



Consequences and significance of second battle of Panipat

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Abstract

The Second Battle of Panipat was fought between the forces of Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya, popularly called Hemu, the Hindu king who was ruling North India from Delhi, and the army of Akbar, on November 5, 1556. It was a decisive victory for Akbar's generals Khan Zaman I and Bairam Khan. Background On January 24, 1556, the Mughal ruler Humayun died in Delhi and was succeeded by his son, Akbarat Kalanaur, who was only thirteen years old.

Keywords: Panipat, battle, war, second, causes, results etc.

Introduction

On February 14, 1556, Akbar was enthroned as the king. At the time of his accession to the throne, the Mughal rule was confined to Kabul, Kandahar, parts of Delhi and Punjab. Akbar was then battling in Kabul with his watchman, Bairam Khan. Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya or Hemu was a Hindu head in Delhi by ethicalness of vanquishing Akbar/Humayun's armed force in Battle for Delhi. Hemu had a place with Rewari in exhibit day Haryana, who prior was a counselor to Sher Shah Suri's child Islam Shah from 1545 to 1553. Hemu had won 22 fights, as Prime Minister and Chief of Army of Islam Shah, amid 1553 to 1556 to subdue the insubordination by Afghan radicals against Sur administration. At the season of Humayun's passing in January 1556, Hemu had quite recently controlled a disobedience in Bengal, slaughtering the Bengal ruler Muhammad Shah in the war. He made his expectations of winning Delhi for himself known to his officers. He at that point began a crusade, winning fights all through northern India. When he assaulted Agra, the authority of Akbar's powers in Agra, fled without battling. A huge territory of Etawah, Kalpi, and Agra territories including present day Bihar and UP went under Hemu's control. In the Gwalior Fort Hemu solidified his armed force by selecting more Hindus. Hemu at that point moved towards Delhi and positioned his powers outside the city at Tughlaqabad. On October 6, 1556, armed force experienced Mughal protection. After a savage battle Akbar's powers were expelled, and Tardi Beg, the authority of the Mughal powers, circumvented, enabling Hemu to catch Delhi. Around 3,000 Mughals were slaughtered. Hemu was delegated at Purana Qila on October 7, 1556, and set up Hindu lead in North India, following 350 years of Muslim govern, and was offered the title of Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya. As indicated by Abul Fazl in Akbarnama, Hemu was planning for an assault on Kabul and rolled out a few improvements in his armed force.

Improvements in Delhi and Agra exasperates the Mughals at Kalanaur, Punjab. Numerous Mughal Generals exhorted Akbar to withdraw to Kabul as Mughal powers may not confront Hemu's strength and new mindfulness among Hindus

to free their nation, yet Bairam Khan ruled for war. Akbar's armed force walked towards Delhi. On November 5, the two armed forces met at the memorable combat zone of Panipat, where, thirty years sooner, Akbar's granddad Babur had crushed Ibrahim Lodi in what is presently known as the First Battle of Panipat. H.G.Keen expresses; "Akbar and his watchman Bairam Khan did not take an interest in the fight and were positioned 5 Kos (8 miles) far from the battle region. Bairam Khan did not allow the 13 year old tyke King to be available in combat zone face to face, rather he was given an uncommon monitor of 5000 very much prepared and most steadfast troops and was positioned at a sheltered separation a long ways behind the fight lines. He was told by Bairam Khan to escape towards Kabul for life on the off chance that the Mughal Army was directed in the battlefield."^[3] Hemu drove his armed force himself. Hemu's armed force comprised of 1500 war elephants and a vanguard of big guns stop. Hemu walked in fantastic request with 30,000 rehearsed horsemen made out of Rajputs and Afghans who on numerous events, had by their endeavors expanded the pride and self-importance.

