

SOCIAL SCIENCE

STANDARD EIGHT

TERM I

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THE GREAT MUGHALS

India on the eve of Babur's Invasion

On the eve of Babur's invasion, India was divided into numerous mutually warring states. In the North, there was no political unity. The Delhi Sultanate was not strong. **Ibrahim Lodi**, the last Sultan of Delhi had lost his control over his nobles. Rana Sanga, the head of the Rajputs was not only powerful but also ambitious to capture the throne of Delhi. Meanwhile Babur received invitations from **Alam Khan**, the uncle of Ibrahim Lodi and **Daulat Khan Lodi**, the Governor of Punjab, to invade India. In South India, there were two major independent kingdoms namely the Vijayanagar Empire and the Bahmini Kingdom. But they mutually quarrelled with each other. Under these circumstances, Babur invaded India.



BABUR

BABUR (A.D1526-A.D1530)

Zahir-ud-Din Muhammad, Babur was born in A.D.1483 at Farghana in Central Asia. He was the eldest son of Umar Shaikh Mirza. Babur was a descendant from his father's side of **Timur**, the Turk, and mother's side of **Chengizkhan**, the Mongol. At the early age of 11, after the death of his father, Babur became the king of Farghana in A.D 1494.

CONQUESTS

FIRST BATTLE OF PANIPAT (A.D. 1526)

Accepting the invitation from Daulat Khan Lodi, Babur made an elaborate preparations for the conquest of India. He met Ibrahim Lodi in the historic plains of Panipat on 21st April 1526. His artillery worked wonders, inspite of the superior numerical strength, Ibrahim Lodi was defeated and killed in the battlefield. It brought the rule of Delhi Sultanate to an end. Babur laid the foundation for the Mughal Empire in India.

Recall any one Empire of Ancient India.

The victory at Panipat did not make Babur as the ruler of India. He had to deal with a formidable foe, **Rana Sanga of Mewar**. Rana Sanga was defeated in the battle of Kanwah in A.D 1527. Medini Rai of Malwa was defeated in the battle of

Chanderi in A.D 1528. Muhammed Lodi was also defeated in the battle of Gaghra in A.D 1529. Thus Babur founded the Mughal Empire in India. His Empire extended from Bihar in the East to Punjab, Kabul, Kandhahar and Badakshan in the West. However, he did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his success. In A.D 1530 at the age of 47, Babur died of illness, after nominating Humayun as the successor.

HIS PLACE IN HISTORY

Babur is one of the most interesting figures in the history of Medieval India. He was a great warrior, scholar and poet. He wrote his Autobiography, “Tuzuk-i-Babri”, popularly known as “Memoirs of Babur” in Turkish language. Babur was the most brilliant Asian Prince of his age. It cannot be denied that Babur laid the foundation which a mighty super structure was raised by Akbar.

HUMAYUN (A.D.1530-A.D.1540 and A.D 1555-A.D 1556)

Humayun, the eldest son of Babur, succeeded to the throne in A.D 1530 after the death of his father. He was born at Kabul in A.D.1508. He had three brothers namely Kamran, Askari and Hindal. At the age of 20, he was appointed as the Governor of Badakshan.

The throne inherited by Humayun was not a bed of roses. He had faced many difficulties. Babur had no time to consolidate his empire. As there was no law of primogeniture, war of succession arose after the death of Babur.

Humayun's brothers were ambitious to occupy the throne of Delhi. The Rajputs wanted to drive the Mughals out of India. Bahadur Shah of Gujarat also threatened Humayun. Sherkhan of Bengal and Bihar was a great challenge to Humayun. Thus Humayun was surrounded by enemies on all sides.

Sherkhan defeated Humayun in the battle of Chausa in A.D 1539 and again in the battle of Kanauj in A.D.1540. Humayun managed to escape and became a homeless wanderer for 15 years. He married Hamida Banu Begum and Akbar was born at Amarkot in A.D 1542. With the support of Shah of Persia, Humayun recovered Kabul and Kandhahar from his brother Kamran. He recaptured Delhi and Agra in A.D 1555, and became the king after 15 years of his exile.

