

Sher Shah Suri

Sher Shah Suri is the founder of the Suri empire, who has been renowned for the establishment of the currency of the rupee. A courageous ruler who had incorporated numerous reforms in the state.

Sher Shah Suri categorized his kingdom into 47 divisions named 'Sarkars' and there are smaller subdivisions or administrative units known as 'Parganas'. He introduced four major central departments as follows

- Diwan-i-wijarat or Finance Department
- Diwan-i-arz or Military Department
- Diwan-i-insha or Royal Secretariat
- Diwan-i-Risalat or Department for religious and foreign affairs.

The department of Diwan-i-arz was headed by Ariz-i-mamalik and the department of Diwan-i-insha was controlled by Dabir; the department of Diwan-I-Arz was headed by Qazi.

Sher Shah Suri History

Sher Shah Suri was a well-known administrator and ruler of medieval India. He was popularly known as lion King or Farid.

- The name of his grandfather was Ibrahim Sur. His grandfather wandered on the lands of India for employment during the reign of Bahlol Lodhi and finally provided his services in Punjab.
- Suri was born in Punjab. Soon after the birth of Farid or Suri, his grandfather and father offered services to Jamal Khan in Punjab.
- The time when Jamal Khan was shifted to Jaunpur during the reign of Sikandar Lodhi and was granted the jagir of Sahsaran.
- His brothers were envious and challenged him over the power of jagir. Farid disapproved of the idea of sharing the jagir with his brothers and then worked under Bahar Shah Lodhi who was a ruler of South Bihar. Sher Khan came into Mughal services in the year 1527.
- At the time when Bihar was attacked by Babur, Suri offered to him the precious service, as a gift jagir.
- Sher Khan devoted most of his time to the administration of the Mughals and military organizations. Thus, he analyzed the loopholes of the Mughal politico-military machine and economic system.
- Whereas, the king of Bengal- Sultan Mahamud was defeated in the Battle of Shergarh.
- He formed an union with the Portuguese of Chinsura. He also attacked Sher Khan, and was defeated again in the battle.

- Triggered by these achievements Sher Khan expanded his area of control further and captured the forte of Gaur. The king of Bengal asked for help from Humayun through Forte of Gaur.
- Humayun was then involved against Bahadur Shah of Gujarat, merry-making, and pleasures. That was the time when Sher Khan had conquered the whole of Bengal plus the famous fort of Rohtasgarh.

Sur Dynasty

The Sur dynasty was basically an Afghan family which established power in northern India in the year 1540 to 1556. The founder of the Sur dynasty was Sher Shah of Sur. He ruled the northern side of India for five years capturing Malwa and winning over the Rajputs.

- Sher Khan reformed the administration and made foundations for many structures which were later used by the Mughal ruler Akbar. Sher Khan was killed while attacking the fortress of Kalinjar in central India.
- The beloved son of Sher Shah Suri was Islam or Salim Shah, who was known for his exceptional abilities and controlled Afghan rule efficiently. After his death in 1553, the Sur dynasty scattered. S.Sikandar Sur was vanquished by Humayun in June 1555, who captured Delhi in July.
- The ruler Muhammad Adil Shah's Hindu general named Hemu gave up his allegiance only to be defeated by the Mughals at Panipat (1556) and eventually the Sur dynasty ended. The Surs' reign outshined the rule of Sher Shah. They are called the last Afghan rulers of northern India.

Administrative Reforms Of Sher Shah Suri

In the Medieval Period, the lion king, or Sher Shah Suri was considered the greatest administrator. The basic principle of his administrative reforms of Sher Shah Suri rested upon the general welfare of the people. He believed in the traditional system of ministry. The Military Reforms under Suri had a vast resemblance to that of Ala-ud-din-Khalji.

- Sher Shah appointed four main ministers from Diwan-i-Wizarat(House of Wisdom), Diwan-i-Ariz, and Diwan-i- Risalat, Diwan-i-that. These ministers worked together by sharing responsibilities and duties. The ruler of Diwan-i-Wizarat was Wazir, he supervised the revenue and expenditure of the country. Wazir was also the supervisory body to the ministers. Ariz-i-Mamalik supervised Diwan-i-Ariz.
- The latter ministry was the supervisor of the army's organization and recruitment, the **Diwan-i-Ariz** was responsible for paying salaries to the Military men. Sher Shah Suri was fascinated by Military affairs and tried to engage himself in major military operations. The administrative system also consists of a foreign minister

who also supervised Diwan-i-Risalat or the Diwan of Council. He managed the foreign ambassadors and looked upon the charitable and endowment activities.

- The minister who supervised **Diwan-i-Inshah** also held the responsibility of royal proclamations and kept official records of the government. He communicated and discussed important matters with governors and local ministers.
- Along with the four departments of ministries, there were Diwan-i-Qza and **Diwan-i-Barid**, or the intelligence department. The former one was supervised by Chief Gazi whose responsibility was to oversee the developments and changes of Diwan-i-Barid.
- The **Diwan-i-Qza** had reports, news writers, and even spies widely present in the country. The Gazi belonged to the family and also was associated with the royal family. Such popularity made him called 'Lord High Steward'.

Sher Shah Suri- Contribution

During Suri's reign, the provinces were subdivided into Sarkars. The two major officials in Sarkar were Munsif-I-Munsifan(also called Munsif -in- chief) and Shiqdar-I-Shiqdaran (also called Shikdar-in-chief). Munsif-I-Munsifan was a civil court judge who resolved civil disputes, he was also involved in supervising the administrative works.

The responsibility of Shiqdar-I-Shiqdaran was to preserve the law and order existing within the sarkar. He punishes those who plan or commit offense or mutiny against the government. He was also engaged in supervising the works of shikar in the Parganas region.

Parganas: If a province has several sarkars, then there is a probability of having more Parganas. In the Pargana, the important officials were Shiqdar, Amin, Munsif, Treasurer, a Hindi writer, and a Persian writer. There were other significant officials like Patwari, Chaudhari, and Muqqadam who played an important role in pargana. The shikar worked in the military. The Amin who was considered a civil servant of the government had his duty to manage land income assessments and collection.

Military: The strong and immense army of Sher Shah Suri made the Mughal emperor Humayun move out of the country. He appointed Afghan soldiers from different parts of the country and placed them in the highest ranks. Sher Shah used the system of branding horses commonly called "Dagh" or "Chera". He asserted great pressure on the cavalry. His military men were well-equipped with muskets. The army was categorized into numerous divisions, each division had one commander. The army maintained strict

discipline and awareness while moving to other's land. The other necessities like arrangements for transportation and communication were also arranged.

