

## Medieval Society Through Travellers Accounts

### Introduction:

The history of the Mughal emperor gives us valuable information about the Mughal state institution. These texts clearly describe the policies of the Mughal Empire that they sought to impose on their territory. Babur was the founder of the Mughal Empire. His grandson Akbar was considered a great Mughal emperor. Akbar not only strengthened his empire but also made it one of the strongest empires of his time.

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Mughal histories were largely written by Mughal courtiers, focusing primarily on rulers, their families, court and wars, and administrative events. Persian was used as the main language. To make the chronicles attractive, they were painted. Akbar-Nama and Badshah-Nama are two important illustrated Mughal official histories. According to Abul Fazal, the Mughal emperor was responsible for protecting his subjects John, Mai, Nam and Din. Shah Jahan's daughter Jahan Ara was involved in several construction projects for Shahjahanabad, the new capital of the empire.

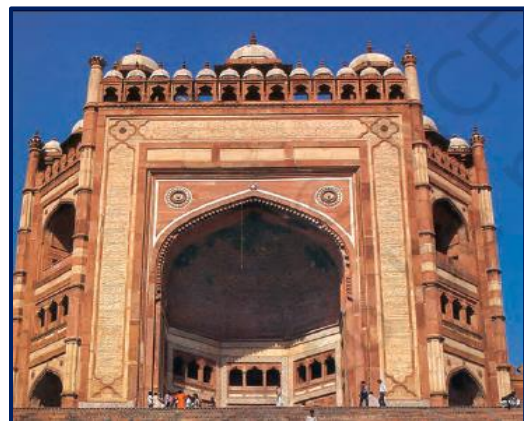
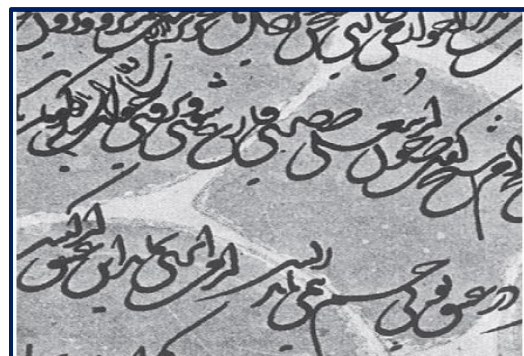
The royal bibliography is a major center for the production of manuscripts. Painters played an important role in the creation of Mughal manuscripts. Papermakers were required to prepare manuscript folios, calligraphers copied text, guilders illuminated pages, illustrators drew scenes from text, and bookbinders collected individual folios and placed them in decorative covers. Set.

There are three divisions in Akbar-Nama. Each section contains information on ten lunar years. The first two volumes were written by Lahori and later edited by Wazir Saadullah Khan. Vizier wrote the third volume because Lahori was very old at the time and could not write.

Gulbadan Begum wrote Humayun-Nama. It gives a glimpse into the homeland of the Mughals. Rokha Darshan was started by Akbar. According to the emperor, it began its day with some religious prayers at sunrise and appeared on the small balcony on the east side of Aurochs. Below, a crowd wanted to see the emperor.

The court histories of the Mughals were written in Persian from various parts of the subcontinent in the 10th / 17th century and are now Indian languages. All Mughal government officials had ranks with two ranks, Zat and Sawar. In the 17th century, 1,000 Zats or more Mansabdars were ranked as lords.

The emperors of the Mughal Empire considered themselves the legitimate rulers of the vast Indian subcontinent. He hired court historians to write about his achievements. Modern historians call these texts epics because they exhibit a continuous chronological record of events.



### DO YOU KNOW?

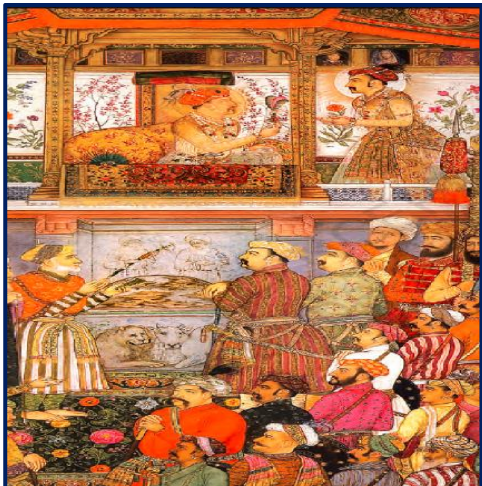
**History:** This is a continuous chronological record of events.

