

Modern Indian History Class 05

THIRD BATTLE OF PANIPAT 1761 (09:20 AM)

- Ahmed Shah Abdali/Durrani (founder of modern Afghanistan and Durrani empire and trusted commander of Nader Shah) declared himself king of Afghanistan after the death of Nader Shah in 1747. → in 1748
- His First Afghan invasion failed, defeated by Sikh.
- **Reasons for the Third Battle of Panipat-**
- **Conflict between two rising neighbouring powers i.e. Marathas and Abdali.**
- In 1756, the second Afghan invasion began and Abdali's forces frequently raided north India (Punjab, Delhi etc)
- Abdali appointed son Timur Shah as governor of Punjab and Kashmir.
- In 1758, Nana Saheb sent his brother ⁷³⁷⁴ **Raghunath Rao** who removed Timur from Lahore. This was peak of Maratha power (because earlier Marathas could not defeat Sikhs and now Sikhs were defeated by Mughals and Marathas defeated Mughals and Nana Saheb thought of making son Vishwas Rao as emperor of Hindustan but then 3rd Battle of Panipat started and Vishwas Rao died.
- **Stronger alliance-** Awadh wanted the weakening of Marathas who were its rival.
- Indian Afghan kingdoms hoped for greater influence with Abdali as emperor and Sikhs, Rajputs, Jats stayed neutral due to constant plundering in the past by Marathas. Vishwas Rao was the strong man and after that no-one was so powerful and because of 3rd battle of Panipat Nana Saheb died within week because he is losing his son and his cousin brother.
- **Why Abdali won**
- Abdali cut off the supply routes between Panipat and Delhi. Therefore, famine-like conditions developed in the Maratha camps with no food for men and no fodder for horses.
- Panipat has vast plains and therefore, Maratha guerilla warfare tactics could not be deployed.
- Abdali's horses mounted guns could pierce Maratha's armour.
- Good Military leadership of Abdali and ^{Najib} ~~Nazir~~ **ud Daula**. → The title "ud-Daula" (which means "pillar of the state" or "supporter of the state") was commonly used by high-ranking officials in the Mughal court, and Najib-ud-Daula was his honorific title.
- A higher number of soldiers (60k vs 50k) on the side of Abdali.
- Disunity among Marathas (When power shifts downward, then higher chances of factionalism). E.g. Bhonsle of Nagpur didn't fight as he opposed Nana Saheb as Peshwa.

Stronger alliance, Awadh wanted weakening of Marathas who were its rival + Indian Afghan kingdoms hoped for greater influence with Abdali as emperor + Sikh, Rajput and Jats stayed neutral due to constant plundering in past by Marathas.


- **Impact of loss (10:00 AM)**

- Militarily weakened- Marathas lost important leaders. E.g. Sadashiv Rao Bhau and Viswa Rao died fighting and Nana Saheb died within weeks of battle.
- Also, they lost 50,000 men.
- Factionalism increased as now young inexperienced Peshwas (⁶¹⁷²Madhav Rao, ⁷²⁷³Narayan Rao, ⁹⁶¹⁸Baji Rao II, ⁷⁴⁹⁵infant Madhav Rao II)
- Abdali's army suffered heavy losses as a revolt occurred in his army as Anti Abdali's generals planned his overthrow in Afghanistan. Therefore, he returned to Afghanistan with loot.
- Now there was a vacuum of power at the centre filled later by the British after defeating Indian powers one after another.
- Therefore, Third BOP 1761 decided who would 'NOT' rule India (i.e. neither Marathas nor Abdali will rule India) (ruling is different from conquest)
- **Delhi remained under the control of various rulers:**
 - 1752-61: Maratha
 - 1761-71: Rohillas
 - 1771- capture of Delhi by Mahadji Scindia (temporary revival of Marathas)
 - 1803- ^{to 1805} Battle of Delhi (Second Anglo-Maratha war)- British captured Delhi
 - 1911- British capital from Calcutta to Delhi
 - 1946- Interim govt. with PM Nehru
 - 1947- Independence

← Leader of Marathas who signed Treaty of Salbai in 1782 with Warren Hastings.

↖ The First Anglo-Maratha War (1775–1782) was the first of three major conflicts between the British East India Company and the Maratha Empire. It ended in a stalemate, with the Treaty of Salbai (1782) restoring the status quo.

QUESTION (10:45 AM)

- **Que-** Why Marathas could not establish an all-India empire?
- (Refer to handout no. 3- Maratha Admin, page-9)
- **Approach:**
- Factionalism-
- Treaty of Sangola (1750) between Rajaram II, the adopted son of Shahu and Nanasaheb led to the transfer of power to Peshwa (*i.e. Chatrapati was like President of India and all powers were with Peshwa like PM)
4061
- As power shifted to Peshwa, factionalism increased. Factionalism increased after the third BOP 1761 as central leadership was weak.
- Power could not be properly centralised by Marathas as:
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- a) In Samrajya, Maratha Sardars were always autonomous
- b) In Swarajya, local assemblies of watan right holders like **Deshmukhs** and Patils (Village headmen who had admin, revenue, and judicial powers) asserted themselves and exerted pressure on Peshwa.
Somewhat analogous to IZ

- c) In Samrajya, not all areas were brought under effective rule by Maratha Sardars. Therefore, there was no effective centralised rule even by Maratha Sardars.
- In many cases, Marathas limited themselves to extracting tributes instead of establishing their rule.
- Therefore, Marathas establishing the central rule of one authority over the whole of India was a distant milestone, especially after the 3rd BOP 1761.
- Refer to the handout for more details.

Mughals call province as subha and Marathas call province as Sarkar

REBEL STATES: SIKH STATE (11:35 AM)

- Sikhs demanded a Sikh state in and around Anantapur which was under Shivalik hill chiefs (allies of the Mughals)
- 1675- 9th Guru Teg Bahadur was executed by Aurangzeb
- 1699- 10th Guru Gobind Singh set up Khalsa (A Sikh military organisation to defend Sikh Panth and to struggle for a Sikh state)
- 1707- Bahadur Shah ⁰⁷¹² promised Anantpur but then supported Shivalik hill chiefs and **GGS** and his children were murdered in a conspiracy in 1708.
- Now **Banda Bahadur** ^{0815 (1708-15)} continued the Sikh rebellion and set up his rule in and around Patiala.
- **Why Banda Bahadur lost?**
- Khatri traders turned against him and trade got hurt due to constant warfare.
- Jahandar ¹²¹³ ¹³¹⁹ Shah introduced Ijaradari in Punjab to win over Khatri traders and he and Farukhsiyar offered Mansabs to Khatri traders who now shifted sides.
- Some Hindu Jat Zamindars like ~~Churama~~ ^{Churaman} Jat shifted sides as they were also coopted by the Mughals.
- 1715- BB was captured and then executed in 1716 in Delhi but the Sikh state did not end as Mughals were weak and now power got decentralised among Misl chiefs.
- Misls- Kinship-based clans and they united during the war.
- Ranjit Singh ^{0139 (1801-39)} (RS) of Sukerchakia misl played a crucial role in defeating Zaman Shah's 3rd Afghan invasion in 1799.
- RS established dominance over other Misls to become ruler of the Sikh state by 1801.
- 1801- He conquered Lahore (capital of Punjab)
- By 1809 conquered the whole of Punjab and later Multan and Kashmir by defeating Afghans (* Abdali had Kashmir and Lahore).
- Even EIC recognised RS as an independent ruler of Punjab under the treaty of Amritsar 1809 which also led to a military alliance.

TOPIC OF NEXT CLASS- MYSORE