Akbar was at Hariana with Bairam Khan when he received the news of his father's precarious condition and Bairam Khan instead of advancing against Sikander Suri, who had taken refuge in the fort of Mankot, proceeded to Kalanaur, to turn to Lahore. Another messenger Nazar Shaikh Juli waited upon Akbar at Kalanaur, who had reached there by that time and broke the sad news of Humayun's death. Bairam Khan, too immediate steps to enthrone Akbar on a brick platform, which was erected for the occasion and proclaimed him the Emperor of India, on February 14, 1556. The accession ceremony at Kalanaur was performed to register Akbar's claim to sovereignty. His small army under Bairam Khan had a precarious hold on certain tracts of the Panjab and even that army could not be implicitly trusted.

From the very beginning, Bairam Khan acted with vigilance and promptness. Of his possible rivals, there was one Shah Abul Maali. This young man traced his descent to the Saiyids of Tirmiz who were held in great veneration all over Central Asia. His most attractive and handsome physique, graceful manners, dashing courage and straightforwardness had made him a favourite of Humayun, who used to address him by the exalted title of son (Farsand) and always gave him a seat of honour in the councils and banquets. First he declined to attend
Akbar's coronation at Kalanaur, but later, at a special invitation the Shah attended the ceremony. The Shah thrust himself forward into a place to which he had no claim and behaved with such gross disregard of propriety that it became necessary to arrest him. According to a pre-conceived plan he was arrested. The removal of this most arrogant, ambitious and powerful 'Amir', averted for the time being, every possibility of immediate trouble in the imperial camp.

India at this time presented a dark as well as a complex picture. Humayun had hardly got any time to recover his old possessions or even to consolidate what little he had actually achieved; consequently the whole of his dominions and especially the Panjab was almost in an unstable condition. In the north-west, Mirza Muhammad Yakim, Akbar's half brother, the governor of Kabul was almost independent. The Panjab was divided into three well-defined groups, when Akbar had his formal coronation ceremony at Kalanaur. First was the Eastern Belt ranging from the Ravi. It comprised the Himachal Hindu Rajput States e.g. Kangra, under Dharam Chand Katoch, Saha under Prag Chand, Nurpur under Takhat Mal, who had allied himself with Sikander Sur, and was helping him with men and money, Chamba under Ganesh Verma, Suket under Arjan Sen, Mandi under Sahib Sen. The strongest of all these Hindu States was Kangra. Shahpur State was under the sway of a Muslim chief of the Pathania clan.

The second Belt stretched from the Chenab and also embraced a portion of Lower Eastern Valley of the Jhelum. It included Jammu, Mankot, Jasrota, Basholi, and some more petty states under various

1. Akbarname—Vol.I, Beveridge, P. 29-31
   Tarikh—Firakta—Vol.II, Briggs, P. 162-163
   Tabakta—Akbari—Vol.II, B. De., P. 210-211
5. Akbarname—Vol.III, Beveridge, P. 36
   Akbarname—Vol.III, Beveridge, P. 36
other chiefs. This part of the group again was primarily Hindu in which Jammu under Kapur Dev occupied very important place. The Western Belt extending from the Upper Valley of the Chenab to the Upper Valley of the Indus was made up of Kashmir under Ghazi Khan. The other independent small states of this Belt were Gagin, Muzaffarabad, Khazain Garhi, Rash Dhanarner, Gandgarh, Darband, Tarbela, Phawala (Rawalpindi), Sultanpur and Khanpur, which were all Muslim tribes such as the Khana, Bambas, Afghans and Gakhars, under the hegemony of Kashmir ruler Ghazi Khan.

Sindh and Multan had become independent from the imperial control. The Surs were still in occupation of the greater portion of Sher Shah's dominions from Delhi to Rohtas, on the road to Kabul.

