography of Jahangir. He is only Mughal emperor apart from Babur who wrote autobiography.
- *Iqbalnamah-i-Jahangiri* by Mutamad Khan deals with Jahangir's administration.

Shah Jahan (1628–1658)

- Khurram (Shah Jahan) ascended the throne in 1628 after his father's death.
- He launched a prolonged campaign in the Northwest frontier to Balkh (presently in Afghanistan). He recovered Kandahar, which was lost to Persians during power struggle in last 4 years of Jahangir. The Mughal army suffered much causality.
- His beloved wife Mumtaz died soon after he ascended the throne. To perpetuate her memory, he built the Taj Mahal at Agra in 1632–1653.
- The construction of red fort began in 1639 and completed in 1643. Its architect was Hamid Lahori, who was also the architect of Taj Mahal. Diwan-i-khas or Hall of private audience in the red fort housed the Peacock throne. It was the seat of king and was heavily jewelled.
- His Deccan policy was more successful. He defeated the forces of Ahmednagar and annexed it. Both Bijapur and Golkonda signed a treaty with the emperor. Shah Jahan carved four Mughal provinces in the Deccan—(i) Khandesh, (ii) Berar, (iii) Telungana, and (iv) Daulatabad. They were put under the control of his son Aurangzeb.
- Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a 17th century French gem merchant and traveler, visited the court of Shah Jahan. In his travelogue, he has widely discussed the trade and mines of diamonds in India.
- The last years of Shah Jahan's reign were clouded by a bitter war of succession among his four sons:
 - Dara Shikoh—crown prince (next in line to become king).
 - He translated Upanishads into Persians. His translation is called *Sirr-e-Akbar* ("The Greatest Mystery").

- His most famous work, however, is *Majma-ul-Bahrain* ("The Confluence of the Two Seas"). It was also devoted to the pluralistic affinities between Sufic and Vedantic tradition.
- Manucci, an Italian writer and a mercenary soldier, joined the services of Dara. After the defeat of Dara Shikoh in the war of succession against Aurangzeb, Manucci adopted medicine as his profession.
- Shuja—Governor of Bengal.
- Aurangzeb—Governor of Deccan.
- Murad Baksh—Governor of Malwa and Gujarat.
- Battle of Dharmat took place in 1658 between royal forces and Aurangzeb. Royal forces were under leadership of Dara Shikon, Raja Jaswant Singh and Qasim Ali. Aurangzeb was assisted by Murad Baksh. This battle took place 14 miles away from Ujjain. The royal forces were badly defeated in this battle.
- Dara Shikon and Aurangzeb again fought at Samugarh (near present day Agra). Dara was again defeated and he ran from the battle field.
- Aurangzeb forced Shah Jahan to surrender. Shah Jahan was put under vigil. He lived for 8 years, lovingly nursed by his daughter Jahanara.
- He died in 1666 and was buried beside his wife's grave in the Taj Mahal.
- *Padshahnama* written by Abdul Hamid Lahori deals with Shah Jahan's administration.

Aurangzeb (1658–1707)

- He assumed the title of Alamgir i.e. the world conqueror.
- Military conquest
 - His military campaigns in his first 10 years of reign were a great success. He suppressed the minor revolts.
 - For the first 25 years, he concentrated on the Northwest frontier.
 - During the Shah Jahan's reign, Aurangzeb as governor of Deccan followed an aggressive Deccan policy.
 - Aurangzeb left the North in 1682 and for next 25 years, he made desperate attempts to crush the Marathas. The Marathas had grown powerful under Shivaji, during the time when Aurangzeb was focused on North.

Religious Policy

- Aurangzeb was an orthodox Sunni Muslim in his personal life. His idea was to transform India into an Islamic state.
- He created a separate department to enforce moral codes under a high-powered officer called *Muhtasib* (regulator of moral character).
- Drinking was prohibited. Cultivation and use of bhang and other drugs were banned.
- Aurangzeb forbade music in the Mughal court.
- He discontinued the practice of *Jharokha darshan*—a daily practice of addressing the public from the balcony of the forts and palaces.
- He also discontinued the celebration of Dussehra.
- Royal astronomers and astrologers were also dismissed from service.
- The celebrated temples at Mathura and Benares were reduced to ruins.
- In 1679, he reimposed Jizya and pilgrim tax.
- He was also not tolerant of other Muslim sects. The celebration of Muharram (Shia festival) was also stopped.

