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## Foundation of the Mughal Empire by Babur

The Mughal Empire was founded in 1526 by Babur, a Central Asian ruler of Turco-Mongol origin. He established Mughal rule in India after defeating the Delhi Sultanate and other regional powers. His conquests laid the foundation for one of the greatest empires in Indian history, which lasted for over three centuries.

### Background of Babur

Babur was born in 1483 in Fergana (present-day Uzbekistan). He was a

descendant of Timur on his father's side and Genghis Khan on his mother's side. At the age of 12, he inherited the kingdom of Fergana but lost it due to internal conflicts. After several unsuccessful attempts to regain his ancestral lands in Central Asia, he turned his attention to India, where the Delhi Sultanate was weakened by internal struggles.

## Babur's Invasion of India

Babur made several raids into India before launching a full-scale invasion. The major battles that led to the establishment of the Mughal Empire were:

### 1. First Battle of Panipat (1526)

Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi, the last ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, on April 21, 1526.

Babur's army used advanced gunpowder weapons, artillery, and superior military tactics, including the Tulughma (flanking) strategy.

This victory marked the end of the Delhi Sultanate and the beginning of the Mughal Empire.

## 2. Battle of Khanwa (1527)

After Panipat, Babur faced Rana Sanga of Mewar, who wanted to overthrow the Mughals.

The battle was fought near Khanwa (Rajasthan), where Babur's artillery and cavalry crushed the Rajput forces.

This victory established Mughal supremacy in North India.

### 3. Battle of Chanderi (1528)

Babur defeated Medini Rai, a Rajput chief, and captured the strategic fort of Chanderi.

This battle eliminated Rajput resistance against the Mughals.

### 4. Battle of Ghaghra (1529)

Babur defeated the Afghan chiefs of Bihar and Bengal, further strengthening his rule.

Babur's Administration and Policies

He introduced gunpowder warfare in India, revolutionizing military tactics.

He promoted Persian culture and administration, which influenced later Mughal rulers.

Babur wrote his famous autobiography, Baburnama, in Chagatai Turkish, giving a detailed account of his life and conquests.

Unlike previous invaders, he did not return to Central Asia but settled in India, laying the foundation for a long-lasting empire.

## Conclusion

Babur's victories established the Mughal Empire, which would later flourish under rulers like Akbar, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb. Despite ruling for only four

years (1526-1530), Babur's military innovations and strategic conquests paved the way for a powerful empire that dominated the Indian subcontinent for centuries. His son Humayun succeeded him, continuing the Mughal legacy.

## Reign of Humayun (1530–1556)

Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, ruled from 1530 to 1540 and again from 1555 to 1556. His reign was marked by struggles, defeats, and eventual restoration of Mughal rule.

### 1. Early Challenges (1530–1540)

Humayun inherited a vast but unstable empire after Babur's death in 1530.

Faced opposition from Afghans, Rajputs, and his own brothers.

Defeated Bahadur Shah of Gujarat (1535) but could not consolidate his rule.

## 2. Defeat by Sher Shah Suri (1540)

Battle of Chausa (1539): Humayun was defeated by Sher Shah Suri and barely escaped.

Battle of Kannauj (1540): Humayun suffered another defeat, losing the empire to Sher Shah Suri.

He fled to Persia and lived in exile for 15 years.

### 3. Restoration of the Mughal Empire (1555–1556)

With Persian support, he recaptured Delhi and Agra in 1555.

Reestablished Mughal rule but died in 1556 due to an accidental fall from his library stairs.

### 4. Legacy

Introduced Persian influences in Mughal administration and culture.

His son, Akbar, succeeded him and became one of the greatest Mughal rulers.

Though his reign was unstable, Humayun's



restoration paved the way for the golden age of the Mughal Empire.