Hemu, the capable general of Adil Shah Sur had inflicted a crushing defeat on the Mughal governors and had occupied Delhi. At this time Akbar was at Jullundur with his troops, engaged in quelling the disturbance caused by Sikander Sur. On receipt of this news, he left behind Khavaja Khizr Khan to check the movements of Sikander Sur and he himself marched, on October 12, 1556, towards Delhi. When he reached the vicinity of Sirhind, the three fugitive Mughal governors of Agra, Delhi and Sambhal joined Akbar and counselled him to retreat to Kabul. Bairam Khan, however, decided to risk all in the attempt to recover Delhi, and persuaded Akbar to adopt his views. On account of cowardice shown on the occasion, Tardi Beg was put to death by Bairam Khan. He also imprisoned Khavaja Sultan Ali and the Mir Munshi who were suspected to be guilty of treachery and cowardice.

5. Akbarnama, Vol. II, Beveridge, P. 50
SECOND BATTLE OF PANIPAT - 1556

Akbar advanced from Sirhind having decided to resolve this issue by force of arms. He sent a strong chosen force under Ali Quli Khan Shaibani in advance. Hemu with a huge army and fifteen hundred elephants, hastened to oppose them. His artillery, which had been sent in advance, was captured by the vanguard of Ali Quli Khan in a preliminary engagement, but even after this loss, Hemu possessed immense superiority in strength.

On the early morning of Friday, the 5th November, 1556, the news of Hemu's arrival at Panipat from Delhi was received from the scouts. The generals of Akbar arrayed the troops. Meanwhile the main bodies of two armies were in motion. Bairam Khan detained Akbar at a safe distance from the field and entrusted the command of the centre to Ali Quli Khan, the Khan Zaman. Hemu's army on account of its superiority in number managed to envelope Akbar's forces and threw its both wings into confusion. Hemu then attempted to decide the fate of the day by leading against the centre, with his fifteen hundred elephants, on which he chiefly relied.

The Mughals fought valiantly but were just about to give way when a stray arrow struck Hemu in the eye and made him unconscious. Hemu's army, presuming that their leader was dead, was panic stricken and scattered in all directions making no further attempt to resist. Hemu was overtaken by Shah Quli Khan who took him into the presence of Akbar. His head was sent to Kabul and his body was gibbeted at Delhi by way of giving a warning to other like-minded persons. Thus

1. - - - o . o . e . -Vol.II, Briggs, P.196
2. o . - - - veridge, PP.55-65
3. - - - - - V.A. Smith, P.38
4. - o - - - I, Beveridge, PP.52-65
- - - - - Vol.II, K. W. Lowe, PP.6-9
5. - o - - - I, Beveridge, P.319
- o - - - I, Beveridge, PP.65-68
- - - - - Smith, PP.36-37
ended the career of one of the most remarkable persons of the sixteen century. Numerous reasons have been assigned for his ultimate defeat but these are either fanciful or speculative, if not malicious. The causes of his defeat were the capture of his artillery and the random arrow which made him unconscious and caused panic in his army. His defeat was accidental and the victory of Akbar providential.

Akbar was at Delhi when the news reached on March 10, 1556 that at the instigation of Mulla Abdullah Sultanpur Sikander Sur had descended upon the plains of the Jullundur Doab and had begun to collect land revenue. Khizer Khan the governor handing over Lahore to Raja Muhammad Khan, set out to oppose him near the town of Chamiari, but could not face the enemy and retreated to Lahore. On December 17, 1556, the imperial forces immediately advanced through Jullundur, into the Shivalik hills and encamped at Dasuya and further moved to Murpurg. The Hill Rajas who had sided with Sikander Sur, deserted him and submitted to Akbar. At this, Sikander was much disheartened and finding himself too weak to withstand the onslaughts of the imperial army, fled without encountering the enemy and took refuge in the fort of Manhot.

Receiving the news of Sikander's flight to the fort of Manhot, Akbar's forces pursued and besieged the fort. Meanwhile the supply of corn began to run short, and the desertion of the soldiers from the fort became more and more frequent. Sikander's request for surrender was granted and Behar was given to him as a fief. The fort was put
under the charge of Abul Qasim, for the time being. Takhatmal who sided with Sikander Sur, was decapitated under the orders of Bairam Khan and Mankot was bestowed upon Bakhtasawar, brother of Takhatmal who gave a pledge to remain loyal to the Emperor. Akbar moved from Mankot and reached Lahore.

