



M A HISTORY-SEM 2 HY 222 INDIAN HISTORY-2

**MODULE-6 IMPACT OF ISLAM ON INDIAN
CULTURE**



INTRODUCTION

- Islam had a great and lasting effect on Indian subcontinent in terms of society, art, religion etc.
- The missionary zeal of Islam which aimed at conversion of the maximum number of Hindus to Islam gave rise to conservatism. The Hindu leaders thought that they could save their religion and culture only by adopting more orthodox outlook.
- The Bhakti movement was to a large extent influenced by Islam and the Hindu reformers preached fundamental equality of all religions and the unity of God. Sufism exercised considerable influence on the Hindu society and the Sufi saints attracted the attention of the Hindus. The influence of Islam was also noticed in economy, society, language and literature and art and architecture.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

ART AND ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE DELHI SULTANATE

- The Muslim rulers of India were great builders. The special features of the buildings include arches, domes etc.
- The Muslim rulers employed Hindu artists also for the construction of their buildings.
- The medieval Indian art and architecture was a fusion of Arab, Persian and Turkish styles with the Indian style.
- The An open courtyard, enclosures of chambers and ornamentation are the common features of the Medieval Indian architecture
- The use of mortar, colored stone, tiles and marbles are the unique features.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

ART AND ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE DELHI SULTANATE

- The Delhi sultans built many towns which were flourishing centers of trade and commerce.
- The architecture of the Delhi sultanate can be divided into three categories-Imperial or Delhi style of architecture, Provincial architecture and Hindu architecture. There were both religious and secular architecture-the former included Mosques where as the latter included Palaces, forts, towns and gates.
- The style of architecture used by the Delhi sultans at Delhi were called the Delhi style of architecture.
- Quwat- ul- Islam Mosque was the first famous building built by Qutb-ud-din at Qila-i-Rai Pathura in Delhi in 1195 to commemorate the capture of Delhi
- He started the construction of the world famous Qutub-Minar at Delhi in 1199 in memory of the Sufi Saint Qutb-ud-din Bhaktiar Kaki. It was completed by Iltumish.



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- Qutub-Minar was built of Red Sandstone. It had four stories and each stage is determined by a projected balcony. The tower was damaged by lightning in 1369. Firuz Shah Tughlaq repaired it and raised its height. Ala-ud-din Khilji built a magnificent gate near Qutb Minar and it is called Alai Darwaza
- Adhai Dinka Jhonpura was another structure built by Qutbuddin Aibak. It was built out of the materials of the demolished temples. It is attested by the presence of countless human figures on the pillars and even on the grave. Iltumish built a tomb known as Sultan Garhi at Malkapur. The tomb of Iltumish was also built by him.
- The other important buildings of Iltumish are Hau-i-Shamsi, Shamsi Idah and Jami Masjid of Badaun. Balban built his tomb at Delhi. He also built a palace known as Red Palace. His tomb is purely a Muslim in execution.



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ART AND ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE DELHI SULTANATE

- Most of the buildings of Alauddin Khilji were built in the Arabian style of architecture. He enlarged the Quwat-ul-Islam Mosque and added a gateway called Alai Darwasa. He built a new city of Siri. He also excavated an extensive tank known as Haus-i-Khas. He also built a mosque known as Jamait-Khana Mosque. Qutb-udin Mubarak built a mosque at Bayana.
- The Tughlaq architecture were simple and formal. Giasuddin Tughlaq built the city of Tughlaqabad and his own tomb is situated within the walls of the city. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq built the fortress of Adilabad. He also built the city of Jahanpanah. Firuz Shah Tuglaq built the cities of Firozabad, Fatehabad and Jaunpur. He erected several cities, forts, palaces Canals and Tombs.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

