

In the medieval phase of Indian history after the Sultanate dynasty the Mughal dynasty came to power in 1526 AD, Babar defeated Ibrahim Lodhi in the plains of Panipat and established the Mughal rule. Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb were the rulers of this dynasty. Mughal era had valuable contributions in terms of monuments in fields of art and architecture. We can also see Hindu Muslim unity during the Mughal era which we will study in this chapter.

Establishment of Mughal Rule in India

After the fall of Delhi Sultanate in 1526 AD, the Mughal era began its rule over Delhi in India. Babar was its first ruler and after him many successors came to the throne that not only enriched the empire but also achieved many successes at different levels.

Babar (1526-1530 AD)

Babar was born in February 1483 AD. His real name was Zahiruddin Mohammed Babar. Umar Sheikh Mirza and Begum Qutlug Nigar Khan were his parents. Babar on his paternal side belonged to the Timur clan and on the maternal side belonged to the Chaghezi Khan clan. After taking over the power of Kabul, Babar attacked over India (1518-19 AD) and won at Sialkot, Lahore, Vijay and Deepalpur. There Daulat Khan Lodhi (ruler of Punjab) and Alam Khan (Ibrahim's Uncle) invited Babar to invade over India. After defeating the ruler of Delhi Sultanate Ibrahim Lodhi in the battle of Panipat, Babar established Mughal rule in India.

In 1527 AD Babar fought a war against the confederation of Rajputs led by Rana Sangha and defeated him.

After the Battle of Khanwa, Babar set his eyes on Chanderi which was under the Medini Rai. There was a battle between these two and Babar won it. After handing over the control of Chanderi to Ahmed Shah, Babar returned



Babar

to Agra. He still had to win over many Afghan rulers and leaders. The Afghans had a stronghold over Bihar during this time. Babar took charge over Lucknow, Kanauj and Shamsbad. Babar took complete control over the Rajputs with the battle of Ghagra. Babar then spread his kingdom from Kabul in the west to Dhamas River in the east and Himalaya in the north of Gwalior.

Babar faced many battles during his reign to protect the Mughal kingdom and expansion of it. But Babar could not enjoy the rule for a long time and passed away. He fell sick due to continuous fighting wars, difficult conditions, moving from place to place and addictions and finally died on 26th December, 1530. Babar was a great army chief, writer, poet and critic. He wrote his biography 'Tuzuu-i-Babri' which was translated into Persian and is known as 'Babarnama'.

Humayun (1530-1540 AD)

Nasiruddin Mohammed Humayun was born in March, 1508 AD in Kabul. The word 'humayun' means 'Lucky' but he was an unlucky Emperor. He was fluent in Turkish and Persian languages. He was with his father Babar when he attacked India. He ascended to the Mughal throne after the death of his father Emperor Babar.

Humayun attacked Kalinjar and defeated King Pratap Rudradev. After that he won the battle of Daurah or Dauhriya. In memory of this war Humayun established the city Deenpanaah near Delhi. Later he attacked Chunar where he defeated Sher Shah who sent his son Qutlug Khan in service of Humayun. There was a rebel in Bihar against Mirza and Mohammed Sultan which Humayun crushed successfully. Humayun had fought with Bahadur Shah of Gujarat as a result of which he was successful in establishing his power over Malwa and Gujarat. He stayed in Gaud after his win over Bengal. Humayun and Sher Khan fought the battle of Chausa in which Humayun was defeated. To avenge this defeat Humayun advanced to Kanauj. He again fought a battle with Sher Shah in Bilgram (near Kanauj) where he was completely



Humayun

defeated. He left India and lived outside India. There again he started his campaign to regain his lost kingdom with the help of the Shah of Iran and there was a battle between Sikander Sur (descendant of Sher Shah) and Humayun. With Humayun winning this battle Mughal rule was reestablished in Agra and Delhi.

He too could not enjoy his throne for long and on 24th January 1556 at the time of the evening prayer he fell down from the library steps and passed away. Humayun faced many challenges during his rule and managed to continue his rule over Delhi. He was a happy, generous, humble and brave ruler. His sister Gulbadan Begum wrote 'Humayun nama'. He re-established Mughal rule over Delhi during the rule of Sur is a very big achievement.

Sher Shah Suri (Afghan Ruler) (1540-1545 A D)

The real name of Sher Shah Suri was Farid Khan. His father's name was Hasan Khan. There were continuous conflicts going on between the father and the son due to some misunderstanding. He had learnt Arabic and Persian languages in his schooling. Hasan Khan gave his powers of administration to Farid Khan. He became famous by his tax policy reforms but later he gave away his land and stayed in the service of Bihar Khan Lohani in Bihar. During a hunting spree he killed a tiger with one slash of the sword and saved the life of Bihar Khan Lohani and earned the title 'Sher Khan'. Humayun and Sher Shah fought the battle of Chausa which he won. After this win Sher Khan declared himself an independent king and adopted the title Sher Shah. On the other side Humayun was preparing to avenge his defeat. They fought a battle in Kanauj which Sher Shah won. After this win Sher Shah became the emperor of Delhi.



SherShah Suri (Afghan Ruler)

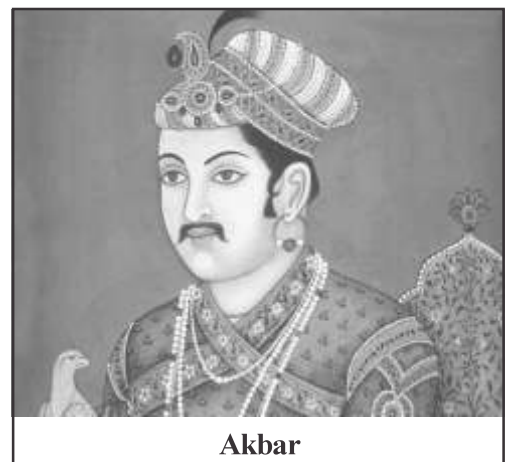
Khizar Khan, subedar of Bengal revolted against the Emperor. As a result, Sher Shah divided it into 16 districts. He defeated King Puranmal of Raisen and at that time Sher Shah said that for a handful of grain I would have lost India. The last battle fought by Sher Shah was against Kirti Sinh Chandel of Kalinjar (Bundelkhand). Sher Shah died during this battle and his tomb is in Sasaram (Bihar).

