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Military Expeditions of Humayun(1530A.D-1556A.D)

Humayun was born on 6th march 1598A.D in Kabul. He was the eldest son among all the four sons of Babur. His mother's name was Mahim Begum. He was a highly intellectual personality as he had knowledge of numerous languages such as Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Hindi, etc. Besides these he also had deep knowledge of Philosophy and Mathematics. Babur Arranged a good military training for Humayun as a result of which he began to participate in the battles at the early age of 18 year. He headed a wing of Babur's army in the Battle of Panipath, nd also participated in the battle against Rana Sanga in the Battle of Khanwa. Thus, Humayun collected a plenty of experiences before ascending the throne of mughal empire. Babur appointed him as his successor before his death. But during the time of Babur's death Humayun was at Sambhal away from Delhi thus, the Prime Minister of Babur named Nizamuddin Ali conspired against Humayun and declared Khwaja Mehendi as the successor of Babur but the conspiracy failed before it could be successful and on 30th December 1530A.D, Humayun ascended the throne of Mughal Empire as the successor of Babur.

Early Expedition of Humayun:

- **Expedition of Kalinjar:**

After 6 years of his succession Humayun carried out his expedition on Kalinjar. Though the fort of Kalinjar was extremely strong because even

Babur could not win over it. The main reason behind Humayun's expedition was that the ruler of Kalinjar Rudra Pratap was trying to annex Kalpi and the fort of Kalpi was of huge importance hence, Humayun surrounded the fort of Kalinjar but had to compromise at the end . Thus, this expedition did not prove to be of any importance.

- **Struggle with Mahmmud Lodi:**

Mahmmud Lodi was the brother of Ibrahim Lodi. He annexed Bihar and organized a strong army. He was now trying to gain control over Delhi. He attacked Jaunpur and defeated the mughal Subedar named Junaid. The direct battle between Humayun and Mahmmud Lodi took place in 1532A.D at Dohariya in which Humayun turned victorious. Thus, the army of Mahmmud Lodi fled towards Bihar but Humayun could not chase the army because meanwhile Kamran began to revolt against him.

- **Revolt of Kamran:**

Karman took the opportunity of Humayun's pre occupation and tried to raise a revolt against him and annexed Multan and Lahore and also asked Humayun to give him Punjab. Inorder to end up the rivalry Humayun agreed on his demand.

- **Battle of Chunar(1532A.D):**

After ending the problem of Kamran Humayun paid attention towards the problem of Afghans and surrounded the fort of Chunar with the help of his army. This battle continued for four months. The fort of Chunar was then in the hands of Sher Khan. Humayun's army was headed by Hindu Beg. After this long four months battle Sher Khan compromised and accepted the subordination of Humayun. Though Sher Khan took a diplomatic stand as his military preparation were not yet complete on the other hand Humayun wasted his time in celebrating this victory.

- **Revolts of Mirzas:**

In 1534A.D Md.Jaman Mirza and Sultan Mirza revolted against Humayun. Humayun defeated both of them and arrested them but Md. Jaman Mirza fled away successfully and took shelter under the ruler of Gujarat, Bahadur Shah.

- **Struggle with the ruler of Gujarat:**

Bahadur Shah was the ruler of Gujarat he was an extremely able warrior. He gave shelter to a number of enemies of Humayun such as Alam Khan Lodi and Muhommad Jaman Mirza. Humayun asked Bahadur Shah refused. Thus, the army of Humayun left for the battle and reached Ujjain. Bahadur Shah at that time was fighting for Chittore meanwhile Rani Karnavati of Chittore sent a Rakhi to Humayun as a symbol for seeking help to which Humayun agreed and moved forward towards Sarangpur. Bahadur Shah at the same time influenced Humayun not to help the rajput and thus, Humayun refused to help which was his greatest mistake as he could easily defeat Bahadur Shah with the help of the rajputs. After the Chittore victory of Bahadur Shah Humayun moved forward towards Mandsore. Later the mughal army surrounded the Guajarati army and cut off the food supply. Finally Bahadur Shah and reached to Mandu but Bahadur Shah soon fled to Champaner. Humayun then chased him to Champaner. Bahadur Shah fled to Diu and took shelter under the Portuguese Humayun plunder numerous places of Gujarat and acquired huge wealth. He appointed Askari as the Subedar of Gujarat and moved forward towards Diu in the search of Bahadur Shah but as soon as Humayun left Gujarat a revolt occurred thus, he had to return to Gujarat on 22nd Feb 1536A.D. Though, Humayun should have suppressed this revolt as soon as possible and captivated Bahadur Shah but he did not do so as a result of which Bahadur Shah regained numerous parts of Gujarat and Askari at the end had to fled away from Gujarat and finally the entire area was conquered back by Bahadur Shah.

- **Struggle with Sher Khan:**

When Humayun was busy in the struggle with Bahadur Shah, Sher Khan defeated the ruler of Bengal named Shah Mahmmud(1536A.D) and

occupied Bihar and Bengal completely. When Humayun got aware of this victory he marched along with his brother Hindal to fight against Sher Khan on 27th July 1537A.D when Sher Khan came to know about this attack he appointed his son Qutub Khan to guard the fort of Chunar and he himself went to Markunda. The army of Humayun bravely faced the Afghan army and in June 1538A.D Humayun gained control over the fort of Chunar later he left for Bengal. In the way he was stopped by Jalal Khan the son of Sher Khan for almost a month at Telgadhia, but had to give up in front of Humayun. After gaining control over Telgadhia he annexed Gaud and after these two victories Humayun took a long break which gave an opportunity to Sher Khan to increase his power.

- **Battle of Chausa:**

While Humayun was taking rest in Gaud his brother Hindal revolted against him thus, he had to return but was stopped by Sher Khan in his way. This time both the armies faced each other directly. On 26th June 1539A.D Sher Khan attacked on the Mughal camp due to which chaos prevailed in Humayun's army and he had to fled away. In the course of his returning Humayun fell in the river Ganga and was on the verge of drowning but was luckily saved by the water carrier named Nizam. After this battle Sher Khan adopted the title of Sher Shah.

- **Battle of Bilgram and Kannauj:**

After the Battle of Chausa Humayun somehow managed to return to Agra and reconstituted his army. But still he did not receive any help from his

brothers. Sher Shah reached till Kannauj in Feb 1540A.D while chasing Humayun. Humayun in April 1540A.D along with his army marched to Kannauj. Both the armies faced each other for almost a month. Sher Shah attacked on 15th May 1540A.D taking the opportunity of heavy rain as due to rain the tanks and cannons of mughals became useless. Humayun somehow managed to fled away. Thus, this battle enabled Afghan to establish their power for sometime as they turned victorious in the Battle.

Exile of Humayun:

After the battle of Kannauj Humayun fled to Agra, but due to being chased by Afghans he had to move to Delhi, from Delhi he reached Lahore. There all the four brothers decided not to fight against Sher Khan and Kamran and Askari moved to Afghanistan, Humayun and Hindal went to Sindh. During this time Hamidabano the wife of Humayun gave birth to Akbar in the palace of Rana Veersal at Amarkot from Sindh, Humayun went to Kandhar and then to Persia. Thus, from 1540-1555A.D Humayun had to live a life of exile. On the otherhand Sher Khan occupied entire Punjab.