Dr. Madan Paswan. History.
Class: B.A. Part-III (Hons.) 5th Paper

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Topic: Unit-I (c) Establishment of Mughal Empire.

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Sher, ~~Shah~~ Khan Sur proclaimed himself ruler of North India in 1539, after the battle of Chausa, with the title of Sher Shah Adil, and he quickly conquered Malwa, Rajputana, and Sind. To guard against a Mughal invasion, he built a strong line of forts in the northwest Punjab.

Although he reigned for only six years and his successors lost control ten years after his death, Sher Shah's rule is one of the more significant Islamic administrations in Indian history. His deep knowledge of earlier history and his practical experience with the working of the system evolved by the Delhi sultans enabled him to utilize what was good in the past and to improve and add to it. In this way he paved the way for the final phase of Muslim administration under Akbar and the later Mughals. For example — he undertook administrative reforms which had been introduced originally by Ala-ud-din Khalji, such as a powerful standing army officered by the nobles of the sultan's choice, and improved on them, leaving his successors with a more efficient state service.

The Principal reforms for which Sher Shah is remembered are those connected with land revenue administration. The agency which he built up, and which with further improvements under Akbar and the British continues to the present day, fulfilled many functions. It was entrusted with the recovery of government dues, collection of data regarding the villages and the holdings of the cultivators, and the general economic situation.

In this reform Sher Shah was able to draw upon his experience of the detailed administration of a ~~pag~~ Pargana of his father's jagir.

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