From Akbar's reign the Panjab began to be governed regularly by the governors appointed by the Great Mughals. Thus, at the dismissal of Shah Abul Ma'ali, Hussain Khan Tukriya who was formerly in Bairam Khan's service, was appointed the governor, in 1557, immediately after the conquest of Mankot. Tukriya was known as the Don Quixote of Akbar's reign. During his office, he had ordered the Hindus to wear patch (Tukra) near the shoulders and thus, got the nickname of Tukriya (Patcher). He governed the Panjab only for one year and died in 1557.

Farhat Khan Mihtar Sakai, succeeded Hussain Khan Tukriya, in 1558. He had already acted as governor of this province in 1555. Farhat Khan governed the Panjab, with an iron hand. The only event which occurred, during his governorship, was the rebellion of Bairam Khan. Shams-ul-din Atga Khan was deputed to quell the rebellion of Bairam Khan.

REBELLION OF BAIRAM KHAN - 1560: The regency of Bairam Khan which had been responsible for the firm establishment of the Mughal rule in India, lasted for four years. Though he had rendered valuable service to the Mughals, yet numerous forces were active in undermining his influence. His most formidable opponents were the Turkish nobles in general and foster-parents of Akbar in particular. They wanted to shake Bairam's power at any cost and induced the Emperor to nullify his
power in the court. Akbar also wanted to get rid of Bairam Khan's tutelage. In 1560 the Emperor openly expressed to Bairam Khan his determination to take the reins of government into his own hands. Bairam Khan was asked to proceed to Mecca, which in a way implied his dismissal from service.

In spite of his many friends' advice to take up arms against Akbar, Bairam Khan did not like to stain the glorious record of his life long service to the Mughal family and after some hesitation, complied with the royal command and surrendered the insignia of his office to Akbar. He proceeded in 1560, leisurely to the Panjab to recover his private treasure, which he had left at Sirhind and Lahore. The court sent Mullah Pir Muhammad, a personal enemy and former subordinate of Bairam Khan "to pack off Bairam" out of the imperial dominions.

Bairam Khan was now fully convinced that his enemies were adamant of his ruin, after some fatal hesitation, due to his feeling of loyalty, decided to vindicate himself by taking up arms and punish his enemies. Instead of going to Mecca, he turned from Bikaner to the Panjab and revolted against the Emperor. Akbar was alarmed at this, and gave orders for general mobilisation. On Friday, April 19, 1560, Mir Abdul Latif hastened in advance to check Bairam's progress. Akbar himself marched and encamped at Jhajar on April 22, 1560.

Meanwhile, Bairam had arrived at the fort of Tabarinda in the Panjab which was the fief of Sher Muhammad Devana, who was his old servant and had received many favours at his hand. Bairam left his
family and his luggage in the fort with Sher Muhammad. But contrary to expectations, Sher Muhammad Dewana, turned traitor and appropriated Bairam's whole property to himself. He then proceeded to Dipalpur, governed by Darvesh Muhammad Usbek, one of his old adherents. The governor behaved in the same manner as Dewana. All hopes of success at an end, Bairam Khan now marched to Jullundur and advanced by way of Tihara, where a party of his friends under Wall Beg was defeated by Abdullah Khan Mughal, the thief of Tihara.

The royal army blocked the path of Bairam Khan at Midar, near Jullundur. He was trying to capture Jullundur when he heard of the approach of Atka Khan. Bairam Khan divided his forces into two parts. The advance guard was under the command of Wall Beg, Shah Quli Khan Mahram and others. He himself advanced with nearly fifty big elephants and took charge of the centre. On the other side Shams-ud-din Muhammad Atka Khan arrayed his forces and was supported by Shamas-ud-din Muhammad. The right wing was commanded by Nasim Khan and other devoted servants formed the vanguard. Yusaf Muhammad Khan Kalkata with some men took his post between the centre and the vanguard. Though Bairam Khan did not have many men with him, but they were all experienced soldiers. He had much reliance on the royal army as many of them had sent letters offering their help to him, on account of their former attachments.

