



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2018; 4(11): 212-217
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 07-09-2018
Accepted: 08-10-2018

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The great Mughal emperors: A brief account of history and achievements

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Abstract

Many dynasties ruled in India in medieval period, but Mughals were magnificent in all of them and his Empire is considered one of the classic periods of India's long and legendary history. This powerful dynasty holds up the same value in medieval history like Safavids and Ottoman dynasty. Babur, the ruler of Fargana was founder of Mughal Empire in India. His life was full of struggling and disturbance. Even he captured Samarqand for two times but could not stay there for more than hundred days and he lost his native land too. But he never bowed in front of the circumstances nor did he give up. He stood up again to change his destiny with his limited source and this time his eye was on Hindustan. The victory over Kabul set the plot to conquer the Hindustan. He attacked on Hindustan and finally captured on 21 April, 1526 A.D. after defeating Ibrahim, the Lodi king at the first battle of Panipat. This remarkable victory opened the door of immense possibilities for him and his successors. But after his death, his son Emperor Humayun had lost his Empire after defeating by Sher Shah, the great Emperor of Sur dynasty in 1540 A.D. But after the death of Sher Shah the fortune turned again into Humayun and he captured the empire in 1555 A.D. He could not make rule for much time and died soon in 1556 then the greatest of all medieval rulers, Akbar seated on seat of Mughal Empire. The classical era of Hindustan during Mughals was begun here and a vast and centralized administration was established by Emperor Akbar. After that, the country was developed in different fields like trade and external affairs, architecture, painting, drawing, rules and regulation etc. This article deals with life and achievements of great Mughal Emperors from Babur to Aurangzeb and also provides legendary background of this remarkable bloodline. It discusses campaigns, victories and leadership of great Mughal Emperors in brief but not least.

Keywords: Mughal, Hindustan, Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan, Aurangzeb

Introduction

The word Mughal is derived from a word "Mongol" in Persian language. Mongol is the plural of Mughal which means "A man of great power" ^[1]. Mongols ruled the widest land in 13th century. Early Mughals spoke the Chagatai language and maintained the Mongol traditions.

The man of great power and conqueror Timuchin was the founder of the empire of Mongol Nomads. He was born around 1162 A.D. His father Yeshugi was the chief of Qiyat Nomad and was killed in 1175 A.D. when he was only thirteen years old. It is probably said that this time he adopted the title Chengiz which means Oceanic ^[2]. Chengiz Khan took twenty years to build the widest empire which was extended from Korea in East to Poland in the West, North to Iraq and Iran in south. His magic of power and strength formed his bloodline adventures. His bloodline generation like IL Khans of Iran, Timur and his successor of Iran, Transoxiana and Hindustan created as strong and impressive dynasties which can never be forgotten by whole world.

On the death of Chengiz Khan his Empire was divided amongst his sons Jochi, Chaghtai Ogedai and Tolui. Timur was related to the house of Chaghtai and he was part of Chaghtai Military elite. His father and his uncle Hajji Berlas both were the joint ruler of Berlas tribe. His father Amir Turghai was the chief of the tribe of Berlas and ruled over the city of Kesh where Timur was born on 8th April, 1336 A.D. at Kesh presently known as Shahr-e-sabz and situated to the South of Samarqand. Timur began a long and restless series of campaigns and his expedition of Hindustan was very desperate. Timur killed fifty thousand local people during his plundering.

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He massacrated and destroyed all the towns and cities from route where he passed. Abu Saeed was the Seventh successor of Timurid Dynasty, who was the father of Umar Sheikh Mirza, father of Babur.

Zahir-ud-din Muhammad Babur (1526-1530 A.D.)

Babur means "Tiger" [3], was born on 14th February, 1483 A.D. in Farghana. His father Umar Sheikh Mirza was the king of Farghana, the descendant of Amir Timur and his mother Qutlug Nigar Khan was the daughter of Yunus Khan descendent from Chagtai Khan the second son of Chengiz Khan. His father Umar Sheikh Mirza died on 8th June, 1494 A.D. Thistime, he was just entering the age of twelve and was enthroned the seat of Farghana in June, 1494 A.D. Babur's passion was to capture the grand capital Samarqand but could not get successes for long time and then he lost Fargana too and in May, 1501 A.D., he was badly defeated by Shaibani Khan at Sir-i-pul. Then he became throne less. But he moved to Kabul and captured it which opened the door of invasion in India.