ART AND ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE MUGHALS

- It was in the domain of architecture that the Mughals made their impressive contribution to Indian Culture. Indian architecture entered a new phase under the Mughals. It shows a good blending of Indian and Persian art. All the Mughal emperors except Aurangzeb were great builders.
- Babur constructed buildings at Agra, Sikri, Gwalior, Dholpur and Bayana. But only the Mosque at Kabulibagh at Paniput and Jama Masjid at Sambal exist today. Humayun raised some buildings like Din Panah, a palace in Delhi and Mosques in Fatehbad in the Hissar district of Panjab.
- Akbar had a great passion for buildings and he constructed many marvels in this art. The Humayun's Tomb at Delhi was constructed in the year 1569. He built the Agra Fort on the banks of river Yamuna. The main gate of this building is popularly known as Delhi Gate. The most important building in the Agra Fort is Jahangiri Mahal. The city of Fatehpur Sikri was built by Akbar in 1569. The most important buildings in this city were the House of Birbal, the Panch Mahal, the Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

ART AND ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE MUGHALS

- Akbar erected the Buland Darwasa in the Fatehpur Sikri to commemorate the victory at Deccan. He also constructed the Jama Masjid, the Ibadat Khana and the Tomb of Salim Chishti. Jahangir built the Mausoleum of Akbar at Sikandra. He also built the Tomb of Itimud-Daulah in memory of his Nur Jahan's father. It was built at Agra.
- The art of India reached its zenith under Shahjahan. He was called the Engineer King and the Prince of Builders. In Delhi he built the most important buildings like Jama Masjid and Red Fort. Some of the prominent buildings within the Red Fort were Diwan-i-Am, Diwan-i-Khas and Rang Mahal. He built the famous Moti Masjid at Agra. The famous Taj Mahal was built by him in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It is called the Dream in Marble. The period of Aurangzeb witnessed the decay of Mughal architecture.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE PAINTING UNDER THE MUGHALS

- Like art and architecture the Mughal painting represented the happy mingling of Indian as well as Muslim elements. The origin, nature and development of Mughal painting is similar to Mughal architecture.
- Though there were influence of Persian and Chinese art,the Mughal painting in course of time had been completely Indianised. The Mughal pictures were small in size and hence they were known as “Miniature Painting.” Remarkable achievement was made by the Mughal school in portrait painting.
- As a great lover of beauty, art and nature, he patronised painting. He employed court painters and in the paintings known as Alwar Manuscript we can find the representation of his memoirs. When he came to India he brought with him the best painters of his mother country.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

PAINTING UNDER THE MUGHALS

- Humayun developed a taste for painting while he was in exile in Persia. He brought to India two master painters- Khwaja Abdul Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali. These painters prepared an illustrated copy of Hamza Nama in 12 volumes. Mir Sayyid Ali was often called as “Raphael of the East”
- The walls of Akbar’s new capital at Fatehpur Sikri were embellished with master pieces of paintings. He set up a separate department of painting under Khwaja Abdur Samad. He extended patronage to Hindu and Muslim painters. Some of the leading painters under Akbar were Abdus Samad, Sayyid Ali, Faruq Beg, Dazwant, Baswan, Sanwal Das, Tara Chand and Jaga Nath.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

PAINTING UNDER THE MUGHALS

- Of the 17 artists under Akbar, 13 were Hindus and the most important among them were Bhagwan Lal and Mukund. Akbar encouraged pictorial art in spite of the Islamic injunction forbidding the representation of living forms. His period was also known for the development of Fresco painting like that of Ajanta. Themes from Ramayana and several other famous works were painted under his orders.
- Jahangir was himself skilled in handling brush. He employed a number of painters in Allahabad. He was interested in the paintings of small objects and naturally the miniature painting reached its climax during his period. Sir Thomas Roe who visited Mughal court during the time of Jahangir testifies the development of painting during this period. The great painters of Jahangir's time were Farruk Beg, Muhammad Nadir and Muhammad Murad. Other notable painters were Aqua Riza, Uatad Manzur, Bishan Das, Manohar, Madhav and Tulsi. The art of painting became essentially Indian during the time of Jahangir. European painting was introduced by the Portuguese during this period.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