When these two forces reached near the village of Gunachaur on the 23rd August, 1860, there were brave feats on both the sides. In the

1. Sixteen miles south of Okara, on the old high bank of the Beas.
2. Fort of Tihara situated on the bank of the Satluj, to the west of Ludhiana (Ain-i-Akhari-Vol.I, Blochman, P.140)
3. Akharnama-Vol.II, Beveridge, P.169
5. Akharnama-Vol.II, Beveridge, P.169-170
6. Akharnama-Vol.II, Beveridge, P.130 (This is every old village two miles to the south of Banga in Nawanshahar Tehsil of Jullundur District. (Ain-i-Akhari-Vol.I, Blochman, P.332)
first encounter the advance corps of Bairem Khan displayed such valour that most of the soldiers of the Imperial army were forced to flee. At this time, when Bairem Khan’s men had almost routed the foe and were pursuing them, Bairem Khan advanced to overthrow Atka Khan; but as ill-luck would have been his elephant stuck in the bog. Atka Khan seized the opportunity and began to shoot arrows upon the elephants. Bairem Khan with a mind to charge the imperial army from the left withdrew a little to strike more vigorously but his men taking that to be a signal of flight turned their backs and began to desert in confusion.

Atka Khan sent Yusaf Muhammad Khan with a body of brave men, and when Bairem Khan turned back in order to renew his attack his forces were defeated and Bairem Khan had to withdraw and retreat in disgrace. Atka Khan was prudent and did not pursue Bairem Khan for very long. The news of this victory over Bairem Khan was brought to Akbar when he was at Simhind.

After his flight from Gunachaur, Bairem Khan fled towards the Shivalik hills to recoup his strength, from where he wanted to try his luck once again. To pursue him, the royal camp moved towards the Shivalik Hills from Ludhiana on the first October, 1560. Bairem Khan had fortified himself in the capital of Raja Ganesh of Talwara who was a strong chief in the midst of the Shivalik hills. A great battle was fought between the Imperialists and Bairem’s troops at Talwara. Sultan Hussain Jalair, one of the most trusted friends of Bairem Khan died on the battle field, whose head was cut off and sent to Bairem Khan, who

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1. Akbarnama-Vol.II, Beveridge, P.171
2. Akbarnama-Vol.II, Beveridge, PP.171-172
3. Akbar favoured Atka Khan and made over the choicest parts of the Punjab to him and his brother (Jin-i-Akbari-Vol.I, Blochman, P.393)
4. Tabwot-i-Akbari-Vol.II, Blochman, P.293
5. "Gobind Chand" says, Bedaunt
6. It is situated on Makerlan and Ramgarh road in Hoshiarpur District. (Munia-khabut-Tawârikh-Vol.II, H. I. Lowe, P.39)
Half-hearted rebel, Bairaam Khan, was driven to despair and dismay at the death of his friend Hussain Jalair and at his own untenable position. He, therefore, threw himself on the mercy of the Emperor, on October, 1860. Akbar was not oblivious of the great services which Bairaam had rendered to the emperor and his family. He, therefore, rose from his seat, accosted him well, embraced him, and seated him on his right side. Bairaam burst into tears at this unexpected reception which intensified all the more his feelings of humiliation. The Emperor consoled him with kind words and presented him his own robe. Akbar was at Mariana when Bairaam Khan was granted the royal pardon from where the Khan-i-Khanan left for Mecca.

Bairaam Khan, like all masterfull persons, had considered himself indispensable; his fall was, sooner or later, inevitable.

After appointing Shamas-ud-din Atka Khan to the governorship of the Panjab, Akbar returned to Delhi at the head of the triumphant army, on November 24, 1860, from where he proceeded to Agra and arrived there on December 21, 1860.

Shamas-ud-din Atka Khan was the son of Yar Muhammad of Ghazni who entered the service of Mirza Kamran as an ordinary soldier and was present in the battle of Qanauf in 1540. He distinguished himself in the wars against Sikandar Shah Sur and, thus, for his good services was appointed as the governor in 1561. He was also awarded flag and drums and the title of Khan-i-Asim in the same year.
Mir Muhammad, the Khan-i-Kalan was the elder brother of Shamas-ud-din Atka Khan. He was appointed the governor in 1666 when Shamas-ud-din was called to Delhi for appointment as Prime Minister of the Mughal India. During his governorship two major events took place, which occupy a conspicuous place in the history of the Panjab. The first was the reduction of the Akhars and the second was the first invasion of the Panjab by Muhammad Hakim Mirza.