Sher Shah Suri's reforms

Sher Shah was a brave and successful soldier and conqueror apart from being a clever and hard working administrator and reformer. He brought administrative reforms, tax policy and army reforms which proved useful even after a long time. Dr R. C. Majumdar has written, "Sher Shah was a link between the ancient and modern India". His policies and reforms worked as a strong base for the greatness of Akbar. Sher Shah very well knew that the progress of the kingdom depended on the happiness, prosperity and satisfaction of the people. During his rule Sher Shah brought in many important and noteworthy reforms. With the help of a Hindu officer, Todar Mal he brought in many changes at the grass roots level in agriculture and land revenue system. He prepared a standard table for Land revenue rates and decided to collect it according to the same. He made effective arrangements for the development of business and commerce and maintenance of law and order situation. He also provided security on the roads, strict discipline in the army and paying salary in cash to the soldiers. He established the police department. He also brought policies to develop schools, colleges and libraries so that the people become moral and ethical. Sher Shah holds a very high place in Indian history because during short span of five years and despite having fought so many battles, he brought so many reforms in administration.

Akbar (1556-1605 AD)

Emperor Akbar was born on 15th October, 1542 in the fort of Amarkot. His full name was Jalaluddin Mohammed Akbar. His father was Nasiruddin Humayun and mother was Hamida Begum. At the birth of Akbar, his father distributed musk and said that Akbar's fragrance will also similarly spread in the world. As Humayun was running around the basic years of Akbar also were very difficult. With the death of Humayun, Akbar was crowned as the king at a very young age in 1556 AD. At this time Hemu challenged Akbar and his guardian Bairan Khan. So the second battle of Panipat was fought in 1556 AD between them which Akbar won. Akbar had a very experienced, very clever



Akbar

administrator and brave army chief in the form of Bairan Khan. He continuously fought battles and expanded his rule in North and Central India. Due to his successful policies, he could establish a strong and great empire.

Akbar's Victories and Merger of Small Kingdoms

When Akbar took the crown at a very tender age, his mother Hamida Begum and milk mother Maaham Aanga carried on the work of the kingdom. Akbar's thought prowess developed with his age and so he sent Bairan Khan for the Haj pilgrimage and took control of the kingdom. To develop his kingdom Akbar attacked on Baj Bahadur of Malwa who took shelter in Chittor. Akbar got married to Harkhabai, the daughter of King Jodhabai Bharmal of Amer and kept her brother Maan Sinh in his court. Now the King of Amer was under Akbar instead of Uday Sinh. As Akbar won the fort of Medta, North Marwar also became of subject of Akbar. He also won Bundelkhand and Gondwana. Queen Durgavati became a martyr while fighting in a battle. After

this, King Kalyan Sinh accepted the authority of Akbar. Emperor Akbar also successfully crushed the revolt by the Umraos of Jaunpur. He established his empire from Kabul to Orissa and took active steps for peace and prosperity.

Mewar was an obstacle for Akbar, so he prepared a huge army and attacked Mewar. Though the Chief of army of Mewar was sure of his defeat, he sent away Maharana Pratap to the mountains and appointed Jaymal Rathore as his main commander and Rannmal Patta Sisodia as the second in command. After a very fierce battle Akbar was successful in establishing his power over Chhitoregadh. Emperor Akbar was so impressed by the courage and valour of Jaymal and Patta that he had their elephant mounted statues set up outside Agra in their memory. After Chittor Akbar also established his power over Ranthambhore and Bundelkhand (Kalinjargadh of Kind of Rewa) was also won over. During this time Akbar had a son in Amer. He named his son Salim



(Jahangir) and as he considered it lucky he changed his capital from Delhi to Fatehpur Sikri. In 1572 AD Army chief Mirza Aziz Koka and Akbar attacked the capital of Gujarat and won it. Sultan Muzaffar Shah III, the ruler of Ahmedabad ran away and took shelter under the ruler of Jamnagar. The Mughal army fought a battle near the famous Bhucharmori against the Jadejas. Mirza Aziz Koka won this battle. At the same time the army took control over Cambay and Surat and established the Mughal rule. As the rulers of Mewar and Bengal passed away and so Akbar and King of Narnarayan of Cooch Bihar won over Bengal.

Setting his sight on Vayvya, Akbar took control over Surat, Bajero and Buner by winning over Yusuf Azai, Roshniya Troops, Uzleeks. Akbar sent king Bhagwandas and Kasim Khan to win Kashmir. Kashmir also was brought under the Moghal rule by defeating Sultan Yusuf Shah and his son Yakub Kabul was under the rule of Akbar's brothers, Mirza Mohammed Hakeem. He attacked Punjab several times so akbar attacked Kabul. His brother ran away and so Akbar entered into Kabul and towards the end of 1585 Kabul was also a part of Mughal Empire.

Akbar also won over Sindh and Baluohistan and included them in his Empire. Akbar's army Chief Shah Baig won over Kandahar. Thus Akbar's empire extended from Kandhar in Kabul to Narmada in south and up to river Brahmaputra in the north.

