

THE MUGHAL CONNECTION WITH BIHAR

1. REMEMBERING RAJA MAN SINGH'S STAY IN BIHAR (1587 - 1594)

2. REMEMBERING MURSHID QULI KHAN AND AZIM-US-SHAN

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i. THE TWO KEY PLAYERS WHO PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE 18TH CENTURY ECONOMIC REVIVAL OF PATNA-BIHAR

ii. MURSHID QULI KHAN PLAYED THE MAIN ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC REVIVAL, ENSURED LAW AND ORDER AND ATTRACTED THE FOREIGN CAPITAL IN THE REGION

iii. AZIM-US-SHAN EMERGED AS CITY PLANNER OF PATNA, REVIVED DARBARI CULTURE

iv. DARBARI CULTURE FIND ITS PLACE IN MORE IN PATNA THAN OTHER PART OF EASTERN PROVINCES

v. TIL THAT TIME, THE TOWNS OF LUCKNOW AND KOLKATA WERE IN OBLIVION

vi. AZIM-US-SHAN IS REMEMBERED BY EVERYBODY

vii. BUT MURSHID QULI KHAN BECAME A FORGOTTEN HERO

[MURSHID QULI KHAN]

THE 18-CENTURY REVIVAL OF 'PATNA-BIHAR' AND ITS TWO KEY PLAYERS

1. FROM 17TH CENTURY, THE CITY OF PATNA HAD STARTED EMERGING AS IMPORTANT ENTREPOT OF THE COUNTRY.

2. PATNA EMERGED AS THE BUSY ENTREPOT AND IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL TOWN FROM THE LAST TWO DECADES OF THE 17TH CENTURY AND

3. ITS STEADY RISE TO FAME FROM SECOND DECADES OF 18TH CENTURY, AFTER THE DEATH OF EMPEROR AURANGZEB.

4. THE RISE IN THE FORTUNE OF PATNA AND BIHAR TOOK PLACE DUE TO THE MIXTURE OF SEVERAL FACTORS WHICH INCLUDE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND OTHER FACTORS BUT

5. TWO PERSONALITIES GAVE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN ENHANCING ITS FORTUNE AND THEY WERE: -

(i) AZIM-US-SHAN – whose name is flashed everywhere but

(ii) MURSHID QULI KHAN – who played the main role in the economic revival of the region, ensured the law and order of the region and attracted the foreign capital in Bengal province is now the FORGOTTEN HERO.

[AZIM-US-SHAN]

WHY WAS DELHI LANGUISHING IN THE LAST TWO DECADES OF 17TH CENTURY?

1. IN THAT PERIOD, DELHI HAD LOST ITS SHEEN AS EMPEROR AURANGZEB WAS CAMPING IN THE DECCAN FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS, WITH ALL LEADING MEN OF HIS DURBAR.

2. AS A RESULT, MANY NOBLES HAD SHIFTED FROM DELHI AND STARTED LIVING IN PATNA AND OTHER REGIONAL CENTRES.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE ECONOMY OF BENGAL PROVINCE UNDER ITS DIWAN, MURSHID QULI KHAN

1. DURING FIRST DECADE OF 18TH CENTURY, THE PROVINCES OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE WERE UNDER A DUAL SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION, THERE BEING TWO OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF EACH, WHO WERE KNOWN AS THE NAZIM (OR NAWAB-NAZIM) AND THE DIWAN.

I. THE NAZIM WAS THE GOVERNOR OR VICEROY OF THE PROVINCE, ADMINISTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND WAS IN FACT THE EXECUTIVE AND MILITARY CHIEF.

II. THE DIWAN, WHO WAS DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO THE EMPEROR AND INDEPENDENT OF THE NAZIM, WAS THE FINANCE MINISTER; HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REVENUE ADMINISTRATION (NIZAMAT), WHILE HE ALSO OCCASIONALLY ADMINISTERED CIVIL JUSTICE.

2. DURING THE DESPOTIC REIGN OF AURANGZEB, THE OFFICES OF NAZIM (MILITARY GOVERNOR) AND DIWAN WERE KEPT PERFECTLY DISTINCT.

3. THESE REGULATIONS WERE EMBODIED IN THE DASTUR-UL-AMAL, A PROCEDURE CODE CONTAINING RULES ON ALL REVENUE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, WHICH WAS ISSUED TO EACH PROVINCE AFTER BEING APPROVED BY THE EMPEROR. EVERY YEAR ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE IN IT WITH THE EMPEROR'S SANCTION, AND NO NAZIM OR DIWAN HAD AUTHORITY TO DEVIATE FROM IT.

APPOINTMENT OF 'PRINCE MUHAMMAD AZIM-UD-DIN AS NAZIM AND MURSHID KULI KHAN AS DIWAN' BY AURANGZEB AND TURNING AROUND OF BENGAL ECONOMY

1. PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN WAS APPOINTED NAZIM OF BIHAR, BENGAL AND ORISSA IN 1697, WITH HEADQUARTERS AT DACCA

2. IN 1701 MURSHID QULI KHAN WAS APPOINTED DIWAN OF BENGAL, THE NAZIM BEING PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN, WHOSE HEADQUARTERS WERE AT DACCA.

3. MURSHID QULI KHAN SOON BROUGHT ABOUT A REORGANISATION OF THE FINANCES OF THE PROVINCE, WHICH, IN SPITE OF ITS RICHNESS AND FERTILITY, BROUGHT COMPARATIVELY LITTLE INTO THE IMPERIAL EXCHEQUER.