MUHAMMAD HAKIM MIRZA - 1566: Mirza Hakim, Akbar's step brother, being driven out of Kabul by an invasion of Sulaiman Mirza of Badakhshan; he came to India to seek Akbar's help. Akbar was pleased to order Khan-i-Kalan to help the Mirza. Meanwhile, the Mirza changed his mind, encouraged by the Uzbek rebellion and instigated by his maternal uncle Faridun, Mirza Hakim invaded the Panjab in 1666. As his invasion came as a surprise, he found no serious opposition. Plundering Bhera on his way, he came to besiege Lahore. Akbar was beside himself with anger and on November 17, 1666 marched from Agra to repel his brother.

The report about the Mirza's advance put the Panjab officers on their guard and Khan-i-Kalan and others concerted together to defend the fort of Lahore. The Mirza reached the vicinity of Lahore and encamped in the gardens of Mahdi Qasim Khan. Next day the fort was besieged but all the hopes of Mirza, to take it by storm were frustrated by the brave defence of the besieged. When the news of the march of Akbar was broken to the Mirza he was dejected and being afraid of his own safety, hurriedly went back towards the Indus.

The hurried retreat of the Mirza was extremely fortunate. If he had managed to hold on in India for some time more, he would have found his cause more hopeful. For, while the Emperor's attention was
engrossed in the Panjab, rebellions broke out in the Utra Pradesh, from Sambhal to Jaunpur. The Mirzas of Sambhal were in open rebellion; the Usbeks were up in arms and had been joined by Asaf Khan of the Garh-Katanga fame. The Usbeks had already read the Khutba in the name of Mirza Muhammad Hakim. Taken between two fires, Akbar would have found his affairs most desperate. Indeed, since the days of Humay, Akbar had to face no crisis more serious than this. But stars were fighting for Akbar. The rebel Mirza had no definite plan and could not unite for action. Akbar learnt about it while he was on the banks of the Satlej, and reached Lahore by the end of February, in 1567. After this conquest Shams-ud-din Atka Khan was appointed the governor of Patan and on his transfer Khan Jahan Hussain Quli Khan was appointed the governor of the Panjab.

Khan Jahan Hussain Quli Khan was the son of Bairen Khan’s sister whose father was much attached to Bairen Khan. During his governorship, two important events took place. One of these was the expedition of Nagarkot (Kangra) to subdue Raja Jai Chand. The conquest of this impregnable stronghold of the Himachal Rajput Chiefs was the question of the prestige and the honour of the Mughal Emperor. The second event, the revolt of Ibrahim Hussain Mirza was equally important.

**EXPEDITION OF NAGARKOT - 1573:** Akbar was alienated from Jai Chand, Raja of Nagarkot on some account and ordered Hussain Quli Khan, to imprison him and to send him to Delhi. At the Raja’s arrest, Bidhi Chand the son of the Raja thinking that his father was dead, rebelled

1. Akbarnama-Vol.II, Beveridge, P.411
3. Ibid. Pp.343-50, 161, 214
8. The Cambridge History of India-Vol.1, P.103
against Akbar. Akbar bestowed the country of Hagarkot on Birbar and wrote a 'Firman' to Hussain Quli Khan to seize Hagarkot and hand it over to Birbar.

There was a very thick jungle on the way and the Mughal forces had to move towards Hagarkot with great difficulty. The troops in the first attack conquered the citadel of Bhal in which there was a temple of the Goddess Mahamai. A number of Rajputs with desperate courage stood firm and performed great deeds of valour but at last they yield. Many Brahmans who had for years been attendants of the temple, were killed. About two hundred black cows, which the Hindus had left in that temple as offerings, were killed in that great tumult. They then took off their boots and filled them with that blood and splashed the blood on the walls of the temple.

As the outer fortifications of Hagarkot had now come into possession of the Imperial army, the buildings were razed to the ground to make room for the Mughal camp. After that the siege commenced and covered ways and batteries were constructed. Some pieces of heavy cannons were brought to the foot of the hills, and fired. Eighty persons lost their lives by one shot, in that operation, yet the valour of the Rajputs did not submit. Raja Ridhi Chand tried his best to escape, but in vain.

