



DAILY CLASS NOTES

BPSC MODERN HISTORY

Lecture - 03

**Later Mughals and Provincial
Kingdom - 03**



Later Mughals and Provincial Kingdom - 03

Farrukhsiyar (1713–1719 CE)

❖ Accession to the Throne

- Became the Mughal emperor with the support of the Syed Brothers (Abdullah Khan and Hussain Ali Khan).
- The first Mughal ruler to ascend the throne at Patna before moving to Delhi.
- **Family Background:** Son of Azim-us-Shan (fourth son of Aurangzeb) and nephew of Jahandar Shah.

❖ Character and Rule

- Considered a weak and cowardly ruler, heavily dependent on the Syed Brothers.
- Appointed Abdullah Khan as Wazir (Prime Minister) and Hussain Ali Khan as Mir Bakshi.

❖ Military Developments

- Banda Bahadur (Sikh leader) was executed in Delhi in 1716 CE.
- After his death, Lohgarh Fort was captured by the Mughal army.

❖ Foreign Relations: Visit of the British Delegation (1717 CE)

- A delegation led by John Surman, Edward Stephens, and Dr. William Hamilton visited the Mughal court.
- Dr. Hamilton, a surgeon, successfully treated Farrukhsiyar.
- As a reward, Farrukhsiyar granted important farmans (royal orders) to the British East India Company.
- These farmans provided trading privileges and concessions, laying the foundation for the Company's expansion in India.
- Interpreter: Khwaja Serhud.

❖ Language of Court

- Persian – official and literary language.
- Turkish – familial/ancestral Mughal language.

Royal Farman to the British (1717 CE)

- ❖ In 1717 CE, Farrukhsiyar issued a Royal Farman in favor of the British East India Company.
- ❖ Provisions of the Farman:
 - Granted the Company trade rights in Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha.

- Allowed the use of *dastak* (free pass) for duty-free trade, except for a small annual payment of ₹3,000 to the Mughal treasury.
- British historian Orme described this farman as the “*Magna Carta of the East India Company*”, as it laid the foundation for British commercial and later political expansion in India.

Dispute with the Syed Brothers

- ❖ Farrukhsiyar attempted to curb the influence of the Syed Brothers (Abdullah Khan and Hussain Ali Khan), who were the real power behind the throne.
- ❖ A conflict arose, leading Farrukhsiyar to seek independence from their control, but he failed.
- ❖ The Syed Brothers allied with the Marathas, particularly Balaji Vishwanath (Peshwa) and Khanderao Dabhade (Maratha commander), who marched to Delhi in their support.
- ❖ With Maratha backing, the Syed Brothers deposed Farrukhsiyar in 1719 CE.
- ❖ He was executed, and Rafi-ud-Darajat was placed on the Mughal throne as a puppet ruler.

Treaty between Syed Brothers and the Marathas (1718–1719)

- ❖ In 1718 CE, Hussain Ali Khan (one of the Syed Brothers) signed a treaty with the Maratha Chhatrapati Shahu to secure support against Emperor Farrukhsiyar.
- ❖ Under this agreement, the Maratha army entered Delhi for the first time in 1719 CE, under the leadership of Balaji Vishwanath (Peshwa) and Khanderao Dabhade.
- ❖ After Farrukhsiyar's deposition and death in 1719 CE, the Treaty of Delhi (1719) was concluded.
- ❖ **Key Provisions of the Treaty:**
 - The Marathas were granted the rights of *Chauth* (one-fourth of revenue) and *Sardeshmukhi* (an additional 10% levy) over the Deccan.
 - This formally recognized Maratha claims, strengthening their financial and political position.

Puppet Emperors under the Syed Brothers

Rafi-ud-Darajat (28 Feb 1719 – 6 June 1719)

- ❖ Installed on the throne with the backing of the Syed Brothers after Farrukhsiyar's removal.
- ❖ Ruled for only three months, making him the Mughal emperor with the shortest reign.
- ❖ Died of tuberculosis in June 1719.

Shah Jahan II (June 1719 – September 1719)

- ❖ Succeeded Rafi-ud-Darajat, also placed on the throne by the Syed Brothers.
- ❖ His reign lasted for about **three months** (June to September 1719).
- ❖ Died due to poor health.

Muhammad Shah (1719–1748 CE)

❖ Personal Profile

- Full Name: **Roshan Akhtar**
- Title: “**Rangeela**”, due to his indulgence in luxury, harem life, and dependence on eunuchs.
- Came to power with the initial support of the **Syed Brothers**.

Conflict with the Syed Brothers

- ❖ Muhammad Shah sought independence from the control of the Syed Brothers.
- ❖ With the help of **Nizam-ul-Mulk (Chin Qilich Khan)**, the Syed Brothers were eliminated:
 - **Hussain Ali Khan** was murdered in 1720.
 - **Abdullah Khan** was defeated and killed in 1722.
- ❖ Muhammad Shah later appointed **Nizam-ul-Mulk** as **Wazir**, but when his reform proposals were rejected, Nizam resigned and went to the Deccan (1724 CE).
- ❖ His departure was described as the “**Flight of Virtue**”, symbolizing the decline of Mughal central authority.

