



गुल्लक Gullak



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Mughal Empire of India (AD 1526-1540; 1555-1857) Part I

گورکاتیان *Gūrkāniyān* (Persian)

سلطنت مغلیہ *Mughliyah Saltanat* (Urdu)

Capital	Agra (1526–1540; 1555–1571)
	Fatehpur Sikri (1571–1585)
	Lahore (May 1586–1598)
	Agra (1598–1648)
	Shahjahanabad, Delhi (1648–1857)

Languages	Persian (official and court language)
	Arabic (for religious ceremonies)
	Chagatai Turkic (only initially)
	Hindustani (Hindi-Urdu) (spoken)
	other South Asian languages (spoken)

Religion

Official	<i>Sunni Islam (1526–1857)</i>
	<i>Din-i Ilahi (1582–1605)</i>

Others	<i>Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism,</i>
	<i>Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Judaism</i>

Government

Absolute Monarchy,

Unitary State with Federal Structure,

Centralized Autarchy

Babur (First Emperor) 1526-1530

Bahadur Shah II (Last Emperor) 1837-1857

Area	AD 1690	40,00,000 sq km (= 15,00,000 sq ml)
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Currency

Mohur (Gold); Rupee (Silver); Dam (Copper)



The **Mughal Empire** or **Mogul Empire** (*Mughliyah Saltanat* in Urdu), self-designated as **Gurkani** (Persian, *Gūrkāniyān*, meaning "son-in-law"), was an empire in the Indian subcontinent, founded in 1526. It was established and ruled by a Muslim dynasty with Turco-Mongol Chagatai roots from Central Asia, but with significant Indian Rajput and Persian ancestry through marriage alliances; only the first two Mughal emperors were fully Central Asian, while successive emperors were of predominantly Rajput and Persian ancestry. The dynasty was Indo-Persian in culture, combining Persianate culture with local Indian cultural influences visible in its traits and customs.



The Mughal Empire at its peak extended over nearly all of the Indian subcontinent and large parts of Afghanistan. It was the second largest empire to have existed in the Indian subcontinent, spanning 4 Million sq. km. at its zenith, after only the Maurya Empire, which spanned 5 Million sq. km. The Mughal Empire began a period of proto-industrialization, and Mughal India became the world's largest economic power, with 24.4% of world GDP, and the world leader in manufacturing, producing 25% of global industrial output up until the 18th century. The Mughal Empire is considered "India's last golden age" and one of the three Islamic Gunpowder Empires (along with the Ottoman Empire and Safavid Persia).

The beginning of the empire is conventionally dated to the victory by its founder Babur over Ibrahim Lodi, the last ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, in the First Battle of

Panipat (1526). The Mughal emperors had roots in the Turco-Mongol Timurid dynasty of Central Asia, claiming direct descent from both Genghis Khan (founder of the Mongol Empire, through his son Chagatai Khan) and Timur (Turco-Mongol conqueror who founded the Timurid Empire). During the reign of Humayun, the successor of Babur, the empire was briefly interrupted by the Suri Empire. The "classic period" of the Mughal Empire started in 1556 with the ascension of Akbar the Great to the throne. Under the rule of Akbar and his son Jahangir, the region enjoyed economic progress as well as religious harmony, and the monarchs were interested in local religious and cultural traditions. Akbar was a successful warrior who also forged alliances with several Hindu Rajput kingdoms. Some Rajput kingdoms continued to pose a significant threat to the Mughal dominance of northwestern India, but most of them were subdued by Akbar. All Mughal emperors were Muslims; Akbar, however, propounded a syncretic religion in the latter part of his life called *Dīn-i-Ilāhī*, as recorded in historical books like *Ain-i-Akbari* and *Dabistān-i Mazāhib*.



The Mughal Empire did not try to intervene in the local societies during most of its existence, but rather balanced and pacified them through new administrative practices and diverse and inclusive ruling elites, leading to more systematic, centralised, and uniform rule. Traditional and newly coherent social groups in northern and western India, such as the Marathas, the Rajputs, the Pashtuns, the Hindu Jats and the Sikhs, gained military and governing ambitions during Mughal rule, which, through collaboration or adversity, gave them both recognition and military experience.



