



CHAPTER- 11

THE RISE OF AN EMPIRE- THE MUGHALS

NOTES:

- The Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the Red Fort at Delhi.
- The Mughals accomplished in creating an empire, extending from Agra and Delhi to the outskirts of the Indian Sub – continent.

A.GROWTH OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE:

- The Mughals are the descendants of the two famous Mongols- Chengis Khan and Timur.
- Mughal rule was established by Babur after defeating Ibrahim Lodi at the battle of Panipat in 1526 AD.

BABUR

- Babur became a ruler at the age of 12 years at Farghana.
- In 1527 AD, he defeated Rajput confederacy under Rana Sangha, the ruler of Marwar.
- In 1530 AD, Babur passed away.

HUMAYUN

- Humayun was the son of Babur and after his father's death the empire came in his hands.
- Initially he had to face great threat from Bahadur Shah of Gujarat and Sher Shah of Bengal.
- In 1532 he defeated Sher Shah at the Battle of Chunar.

- In 1539 Sher Shah defeated Humayun at the battle of chausa and again in Kanauj (1540) which made him flee to Persia and he became a prince without a kingdom.
- Later in 1555 AD he reoccupied Delhi and a year later he died and his son Akbar just 13 years old came to the throne.

B. RELATION WITH OTHER RULERS:

- The Mughal rulers campaigned constantly against the rulers who refused to accept their authority.
- Among the Rajputs, Rana Pratap of Mewar refused to submit to Akbar after being defeated at the battle of Haldighati.
- The policy of religious intolerance by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb is one of the reason that led to the downfall of Mughal.

C.AGRARIAN RELATIONS:

- The main source of income for the Mughals was the land revenue.
- Ain- i- Akbari tells that under Akbar ,Todar Mal introduced a new system of land settlement and revenue collection, such as Zabti, Gallabaksh and Nasq.

D. AKBAR (1556-1605 AD):A CASE STUDY

- Akbarnama which means ‘History of Akbar ‘ is a biographical account written by Abul Fazl,which is one of the main source to learn about the reign of Akbar.
- Akbar was the greatest ruler among the Mughals and as he was a minor when he became the ruler, Bairam Khan became his regent.
- He conquered many kingdoms like Gondwana, defeated Rana Pratap in battle of Haldighati in 1576 and also conquered Gujarat in 1578 and Bengal also.

(i)ADMINISTRATION

- The Mughal administration was a combination of the existing Indian system and the ideas borrowed from Central Asia and Persia.
- The emperor held all the power and he was assisted by council of ministers in the administration.

- The Mughal empire was divided into a number of subahs (provinces).
- The most important aspect of the Mughal administration was the Mansabdari system, in which every officer was given mansab meaning rank or a position and the officers were called Mansabdars.

(ii)RELIGIOUS POLICY

- Except for Aurangzeb and Babur, most of the Mughal rulers followed a liberal and tolerant policy towards all religion. Akbar was the most liberal of the Mughal rulers.
- Akbar's main concept of religion was based on the principle of peace with all or Sulh-i- Kul.
- Akbar called upon all preachers and saints of all religions for discussion with him at the Ibadat Khanna or hall of prayer.
- Akbar founded a new religion called Din -i- Ilahi which contains the basic ideals of all religions .

(iii) ARCHITECTURE

- Akbar built a new capital at Fatehpur Sikri near Agra, because it was the birth place of Sufi saint Salim Chisti.
- The Buland Darwaja at Fatehpur is the highest gateway in India and one of the biggest in the world.
- Humayun's Tomb is also one of the remarkable architecture of the Mughals

(iv) LITERATURE AND MUSIC

- Akbar was a great patron of learning and had many talented men in his court and they were Todar Mal, Birbal, Tansen, Faizi, AbulFazl and Raja Man Singh .
- Some of the Hindu poets in his court includes Tulsidas, Surdas and Kesavdas.

E. SUCCESSORS OF AKBAR- JAHANGIR, SHAHJAHAN AND AURANGZEB.

JAHANGIR

- Akbar died in 1605 and he was succeeded by his son Salim who was also known as Jahangir.
- Jahangir consolidated the Mughal empire and during his reign Mewar submitted and accepted Mughal authority.

SHAH JAHAN

- Jahangir died in 1628 and Shah Jahan became the Mughal emperor at Agra.
- Shah Jahan is more known for two things- Taj mahal and the Peacock throne .
- The Moti Masjid at Agra and the Jama Masjid in Delhi are also notable buildings of Sahajahan.

AURANGZEB

- Aurangzeb had come to the throne in 1658 by defeating his brothers and imprisoning his father Shah Jahan.
- His religious intolerance caused lot of discontent and led to the decline of the empire.
- The longest and toughest struggle of Aurangzeb was against Shivaji and the Marathas.
- Aurangzeb died in 1707 and with that the decline of Mughal empire began.
- Bahadur Shah Zafar is the last Mughal ruler



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