

Subject: History and Civics

Teacher: Ms Rameet

Chapter 9 The Mughal Empire

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about the Mughals who established their rule in India in 1526 after Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat. With the advent of the Mughals begins a new era of Indian history.

There are plenty of sources, both literary and archaeological to reconstruct the age of the Mughals. Among the literary sources mention may be made of the following

1. Abul Fazl's Ain-i-Akbari and Akbarnama - Abul Fazl was a great scholar as well as leading historian of the Mughal age. His most famous work Ain-i-Akbari was written in Persian and provides information about the army, legal and revenue systems of Akbar's administration. Ain-i-Akbari contains five sections:
 - a) The first one deals with the Royal Household.
 - b) The Second Book is concerned with the Military and Civil Services.
 - c) The Third Book deals with the Imperial Administration, including the administration of law and justice.
 - d) The Fourth Book provides information about Hindu theology (religious beliefs) and Emperor's fondness for books and persons with whom he could discuss religion and literature.

28.10.24

Class IXChapter 9History and Civics

Ms Rameet

e) The Fifth Book tells us about Abul Fazl's ancestors and presents an account of his life.

2. Other Literary Works :- A few other historical works of the age are i) Nizam-ud-din Ahmed's *Tabaqat-i-Akbari* ii) Emperor Jahangir's autobiography

Among the archaeological sources are the monuments, the most important of which are Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Taj Mahal.

Taj Mahal - The most outstanding monument built by Shah Jahan is Taj Mahal at Agra on the banks of the River Yamuna. This grand mausoleum was built in memory of his beloved Queen Mumtaz Mahal. Its main features were

1. The main structure is constructed on a high platform.
2. On each of the four corners of this platform there is a minaret.
3. The central dome rises to a height of 56.1 metres.
4. The interior has an octagonal chamber.
5. The marble dome in the centre looks like an inverted lotus.
6. The entire structure is made of marbles and walls are decorated with floral designs made of semi-precious stones. The method of decoration is *pietra dura*.

The Jama Masjid :- This Masjid was built by Shah Jahan during 1650 - 1656 under the superintence of Sadullah Khan. There are three

28.10.24

Class IXChapter 9History and Civics

Ms Rameet

gateways to the mosque, approached by majestic flights of steps on the South, North and Eastern sides. The three gateways give access to an open court paved with large squares of red sandstone. On the west side of the court is the mosque proper, surmounted by three marble domes. The central dome is the largest and the highest.

Red Fort :- It was constructed by Shah Jahan during the period 1639 - 1648. It is a huge structure made of sandstone and marble. Within this fort there are magnificent buildings such as the Diwan-i-Aam and the Diwan-i-Khas.

Let us now study about the important rulers of the Mughal dynasty. Babur was drawn to India by its amazing wealth. He was invited to invade India and oust Ibrahim Lodi from the throne. After defeating him Babur fought two more wars. In the Battle of Khanwa, Babur defeated Rana Sanga and in the Battle of Ghagra, Babur defeated the Afghans. He was succeeded by Humayun, during whose period power passed in to hands of the Sur dynasty. But Humayun reestablished the Mughal rule again in 1555.

In 1556, came the most important ruler Akbar. In the beginning of his reign only he had a battle with the Afghan army - the Second Battle of Panipat. For the first four years he was under regency of Bairam

28.10.24

Class IXChapter 9History and Civics

Ms Rameet

Khan. In 1560 Akbar finally took over the reins of administration in his own hands. He followed a policy of conquest for the expansion of his empire. He carried out expeditions both in north India and the Deccan. The most important battle was that of Haldighati, fought in 1576 between Maharana Pratap the ruler of Mewar and the Mughal army led by Raja Man Singh.

After Akbar, his son Jahangir succeeded to the throne. Next came Shah Jahan who is known for his architectural work. He was succeeded by Aurangzeb who came to the throne after the war of succession. His personal life and austerity won him the support of the Muslim clergy who called him a Zinda Pir, or a living saint.

Let us now study about Akbar's Rajput policy. Akbar built strong relations with the Rajputs and gained their loyalty which helped to strengthen the Mughal empire. His matrimonial alliances with Rajputs was part of his successful Rajput policy. He enrolled Rajputs in to nobility. He gave his wives complete religious freedom. It ended the differences between the Rajputs and the Muslim rulers.

Akbar wanted to promote good relations between the Hindus and the Muslims. So he took a number of steps for the same. He abolished the poll tax or jizyah, which the non-Muslims were required to pay. He abolished

28.10.24

Class IXChapter 9History and Civics

Ms Rameet

pilgrim tax and the practice of forcibly converting prisoners of war to Islam. Some of the important positions in the court were given to the Hindus. In 1575 he built Ibadat Khana or the Hall of Prayer, where selected theologians were called for religious discussions. Akbar replaced the power of ulama by the power of the Emperor and made himself final arbiter (a person who settles disputes or has ultimate authority in a matter) in religious matters. He came up with a new faith called Din-i-Ilahi which was based on Sulh-i-ku or universal harmony.

Students, we will continue with the chapter next week. Please read Page No. 79-82 of your textbook and complete the following home assignment

1. Short Answer Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9
2. Structured Questions 1(a, b, c); 2(a, b); 5(a, b, c); 6(a, b, c).