



Have you seen the TajMahal ? Red Fort of Delhi and Buland Darwaza of Fatehpur Sikri ? All these architectural pieces were built by the Mughal rulers.

Before establishment of the Mughal rule, Sultanate period was there. Moreover some Rajput states were also there.

### Establishment of the Mughal Empire

The Mughal empire was established by Babur in (1526 A.D). His original name was Zahiruddin Mohammad Babur.

In Panipat, a battle was fought between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi. (20, April, 1526). This battle is known as the first battle of Panipat. Babur used canons in this battle and defeated Ibrahim Lodi and laid foundation of the Mughal empire in India.

### Mughal Rulers

Mughal rulers include Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb.

**Babur (1526 A.D - 1530 A.D) :** Babur was a intelligent and powerful warrior. He was fluent in Persian and Arabic, a nature lover and a writer. He wrote autobiography 'Tuzuk-i-Baburi' (Baburnama), a famous work of world literature.

**Humayun (1530 A.D - 1540 A.D, 1555 A.D - 1556 A.D) :** Humayun ascended to the throne of Delhi in 1530. Humayun means lucky, but he faced many difficulties in life. He fought a battle against Sultan Bahadur Shah of Gujarat and Sher Shah, the powerful ruler of Bihar (1540 A.D). Sher Shah defeated Humayun in the battle of Kannauj and drove him out of India. Humayun lost his empire and escaped to Iran. But a few years later, he came to India again. With the help of the emperor of Iran (in 1545), he conquered Kabul and Kandhar (in 1555 A.D) and re-established his rule over India.

Humayun was fond of reading and writing like his father. He founded a town named Dinpanah near Delhi. He died after falling down the steps of the library during the evening prayer.

**Shershah Suri (1540 A.D - 1545 A.D) :** Shershah was a Muslim of the Afghan dynasty. His original name was Farid Khan. He established his rule over India after defeating Humayun. He was a reformer and a just ruler. He established peace in the Kingdom by controlling bandits and robbers. He established a new postal system. He built inns for traders and pilgrims, introduced the currency of the rupee and formed a huge army. He built a long highway 'Grand Trunk Road', which connected Bengal and North India.

He died in 1545 A.D while inspecting a canon. No powerful ruler like him ever came to the throne afterwards. Consequently (in 1545 A.D). Humayun invaded Delhi and Agra and defeated the Afghans and re-established the Mughal empire.

**Akbar (1556 A.D - 1605 A.D) :** As a ruler Akbar holds a significant place in the history of India. He was born in 1542 A.D in the home of a Hindu Rajput ruler in Amarkot. He became the Mughal emperor of Delhi at the age of 14, after the death of Humayun. Second battle of Panipat took place between Akbar and Hemu. This battle was won by Akbar.



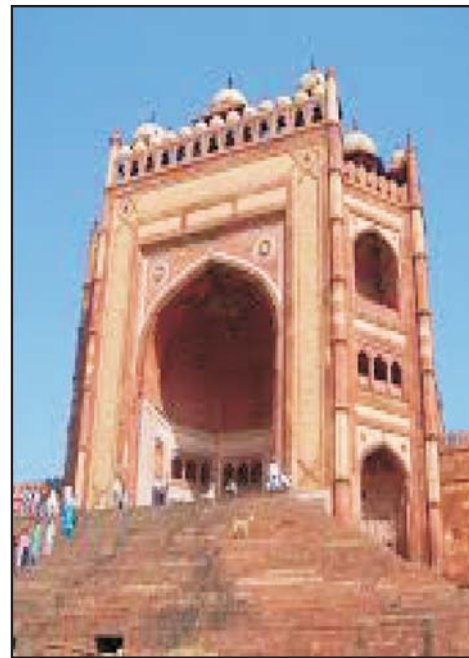
Akbar established his rule over vast area from Punjab to Bengal and from Delhi to Gujarat. The famous battle of Haldighati was fought between Akbar and Rana Pratap of Mewar. Akbar established his vast empire by conquering Kabul, Kashmir, Baluchistan to Ahmednagar in the South. He made Fatehpur Sikri his capital and built many buildings.

