

## **Achievements of Babur (1526-1530)**

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Babur is considered to be the founder of Mughal rule in India. Before him India was split up into many pretty independent states which were often in a state of internecine warfare. Babur's great achievement was that he crushed the independence of these States, subjugated them and built a significant empire. All this he accomplished in a short period of four years.

- (1) Conquest of the Punjab - Babur the king of Kabul led serious expeditions to Hindustan but it was not until the close of 1525 that he seriously embarked upon the task of conquering our country. With a large force that he possessed, he marched towards the Punjab, Daulat Khan Lodhi offered resistance, but he was ultimately defeated. Thus Punjab was conquered by Babur. Daulat Khan was pardoned and given some jagir for his maintenance.
- (2) First Battle of Panipat( April 1526) - Babur later marched towards Delhi in order to fight against Sultan Ibrahim Lodhi. At the historic field of Panipat, the Mughals and the Afghans came face to face. Ibrahim's army consisted of about one lakh soldiers while Babur's forces were nearly 25,000. Even though his army was outnumbered but his cavalry and artillery led by Ustad Ali and Mustafa gave victory to Babur. Thousands of Afghans including Sultan Ibrahim Lodhi were killed in the field. Thus the Afghans suffered a crushing defeat.
- (3) Occupation of Delhi and Agra.- After the victory of Panipat, Babur sent forces under Humayun to capture Agra and he himself preceded towards Delhi to take its possession. Babur occupied Delhi very easily, then he went to Agra, which Humayun had already occupied it. Babur bestowed jagirs, grants and gifts upon all his soldiers, as well as his friends and relatives to win their faith and cooperation
- (4) Conquests of neighbouring Afghan Territories. The victory at Panipat and the occupation of Delhi and Agra did not make Babur the master of the whole of India. There were a large number of Afghan chiefs in the territories of Sambhal, Biyana, Mewat, Dholpur, Gwalior, Rapri, Etawah, Kalpi, Kannauj and Bihar who had asserted independence in their respective territories and had fortified their strongholds. Babur encouraged

his soldiers with his speech and they in return expressed their determination. Babur directed his officials to march in various directions to conquer the territories of Sambhal, Rapri, Etawah, Kannauj and Dholpur were conquered.

- (5) Battle of Kanwah (March 1527) - The most formidable rival of Babur was Rana Sangram Singh, the Rajput chieftain of Mewar who had organised a confederacy of the Rajput chiefs and was determined to revive Hindu Padshahi in India. The Rajputs and the Mughals came face to face at Kanwah -a village a few miles from Sikri. Rana Sangram Singh was the leader of the Rajput and Afghan chiefs. Babur's plan of the battle was almost the same as that of the battle of Panipat. Babur fought against the Rajputs and defeated them. This gave a blow to Rajput confederacy.
- (6) Capture of Chanderi (January 1528) There was no doubt the Rajputs had suffered a miserable defeat at Kanwah but still they were not completely crushed. Medni Rao of Chanderi was a powerful Rajput chief who by virtue of his strength played the the role of King maker in Malwa. In January 1528 Babur personally marched towards Chanderi with a large force. Medini Rao shut himself up in the fort with 5000 men. Babur with full determination attacked the fort of Chanderi. The Rajputs offered tough resistance , the Rajput women even performed Jauhar. Still the fort was captured by Babur on January 29, 1528. Soon after this Rana Sangram Singh died and his death gave a fatal blow to Rajput power. Having captured Chanderi Babur proceeded to subdue the rebellious Afghan chiefs.
- (7) Battle of Ghagra (May 1529) - Mahmud Lodhi the brother of late Ibrahim had become the master of Bihar and the adjoining territories towards the east. Babur sent his son Askari with a large force against him and soon afterwards followed himself. On his way Babur procured the submission of many Afghan chiefs. Disserted by many of his supporters and feeling himself too weak, Mahmud took shelter with Nusrat Shah of Bengal. Babur now marched towards Bengal and on 6<sup>th</sup> of My 1529 he inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Afghans at the battle of Ghagra. After this Babur concluded a treaty with Nusrat Shah by which each party agreed to respect the sovereignty of the other. Nusrat Shah also promised not to give shelter to the enemies of Babur.

Thus Babur conquered quite a a large portion of Hindustan extending from the Indus to Bihar and from Himalayas to Gwalior and Chanderi. He ruled over it, administered it and thereby laid the foundation of the Mughal empire. But unfortunately Babur could not get time to take the roots of the empire deep into the soil of our country for the inevitable death took him away on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1530.