“Humayun” means “fortunate”, but he was an unfortunate son of Babur. As a king, he failed. “If there was any possibility of falling, Humayun was not a man to miss it”. According to Lanepoole, “He tumbled through life and tumbled out of it”. Finally, he met his tragic end in A.D 1556. Before his death, he nominated his son Akbar as his successor and Bairam Khan as the guardian.

SHER SHAH SUR (A.D.1540-1545)

The original name of Shershah Sur was Farid. He was the son of Hussain. Farid was born in A.D 1472. He entered into the services of the Afghan Governor of Jaunpur, who conferred on him the title

“Sherkhan” the “Lion King” for his brave killing of a tiger (Sher) on a hunting expedition. He took up the services under the Governor of Bengal. Later, he became the ruler of Bihar and called himself 'Shershah'. The dynasty founded by him was known as “Sur Dynasty”.

CONQUESTS

In the battle of chausa in A.D 1539, Sherkhan defeated Humayun. After this victory, he began to dream of capturing the throne of Delhi. He declared himself as the king of Bengal and Bihar. In the battle of Kanauj in A.D. 1540, he once again defeated Humayun and occupied Delhi and Agra and called himself as Sher Shah. Then he conquered Sindh and Multan. Later on, Malwa, Raisin and Marwar were brought under his control. His last expedition was against the fort of Kalinjar in Bundelkhand. He was injured by the explosion of gun powder and died in A.D 1545.

Shershah's Administration Central Administration

Shershah was the architect of a brilliant administrative system. He was not only an autocratic but also enlightened and vigorous. He did not listen the advises of Ulemas. He even looked into small details of administration. He was assisted by a council of ministers. There were four important ministers. Diwan-i- Wizarat in charge of income and expenditure, Diwa-i-Ariz in charge of recruitments, organization of army, Diwan-i-Rasalat in charge of ambassadors and envoys, Diwan-i-

Insha in charge of royal proclamations and despatches.

Provincial Administration

For the administrative convenience, he divided his empire into number of Sarkars. It was further divided into number of parganas. Each pargana comprised of a number of villages. The village was the lowest unit of provincial administration.

Revenue Administration

The land revenue system of Shershah occupies an important place. Land was measured and the tax was fixed according to the fertility of the soil. Land Tax was important source of income. The share of the state was fixed as one-third of the average produce of the land. He issued "Patta" to the cultivators. He introduced the “Ryotwari System”. Many of the reforms of Shershah were followed later by Akbar. Hence Shershah has been called as the Fore-runner of Akbar.

Military Administration

Shershah was a great warrior and military genius. He followed the main principles of Ala-ud-din Khilji's military system. He had a well organized army. His army consisted of infantry, cavalry, artillery and elephantry, but great emphasis was laid on cavalry. He appointed the Afghan soldiers in higher posts. He introduced the “Dagh” system (or) “branding the horses” to avoid false musters. He also maintained a descriptive roll for the soldiers.

Judicial Administration

Shershah was a fountain-head of justice. He had a strong sense of justice. All were treated as equal before the law. He was the highest court of appeal. He was assisted by chief Qazi. No one could escape from punishment on account of his status.

OTHER REFORMS Intelligence Department

Shershah revived the Dak-chauki, the espionage system. This system worked efficiently and Shershah was able to get information from all parts of his dominion.

Roads

Shershah improved the means of communication and paid great attention towards restoring old roads and building new ones. Four important roads were laid by him to connect all the four corners of his kingdom. He built caravan sarais all along the roads for the benefit of the people.

Currency Reforms

Shershah abolished old and mixed currency. He fixed the ratio between copper and silver coins. He issued silver and gold coins. These coins bore his name in Devanagiri scripts. These currency were formed very useful to improve the general economic condition of the nation. Hence Shershah has been called as “the father of modern currency”

Estimate

Shershah was a great empire-builder. He was an administrative genius. He also contributed more to the field of architecture. His mausoleum built at Sasaram in Bihar is a marvel of Indo-Islamic architecture. He also built Purana Qila at Delhi. He was one of the greatest rulers that India had produced. It is said that if Shershah had been spared, the mighty Mughals would not have appeared in the history of India.