4. OWING TO THE EVIL REPUTATION OF BENGAL, THE HIGHER OFFICERS WERE AVERSE TO SERVICE IN THE PROVINCE, "AS THEY FANCIED IT NOT ONLY FATAL TO HUMAN LIFE, BUT ACTUAL HAUNT OF DEMONS," ACCORDING TO THE BOOK 'RIYAZU-S-SALATIN' (TRANSLATION BY ABDUS SALAM, 1904), PAGE 248.

5. TO INDUCE THEM TO SETTLE IN IT, LARGE TRACTS HAD BEEN MADE OVER TO THEM AS JAGIRS OR MILITARY FIEF, AND THE REVENUE OF THE KHALSA OR CROWN LANDS WAS SO SMALL THAT IT DID NOT SUFFICE TO MEET THE PAY OF THE NAZIM AND THE SALARIES OF THE MILITARY AND CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

6. MONEY HAD EVEN TO BE REMITTED FROM OTHER PROVINCES TO COVER THE BENGAL DEFICIT.

7. THE GROWING POVERTY OF THE IMPERIAL EXCHEQUER RENDERED IT NECESSARY THAT BENGAL SHOULD PAY ITS PROPER QUOTA, AND MURSHID QULI KHAN SET TO WORK TO INCREASE THE REVENUE IN NO HALF-HEARTED FASHION.

8. FINDING THAT THE RECEIPTS WERE ABSORBED IN IMPROPER CHANNELS, HE APPOINTED HIS OWN COLLECTORS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS, AND SOON ASCERTAINED THAT THE REVENUE REALLY AMOUNTED TO CRORE OF RUPEES.

9. HIS NEXT STEPS WAS TO RESUME THE JAGIRS IN BENGAL WITH THE SANCTION OF THE EMPEROR, THE JAGIRDARS RECEIVING BUT SCANT COMPENSATION IN THE SHAPE OF JAGIRS IN ORISSA, WHERE THE LAND WAS FAR LESS FERTILE AND VALUABLE.

10. AT THE SAME TIME, HE EFFECTED LARGE RETRENCHMENTS IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND RIGOROUSLY ENFORCED THE PAYMENT OF REVENUE BY THE ZAMINDARS.

TUSSLE BETWEEN AZIM-UD-DIN AND MURSHID QULI KHAN

1. "THE HAUGHTY SPIRIT OF THE PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN COULD NOT BROOK THE CONSTANT INTERFERENCE IN ALL PECUNIARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE DIWAN AND HIS FREQUENT OPPOSITION TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S COMMANDS.

2. BESIDES THESE CAUSES, THE PRINCE WAS EXCEEDINGLY JEALOUS OF THE HIGH FAVOUR IN WHICH MURSHID QULI KHAN STOOD WITH THE EMPEROR AURANGZEB; AND THE COURTIER AND FAVOURITES OF THE PRINCE, WHOSE EXTRAVAGANCE OR ASSUMED POWERS WERE CONSTANTLY CONTROLLED BY THE DIWAN MURSHID QULI KHAN, FANNED THE FLAME AND ADDED FUEL TO HIS ALREADY EXASPERATED TEMPER."

3. AZIM-UD-DIN DETERMINED TO GET RID OF THE TROUBLESOME DIWAN, AND SENT A PARTY OF SOLDIERS TO KILL HIM WHEN HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE PALACE (AT DACCA), BUT THIS ATTEMPT WAS FOILED BY THE COOL COURAGE OF MURSHID QULI KHAN, WHO FORCED THE ASSASSINS TO FLEE.

TRANSFER OF BENGAL NIZAMAT (FINANCIAL CAPITAL) FROM DACCA TO MAKHSUSABAD

1. AFTER ACTING IN SO SPIRITED AND INDEPENDENT A MANNER, MURSHID QULI KHAN DEEMED IT UNADVISABLE TO REMAIN IN THE SAME PLACE WITH THE PRINCE, AND, HAVING CONSULTED WITH HIS FRIENDS ON THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS SITUATION, HE RESOLVED TO FIX HIS RESIDENCE AT MAKHSUSABAD AS BEING NEARLY IN THE CENTRE OF THE PROVINCE AND EQUALLY CONVENIENT FOR COLLECTING REVENUE FROM ALL PARTS.

2. HAVING DECIDED ON THIS MEASURE, MURSHID QULI KHAN LEFT DACCA WITHOUT TAKING LEAVE OF THE VICEROY (AZIM-UD-DIN), AND CARRYING WITH HIM ALL THE PUBLIC OFFICERS ATTACHED TO THE DIWANI PROCEEDED TO MAKHSUSABAD.

3. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DIWANI WERE THUS TRANSFERRED TO MAKHSUSABAD, THE DATE OF TRANSFER BEING APPARENTLY 1702-03.

EMPEROR AURANGZEB TOOK DRASTIC MEASURE

1. WHEN AURANGZEB RECEIVED MURSHID-KULI-KHAN'S REPORT OF THE ATTEMPT OF HIS LIFE, HE ORDERED THE PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN TO LEAVE BENGAL AND TAKE UP HIS RESIDENCE IN BIHAR.

2. AZIM-UD-DIN CONSEQUENTLY LEFT DACCA FOR PATNA, APPOINTING HIS SON, FARRUKHSIYAR, AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN BENGAL IN THE CAPACITY OF DEPUTY NAZIM. THOUGH, AZIM-UD-DIN DID NOT HAVE ANY AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUCH AN APPOINTMENT.