He started campaign against Hindustan from 1519 A.D. to 1525 A.D. and attacked five times on Hindustan. Finally, he captured Hindustan on 21st April, 1526 A.D. by defeating of Ibrahim Lodi (the last ruler of Lodi dynasty) at Panipat known as 'the first battle of Panipat'. He moved to his arch-enemy, Rana Sangram Singh known as Rana Sanga. This irrepressible and adventurous leader of Rajput confederacy was a marvelous fighter. He had lost his one eye and arms and had eighty wound on his body yet his temperament was very high. The memoir of Babur shows only that Rana Sangram Singh invited him to attack over Hindustan against Ibrahim Lodi. He wrote "while we were still in Kabul, Rana Sanga had sent an envoy to testify to his good wishes and to propose this plan: "If the honoured Padshah will come to near Dihli from that side, I from this will move on Agra" [3]. The battle of Khanwa was fought between Babur and Rana Sanga which was won by Babur on 17th March, 1527 A.D. Babur reinforced his army by giving the name to the battle as *Jihad* . The battle of Khanwah was the decisive battle to establish Mughal Empire utterly. After this battle, Babur became powerful Emperor and his life got stability which he had already spent like maverick. After the victory of Khanwah, Babur recognized the title of *Ghazi* .

He defeated Medini Rai at the battle of Chanderi on 29th January, 1528 A.D. and the Fortress of Chanderi was taken under control. Babur's last battle with Afghan was the battle of Ghaghra. It was fought between Babur and the alliance of Bengal and Bihar army in lead of Sultan Mahmood Lodi, the brother of Ibrahim Lodi. On 6th May, 1529 A.D., Babur defeated Afghan very brilliantly. Now the Empire of Babur was spread from Oxus to Ghaghara and Himalaya to Gwalior.

At the age of 48 year, Babur died on 26 December, 1530 A.D. at Agra. Initially his dead body was buried at Aram Bag in Agra but after few years he buried finally in Kabul, the place which he decided before his death. Babur was the only Emperor who had full control on both Kabul and Qandahar after Kushan rulers. His memoirs refer that he was the great autobiographer which recognized him the title "prince of autobiographer". He was fine scholar and having full command on Persian and Turkish language. He was a great lover of fine art, gardening, architecture, poetry, painting and music.

Babur did not like the weather of India due to its heated stormy wind and dust. He loved his native land's atmosphere and gardens very much. He mentioned in his memoirs that he created several gardens around Agra. He managed good water channels in gardens which was the fundamental need of gardens to make green and cool. He enclosed the gardens with high walls to prevent heated wind and sandstorm. The Mughal architecture began by Babur when he built first mosque at Kabuli Bagh near Panipat. He had keen interest in gardens, he made a garden in four square patterns based geometrical technique named was Nur-Afghan. In Agra he created Bag-i-hast Bihist (The Garden of Eight Heaven), in Fatehpur Sikri, Fateh Bagh (Victory Garden) and Bagh-i-nilufar at Dholakpur. Presently Rambagh is only surviving garden of Babur in Agra which was later known Aram Bagh. He also built several mosques in India, his principal architectures which exist today are the mosque of Sambhal (933/1526 A.D.), Ayodhya and Panipat (935/1528-29 A.D.).

Nasir-ud-din Mohhammad Humayun (1530-1540 A.D., 1555-1556 A.D.)

Nasir-ud-din Mohhammad Humayun was born on 6th March, 1508 A.D. at Kabul. His Mother's name was Mahim Begum. He was appointed the Governor of Badakhshan at the age of 12. His first experience of battle was against Hamid Khan. Humayun defeated him near Hissar Firoza at the age of 18. At the age of 23, he enthroned the seat of Mughal Empire on 30th December, 1530 A.D. at Agra and his first campaign was against the fortress of Kalinjar in Bundelkhand. He seized the fortress of Kalinjar but he abandoned it after few months when the King of fortress obliged him huge indemnity.