Akbar under his South India policy established his rule in the South and he wished to control the foreigners in the South. During this time the Muslim kingdoms of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golconda, Khandesh and Vijaynagar had become weak due to infighting. Akbar taking advantage of this situation, entered into Ahmednagar in Bijapur. Sultana Chandbibbi fought the Moghul army bravely but still Akbar won the battle. Later he won Khandesh and thus during 50 years of his rule Akbar spread his Empire over major part of India.

After the above mentioned victories, Akbar used his intelligence and power to continue his rule; for this he adopted the Rajput policy, religious policy, respect towards the soldiers and teachers. He built a prayer hall in Fatehpur Sikri and got together leaders of all religions and held a discussion on the basic principles and ethics of all religions incorporating all the common principles of all religions, he established a new religion Din –i- ilahi in 1583AD. Apart from this he brought in many reforms in the social, administrative sectors and revenue and

economic sectors. He also started the Ilahi calendar during his reign. His victories and reforms played a very important role in his progress. He was the first Emperor who was successful in Hindu - Muslim unity. Though Akbar himself was uneducated he was patron of education, literature and art. The nine jewels in the court of Akbar were: founder of Janabandhi revenue system Todarmal, Chief of Mughal army King Mansinh, history writer of 'Aina – E - Akbar' and 'Akbarnama' Abul Fayal, poet and Sanskrit writer Faizi translator of Ramayana and Mahabharat Munnabhakbhu composer of 'Tawarikh' Badaiyuni, Classical singer Tansen, witty Vinod Mulla Dopyaaza, very brilliant and clever Birbal, exponent of Unani medicine Hakim Humam. Akbar died due to chronic illness. He was buried 10km away from Agra at Sikandera.

Jahangir (1605-1627 AD)

Jahangir was born in Fatehpur Sikri. His real name was Salim. His parents were Akbar and Jodhabai who was the daughter of Bharmal. After Salim's birth, Akbar did the pilgrimage to the Dargah of Moinuddin Chisti in Ajmer on foot. Jahangir was consecrated as the King on 24th October 1605 AD after the death of Akbar. He took the title of Nooruddin Mohammed Jahangir Baadshah Gazi and took the reigns of the empire in his hands.



Jahangir attacked Kabul. He married Maanbai the daughter of King Bhagwadas of Amer. He also married Jagat Gosai (Jodhabai) daughter of Udaysinh. He took the title of Shah in Prayag. He was the first Mughal ruler to win Kangra. There were many revolts during his time and he controlled all of them and continued his rule.

Jahangir then got married to Mehrunnissa and gave her the title of Noor Jahan. He was very interested in painting. He constructed a garden and Akbar's memorial in Lahore. Noor Jahan had a story hold on the Mughal rule from 1611-1627 AD in Indian politics. For 11 years she cleverly played an important role in the administration of the Moghul rule.

During his rule the English adventurous traveller and businessman John Hawkins came into India through Surat. Due to his persistent efforts, finally in 1613 AD he got the royal permission to set up an English trade centre in Surat. After that in 1615 AD the first ambassador of the British king came to India on an official visit. It was during this time only that the Sikh guru Arjun Singh was sentenced to death.

Shah Jahan (1627-1657 AD)

Shah Jahan, son of Jahangir came to the throne after his death. His real name was Khurram (happy). His mother's name was Jagat Gosai. He married Arjumand Banu Begam (Mumtaz Mahal) daughter of Asaf Khan. Shah was consecrated to the throne on the death of Jahangir. Shah Jahan's reign is known as golden time in Indian history. He ruled over India for 30 years. Like Akbar he too believed that agriculture was the base for the development of the people. So he continued the revenue policy of his grandfather. Shah Jahan had constructed canals for irrigation. He appointed officers for business and commerce sectors.

Shah Jahan's son Aurangzeb controlled the rebels in the neighbouring provinces of the Mughal Empire. He suppressed the rebellion of Bundelkhand (1628-1634 AD). Shah Jahan had built many monuments during his rule



of which Taj Mahal (Agra), Shah Jahanabad, Red Fort (Delhi), Jama Masjid (Agra), Moti Masjid (Agra), Deewan-e-aam, Deewan-e-khaas are very noteworthy in terms of architecture. He built the Taj Mahal constructed in memory of his favourite wife Mumtaz. It holds a place in the wonders of the world due to its very beautiful carvings on it. According to the critics it is a love poem, carved for the love of Begum Mumtaz Mahal. This incomparable monument is a proof of marital love and compassion. He also had many monuments constructed in Ahmedabad, Agra, Ajmer, Kashmir, Kabul, Kandhar and Lahore.

The Portuguese set up their rule over Chittagong in Bengal during the rule of Shah Jahan (1579 AD). The sixth guru of the Sikhs entered into a fight with the Moghuls, which he lost during his rule, Upanishads were translated into Persian language. Shah Jahan's own son had him arrested and put into house exile where he died in 1666 AD.

Aurangzeb (1657-1707 AD)

Aurangzeb was born on 24th October, 1618 at Dahod in Gujarat. His father was Shah Jahan and mother was Mumtaz and he was their sixth child. His full name was Mohiuddin Mohammed Aurangzeb. He claimed his right to the throne and jailed his three brother's in a prison in Agra, and he also imprisoned his father Shah Jahan (1658 AD) and took the powers of Agra. He had good command over Arabic, Persian and Hindustani languages. He had thoroughly studied the Quran-Sharif. He was a very simple and independent person. Though he was the ruler of such a great empire, he made caps and copies of the Quran to meet his personal expenses. He did not even touch alcohol in his lifetime. He lived a very simple life. He was a religious fanatic and power hungry. Only because of power, he imprisoned his father and came to the position of Emperor.