3. IN 1703-04; MURSHID-QULI-KHAN PAID A VISIT TO AURANGZEB IN HIS CAMP IN THE DECCAN AND SUCCEEDED NOT ONLY IN GETTING HIMSELF CONFIRMED IN THE POST OF DIWAN IN BENGAL., BIHAR AND ORISSA;

4. BUT ALSO IN OBTAINING THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY NAZIM OF BENGAL, BIHAR AND ORISSA – MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF THE PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN.

5. IN THE ABSENCE OF AZIM-UD-DIN IN BENGAL, MURSHID-QULI-KHAN ENJOYED ALL THE POWERS OF THE NAWAB-NAZIM AND HAD THUS FULL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FINANCES.

WHY AURANGZEB DIDN'T FAVOUR HIS FAVOURITE GRANDSON PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN?

1. AURANGZEB WAS IN DIRE NEED OF MONEY FOR HIS WAR-MACHINE BY WHICH HE WAS WAGING A GRIM BATTLE IN THE DECCAN AGAINST MARATHAS AND OTHER NIZAMSHAHI KINGDOMS.

2. MURSHID QULI KHAN PROVIDED THE MONEY (COLLECTED AS REVENUE) FROM BENGAL AND SENT IT TO AURANGZEB IN THE DECCAN.

3. NOT ONLY THAT, MURSHID QULI KHAN TRANSFORMED THE REVENUE-DEFICIT STATE OF BENGAL (BENGAL, BIHAR AND ORISSA) TO REVENUE-RICH STATE FROM THE FIRST FINANCIAL YEAR.

4. MURSHID QULI KHAN REMAINED LOYAL TO THE MUGHAL CROWN FROM ITS INCEPTION AND NEVER DEVIATED DURING HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

5. AS A RESULT, PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN HAD TO ABIDE BY THE ORDER OF EMPEROR AURANGZEB AND CAME TO STAY IN PATNA.

WHY DID MURSHID-QULI-KHAN OPT MAKHSUSABAD AS THE NEW NIZAMAT OF BENGAL?

1. THE CHOICE OF MAKHSUSABAD AS THE HEADQUARTERS IS SOMETIMES ASCRIBED TO THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH MURSHID KULI KHAN EXPERIENCED IN CARRYING ON THE ADMINISTRATION AT DACCA OWING TO THE FRICTION WITH AZIM-UD-DIN AND HIS FEARS OF ASSASSINATION.

2. IN THE RIYAZU-S-SALATIN, IT IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CENTRAL POSITION OF THE TOWN -“AN EXCELLENT SITE, WHERE NEWS OF ALL FOUR QUARTERS OF THE SUBAH COULD BE EASILY PROCURABLE, AND WHICH, LIKE THE PUPIL OF THE EYE, WAS SITUATED IN THE CENTRE OF THE IMPORTANT PLACES OF THE SUBAH:” – A LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF ITS ADVANTAGES, FROM A STRATEGIC AND COMMERCIAL POINT OF VIEW, THEN FOLLOWS.

3. ACCORDING TO SIR WILLIAM HUNTER, IT “SEEMS PROBABLE THAT MURSHID QULI KHAN WAS INDUCED TO TAKE THIS STEP BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATION.

4. DACCA HAD LOST ITS IMPORTANCE, FOR THE MAGHS AND THE PORTUGUESE WERE NO LONGER DANGEROUS; AND THE BANKS OF THE BHAGIRATHI AFFORDED A MORE CENTRAL POSITION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE THREE PROVINCES OF BENGAL, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

5. THE NEW CITY OF MAKHSUSABAD WAS ALSO SITUATED ON THE LINE OF TRADE, ALONG WHICH THE TREASURES OF INDIA WERE NOW BEGINNING TO FIND THEIR WAY TO THE EUROPEAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE HOOGLY; AND IT COMMANDED THE TOWN OF COSSIMBAZAR, WHERE ALL THE FOREIGNERS HAD IMPORTANT FACTORIES. MOREOVER, THE SITUATION IN THOSE DAYS WAS REGARDED AS VERY HEALTHY.

CHANGING THE NAME FROM MAKHSUSABAD TO MURSHIDABAD AND MAKING IT THE CAPITAL OF BENGAL

1. AFTER HIS RETURNING FROM THE DECCAN IN 1703-04, MURSHID QULI KHAN CHANGED THE NAME OF MAKHSUSABAD TO MURSHIDABAD, AND, BY BUILDING A PALACE AND ERECTING PUBLIC OFFICES, TO MAKE IT THE CAPITAL OF THE PROVINCE.

2. THE CHANGE OF THE NAME APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN EFFECT FROM 1705, FOR THE NAME MAKHSUSABAD APPEARS LAST ON A RUPEE COINED IN 1704, AND

3. MURSHIDABAD FOR THE FIRST TIME ON A RUPEE STRUCK AT THE LOCAL MINT NEXT YEAR, I.E. 1705.

AFTER THE POSTING OF AZIM-UD-DIN AT PATNA IN 1703

1. THE WALLED CITY OF PATNA GOT A GREAT BOOST-UP AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF AZIM-UD-DIN, A FAVOURITE GRANDSON OF THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AURANGZEB AS THE GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE IN 1697 AND SPECIALLY AFTER HIS POSTING IN PATNA IN 1703

2. HE CHANGED THE NAME OF PATNA TO 'AZIMABAD'.

3. HE GOT BUSY IN MAKING PATNA SECOND DELHI BY INVITING POETS, SCHOLARS, AND ARTISTS FROM FAR AND NEAR, SPECIALLY, DELHI.