Keeping in mind the end goal to cheer the fighters and the Afghan Amirs, Hemu had given endowments of grounds, and opened the entryways of his fortunes. In this way he activated the valiant contenders. As indicated by Badaoni, Hemu's armed force was disheartened, and who set every one of his expectations on the elephants, encompassed by his boss charged the majestic has, and tossed both right and left wings in to extraordinary disarray. The Mughal powers were charged over and over by elephants to break their lines. The Mughal Vanguard as indicated by sources comprised of 10,000 mounted force, out of which 5000 were experienced veteran warriors and they prepared to meet the propelling armed force of Hemu. Hemu was himself instructing his powers from on an elephant. It appeared Hemu was on a triumphant track and Akbar's armed force would defeat. Abul Fazl has depicted the war as statement "Two armed forces so impacted that they struck fire out of water, You'd say the air was altogether crimsoned. Their steel had all turned out to be strong rubies"

all of a sudden amidst the challenge, a bolt from the curve bow of divener anger achieved Hemu's eye, and puncturing the attachment, returned out at the of his head. In the expressions of Badaoni as well, "all of a sudden the bolt of death which no shield can avert struck his (Hemu) squinting eye so his mind passed get out from the measure of his head, and he wound up oblivious and not to be found in his Howda. Not seeing Hemu in his howda, Hemu's armed force was in confuse and crushed in the resulting disarray. A few hours after the war finished, dead Hemu was found and caught by Shah Quli Khan Mahram and conveyed to Akbar's tent in the camp situated at town Saudhapur in Panipat (Located on Panipat-Jind street, 5 km from NH1). General Bairam Khan was envious that Akbar ought to kill the hindu ruler Hemu himself and ought to build up his entitlement to the title of "Ghazi" (Champion of Faith or war veteran). In any case, Akbar, declined to strike a blood drenched and dead foe yet destroyed the dead body, just to be known as a Ghazi. Bairam Khan chafed by Akbar's compunctions guillotined the lord himself. Hemu's supporters developed a Cenotaph at the site of his decapitation, which still exists at the town Saudhapur, on Jind Road at Panipat.

Background

Humayun, the successor of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, had lost his inheritance when he was chased out of India by Sher Shah Suri who established the Sur Empire in 1540. Delhi and Agra fell into Sher Shah's hands, but he died soon after in 1545 at Kalinjar. He was succeeded by his younger son, Islam Shah Suri, who was a capable ruler. However, upon his death in 1553, the Sur Empire was caught up in a succession battle and was plagued by rebellion and the secession of provinces. Humayun made use of this discord to recapture what was lost and on 23 July 1555, the Mughals defeated Sikandar Shah Suri and finally regained control over Delhi and Agra ^[2].

Islam Shah's rightful successor, his 12-year-old son, Firoz Khan, had been murdered by his maternal uncle who had taken the throne as Adil Shah Suri. The new ruler was however, more interested in the pursuit of pleasure than in the affairs of his state. Those were largely left to Hemu, a Hindu from Rewari, who had risen from humble circumstances to become both Adil Shah's Chief Minister as well as the general of the Suri army ^[3]. He was in Bengal when Humayun died on 26 January 1556. The Mughal emperor's death provided an ideal opportunity to defeat the Mughals and reclaim lost territory ^[4].

Hemu started a rapid march from Bengal and drove the Mughals out of Bayana, Etawah, Sambhal, Kalpi, and Narnaul ^[4]. In Agra, the governor evacuated the city and fled without a fight upon hearing of Hemu's impending invasion ^[5]. In pursuit of the governor, Hemu reached Tughlaqabad, a village just outside Delhi where he ran into the forces of the Mughal governor of Delhi, Tardi Beg Khan, and defeated them in the Battle of Tughlaqabad ^[4]. He took possession of Delhi after a day's battle on 7 October 1556 ^[5] and claimed royal status assuming the title of Vikramaditya (or Bikramjit) ^[6].

Prelude

On hearing the disastrous news from Tughlaqabad,

Humayun's successor, the 13-year-old Akbar and his guardian Bairam Khan soon set off for Delhi. In a stroke of luck, Ali Quli Khan Shaibani (later Khan-i-Zaman), who had been sent ahead with 10,000-strong cavalry force, chanced upon Hemu's artillery which was being transported under a weak guard. He was easily able to capture the entire train of artillery from the Afghans who abandoned the guns and fled without making a stand. This would prove to be a costly loss for Hemu.