Conquests of Aurangzeb

Aurangzeb registered many victories to expand his kingdom. First he won over Assam. His second important victory was Galconda. He had to fight the Maratha power in the south many times. The Mughal army had to fight his staunch enemy Shivaji many a times. He established his power by crushing the rebels.

The rejection of Sikhs and Satnami during Aurangzeb's rule

The first rebel that Aurangzeb faced for his policies was by the farmers of Mathura. He crushed the revolt by the Jats also. When Satnamis of Narmaal and Mervat raised their voices in protest. Aurangzeb defeated and brutally killed them. The ninth guru of the Sikhs Guru Teg Bahadur also became a victim of the policies of Aurangzeb. He killed him and as a reformat to this, the 10th guru, Guru Govind Singh organised a revolt against the Moghuls.

The Marathas under the leadership of Chhatrapati Shivaji in the south India gave a tough time to the Moghuls by using the guerrilla war tactics. Shaist Khan and Afzal Khan got troubled due to Mughal's abrupt attacks.

Aurangzeb's Policy towards Rajputs

There was a time when the true friends of the Mughal Empire were the Rajputs. But during the rule of Aurangzeb, he created lot of problems for the Rajputs and they became enemies. With the death of King Jaswant Sinh of Jodhpur, Aurangzeb wanted to convert his son, Ajitsinh to Islam. Veer Durgadas doubted this and started the Rajput unity movement. They strongly opposed the Moghuls. Aurangzeb annexed Jodhpur to crush Durgadas' opposition. So the Rajput got scattered in Aravali mountains and began to attack Aurangzeb's army. Rajputs of Mevad used to attack suddenly at army regiments and troubled them continuously. Aurangzeb's

army started disintegrating. As a last resort he entered into a treaty with the Rajputs. Finally Veer Durgadas gave the throne of Joghpur to Ajitsinh.

Religious policy of Aurangzeb

Dr. Majumdar has noted for Aurangzeb's religious policy that 'Overall Aurangzeb was a holy and ambitious but a strict Sunni Muslim'. He did not have any selfish expectations from his religious policy. He made certain changes to the tolerant religious policy of Akbar and made it intolerant. He got many religious laws passed in which he banned alcohol and gambling. He also ordered a ban on music, painting and dance. He also stopped prostitution and astrology. He restarted the jaziya tax on the Hindus. And so the Jats, Bundels of Bundelkhand, satnamis, Marathas and some shias opposed Aurangzeb's religious policy. These reasons are responsible for the decline of Mughal Empire to end.

Aurangzeb's Death

He gave up the idea of defeating Marathas and left for Delhi. He reached Ahmednagar on his way (1707 AD) and died there. His grave is in Kuldabad near Aurangabad.

Downfall of Mughal Empire

Aurangzeb's policies were predominantly responsible for the downfall of Mughal Empire because he did not trust anyone and so kept all the important functions of the kingdom himself. He was suspicious by nature and so he was left without support during the last years of his life. He spent valuable 25 years of his life in South India as a result of this there was administrative chaos in North India. The domination of the landlords increased; there was no control over business and trade. All the national wealth was lost in fighting battles so there was dissent in the Mughal army and many tribes. The three sons of Aurangzeb fought with each other over the throne, after his death. Two of his sons died in the infighting and the youngest ascended the throne with the name Muazam Bahadur Shah (1707-1712 AD). After his death, Jahandar Shah and his Zarkh Shikhar came to the throne. Thus in the first 10 years, there were 4 rulers. This frequent change of rulers gave chance to Subedars, Rajputs and Marathas. Nadir Shah of Iran looted Delhi. He took away the famous 'Kohinoor' diamond and other precious things to Iran. To add to it Ahmed Shah Abdalli also looted India. Finally in 1757 AD. Bahadur Shah Zafar lost the battle against the British. He was imprisoned and sent off to Rangoon where he died. Thus Moghul rule finally ended in India in 1757 AD. The Mughal rule had once again taken India to its golden age. Let us go through the history of prosperity.

Chronology of Mughal Rulers and Shershah

No.	Name of the ruler	Period of rule	Capital	Achievements
1.	Babar	1526-1530 AD	Delhi / Agra	Established the Moghul rule in India
2.	Humayun	1530- 1540 AD	Delhi	Father of Akbar the Great
3.	Shenshah(Afghan)	1540-1545 AD	Delhi	Re- establishment of Afghan rule
4.	Akbar	1556-1605 AD	Agra / Fatehpur Sikri	United India by winning majority over India.
5.	Jahangir	1605-1627 AD	Agra	Maintained his rule
6.	Shah Jahan	1627-1657 AD	Agra/ Delhi	Fond of architecture. Founder of Shahjahanabadnagar
7.	Aurangzeb	1657-1707 AD	Delhi / Agra	Unsuccessful in Southern policy.

Opposition against Mughal Rulers

Opposition of Rajputs :

Akbar developed the Mughal rule by adopting a liberal and tolerant policy and winning over the hearts of Hindu's and Rajput's. This strengthened the foundations of Mughal rule. But Jahangir deviated and began the intolerant religious policy. The Jats of Bundel, Satnami's, Sikhs, Rajputs and Maratha's opposed the Mughal rule especially during Aurangzeb's reign due to the intolerant policy on a large scale. The rajputs and Mughals had cordial relationship and that is why king Jaysingh managed to keep Shivaji under control. But after Jaysingh's death, the Mughal's started disrespecting the Rajputs and to add to it they reintroduced the Jaziya tax. The rajputs of Marwad and Jodhpur opposed the Mughal army because Aurangzeb appointed his officers in Marwar with the death of ruler Jaswant sinh of Marwar. The Rajputs were successful in this conflict and they regained their lost kingdom.

