

ch-8 3rd Term

Day - Wednesday

Mughal India - like early Mughals
and Sher Shah

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Q. Answer in brief

1. How do we know about Barbur's love of nature?

Ans Barbur was a great lover of natural beauty. He laid out many gardens all over his kingdom. The most famous of these is Ram Bagh in Agra.

2. Name two monuments built by Sher Shah?

Ans Purana Killa in Delhi and Mausoleum in Sarsaram in Bihar are like two monuments built by Sher Shah.

3. How safe was the country during Sher Shah's rule?

Ans Law and order in the empire was brought under control. The village headman was responsible for the prevention of crime in his villages. If he failed, he was punished. Such was the state of vigilance that it ~~is~~ was said, that under Sher Shah's rule, 'an old woman might place a basketful of gold ornaments on her head and go on a

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journey, and on chief or robber would come near her for fear of the punishment which Sher Shah inflicted.

4) What was the difference between the coming of the Portuguese and the Mughals to India?

Ans Both the Portuguese and the Mughals came to India around the same kind. However, while the Portuguese were essentially traders, the Mughals arrived with the intent of establishing an empire in India.

Ques Answer in detail

1. Describe in brief the three battles that helped Babur lay the foundation for the Mughal Empire in India.

Ans The First Battle of Panipat (1526 CE) Around 1523 CE, Babur was invited by Daulat Khan Lodi, the governor of Punjab, to come to India and help him defeat Ibrahim Lodi.

Ibrahim Lodi and Babur met at Panipat in 1526 CE. Though Babur's army was numerically smaller, he was a better general and his artillery was very strong.

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That followed, Ibrahim Lodi was defeated. Babur's victory in the First Battle of Panipat brought areas around Delhi and Agra under him.

The Battle of Khanwa (1527 CE)

Rana Sanga had thought that Babur would return to Kabul after defeating Ibrahim Lodi. However, when he realised that Babur planned to stay on and establish an empire in India, Sanga organised a confederacy (union) of Rajput princes against him.

Babur and Rana Sanga met at the Battle of Khanwa near Fatehpur Sikri in 1527 CE. Rana Sanga had a larger army.

However, Babur defeated him using superior artillery and tactics. The Battle of Khanwa was more decisive than the Battle of Panipat because it firmly established Mughal rule in India.

The Battle of Ghagra (1529 CE)

After defeating the Rajputs, Babur turned eastwards. He defeated the Afghans in the Battle of Ghagra, fight-

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On the banks of the river Ghaggra, in 1529 CE. Babur's authority now extended over Punjab, Agra, Awadh, Orissa, Bihar and parts of Rajasthan, besides Kabul, which became a part of the outer territory of the empire. Babur made Delhi the capital of the Mughal Empire.

Q1 Describe the land reforms undertaken by Sher Shah.

Ans Sher Shah introduced several land reforms that improved the condition of the peasants and made them more secure.

- Sher Shah, for the first time, had the land actually measured and the average produce calculated.
- The share of the government, amounting to one-fourth of the produce, could be paid either in cash or kind.
- To make the peasants feel secure, Sher Shah introduced the patta or proof of right to ownership of land. This is in use in India to this day.

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- Sher Shah constantly supervised the work of his officers as he believed, that 'a great ruler is always active'. He also tried to stay in direct contact with the peasants.

3 Q. Describe the main features of Sher Shah's administration.

Ans Sher Shah not only made important conquests, he also set up a system of administration which was later adopted as a model by the great Mughal emperor, Akbar. Sher Shah divided the empire into provinces (sarkars) and districts (parganas). At the provincial level, the munsif was the chief revenue collector and assessment officer. He supervised the officers of the parganas. For each of the districts, there were two officers - the shiqdar, who looked after law and order, and the amil, who was in charge of collecting land revenue.

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The village was the smallest unit of administration. It had three officials like the headman, the patwari (accountant) and the chaudhuri (registerar).

4) What was the importance of the arrival of the Portuguese in Calicut in the 15th century CE?

Ans It was around this time that the Portuguese, who greatly influenced the course of Indian history, first came to India. Vasco da Gama's was the first European ship to reach the west coast of India at Calicut (Kerala) in 1498 CE. Gradually, the Portuguese acquired land - by payment or by force - to build trading centres. Christianity gained in strength in India with the coming of the Portuguese. By 1510 CE, they had captured Goa and paved the way for the coming of other Western traders such as the French and the English.