4. HE STARTED THE PLANNED-EXPERIMENTATION AND HE DIVIDED THE WHOLE CITY OF PATNA INTO SEVERAL QUARTERS GIVING THEM THE NAMES OF MUGHALPURA, LODI-KATRA, DIWAN MAHALLA, DHAWALPURA ETC. ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF PEOPLE LIVING THERE.

5. THE HINDU DIWANS AND MUSLIMS LIVED IN NAUZAR KATRA ON THE EDGE OF THE HOLY GANGES THE CEREMONIAL DAILY BATHING THERE.

6. AZIM-UD-DIN ALSO ASKED MULLAH NASIR, A PROFESSOR OF SAIF KHAN MOSQUE, TO PREPARE A LIST OF KHANQAHS AND THEIR EXISTING CONDITIONS.

7. PRINCE AZIM HAD ALLOTTED VARIOUS QUARTERS FOR NOBLES, AS PER THE RANK, IN THE PATNA TOWN.

8. MANY OF THE NOBLES USED TO KEEP 'ALTERNATIVE GARDEN HOUSES' IN THE WEST OF THE THEN 'PATNA CITY' (ALONG WITH THE RESIDENCE IN THE 'PATNA CITY-PROPER') IN THE MIDST OF SCATTERED VILLAGES, HERE AND THERE.

9. THE DARBARI CULTURE, INITIATED BY AZIM-UD-DIN CAME TO STAY IN PATNA FROM THE 18TH CENTURY.

WHY DARBARI CULTURE FIND ITS PLACE IN MORE IN PATNA THAN OTHER PART OF EASTERN PROVINCES?

1. THOUGH, MURSHIDABAD WAS THE CAPITAL OF BENGAL PROVINCE BUT MURSHID KULI KHAN WAS MORE OR LESS FOLLOWED THE AUSTERE AND PURITAN LIFE-STYLE OF HIS MASTER 'EMPEROR AURANGZEB'; WHERE DARBARI CULTURES DID NOT FIND THE 'IMPERIAL FAVOUR'.

2. DACCA WAS THE DECLINING CITY AS IT ECONOMIC PROSPECTS HAD SHIFTED FROM DACCA-CHITTAGONG ROUTE TO PATNA-MURSHIDABAD-HOOGHLY ROUTE ALONG GANGA-BHAGIRATHI CHANNEL.

3. PATNA GOT CONTINUOUS FLOW OF ECONOMIC CAPITAL FROM NORTH INDIA BECAUSE PATNA EMERGED AS THE BUSY COMMERCIAL HUB WHERE EVERYONE FLOCKED; WHICH INCLUDE MERCHANT AND TRADERS, VARIOUS CATEGORY OF NOBLES AND THEIR FAMILIES, EXPLORERS AND TRAVELLERS, SCHOLARS AND RELIGIOUS PREACHERS, MILITARY ADVENTURERS, ARTISTS, DANCERS, PAINTERS AMONG OTHERS.

4. MUGHAL PRINCE AZIM-UD-DIN UNLIKE HIS 'DIWAN', WAS PRONE TO LAVISH LIFE STYLE AND INVITED 'DARBARI CULTURE'. WITH THE DECLINE OF DELHI; PATNA EMERGED AS THE RICH SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOWED SOME GLIMPSE OF THE IMPERIAL LIFE STYLE OF MUGHAL HEY DAYS.

5. TILL THAT TIME, THE TOWN OF LUCKNOW AND KOLKATA WERE IN THE OBLIVION.

DEPARTURE OF AZIM-UD-DIN FROM PATNA

1. BUT BEFORE THE HIGHLY AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES FOR THE GREATER PATNA AND BIHAR COULD BE COMPLETED, HE WAS CALLED AWAY IN 1706 BY THE NEWS OF THE ILLNESS AND LATER DEATH OF AURANGZEB IN 1707.

2. THEN AURANGZEB'S SON BAHADUR SHAH (FATHER OF AZIM-UD-DIN) ASCENDED THE THRONE, WHO CONFERRED AZIM-UD-DIN WITH THE TITLE OF AZIM-US-SHAN.

3. AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER BAHADUR SHAH IN 1712 AD; AZIM-US-SHAN WAS EMBROILED IN THE CONTEST WITH HIS BROTHERS FOR THE IMPERIAL THRONE.

4. HE ULTIMATELY MET DEATH IN 1712 AD; WHEN HIS ELEPHANT RAN IN THE WATER OF THE RIVER WHICH SWALLOWED HIM.

AFTER THE DEATH OF AZIM-US-SHAN

1. IN 1713, WHEN FARRUKHSIYAR BECAME THE EMPEROR OF INDIA, MURSHID KULI KHAN WITH THE HELP OF THE BANKER JAGATH SETH, PURCHASED THE NIZAMAT FOR HIMSELF.

2. IN 1718; THE GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR WAS CONFERRED UPON HIM AND HE BECAME THE VICEROY (NAZIM) OF BENGAL, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

ADMINISTRATION OF MURSHID KULI KHAN

1. MURSHID QULI KHAN RULED AT MURSHIDABAD FROM 1704 TO 1725 – A RARE CONTINUITY OF TENURE OF OFFICE IN THOSE DAYS, WHEN EMPEROR FOLLOWED EMPEROR IN QUICK SUCCESSION, FROM EACH OF WHOM THE NAWAB HAD TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF HIS RANK AND OFFICE.