Since the time of Akbar the Sisodia Rajputs of Mewar were opposing the Mughal army and Mughal rule. The rajputs of Mewar did not accept the authority of Akbar. Jaymal and Patta, the leaders of rajput of Mewar were the first to face the army of Akbar. After the death of Uday sinh, King Rana Pratap Sinh of Gogunda fought Akbar till the end of his life. A great battle was fought at Haldighatt. Dr. Majumdar has written that, 'There were many greater Pratap army leaders and royal men than sinh in Rajputs but none as brave and patriotic as Pratap Sinh'. Thus, Mewar maintained its national pride till the end.

Opposition by Sikh and Jatt communities :

Many communities strongly opposed the Mughal rule due to the inhuman policies practised by some of the Emperors. The Jats from Mathura were the first to revolt. The army leader, Abdul Nabi tortured people very brutally. So the Jats under the leadership of landlord Gokalna of Teelpat raised their rebellion in 1669 AD. They looted Sadabad Paragana and killed the army chief of Mathura. But the Mughal leader Hasan Sikh Alikhan defeated and killed Gokalna but still the Jats carried on the fight. The second leader Raja Ram of the Jats again rebelled in 1685 AD. Later, he too was killed. After him his nephew took up the leadership of the Jats. Thus, till the end of Mughal dynasty, the Jats stood up against them.

The Sikh community was a peace loving community in the beginning of Mughal empire. But during Jahangir's reign their fifth Guru Arjun Dev was killed for supporting Khusro. So the Sikhs started opposing the Mughals. Guru Hargovind started the process of turning this community into a warrior community. The Sikhs lost their calm and composure and became enemies of the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb when he killed Guru Teg Bahadur and his followers due to religious reasons. Due to this Guru Govind Singh gave weapons to the Sikh community. The army was sent to attack Guru Govind Singh. Mukteshwar won against the Guru. Thus the Sikh community opposed the Mughal rule till its very end.

Opposition by the Marathas :

Due to the weak Sultans of the South and long battles due to the expansion policy of the Mughals during the time of Aurangzeb, the Maratha power became capable of opposing the Mughals. Geographically, the River Narmada, Vindhyaachal and Satpura hills provided protection to the Maratha kingdom and the Western Ghats and Sahyadri ranges protected its Western boundary completely. This gave special power to the people of Maratha region. The hilly regions and mountainous forts provided a good security cover to the Marathas. A handful of Maratha warriors with their guerrilla war tactics could easily defeat the vast army of the Mughals that was used to fighting battles in open plains. It was said that "fighting with the Marathas was like fighting with air."

In these conditions and character-building, the effects of religious fusion created by saints like Kabir, Nanak and Ramanand reached there. Saint Tukaram, Samarthguru, Ramdas, Vaman Pandit and Eknath are noteworthy amongst them. The seeds of Religious Nationalism were sown by these factors in Maharashtra. Shivaji overpowered the Sultans of Bijapur and Ahmednagar so as to change his small kingdom to a large one, so that he could take up the leadership of the community. Then he killed Afzal Khan and Shaista Khan and started his revolt against the Mughals. At last, exhausted Aurangzeb gave the title of King to Shivaji along with land. Despite this Shivaji gave a tough fight to the Mughals several times from 1672 to 1678 AD. Thus in the South the Maratha dynasty arose as a result of the opposition of the Mughals.

Opposition of Bundels :

Bundel revolt started under the leadership of the Bundela prince, Chhatrasal against the intolerance policy of Aurangzeb. The conflict between the Bundels and Mughals was an ongoing process. So taking inspiration from Shivaji's success, the Bundel prince also started establishing his own independent kingdom. Taking advantage of the dissatisfaction of the Hindu community of Bundelkhand and Malwa, he took up leadership of Bundelkhand revolt and established a small kingdom in North Malwa.

Opposition of Satnamis :

The third revolt against the Mughals came from the Satnamis. The Satnamis led a peaceful, religious life. They could not tolerate the torture that was done on them and so started carrying weapons. The revolt started as a result of a fight between a Mughal soldier and a Satnami. This peace loving community started a violent revolt because of the operation of Aurangzeb.

India's Social, Economic and Religious conditions during the Mughal Era

Social Conditions :

During the Mughal rule, the Indians were socially seen as divided into three classes. The top class was of the ruler and his family, rich landlords, leaders and officers. The upper class used to enjoy life at the expense of the people. Many rulers, wealthy people and Umraos were patrons of art and literature. They lived a simple and miserly life. The Choudhrys, small landlords and supervisors lived honourably. The small farmers and businessmen, daily wage labourers, slaves etc. were included in the lowest class.

Food Habits :

During the Mughal rule people consumed rice, wheat, jowar, milk, curd, ghee, oil, butter, vegetables, pickles as part of their diet. The top class people used to consume seasonal fruits, dry fruits etc. Pan-chewing was prevalent on those days. Emperor used to have variety of dishes in his menu. Consumption of alcohol was also a part of their food habits.

Clothes and Jewellery :

People largely used to wear hand-woven simple cotton clothes during this time. *Dhoti* and jacket (sleeveless) was the main attire. The middle class people used to wear *dhoti*, *angarkha* and turban whereas the Umraos and royal family members would wear silk and zari embroidered clothes. Hindu women wore saree, blouse and petticoat whereas the Muslim women wore *kurta*, *pyjama* and draped *dupatta* also. Embroidered clothes were in vogue in those days. Jewellery included chain and rings for men while women wore jewellery from head to toe. Female jewellery items were *choki*, *tikka*, *Damnani*, nose ring, earing, *kundal*, necklace, bangles, bracelets, rings, waist bands, anklets, toe-rings etc. As mentioned in Aaina-e-Akbari 37 articles of ornaments were used during that time. All these jewellery were made of gold, silver and precious gems.