Humayun besieged the fortress of Chunar which was held by Sher Khan. The four months of siege from September to December, 1532 A.D., Sher Khan accepted complete submission to him and sent a detachment of force with his son Qutub Khan to serve Mughal army. Humayun abandoned the siege without conquering the fortress and remained it under the control of Sher Khan. This was the biggest mistake of his life because Sher Khan got an opportunity to develop his resources and increased his power.

Humayun defeated Bahadur Shah at Sarangpur in January, 1535 A.D. and occupied Champaner and Mandu, and then Gujarat and Malwa. But Gujarat and Malwa could not be possessed for much time and both were again acquired by Bahadur Shah.

Sher Khan seized the Mughal possession in Bihar and Jaunpur. His troops occupied entire country from Taliagarh to Kannauj. He rapidly over-ran the country and captured Banaras, Kara, Bahraich, Kannauj and Sambhal. On 26th June, 1539 A.D. at the battle of Chausa, Humayun was defeated by Sher Khan and after this battle Sher Khan adopted the title "Sher Shah" for himself, read Khutwa and struck coins in his own name.

After being defeated, Humayun and his brothers, met at Agra and discussed about the tactics against Afghan and they proceeded to meet the enemy with 90000 soldiers. On 17th May, 1540 A.D., Mughals were defeated again at the battle of Bilgram by Sher Shah with his clever tactics. Then Humayun retired and expelled from India.

In 1541 A.D., Humayun met with Hamida Begam, the daughter of Hindal's tutor and spiritual guide Mir Baba Dost

alias Mir Ali Akbar Jami and got married with Hamida Begam on 29th August, 1541 A.D.^[4] who gave the birth to Akbar at royal palace of Rana of Amarkot.

On the receipt of help from Shah Tahmasp, Humayun invaded the Qandahar by defeating his brother Askari. Then he conquered Kabul from Kamran but Kamran stood to give challenge again and again. Kamran reached under the shelter of Sultan Islam Shah, who treated him badly and sent him the country of Gakkhar. Gakkhar handed over to Humayun who ordered to make him blind. Humayun was extremely helped by Bairam Khan during his stay in Afganistan. He was now authority of Kabul, Qandhar and Ghazni. Humayun's all brothers were killed; Kamram was died in pilgrimage to Mecca, Askari was given prison and sent to Mecca from where he never returned and Hindal was killed by an Afghan.

Sher Shah had established a vast and powerful Empire with elite administration, but he died in May, 1545 A.D. and after his death his son Islam Shah was the next successor who died in premature age on 30th October, 1553 A.D. Islam Shah's twelve years son was killed by his maternal uncle. This tragedy made disappointment in whole kingdom. On 15th May, 1555 A.D., the battle at Machchhiwara was fought between Mughals and Afghans. The whole province of Punjab came under the Mughal authority as the result of battle and at the battle of Sirhind, on 22nd June, 1555 A.D., Afghan were defeated very badly. This was the final battle to obtain the seat of Empire. Thence Humayun seated on the throne of Delhi on 23rd July, 1555 A.D. but he could not enthrone for much time and died on 24th January, 1556 A.D. after falling down from the stairs on the terrace-roof of Sher Mandal on 20th January, which was made by Sher Shah Sur, in which Humayun established Din Panah Library. He was renowned scholar and had a great knowledge about Mathematics and Astrology. He was extremely influenced by of Persian art, architecture, language and literature. He built Din Panah, the sixth city of Delhi in 1553 A.D. which is famous as Purana Qila.

Humayun the successor of Babur also loved art but he was much passionate to study astrology and astronomy. His most remarkable achievement was the city of Din Panah in Delhi known today as Purana Qila (old fort). Actually, the city had vast palace, gardens and restrooms for scholars and refugees. Sher Mandal, the palace of Sher Shah is identified as the famous library of Humayun where he died after falling from its stairs. The mosque at Kachhpura village in Agra was only surviving building during his reign situated on the left bank of river Yamuna and opposite to Taj Mahal.

Jalal-ud-din Mohammad Akbar (1556-1605 A.D.)