Popular Revolts

- Although Mughal Empire, which comprised of 15 Subas (provinces) under Akbar, had increased to 20 Subas under Aurangzeb, but his religious policy and harsh administration turned the Rajputs, the Marathas, and Sikhs into the enemies of Mughal Empire. It had also resulted in the rebellions of the Jats of Mathura and the Satnamis of Mewat. Therefore, Aurangzeb is largely held responsible for the decline of the Mughal Empire.
- **Bundelas:** They revolted under Chhatrasal Bundela. Bundelas were the people from Bundelkhand region.
- **Satnamis:** Satnamis were based in Narnaul and Mewat districts of Haryana. They revolted against the religious suppression.
- **Jats:** The number of soldiers and horses to be maintained per piece of land was significantly increased. Consequently, the share of nobles from land earnings reduced. Keshava Rai temple in Mathura was destroyed. Jats rose in rebellion under leader Gokul. After Gokul was killed, new leaders emerged. Churaman founded the independent kingdom of Bharatpur.
- **Sikhs:** Guru Gobind Singh after the execution of the ninth guru, Guru Teg Bahadur, revolted against Aurangzeb. Guru Teg Bahadur was executed because he refused to adopt Islam.
- **Marathas:** Maratha ruler, Shivaji, carved out an independent Maratha Kingdom. To contain the spread of the Marathas, Aurangzeb decided to invade Bijapur and Golkonda. The destruction of the Deccan kingdoms was a political blunder of Aurangzeb. The barrier between the Mughals and the Marathas was removed and it ensured a direct confrontation with Marathas.
- **Rajputs:** They revolted under the leadership of Durgadas. The revolt was for the succession to throne of Marwar.
- These revolts and his campaigns exhausted the Mughal treasury.
- Aurangzeb died in 1707. He was buried at Khuldabad (Daultabad).
- In his private life, he earned money for his personal expenses by copying Quran and selling those copies.
- *Muntakhab-ul-lubab* by Khafi Khan deals with administration and conquests of Aurangzeb.

Later Mughals

Bahadur Shah I (1707–1712)

- Original name—Muazzam.
- Title—Shah Alam I.
- He abolished Jizya (Jazia). Some historians argue that he didn't abolish Jizya but efforts to collect the tax became ineffective.
- Sikh Guru Gobind Singh was assassinated in 1708 by an Afghan at Nanded. Banda Bahadur, a trusted disciple of Guru Gobind, continued the war against the Mughals. He also avenged the death of Guru Gobind Singh by killing mughal subedar of Sirhind.
- He released Shivaji's grandson Shahu from Agra jail.
- Due to his pacifist (pacify everyone by giving concessions) policies, he is also referred as Shah-i- Bekhabar.

Jahandar Shah (1712–1713)

- He became ruler with the help of Wazir Zulfiqar Ali.
- Mughal nobles became powerful than the emperor for the first time.

Farrukh Siyar(1713–1719)

- He became ruler with the help of Sayyid brothers–Abdullah Khan and Hussain Ali khan, who were heading Hindustani factions among Mughal nobles. Sayyid brothers were powerful nobles.
- He executed Banda Singh Bahadur, disciple of Guru Gobind Singh.
- Sayyid brothers who brought him to power, deposed him, and got him killed.

Muhammad Shah (1719–1748)

- Muhammad Shah was a great patron of music, dance and administrative developments. His pen name was 'Sada Rangeela' (ever joyous).
- Ruler of Persia, Nadir Shah raided India in 1738–1739 and took away Takht-i-Taus (the peacock throne) and Kohinoor diamond. The Peacock throne was the famous jeweled throne that was the seat of the Mughal emperors. It was commissioned by emperor Shah Jahan and was located in Red Fort.
- Autonomous states of Bengal, Hyderabad, and Oudh formed under Murshid Quli Khan, Asaf Jah, and Saadat Khan, respectively.

Ahmed Shah (1748–1754)

- General of Nadir Shah, Ahmed Shah Abdali, marched toward Delhi. Mughals ceded Multan and Punjab.

Alamgir II (1754–1759)

- Battle of Plassey (1757) took place when he was the emperor of India. In this battle, East India company defeated Nawab of Bengal.
- Ahmed Shah occupied Delhi.
- Later, Delhi was plundered by Marathas.