**Manuscript:** A handwritten record.

**The Divine Principle of Sovereignty:** The king was regarded as God's representative, derived his powers from him and therefore had to obey him.

**Sulah-e-Kul:** This is the state policy of religious tolerance.

## 2. Mughals and their empire:



The name Mughal is derived from the word 'Mongol'. The Mughal patriarch was a ruler of Turkey. Zaheeruddin Babur was related to Genghis Khan by his mother.

Babur was expelled from Fergana by the fighting Uzbeks. He first settled in Kabul and came to the Indian subcontinent in 1526. Babur's successor, Nasiruddin Humayun (1530-40, 1555-56), expanded the borders of the empire, but lost it to Afghan leader Sher Shah Sur. In 1555, Humayun defeated the Suras, but died a year later.

Jalaluddin Akbar (1556-1605) was the greatest of all the Mughal emperors. He expanded his empire and made him the largest, strongest and richest. Akbar's three valuable descendants were Jahangir (1605-27), Shah Jahan (1628-58) and Aurangzeb (1658-1707). The power of the Mughal dynasty waned after the death of Aurangzeb (1707).

### DO YOU KNOW?

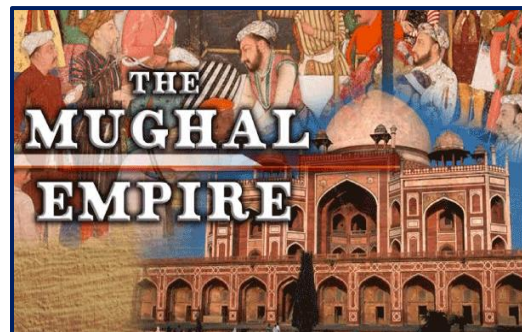
<b>Jizya:</b>	A tax levied on non-Muslims in lieu of military service.
<b>Mansabdar:</b>	All the royal officials were known as Mansabdar.
<b>Chahar Taslim:</b>	A form of bowing to the emperor, performed four times.
<b>Tajwiz:</b>	A petition recommended by a great man for

## 3. Various histories of the Mughals:

The histories made by the Mughal emperors are an important source for the study of the empire and its court. Writers of Mughal histories are consistently courtiers. Famous histories are Akbarnama, Shahjahannama and Alangirnama. Turkish was the mother tongue of the Mughals, but it was Akbar who made Persian the main language in the Mughal court. Personalized by the assimilation of native idioms. Urdu is derived from Persian contact with Hinduism.

All the books of Mughal India are handwritten manuscripts and kept in the bibliography. i.e., Scriptorium.

Papermakers, clerks or calligraphers, guilders, painters, bookbinders, etc. were involved in the preparation of the manuscripts. Akbar's favorite style of calligraphy is the liquid style with atheistic, long horizontal strokes. One of the best calligraphers in the court of Muhammad Hussain Akbar of Kashmir, he was awarded the title of 'Zareen Kalam' (Golden Pen).



### DO YOU KNOW?

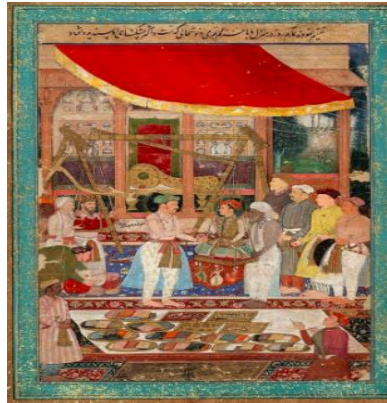
- 1526:** Babur established the Mughal dynasty in India.
- 1530:** Humayun ascended the Mughal throne.
- 1556:** Akbar ascends the throne after the Second Battle of Panipat.
- 1563:** Akbar abolished the pilgrimage tax.
- 1585:** Akbar shifts his capital from Fatehpur Sikri to Lahore.
- 1589:** Baburnama translated into Persian and written by Abul Fazl Akbarnama.





#### 4. Paintings from the Mughal period:

Abul Fazl described painting as a 'magical art', but was widely criticized by the Ulema as being forbidden by the Qur'an and 'Hadith' to create painting. The hadith describes an event in the life of the Prophet Muhammad, which forbade deceiving living beings as an act of God. Safavid kings and Mughal emperors played some of the greatest artists such as Bihjad, Mir Syed Ali, Abdus Samad.