The greatest Mughal ruler of Hindustan Jalal-ud-din-Mohammad Akbar was born at the palace of Rana Virsal of Amarkot in Sind on 15th October, 1542 A.D. (the fourth day of Rajab, 949 A.H.). Humayun married Akbar with Rukaiya Begam the daughter of Hindal after the death of Hindal and gave the whole state of Ghazni to Akbar and made him ruler of Ghazani in 1551 A.D. when he was at the age of ten years.

After hearing the tragic news of Humayun's death at Kalanaur in the province of Punjab, Akbar's guardian Bairam Khan immediately made a brick-platform and proclaimed Akbar as Emperor and this ceremony took place on 14th February, 1556 A.D. This time, the condition of Hindustan was very critical and he was the ruler of only

Punjab which was disputed and Sikandar Sur wanted to proclaim. Agra and Delhi were occupied by Hemu. Kabul, Badakhshan and Qandhar were disputed; Muqem Khan and Mirza Haqim were not able to defend from any side. Sind, Multan and Kashmir were independent. Bengal was the independent kingdom of Afghan and Bihar was under the Adil Shah Sur who made his kingdom Chunar. Gondwana, Gujrat and Malwa were also independent and powerful kingdom.

Hemu, the Prime Minister of Adil Shah was the great problem for new Emperor and entire land from river Satlaj to Gwalior was under his control. He proclaimed himself as an independent ruler with the title of Maharaja Vikramaditya. In medieval history period he was only Hindu who became the ruler of Delhi. The second battle of Panipat was fought between Hemu and Mughal and on 5th November, 1556 A.D., the battle was won by Mughal and the imperial city of Delhi was occupied. Qiya Khan was sent to Agra and directed to take charge immediately. Akbar entered Agra on 30th October, 1556 A.D.

Akbar got his second marriage with the daughter of Adullah Khan Mughal at the age of fifteen. At the age of eighteen, he decided to depose the guardianship of Bairam Khan so he informed Bairam Khan to leave the state and advised him to go for pilgrimage of Mecca. Bairam Khan accepted the advice of Emperor and left Agra but by conspiracy of courtiers Bairam Khan rebelled against Emperor and the battle of Tilwada was fought between Bairam Khan and Mughal which was won by Mughal on 23rd August, 1560 A.D. and Bairam was forgiven by Akbar but he was killed on the way of Mecca by an Afghan on 31st January, 1561 A.D. then Akbar married with his widow Salima Begum and took his son Abdur Rahim under his protection.

Akbar got his first matrimony with Rajput during his pilgrimage to Ajmer. Badauni wrote "On the 8th of Jumada-i-awwal in the year nine hundred and sixty nine the Emperor went on a pilgrimage to the blessed tomb of that pole star of Sheikhs and Saints, Khwajah Muin-ud-din and gave presents and alms to the people who waited there. And at the town of Sambhar, celebrates for its salt-mines, Raja Paharah Mal governor of Amber together with his son Rai Bhagwan Das came and paid his respects to the Emperor, who the espoused his gentle daughter in honourable wedlock"^[5]. Thus this marriage was held on 13th January 1562.

The petticoat administration was ended after the death of Maham Anaga on 24th June, 1562 A.D. Akbar abolished slavery in 1560 A.D., pilgrimage tax in 1563 A.D. and *Jaziya* tax which was paid by all non-Muslims. The great musician Tansen was brought in Mughal court in 1562 A.D. who was in the service of Raja Ram Chandra Baghel of Batha (modern Rewa).

The province of Gujarat was annexed in 1572 A.D. In 1590 A.D., Akbar appointed Abdur Rahim as the governor of Multan and instructed him to conquer the fort of Thatta. The fortress of Thatta and Sehwan were annexed in Mughal Empire in 1591 A.D. In 1590 A.D., Raja Man Singh, the governor of Bihar invaded Orissa and attacked on Qutlug Khan Lohani. Man Singh defeated him and spread the Empire including Orissa. In Feb 1595 A.D., Mir Masum was deputed to invade over Baluchistan. He attacked on fortress of Sibi North-East of Quette and annexed whole of Baluchistan including Makran. Thus Qandhar came under the possession of Mughal.