Akbar adopted a liberal religious policy towards the Hindus and started social relations with the Rajputs. He appointed the Rajputs at high positions in the army. The Rajputs also helped him a lot with their bravery and adventure in conquering India.

Akbar was a secular king. He brought together the best elements of all religions and established a sect called 'Din-e-Ilahi'. He translated great texts like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Atharva Ved, Panchatantra, Bible and Quran into Persian.

Akbar was a social reformer. He opposed child marriages and Sati. He abolished pilgrim taxes and banned forced religious conversions.

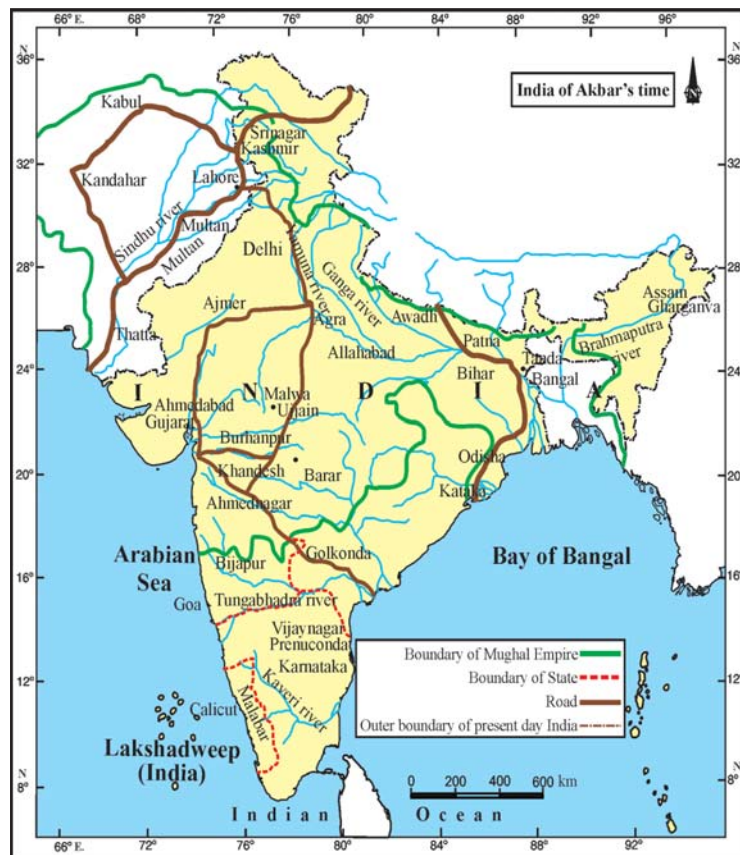
India was economically prosperous during Akbar's rule. He began an era of social tolerance. Most of the parts of India were under the regin of Mughals at the time of Akbar's death. (1605 A.D)



**Buland Darwaja**

**Jahangir (1605 - 1627) :** Jahangir inherited a great empire established by Akbar. He continued Akbar's policies and established good relations with the Hindus. He extended his rule from Assam to Golconda in South India. His wife Noor Jahan was intelligent and ambitious. He encouraged many arts. Painting flourished a lot during his rule. He himself was a great painter. He died in 1627 A.D and his son Shah Jahan came to power.

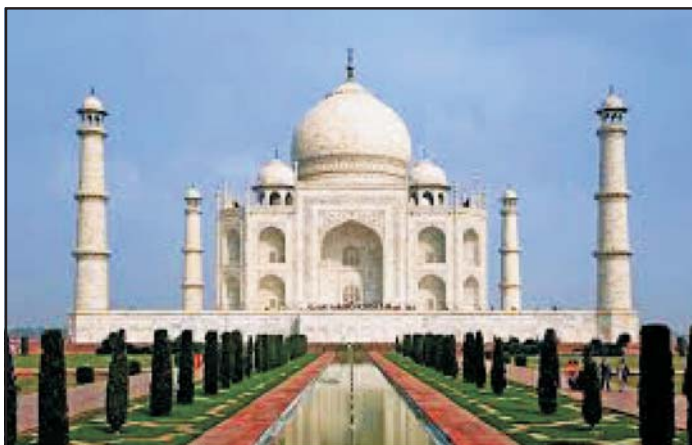
**Shah Jahan (1627 - 1658) :** Shah Jahan's nickname was Khurram. He conquered South India. He was as powerful as his father. He was a lover of architecture. He built the world famous architectural monument, 'The Taj Mahal' in memory of his wife Mumtaz. The



**India at the time of Akbar**

Taj Mahal is considered as one of the wonders of the world.