PAINTING UNDER THE MUGHALS

- Shajahan was more interested in architecture than painting. However Azaf Khan and Prince Dara possessed good taste in painting. Some of the important painters of the period of Shajahan were Mir Hassan, Anup Chitra, Chitramani and Faqirullah.
- The art of painting received a great set back under Aurangzeb. He ordered to destroy the paintings of Bijapur and Golconda and whitewashed the paintings in the Akbar's Mausoleum at Sikandra.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON RELIGION SUFISM IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- 'Sufism' is a term used to refer to mystical religious ideas in Islam. Sufism is basically a religion based on the truth of life. It is a mystic tradition that consists of a varied range of ideas and practices that emphasize on the attainment of divine love and compassion of the heart.
- Sufism is said to have been originated near a place called Basra located in Iraq. It had evolved into a well developed movement by the 11th century. They sought to communicate with God through their ascetic practices and doctrine of divine love and union with God.
- The Sufis were organized in a number of different silsilahs (orders). Most of these orders were led by some prominent sufi saint or pir. It was named after them and was followed by his disciples. Most of the Sufis believed in the performance of miracles. Almost all pirs were associated with the miracles performed by them. The different sufi orders had diverse approaches about the matters of polity and state.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON RELIGION

SUFISM IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- The Sufis belonged to different tariqas (orders) of Sufism. The most prominent tariqahs of India are the Shadiliyya, Chishtiyyah, Naqshabandhiyyah, Qadiriyyah, Suhrawardiyyah orders.
- Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti introduced the Chishtiyyah in India. He came to India from Afghanistan in 1192 AD and started living permanently in Ajmer in 1195. Centuries later, with the support of Mughal rulers, his shrine became a place of pilgrimage.
- Suhrawardy order of Sufism was founded by Shihabud-Din Suhrawardy of Baghdad and introduced in India by his disciple Baha-ud-Din Zakariya of Multan. Suhrawardiyya order of Sufism became popular in Bengal.
- Qadiri order founded by Abdul Qadir whose tomb is at Baghdad. Its influence is extensively among the Muslims of south India. Baha-ud-Din Naqshband (1318-1389) of Turkistan founded Naqshbandi order of Sufism.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON RELIGION SUFISM IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- Sufism was a reform movement within Islam which started in Persia as a reaction to the constant feuds between the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam.
- The Sufis believed in equality of all human beings and universal brotherhood. They were in favour of religious toleration and against any type of religious persecution and forcible conversion. The humanitarian ideas of sufi saints attracted the attention of Indians and they welcomed the sufi leaders. Their preachings helped a lot in bridging the gap between the followers of Hinduism and Islam. Sufism became very popular during the reign of Akbar. Among the nobles of his court Sheik Mubarak and his two sons- Abul fazl and Abul Faizi were firm Sufi believers. The sufi saints not only saved the masses from social and religious tyranny but also contributed to the cultural evolution of the country.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON RELIGION

BHAKTI MOVEMENT IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- Bhakti means personal devotion to God. It stresses the Union of the individual with God. Bhakti movement originated in South India between the 7th and the 12th centuries A.D.
- The Bhakti movement in North India gained momentum due to the Muslim conquest. The saints of the Bhakti Movement were men and women of humble origin. They came from all castes and classes.
- The main principles of Bhakti movement were : (1) God is one, (2) To worship God man should serve humanity, (3) All men are equal, (4) Worshipping God with devotion is better than performing religious ceremonies and going on pilgrimages, and (5) Caste distinctions and superstitious practices are to be given up.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON RELIGION

BHAKTI MOVEMENT IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- **Ramanuja** : Ramanuja was one of the earliest reformers. Born in the South, he made a pilgrimage to some of the holy places in Northern India. He considered God as an Ocean of Love and beauty. His teachings were based on the Upanishads and Bhagwad Gita.
- **Ramananda** : Ramananda was the first reformer to preach in Hindi, the main language spoken by the people of the North. He was educated at Benaras. He preached that there is nothing high or low. He welcomed people of all castes and status to follow his teachings. He had twelve chief disciples. One of them was a barber, another was a weaver, the third one was a cobbler and the other was the famous saint Kabir and the fifth one was a woman named Padmavathi.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON RELIGION