On 5 November 1556, the Mughal army met Hemu's army at the historic battlefield of Panipat. Akbar and Bairam Khan stayed in the rear, eight miles from the battleground.

Formation

The Mughal army was led by Ali Quli Khan Shaibani with his 10,000 cavalry in the centre with Sikandar Khan Uzbek on the right and Abdulla Khan Uzbek towards the left. The vanguard was led by Husain Quli Beg and Shah Quli Mahram and included Bairam Khan's detachment of Turks.

Hemu's army was numerically superior counting among its ranks a 30,000-strong cavalry consisting of Afghan horsemen and an elephant contingent numbering 500. Each war elephant was protected by plate armour and mounted by musketeers and crossbowmen. Hemu led his army himself into battle, atop an elephant named Hawaii ^[10]. His left was led by his sister's son, Ramya, and the right by Shadi Khan Kakkar. His army was an experienced and confident lot and Hemu had, by this time, been victorious in 22 battles for Adil Shah. In this battle however, Hemu had no artillery.

Battle

Two armies so collided

That they struck fire out of water;

You'd say the air was all crimsoned daggers,

Their steel had all become solid rubies.

Abu'l-Fazl, Akbarnama

Hemu began the attack himself and loosed his elephants among the right and left wings of the Mughals. Those soldiers who were able to escape the rampage, rather than retreating, chose to veer to the sides and attack the flanks of Hemu's cavalry, pelting them with their superior archery. The Mughal centre also advanced and took up a defensive position before a deep ravine. Neither Hemu's elephant nor his horse units were able to cross the chasm to reach their opponents and were vulnerable to the projectile weapons being fired from the other side. Meanwhile, the Mughal cavalry on their swift mounts had made inroads into the Afghan ranks from the flanks as well as the rear and began targeting the elephants, either slashing at the legs of the great beasts or taking out their riders. Hemu was forced to pull back his elephants and the Afghan attack relented.

Seeing the Afghan attack slackening, Ali Quli Khan led his cavalry out, circling around and falling upon the Afghan centre from the rear. Hemu, monitoring the battlefield from his howdah atop Hawaii, immediately hurried to counter this charge. Even after seeing Shadi Khan Kakkar and another of his able lieutenants, Bhagwan Das, go down, he continued to lead counterattacks against the Mughals, running down any who challenged his elephants. It was a desperately contested battle but the advantage seemed to have tilted in favour of

Hemu^[15]. Both the wings of the Mughal army had been driven back and Hemu moved his contingent of war elephants and cavalry forward to crush their centre. It was at this point that Hemu, possibly on the cusp of victory, was wounded when he was struck in the eye by a chance Mughal arrow and collapsed unconscious. Seeing him going down triggered a panic in his army which broke formation and fled. The battle was lost; 5000 dead lay on the field of battle and many more were killed while fleeing^[9].

Conclusion

The elephant carrying the wounded Hemu was captured and led to the Mughal camp. Bairam Khan asked the 13-year-old Akbar to behead Hemu, but he refused to take the sword to a dying man. Akbar was persuaded to touch Hemu's head with his sword after which Bairam Khan executed him. Hemu's head was sent to Kabul while his body was gibbeted on a gate in Delhi. A minaret was subsequently constructed of the heads of the other dead.

Hemu's supporters would later erect a memorial for him at the spot in Panipat where he was beheaded. It is now known as Hemu's Samadhi Sthal. With the passing of Hemu, Adil Shah's fortunes also took a turn for the worse. He was defeated and killed by Khizr Khan, son of Muhammad Shah of Bengal, in April 1557. The spoils from the battle at Panipat included 120 of Hemu's war elephants whose destructive rampages so impressed the Mughals that the animals soon became an integral part of their military strategies

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