

### Lesson at a Glance

- The Mughals were great rulers. They created a huge empire. From the latter half of the 16th century they expanded their kingdom from Agra and Delhi, until in the 17th century they controlled nearly all the subcontinent.
- The Mughals were descendants of two great lineages of rulers. From their mother's side they were descendants of Genghis Khan, ruler of the Mongol tribes, China and Central Asia. From their father's side they were the successors of Jimur, the ruler of Iran, Iraq and modern day Turkey. However, the Mughals were proud of their Jimurid ancestry.
- **Babur** was the first Mughal emperor, He became the ruler of Delhi by defeating Ibrahim Lodi at **Panipat** in **1526**. He also established his control over Agra. But he could not rule for a long time. After his death in 1530, his son Humayun became the second Mughal emperor.
- Sher Khan defeated Humayun at Chausa in 1539 and Kanauj in 1540 forcing him to flee to Iran. He recaptured Delhi in 1555 with the help of Safarid Shah but died soon afterwards.
- Akbar became the emperor of Delhi at the age of 13. He was very competent and soon began to handle the entire empire successfully. In 1568 he seized the Sisodiya capital of Chittor and in 1569 Ranthambhor. During the period 1570-1585 he started military campaign in Gujarat which was followed by campaigns in the east in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. During the period 1585-1605 to Akbar expanded his empire.
- Jahangir became the emperor in 1605. He continued the military campaigns started by Akbar.
- After Jahangir Shah Jahan took the control of the Mughal Empire. He continued Mughal campaigns in the Deccan.
- Aurangzeb's reign ranges from 1658 to 1707. His campaign against Maratha Chieftain Shivaji was very important. Initially Aurangzeb got success. But soon Shivaji declared himself an independent king after being insulted by Aurangzeb. He also resumed his campaigns against the Mughals.



- From 1698 Aurangzeb personally managed campaigns in the Deccan against the Marathas who started guerrilla warfare. Aurangzeb also faced the rebellion in north India of the Sikhs, Jats and Satnamis.
- The Mughals followed the Mughal and Timurid custom of Loparcenary inheritance or a division of the inheritance amongst all the sons.
- One of the major policies of the Mughals was to campaign constantly against rulers who refused to accept Mughal authority. However, several rulers joined them voluntarily. Many Rajputs married their daughters into Mughal families to gain high positions. But at the same time there were many Rajputs such as the Sisodiya Rajputs, who resisted the Mughal authority.
- The Mughal Empire was expanding to different regions. Hence, the Mughals recruited diverse bodies of people. Those who joined Mughal service were enrolled as *mansabdars*. These *mansabdars* held a *mansab*, meaning a position or rank. Rank and salary of the *mansabdars* were determined by a numerical value called *zat*.
- Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called *jagirs*.
- In Akbar's reign these *jagirs* were carefully assessed so that their revenues were roughly equal to the salary of the *mansabdar*. By Aurangzeb's reign this was no longer the case. The actual revenue collected was often less than the granted sum.
- The main source of income available to Mughal rule was tax on the produce of the peasantry.
- Akbar's revenue minister was Todar Mal. He carried out a carefully survey of crop yields, prices and areas cultivated for a 10-year period, i.e. 1570–1580. On the basis of this data, tax was fixed on each crop in cash. Each province was divided into revenue circles with its own schedule of revenue rates for individual crop. This revenue system was known as *zabt*.
- Abul Fazl, one of the Akbar's friends and courtiers wrote a three-volume history of Akbar's reign, titled *Akbar Nama*.
- Abul Fazl explained that the empire was divided into provinces called *subas*, governed by a *subadar*.
- The *subadar* carried out both political and military functions. Each province also had a financial officer or *diwan*.
- Akbar's nobles commanded large armies and had access to large amounts of revenue. By the end of the 17th century these nobles became independent.

- During the 1570 Akbar started discussions on religion at Fatehpur Sikri with the *ulama*, Brahmanas, Jesuit priests who were Roman catholics and Zoroastrians. These religious discussions led Akbar to the idea of *Sulh-i Kul* or 'universal peace.'
- Akbar's son Jahangir followed his father's policy of *Sulh-i kul*.
- Mehruuniza married the Emperor Jahangir in 1611 and received the title Nur Jahan. She was very supportive to the monarch.
- The Mughal Empire exercised a great deal of influence and power. But by the end of the 17th century the authority of the Mughal Empire declined which gave rise to many independent provinces like Hyderabad and Awadh.

### ■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

#### Let's Recall

Q. 1. Match the following:

<i>mansab</i>	Marwar
Mongol	governor
Sisodiya Rajput	Uzbek
Rathor Rajput	Mewar
Nur Jahan	rank
<i>subadar</i>	Jahangir

Ans.

