



## Main causes and outcomes of the third battle of Panipat

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### Abstract

The third battle of Panipat was fought between the Afghans and the Marathas. The battle was significant as it marked the end of Maratha dominance in India. At the time of this battle Afghans were under the authority of Ahmed Shah Abdali and the Marathas under the administration of Peshwas had set up control crosswise over Northern India. Amid the eighteenth century the parallel decay of Mughal Empire and thrashing of Marathas in the clash of Panipat saw a fresh start of the provincial govern in India.

**Keywords:** Panipat, battle, war, Mughal, Maratha, causes, ancient etc.

### Introduction

The Third Battle of Panipat occurred on 14 January 1761 at Panipat, around 60 miles (97 km) north of Delhi, between a northern expeditionary power of the Maratha Empire and attacking powers of the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Abdali, bolstered by two Indian partners the Rohilla Afghans of the Doab, and Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Awadh. Militarily, the fight set the French starting point cannons and rangers of the Marathas against the substantial cavalry and mounted big guns of the Afghans and Rohillas drove by Ahmad Shah Abdali and Najib-ud-Daulah, both ethnic Afghans (the previous is otherwise called Ahmad Shah Durrani). The fight is viewed as one of the biggest and most astounding battled in the eighteenth century, and has maybe the biggest number of fatalities in a solitary day detailed in a great arrangement fight between two armed forces. Third skirmish of Panipat has awesome importance ever Asia, this fight happened in the mid of eighteenth century. This fight was an epic annihilation for the Marathas which is extraordinary in Indian history. The era in which this fight was battled is of extraordinary significance, since this is the time when sub-landmass was experiencing a transitional stage. The course and history of south-Asia transforming, it was the time in which the magnificence of Mughal Empire was going to blur away, different powers in sub-landmass were developing to supplant the Mughal rulers. French, British, Sikhs, Marathas and other free gatherings were ascending to guarantee the position of authority which was going to be emptied by Mughals because of their wastefulness and detached conduct. Third clash of Panipat happened when the Mughal Empire was breaking down because of shortcoming of focal power numerous encounters, uprisings, revolts, and fights occurred around then. Panipat fight ground is of awesome significance since three fights were battled there,

Panipat is 90 Km far from Delhi. This fight is additionally of awesome significance that after this fight provincial administer begins in Indian sub-mainland. The decrease of the Mughal Empire following the 27-year Mughal-Maratha war (1680– 1707) prompted fast regional increases for the Maratha Empire. Under Peshwa Baji Rao, Gujarat, Malwa and Rajputana went under Maratha control. At long last, in 1737, Baji Rao vanquished the Mughals on the edges of Delhi and brought a great part of the previous Mughal domains south of Delhi under Maratha control. Baji Rao's child Balaji Baji Rao (prominently known as Nana Saheb) additionally expanded the region under Maratha control by attacking Punjab in 1758. This carried the Marathas into face to face encounter with the Durrani domain of Ahmad Shah Abdali. In 1759 he raised an armed force from the Pashtun and Baloch clans and made a few additions against the littler Maratha armies in Punjab. He at that point joined with his Indian partners—the Rohilla Afghans of the Gangetic Doab—framing an expansive coalition against the Marathas. The Marathas, under the summon of Sadashivrao Bhau, reacted by social event a multitude of between 45,000– 60,000, which was joined by approximately 200,000 non-soldiers, various whom were explorers burning of making journeys to Hindu blessed destinations in northern India. The Marathas began their northward voyage from Patdur on 14 March 1760. The two sides endeavored to get the Nawab of Awadh, Shuja-ud-Daulah, into their camp. By late July Shuja-ud-Daulah settled on the choice to join the Afghan-Rohilla coalition, wanting to join what was seen as the "armed force of Islam". This was deliberately a noteworthy misfortune for the Marathas, since Shuja gave genuinely necessary accounts to the long Afghan remain in North India. It is dubious whether the Afghan-Rohilla coalition would have the way to proceed with their contention with the Marathas without Shuja's help.

