



M A HISTORY SEM-2
HY222 INDIAN HISTORY-2

MODULE-5 MUGHAL EMPIRE

Sources of information

- ❖ The Ain-I-Akbari of Abul Fazl
- ❖ Official handbooks or Dastur-ul-Amals
 - ❖ Iqbal Namah of Muhammad Khan
- ❖ Padshah Namah of Abdul Hamid Lahauri
- ❖ Tabqat-I-Akbari of Nizam-ud-din
- ❖ Mundtakhah-ul-Tavarikh of Badauni
- ❖ Foreign accounts and factory records



MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION

- The history of the Mughals from 1526-1707
- Colorful and Splendid
- Brought about immense Prestige
- Beautification of Delhi
- Development of administrative apparatus
- Started purely as a military state but gradually gained the acceptance of the people
- National Character under Akbar but reversed by Aurangzeeb

Nature of Government

- It was a military rule and was necessarily a centralised despotism
- To the Muslims King was the head of government and religion
- To the non-Muslims King was only their temporal head
- Success of administration depended upon the personality of the King
- Mughals were indebted to Shershah and the Persin rulers for administration





Central Government

- The King was the pivot of all administrative machinery
- The power of the King depended upon the strength of the army under his command
- There was no accepted law of succession
- The rulers did not recognised any Khalifa as a superior overlord
- The Kings except a few were hardworking in nature

Central Government

- Ministers are
- Vakil or Prime Minister-important Vakils under Akbar were Bairam Khan and Sadullah Khan
- Diva-I-Ala or Finance Minister-Muzafar Khan, Todarmal and Shah Manzur
- Mir Bakshi or Minister of army
- Sadr-i-Sadar or Religious Minister
- Other ministers-Muhtasib(Public Morals), Qasi-ul-Qazat(Chief Justice)and Daroga-I-Chauki(Intelligence Department)





Provincial Administration

- Empire was divided into Provinces or Subas
- Under Akbar there were 12 Subas
- The number of provinces were increased to 17 under Jahangir
- Under Aurangzeb it increased to 21
- Each Province was under a Governor known as Sbedar or Nizam
- The Provincial Governors were transferred
- Below the Subedar there was the Diwan who looked after the income and expenditure of the Province.

Provincial administration

- Below the Diwan there was Sadr or Qazi who was in charge of lands granted for religious and charitable purposes
- Bakshi or Wakya Navis was another officer who was in charge of recruitment, organisation, discipline and efficiency of the Provincial army.
- Kotwal was the Supt. Of Police in the Provinces





District Administration

- Provinces were divided into districts or Sarkars under Faujdar
- He maintained law and order and controlled revolts
- Amal Guzar was in charge of revenue collection
- Bitikachi assisted Amal Guzar

Provincial & Village administration

- Below the Diwan there was Sadr or Qazi who was in charge of lands granted for religious and charitable purposes
- Bakshi or Wakya Navis was another officer who was in charge of recruitment, organisation, discipline and efficiency of the Provincial army.
- Kotwal was the Supt. Of Police in the Provinces
- Village was the lowest unit of administration
- Each Village had Council of Panchayats
- The Village Panchayat was divided into six committees
- The Panchayats functioned for sanitation, elementary education, irrigation, medical relief, moral and religious welfare of the people and dispensation of justice





Administration of justice

- Mughal rulers were very particular about the dispensation of Justice
- Tabal-I-Adal or special drum of justice of Humayun
- Bell of Justice of Jahangir
- Emperor was the fountain head of Justice
- There were courts of Sadr-us-Sadr(religious cases) and Qazi-ul-Qazat((secular cases)
- Chief Qazi was the chief Judicial officer
- Separate officials were there to dispense justice in the Provinces and villages

Military organisation

- The Mughals maintained the Chaturanga forces
- There were mansabdary troupes subjected to the regulations of Dagh and Chera
- The mughals had no navy
- Mansabdary system was a special feature of Mughal period
- Foreign elements were also there in the Mughal army
- There were six categories of cavalry and seven categories of elephants





Growth of Fort cities under the Mughals

- Forts played an important part
- Important forts were those at Allahabad, Kalinjar, Chunar, Rohtas, Ajmir, Gwalior, Delhi, Lahore, Ranthambor, Qandhar, Kabul, Asigarh, Daulatabad, Aurangabad, Bijapur and Golkonda
- Foodgrains, ammunitions etc. were stored in these forts.
- Forts were used for offensive as well as defensive purposes
- Political prisoners were put in the forts.

Trade and urban centres

- Accounts of foreign travelers reveal that a number of industries flourished under the Mughals.
- India was a rich manufacturing nation under the Mughals.
- Manufacturing was a rural activity under the Mughals.
- Textiles, silk, diamond and woolen were the most important large scale industries. Export promulgated under the Mughals
- Foreign travelers mentioned that nearly 160 varieties of textiles were exported to various parts of Asia and Europe
- Diamond mining associated with Golconda was an important industry
- Iron and copper mining developed in Singbhum and Khetri in Rajasthan.
- River transport was largely used for exports
- Brahmaputra, Ganga and Kavery basin were largely utilised
- Lahore and Multan were large trade centres
- Bengal played a crucial role for trade to Peru and Malaaca
- Trade significantly developed with the emergence of the Europeans





Land Revenue system

- Babur and Humayun followed the Jagirdary System. Jagir was a unit of land whose revenue was assigned to a Mansabdar in lieu of his salary
- Under the Jagirdary system the whole land was divided into Jagirs and assigned to the Jagirdars for the collection of revenue. The cultivators suffered a lot in this system. The whole of the cultivable land was measured by using a standard yard known as Jarib. The officers were given strict instructions on measurement of land.
- For the purpose of revenue collection land was divided into four categories on the basis of cultivation. The classifications were Polaj (Land always cultivated), Parauti (land which was left uncultivated for more than two years), Chachar (Land which was left fallow for three or four years) and Banjar (Land which was left uncultivated for five or more years).
- The state share of the land revenue was fixed on the basis of the fertility of the soil. The tax was collected on two occasions-rabi and Kharif seasons. The land revenue system introduced by Akbar continued through out the Mughal period.