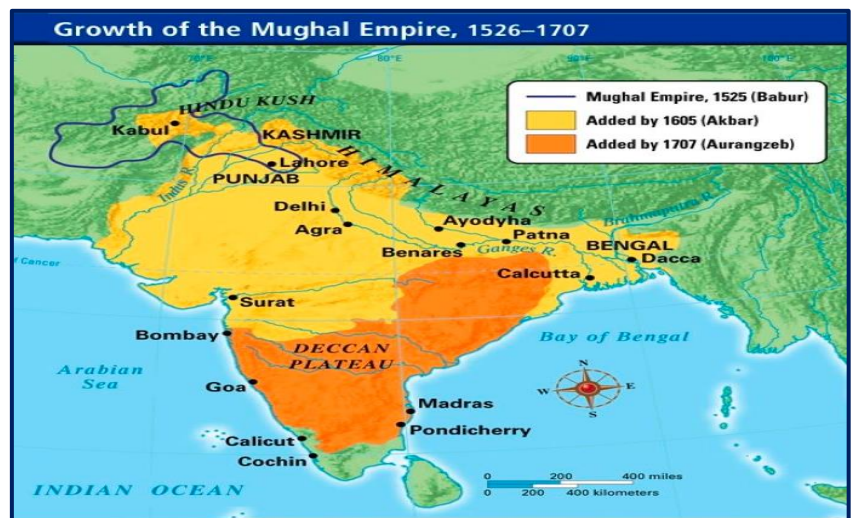


#### 5. Historical text of the Mughals: Akbarnama and Badshahnama:



The Akbarnama by Abul Fazal is divided into three books, the third of which is Ain-i Akbari, which details Akbar's rule. Badshahnama written by Abdul Hamid Lahori about the rule of Shah Jahan. Later, it was edited by Saadullah Khan. The Asiatic Society of Bengal, founded by Sir William Jones in 1784, edited, printed and translated many Indian manuscripts, including Akbarnama and Badshahnama.

#### 6. Ideal Empire of the Mughal Empire:





The Iranian Sufi thinker Suhrawardy developed the idea that the king had a hierarchy of transmitting divine light, who gave spiritual guidance to his people.

From the 17th century, Mughal artists began to depict the emperor wearing a line of light that symbolized the light of God. Abul Fazal described the ideal of Sul-i-Kul (absolute peace) as the cornerstone of enlightened rule.

Sul-i-Kul had freedom of expression for all religions and ideologies, but they did not undermine the monarchy or fight among themselves. Akbar abolished the discriminatory pilgrimage tax in 1563 and Jazia in 1564. Abul Fazal defined sovereignty as a social treaty, that is, the emperor defended life, property, honor and trust and demanded a share of loyalty and resources in return.

## 7. Mughal capitals and courts:



The capital cities of the Mughals changed frequently in the 16th and 17th centuries. Babur captured the capital of Lodhi in Agra. In 1570, Akbar decided to build the new capital, Fatehpur Sikri. Akbar began the construction of a white marble tomb for Sheikh Salim Chisti in Sikri. He also built the Buland Darwaza here after his conquest in Gujarat. In 1585 the capital was shifted to Lahore to bring the northwest under control and keep a close eye on the border.

In 1648, during the reign of Shah Jahan, the capital was shifted to Shahjahanabad with the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk and spacious houses for the aristocracy. In the Mughal court, the position was determined by the territorial proximity to the king. After the emperor ascended the throne, no one was allowed to descend from his position without permission. Forms that greet the ruler indicate the position of the person in the hierarchy. The emperor began his daily routine with personal religious devotion at sunrise and appeared on a small balcony, Aruoca, for public viewing. The emperor went to the public hall of the audience (Diwan-i-Am) to conduct his government primary business.



The Mughal kings celebrated three major festivals in a year, namely solar and lunar Birthday of the Emperor and Nauruz, Iranian New Year on the spring equinox. Mughal emperors received grand titles during or after the coronation. Adults were given titles such as Asaf Khan and Mirza Raja. When a courtier meets the emperor, he has to pay Nazar (small amount) or Peshkash (large amount).

## Mughal family:

The word 'haram' was used to refer to the homeland of the Mughals. The Mughal family consisted of the emperor's wives and mistresses, his close and distant relatives (mothers, stepmothers, stepmothers, sisters, daughters, nieces, aunts, children, etc.) and female servants and slaves. Polygamy was widely practiced by the ruling class. Both Rajput and Mughals married as a way to strengthen political ties and forge alliances. After Nur Jahan, the Mughal queens and princesses began to control considerable financial resources. Chandni Chowk Market was designed by Jahan Ara. Babur's daughter Gulbadan Begum wrote 'Humayunnama' which is considered to be an important source for the Mughal Empire.





