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

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 9
Akbar the Great

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about the third and the most important ruler of Mughal dynasty - Akbar

After the death of Humayun in 1556, Akbar was proclaimed the king. He was only 13 years old and Bairam Khan was appointed as Akbar's regent. He had to fight against the Afghans initially. In 1556, Second Battle of Panipat was fought between the Mughals and Hemu (Chief Minister of Adil Shah Sur). With the defeat of the Afghans, Mughals reoccupied Delhi and Agra. A few years later, Akbar ended the regency of Bairam Khan and took over the administration. He decided to annex more territories so that the Mughals could become the supreme power.

Akbar annexed Malwa, conquered Gujarat, Bengal and Bihar. Between 1585 to 1595, Kashmir, Sindh, Kabul, Kandahar and Baluchistan were brought under the Mughal fold. In the Deccan Akbar brought the regions of Berar, Khandesh and Ahmadnagar under the Mughal rule. One of the famous battles of his times was the Battle of Haldighati fought between Maharana Pratap, the ruler of Mewar and the Mughal forces.

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Administration :- It was an absolute centralized monarchy with Akbar holding absolute power. The meeting was generally held in Diwan-i-Khas. The emperor was the head of both civil and military administration. He took decision on important matters. He was assisted by many officials.

- The wazir or dewan - head of revenue department.
- The mir bakshi looked after the military department.
- The qazi was the chief judge.

Provincial administration

The empire was divided into provinces called subas, each headed by a governor called subadar. He served as a link between the province and the emperor.

Each suba was divided into sarkars or districts and each sarkar into number of parganas. A pargana consisted of many villages. The lowest unit of administration, village was under a panchayat. The kotwal looked after town administration.

Army administration

The mansabdari system was an important feature. Mansab means rank or position. A mansabdar's rank was divided into zat and sawar. The former showed the personal status of the mansabdar. The salary was fixed in cash but paid by assigning a jagir.