The expedition had to be postponed when the news was received of the disturbances created by Mirza Ibrahim Husain, who had advanced to Lahore after his defeat by the Imperial army in Cambay (Qujrat) where he had revolted against Akbar. He came to the Panjab knowing that the governor of the Panjab, Husain Quli Khan was pre-occupied with the expedition of Hagarkot and that there was no one else to check him.

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1. - W. - SP.
2. - - o. I, De., P. 199
3. - - o. I, Love, PP. 165-67
4. - - o. I, II, B. De., P. 402
Husain Quli Khan was now between the devil and the deep sea. The subjugation of the Raja was all the more important and to check the progress of the rebel towards the Panjab was imperative. His troops were also confronted with hardships in this hilly area. His commanders were also demoralised and asked him to sue for peace with the Raja. So under these circumstances Husain Quli Khan concluded a treaty with Raja Bidi Chand under the terms given below:

a. That the Raja would send his daughter to the royal harem.
b. The Raja would pay five mounds of gold as tribute according to the weight of Akbar Shah which was equal to one year’s revenue of the temple.
c. Much stuff and precious things of all kinds were also usurped by the imperial army.
d. The coins were struck in the name of Akbar.
e. On a Friday in the middle of Shawwal 980 A.H. (1573 A.D.) a pulpit was erected and Hafiz Muhammad Baqir read the Khutba in the name of the Emperor.
f. The Raja undertook to acknowledge formally the suzerainty of Akbar.
g. Because the province was given to Raja Mirza as his jagir, a large sum was to be given to him as compensation.

The revolt of Ibrahim Hussain Mirza had interrupted and rendered ineffective this expedition which Husain Quli Khan had undertaken with good hopes of complete success. He had occupied the outer town but the garrison in the citadel still held out, when he was obliged to withdraw his troops to pursue the rebel Mirza. The capture of the fort was deferred until 1630, when it was occupied in the reign of Jahangir.

Mirza Ibrahim Hussain being defeated by Akbar, in Gujrat, marched to the Panjab with about three hundred men and sacked the towns of Sonepat, Panipat and Karnal on the way to Lahore. A large number of turbulent men joined him and caused much trouble in this province.

   Ain-i-Akbari—Vol.I, Blochman, p.349
5. Akbar Namea—Vol.III, Beveridge, pp.36-37
   He built the cupola of a lofty mosque over the gateway of Raja Bidi Chand (Muntakhab-ul-Tavarikh—Vol.II, Lowe, p.167)
   Ibid.
6. Ibrahim Hussain Mirza was the son of Muhammad Sultan Mirza who was the descendent of Timur. (Akbar Namea—Vol.III, Beveridge, p.46)
    Ain-i-Akbari—Vol.I, Blochman, pp.513-14
Husain Quli Khan, by forced marches advancing with his troops reached the town of Talamba and defeated the Mirza. Husain Quli Khan was replaced by Shah Quli Maharam, in 1575, to the governorship of the Panjab. Formerly Shah Quli Maharam was in the service of Bairem Khan and he distinguished himself in the war against Hemu. He remained loyal to the Khan-i-Khanan during his adversity, but was pardoned by the Emperor along with Bairem Khan at Talwara. He rose higher and higher in Akbar's favour but he could not suppress the turbulent people of the Panjab, properly. His administration began to deteriorate on account of his leniency. Criminals and miscreants were not punished and thus great disorder prevailed in the province. When Akbar was informed about this state of affairs, he issued orders for his recall in 1578 and Sa'id Khan was sent to take over the charge. He died at Agra in 1601. He erected splendid buildings, at Narnaul, where he chiefly lived after his retirement, and dug there large tanks.

Seven years of Sa'id Khan's governorship were very eventful, as the Emperor's attention was mainly directed to the North-West Frontier. "The year 1381 may be regarded as the most critical time in the reign of Akbar, if his early struggle to consolidate his power be not taken into account." Kashmir and Kabul were two important frontier provinces, where the maintenance of complete control was necessary for the safety of the Mughal empire and thus, no sort of disturbance could be tolerated in this part. Sa'id Khan had to deal with this problem during his governorship.