Sources of Entertainment :

The main sources of entertainment during the Mughal era were chess, playing cards, magic tricks, polo duels, gambling, horse-race, competition of birds and animals, bullock-cart races etc. Kite-flying was also a popular hobby in those times. Rulers also were fond of hunting and engaged in different games. The vices like gambling and prostitution were rampant. The rulers were very fond of establishing gardens prepared walks in them.

Status and position of women :

The condition of women during this time was good and they were respected. The condition of women in Bengal province was not good. Women were victims of the ill-customs of sati, purdah system, slavery, dowry and daasi. There was a feeling of sadness at the birth of a girl child. Though there were many ill-customs, still names of some women are worth a mention like Gulbadan Begum, Noor Jahan, Chandbibibi, Mumtaz, Jahanara and Roshanara. The condition, status and position of the middle class women was very low. The level of education amongst them was so low but still they were allowed to participate in social, religious fair and go on pilgrimages.

Economic Condition:

The prevailing economic conditions in India during those times could be gathered from the books written in Persian language and those written by foreign travellers. The economic conditions have been described in detail in 'Humayunama' written by Gulbadan Begum. Contemporary writing like 'Aaina-e-Akbari' by Abu Fazal also gives a very detailed description of the economic conditions prevalent those days.

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry :

The main cultivation of crops during the Mughal era were wheat, pulses, vegetables, fruits etc. During the rule of Akbar, Todarmal fixed the rate of land revenue based on its fertility and productivity and this revenue system continued even in the time of Jahangir and Shah Jahan. Irrigation was done on a priority basis. Animal husbandry also developed along with agriculture. Cash crops like cotton, tobacco, sugarcane etc. were also practiced.

Industry, Trade and Commerce

Industry of cotton and silk weaving developed during this time. Cotton cloth industry developed in Patan, Nadiad, Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Burhanpur (Khandesh), Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh), Banaras, Bengal, Bihar etc. locations. 'Patolas of Patan' were very famous during those times. Best quality silk was found in Bengal. Silk weaving was also done in Lahore, Agra and some places in Gujarat. Dyeing industry also developed on a large scale along with printing, art, shawl and carpet weaving and trading. Wood and ivory articles, gold and silver ornaments, gems and gemstones, metallurgy were other trades which also developed. Indian art and artefacts have become very famous abroad. The rulers gave a great support to this business. All the industries were owned by private establishments and so the artisans and workers were exploited and lived in pitiable condition. The officers forced them to sell their goods at low prices and on the other side the landlords and rich class would lend them money at exorbitant rate of interest. Thus they were highly exploited. The unstable conditions created after the death of Aurangzeb led to the closure of business and industries. [Even city like Delhi faced very tough times after being looted by Nadir Shah and Ahmed Shah.

The prices of essential commodities were very low during the Mughal era and so people did not experience starvation. Vegetables, meat, milk, spices etc were available at low prices. India carried on trade with European and West-Asian countries. India exported cotton and silk cloth, indigo, pepper-spices, sugar, silk, metals, salt, lace and other medicines and imported alcohol, Arabic horses, ivory, perfumes, slaves etc.

Ships and articles made of ivory were exported. The *mulmul* of Dhaka was in great demand in England, France, Portugal etc. countries. Carpets and shawls were exported from Lahore and Kashmir. Surat, Bharuch and Khambhat ports of Gujarat were internationally famous. Calicut, Goa, Madras, Calcutta, Cochin etc were prosperous port cities. Surat was a very famous business city. Agra and Fatehpur Sikri were bigger and more populated than even London. Ahmedabad was also a very important city from business point of view in the medieval history of India.

Highways were constructed during those times to help in development of trade and commerce. There were highways to link important cities like from Agra to Gwalior, Ahmedabad to Surat and Peshawar to Bengal. Trees were planted and grown on both sides of the roads and lodging shelters were built along the main business centre routes. Thus from economic point of view, India was in the top condition. European traveller, Travenere has also praised the economic conditions in India during those times.

Except for Aurangzeb, all other Mughal rulers had a tolerant religious outlook. The first rulers of Mughal dynasty in India, Babar and Humayun spent major part of their time in battles and to stabilise their power so they did not do any noteworthy work in field of religion. Still they were tolerant towards religions. Sher Shah was the pioneer of tolerant religious policies and generous Islamic rule. Emperor Akbar carried forward this policy and also established the environment of secularism. He abolished the Jaziya tax during his rule and also invited all pandits and leaders of all religions to the prayer hall in Sikri and studied and discussed all religions. He launched the campaign of 'One king and one religion'. He also established a religion 'Din-i-ilahi'.

All these generous and open-minded policies continued even during the rule of Jahangir. The intolerant religious policies started during the rule of Shah Jahan and reached its peak during Aurangzeb's reign. Still it is being said that a noticeable development took place in the cultural and everyday interaction between the Hindus and Muslims. In terms of religion the saints had a lasting and strong effect than the rulers.