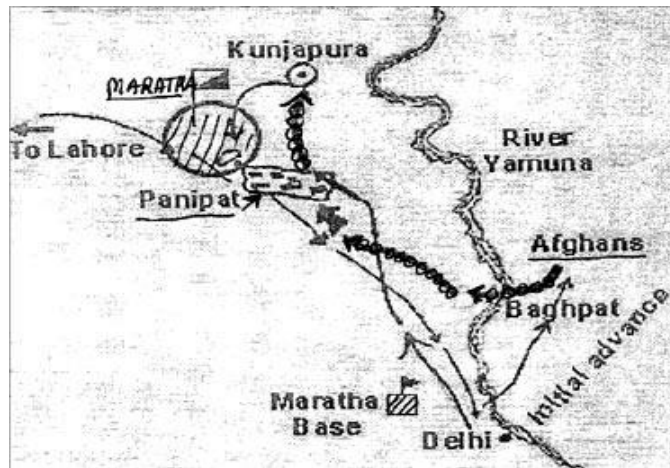


Fig 1: Battle of Panipat (1761)

The slow-moving Maratha camp finally reached Delhi on 1 August 1760 and took the city the next day. There took after a progression of engagements along the banks of the River Yamuna and a fight at Kunjapura, which the Marathas won against an Afghan army of around 15,000 (as of now Abdali and the other Afghan powers were on the eastern side of the Yamuna stream). Nonetheless, Abdali daringly crossed the Yamuna on 25 October at Baghpat, removing the Maratha camp from its base in Delhi. This inevitably transformed into a two-month-long attack drove by Abdali against the Marathas in the town of Panipat. Amid the attack the two sides attempted to remove alternate's provisions. At this the Afghans were extensively more powerful, so that before the finish of November 1760 they had cut off all sustenance supplies into the blockaded Maratha camp (which comprised of around 250,000-300,000, a large portion of whom were non-warriors). As indicated by every one of the annals of the time, sustenance in the Maratha camp ran out by late December or early January and dairy cattle kicked the bucket by the thousands. Reports of officers kicking the bucket of starvation started to be heard toward the beginning of January. On 13 January the Maratha boss asked their officer, Sadashiv Rao Bhau, to be permitted to bite the dust in fight instead of die by starvation. The following day the Marathas left their camp before first light and walked south towards the Afghan camp in a frantic endeavor to break the attack. The two armed forces met around 8:00 a.m., and the fight seethed until night. The particular site of the fight itself is debated by history specialists, however most consider it to have happened some place close current Kaalaa Aamb and Sanauli Road. The fight went on for a few days and included more than 125,000 troops. Extended engagements happened, with misfortunes and picks up on the two sides. The powers drove by Ahmad Shah Durrani turned out successful subsequent to devastating a few Maratha flanks. The degree of the misfortunes on the two sides is intensely debated by history specialists, yet it is trusted that between 60,000– 70,000 were murdered in battling, while the quantities of harmed and detainees taken fluctuate significantly. As indicated by the absolute best observer account - the bakhar by Shuja-ud-Daulah's Diwan Kashi Raj- - around 40,000 Maratha detainees were butchered without blinking the day after the fight. Give Duff

incorporates a meeting of a survivor of these slaughters in his History of the Marathas and for the most part certifies this number. Shejwalkar, whose monograph Panipat 1761 is regularly viewed as the absolute best auxiliary source on the fight, says that "at least 100,000 Marathas (troopers and non-warriors) died amid and after the fight. The consequence of the fight was the ending of further Maratha propels in the north, and a destabilization of their domains, for about ten years. This period is set apart by the manage of Peshwa Madhavrao, who is credited with the recovery of Maratha control following the thrashing at Panipat. In 1771, ten years after Panipat, he sent a substantial Maratha armed force into northern India in a campaign that was intended to re-set up Maratha control around there and rebuff unmanageable forces that had either agreed with the Afghans, for example, the Rohillas, or had shaken off Maratha mastery after Panipat. The accomplishment of this crusade can be viewed as the keep going adventure of the long story of Panipat.