2. NOR WAS HE UNWORTHY OF HIS HIGH POSITION, FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION, THOUGH STERN AND OFTEN HARSH, WAS GENERALLY JUST AND EFFICIENT, AND THE LAND HAD A MUCH NEEDED PEACE.

3. AN ABLE FINANCIER, HE RIGOROUSLY CUT DOWN THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, AND REDUCED THE STRENGTH OF THE BENGAL ARMY TO 2,000 CAVALRY AND 4,000 INFANTRY.

4. WITH THIS SMALL FORCE, WHICH WAS RAISED PRIMARILY FOR MAINTAINING ORDER AND PREVENTED REBELLION?

5. DACOITS AND ROBBERS WERE MERCILESSLY HUNTED DOWN; WHEN ROBBERY OCCURRED, THE FAUJDAR OR ZAMINDAR WITHIN WHOSE TERRITORY IT TOOK PLACE WAS COMPELLED TO ARREST THE ROBBER OR RECOVER THE PROPERTY.

6. THE JOURNEY OF TRAVELLERS UNDER HIS REGIME WAS SAFE AND EVERY MAN SLEPT SECURELY IN HIS OWN HOUSE.

7. HOWEVER, HIS GREATEST FINANCIAL REFORM WAS THE PREPARATION OF A NEW REVENUE ROLL BASED ON A SURVEY OF THE LAND AND REASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO THE ACTUAL AREA AND PRODUCE.

8. THE PROCEDURE OF HIS REVENUE COLLECTION AND THE STERN MEASURE FOR CULPRITS WHO STEAL THE GOVERNMENT EXCHEQUER HAD TRANSFORMED THE REVENUE-DEFICIT STATE INTO REVENUE-SURPLUS STATE.

9. HIS MEASURE CREATED GREAT POSITIVE IMPACT FOR THE 18TH CENTURY ECONOMY OF THE BENGAL PROVINCE I.E. BENGAL, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

10. AS A RESULT, IMPERIAL MANSABDARS OF OTHER REGION, EAGERLY SOUGHT FOR OFFICES UNDER HIM.

11. AS A RESULT, PATNA HAD TO BE THE FIRST HALTING PLACE FOR ALL THOSE WHO USED TO COME FROM THE WEST.

AFTER THE DEATH OF AURANGZEB, IN 1707 – FURTHER INFLUX OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND CONTINUITY OF THE DARBARI CULTURE IN PATNA

1. AFTER THE DEATH OF AURANGZEB IN 1707, DELHI STARTED LANGUISHING AS ITS LINKS WITH GUJARATI PORT TOWNS BECAME TENUOUS ON ACCOUNT OF UPRISINGS ON THE SURAT-DELHI ROUTE.

2. DELHI'S LOSS WAS PATNA'S GAIN. TRADERS FROM NORTH-WEST INDIA HAD EARLIER FREQUENTED DELHI TO SECURE EUROPEAN GOODS.

3. AS THIS BECAME DIFFICULT, NORTH INDIAN TRADERS TRAVELLED TO PATNA, AS IT MAINTAINED A STEADY LINK WITH THE PORT OF CALCUTTA, WHICH HAD GRADUALLY REPLACED SURAT AS A CENTRE OF EUROPEAN TRADE.

4. EUROPEAN GOODS ARE BEING BROUGHT FROM CALCUTTA PORTS TO PATNA (THROUGH RIVER GANGES) FOR 'UPCOUNTRY TRADERS'; WHICH FURTHER BOOSTED THE STATURE OF PATNA AS THE MOST IMPORTANT 'ENTREPOT', IN THE COUNTRY, TILL THE ADVENT OF RAILWAYS DURING 1860S.

5. PATNA'S IMPORTANCE IN EASTERN INDIA WAS NEXT TO CALCUTTA AS IT SURPASSED, EVEN MURSHIDABAD AND DACCA AT ONE POINT OF TIME.

6. THE INCREASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAD RESULTED IN THE GREAT INFLUX OF DIVERSE GENTRY IN PATNA AND THAT INCLUDED MERCHANTS AND TRADERS, VARIOUS CATEGORY OF NOBLES AND THEIR FAMILIES, EXPLORERS AND TRAVELLERS, SCHOLARS AND RELIGIOUS PREACHERS, MILITARY ADVENTURERS, ARTISTS AND PAINTERS AMONG OTHERS.

7. BY 1741, THE CITY HAD ALREADY EXTENDED BEYOND THE WALLS, TOWARDS THE WEST AND LOCALITIES OF ALAMGANJ, SULTANGANJ, MAHENDRU, AND BHIKNAPAHARI WERE GETTING POPULATED IN BETWEEN PATNA CITY AND BANKIPUR.

EUROPEAN FACTORIES IN PATNA

1. AS WE KNOW, MOST OF THE EUROPEAN COMPANIES, HAVING BUSINESS AT PATNA, HAD THEIR PROCUREMENT, PROCESSING, PACKING AND SUPPLY CENTRES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN PATNA CITY'S WESTERN, CENTRAL OR EASTERN SECTORS OR SUBURBS.

2. THE ENGLISH BUILT THEIR CENTRE AT GULZARBAGH, THE DUTCH A LITTLE EAST OF DIWAN MAHALLA AND THE DANES A LITTLE EAST OF THE 'PURAB DARWAZA'.

EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN BANKIPUR AREA

1. BUT THE EXPANSION OF THEIR ACTIVITIES FORCED THE EUROPEAN COMPANIES TO HAVE ADDITIONAL PREMISES AWAY FROM THE CROWDED SECTOR OF THE CITY ZONE. BANKIPUR, WITH LARGE TRACTS OF VACANT LANDS AND ORCHARDS, INDUCED THE ENGLISH AND THE DUTCH TO HAVE NEW SETS OF BUILDINGS AND GODOWNS IN THIS AREA.

2. DESPITE MUTUAL JEALOUSIES AND RIVALRIES, OFTEN COMING OUT IN THE OPEN, THEY TOLERATED EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THEIR COMMON FOE, NAMELY, FRENCH, WHO ALSO CAME UP TO PATNA TO OPEN THEIR OWN COMMERCIAL BRANCH.

3. SLOWLY, PATNA CITY AREA STARTED EXPANDING TOWARDS THE WEST.

1. REMEMBERING RAJA MAN SINGH'S STAY IN BIHAR (1587 – 1594)

1. RAJA MAN SINGH WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST WARRIOR AND MILITARY STRATEGIST OF SIXTEENTH CENTURY

2. RAJA MAN SINGH LED THE MUGHAL ARMY AGAINST MAHARANA PRATAP SINGH IN THE 'HALDIGHATI' AND DEFEATED HIM

3. MAN SINGH LED TWO SUCCESSFUL AND DARING MILITARY EXPEDITION AGAINST AFGHANISTAN THROUGH KHYBER PASS

4. HE WAS ONE OF MOST SUCCESSFUL MUGHAL GOVERNORS OF 'KABUL SUBAH'

5. APART FROM BECOMING PART OF 'NAVRATNAS' IN THE AKBAR'S CABINET, MAN SINGH WAS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED BY EMPEROR AKBAR AS 'FARZAND (SON)

6. WHILE IN BIHAR AND BENGAL, MAN SINGH ALSO LED SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITIONS AGAINST EASTERN AFGHANS

7. BUT IN BIHAR, RAJA MAN SINGH WOULD BE KNOWN MORE AS THE 'GREAT ARCHITECT, CITY PLANNER AND BUILDER'

8. MAN SINGH'S BUILDINGS IN ROHTASGARH - THE ONLY SPECIMEN OF MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE IN BIHAR

RAJA MAN SINGH'S STAY IN BIHAR

1. Kuar Man Singh came to be appointed as the Governor of Bihar, where he and his uncle Raja Bhagwan Das were given jagirs, sometime in the last quarter of the year, 1587 AD.

2. Later, on the death of Raja Bhagwan Das on the 13th or 14th of November, 1589 AD; Kuar Man Singh was given the title of Raja and was granted a rank of 5,000.

3. Raja Man Singh, after his appointment as Governor of Bihar and then of Bengal, selected Rohtasgarh as his stronghold and held his fiefs there and used to stay there.
4. His son, Jagat Singh, used to look after the affairs of the Subah of Bihar from the towns of Patna and Bihar.

MAN SINGH - THE GREAT ARCHITECT, CITY PLANNER AND BUILDER

Raja Man Singh appears to have commenced his building activities in Rohtasgarh soon after his arrival in Bihar in 1587 and it continued for ten years.

1. The palaces and other structures built by Raja Man Singh at Rohtas are of unique interest as having the only specimen of Mughal Architecture in Bihar, according to LSS O, Malley, ICS (Editor of the 1st generation of Bengal District Gazetteers during 1906-08).

2. BUILDINGS IN ROHTASGARH

- i. The Persian inscription refers Raja Man Singh as the builder of fortifications in Rohtasgarh.
- ii. The Palace or MAHAL SARRA of Raja Man Singh occupies an area of 550 feet north to south by 327 feet east to west.
- iii. The architecture is typical of the palace structure in general of Akbar's time and is a unique example of this style in the province of Bihar.
- iv. The exquisitely decorated HATHIAPOL (elephant gateway), the beautiful Guard Room in the main entrance, BARAH-DARI, RAUSAN SAHID KI CHAUKI, THE RANGMAHAL (MAN SINGH'S SLEEPING CHAMBER), TAKHT-BADSHAHI (THRONE CHAMBER) OR DIWAN-I-KHAS were the outward facade of the private quarters of his grand mansion.
- v. Similarly, ZANANA QUARTERS, PHULWARI (flower garden) or KHANAN BAGH were also planned and executed with the erection of great buildings like AINAH MAHAL or SIS MAHAL. There also existed the Kitchen of Raja Man Singh and for his baths or HAMAMS.
- vi. On the outside, there was NACH GHAR, which was used as DIWAN-I-AM of Raja Man Singh.
- vii. In ROHITASWA TEMPLE, the large staircase was probably built by Raja Man Singh.

viii. There is Harischandra Temple which is ascribed to be built by Raja Man Singh.

3. AKBARPUR: - The Fort of Rohtas stands in the village of Akbarpur. Akbarpur, according to local tradition, owed its origin to Raja Man Singh.

4. BAIKUNTHPUR

i. Raja Man Singh, while on his expedition to Orissa in 1590; had been then with his mother; who died at the place, now known as BAIKATHPUR and which was named by Man Singh as BAIKUNTHPUR to commemorate the memory of her passing away at this place.

ii. Baikathpur is 5 miles east of Fatuha and one mile north of Khusrupur Railway Station, on the bank of River Ganges.

iii. The place where the mother was cremated, came to be sanctified by Raja Man Singh; who constructed a 'SHIVA TEMPLE and a BARAH-DARI; which was completed by 1600 AD.