## 8. Officials in the Mughal administration:

During the Mughal period, lords were appointed from various ethnic and religious groups. The Turani and Iranian lords played a major role in Akbar's royal service. Two ruling groups of Indian origin, the Rajputs and the Indian Muslims (Sheikh Zadas), entered the royal service from 1560. Emperor personally reviewed changes in ranks, titles, and official postings. Akbar created the Mansab system, which established spiritual relationships with his nobles by treating them as his disciples.

Some important officials are Mir Bakshi (Paymaster General), Diwan-e-Ala (Minister of Finance) and Sadr-us-Sudur (Minister of Grants and local judges or responsible for the appointment of Khazis). Accurate and detailed keeping of awards is a major concern of the Mughal administration. Mir Bakshi oversaw a team of court writers who recorded all court applications and documents. News reports and important official documents traveled throughout the Mughal Empire through the royal post, including round-the-clock relays of pedestrians (Khasid or Patmars) carrying papers wrapped in bamboo containers. The division of functions established at the Center is repeated as the Provinces (Suba),

The parochial level of local government was overseen by three quasi-hereditary officers, Kanungo (keeper of revenue records), Chaudhary (in-charge of revenue collection) and Khazi. Persian was made the language of the whole administration, but local languages were used for village accounts.



### DO YOU KNOW?

**1605-1622:** Jahangir Nama wrote.

**1648:** Shahjahanabad becomes the new capital of the Mughal Empire.

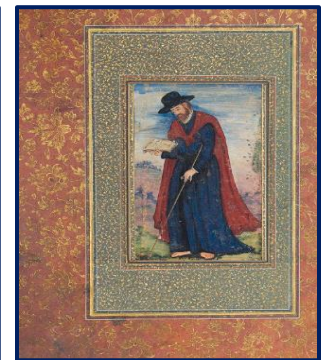
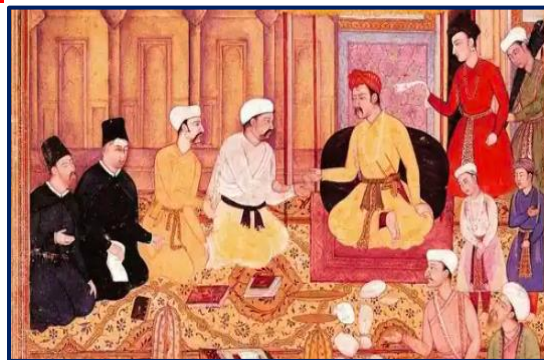
**1668:** Alamgirnama is written by Muhammad Kazim. It provides a historical account of the first decade of Aurangzeb's rule.

**1707:** Aurangzeb dies.

**1857:** The British overthrow the last ruler of the Mughal dynasty.

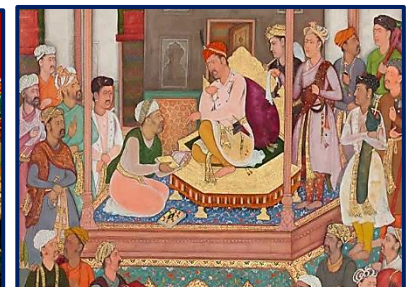
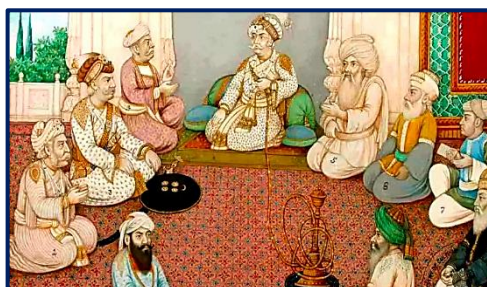
## 9. Jesuit missionaries in Mughal court:

Mughal emperors wore many titles such as Shah Jahan Shah, Jahangir, Shah Jahan etc. All the conquerors who tried to cross the Indian subcontinent had to cross the Hindu Kush mountains. Thus, the Mughals tried to avoid this potential threat and to control Kabul and the Kandahar. Europe gained knowledge about India through the accounts of Jesuit missionaries, travelers, merchants and diplomats. Akbar was interested in Christianity and the first Jesuit mission reached the Mughal court at Fatehpur Sikri in 1580. Jesuit accounts are based on personal observation and illuminate the character and mind of the emperor.