Mughal Economy

- There was an uneven distribution of wealth among the various classes. However the general economic condition of the people was satisfactory.
- Major agricultural products were rice, wheat, barley, jawar and millets. Cash crops like cotton and sugarcane were known as Jinas-I-Kamil and Jinas-I-Ala
- Cultivated medicinal herbs, spices and indigo. Agricultural products were exported
- Govt. provided irrigation and other facilities for the development of agriculture. Tobacco and chilies were introduced by the Portuguese
- Rice was cultivated at Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat and Kashmir. Wheat and Barley- Panjab, Madhya Pradesh and Agra. Jawar was cultivated at Dipalpur. Millets at Ajmir, Gujarat and Khandesh, Cotton was cultivated at Khandesh and Bengal where as sugar and Indigo at Bengal and Sindh





Mughal economy

- Cottage, small scale and large scale industries promulgated. Cotton and silk weaving, dyeing, shawl and carpet making were the major industries. Cotton textile was the principal industry
- Silk and Saltpeter was produced in plenty. Paper manufacturing and shipping industry promulgated.
- Principal crafts were the manufacture of furniture, boxes and stools, leather goods, pottery and metal work. Perfection was attained in wood designing and ivory carving and working of metals and precious stones
- Many artisans worked for the state in the Imperial work shops or Karkanas
- They were located at Lahore, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri and Ahmedabad.
- The items produced by the Karkanas for Royal consumption included caps, shoes, curtains etc.

Mughal Economy

- Internal and foreign trade promulgated much. Roads were fairly secure and contributed to the growth of trade
- Mercantile traffic passed through roads and rivers. Munim Khan built a bridge at Jaunpur under Akbar
- Ravi canal was repaired under Shajahan in 1639. Prices of daily use was very cheap. Virji Vora of Surat was the richest man who lived under the Mughals.
- Foreign trade with different countries of Europe and Asia. The principal land route in the north west, one from Lahore to Kabul and the other from Multan to Khandhar
- European powers like Portuguese and English were permitted to establish factories. The chief ports were Surat, Broach, Cambey, Bassain, Chaul, Bhatkal, Calicut, Nagapatnam, Masulipatnam and Sonargaon.





Mughal economy

- Surat was the emporium of western trade. The main items of export were textiles, luxury goods, pepper, indigo, opium and salt petre.
- The chief imports were wines, Persian carpets, Arabian horses and African slaves.
- Akbar and Jahangir took great interest in the foreign sea born trade. It is interesting to note that the Mughal emperors imported dogs from Europe.
- There were 26 varieties of gold coins circulated by the Mughals. The Imperial Mint was at Delhi
- Mints functioned in Bengal, Lahore, Jaunur, Ahmadabad and Patna. Shajahan kept a mint at Surat.

Mughal Society

- Society was divided into two broad divisions based on religion. The Hindus are referred to as Gentoos and the Muslims as Moors. The two communities differed with respect to social manners, dress, diet and religious festivals.
- Pardah system was strictly observed by the high class women of the Hindu and Muslim communities. Social evils like sati, child marriage and dowry existed in the society. Akbar issued orders abandoning these evils. Divorce and remarriage common among Muslims was prohibited to Hindu women.
- The Muslim women were given religious education. The nobles and their ladies set fashion for others to follow. Mirabai was a famous women saint who preached bhakti. Women occupied a high position in the family and led a life of dignity and respect





Mughal society

- King was the head of the social system. He enjoyed unparalleled status and ultimate authority in everything. The Mughal rulers were notorious for their large harems.
- The nobles monopolised the jobs of the country. They led a luxurious life
- They were generally corrupt. They wasted their fortunes in drinking and many of them died in excessive drinking.
- Middle class people were heterogeneous in character. They included wealthy merchants, professional men and Petty Mansabdars. The merchants usually concealed their wealth. The merchants maintained a high standard of living.
- The lower class section of the society comprised of cultivators, artisans, small traders, shop keepers, slaves etc. They led an unattractive life. But there was no scarcity of food except in times of famine. The condition of peasants at the time of Akbar was not bad.

Mughal Society

- Hindu customs included Chhati(Sixth day after birth), Mundan, Vidyarambha, Vivah and Shradha. Muslim Customs are Aqiqah(Birth of a child), Bismillah(Education), marriage and Chahlum(40 day after death).
- Dress varied from region to region and people to people. The lower section of the people wore simple dress while the rich class wore embroidered dress. Fine dhotis were used by well to do Hindus. People were vegetarian as well as non. Drinking of liquor was fairly common.
- Abul Fazl gave details about the games. Hunting was a favourite pass time. The people were interested in witnessing animal fights. They were also interested in shooting and maintaining aquariums. Indoor games include chess, playing cards and dancing.





Mughal society

- The most common Hindu festivals were Basant Panchami, Holi, Divali, Sivaratri and Dushra. The most common Muslim festivals were Nauros, Muhram, Rabi, Shabi, Id and Id-ul-Asha.
- Education and cultural activities received a Phillip.
- Muslims were educated at Madrasas where the syllabus was called Dars-i-Nizami which consisted of 11 subjects.
- Hindu education was imparted by patasalas.
- The centres of higher Hindu learning were Banaras, Mathura, Prayag, Ayodhya, Nadia, Mithila and Srinagar
- There was no separate schools for girls and poor women had very little chance of getting education



Thank You
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