

NCERT Notes: Humayun - Mughal Empire [Medieval History Of India For UPSC]

In this article, find NCERT notes on Humayun, the successor of Babur. The reign of Humayun and the Mughal Empire, in general, are important from the perspective of the Civil Services Exam 2020.

MUGHAL EMPIRE - HUMAYUN (1530-1540, 1555-1556)

- Humayun was the eldest son of Babur.
- Humayun means “fortune” but he remained the most unfortunate ruler of the Mughal Empire.
- Six months after his succession, **Humayun** besieged the fortress of **Kalinjar** in Bundelkhand, gained a decisive victory over Afghans at **Douhrua** and drove out **Sultan Mahmood Lodhi** from **Jaunpur**, and even defeated **Bahadur Shah** of Gujarat. His victories, however, were short-lived due to the weakness of his character.
- Humayun had three brothers, Kamran, Askari and Hindal
- Humayun divided the empire among his brothers but this proved to be a great blunder on his part.
- Kamran was given Kabul and Kandahar.
- Sambhal and Alwar were given to Askari and Hindal respectively.
- Humayun captured Gujarat from Bahadur Shah and appointed Askari as its governor
- But soon Bahadur Shah recovered Gujarat from Askari who fled from there.
- In the east, Sher Khan became powerful. Humayun marched against him and in the Battle of Chausa, held in 1539, Sher Khan destroyed the Mughal army and Humayun escaped from there.
- Humayun reached Agra to negotiate with his brothers.
- In 1540, in the Battle of Bilgram or Ganges also known as Battle of Kanauj, Humayun was forced to fight with Sher Khan alone and after losing his kingdom, Humayun became an exile for the next fifteen years.
- In 1552, during his wanderings in deserts of Sindh, **Humayun** married **Hamida Banu Begum**, daughter of Sheikh Ali Amber Jaini, who had been a preceptor of Humayun’s brother Hindal.
- On November 23, 1542, **Humayun’s wife gave birth to Akbar**
- Amarkot’s Hindu chief **RanaPrasad** promised **Humayun** to help him to conquer **Thatta**
- However, Humayun could not conquer Bhakker or secure Thus, he left India and lived under the generosity of **ShahTahmashp of Persia**.
- Shah of Persia agreed to help Humayun and lend him a force of 14,000 men on a condition to confirm to **Shia** creed, to have the Shah’s name proclaimed in his **Khutba** and to give away **Kandhar** to him on his success.

- In 1545, with Persian help, **Humayun** captured **Kandhar** and **Kabul** but refused to cede **Kandhar to Persia**.
- Humayun sought help from the Safavid ruler.
- Later, he defeated his brothers Kamran and Askari.
- In 1555, Humayun defeated the Afghans and recovered the Mughal throne.
- After six months, he died in 1556 due to his fall from the staircase of his library.
- Humayun was kind and generous, though he was not a good General and warrior.
- He also loved painting and wrote poetry in the Persian language.