5. TOWN OF MANPUR

i. Raja Man Singh founded a town, Manpur on the other side of the River Falgu in the city of Gaya.

ii. Local tradition bears that he built seven wells.

iii. Man Singh built a MAHADEV TEMPLE with a big tank, a sanctuary, a big garden and a BARAH-DARI.

6. TOWN OF RAJMAHAL

i. When Raja Man Singh was holding the charge of Subah of Bengal as its Governor, he made AKHMAHAL, the capital of Bengal which he named as RAJMAHAL. Later, Jahangir renamed the place as AKBARNAGAR.

ii. Man Singh built number of buildings: - JAMA MASJID, SHIVA TEMPLE, IMPERIAL PALACE (WITH DIWAN-I-KHAS, , DIWAN-I-AM, HARAMS SARA AND JHAROKHAH), SANGI DALAN, a mosque beside the Sangi Dalan, AKBARI MASJID (to commemorate the victory over Daud Kararani in the Battle of Rajmahal) among others.

7. BAIDYANATHDHAM

i. Beglar has held that a group of temples in a walled enclosure at Baidyanath Dham, belong in their construction to Raja Man Singh's Governorship.

ii. Raja Man Singh visited Baidyanath Dham on his way to conquer Orissa, in 1590 AD. The road that proceeds from the northern gate of the Baidyanath Dham temple passes along the western edge of a large tank SIVA GANGA which is 900' X 600'. The western part of the tank has been cut off by an embankment on the top of which runs a road. The embankment was put up by Raja Man Singh, as the name of the raja was associated with the western portion which is called MAN SAROVAR, according to O'Malley.

8. OTHER AREAS

i. Another temple on the hill of Panchet, overlooking the fort below, is known as RAGHUNATH'S MANDIR, having been built in 1602 AD, when Raja Man Singh was Governor of the area.

ii. Similarly, at Berhampore; 4 miles south-east of Purulia Town (Manbhum), stands a temple built during the during Man Singh's Governorship.

iii. There was a Mughal-time bridge, 800 yards N-W of Jama Masjid at Rajmahal on the road to Sakri gali and Sahibganj.

iv. There are two old temples in Chotanagpur (a) At Paru (also called Para), a village, which stands at the intersection of of the roads between Dulmi and Jharia. (b) At Baghalya, near Paru, there is a temple of Sri Raghunandan (Lord Ram). Both the temples were built by Man Singh, according to Beglar.

v. Beglar also found a group of temples in a village, name Telkupi, on the southern bank of Damodar River, in Manbhum and ascribed it to Man Singh.

vi. Buchanan ascribes that CHOTI PATAN DEVI TEMPLE was placed in her present situation by Man Singh.

vii. Raja Man Singh built a small fort, MANGARH at Manihari, which is north of Godda; while on his expedition to East Bengal against Afghans.

viii. Man Singh built number of Saivite Temples around the tank at the foot of Mandar hill, Banka district, according to Beglar.

BRIEF LIFE SKETCH OF RAJA MAN SINGH

1. Man Singh (Man Singh I) (December 21, 1550 – July 6, 1614) was the Rajput Raja of Amber, a state later known as Jaipur in Rajputana.

2. He was a trusted general of the Mughal emperor Akbar, who included him among the Navaratnas, or the nine (nava) gems (ratna) of the royal court.

EARLY LIFE

1. He was the son of Raja Bhagwant Das and Rani Sa Bhagawati Ji Sahiba of Amber.

2. He was born on Sunday, December 21, 1550.

3. He was about eight years younger than Mughal Emperor Akbar who was born on October 14, 1542 and about ten years younger than Rana Pratap who was born on May 9, 1540.

4. These three great personalities, of the same generation, had a great impact on sixteenth century India's polity, society, and history.

5. They are remembered with reverence in India, although Rana Pratap fought unrelenting wars with both of them.

6. Raja Bharmal, the first Rajput ruler to marry his daughter to a Mughal, was Man Singh I's grandfather.

7. Initially known as Kunwar (prince), Man Singh received the title of Mirza Raja and the mansab (rank) of 5000 after the death of his father on December 10, 1589 from Akbar.

8. On August 26, 1605, Man Singh became a mansabdar of 7,000, i.e., a commander of 7,000 cavalry in the Mughal forces, which was the maximum command for anyone other than a son of the Mughal emperor and the guardian of Khusrau, the eldest son of Jahangir.

9. Akbar called him Farzand (son).

10. He fought many important campaigns for Akbar.

11. Kunwar Man Singh led the Mughal Army in the well-known battle of Haldighati fought in 1576 between the Mughal Empire and Maha Rana Pratap.

CONFLICT WITH MAHA RANA PRATAP SINGH

1. Appointed by Akbar to lead the Mughal Army against Rana Pratap, Kunwar Man Singh started from Ajmer on 3 April 1576.

2. A gruesome battle was fought on June 18, 1576 at Haldi Ghati.

3. The battle was won by Mughals but the Maha Rana had survived.

EXPEDITION TO KABUL AND GOVERNORSHIP OF KABUL

1. In 1580 CE, some prominent Muslim officers of Akbar, displeased with his liberal religious policies, started to conspire against him.

2. Qazi Muhammad Yazdi declared it the duty of every Muslim to rebel against Akbar. In Bihar and Bengal they declared Mirza Hakim, Akbar's stepbrother and Governor of Kabul, to be the emperor. Akbar sent armies to Bihar and Bengal to crush this rebellion, while he himself started towards Kabul; Man Singh with him.