## 10. Akbar Dharma Search:

Akbar's quest for knowledge of religion led to a debate between religions between learned Muslims, Hindus, Jains, Zoroastrians and Christians at the Ibadat Khana in Fatehpur Sikri. From the orthodox Islamic ways of understanding religions, Akbar turned to self-concept liberal worship, centered on light and



sun. Akbar and Abul Fazal tried to create a light vision and used it to create the image of the king and the ideology of the state. The king is a divinely inspired man who has supreme sovereignty over his people and complete control over his enemies. With these liberal ideas, the Mughal rulers were able to effectively control the disproportionate population of the Indian subcontinent for a century and a half.

### Activity

- Q1. Write a difference between the idea of Painting during the Mughal Periods and Stone ages painting?
- Q2. Make a short note on the Medieval societies through travellers?
- Q3. Notes on the Mughal and their Empire?
- Q4. Explain the various history of Mughal?
- Q5. Notes on work culture of Mughal Court and Its Capital?

## Questions For Practice

1. Who made Persian the court language of the Mughal court?  
(a) Akbar (b) Aurangzeb  
(c) Babur (d) Shah Jahan
2. The Asiatic Society of Bengal was founded?  
(a) 1762 (b) 1784  
(c) 1786 (d) 1802
3. Which of the following is not the capital of the Mughal court?  
(a) Delhi (b) Agra  
(c) Lahore (d) Calcutta
4. Whom did Akbar request to write the pre-history of Babur and Humayun's rule?  
(a) Gulbadan Begum  
(b) Abul Fazal  
(c) Abdus Samad Lahori  
(d) None of these
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a scriptorium where the collection of Emperor Manuscripts is stored?  
(a) library (b) Kitub Khana  
(c) Factory (d) Fort
6. Urdu is a mixture of which of the following languages?  
(a) Hindi and Bengali  
(b) Persian and Bengali  
(c) Hindi and Farsi  
(d) Hindi and Tamil
7. What was Sulah-a-Kul?  
(a) Complete peace  
(b) The law of enlightenment  
(c) The state is omnipotent  
(d) Divine guidance
8. Buland Darwaza was built to mark the victory of which Mughal?  
(a) Mughal conquest of Lahore  
(b) Mughal conquest of Kandhari  
(c) Mughal conquest of Gujarat  
(d) Mughal conquest of the Golconda
9. In which Mughal period was the throne of Shah Jahan described?  
(a) Badshah Nama  
(b) Ain-i-Akbari  
(c) Akbar Nam  
(d) Humayun Nam
10. The white marble tomb of Sheikh Salim Chishti was built by which Mughal ruler?  
(a) Babur (b) Humayun  
(c) Akbar (d) Jahangir
11. Who made Persian the court language of the Mughal court?  
(a) Akbar (b) Aurangzeb  
(c) Babur (d) Shah Jahan
12. Established the Asian Society of Bengal under which Governor General?  
(a) William Bentick  
(b) Warren Hastings  
(c) John Shore (d) None
13. Which of the following was the capital of the Mughal court under Babur?  
(a) Delhi (b) Calcutta  
(c) Lahore (d) Agra
14. Who wrote Humayun Nama?  
(a) Gulbadan Begum  
(b) Abul Fazal  
(c) Abdus Samad Lahori  
(d) None of these
15. There is a scriptorium where the collection of Emperor Manuscripts is preserved?  
(a) Library (b) Qutub Khana  
(c) Factory (d) Fort
16. Urdu is a mixture of which of the following languages?  
(a) Hindi and Bengali  
(b) Persian and Bengali  
(c) Hindi and Farsi  
(d) Hindi and Tamil
17. Who started Sulah-e-Kul?  
(a) Akbar  
(b) Jahangir  
(c) Shah Jahan  
(d) Aurangzeb
18. Buland Darwaza was built to mark the victory of which Mughal?  
(a) Mughal conquest of Lahore  
(b) Mughal conquest of Kandhari  
(c) Mughal conquest of Gujarat  
(d) Mughal conquest of the Golconda
19. Which book was described the history of Shah Jahan?  
(a) Shahjahannama  
(b) Ain-i-Akbari  
(c) Akbar Nam  
(d) Humayun Nam:
20. The white marble tomb of Sheikh Salim Chishti was built by which Mughal ruler?  
(a) Babur (b) Humayun  
(c) Akbar (d) Jahangir
21. Which of the following statements about the royal family is incorrect?  
(a) In the Mughal household, wives from royal families were called Begum.  
(b) The wives of the Mughal household who were not of higher birth were called Aghas.  
(c) The mistresses occupied the lowest position.  
(d) The lineage-based family structure is completely stable.