BHAKTI MOVEMENT IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- **Kabir** : Kabir was an ardent disciple of Ramananda. It is said that he was the son of a Brahmin widow who had left him near a tank at Varanasi. Later he became a weaver but he was attracted by the teachings of Swami Ramananda. He wanted unity between the Hindus and the Muslims. He preached that both the Hindus and the Muslims are the children of a single God. He had no faith in idol worship, religious rituals and ceremonies. He taught that Allah and Eswar, Ram and Rahim are one and the same.
- **Guru Nanak. (A.D.1469 - A.D.1538)**: He was the founder of the Sikh religion. At the age of 29, he left his home and became a Sadhu. He went to Mecca and Medina. Guru Nanak had finally settled at Karthpur. He laid emphasis on pure and simple living. He preached the Unity of God and condemned idolatry. He was against the caste system. Guru Nanak's followers are called the Sikhs. Nanak's teachings were in the form of verses. They were collected in a book called the Adi Granth. Later Adi Grantham was written in a script called Gurmukhi.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON RELIGION

BHAKTI MOVEMENT IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- **Chaitanya (A.D.1485 - A.D.1533)** : Chaitanya, a great devotee of Lord Krishna, was a saint from Bengal. His followers regarded him as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. He helped the old and the needy. He was opposed to the inequalities of the caste system. He emphasised the need for tolerance, humanity and love. He spread the message of Bhakti in Bengal.
- **Meerabai** : Meerabai was a Rajput princess. She married the Rana of Mewar. She was a pious devotee of Lord Krishna. She has written many songs in praise of Krishna, her favourite God, in Rajastani. Her songs or hymns are even today sung all over India. Her palace was kept open to people of all castes to join her Bhajans of Lord Krishna.
- **Tukaram**: Tukaram was a saint who lived in Maharashtra. He composed a large number of verses called Abhangas or devotional songs in praise of Panduranga or Krishna. He believed in one God who was kind, merciful and protective. He wrote all his abhangas in Marathi.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- The Sultans and the rulers of provincial dynasties gave huge importance to literature. They provided shelter to different scholars who produced historical, religious literature in other fields of knowledge.
- The Sultans of Delhi were interested in the progress of Persian literature. Al-beruni, who visited India in the company of Muhammad Ghazni was a great scholar. Khwaja Abu Nasr, poetically called Naisiri, Abu Bakar bin Muhammad Ruhani, Taj-ud-din and Nur-ud-din Muhammad Awfi were famous scholars in the court of Sultan Iltumish. Amir Khusrau has been regarded as the greatest Persian poet of his age. He wrote a number of prose books, most famous of them being the Khazain-ul-Fatuh, Tughlaq -nama, and the Tarikh-i- Alai.
- This period witnessed the beginning of the growth of nearly all regional languages of India like Bengali, Punjabi, Sindhi, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam etc.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- The Mughal period saw great developments in the field of literature. Babar the first Mughal emperor was one of the pioneers of Turkish poetry and also the author of a very valuable autobiography in Turkish Babar Nama which was later translated into Persian. Gulbadan Begum sister of Humayun wrote the Humayun Nama. Jahangir the great connoisseur of painting wrote his autobiography the Tuzuk-i- Jahangiri.
- Hindi literature made significant progress during Akbar's reign. Tulsidas and the Surdas wrote in this period. Keshavdas a great poet wrote on themes of love. Rahim's dohas or couplets are extremely popular.
- This was the period of many notable writings in the Persian language. Abul Fazl wrote the Ain-i-Akbari and Akbar Nama. Abul Fazl's brother Faizi was a great poet of Persian and was responsible for the translation of many Sanskrit works into Persian. Akbar had started a whole dept for translation of works like Mahabharata, the Ramayana, the Atharva –Veda, the Bhagvad Gita and the Panchatantra.



IMPACT OF ISLAM ON LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- Many important historical works were produced under the emperors after Akbar. Some of the important historians were Abdul Hamid Lahori, Khafi Khan, Muhammad Kazim and Sujan Rai Bhandari. Literature in modern Indian languages also continued to grow. The famous book of Bihari called the Satsai in Hindi belongs to this period.
- One of the most significant developments during the medieval period was the birth of the Urdu language. This new language soon developed one of the richest literatures as a modern Indian language.
- It produced great poets like Wali, Mir Dard, Mir Taqi Mir, Nazir Akbarabadi, Asadullah Khan Ghalib. Many original prose works in Urdu were written like Muhammad Hussain Azad's Darbar-i-Akbari. The Urdu novel was one of the earliest developments in the Indian languages.



THANK YOU

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