Fig 2

### Decline of the Mughal Empire

The decline of the Mughal Empire following the 27-year Mughal-Maratha war (1680–1707) led to rapid territorial gains for the Maratha Empire. Under Peshwa Baji Rao, Gujarat, Malwa and Rajputana went under Maratha control. At long last, in 1737, Baji Rao crushed the Mughals on the edges of Delhi and brought a significant part of the previous Mughal domains south of Delhi under Maratha control. Baji Rao's child Balaji Baji Rao additionally expanded the domain under Maratha control by attacking Punjab in 1758. This carried the Marathas into head on showdown with the Durrani realm of Ahmad Shah Abdali (otherwise called Ahmad Shah Durrani). In 1759 he raised an armed force from the Pashtun and Baloch clans and made a few increases against the littler Maratha battalions in Punjab. He at that point joined with his Indian partners—the Rohilla Afghans of the Gangetic Doab—framing a wide coalition against the Marathas. The Marathas, under the charge of Sadashivrao Bhau, reacted by social affair a multitude of between 45,000– 60,000, which was joined by around 200,000 non-warriors, various whom were travelers burning of making journeys to Hindu blessed destinations in northern India. The Marathas began their northward trip from Patdur on 14 March 1760. The two sides endeavored to get the Nawab of Awadh, Shuja-ud-Daulah, into their camp. By late July Shuja-ud-Daulah settled on the choice to join the Afghan-

Rohilla coalition, wanting to join what was seen as the "armed force of Islam". This was deliberately a noteworthy misfortune for the Marathas, since Shuja gave truly necessary funds to the long Afghan remain in North India. It is far fetched whether the Afghan-Rohilla coalition would have the way to proceed with their contention with the Marathas without Shuja's help.

### Ascent of the Marathas

The Marathas had picked up control of an impressive piece of India in the interceding time frame (1707– 1757). In 1758 they involved Delhi, caught Lahore and drove out Timur Shah Durrani, the child and emissary of the Afghan ruler, Ahmad Shah Abdali. This was the high-water characteristic of the Maratha extension, where the limits of their realm reached out in the north to the Indus and the Himalayas and in the south almost to the furthest point of the promontory. This domain was governed through the Peshwa, who discussed setting his child Vishwasrao on the Mughal position of authority. In any case, Delhi still stayed under the ostensible control of Mughals, key Muslim erudite people including Shah Waliullah and other Muslim ministry in India who were frightened at these improvements. In edginess they engaged Ahmad Shah Abdali, the leader of Afghanistan, to end the risk

### Reasons for the outcome

Durrani had both numeric and also subjective prevalence over Marathas. The consolidated Afghan armed force was significantly bigger than that of Marathas. In spite of the fact that the infantry of Marathas was sorted out along European lines and their armed force had a portion of the best French-made firearms of the time, their mounted guns was static and needed portability against the quick moving Afghan powers. The substantial mounted big guns of Afghans demonstrated much preferred in the combat zone over the light ordnance of Marathas. In addition, the senior Maratha boss continually quarreled with each other. Each had desire of cutting out their autonomous states and had no enthusiasm for battling against a typical foe. Some of them didn't bolster the possibility of a round fight and needed to battle utilizing guerilla strategies as opposed to charging the adversary head-on. The Marathas were battling alone at a place which was 1000 miles from their capital Pune. Peshwa's choice to name Sadashivrao Bhau as the Supreme Commander rather than Malharrao Holkar or Raghunathrao turned out to be an appalling one, as Sadashivrao was absolutely oblivious of the political and military circumstance in North India. In the event that Holkar had stayed in the front line, the Maratha thrashing would have been deferred however not turned away. Ahmad Shah's predominance in pitched fight could have been invalidated if the Marathas had led their conventional ganimi kava, or guerrilla fighting, as prompted by Malharrao Holkar, in Punjab and in north India. Abdali was in no situation to keep up his field armed force in India uncertainly.