Battle of Plassey (1757)

The battle took place at Palashi (Plassey in English) on the banks of River Hoogly, about 150 kilometres north of Calcutta. The battle was fought between Nawab Siraj-ud-daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and the British East India Company. Siraj-ud-daulah ordered the Britishers to stop the extension of their fortification.

Robert Clive, British governor general, bribed Mir Jafar, the commander in chief of the Nawab's army, and also promised him seat of Nawab of Bengal. Nawab Siraj-ud-daulah was defeated and killed. The Britishers also took control of Calcutta. Thereafter, the administration of Bengal was carried by Mir Jafar, who was under significant influence of Britishers.

Shah Alam II (1759–1806)

- Third battle of Panipat took place in 1761. It was fought between Marathas and the army of the Afghan ruler, Ahmed Shah Abdali. In this battle, Marathas were badly defeated.
- **Battle of Buxar:** Combined armies of the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, the Nawab of Bengal, the Nawab of Awadh fought at Buxar, against British East India Company led by

Hector Munro in October 1764. It was a decisive victory for the British East India Company.

- **Signed Allahabad Treaty:** The Treaty of Allahabad was signed between the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and Robert Clive of the East India Company. This treaty was signed after British emerged victorious in the Battle of Buxar.
 - Based on the treaty, Alam granted the East India Company Diwani rights, or the right to collect taxes on behalf of the Emperor from the Eastern province of Bengal–Bihar–Odisha. For the above right, the Company paid an annual tribute of 26 lakhs rupees (equal to 260,000 pounds sterling).
 - Out of the combined province of Bengal–Bihar–Odisha, the districts of Kora and Allahabad were handed over to Shah Alam II.

Akbar II (1806–1837)

- Gave title "Raja" to Ram Mohan Roy. He went to England as ambassador of Mughal emperor Akbar II.
- Pensioner of East India Company.

Bahadur Shah II (1837–1857)

- Last Mughal emperor.
- Patronized Urdu writer Mirza Galib.
- Deported to Rangoon after he was made leader 1857 revolt.

Practice Questions

1. In Indian history, who was Abdul Hamid Lahori?
 - (a) An important military commander during Akbar's reign.
 - (b) An official historian of the reign of Shah Jahan.
 - (c) An important noble and confidant of Aurangzeb.
 - (d) A chronicler and poet during the reign of Muhammad Shah.
2. The Mansabdari System introduced by Akbar was borrowed from the system followed in
 - (a) Afghanistan
 - (b) Turkey
 - (c) Mongolia
 - (d) Persia
3. In Medieval India, Mansabdari system was introduced mainly for
 - (a) making recruitment to the army
 - (b) facilitating revenue collection
 - (c) ensuring religious harmony
 - (d) running administration effectively
4. Who among the following women wrote a historical account during the Mughal period?
 - (a) Gulbadan Begum
 - (b) Nurjahan Begum
 - (c) Jahanara Begum
 - (d) Zeb-un-nissa Begum
5. The first Indian ruler to organize Haj pilgrimage at the expense of the state was
 - (a) Alauddin Khilji
 - (b) Feroz Tughlaq
 - (c) Akbar
 - (d) Aurangzeb
6. The Medieval Indian writer who refers to the discovery of America is
 - (a) Malik Muhammad Jayasi
 - (b) Amir Khusrau
 - (c) Raskhan
 - (d) Abul Fazl
7. Consider the following statements:
 1. The Battle of Khanwa proved to be a bigger challenge for the forces of Babur than the first Battle of Panipat.
 2. Battle of Khanwa was between Rana Sanga of Mewar and Babur, founder of Mughal Empire.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. The head of the military department under the reorganized central machinery of administration during Akbar's reign was

- (a) Diwan
- (b) Mir Bakshi
- (c) Mir Saman
- (d) Bakshi

9. Assertion (A): Emperor Akbar marched toward Afghanistan in 1581 with a huge army.

Reason (R): He was on his way to reclaim his ancestral country of Ferghana in Central Asia.

- (a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are individually true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false
- (d) A is false but R is true

10. Assertion (A): Shah Alam II spent the initial years as an emperor far away from his capital.

Reason (R): There was always a chance of foreign invasion from the Northwest frontier.

