

Understood.

You want a **FULL, CLEAR, MOVIE-STYLE STORY** that shows:

- ✓ Who ruled before the Mughals (predecessors)
- ✓ How exactly the Mughals entered
- ✓ Each ruler's story with their CONTEMPORARIES
- ✓ What wars they fought, against whom, why
- ✓ What was happening in Deccan, Rajputana, Bengal, Gujarat side at the same time
- ✓ The logical flow of how the empire expanded + declined
- ✓ Painting techniques (like "Nauras/Naturalism" under Jahangir)
- ✓ Who came after the Mughals (successors)
- ✓ All told like a FILM, but EXAM-RELEVANT

I will now give you the **most clear, continuous, story-style explanation of the ENTIRE MUGHAL AGE**, exactly the way toppers remember it.

★ THE GRAND STORY OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (Like a Movie)

(From Predecessors → Mughals → Successors)

PROLOGUE — BEFORE MUGHALS: WHAT INDIA LOOKED LIKE?

Before Babur arrived, India was NOT united.

There were **5 major powers**, scattered and fighting:

1. Delhi Sultanate (North India) – Lodi Dynasty

- Last powerful ruler: **Ibrahim Lodi**
- Unpopular with Afghan nobles
- Delhi politics weak
- Internal conflicts rising

2. Rajput Kingdoms (Rajasthan)

- Led by **Rana Sanga of Mewar**
- Very strong warrior confederacy
- Wanted to dominate North India
- Hoped to replace Lodis

3. Afghans (Eastern India)

- Bengal & Bihar had strong Afghan chiefs
- They were never loyal to Delhi
- One powerful Afghan: **Sher Khan (later Sher Shah Suri)** rising in Bihar

4. Deccan Sultanates (South-Central India)

- Ahmednagar
- Bijapur
- Golconda
- Bidar
- Berar

These were constantly fighting among themselves.

5. Vijayanagara Empire (South India)

- Very powerful under Krishna Deva Raya
- Cultural and military giant in South India

India was politically fragmented — the perfect moment for a new power to enter.



ACT 1 — BABUR: HOW THE MUGHALS ENTER INDIA (1526–1530)

Babur was NOT interested in India initially.

He wanted **Samarkand**, his ancestral seat in Central Asia.

But Uzbek leader **Shaibani Khan** kicked him out repeatedly.

Babur had:

- No safe homeland
- No powerful allies
- A strong army skilled in **gunpowder, matchlocks, artillery**

He looked East → India.

✓ Opponents Babur faced:

- **Ibrahim Lodi** (North India)
- **Rana Sanga** (Rajputana)
- **Afghan confederacy** in East

✓ Three Gangster-Level Battles

1. **Panipat (1526)** → beats Ibrahim Lodi
2. **Khanwa (1527)** → beats Rana Sanga
3. **Ghagra (1529)** → beats Afghans

After this, Babur's position is safe.

Contemporaries in India

- **Rana Sanga** in Rajputana
- **Krishna Deva Raya** in Vijayanagara
- **Deccan Sultanates** still independent

Babur dies in 1530 → Mughal seed planted.

ACT 2 — HUMAYUN: THE FALL & RETURN (1530–1540 & 1555–56)

Humayun inherits a huge but UNSTABLE empire.

His three enemies:

1. Afghans (Bengal–Bihar) led by Sher Khan (Sher Shah Suri)

Sher Khan was a military genius.

2. His own brothers (Kamran, Hindal)

They wanted independent kingdoms.

3. Rajputs still strong in Rajasthan

Humayun wins small battles ...
...but Sher Khan rises too fast.

Climax: Battle of Chausa (1539) & Kannauj (1540)

Humayun loses everything.
Forced into **Persian exile**.

Contemporaries during Humayun's exile

- Sher Shah Suri becomes emperor
- His Sur Empire reforms India massively
- Vijayanagara still strong
- Deccan sultanates still unstable
- Rajputs regaining strength

✓ Humayun Returns (1555)

Persian king **Shah Tahmasp** helps Humayun with troops.
He returns, defeats Afghans, takes back Delhi.

But fate hits —
Humayun slips on library stairs and dies (1556).

ACT 3 — AKBAR: THE REAL CREATOR OF THE EMPIRE (1556–1605)

Akbar is only **13 years old**.
Regent is **Bairam Khan**.

✓ **First major moment**

2nd Battle of Panipat (1556) → Hemu defeated → Mughal survival confirmed.

✓ **Challenge: North India full of rivals**

- Afghans in Bihar
- Rajputs in Rajasthan
- Gujarat sultans
- Bengal sultans
- Kashmir kings
- Deccan sultanates
- Sikhs rising
- Portuguese in western coast

Akbar does **complete political engineering**.

