

ISSN : 2395-4132

THE EXPRESSION

An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

Bi-Monthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access e-Journal



Impact Factor 3.9

Vol. 3 Issue 4 August 2017

Editor-in-Chief : Dr. Bijender Singh

Email : editor@expressionjournal.com

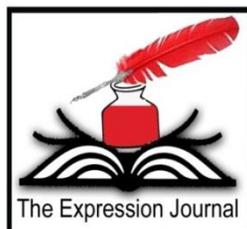
www.expressionjournal.com

The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

www.expressionjournal.com

ISSN: 2395-4132



THREE BATTLES OF PANIPAT: THE IMPORTANCE, DETAILS AND CONSEQUENCES ON INDIA

Vipin Kumar

House No 260, Sector 4

Rohtak, Haryana

Abstract

India has seen many ups and down on its soil and the most remarkable thing has been its past. There have been many foreign invaders who have attacked on it. Many foreign invaders have always had their bad eyes on it. First of all the Yavanas from the West attacked on India during the reign of Pushyamitra Sunga. Kalidasa has also written about Vasumitra's conflict with Yavanas in his play *Malavikagnimitram*. The Parthians (Iranians) are known as *Pahlavas*. The Sakas or the Scythians also attacked on it. The most disappointing thing about India is that different foreign rules have ruled over it for a long time and they have looted it to the core. Not only this, the impact of their culture and civilization also remained on Indians. Ancient India was not like a one nation and there were some different rulers on it in different states. Different battles were fought for the kingdom, power and the Independence. In this context, there are different battles which can be mentioned and among these there were three battles of Panipat which were fought near Kurukshetra and these battles have the historical significance too. In the present paper, I have attempted to analyse the historical importance of three battles of Panipat and their impact on India.

Key-Words

Three Battles of Panipat, India, Historical Impact, Mughal Empire, Hindus, Marathas, Lodi Dynasty, Delhi Sultanate.

Vol. 3 Issue 4 (August 2017)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh



THREE BATTLES OF PANIPAT: THE IMPORTANCE, DETAILS AND CONSEQUENCES ON INDIA

Vipin Kumar

House No 216, Sector 4

Rohtak, Haryana

.....

Mughal Empire has been one of the strongest empires in India for more than two centuries. Babar was the most endearing and founding figure of the Mughal Empire. His full name was Zahiruddin Muhammad Babar. He was born on 14 February 1483 and he died on 26 December 1530. Umar Sheikh Mirza, the Governor of Farghana was his younger brother. He belonged to Timur and the princes were fighting for the empire at that time. Babar could not win Samarkand and he becomes frustrated. He was merely fourteen-year-old at that time.

Babar was a bit different from other princes. He would always keep a diary with him and he was a keen observer of human life which becomes the key success in his career. He has an army of only 13000 men but he was a good manipulator. He decides to attack and conquer India. It was not in his control to conquer India only with a small army, so he joined hand with the Governor of Punjab Daulat Khan Lodhi. The Governor of Punjab promises to help him and he decides to fight against Ibrahim Lodi who was the King of Delhi at that time.

This battle is called the First Battle of Panipat which was fought between Babar and Ibrahim Lodi in 1526. This battle changed the whole course of Indian history because without this battle, the existence of the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, The Babri Mosque, Fatehpur Sikri Tomb etc. was not possible. So far as Lodi Dynasty is concerned, it was an Afghan Dynasty that was ruling the Delhi Sultanate from 1451 to 1526. This dynasty was founded by Bahlul Khan Lodi (1451-89) who conquered the Sayyad Dynasty. After him Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517) and then Ibrahim Lodi, the second son of Sikandar Lodi (1517-26) ruled in Delhi.

Babar had lost Samarkand for the second time and now he changed his mind and he decided to conquer India because he was in dearth of money. By 1504, he had conquered Kabul and he reached at the banks of Chenab River in 1519 and planned how he can easily win. He wanted to expand his rule to Punjab and fortunately, he gets invitation of attack from Daulat Khan Lodi and Al-ud-Din, uncle of Ibrahim. He had the best and experienced generals in his army. He enters through Afghanistan in India.