AKBAR THE GREAT (A.D.1556-A.D.1605)

Akbar, the Great was one of the greatest rulers of India. Jalaluddin



AKBAR

Muhammad Akbar was born at Amarkot on 23rd November 1542. At the age of 14, he ascended the throne. Humayun made Bairam Khan, as Akbar's guardian.

CONQUESTS SECOND BATTLE OF PANIPAT (A.D. 1556)

The throne inherited by Akbar was not a bed of roses. The

immediate problem facing Akbar was to deal with the rising power of **Hemu**, the Prime Minister of Muhammad Shah of Bengal. Hemu tried to capture Delhi. The armies of Akbar and Hemu met at the historic plains of **Panipat in A.D. 1556**. Hemu was defeated and killed. Akbar consolidated the Mughal rule strongly in Delhi and Agra.

Akbar was under the control of **Bairam Khan** for 4 years. After four years Akbar wanted to become the real ruler of India. Hence he wanted to get rid of Bairam Khan. In A.D. 1560 he sent Bairam Khan on a pilgrimage to Mecca but he was killed by his commanders. Later Akbar's foster mother Maham Anaga controlled the affairs for two years. That period was called "**Petticoat Government**". As Maham Anaga proved to be unscrupulous, Akbar wanted to do away with her. So, he killed her son Adam Khan. Maham Anaga also died of grief. Later Akbar became the real ruler.

Other conquests

Akbar extended his empire by many conquests. He annexed Chunar and Malwa. Bihari Mal of Amber (Jaipur) accepted his overlordship. He gave his daughter in marriage to Akbar. Jahangir was born to them. Akbar annexed the Rajput state of Gondwana, **Rani Durgavathi**, offered a stiff resistance, but she was defeated.

After that he conquered some territories like Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur. His empire extended from Bengal in the East to Afganistan in

the West, from Himalayas in the North to Golkonda in the South.

RAJPUT POLICY

Akbar followed cordial relations towards the Rajputs who were honest and brave. He married Jodhbai, the princess of Jaipur. The rulers of Bikaner and Jaisalmer also gave their daughters in marriage to Akbar. Akbar appointed the Rajputs in higher positions. Raja Mansingh, Raja Bhagawan Das, Raja Todar Mal and Birbal were the notable ones. Akbar abolished '**Jizya**' and '**Pilgrimage taxes**' which were collected from non-Muslims.

DECCAN POLICY

To extend his kingdom and to check the rising power of the Portuguese, Akbar turned his attention towards Deccan. Ahmed Nagar was being ruled by Chand Bibi. Akbar defeated her and annexed it. Berar and Khandesh were also captured by him.

LITERARY WORKS

Though an illiterate, Akbar patronized scholars. Raja Todar Mal translated Bhagavata Purana into Persian. **Abul Fazal** and his brother **Abul Faizi** translated several Sanskrit works into Persian. Abul Fazl wrote **Ain-i-Akbari** and **Akbar Nama**. Abul Faizi translated **Ramayana** and **Mahabaratha** into Persian from Sanskrit. **Tansen** was a great musician who adorned Akbar's Court.

RELIGIOUS POLICY (DIN-I-ILAH)

Akbar was not an orthodox Muslim. He was very tolerant. Akbar's father was a Sunni Muslim while his mother was a Shia. His guardian Bairam Khan was a Shia, Sheikh Mubarak, his tutor was also a Shia. All these made Akbar tolerant towards all religions. In 1575, he constructed a building known as **Ibadat Khana**. He invited religious leaders of various faiths and had discussions. He issued the famous "**Infallibility Decree**" which made Akbar as the religious head as well as the King. Finally in 1582, Akbar promulgated a new religion called "**Din-i-Ilahi**" (**Divine Faith**). Its object was to establish a National Religion based on universal toleration. It comprised of the good principles of all religions. Akbar never compelled anyone to follow his new religion. After Akbar's death, Din-i-Ilahi began to disappear.

Din-i-Ilahi was the Brain-Child of tolerant Akbar.