- (a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are individually true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false
- (d) A is false but R is true

11. During the reign of Akbar, the role of an official called Amalguzar was

- (a) To be in-charge of law and order
- (b) To make an assessment and collection of land revenue
- (c) To be in-charge of imperial household
- (d) To maintain the royal treasury

12. The battle of Dharmat was fought between

- (a) Muhammad Gori and Jai Chand
- (b) Babar and the Afghans
- (c) Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh
- (d) Ahmad Shah Durrani and the Marathas

13. Assertion (A): During the time of Akbar, for every 10 cavalymen, the mansabdars had to maintain 20 horses.

Reason (R): Horses had to be rested while on march and replacements were necessary in times of war.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

14. The loss of Kandhar was a big blow to the Mughal Empire from the viewpoint of

- (a) natural resources
- (b) buffer territory
- (c) communication

(d) strategic stronghold

15. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

- (a) Jahangir: William Hawkins
- (b) Akbar: Sir Thomas Roe
- (c) Shah Jahan: Tavernier
- (d) Aurangzeb: Manucci

16. Assertion (A): During the reign of Shah Jahan, Dara Shikoh was sent on expedition to Balkha, Badakhshan, and Qandahar.

Reason (R): The expedition sent by Shah Jahan to the Middle-East was a marvelous success.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Perfecting Past Prelims

1. During the time of which Mughal Emperor did the English East India Company establish its first factory in India? (2008)

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Jahangir
- (c) Shah Jahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

2. With whose permission did the English set up their first factory in Surat? (2009)

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Jahangir
- (c) Shah Jahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

3. Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri was (2014)

- (a) the mosque for the use of Royal Family
- (b) Akbar's private chamber prayer
- (c) the hall in which Akbar held discussions with scholars of various religions
- (d) the room in which the nobles belonging to different religions gathered to discuss religious affairs

4. Consider the following: (2015)

The arrival of Babur into India led to the

- 1. Introduction of gunpowder in the subcontinent.
- 2. Introduction of the arch and dome in the region's architecture.
- 3. Establishment of Timurid dynasty in the region.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

5. Which one of the following foreign Travellers elaborately discuss about diamonds and diamond mines of India? (2018)

- (a) Francois Bernier
- (b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
- (c) Jean de Thevenot
- (d) Abbe Barthelemy Carre

6. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar? (2019)

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.

2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is not correct? (2019)

- (a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.
- (b) Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.
- (c) Tansen composed songs on his patrons.
- (d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

8. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size? (2021)

- (a) Paragana-Sarkar-Suba
- (b) Sarkar-Paragana-Suba
- (c) Suba-Sarkar-Paragana
- (d) Paragana-Suba-Sarkar

9. "Yogavasistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of: (2022)

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

Answer Keys

Practice Questions

1. (b)	2. (c)	3. (d)	4. (a)	5. (c)
6. (d)	7. (c)	8. (b)	9. (c)	10. (c)
11. (b)	12. (c)	13. (a)	14. (d)	15. (b)
16. (c)				

Perfecting Past Prelims

1. (b)	2. (b)	3. (c)	4. (b)	5. (b)
6. (d)	7. (a)	8. (a)	9. (a)	

Solutions

Practice Questions

9. (c) Reason is incorrect because his motive was expansion of empire and not capture of Ferghana.

10. (c) Reason is incorrect because Shah Alam II did spend the initial years as an emperor away from capital, not due to fear of foreign invasions but local rulers near capital like Najib Khan of Rohilla had become too powerful.

16. (c) Reason is incorrect because the expedition failed miserably.

Perfecting Past Prelims

4. (b) Statement 1 is incorrect: In 14th and 15th centuries, gunpowder was used for military purpose in India. Amir Khusrau in 13th century described the usage of rockets. By the late 14th century, the Bahmani Sultanate and the Vijayanagara Empire were maintaining rockets and hand-cannon squadrons in their respective militaries.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Dome and arch was contribution of Delhi Sultanate.

6. (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Statement 2 is incorrect: Akbar introduced mansabdari system which was based on merit. The system included all the officials included nobles which were also jagirdars. Thus, we can conclude that land assignments to jagirdars were not hereditary.

Statement 1 is also incorrect. Jagirdars included people such as nobles. They were not required to perform judicial and police duties.

8. (a) Mughal Empire was divided into Suba, Sarkar, Pargana and Village. However, the question is to arrange in ascending order in terms of size. Thus, option (a) is the correct answer.