- 22.** Descendants of the Mughals (Father side)?  
 (a) Genghis Khan (b) Timur  
 (c) Ibn Battuta (d) Safavids
- 23.** Heir to Babur?  
 (a) Humayun (b) Akbar  
 (c) Shah Jahan (d) Jahangir
- 24.** — Considered a great Mughal emperor?  
 (a) Shah Jahan (b) Akbar  
 (c) Jahangir (d) Aurangzeb
- 25.** The mother tongue of the Mughals?  
 (a) Persian (b) Arabian  
 (c) Turkey (d) Urdu
- 26.** Who is the author of Humayun Nama?  
 (a) Abul Fazal  
 (b) Humayun  
 (c) Abdul Hamid Lahori  
 (d) Gulbadan Begum
- 27.** In which year did Babur come to India?  
 (a) 1523 (b) 1524  
 (c) 1525 (d) 1526
- 28.** Which Mughal ruler made Persian the language of the court?  
 (a) Babur (b) Humayun  
 (c) Akbar (d) Shah Jahan
- 29.** Which Mughal emperor made Persian the court language?  
 (a) Jahangir (b) Akbar  
 (c) Humayun (d) Aurangzeb
- 30.** Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding the art of painting?  
 (i) The Safavid kings of Iran played the best artists.  
 (ii) Depiction of living beings in the form of painting or sculpture is well-publicized in Islam.  
 (iii) Abul Fazal described painting as 'magical art'.  
 (iv) Mir Syed Ali and Abdus Samad went to Delhi with Emperor Babur.  
 (a) 'i' and 'iv' (b) 'ii' and 'iv'  
 (c) 'ii' only (d) 'I' only
- 31.** Who built 'Punch Mahal' at Agra?  
 (a) Akbar (b) Aurangzeb  
 (c) Babur (d) Shah Jahan
- 32.** The Asiatic Society of Bengal was founded under which British offer?  
 (a) Dalhousie (b) William Jones  
 (c) Nico Da Gama (d) Alexander Jr
- 33.** Which of the following were the capital of the Mughal court?  
 (a) Delhi (b) Agra  
 (c) Lahore (d) All of these
- 34.** Who was Humayun's sister?  
 (a) Gulbadan Begum  
 (b) Abkari Khatoon  
 (c) Razia Begum  
 (d) None of these
- 35.** The Emperor Manuscript Collection is a preserved scriptorium.  
 (a) Library (b) Qutub Khana  
 (c) Factory (d) Fort
- 36.** Urdu is a mixture of which of the following languages?  
 (a) Hindi and Bengali  
 (b) Persian and Bengali  
 (c) Hindi and Farsi  
 (d) Hindi and Tamil
- 37.** What is not a meaning of Sulah-a-Kul?  
 (a) Peace with Nobility  
 (b) Peace with All  
 (c) Complete Peace  
 (d) Universal Peace
- 38.** Buland Darwaza was built to mark the victory of which Mughal?  
 (a) Mughal conquest of Lahore  
 (b) Mughal conquest of Kandhari  
 (c) Mughal conquest of Gujarat  
 (d) Mughal conquest of the Golconda
- 39.** Who wrote Padshah-Nama?  
 (a) Abdul Hamid Lahori  
 (b) Aurangzeb  
 (c) Dara Shikoh  
 (d) All
- 40.** The white marble tomb of Sheikh Salim Chishti was built by which Mughal capital?  
 (a) Lahore (b) Delhi  
 (c) Agra (d) All

## Solutions

- |        |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 5. (b) | 9. (a)  | 13. (d) | 17. (a) | 21. (d) | 25. (c) | 29. (b) | 33. (d) | 37. (a) |
| 2. (b) | 6. (c) | 10. (c) | 14. (a) | 18. (c) | 22. (b) | 26. (d) | 30. (b) | 34. (a) | 38. (c) |
| 3. (d) | 7. (a) | 11. (a) | 15. (b) | 19. (a) | 23. (a) | 27. (d) | 31. (a) | 35. (b) | 39. (a) |
| 4. (a) | 8. (c) | 12. (b) | 16. (c) | 20. (c) | 24. (b) | 28. (c) | 32. (b) | 36. (c) | 40. (c) |