Land-Revenue Reforms of Akbar

Shershah was the fore runner of Akbar in the field of land revenue system. With the help of Raja Todarmal, Akbar improved land revenue system. Survey of land was made and the state revenue was fixed as 1/3 of the actual produce. The ryots could pay their tax either in cash or in kind. Loans were provided to them which could be re-paid easily by annual

instalments. Every cultivator was given '**patta**' (Title Deed) and required to sign a qubuliyat (Deed of Agreement).

MANSABDARI SYSTEM

The Mansabdari system of the Mughals was the basis of civil and military administration of the country. It was introduced by Akbar which he borrowed from Persia. The word '**Mansab**' means '**Grade**' or '**Rank**'. The Mansabdars were to recruit their troops and help the emperor when required. The Mansabdars were transferred then and there to avoid growing strength. This system worked well under Akbar but later on it deteriorated.

Contribution in the field of art and architecture

Akbar's period witnessed a remarkable growth in the field of art and architecture. He built **Buland Darwaza**, an imposing gateway at Fatehpur Sikri to commemorate his Gujarat conquest. He constructed a new palace at **Fatehpursikri**. The **Akbari Mahal, Jahangiri Mahal, the Lahore Fort, Panch Mahal, Jodh Bai Palace** etc., were built in Red sand stone.