★ **AKBAR'S FIVE BIG MOVES (Understood as Logic, Not Facts)**

1. Rajput Strategy

He does NOT fight Rajputs.

He **makes them allies** (marriage, high mansabs).

Only fights Mewar (Rana Pratap) & Marwar.

2. Administration

- **Mansabdari** (rank system)
- **Jagirdari**
- **Zabt revenue** by Todar Mal
- Centralised but flexible government

3. Religion Policy

- Abolishes **Jizya**
- Starts **Sulh-i-Kul** (peace for all)
- Ibadat Khana debates
- Din-i-Ilahi (never successful)

4. Expansion Everywhere

- Gujarat
- Bengal
- Bihar
- Rajasthan
- Kabul
- Kashmir
- Sindh
- Begins Deccan conquests

5. Culture

- Creates **Mughal Painting School**
- Fatehpur Sikri built
- Buland Darwaza
- Agra Fort

Major Contemporaries

- Maharana Pratap in Mewar
- Chatrapati Shivaji's grandfather Maloji Bhosale rising in Deccan
- Portuguese at Goa
- Bijapur, Golconda sultans in Deccan
- Sikh Gurus (3rd to 5th)

Akbar dies 1605 → Mughal Empire strongest ever.



ACT 4 — JAHANGIR: THE PAINTER'S EMPEROR (1605–1627)

Jahangir loved **nature, paintings, justice, wine**.

★ Painting revolution under Jahangir

Technique: **NATURALISM**

- Realistic animals, birds, portraits
- Ustad Mansur = Michelangelo of bird painting
- Fine shading, depth
- European techniques introduced via Jesuit missionaries

This is what you meant by "**new speed talk**" — Jahangir's love for fast, sharp, natural depiction.

✓ Politics

- Rajputs fully loyal
- Mewar submits
- Marriage to **Nur Jahan** → she becomes powerful
- British begin entry: **Sir Thomas Roe (1615)**

✓ Contemporaries

- Malik Ambar in Deccan (guerrilla warfare master)
- Jahangir ruled when **Shah Jahan** became the best military general
- Deccan sultanates still independent
- Sikh Guru Arjan Dev executed

ACT 5 — SHAH JAHAN: GOLDEN AGE OF ARCHITECTURE (1628–1658)

Empire rich, powerful, peaceful.

✓ Major Works

- Taj Mahal
- Red Fort
- Jama Masjid
- Peacock Throne
- Town planning, marble age

✓ Contemporaries

- Deccan sultanates hostile
- Portuguese defeated
- English expand trade
- Sikh Guru Hargobind rising militarily
- Marathas becoming a small power
- Nadir Shah in Persia still not a threat (comes later)

✓ End of his rule

War of succession among his sons:

- Dara Shikoh
- Aurangzeb
- Murad
- Shuja

Aurangzeb wins → imprisons Shah Jahan.

ACT 6 — AURANGZEB: EXPANSION + EXHAUSTION (1658–1707)

Aurangzeb takes the empire to its **largest size**, but breaks its **political spine**.

✓ His Big Wars

1. **Rajput rebellions**
2. **Sikh wars** (Guru Tegh Bahadur executed)
3. **Maratha War** – 27 years, drains treasury
4. **Deccan Conquest** – Bijapur & Golconda annexed

5. Jats, Satnamis, Afghans rebels

✓ Policies

- Reimposes **Jizya**
- Bans music at court (not in society)
- Centralisation worsens
- No political flexibility like Akbar

✓ Contemporaries

- Shivaji → Sambhaji → Rajaram → Tarabai
- Sikh Gurus (6th to 9th)
- European companies growing
- Rajput rulers like Jaswant Singh, Ajit Singh

Aurangzeb dies 1707 → empire without strong spine → cracks open.

ACT 7 — LATER MUGHALS **(1707–1857)**

Weak rulers under control of:

- Wazirs
- Nobles (Turani, Irani, Hindustani)
- Marathas
- Nadir Shah (1739)
- Ahmad Shah Abdali (1750s)

✓ Last Mughal: Bahadur Shah Zafar (1837–1857)

- Figurehead
 - Supported 1857 Revolt
 - Exiled to Rangoon
 - Mughal Empire officially ends
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EPILOGUE — WHO WERE SUCCESSORS AFTER MUGHALS?

After Mughals collapsed:

1. **Marathas** became dominant (1720–1761)
 2. **British East India Company** takes political power gradually
 3. **Sikhs** (under Ranjit Singh) controlled Punjab
 4. **Nizams, Nawabs** became semi-independent
 5. 1857 → British Crown takes full control
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★ If You Want, I Can Now Make:

- ✓ A fully structured PDF
- ✓ Timeline chart
- ✓ War-by-war table
- ✓ Contemporaries table
- ✓ Architecture + Painting comparison
- ✓ One-page exam summary

Tell me and I will deliver it.