Rise of Independent States

During Muhammad Shah's reign, several provincial governors declared autonomy, marking the fragmentation of the Mughal Empire:

- ❖ **Awadh** – founded by **Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk** in 1722 CE.
- ❖ **Carnatic** – under **Sadatullah Khan** in 1722 CE.
- ❖ **Hyderabad** – founded by **Nizam-ul-Mulk (Chin Qilich Khan)** in 1724 CE.

Foreign Invasions

❖ Nadir Shah's Invasion (1739 CE)

- Known as the “**Napoleon of Iran**”.
- Invaded India and defeated the Mughal army in the **Battle of Karnal (1739 CE)**.
- Entered Delhi, plundered the city, and carried away immense wealth including the **Peacock Throne** and the **Koh-i-Noor diamond**.
- This invasion exposed the weakness of the Mughal Empire.

❖ **Ahmad Shah Abdali's Raids (1748 CE onwards)**

- Successor of Nadir Shah in Afghanistan.
- Launched repeated invasions into India, beginning in 1748 CE, further weakening Mughal authority.

Significance of Muhammad Shah's Reign

- ❖ His long reign (1719–1748 CE) witnessed the decline of Mughal political authority and the rise of regional powers.
- ❖ The empire became more symbolic than real, setting the stage for the expansion of the Marathas and the British.

Ahmed Shah Bahadur (1748–1754 CE)

❖ **Background**

- Son of Muhammad Shah.
- Weak ruler; real power was exercised by court factions.

❖ **Political Situation**

- Safdarjung (Nawab of Awadh) served as Wazir initially.
- Court politics dominated by Udham Bai (Ahmed Shah's mother) and her favorite Javid Khan (a eunuch), who exercised undue influence.
- Ahmed Shah conferred the title of Nawab-i-Mamalik on Javid Khan.

❖ **Conflict and Power Struggle**

- With Ahmad Shah's approval, Safdarjung killed Javid Khan, reducing the influence of Udham Bai.
- Soon after, Safdarjung was dismissed and replaced by Ghazi-ud-din Imad-ul-Mulk as Wazir.
- Imad-ul-Mulk turned against the emperor:
 - ✓ He blinded Ahmed Shah and imprisoned him.
 - ✓ Placed Alamgir II (son of Jahandar Shah) on the throne in 1754 CE.

❖ **Death**

- Ahmed Shah lived in captivity until his death in 1775 CE.

Alamgir II (1754–1759 CE)

❖ **Personal Profile**

- Real name: Aziz-ud-din.
- Installed as emperor by Ghazi-ud-din Imad-ul-Mulk, who remained the de facto ruler.

❖ Key Events

- His reign coincided with the **Battle of Plassey (1757 CE)**, marking the foundation of British political power in India.
- Mughal authority further weakened, and the empire became largely symbolic.

❖ End of Reign

- In **November 1759**, **Alamgir II** was assassinated by **Imad-ul-Mulk**.
- After his death, his son **Ali Gauhar** declared himself emperor as **Shah Alam II**, but he was unable to enter Delhi for the next **12 years** and ruled from Bihar (Patna).

Shah Alam II (1759–1806 CE)

❖ Personal Profile

- Real Name: **Ali Gauhar**.
- Second Mughal emperor to be crowned at Patna, as he could not enter Delhi for the first **12 years** of his reign.
- Finally entered Delhi in **January 1772** with the support of the **Maratha chief Mahadji Scindia**.
- In gratitude, Shah Alam II conferred upon Mahadji Scindia the title of **Wakil-i-Mutlaq** (regent of the empire).

Major Events during his Reign

❖ Third Battle of Panipat (1761 CE)

- Fought between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali.
- Weakened the Marathas, but the Mughals remained only nominal rulers.

❖ Battle of Buxar (1764 CE)

- Fought between the combined forces of **Shah Alam II**, **Shuja-ud-Daula** (Nawab of Awadh), and **Mir Qasim** (Nawab of Bengal) against the **British East India Company**.
- The British under **Hector Munro** decisively defeated the Indian alliance.

❖ Treaty of Allahabad (1765 CE)

- Signed between **Shah Alam II** and the **British East India Company**.
- Provisions:
 - ✓ Shah Alam II granted the Company **Diwani rights** (revenue collection) of **Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha**.
 - ✓ The Mughal emperor shifted his residence to Allahabad under Company protection.
 - ✓ This marked the **formal beginning of British political dominance** in India.

❖ Later Years

- In 1802 CE, the British occupied Delhi.
- Shah Alam II became the first Mughal emperor to live as a pensioner of the British.
- His effective authority was reduced to the Red Fort, with the empire surviving only in name.