3. On March 8, 1581, Akbar reached Machhiwara and soon arrived on the banks of River Indus, he then sent an advance force led by Man Singh to Kabul.

4. Although, Akbar's army was hesitating to cross the swelling Indus River, Man Singh was able to cross it first followed by troops.

5. Hearing the news Mirza Hakim fled to Gurband.

6. Following the army, Akbar himself arrived at Kabul on August 10, 1581.

7. Hakim was pardoned by Akbar, but his sister "Bakhtunissa Begum" was appointed Governor of Kabul.

8. After Akbar returned to Fatehpur Sikri; Bakhtunissa remained as the nominal head of state, while Hakim acted as the governor (Hakim died in July, 1582).

9. Kabul was annexed by the Mughal Empire and Man Singh was appointed governor.

10. He remained in Kabul for some years and built a fortress, used by succeeding Mughal governors.

11. Man Singh brought many talented men with him when he returned from Kabul. Some of their descendants still live in Jaipur.

12. Again in 1585 CE, some Afghan tribes rose against the Mughal empire. The Yusufzai and "Mandar" tribes were the main ones among them.

13. Akbar sent an army under Zain Khan, Hakim Abul Fateh and Raja Birbal to control these revolting tribes. However, they failed to control the revolting Afghans and Raja Birbal, friend of Akbar and one of his Navratnas was also killed in the battle with Afghans.

14. Akbar then sent Raja Todar Mal to crush the revolt and called Raja Man Singh to help Todar Mal.

15. Todarmal had some success in controlling the rebellious Afghan tribes, but the real source of the revolt was behind the Khyber Pass. It was hard to cross this pass which was dominated by Afghan "Kabailies".

16. Man Singh was accompanied by "Rao Gopaldas" of Nindar in this expedition, who bravely made way for Mughal army in the pass.

17. After crossing the pass Man Singh decisively defeated five major tribes of Afghans including Yusufzai and "Mandar" tribes.

18. The flag of Amber was changed from "Katchanar" (green climber in white base) to "Pachranga" (five colored) to commemorate this victory.

19. This flag continued in use until accession of Jaipur state in India.

20. This permanently crushed the revolt and the area remained peaceful thereafter.

21. In 1586 CE, Akbar sent another army under Raja Bhagwant Das, father of Kunwar Man Singh to win Kashmir. Kashmir was included in the Mughal Empire and made a Sarkar (district) of Kabul province.

22. Man Singh and his father Raja Bhagwant Das are reputed to have brought the technology of cannon production to Amber.

GOVERNOR OF BIHAR AND EXPEDITION TO ORISSA

1. Man Singh was appointed Governor of Bihar in 1587 AD.

2. In 1590, Qutlu Khan Lohani, an Afghan ruler of Bengal declared himself independent and assumed the title of "Qutlu Shah".

3. Raja Man Singh started an expedition against him.

4. Before facing Man Singh, Qutlu Shah was killed by Rao Gopaldas of Nindar.

5. Qutlu Khan's son Nasir Khan, after little resistance, accepted Mughal sovereignty and paid homage to Man Singh on 15 August 1590.

6. Nasir Khan was then appointed Governor of Bengal.

7. Nasir Khan remained faithful to the Mughal empire for two years but after that he violated the conditions of his treaty by laying siege to the Jagannath Temple of Puri Odisha.

8. Man Singh attacked Nasir Khan and decisively defeated him on April 9, 1592 in a battle near the present day Medinipur (Midnapur) town and ousted him from Odisha.

9. Odisha then was annexed to the Mughal Empire and included in Bengal "Subah" (Province).

RISE OF JAHANGIR AND THE TWILIGHT OF MAN SINGH

1. Prince Salim was born, but he soon became addicted to alcohol and opium.
2. He disobeyed royal orders and became infamous for torture such as murdering Abul Fazal.
3. Akbar tried hard to reform him as well as Salim's eldest son Khusrau Mirza.
4. Two of Akbar's sons, Murad and Danial, died in his lifetime.
5. The royal court was divided into two factions, one favoring Khusrau and the other Salim to be the next emperor.
6. Raja Man Singh and Mirza Aziz Koka were in Khusrau's favour.
7. In 1605, when Akbar fell ill, he appointed Salim to be his heir.
8. Though Man Singh opposed Salim's accession to the throne during Akbar's lifetime, he never opposed Jahangir (Salim) after his coronation.
9. After Akbar's death, Jahangir (Salim) became emperor.
10. Man Singh was initially sent as Subahdar of Bengal on November 10, 1605 for a short period, but soon he was replaced by Qutb-ud-Din Khan Koka on September 2, 1606.
11. Jahangir also ordered removal of some of the modifications which had been made by Raja Man Singh to his palace at Amber.
12. But in 1611 CE, the southern provinces of Ahmednagar, Berar and Khandesh defied Mughal sovereignty under Malik Ambar. Jahangir sent Raja Man Singh and others to crush the revolt.
13. Man Singh died a natural death on July 6, 1614 at Ellichpur.
14. Following his death, he was succeeded by his son Mirza Raja Bhau Singh.
15. His direct descendants became known (to this date) as the Rajawats who had the privilege to the throne of Amber and subsequently Jaipur.

PICTURES

1. Raja Man Singh

2. Hathiya Pol, Rohtasgarh

3. Diwan-i-Khas, Rohtasgarh

4. Baikutpur Shiv Temple

5. Jama Masjid, Rajmahal

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