SECOND INVASION OF MUHAMMAD HAKIM MIRZA - 1581: In 1581 news arrived
that Mirza Muhammad Hakim on the invitation of Ali Kabuli, Masum Faran-khudi and Faridun, Mirza's maternal uncle, was to invade India. It was indeed the good fortune of Akbar that Hakim's project of invading India was postponed owing to a civil war in Badakhshan. Had he invaded earlier when the Bengal rebellion was at its height, and symptoms of disaffection were visible in other parts of the empire, the task of Akbar would have been made far more difficult, though by no means hopeless. When, however, the Kabul army marched upon India the political situation had somewhat eased, though the rebellion in the east was yet far from being brought under control. It was in December 1580, that the advance party of the Kabul troops crossed the Indus. Yusuf, the governor of Rohtas, loyally supported by the brave Oakhars showed full energy, in offering opposition. Nur-ud-din Haji, one of the military commanders of the Mirza, was killed and the Afghan troops were driven back. Akbar mustered together a huge army of fifty thousand cavalry, five hundred elephants and immeasurable infantry, on February 8, 1581 and moved to Lahore, accompanied by Prince Salim and Prince Murad.

Akbar ordered Kunwar Man Singh to march forward and take charge of the frontier. Man Singh moved up immediately and sent some troops to Rawalpindi as he expected another attack to revenge the failure of Nur-ud-din. He was right in his calculations. For, Shadman, "the sword of Afghan army" laid siege to the fort of Milab, fifteen miles below Attock, on 19 December, 1581. Man Singh hurried up to Milab with his Rajput troops. On the 34th, a battle was fought between the Afghans and the Rajputs in which the former were defeated. In a hand-to-hand combat Shadman was mortally wounded by Raja Suraj Singh, the brother of Man Singh, and the commander of the Mughal vanguard. Though taken away

1. Akbar the Great: Kuchal-Smith, P.158
alive from the field, Shadman died shortly after. As soon as the death of Shadman was reported, Hakim advanced with fifteen thousand cavalry. Akbar had already anticipated this movement, and had sent instructions to the officers of the Indus region not to oppose the passage of the Mirza across the Indus, and to put off engagement till he himself had joined them. Consequently Man Singh fell back upon Lahore to organize a strong defence there. The Mirza now crossed the Indus and invited Yusuf, governor of Kohtas, to join him but the invitation was decline. Thinking it a sheer waste of time to attempt to capture Kohtas, on 15th February, 1581, Hakim pushed on to Lahore, which he laid under siege but Lahore was bravely defended by Raja Bhagwan Das, Man Singh and others, and the efforts of the Mirza to capture it came to nothing. His disappointment was great when he found that not a single officer, Hindu or Mussalman, nor even the Mullahs of Lahore, joined him against Akbar.

When the Emperor was encamped at Shahabad he learnt about the high treason of Khawaja Shaib Mansur, his trusted finance minister, who was in league with the Mirza. Man Singh had found in the portfolio of Shadman, the Afghan General, three letters written to Hakim-ul-Mulrasim Khan Mir Behr and Khawaja Shaib Mansur respectively, purporting to be answers to the letters of invitation and encouragement written to Hakim by those officers. Later some more letters were intercepted. Eventually at Shahbad, before a gathering of chief nobles and other officials, Abdul Fazl read out the charges against Mansur, who was hanged on a Babul tree on February 27, 1581. Thus ended the life of
an able Finance Minister.

A bitter controversy had raged round the death of the Khawaja. Some had pronounced it as "a foul play", while others had justified it fully. Whatever might be the various approaches to the incident but a careful and minute study makes us believe that political considerations and the highly charged atmosphere necessitated immediate and drastic action even without meticulous justice. His death, at that time, came as a warning to some and relief to all.

After this execution, Akbar resumed his march to Lahore and passing through Ambala and Sirhind he arrived at Pael, where the happy news of Mirza Hakim's flight was broken to him. Up till then Akbar seemed to be constantly frowning with deep anxiety but the news of Mirza's surrender, made him cheerful.