The reign of Shah Jahan, the fifth emperor, between 1628 and 1658 was the golden age of Mughal architecture. He erected several large monuments, the best known of which is the Taj Mahal at Agra, as well as the Moti Masjid, Agra, the Red Fort, the Jama Masjid, Delhi, and the Lahore Fort. The Mughal Empire reached the zenith of its territorial expanse during the reign of Aurangzeb and also started its terminal decline in his reign due to Maratha military resurgence under Shivaji Bhosale. During his lifetime, victories in the south expanded the Mughal

Empire to its greatest extent, ruling over more than 150 million subjects, nearly one quarter of the world's population at the time, with a GDP of over \$90 billion.



By the mid-18th century, the Marathas had routed Mughal armies and won over several Mughal provinces from the Punjab to Bengal. Internal dissatisfaction arose due to the weakness of the empire's administrative and economic systems, leading to its break-up and declarations of independence of its former provinces by the Nawab of Bengal, the Nawab of Awadh, the Nizam of Hyderabad and other small states. In 1739, the Mughals were crushingly defeated in the Battle of Karnal by the forces of Nader Shah, the founder of the Afsharid dynasty in Persia, and Delhi was sacked and looted, drastically accelerating their decline. During the following century Mughal power had become severely limited, and the last emperor, Bahadur Shah II, had authority over only the city of Shahjahanabad. He issued a *firman* supporting the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and following the defeat was therefore tried by the British East India Company for treason, imprisoned and exiled to Rangoon. The last remnants of the empire were formally taken over by the British, and the Government of India Act 1858 let the British Crown formally assume direct control of India in the form of the new British Raj.



Etymology

Contemporaries referred to the empire founded by Babur as the Timurid empire, which reflected the heritage of his dynasty, and this was the term preferred by the Mughals themselves. Another name was Hindustan, which was documented in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, and which has been described as the closest to an official name for the empire. In the west, the term "Mughal" was used for the emperor, and by extension, the empire as a whole. The use of Mughal derived from the Arabic and Persian corruption of Mongol, and it emphasised the Mongol origins of the Timurid dynasty. The term gained currency during the 19th century, but remains disputed by Indologists. Similar terms had been used to refer to the empire, including "Mogul" and "Moghul". Nevertheless, Babur's ancestors were sharply distinguished from the classical Mongols insofar as they were oriented towards Persian rather than Turco-Mongol culture.

History

Babur and Humayun (1526-1556)



The Mughal Empire was founded by Babur (reigned 1526-1530), a Central Asian ruler who was descended from the Turco-Mongol conqueror Timur (the founder of the Timurid Empire) on his father's side and from Chagatai, the second son of the Mongol ruler Genghis Khan, on his mother's side. Ousted from his ancestral domains in Central Asia, Babur turned to India to satisfy his ambitions. He established himself in Kabul and then pushed steadily southward into India from Afghanistan through the Khyber Pass. Babur's forces occupied much of northern India after his victory at Panipat in 1526. The preoccupation with wars and military campaigns, however, did not allow the new emperor to consolidate the gains he had made in India.



The instability of the empire became evident under his son, Humayun (reigned 1530-1556), who was driven out of India and into Persia by rebels. The Suri Empire (1540-1555), founded by Sher Shah Suri (1540-1545), briefly interrupted Mughal rule. Humayun's exile in Persia established diplomatic ties between the Safavid and Mughal Courts, and led to increasing Persian cultural influence in the Mughal Empire. The restoration of Mughal rule began after Humayun's triumphant return from Persia in 1555, but he died from a fatal accident shortly afterwards.



Akbar to Aurangzeb (1556-1707)

Akbar the Great (1556-1605) was born Jalal-ud-din Muhammad in the Rajput Umarkot Fort, to Humayun and his wife Hamida Banu Begum, a Persian princess. Akbar succeeded to the throne under a regent, Bairam Khan, who helped consolidate the Mughal Empire in India. Through warfare and diplomacy, Akbar was able to extend the empire in all directions and controlled almost the entire Indian subcontinent north of the Godavari River. He created a new class of nobility loyal to him from the military aristocracy of India's social groups, implemented

a modern government, and supported cultural developments. At the same time, Akbar intensified trade with European trading companies. India developed a strong and stable economy, leading to commercial expansion and economic development. Akbar allowed free expression of religion, and attempted to resolve socio-political and cultural differences in his empire by establishing a new religion, Din-i-Ilahi, with strong characteristics of a ruler cult. He left his successors an internally stable state, which was in the midst of its golden age, but before long signs of political weakness would emerge.