### Causes of third battle of Panipat

The main causes of third battle of Panipat were these as given below:

- a. **Anarchy in Mughal Empire:** After the attack of Nadir Shah, the foundation of Mughal Empire was shaken.

Every where Sardars were engaged in king free their provinces. Sayyad brothers had fallen so the unity among Sardars had been finished. Seeing this anarchy, Ahmed became more courageous.

- b. **Top of Maratha Power:** Now Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao and his Generals had established their terror in South by establishing their influence on Karnatak and Nizam etc. Raghunathrao plundered in Punjab and hoisted his flag till attack. Raghunathrao made his faithful Sardar Adani Beg, the governor of Punjab and defeated Vimurashah son of Ahmed Shah Abdali. So Ahmed Shah Abdali decided to attack on India.
- c. **Internal Dispute:** Being afraid of Marathas power, Mughal Emperor came in the refuge of Marathas. Mughal Vajeet Safdarjang defeated Ruhela Sardars with the help of Marathas. So Ruhela became enemy of Mughals and Marathas. In the same way Marathas started to fight with Nizam, Avadh and Rajputs. Scindia and Holkar were also enemy because of the interrupting the problem of succession of Ishwar Singh and Madhav Singh. Due to this internal dispute, Ahmed Shah Abdali was much encouraged.
- d. **Hinduism of Marathas:** Marathas has much feeling of Hinduism. They were trying to establish their Hindu Empire. So all Muslims of India were envious to them. Rajputs also did not help them.
- e. **Invitation to Ahmed Shah Abdali:** Many innovators got success in India due to internal dispute. Jai Chand invited Muhammad Ghori for invasion and Daulat Khan had invited to Babur. In the same way, Ruhels and Rajputs had invited Ahmed Shah Abdali to attack on India.
- f. **Fire-anger of the Ahmed Shah Abdali:** Ahmed Shah Abdali had controlled Punjab, Sarhind etc., and much time. He was also defeated sometimes. By the Marathas Punjab victory, his anger fierced. Getting the invitation of the Ruhels and Rajputs he attacked on India at once.

### Consequences of the Panipat War

The third battle of Panipat ended the great Marathas' advance towards north-west India. Be that as it may, following a couple of years under Peshwa Madhav Rao, they recovered Delhi and held it till 1818. The triumphant armed force drove by Durrani supervised the incineration of the assemblages of Vishwas Rao and the Bhau. Numerous Maratha officers were in this manner tormented and executed by the triumphant armed force. The abrogating inheritance of the fight was the ending of the Marathas' progress and the concise reclamation of the Mughal Empire. However History demonstrates that Marathas had learnt something from their past: The Marathas were back in real life only four years after the fact, since they were pretty much a free alliance cutting off one head supplanted it with different littler ones. A far superior appearing all in all contrasted with regular one hit and a kingdom story of prior to Panipat. Abdali's warriors captured around 10,000 ladies and another 10,000 youthful kids and men conveyed them to their camps. The ladies were assaulted, numerous submitted suicide as a result of steady assaults executed on them. The greater part of the detainees were traded or sold as sex slaves to Afganistan or North India, transported on trucks, camels and elephants in bamboo

confines. The aftereffect of the fight was the stopping of further Maratha progresses in the north, and a destabilization of their domains, for around 10 years. This time of 10 years is set apart by the lead of Peshwa Madhav Rao, who is credited with the restoration of Maratha control following the thrashing at Panipat. In 1771, 10 years after Panipat, he sent an expansive Maratha armed force into North India in an endeavor that was intended to re-set up Maratha control in North India, and to rebuff stubborn forces that had either favored the Afghans, for example, the Rohillas, or had shaken off Maratha mastery after Panipat. The accomplishment of this crusade can be viewed as the keep going adventure of the long story of Panipat.

### Conclusion

The third battle of Panipat proved to be absolutely decisive. There was incredible crumple of the Maratha military power. The Maratha dream for the foundation of their territory over whole nation was broken as the outcome of their thrashing at Panipat. The most imperative result of the Maratha vanquish was that it cleared the way of the British matchless quality in India. The political star of British East India organization was presently rising.

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