It was necessary for Akbar to go to Lahore. He, therefore, decided to proceed to the frontier to organize the defences there and lay the foundation of a strong fort at Attock to act as a bulwark against an invasion from Kabul and to form the last link of the mighty defences erected by Sher Shah and Islam Shah at Rohtas and Mankot. Here he laid the foundation of a strong fort, which he named Attock Banaras to rhyme with Cuttack Banaras, the farthest eastern limit of his empire in Orissa. A message was sent to Hakim to come in person and settle terms or failing that, he should send one of his sons with his sister Bakhtunnissa Begam. Hakim, however, did not think it worthwhile to reply to it. For the complete submission of the Mirza, Akbar advanced towards Kabul. He ordered his troops to proceed to Rohtas and himself followed soon after and joined the troops where the Emperor

2. Akbarnama-Vol.III, Beveridge, P. 502
3. Commentary by Monserate-J.S. Hoyland, P. 77
4. Commentary by Monserate-J.S. Hoyland, P. 102
was entertained royally by Yusuf Khan, the governor of the fort. Then
by way of Rewat, Naggar and Hazara, Akbar reached the Indus and encamped
there.

After fifty days' stay on the Indus, Prince Murad and Raja Man
Singh were sent in advance. Akbar also reached Kabul on August 1, 1591.
Muhammad Hakim Mirza, now completely surrendered and at the intercession
of Ali Muhammad, the Emperor forgave him and reinstated him on the
throne of Kabul. After this, Akbar returned to Lahore. This was the
first time in the history of Mughal India after Babur when one of her
rulers made a triumphal entry into Kabul. But for several reasons it
was not advisable to stay at Kabul. Akbar had been absent from the
capital for over six months and was, therefore, anxious to return as
soon as he could.

Lahore - IMP. RUL. HEADQUARTER - 1595-1599:- For the next fourteen year
(1595-1599), Akbar made Lahore the capital of India as the condition
of Kabul and Kashmir was very disorderly. The frontier tribes were
very turbulent and thus were continually causing disorder in the
Punjab. He conducted military operations against Kashmir, planned wars
with North-East Afghanistan, and undertook the conquest of Sindh and
Jandhar from Lahore. He was obviously very anxious to maintain the
integrity of the empire by closing every possible route to India. He
sent expeditions to conquer Kashmir, Swat, Bijnur and Biluchistan. Man
Singh was sent to Kabul as its governor. Attack was made the head bage
for the frontier defence. It was, however, not proper to move the
court back to Fatehpur so long as the frontier tribes had not been
compelled to adopt a reasonable frame of mind. Kashmir was not subdued
and the general situation had not improved. Moreover famine conditions

1. Commentary of Monserrate-J.J.Hoijiand,PP.109-115
2. Akbarnam-x-Vol.1II,Peveridge,PP.529-547
3. Akbar the Great Mughal-Smith,PP.331-350
in the provinces of Agra and Delhi deterred him from going there. He, therefore, returned to Lahore in May 1584, and made it the capital of the empire.

Akbar enlarged and repaired the fort and surrounded the town with a wall, portions of which remain, embedded in the modern work of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. During these years Akbar was visited by Portuguese missionaries, and by the Englishmen Fitch, Neberly, Leeds and Storey. Under Akbar, Lahore rapidly increased in area and population. Specimens of the mixed Hind and Paracenio style adopted by Akbar, survive within the fort of Lahore, though largely defaced by later alterations.

Khawaja Chams-ud-din Khawafi was made governor of the Panjab, in 1598. He was a man of simple manners, very honest, faithful and practical in running the administration. He died at Lahore in 1600 and was buried in that quarter of the town which up to this day is known as Khawafi-pura.

Zain Khan Koka was appointed the governor of the Panjab and Kabul in 1600 but was soon called back to Agra by the emperor. He died in 1601 on account of excessive drinking. As Sa'id Khan was known for his eunuchs and Mulij Khan for his good horses, Zain Khan Koka was famous for his elephants.

Mirza Mulij Khan was appointed the governor of the Panjab in 1601. During his governorship the people of the province were not happy in general and the Hindus in particular. His administration was arbitrary and also anti-Hindu.

3. Akbarnama-Vol.II,Beveridge,PP.1136-1307
5. Akbarnama-Vol.II,B.De.,PP.639