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21/11/22

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

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 8
The Mughal Empire (Continued)

Good Morning Students!

This week we will study about Sher Shah Suri who ousted Humayun from the throne. Sher Shah was a very ambitious man. He was the son of a Afghan jagirdar of Sasaram in Bihar. Within a few years he raised a large army and became powerful in the region. He defeated Humayun twice and occupied Delhi and Agra. Unfortunately, Sher Shah ruled for a very brief period.

Sher Shah was a good general and an even better administrator. The king was the most powerful person in the empire. He was assisted by a council of ministers. The empire was divided into provinces (sarkars) and districts (parganas). The lowest administrative unit was the village. Sher Shah toured the empire to inspect and ensure administrative efficiency. To prevent officials from becoming powerful in a particular region, Sher Shah transferred them every two to three years.

Sher Shah paid regular salaries in cash to his soldiers and officers. He branded all horses (dagh) to prevent inferior quality horses from being included in the cavalry. He maintained an accurate descriptive roll

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(chehra) of each soldier. He personally supervised all army recruitments and enforced strict discipline among his soldiers.

Land revenue administration

All cultivable land was measured and classified into good, average and bad, according to its fertility. The king's share was fixed at one-third of the total produce. It could be paid in cash or kind. The administrative officials were lenient at the time of revenue assessment but strict at the time of tax collection.

Trade:- To make travelling easier and to promote trade and commerce, Sher Shah built an excellent network of roads. The most famous of these is the Grand Trunk Road. The roads were provided with sarais. To encourage foreign trade he reduced custom duties. He introduced a silver coin called 'rupia'.

Sher Shah followed a policy of religious toleration. He constructed Purana Qila in Delhi. He also built the fort of Rohtasgarh. With his ^{death} the Sur empire declined.

MCQ's

6. Gulbadan Begum
7. Bahadur Shah

9. Kalinjar
10. Both (a) & (b)
8. 1555