The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

www.expressionjournal.com

ISSN: 2395-4132

Babar crosses Sindhu River in 1525 and he decides to win Punjab for the first time. He thinks that he can conquer Delhi also. He started for Lahore in 1524 in Punjab when he arrived at Lahore, his army was routed. Ibrahim Lodi was not a good king and he had merely collected one lakh men somehow. He had reached by January in India and he had somehow enhanced his army by thirty thousand. When Babar's army comes to know that Ibrahim Lodi has one lakh men in his army, they suggest him that he had enjoyed a good time and it is the best advice for him to get back. But he does not listen to them and he focuses on his plan. He buys carts and digs trenches for seven kilometers and covers it with leaves and flowers and put sharp wood inside the trench so that Ibrahim Lodi's army may fall and get harmed there.

Babar devises best strategy for the battle. He keeps his bull-carts in front of Lodi's army and these carts were tied like trains with leather belts and there was a little gap and there was a big gap of 20 meters. There were archers in the small gap and there were cannon and matchlock men in the huge gap. He wanted to harm Lodi as maximum as possible. He had made three flanks and Babar was in the centre. Lodi had war elephants in the front of his army and then there was front line, flank guard, command cavalry and there was main line. The sound of cannons was very disturbing to the ears of elephants and Lodi could not understand what it was. He had never seen cannons in the battle and it was the first and the real horrible experience for him.

This battle was fought on 21 April 1526. This day was going to take a wonderful turning point in the Mughal history because all the things were going in the favour of Babar. The strong army of Ibrahim Lodi was being defeated very cleverly. This battle continued only for four and five hours and Babar wins this battle due to hasty decisions of Ibrahim Lodi. If the latter had not directly fought with Babar, his victory was certain but he became over confident and that is the reason he lost his battle. When he came to realize that he will not win, he denies to run away and prefers to die like a brave man in the battle-field.

The Mughals beheaded him and presented his head to Babar. Babar salutes his bravery. He orders his men to cut the heads of all the soldiers of Ibrahim Lodi and make of mountain of the heads. He did it so that he may spread his terror and proclaim that he is the only powerful king. Thus, this first battle of Panipat changed the whole course of the Indian history because after that Mughal Dynasty started flourishing in India and the Mughal emperors started expanded their empire.

The second battle of Panipat resulted in going not only Delhi and the surroundings to Babar, but it also cemented his conquest of Punjab. It increased his value from a border king to a central player in North India. This battle opened the resources to pursue wars with the Rajputs and the other kings.

So far as the second battle of Panipat is concerned, this battle was fought after 30 years of the first battle in 1526. This battle was fought between two powerful kings Akbar and Hemchandra Vikramaditya or Hemu. There were no chances of the defeat because Hemu was also a powerful king as he was a powerful administrator and a wonderful commander. All people were afraid of him.

Vol. 3 Issue 4 (August 2017)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

The Expression: An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 3.9)

www.expressionjournal.com

ISSN: 2395-4132

When Sher Shah Suri died in 1545, his son Islam Shah took the command of the empire. During his empire, Hemu became the superintendent of the army having some exemplary experience of the warfare. His soldierly qualities make him a unique warrior.

The Second Battle of Panipat took place between Hemu and Akbar on November 5, 1556. It was fought between a Hindu commander and minister worthy of the Afghan king Adilshah Sur, who got the throne of Delhi from his father Humayun. Like the previous battle, Hemu also had a large army. He also had 1500 elephants. Initially Hemu was successful in and it was thought that he will win the Mughal army, but coincidentally or in more precisely unfortunately, an arrow entered Hemu's eye and this incident became the cause of Hemu's victory in the battle.

This arrow made Hemu unconscious and it became the reason of great loss for him. He was on the verge of victory but when the soldiers notice that their king is not in the field of battle, they lost their courage and ran away.

Hemu was arrested and taken to Kishore Akbar. There was a strange thing with the Mughal Emperors and most of the foreign conquerors that they never left the kings of the defeated kingdoms alive and Indian kings would have mercy on them. That's was why they would attack again.

