

Competition Cosmos

Battle of Panipats

First Battle of Panipat (21 April 1526)

- **Fought between: Babur and Ibrahim Lodhi**
- **Place: Near Panipat**

On 21 April 1526, the First Battle of Panipat took place between the invading forces of Babur and the Lodhi Empire. This battle saw the emergence of Mughal rule and gave a stronger foothold on the subcontinent. According to the legends, it was the earliest battles in which gunpowder firearms and field artillery were used.

The **Babur** was the Timurid ruler of Kabulistan and in 1526 defeated the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodhi's huge army. The battle took place near the small village of Panipat, present-day Haryana state. No doubt the area has been the site of several decisive battles for the control of Northern India since the 12th Century.

It is estimated that the forces of Babur were numbered around 15,000 men and 20 to 24 pieces of field artillery. According to the Babur estimation, Lodhi had around 100,000 men, included camp followers and the fighting force was around 30,000 to 40,000 men in total with at least 1000 war elephants.

Second Battle of Panipat (5 November, 1556)

- **Fought between: Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya, popularly called Hemu and Akbar**
- **Place: Panipat**

Mughal ruler Humayun died in Delhi on 24 January, 1556 and succeeded by his son Akbar. That time Akbar was 13 years old. **Akbar** was enthroned on the throne as the king on 14 February, 1556. Let us tell you at the time of accession Akbar was confined to Kabul, Kandahar, parts of Delhi and Punjab. Akbar with his guardian Bairam Khan was campaigning in Kabul.

In the battle for Delhi Akbar/Humayun was defeated by Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya or Hemu. He was an adviser earlier to Sher Shah Suri's son Islam Shah from 1545 to 1553 and belonged to Rewari (present-day Haryana). From 1553 to 1556, Hemu won around 22 battles as Prime Minister and Chief of Islam Shah and defeated Afghan rebels against the Sur regime.

In January 1556, when Humayun died, Hemu quelled a rebellion in Bengal, killing the ruler of Bengal Muhammad Shah in the war. He started a campaign of winning battles in Northern India. He attacked Agra and as a result, the commander of Akbar's forces fled without fighting. Finally, the area of Etawah, Kalpi and Agra provinces came under the control of Hemu.

Hemu moved to Delhi and stationed his forces outside the city of Tughlaqabad. On 6 October, 1556, the army encountered Mughal resistance. After fierce battle forces of Akbar were ousted and the commander of Mughal forces Tardi Beg escaped that allowed Hemu to capture Delhi. Do you know in the battle around 3000 Mughals were killed. On 7 October 1556, Hemu was crowned at Purana Quila and established Hindu rule in North India after 350 years of Mughal dominance. He was bestowed with the title of Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya.

For the Second Battle of Panipat the situation was created and 5 November 1556, Akbar's army marched towards Delhi and battle was fought between both the armies. According to some legends, Akbar's guardian and Akbar himself did not participate in the battle. Akbar at the age of 13 years was not permitted to take part in the battle and was provided with a special guard protection of around 5000. He was also instructed by Bairam Khan to flee towards Kabul for life in case the Mughal army was routed on the battlefield.

Hemu led his army himself and he had around 1500 elephants and a vanguard of Artillery Park. Hemu marched with around 30,000 horsemen and Afghans. On the other side, the Mughal army consisted of 10,000 cavalries, out of which 5000 were experienced, veteran soldiers. Hemu's army was on the winning side of the battle but according to Badaoni "Suddenly the arrow of death which no shield can ward off struck his (Hemu) squinting eye so that his brain passed cleanout from the cup of his head, and he became unconscious and not to be seen in his area. Not seeing Hemu in his area, Hemu's army was in disarray and defeated in the ensuing confusion".

After several hours, Hemu found dead and brought to Akbar's tent camp at village Saudhapur in Panipat by Shah Quli Khan Mahram. The battle established the strong Mughal Empire and the reign of Akbar started.

Third Battle Panipat (14 January, 1761)

- **Fought between: The Maratha Empire and a coalition of the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Durrani with two Indian Muslim allies namely the Rohilla Afghans of the Doab and Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Oudh.**
- **Place: Panipat**

The Marathas attacked Abdali on 14 January, 1761. During the course of battle, Malhar Rao Holkar fled away. The Abdali's army was damaged by the artillery of Ibrahim Gardi. By the evening, the Marathas were badly defeated, most of the Maratha's soldiers were killed and the rest of them fled away.

The battle continued next day also. Several important rulers of Marathas including Bhau, son of the Peshwa, Viswas Rao, Jaswant Rao Pawar, Sindhia, etc. were killed in the massacre. The main cause of the defeat of Marathas was the failure of Bhau and the superiority of Abdali against Bhau as a commander. In Maratha's camp, there were several women and servants which was also burdened to Maratha's army.

The Maratha's force numbered around 45000 and Abdali army consisted of nearly 60,000 soldiers.

After losing control over Doab for Bhau, he felt the scarcity of supplies. He wasted three months in the battle with Abdali at Panipat and worst was that from the last two months, the Maratha army was semi-starved. The Marathas also do not use their guerilla technique of warfare and depended on the artillery under Ibrahim Gardi. No doubt Abdali had better cavalry than the Marathas.

On the other hand, Bhau failed to get the support of the Rajputs and the Jats and is also one of the causes of defeat in the battle. According to Sardesai, the Marathas suffered the loss of life but the power of the Marathas was not destroyed nor did any change come in their ideal.

In the battle, the Marathas also lost their ablest leaders like Raghunath Rao, etc. that had also opened the way for defeat. Peshwas were become weakened in the battle and led to the disintegration of the Maratha Empire.

For some time, Sindhia remained the protector of the Mughal Emperor but the Marathas failed to strengthen their hold over the North. Therefore, the British could get the chance of eliminating the French in India and capture power in Bengal

SSLC FREE STUDY MATERIALS

GET NOW – [CLICK HERE](#)

ENGLISH MEDIUM / KANNADA MEDIUM / URDU MEDIUM FREE RESOURCES



Text Book	Passing Packages	Video Lectures	Question Bank	Revision Notes
Notes	Chapter Wise Solutions	Audio Notes	Power Point Presentations	
Question Papers	Support Materials	Scoring Packages	Multiple Choice Q Bank	

www.amkresourceinfo.com



A M K Resource World
One Site for all FREE Resources
www.amkresourceinfo.com