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Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh
Class VII

Subject:- History and Civics

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Chapter II

Aurangzeb and His Deccan Policy —
Decline of the The Mughal Empire

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about the sixth and the last great ruler of the Mughal Dynasty. He came to the throne after a war of succession. His reign is divided into two phases

- i) From 1658 to 1680 when he was in north India
- ii) From 1681 to 1707 when he was in the Deccan.

During the reign of Aurangzeb numerous revolts took place. In northern India Aurangzeb had increased the tax from one-third to one-half of the produce. The Jats of the Agra-Mathura region, the Sertanais and the Bundelas revolted against the increased land tax. The most powerful revolts were that of the Rajputs, the Sikhs and the Marathas.

Aurangzeb considered Shivaji his greatest threat. He sent Shaista Khan to capture Shivaji. But as it failed so Aurangzeb sent Raja Jai Singh to the Deccan. As Jai Singh had

beseiged the fort of Purandhar, Shivaji was forced to sign the Treaty of Purandhar. As per the terms of the treaty, Shivaji went to the Mughal court at Agra to meet Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb insulted him and put him under house

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arrest. But Shivaji managed to escape and renewed his hostilities with the Mughals. Aurangzeb could not crush the Maratha power. Even after realizing that the Marathas were a powerful enemy, he did not try to make peace with them.

The Sikhs and the Mughals were generally on friendly terms. But the execution of the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev strained the Mughal-Sikh relations. Again the execution of Guru Teg Bahadur during the reign of Aurangzeb aggravated the tension between the Sikhs and the Marathas. The tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh organized the Sikhs into a disciplined military group called the Khalsa. He inspired his soldiers to fight against the Mughals.

Aurangzeb gave up the policy of tolerance. He became unpopular when he re-introduced jaziya. His deccan policy proved to be a failure. Continuous wars emptied the treasury and led to a loss of manpower. Due to Aurangzeb's absence from the north, administration suffered. No cultural development as such was witnessed during the reign of Aurangzeb.