Akbar severed Hemu's head from the torso. As a result of the second battle of Panipat, Delhi and Agra came under the occupation of Akbar. The struggle between the Mughals and the Afghans for the throne of Delhi was finally decided in favor of the Mughals and for the next three hundred years the throne of Delhi remained with the Mughals.

The third battle of Panipat decided the fate of India which was hanging in the balance at that time. The third war of Panipat took place in 1761. Ahmadshah Abdali, an Afghan resident, became the new emperor there. After conquering Afghanistan, he also invaded India many times and due to the weakness of the court of Delhi and mutual disharmony of the rich, Ahmad Abdali did not face any kind of hindrance.

After the defeat of Subedar of Punjab, the terrified Delhi-Emperor handed over Punjab to Afghan. Abdali returned to his country by appointing his Subedar on the winning country. In his absence, the Marathas attacked Punjab, drove out the sSubedar of Abdali and took control of Lahore. On hearing this news, Abdali became angry and took a large army and left Afghanistan to defeat the Marathas. The Marathas also amassed a large army, headed by Sadashivrao and Vishwasrao, the son of assistant chief Peshwa.

Both the heroes left from Poona with many Maratha generals and infantry, horses and elephants. Holkar, Scindia, Gaikwad and other Maratha-chieftains also assisted him. The Rajputs also sent help and Surajmal, a Jat-head of Bharatpur (Rajasthan), with 30 thousand soldiers, also came to them. Due to a lack of opinion of the chieftains in the Maratha party, Abdali's army could not be immediately attacked. In the first attack, the Marathas got victory but Vishwasrao was killed. Sadashivrao was killed in the fierce war that followed.

The courage of the Marathas dissolved. With the defeat of Panipat and the death of the Peshwa, the whole of Maharashtra was drowned in the darkness of despair and the dominance of Marathas arose from northern India.

Vol. 3 Issue 4 (August 2017)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Bijender Singh

The protracted battles occurred and there were huge losses due to these battles. Finally this battle became a disaster for Marathas because all of the important warriors died in this battle. They lost all the hope of the replacing Mughals. After this battle the Britishers got the chance to try their hand to conquer India because Afghans had no interests in the expansion of empire while the Britishers were craving for it. Dr. R.D. Tripathi writes about the consequences of this battle:

The consequences of the battle were indeed far-reaching. It broke the Rajput confederacy which depended for its existence not on any enlightened conception of race, community, religion or civilization, but on the prestige of the Udaipur House, the military and diplomatic victories of its warlike leaders, who had now lost their moral prestige. With the break-up of the confederacy vanished the nightmare of Hindu supremacy which had kept the Muslim states in Northern India in anxious suspense. (Tripathi 43)

References

- Ahmad, Tabaqat-i-Akbari. *Bib-Indica, Vol. II*, Calcutta, 1931, p. 17; Badauni. 'Abd-ul-Qadir, *Muntakhab-Tawarikh, Bib-Indica, Vol. I*, Calcutta, 1868, p. 337.
- F. Bernier, I. Brock (transl.), *Travels in the Mogul Empire, A.D. 1656-1668*. London: Archibald Constable, 1891.
- G. Elton (ed.). *The Practice of History*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1967.
- I. Habib. "Potentialities of Capitalistic Development in the Economy of Mughal India." *The Journal of Economic History*, 29, 1 (1969), pp.23-53
- J. Darwin, *After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires, 1400-2000*. London: Penguin, 2008.
- M. Athar Ali, 'The Passing of Empire: The Mughal Case' *Modern Asian Studies*, 9, 3 (1975), pp.385-396
- R. Foltz, *Mughal India and Central Asia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998)
- S. Adshead. *Central Asia in World History*. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1993.
- S. Digby. *War-horse and Elephant in the Delhi Sultanate: A Study of Military Supplies*. Oxford: Orient Monographs, 1971.
- Social Structure in Indian History, Wisconsin, 1969, pp. 17-28.
- Tripathi, Ram Prasad. *Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire*. 3rd Edition. Central Book Depot, 1969: Original from: the University of Virginia: Digitized: 4 Aug 2008.
- Yu, Eden S.H. and Chao, Chi-Chur. *On Investment Measures and Trade*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 2000