In August 1591 A.D., Akbar sent a diplomatic mission to make sovereignty over Khandesh, Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golkunda. Raja Alikhan accepted the inferiority and took authority by Mughal Emperor. When Ahmadnagar fell by turbulence again then another expedition made in August, 1600 A.D. and captured it. Thus the provinces of Deccan annexed to Mughal Empire. Akbar conquered the fort of Asirgarh in 1601 A.D. which was the last expedition of his life. His victory made the vast Empire which was spread from the Brahmaputra River in the East to Helmand in the West, and Himalayan mountain boundary to Godavari River in south. Akbar died at mid-night of 25-26 October, 1605 A.D. because of high fever and buried at Sikandra five miles from Agra.

The thought of Akbar about religion was very wide. He was not an orthodox Muslims and discussed with scholars in open mind. He took much interest in divine mystery and religious debates. In 1582 A.D., he promulgated the Din-i-Ilahi or Tauhid-i-Ilahi. Its object was to establish National Religion which would be acceptable to the Hindus and Muslims alike. Akbar became the spiritual guide of the nation and saw in the performance of that duty a means of pleasing God.

The classic age of art and architecture began during the reign of Akbar. He built number of buildings in India. The monuments of Agra and the victory city Fatehpur Sikri were one of his remarkable achievements and he was also great patron of eminent scholars, poets and European style of paintings. R. Nath said about Akbar that such type of rare genius person appears only once in millennium. He gave example that Budha in first millennium and undoubtedly Akbar in second millennium A.D.^[6]

Nur-ud-din Mohammad Jahangir (1605-1627 A.D.)

The princess of Jaipur, Harkha Bai (Mariam-uz-zamani, title was given by Akbar) gave the birth to Prince Salim on 30th August, 1569 A.D. Akbar named him Salim in the honour of Sheikh Salim so Akbar called him Shaikhu Baba. Salim was appointed in royal service in 1577 A.D. to obtain the '*mansab*' of 10000 which reached 12000 in 1585 A.D.

Prince Salim's first marriage was held with Manbai, the daughter of Raja Bhagwan Das of Amber held on 13 February, 1585 A.D. Manbai gave the birth to Khushrow and Sultan-ut-nisha Begam but Manbai committed suicide in 1604 A.D. He got several other marriages, in 1586 A.D. with Jagat Gosain, in 1588 A.D. with Sahab Jamal, with the daughter of Raja Keshav Das Rathod etc. but his famous marriage was with Mehr-un-nisha later known as Nurjahan, a widow of Sher Khan. The marriage was held in May, 1611 A.D. She was the daughter of Mirza Ghiyas Beg, the prime minister of Akbar known as Itimad-ud-daulah and sister of Asaf Khan, father of Arzuband Bano Begum later known as Mumtaz.

Salim ascended at the throne of Agra with the title of Nur-ud-din Mohammad Jahangir Padshah on 3rd November, 1605 A.D.^[7] He removed the tax named *tumga* which was taken on the trade goods and Mir Bahri, the tax taken on the trade goods by the way of water. He established the chain of Justice for those suffered people who could not get justice easily. One limb of chain was fixed with royal bastion and another with the poll of alongside of river. It had sixty bells and four 'mun' in weight.

Prince Khushrow escaped from the fort of Agra in 1606 A.D. and reached Mathura where he damaged the city and

killed many people. He moved towards Lahore via Delhi and Punjab, he met with Guru Arjun Singh at Taranpur. Emperor ordered the force to chase him. Then he was captured by the force in the garden of Kamran and made blind by Emperor.

Jahangir adopted his father's policy and directed to Khan-i-khana to conquer the Deccan in 1608 A.D. He sent him with the force of 12000 chosen soldiers but could not get lot of success and opposed by able military officer Malik Amber the Prime Minister of Ahmadnagar. In 1611 A.D., Mughal made a vast attempt and besieged Ahmadnagar but failed by Malik Ambar's guerillas tactics. In 1614 A.D., Rana Amar Singh of Mewar surrendered him and accepted the sovereignty of Mughal Empire. According to advice of Nurjahan's Junta, he transferred Prince Parvez to Allahabad and Prince Khurram was sent to Ahmadnagar. Khurram reached Burhanpur in March, 1617 A.D. and made an open negotiation. Malik Ambar surrendered the fort of Ahmadnagar. Prince Khurram was appreciated by Jahangir and got him the title of Shahjahan.