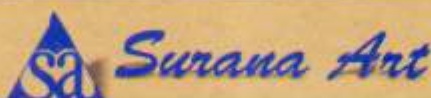
Jahangir (born Salim, 1605-1627) was born to Akbar and his wife Mariam-uz-Zamani, an Indian Rajput princess. Jahangir ruled the empire at its peak, but he was addicted to opium, neglected the affairs of the state, and came under the influence of rival court cliques. Shah Jahan (reigned 1628-1658) was born to Jahangir and his wife Jagat Gosaini, a Rajput princess. During the reign of Shah Jahan, the culture and splendour of the luxurious Mughal court reached its zenith as exemplified by the Taj Mahal. The maintenance of the court, at this time, began to cost more than the revenue.



Shah Jahan's eldest son, the liberal Dara Shikoh, became regent in 1658, as a result of his father's illness. However, a younger son, Aurangzeb (1658-1707), allied with the Islamic orthodoxy against his brother, who championed a syncretistic Hindu-Muslim culture, and ascended to the throne. Aurangzeb defeated Dara in 1659 and had him executed. Although Shah Jahan fully recovered from his illness, Aurangzeb declared him incompetent to rule and had him imprisoned. During Aurangzeb's reign, the empire gained political strength once more. Aurangzeb expanded the empire to include almost the whole of South Asia, but at his death in 1707, many parts of the empire were in open revolt. Aurangzeb is considered India's most controversial king, with some historians arguing his religious conservatism and intolerance undermined the stability of Mughal society, while other historians question this, noting that he built Hindu temples, employed significantly more Hindus in his imperial bureaucracy than his predecessors did, opposed bigotry against Hindus and Shia Muslims, and married Hindu Rajput princess Nawab Bai.

Calendar of Events 2017-18

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
September	15-17	Mumbai	15th Coins, Banknotes Philately Fair	Expo Center, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai
September	22-24	Kochi	Coin Expo 2017	Town Hall, Ernakulam, Kochi, Kerala
October	2-4	Raipur	CG Gandhi Pex 2017	Gas Memorial Centre, Jai Stambh Chowk, Modapra, Raipur, Chattisgarh
October	14-15	Patiala	Patiala Mudra Utsav	Panchayat Bhawan, Near Gurudwara Dukhniwaran Sahib, Patiala
November	3-5	Mumbai	5th Coinex Mumbai	Shree Sunderbai Hall, Behind Income Tax, Churchgate, Mumbai
November	7-9	Gwalior	Virasat Coin Fair	Kaka Vithika, Padav, Nagar Railway Station, Gwalior, MP
November	17-19	Trichy	24th National Leval Coins & Stamp Expo 2017	SRT Hall, 2nd Cross, Thillai Nagar, Main Road, Trichy - 18
November	17-23	Delhi	Royal Numismatic Expo 2017	All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, New Delhi
November	25-27	Goa	The Centenary Conference of NSI	Institute Menezes Branganza Hall, Near Police Head Quarters, Panjim, Goa
December	8-10	Jamshedpur	Jam Coin Mela	Jamshedpur Coin Museum, Red Cross Society, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
December	15-17	Pune	Coinex Pune 2017	Sonal Hall, Karve Road, Pune.
December	22-24	Kolkata	Mudra Utsav (Kolkata)	Haldiram Banquet Hall, 24 Ballygunge park, Kolkata - 700019
January	5-7	Nashik	Rare Fair 2018	Indraprastha Hall, Near Old Gangapur Naka, Gangapur Road, Nashik
January	12-14	Mumbai	2 nd ICCG Numismatic Expo 2018	Expo Center, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai
January	12-14	Raipur	CG NPEX 2018	Raipur



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