Hierarchy in Administration Department

Central Administration	(1) Lawyer (2) Diwan (3) Mirbakhshi (4) Muhtaseeb (5) Khan-e-samaan (6) Sad-ush-sadr (7) Darogha-e-daakchowki (8) Mir-e-aatash (9) darogha
Provincial Administration	(1) Subedar (2) Diwan (3) Bakhshi (4) Hodvaap (5) sadd (6) Haji
Government (District)	(1) Faujdaar (2) Aamil (3) Bitikachi (4) Fautedaar (5) Haji
Paragana	(1) Shikdaar (2) Kami (3) Aamil (4) Fautdaar (5) Kanoongo (6) Patwari (7) Mukaddam
Graamin (village)	(1) Kanoongo (2) Choudhry (3) Khoot

The administration was King oriented in the Mughal era. The Emperor (ruler) was the head of Administrative, Military, Legal and Constitutional matters. He was the chief of the Army too. His word was the law and his decisions were considered as the order and justice. There was a council of ministers kind of adjustment to help the king. The Mughal rulers had unlimited and boundless power and authority. Generally the laws of Quran *Shareef* and *Hadees* were followed and respected. Mughal rulers were known as justice loving. They had departments demarcated to carry on the administration of their kingdom. The reflection of their administrative system can be seen on the current Indian administration system. The King was the chief of the

heads of departments. Chief like Deewan or Vazir, Khane-samaan, Mir Bakshi, Sadra-us-sadur, Kazi ul Kazat, Muhtaasib, mir Atis and Darogaah Topkhana were in the central administration. There were about 21 provinces in the kingdom. The head of the province was known as subedar or naazim. Like the centre, this subedar had many amaldars under his control. Under the province, was ekam sarkar (District) under it was paragana (Taluka) and the last was village as the last unit of administration. Military administration also was very important and the whole kingdom was dependent on it. The Mansabdari tradition was followed by Akbar's army.

Cultural heritage of Mughal era

Education and Literature :

There were no state administered schools in the Mughal era but there was facility for Primary and Secondary education. These education institutes were run by the donations and gifts received by saints and scholars. Almost all the mosques had Madrassa or school. The Brahmins took care of the education institutes for the Hindus. Babar's minister Akbar Ali has noted "Establishment of educational institutes was a part of Public constructions". Humayun had madrassas established in Delhi. Emperor Jahangir had a rule that if a person died without any successors, all his wealth would be used in constructing a school. Shah Jahan started a college in Delhi by the name Darul Baka. Fatehpur Sikri, Jaunpur, Agra, Lahore, Banaras, Ambala, Thaneshwar and Kashmir were important cultural and educational centres of those times. Religion, Philosophy, Mathematics, History and Art were taught in these centres. Mostly the high class people and Amaldar class of people took this education. Even women had education facilities to a small extent. The womenfolk of royal family and noble families were given education by private teachers. There is a note in history that some women like Gulbadan Begum, Salima Sultana, Noor Jahan, Mumtaz Mahal, Jahan Ara, Roshan Ara and Jebunnisa received higher education.

The Mughal rulers were also fond of Literature like education. Literature received a notable motivation during this time. Persian was promoted as the State language and Hindi and Urdu also were developed during this time. The most notable contribution of the Mughal era is in the History Literature. The Mughal age can be considered as a golden period of Indian Literature. The scholars who wrote in Indo-Persian language about India were Abul Fazal, Abdulhami Lahori, Mohammed Vaaris, Chandrabhan Mohammed Saalih, etc. Shah Jahan declared Poet Kalim as the royal poet. The famous Poet Gilani was a gem in the court of Jahangir. Scholars like Shah Fateh Kangda and Charchaman developed the prose literature. Vedic, astrology and Mathematics books also were developed. It was during this time only that books like Upanishads, Bhagvad Gita, Yog Vashishtha, Atharved, Ramayana, Mahabharat, Algebra of Leelavati etc were translated from Sanskrit language to Persian. Prince Dara Shikoh himself was a scholar and philosopher. Vazir Khan was an expert at treating a patient by checking his pulse. Great Hindi poets like Chintamani and Poet sundara of Gwalior also flourished during this time. Books like 'Sinhasan Batrisi', 'Sundar Shringar', 'Chhand Vichar', 'Kavya Vivechak', 'Kavi KulKaltaru' 'Kavya Prakash' were written during this time. Famous poet Chintamani used the meLodhius Vraj language style of writing.

Abul Fazal wrote the historical books like 'Aaina-e-Akbari' and 'Akbarnama'. His brother Faizi was a scholar of Sanskrit language and famous Hindi poet Surdas also flourished during this time. Mirabai, Narsinh Mehta and Tulsidas also were from this time only. Gujarati literature which enhanced the value of Gujarati language was also created during this time.

Achievements in Art and Architecture :

Art and Architecture developed on a large scale during the Mughal era. Mughal rulers supported art and architecture. Carving is banned in Islam and so it did not develop well. Mughal emperors provided royal shelter to art and so Mughal art developed a lot. Babar himself was a great fan of painting. Humayun brought with him Irani artists like Abdul Samad and Syed Ali who lived in the court of Akbar. There were 13 Hindu artists and 4 foreign artists in the art school of the court of Akbar. He painted the scenes from Zafarnama, Kalia Daman and Ramayana. Jahangir and Shah Jahan were also fond of painting. The pictures painted during the Mughal rule mainly had birds - animals, palm trees, natural scenes, flowers, beautiful women, women roaming in gardens etc. Prince Dara Shikoh and Muazam also were fine painters. Drawing styles like “Rajasthani” and “Kangda” developed during this time.

During the Mughal rule, Babar was very fond of writing and singing beautiful songs. Humayun had musical programmes on every Monday and Wednesday. Baiju Bawra during the rule of Humayun and Tansen in the court of Akbar were the most famous musicians from that era. About 36 musicians were given royal shelter in the court of Akbar. During the time of Jahangir qawwali, thumri, gazal etc. developed. Shah Jahan was very fond of Raag Dhrupad. Aurangzeb had banned music but after his death music was again heard.