Qandahar was captured by Shah of Persia in 1622 A.D. and conquered it. Shah Abbas of Persia sent an Ambassador to the court of Jahangir with the letter to rightful capture of Qandahar on basis of being a part of Persian kingdom.

Shahjahan rebelled against Emperor Jahangir but he surrendered in 1626 A.D. and submitted him for royal forgiveness. Emperor forgave him and appointed as the governor of Balaghat. Thus the three years old rebellion ended in April, 1626 A.D.

Jahangir had vast impact of Nurjahan who took interest in administration and social affairs. He fell ill while coming back from Kashmir at Rajaouri in 1627 A.D. and was died on 28th October, 1627 A.D. His personality and character were full of controversies. There are two thought which is opposite to each other. European scholars characterized him as a fickle-minded oppressor who always devoured in wine and women. He was an unsuccessful ruler who did not have human feeling. While another side Indian writers counted him successful ruler who was secular by religion and had great humanity.

He was great lover of paintings, nature and gardens like his ancestors. During his reign Mughal paintings were developed and reached on apex. Brice-a-brac became eminent and the colors glazed the miniatures and portraits. Jahangir took much interest in European painting and during his reign, he came into the relation with the English Empire.

Shihab-ud-din Mohammad Shahjahan (1628-1658 A.D.)

Shahjahan was born on 5th January, 1592 A.D. at Lahore. Emperor Akbar gave him the name, Sultan Khurram. In early reign of Jahangir, he obtained mansab of 8000 Zat and 5000 Sawar with flag and Drum in 1607 A.D. and in 1608 A.D. the Jagir of Hissar Firoza devoted to him. In 1610 A.D., he got married with the daughter of Muzaffar Hussain Safavi and in 1612 A.D. with Arjumand Banu Begum famous as 'Mumtaz Mahal', the daughter of Asaf Khan who was the elder brother of Nurjahan. The alliance between Shahjahan, Asaf Khan, Itimad-ud-daulah, and Nurjahan was called Nurjahan Junta which ruled for two year.

Khurram was promoted at high rank of 30000 Zat and 20000 Sawar. After successful campaign against Rana Amar Singh, he was appointed the governor of Deccan with the title of Shahjahan given by the Emperor Jahangir. After the death of Jahangir, Shahjahan enthroned on Sunday 29th

January, 1628 A.D. and 'Khutwa' of his name was read in the capital of Lahore. On Monday 4th February, 1628 A.D. he proceeded to the fort of Akbarabad and ascended the throne with new glorious title of Abul Muzzafar Shihab-ud-din Muhammad, Sahib-i-Qiran-i-Sani^[8].

Shahjahan's reign was full of disturbance and most of rebels were acted. Jujhar Singh, the son of Bir Singh Dev Bundela who murdered Abul Fazl by the allusion of Emperor Jahangir. Jujhar Singh came to Agra to congratulate the succession of Shahjahan and presented him gifts. After some time, Shahjahan ordered to investigate the unjustified collection of Bir Singh Bundela. Jujhar returned to Orchha and made preparation to assert him as an independent. Shahjahan could not take action against him for sometime because he diverted his attention towards Kabul which was raided by Jumid, the Chief of Transoxiana. He directed Mahawat Khan to quell the rebellion of Bundelkhand. The Mughal army was pursuing them and clashed Jujhar Singh who was defeated by Mughal. Then Orchha was terribly destroyed; the splendid temple of Orchha was exterminated and made a mosque over it.

Mirza Amin Qazwini, a contemporary historian wrote during 1630-31 A.D. that the terrible famine desolated the Deccan. Lot of people died by starvation and villages and towns were occupied the dead bodies. Many people ran away towards north India. Ahmadnagar, Surat, Burhanpur, Khandesh and many other places were affected by famine and reached on starvation.

The fortress of Qandahar was lost during the reign of Jahangir. Ali Mardan Khan the governor of fortress of Qandahar was not in good faith of Shah of Persia. He surrendered the fortress of Qandahar to Mughals in 1639 A.D. by the diplomatic tactics of Shahjahan and admitted in the service of Mughals. Thus Qandahar was occupied by Mughals without much effort. But in 1649 A.D. it was slipped from the hands of Mughal and never came again under possession.