Nadir Shah's Invasion of Delhi (1739 CE)

❖ Entry into Delhi:

- Nadir Shah of Persia entered Delhi on 20 March 1739 after defeating the Mughals at the Battle of Karnal.
- He stayed in Delhi for about 57 days, during which large-scale plunder and massacres took place.

❖ Loot and Plunder:

- Nadir Shah seized immense wealth, including the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond.
- Estimated booty worth crores of rupees was carried away to Persia.
- This invasion dealt a fatal blow to the prestige and authority of the Mughal Empire.

❖ Note:

- The Peacock Throne was originally constructed by Shah Jahan.
- Muhammad Shah (1719–1748 CE) was the last Mughal emperor to sit on the Peacock Throne.

Akbar II (1806–1837 CE)

❖ Background:

- Succeeded Shah Alam II in 1806 CE.
- First Mughal emperor to rule entirely under British patronage.
- His authority was restricted only to the Red Fort in Delhi.

❖ Relations with Reformers:

- Conferred the title of “Raja” on Raja Ram Mohan Roy, recognizing his social and intellectual influence.
- In 1831, sent Ram Mohan Roy to England as his representative to plead for an increase in the Mughal pension.

❖ **Later Events:**

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy died in Bristol, England, in 1833, suffering from meningitis.

Bahadur Shah II (Zafar) – Last Mughal Emperor (1837–1857 CE)

❖ **Personal Profile**

- Full Name: Bahadur Shah II.
- Son of Akbar II.
- Known as the last Mughal emperor; often described as an “emperor without an empire”.
- A noted poet and calligrapher, he wrote under the pen name “Zafar”.
- Eminent poets like Ibrahim Zauq and Mirza Ghalib were associated with his court.
- His spiritual guide was Haji Imdadullah (Hazrat Ahsanullah Khan as teacher in some accounts).

Role in the Revolt of 1857

- ❖ The Revolt of 1857 broke out during his reign, and he was proclaimed the symbolic leader of the rebellion.
- ❖ Although he had little real power, his name united sepoys and rebels across northern India.
- ❖ Famous statement attributed to him:
 - “The sword of Hindustan will one day reach the throne of London.”

Fall and Exile

- ❖ After the suppression of the revolt, Bahadur Shah II was captured from Humayun’s Tomb in Delhi.
- ❖ In 1858 CE, following Queen Victoria’s Proclamation, the Mughal dynasty was formally abolished, and India came under the direct rule of the British Crown.
- ❖ Bahadur Shah II was tried, convicted, and exiled to Rangoon (Burma).
- ❖ He died there in 1862 CE at the age of 87 years and was buried in Rangoon.

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BPSC

MODERN HISTORY

DMP - 02

Model Answer

1. Discuss the significance of Muhammad Shah's reign (1719–1748) in the decline of the Mughal Empire, with reference to the rise of regional powers and foreign invasions. (8 Marks)

Ans:-

Approach:-

- ❖ **Introduction:-** Give a brief introduction about Muhammad Shah.
- ❖ **Main Body:-** Discuss the significance of Muhammad Shah's reign (1719–1748) in the decline of the Mughal Empire.
- ❖ **Conclusion:-** Conclude by writing weakening the Mughal Empire and paving the way for British ascendancy.

Muhammad Shah (1719–1748 CE), also known as Roshan Akhtar and titled “Rangeela,” ascended the Mughal throne with the support of the Syed Brothers. His reign is significant in the history of the Mughal Empire as it witnessed the gradual decline of central authority and the rise of regional powers, alongside repeated foreign invasions.

Administrative and Courtly Features:

Muhammad Shah was indulgent in luxury, harem life, and heavily dependent on eunuchs, which weakened imperial administration. Though initially supported by the Syed Brothers, he gradually eliminated them with the assistance of Nizam-ul-Mulk, reflecting the shifting power dynamics within the court.

Rise of Regional Powers:

During his reign, several provincial governors asserted autonomy, highlighting the decentralization of Mughal authority:

- ❖ **Awadh:** Founded by Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk (1722 CE)
- ❖ **Carnatic:** Governed by Sadatullah Khan (1722 CE)
- ❖ **Hyderabad:** Established under Nizam-ul-Mulk (1724 CE)

These developments marked the fragmentation of the empire and the emergence of strong regional powers.

Foreign Invasions:

- ❖ **Nadir Shah (1739 CE):** Defeated the Mughal army at the Battle of Karnal, plundered Delhi, and carried away immense wealth including the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond, severely damaging Mughal prestige.
- ❖ **Ahmad Shah Abdali (1748 CE onwards):** Launched repeated invasions into northern India, further destabilizing the empire.

**Conclusion:**

Muhammad Shah's reign exemplifies the decline of central authority, the rise of regional powers, and the vulnerability of the empire to foreign aggression. These developments paved the way for the expansion of the Marathas and laid the foundation for British ascendancy in India.

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