<i>mansab</i>	rank
Mongol	Uzbek
Sisodiya Rajput	Mewar
Rathor Rajput	Marwar
Nur Jahan	Jahangir
<i>subadar</i>	governor

Q. 2. Fill in the blanks:

- The capital of Mirza Hakim, Akbar's half-brother, was .....
- The five Deccan Sultanate were Berar, Khandesh, Ahmadnagar, ..... and .....
- If *zat* determined a *mansabdar*'s rank and salary, *sewar* indicated his .....
- Abul Faze, Akbar's friend and counsellor, helped him frame the idea of ..... so that he could govern a society composed of many religions, cultures and castes.

Ans.

- Kabul
- Bijapur, Golconda
- number of horses maintained
- administration



**Q. 3.** What were the central provinces under the control of the Mughals?

**Ans.** Panipat, Lahore, Delhi, Agra, Mathura, Amber, Ajmer, Fatehpur Sikri, Chittor, Ranthambhore and Allahabad.

**Q. 4.** What were the relationships between the mansabdar and the jagir?

**Ans.** Mansabdars were the patrons who joined Mughal services. They received their salaries as revenue assignments. This was called *jagir*. Mansabdars did not actually reside in or administer their *jagir*. They only had rights to the revenue of their assignments. This revenue was collected for them by their servants, while the *mansabdars* themselves served in some other part of the country.

### Let's Understand

**Q. 5.** What was the role of the zamindar in Mughal administration?

**Ans.** *Zamindars* were powerful local chieftains appointed by the Mughal rulers. They exercised great influence and power. They collected taxes from the peasants and gave them to the Mughal emperor. Thus, they played the role of intermediaries. In some areas the *zamindars* became more powerful. The exploitation by Mughal administrators made them to rebellion. They got support from the peasants in rebelling against the Mughal authority.

**Q. 6.** How were the debates with religious scholars important in the formation of Akbar's ideas on governance?

**Ans.** Akbar's interaction with people of different faiths made him realise that religious scholars who emphasised ritual and dogma were often bigots. Their teachings created divisions and disharmony amongst his subject. This finally led Akbar to the idea of *Sulh-i Kul* or universal peace. He inferred that the idea of tolerance was of utmost importance because it did not discriminate between people of different religious in his realm. Instead it focused on a system of ethics i.e. honesty, justice, peace. These were the virtues universally applicable. Finally Akbar, with the help of Abul Fazl, formed a vision of governance around the idea of *sulh-i kul*.

**Q. 7.** Why did the Mughals emphasise their Timurid and not their Mongol descent?

**Ans.** The Mughals were descendants of two great lineages of rulers. From their mother's side they were descendants of Genghis Khan, ruler of the Mongol tribes. From their father's side they were the successors of Jimur, the ruler of Iran, Iraq and modern-day Turkey. However, the Mughals did not like to be called Mongol because Mongol's especially Genghis Khan's, memory was associated with massacre of innumerable people. It was also linked with the Uzbeks, their Mongol competitors. On the other hand, the Mughals were proud of their Jimurid ancestry, because it achieved good name in the history.

### Let's Discuss

**Q. 8.** How important was the income from land revenue to the stability of the Mughal Empire?

**Ans.** Land revenue was the backbone of the Mughal Empire. Without it nothing could be done. The king could not pay the salary of his soldiers. Neither could he do any welfare work. The administrative expenditure was so vast and this could be met with this revenue only. Hence, revenue was important to strengthen the empire.

**Q. 9.** Why was it important for the Mughals to recruit mansabdars from diverse backgrounds and not just Turanis and Iranis?

**Ans.** The Mughal Empire expanded to different regions. Hence, it was important for the Mughals to recruit diverse bodies of people in order to make people comfortable with them. Apart from Turanis and Iranis, now there were *mansabdars* from Indian Muslims, Afghans, Rajputs, Marathas and other groups.

**Q. 10.** Like the Mughal Empire, India today is also made up of many social and cultural units. Does this pose a challenge to national integration?

**Ans.** No. This does not pose any challenge to national integration. Unity in diversity is the special feature of India. Indians may belong to different regions, cultures, castes and creed. But this does not mean that they are different people. They are one and are proud of being born in India.



Sometimes social conflicts arise no doubt but they are solved in an amicable way. Whenever there is external threat, all Indians come together. The Kargil war is worth-mentioning here. India fought and won the war in the last. That was the time when everyone was filled with patriotic feelings. There was only one goal, *i.e.* to win the war and that India did with the help of her brave heroes.

**Q. 11.** *Peasants were vital for economy of the Mughal Empire. Do you think that they are as important today? Has the gap in the income between the rich and the poor in India changed a great deal from the period of the Mughals?*

**Ans.** Peasants are as important today as they were during the Mughal Empire. They cultivate land and grow crops without which we cannot survive. They pay land revenue to the government which is used in various development work. We cannot think of a sound economy without them. They are the backbone of the country.

### Let's Do

**Q. 12.** *The Mughal Empire left its impact on the different regions of the subcontinent in a variety of ways. Find out if it had any impact in the city, village or region in which you live.*

**Ans.** I live in Delhi. It was the capital of the Mughal Empire. The Empire changed the face of the city. We see the Red Fort, Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid, Humayun's tomb, the Mughal garden etc. in the city. These were the contributions of the Mughal emperors who made the city so rich and colourful.