**Aurangzeb (1658 - 1707) :** Taking the advantage of Shah Jahan's ill-health, a fierce civil war broke out amongst his sons. The main struggle took place between the elder son of Shah Jahan, Dara Shikoh and Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb defeated his three brothers one by one, killed Dara Shikoh and sent Murad in jail. He himself took up the throne. He defeated his another brother Sujan and sent him to exile.



**Taj Mahal**

Aurangzeb ruled for about 50 years. His kingdom consisted of the Kashmir in the North to Jinji in the South and from Chittagong in the East to Hindukush mountain range in the West.

Aurangzeb was a Sunni Muslim and led a very simple life. He abandoned Akbar's religious policy and showed religious intolerance. He was against music, idol worship and religious festivals. There were many revolts during his time. He was a powerful king who ruled over a major part of India for a long time. He died in 1707 A.D. After his death, some weak rulers came resulting in the fall of the Mughal empire.

**Rana Sangram Singh :** Rana Sangram Singh of Mewar was a contemporary of Babur. He is also known as Rana Sanga. He was heroic and adventurous. He won many of the battles. However, he was defeated in the battle of Khanwa against Babur and his empire was reduced to nothing.

**Maharana Pratap :** Maharana Pratap was the majestic ruler of Mewar who fought against Akbar of the Mughal empire. As Akbar attacked Mewar, the battle of Haldighati took place between Akbar and Maharana Pratap. Akbar was victorious, but Maharana Pratap established his power in the adjoining areas of Udaipur, so the struggle continued. There were several attempts for pacification, but Rana was not ready to leave Chittor. He continued the Guerilla warfare. After the defeat of Haldighati in 1576 A.D Rana Pratap took the capital to Gogunda and continued fighting till the end. Later on, he made Chawand of Dungarpur as his capital. He died at the age of 51.



**Maharana Pratap with horse Chetak**



**Veer Durgadas Rathod :** Durgadas Rathod was the son of Ashkaran Rathod, the minister of Jaswant Singh, the ruler of Marwar. He is compared to Rana Pratap. He did not accept the dominion of Aurangzeb during his reign.

**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja :** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja, one of the greatest kings of India was the founder of the Maratha empire. He was born in 1627 or 1630 A.D in Shivneri (Maharashtra). Shivaji, the son of Jijabai and Shahaji, was greatly influenced by his guru Samarth Ramdas and Dadaji-Konddev. He conquered more than 40 forts to expand the great Maratha kingdom from a small estate. He fought with the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and Adilshah of Bijapur Sultanate for a long time and finally achieved victory.

After his defeat he signed a treaty with the Mughal emperor in 1665 A.D. Aurangzeb even imprisoned him, but he escaped cleverly and fought back and won. He was coronated in 1674 A.D at Rajgarh and rose to prominence as a Hindu emperor.

In addition to being a great conqueror, he was also an efficient administrator and a great organiser. His cabinet was known as Astha pradhanmandal. He died in 1680 A.D.



### Mughal - Administration

The Mughal Administration was systematically established by Akbar. In it, the emperor was the centre of the rule and head of the council of ministers. He was the supreme commander and judge. A vazir was appointed to coordinate between the emperor and administration. He was called the Diwan-e-Wazir-e-Kul and was also the head of finance and the revenue system. The head of the army was called Mirbaksh. He recruited the army and its officers. He supervised the intelligence system. The spies of the Mughal empire were known as Waquianavis.

There was a department called Mir-e-Saman, to look after the personal needs of the emperor. He was also the head of government factories. The head of the judiciary was Kazi.