Architecture :

Architecture developed on a large scale during the Mughal rule. Golden era was created in this field in the Mughal era though construction activity took a back seat during the rule of Aurangzeb. Akbar and Shah Jahan were very fond of construction work and Shah Jahan of them is considered as the ‘Octavia Ceaser’ of India. The monuments constructed during this time are a proof of the wealth and prosperity of that time. Lakhs of Indian and foreign tourist even today visit Jumma Masjid of Delhi, Fort of Agra and Taj Mahal, Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri. They are not tired of visiting the architectural monuments of medieval India. According to Sir John, architecture till the time of Akbar strongly had an Irani effect on it but after that it had a pure Indian touch. The outer facade of the monuments might have an Islamic touch but in the interior they have a strong effect of Hindu style. As Islam is against idols and statues, so instead of human structures you can see carving, creepers, flowers and geometrical designs on the monuments.

After Babar won over India, he wanted to build his new capital in Agra and for that he called students from the Albanian Architecture school of Seenat. He also employed Indian artists in the monuments. The three monuments – Kabuli Masjid of Panipat, Jumma Masjid situated in Sambhal and Masjid in Agra are the only ones which are the best examples of architecture. During the rule of Humayun, Fort named Deenpanah, Raj Mahal



Fort of Agra



Diwaneam - Agra



Red fort - Delhi

and a masjid in Fatehabad were built. All these are beautiful monuments of the Irani architecture. Akbar built many structures like Humayun's tomb, Fort of Agra, Jumma Masjid of Fatehpur Sikri and Nagina Masjid, grave of Salim Chisti, Palaces of Birbal, Bibi Mariam and Jodhabai, Bulund Darwaza –the largest door in India and which is considered complete architecturally, Deewane Aam, Deewan – e-Khaas, panchamaharaj, etc were the structures created by Akbar. Jahangir was not fond of constructing monuments but he built the Tomb of Akbar which is completely made of marble. The structure constructed by Jahangir stand tall even today in the cities of Delhi, Agra, Lahore, Kabul, Kandahar, Kashmir, Ahmedabad etc. The Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved Mumtaz Mahal. It is termed as a 'love poem carved in marble' by the critics.

Taj Mahal was created by an artist Ustad Eesha, who also laid the foundation of "Shahjahanabad" near Delhi which today is known as Red Fort area. He also built the Jumma Masjid of Delhi, and Deewan-e-aam and Deewan-e-khaas in the Red Fort. He built the Moti Masjid in Agra. He also built "Mayurasan" (Takht-e-Taaush) throne. Scholars have written "these monuments like fairies are a true example of the wealth and



Tajmahal - Agra



Buland Gate



Makbara of Humayun

prosperity of the Mughal era." Aurangzeb built the Bibi ka makbara. Even today we can see the love for architecture of the Mughal emperors. Mughal architecture is a rich heritage India has received in terms of Hindu and Muslim styles of it.

Development of Technology and Science :

Of the Mughal rulers, Humayun was a scholar of Astronomy, Astrology and Philosophy. He started the construction of the complex of Vedh School in Delhi. He constructed seven court rooms based on the nature of the seven planets and he would visit them depending on the days. During this time, the trend had started of melting metals like iron, brass, copper, silver and making articles from it. Cotton cloth industry started in Ahmedabad. The work of dyeing, embroidery, printing and scientific way of dyeing cloth was a very noble work. During the time of Akbar a laboratory had been set up to carry on research on weapons. Guns were manufactured during the reign of Akbar. Use of weapons like scissors, swords, and gun named maahun started from this time only. Trade and Commerce, Science and technology, Ayurveda and knowledge of arms and ammunition started developing as the Mughal rule was dependent on the army and the Western communities also had arrived in India.

Contribution and Importance of Mughal Era :

The Mughal rulers achieved many great things in Indian History. The successors of Babar lived in India, spent the wealth of India and took India to prosperity. All the Mughal rulers except Babar and Bahadur Shah

have their graves in India. Emperor Akbar had the land measured, and constructed many canals dug from the rivers and took steps to give an impetus to agriculture. He also took steps for the development of ports of India. He divided the departments for the administration of the state depending on the religious policy. Positions of the officers, Taxation policy, village and taluka level officers etc use the same names and hierarchy even today. Study of language and through it Literature developed in the Indian society. The biggest contribution in this field was the birth of Urdu language as a mixture of both Hindi and Persian languages. Musician like Tansen gave new musical rhythms called Sur. The communal harmony of the Hindus and Muslims can also be seen in the food habits, clothes, jewellery, living styles and cultures. As a result, economically India became very rich and prosperous economically. The foreigners were attracted to establish their power in India.

EXERCISE

1. Answer the following questions in detail :

- (1) Describe the rule of Babar and analyse his achievements.
- (2) Describe the achievements of Sher Shah.
- (3) Describe the conquests of Akbar.
- (4) Describe the construction of structures during the reign of Shah Jahan.
- (5) Analyze the cultural condition of the Mughal era.

2. Answer in brief :

- (1) Give reasons for the failure of Humayun.
- (2) Who gave the title of 'Sher Khan' to Farid Khan ?
- (3) Write in short the religious policy of Akbar.
- (4) Give two reasons for the success of the policy of Akbar.
- (5) Who established 'Shahjahanabad' and by what name is it known today ?

3. Choose the correct option from the given alternatives and give answers :

- (1) When was the first battle of Panipat fought ?
 (A) 1526 AD (B) 1540 AD (C) 1542 AD (D) 1567 AD
- (2) Where was Akbar born ?
 (A) Amarkot (B) Iran (C) Delhi (D) Agra
- (3) What was the name of Jahangir's Begum?
 (A) Zebunnisa (B) Mehrunnisa (C) Jahanara (D) Alam Ara
- (4) Which monument did Shah Jahan built in memory of his wife?
 (A) Jumma Masjid (B) Shahjahanabad (C) Taj Mahal (D) Qutub Minar
- (5) Where did Aurangzeb construct a makbara for his wife?
 (A) Aurangabad (B) Jaunpur (C) Agra (D) Fatehpur Sikri

