

HISA SEM 4 CC 9
HISTORY OF INDIA(C. 1526-1605)

HUMAYUN- SHER SHAH CONFLICT

DR. CHANDRAKALA DATTA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MURALIDAR GIRLS' COLLEGE
KOLKATA



HUMAYUN

SOURCE: PINTEREST



SHER SHAH

SOURCE: FAMOUS PEOPLE

- BABUR WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS ELDEST SON HUMAYUN, WHO WAS ONLY 23 YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME THE RULER OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED MUGHAL EMPIRE IN INDIA.
- WHEN HUMAYUN ASCENDED THE THRONE, THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT WERE SUCH THAT THE NEWLY FOUNDED MUGHAL STATE WAS THREATENED BY NUMEROUS INTERNAL AS WELL AS EXTERNAL ENEMIES.
- HUMAYUN HAD TO TACKLE BAHADUR SHAH OF GUJARAT AS WELL AS THE AFGHAN NOBLES OF BIHAR AND BENGAL.

- HIS THREE BROTHERS- KAMRAN, HINDAL AND ASKKARI, WHOM HE HAD APPOINTED GOVERNORS OF THE PROVINCES OF KABUL, MEWAT AND SAMBHAL RESPECTIVELY, WERE NOT VERY FAITHFUL TO HIM AS WELL.
- HUMAYUN FIRST INVADED THE HINDU PRINCIPALITY OF KALINJAR IN BUNDELKHAND, WHICH HE FAILED TO SUBDUE. NEXT HE FOUGHT WARS AGAINST SHER KHAN OF BENGAL AND BAHADUR SHAH OF GUJARAT.

- WHILE HUMAYUN WAS BUSY IN HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST BAHADUR SHAH, SHER KHAN GOT ADEQUATE TIME TO MOBILIZE HIS FORCES IN BENGAL AND BIHAR, DEFEATING HUMAYUN AT CHAUSA IN 1539 CE.
- SHER KHAN WAS TO DEFEAT HUMAYUN YET AGAIN IN 1540 CE AT KANNAUJ.
- HUMAYUN HAD NO OPTION BUT TO FLEE INDIA, TAKING REFUGE UNDER SHAH TAHMASP I, THE SHAH OF PERSIA.
- TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HUMAYUN'S EXILE FROM INDIA, SHER SHAH ESTABLISHED THE SUR HEGEMONY WITH HIS POLITICAL TACT AND MILITARY SKILLS.

- SHER SHAH, ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS FARID KHAN, WAS THE SON OF HASAN KHAN, THE JAGIRDAR OF SASARAM IN BIHAR.
- FARID LEFT SASARAM TO ENLIST AS A SOLDIER IN THE SERVICE OF JAMAL KHAN, THE GOVERNOR OF JAUNPUR.
- HE LATER RETURNED TO SASARAM AND EFFICIENTLY MANAGED HIS FATHER'S FAMILY ESTATE FOR 21 YEARS.
- FARID LEFT SASARAM ONCE AGAIN. THIS TIME HE WENT TO BAHAR KHAN LOHANI, THE GOVERNOR OF BIHAR AND TOOK UP SERVICE WITH HIM.

- AFTER BAHAR KHAN'S DEATH, SHER KHAN BECAME THE GUARDIAN OF HIS MINOR SON, JALAL KHAN. WITHIN A FEW YEARS, HE BECAME THE VIRTUAL RULER OF BIHAR AND ASSERTED HIS INDEPENDENCE IN 1531 CE.
- HE EVEN DEFEATED MAHMUD SHAH, THE RULER OF BENGAL AND BECAME AN INDEPENDENT RULER OF BOTH BIHAR AND BENGAL. IN THE MEANTIME, HE OCCUPIED THE STRONG FORTRESS OF CHUNAR AND ROHTAS BY EARLY 1539 CE.

- COUNTED AMONG THE GREAT MUSLIM RULERS OF INDIA, SHER SHAH ROSE FROM THE RANK OF AN ORDINARY JAGIRDAR TO BECOME AN EMPEROR.
- NOT ONLY DID SHER SHAH ESTABLISH A VAST AND POWERFUL EMPIRE, HE ALSO STRENGTHENED IT WITH A WISE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION.
- SHER SHAH IMPLEMENTED A NEW AND EQUITABLE REVENUE SETTLEMENT, EFFICIENTLY ADMINISTERED THE ARMY AND TAX COLLECTIONS, BUILT ROADS, REST HOUSES AND WELLS FOR HIS PEOPLE, REFORMED THE CURRENCY, ENCOURAGED TRADE AND COMMERCE, IMPROVED COMMUNICATION, AND ADMINISTERED IMPARTIAL JUSTICE.

- THE REFORMS ESTABLISHED BY HIM WERE INCORPORATED BY THE SUBSEQUENT MUGHAL AS WELL AS BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION.
- THE AFGHAN KINGDOM ESTABLISHED BY SHER SHAH IN NORTHERN INDIA REMAINED IN POWER FROM 1540-56 CE. AFTER THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF SHER SAH IN 1545 CE, IT LINGERED ON FOR A DECADE UNTIL HUMAYUN RE-ESTABLISHED MUGHAL RULE IN INDIA IN 1555 CE.