**Revenue System :** Akbar introduced a new revenue system in India which was known as Mansabdari system. The revenue rate was one third part of the annual produce. The founder of Akbar's revenue system was Todarmal. Mansabdari system was synched with army as well as the revenue department. Mansab means Jagir and Mansabdaar was considered as the chief of the Jagir. He collected revenue from the Jagir and maintained law and order in the area. For this he was given army according to the Jagir. He was considered as the Chief Justice of the area and was transferred at regular intervals. The Mughal Mansabdaari system was unique in the world and was the highest paid in the world.

### Maharaja Shivaji's Coronation

## Culture during the Mughal Age

Indian culture flourished during the mughal period. Hindu and Muslim cultures mingled with each other. It is also known as Ganga-Jamuna culture. The Mughals established many forts, palaces, gates, mosques and gardens.

- Babur set up gardens in Agra and Lahore.
- Shershah built a tomb at Sasaram and a mosque at Delhi.
- Akbar built the fort of Agra and made unique construction at Fatehpur Sikri, 36 km from Agra. These include Buland Darwaza, Salim Chishti Dargah, Mosque and Panchmahal built in memory of his victory over Gujarat.
- The use of marble increased in construction during the time of Jahangir.
- The time of Shahjahan is considered to be the golden age of architecture of the Mughal empire. He built the Taj Mahal and the Moti Masjid in Agra as well as the famous Red Fort in Delhi.
- Aurangzeb built a tomb of Rabir-ud-Dauran (Bibi ka makbara) which bears a striking resemblance to the Taj Mahal in Aurangabad in memory of his wife.

**Painting :** Mughal paintings were world famous. It highly progressed in the time of Jahangir. The Mughal emperors used to invite the best painters in Delhi. During Akbar's time, there were great painters named Jaswant and Basavan. They painted beautiful pictures in Persian stories, books of translation of Mahabharat and Akbarnama. Jahangir's painter named Mansoor was world famous. Jahangir established a school of paintings.

During this period art of painting progressed in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and the Southern States.

**Literature :** The Mughal emperors were the patrons of literature. They were good writers. During that period, extensive literature was created in Persian, Arabic, Hindi and other Indian languages.

Abul Fazl has written biography of Akbar namely, "Akbarnama". He translated the Mahabharata. A lot of literature based on the life of Lord Krishna was written in Indian languages. Eknath, Gyaneshwar and Swami Ramdas composed devotional literature in Marathi.

**Music :** Akbar was a connoisseur of music. The great classical singer Tansen was one of his 'Navratannas'. He created various ragas.

## Decline

The Mughal empire which established in 1526 A.D. was on the brink of collapse after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 A.D., India was divided into small states, in the absence of a powerful ruler. These included the weak rulers of Mughal dynasty, Nizam of Hyderabad, The Nawabs of Bengal and Bihar, the Rajput states of Rajasthan, the Marathas, the Sikh state of Punjab etc. These states used to fight with one another, as a result they became weak. Under such circumstances, trading companies from Europe started dreaming of establishing rule over India.



### Exercise

#### 1. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences :

- (1) When and between whom was the 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Panipat fought ?
- (2) Describe the architecture during the rule of Sher Shah
- (3) Name the great musician-singer at the time of Akbar.
- (4) Name the painter of Jahangir.
- (5) Where and when was Chhatrapati Shivaji born ?

#### 2. Answer the following questions as per requirement :

- (1) Give the outline of Mughal administration.
- (2) Write a note on Mughal architecture.
- (3) Write a note on victories of Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- (4) Discuss the religious policy of Akbar.
- (5) Discuss the reforms done by Sher Shah.

#### 3. Find the correct option from the following options given below and write the correct answer :

- (1) II<sup>nd</sup> battle of Panipat was fought between ..... and ..... .  
(A) Akbar-Shivaji (B) Akbar-Hemu  
(C) Babur-Ibrahim Lodi (D) Mughal-Maratha
- (2) Who constructed the Bulund Darwaza ?  
(A) Akbar (B) Jahangir  
(C) ShahJahan (D) Aurangzeb
- (3) Red Fort of Delhi was constructed by ..... .  
(A) Babur (B) Akbar  
(C) Humayun (D) ShahJahan
- (4) Akbar was born at ..... .  
(A) Amarkot (B) Iran  
(C) Delhi (D) Jaipur