

Friday, Sep 10, 2021

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# Heir And How



There are minor errors of dates and facts, which OUP shouldn't have allowed. But it's a small blemish on a fine farewell offering



M.S. Gill +  
21 March 2005

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The Omvedt Code

The world has seen many empires, but among them the empire of the Great Mughals stands out like the North Star, ever visible, and the most glorious. From 1526 AD when Ibrahim Lodhi bit the dust at Panipat, to 1857 when the old poet-emperor Bahadur Shah was led out through the Arab-ki-Sarai gate by Lt Hodson, the Mughal Empire was the heart and centre of the Indian world.

What emperors they were: Babur who defeated more than a 100,000 with barely 8,000, but with a self-belief and leadership rarely seen; a soldier and yet a lover of nature, a poet and a thoughtful diarist, a man worth going miles to meet. Humayun, who won and lost kingdoms, accused of being "in the harem, and the opium-eaters' paradise, when he should have been in the saddle", but who never lost his interest in spiritual matters, astronomy, astrology, and mathematics. He left a manual of his writings containing prayers, astronomical observations and similar texts. Only he in the world's history of kings died stumbling down his library steps, rushing to evening prayers. Then Akbar, the unlettered but most learned philosopher-king of India, a soldier and yet a Sufi, and a lover of the arts. Jehangir, Shahjahan, the great builder, and of course Alamgir, each more fascinating than the other.

Annemarie Schimmel has been in the recent past the greatest Islamic scholar anywhere, producing a volume of remarkable work in her long life. This book on the Mughals, her last, is difficult to put down. She has covered everything from palace life, the role of royal women in governance, the relations with all other great religions of India, the contribution to textiles, food, scents, jewellery, and every conceivable aspect of life by these great rulers of India.

The book is profusely illustrated, with a varied selection of paintings, which add to the pleasure of reading. There are minor errors of dates and facts, which OUP shouldn't have allowed. But it's a small blemish on a fine farewell offering by Annemarie.

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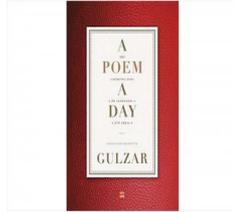
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Ride The Bullish Run Of Cryptocurrency

Mail had long gone digital. Photography itself had decidedly moved out of the confines of physical film by the 1990s. Money was bound to follow them into the ether. Cryptocurrency is the new global moolah. Is India ready to cash in on the \$2.36 trillion market?



BJP Fields Poll Violence Lawyer Against Mamata In Bhowanipur

With Priyanka Tibrewal in the fray, the BJP is likely to make political violence by the ruling party on BJP members and supporters as their key poll issue, a senior leader of the BJP's state unit said. Tibrewal had contested the March-April 2021 assembly general election from Entally constituency in Kolkata but lost by a massive margin of 58,257 votes.



COVID Scare! Manchester Test Called Off

The Indians were reluctant to play the fifth and final Test at Old Trafford after a support staff has tested COVID-19 positive on Thursday



India's Rekindled Rapport With Russia

Indo-Russia discussion at BRICS 2021 focused on Afghanistan. Security talks on priority list

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