Shahjahan fell ill in September, 1657 A.D., the news of his illness and rumour of his death spread. His four sons Prince Dara Shikoh, Shah Shuja, Aurangzeb and Murad set their eyes on the throne.

Dara Shikoh was the eldest and favourite of his father. He was the governor of Punjab and Multan but that time he was the resident of court at Agra. He was a religious man and was influenced by the Sufis. He was not at all liked by Aurangzeb who was a fanatic Muslim. Shuja was the governor of Bengal and he declared the Emperor himself. Murad was the governor of Gujarat who proclaimed himself as Emperor. Aurangzeb was the governor of Deccan and the most capable of amongst his brothers. He was shrewd and did not proclaim himself Emperor. The war was started with Shuja, who was defeated at Banaras by the imperial forces under Suleman Shikoh and Jai Singh and escaped from battle. Murad and Aurangzeb fought jointly against imperial forces at Dharmat where imperial force defeated under the command of Jaswant Singh and Kasim Khan on 15th April, 1658 A.D. After this victory they met the army led by Dara at Samugarh on 29th May, 1658 A.D. where Dara was defeated and escaped from the decisive battle. Aurangzeb marched towards Agra and made his father a prisoner and proceeded to Delhi where he crowned himself the Emperor after killing his brother Murad at Mathura. Aurangzeb defeated his brother Shuja at Khajuwa near Fatehpur, Shuja escaped to Arakan where he died. The final battle of

Aurangzeb and Dara was held in April, 1659 A.D. at Devrai near Ajmer where Dara finally defeated. Dara was caught and ordered to be murdered by the court in 1659 A.D. His dead body to be brandished on the road of Delhi and buried him in the tomb of Humayun at Delhi. Thus Aurangzeb became the undisputed master of Mughal Empire.

Shahjahan lived as a prisoner for eight years in Shah Burj of the fort of Agra and died at the age of 74, on 31st January, 1666 A.D. He was buried besides his wife Mumtaz Mahal in the Taj Mahal at Agra.

Shahjahan was great lover of architecture like his grandfather Akbar but the differences between them was that he loved the architecture built of white stone. Several monuments and palaces at Agra were built and renovated by white marble. Taj Mahal is masterpiece of all the Mughal monuments.

Muhi-ud-din Mohammad Aurangzeb (1658-1707 AD.)

The man of restless power Aurangzeb was the last great Emperor of the Mughal dynasty. He was born on 4th November, 1618 A.D. at Duhad near Ujjain in the province of Malwa and Ahemadabad by the famous princess Arjumand Bano Begam or Mumtaz Mahal.

During the reign of his father, he got first experience of war against Jujhar Singh of Orchha at the age of sixteen and received his first military rank a 'Mansab' of 10000 Sawar and Zat. He was appointed the governor of Deccan to campaign against Bijapur which was held between 1636-1644 A.D. His success against Deccan was his first achievement of life and recognized him a famous warrior. He established a new city near the former capital of Khirki which he named as Aurangabad on his own name.

He was married on 8th May, 1637 A.D. to Dilras Bano Begum, the daughter of Shaniwaz Khan, who was the house of Persian dignitary. He was appointed for second time in Deccan during 1652 to 1657 A.D. but in 1657 A.D. he participated in the war of accession. After crushing his rivals, he ascended the throne of Delhi on 31st July, 1658 A.D. formally. The ceremony was held on 5th June, 1659 A.D. at grand palace of Shahjahan in Delhi where he enthroned himself with assumed the title of Abul Muzzaffar Muhi-ud-din Muhammad Aurangzeb Bahadur Alamgir Padshah Ghazi^[10] and the Khutwa of his name was read and coins were struck.

After the coronation, Emperor wanted to finish the misery and desired to establish the peace and administration. So he transferred old officers and appointed his own officers. Raja Jai Singh was appointed the Governor of Sambhar with addition of Lahore, Shaista Khan was sent to Deccan as a Governor, Danishmand Khan was appointed the governor of Delhi. Mir Jumla was appointed the Governor of Bengal.

