

Jahangir — Continuity and Cultural Patronage (1605–1627)

Jahangir's Accession and Early Rule

Jahangir (original name **Nur-ud-din Muhammad Salim**) became the Mughal emperor in **1605** after the death of his father **Akbar**. His rule is often seen as a **continuation of Akbar's policies**, especially in administration and tolerance. At the start, he faced some **rebellions**—including his own son **Khusrau's revolt**—but quickly crushed them to keep power. Jahangir aimed to maintain peace, justice, and cultural development rather than large military expansion.

Administration and Justice

Jahangir kept Akbar's **Mansabdari System** and provincial government but added his own touches. He was famous for his **love of justice** and introduced the **Chain of Justice** at Agra, which anyone could pull to appeal directly to the emperor. He listened to people's complaints and punished corrupt officials. Jahangir continued **fair taxation** and supported talented nobles regardless of their religion, keeping the empire stable and peaceful.

Relations with Nobles, Rajputs, and Mewar

Jahangir maintained **good relations with the Rajputs**, respecting the alliances Akbar had built. He finally settled long conflicts with **Mewar** (Rana Amar Singh submitted in 1615) through diplomacy, not just war. By respecting Hindu chiefs and rewarding loyal nobles, he kept the empire united. Jahangir's balanced approach helped avoid big internal revolts and kept Mughal power strong during his reign.

Foreign Relations and Trade

Jahangir was open to **foreign trade and diplomacy**. During his reign, **English traders** (East India Company) got permission to open trading posts in India, starting British commercial influence. He also welcomed **Persian and Central Asian envoys**, which kept Mughal prestige high. Jahangir tried to maintain friendly relations with neighboring powers but focused more on stability than on conquering new lands.

Cultural Achievements and Patronage

Jahangir is remembered as a great **patron of art and culture**. Mughal **painting** reached a new level of beauty under his rule, with realistic portraits and nature scenes. He loved **gardens**, especially in Kashmir, and built many elegant palaces. Jahangir also wrote his **memoirs, Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri**, which describe his life, justice, and art interests. His court welcomed **Persian artists, poets, and scholars**, blending Persian and Indian culture. His wife **Nur Jahan** was very influential, supporting trade, charities, and the arts.