He issued the orders to relief the people by removing many illegal taxes of which important taxes were 'Rahdari'- a kind of inland transport duty, 'Pandari'- a kind of octroi which leaved on articles of food and drink that brought for sale in the cities and 'Abwabs' the miscellaneous taxes like revenue and customs duty.

During his reign, his first expedition was against Cooch Bihar and Assam. Mir Jumla finished his work shortly and captured the capital of Cooch Bihar then invaded Assam which was ruled by Ahome tribes who established their kingdom in 13th century. Portuguese who plundered the Bengal and mortgage the people for sold as slaves. Shaista Khan conquered the island of Sandwip and released the

local people who were made slaves by pirates. Tibet or Ladakh first time came into the inferiority of Mughal and a grand mosque was built in Leh.

Aurangzeb's constraint policy of religion was curse for his empire which opposed by many people and hated the religion of Islam. This cause was the biggest reason for the fall of Mughal Empire. "The Golden temple" of Amritsar was built by Guru Arjun Singh and he appointed officers for source of income whom called 'masands', Aurangzeb ordered to destroy the temple and expelled 'masands' from the cities. Guru Teg Bahadur opposed the orders openly, therefore, he was arrested and taken to Delhi where he was tortured to accept the Islam by the Emperor but he refused the proposal and then he was murdered. Guru Govind Singh, the son of Guru Teg Bahadur, transformed the Sikhs into military community and called it Khalsa to take the revenge of the death of his father. Guru Govind Singh began his fight against Mughal, Muslim officers and Hindu kings who were followers of Aurangzeb. He defeated Mughals and his followers many times, his two sons were slain during the path of fighting and other two were killed by Faujdar of Sirhind. Mughal searched Guru Govind Singh place to place thus he escaped to Deccan and after the death of Aurangzeb he came back in Northern India. He was stabbed of an Afghan follower and died in 1708 A.D. Guru Govind Singh was the tenth and last Sikh Guru and before his death, he demolished the Guruship and instructed his followers to establish the Sikhs into military democracy.

After the death of Maharaja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur, Aurangzeb annexed the kingdom of Jaswant Singh of Marwar into Mughal Empire and after returning Delhi he applied the *Jaziya* tax on Hindu. Aurangzeb ordered to send the Queens of Jaswant in Harem and throne of Jodhpur offered on the condition by accepting Islam. The Rathors of Marwar and Ajit Singh continued their fight against the Mughals and expelled the Mughal Governor from Marwar. He recovered Sojat, Pali and Merta and fought against the Mughals till the death of the Emperor in 1707 A.D. and became himself Maharaja of Marwar.

Deccan policy of Aurangzeb was the part of the expansion of his Empire. The Maratha power was increased day by day and became third largest power under Shiva ji the great leader and Hindu patron. Emperor started four healthy operations in four different directions but he could not gain any advantage.

Conclusion

In the end, this paper concluded that Mughal Empire was not greatest for only in India rather it counted impregnable as its contemporary Empires like Ottoman and Safavids. The glory of Mughal Empire will never be faded up in medieval history. This magnificent bloodline was descendent of Chengiz Khan and Timur. The roots of Mughals were found in the battlement of central Asia where their ancestors like Chengiz Khan and Timur began restless campaigns which was followed by Babur too. This paper discussed brief but sufficient and useful information of great Mughals. It stated life and achievements of Babur and described that he never lost his temperament, whereas he became throneless and lost his native land. Babur finally attacked on Hindustan and founded Mughal Empire which was continuous extended by his ablest successors and created a vast and splendid Empire. Mughal Emperors were much passionate about art and culture, and they were great

patron of renowned scholars, artisans, musicians and poets etc. The art and culture was advanced during the reign of Akbar, which reached on its zenith during Shahjahan. The Empire was governed by centralize administration which provided strengthen to the Empire. After the death of last great ruler Aurangzeb on 3rd march, 1707 A.D., a new era of Indian history began which is known as later Mughal period. At this time, there were 21 provinces in Mughal Empire and later on, the country went to suffer in all the fields of development like wealth, art and architecture, power and its glory.

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