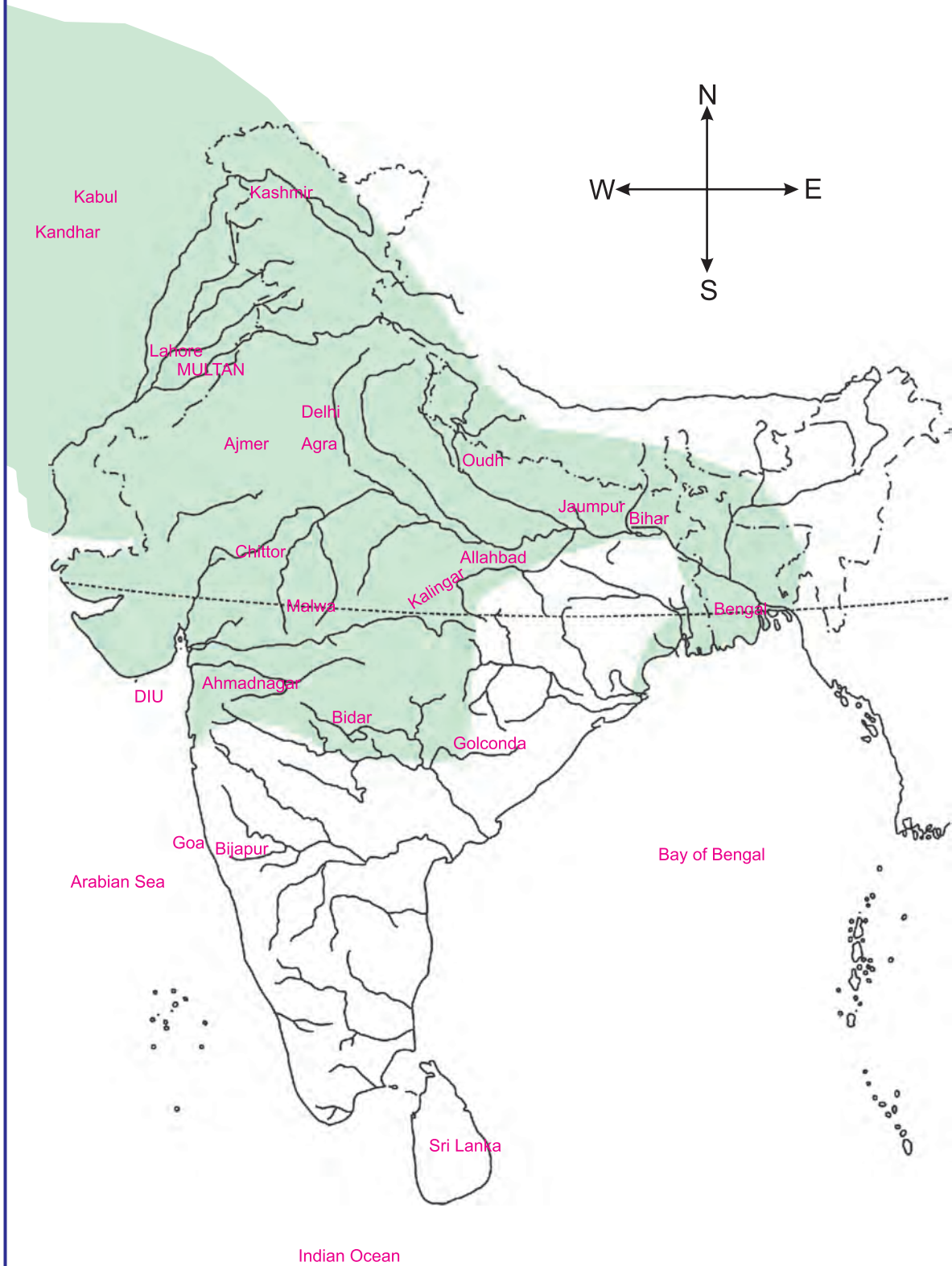
AKBAR'S PLACE IN HISTORY

Akbar died in 1605 A.D., after a glorious rule of 50 years. He occupies a unique position in the history of India. He has been regarded as the real founder of the Mughal Empire in India.

JAHANGIR (A.D. 1605 -A.D. 1627)

After the death of Akbar, his eldest son '**Salim**' assumed the title

Akbar's Empire



Jahangir (or) “conqueror of the World” and became the emperor of India in A.D 1605. After a few months of his accession, his eldest son, Prince Khusru revolted against him. Khusru received the blessings of Guru Arjun Dev the 5th Sikh Guru. But Khusru was defeated, arrested and blinded. Later on he was put to death. Guru Arjun Dev was also not spared. He was also put to death and his property was confiscated. This incident strained the relationship between the Sikhs and the Mughals.

BRITISH TRAVELLERS

During Jahangir's reign, captain William Hawkins and Sir Thomas Roe from England visited his court. Sir Thomas Roe obtained permission from Jahangir in A.D.1615 to trade at Surat.

Recall some other travellers who visited India at various times.

LITERARY WORKS

Jahangir was a great scholar and a good writer. He wrote his Autobiography. “Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri”, which gives an account of his reign. He was a lover of poetry and art.

JUSTICE

Jahangir was famous in the field of justice. He ordered for the setting up of a “chain of Justice” between Shah Burji palace in the fort of Agra and a stone pillar fixed on the banks of the river Yamuna for enabling the aggrieved persons to pull the chain and ask for justice.

Which ruler in Ancient Tamil country introduced the chain of justice during his reign?

ROLE OF NURJAHAN

The story of NurJahan occupies an important place in the history of the Mughals. She was the daughter of Mirza Ghias Beg. Her original name was Mehr-un-Nisa. She was extremely beautiful. She was married to Sher Afghan who was killed by Jahangir. In A.D 1611, Jahangir married her and gave her the title “Nur Mahal” or “Light of the Palace”. Later on she was called as Nur Jahan or “Light of the World”. She was an intelligent, educated and cultured woman. During Jahangir's reign, she exercised the real power. The period between 1611-1626 may easily be called as “the Age of NurJahan”. However, after the death of Jahangir in A.D.1627, she lost her importance and died in A.D. 1645.

Name the first woman ruler during the Medieval India.

ESTIMATE

Jahangir was a kind and generous ruler. He laid out beautiful gardens. At Srinagar he laid out the Shalimar and Nishat Gardens. He had a great interest in the field of architecture. Some of his remarkable buildings are Akbar's Tomb at Sikhandara, Itmad-ud-daula's Tomb near Agra and the Great mosque at Lahore.

SHAH JAHAN (A.D.1628-A.D 1658)

Shah Jahan was the son of Jahangir. His original name was **Khurram**. He was born in A.D. 1592 at Lahore from a Hindu mother. When Jahangir died in A.D.1627, Nur Jahan summoned her son-in-law Shahriyar with a view to put him on the throne. At the time, Khurram was in Deccan. Nur Jahan proclaimed Shahriyar as the Emperor. Asaf Khan the father-in-law of Khurram (Shah Jahan) sent forces against Nur Jahan and Shahriyar, defeated them and placed Shah Jahan "**king of the World**" on the throne of Delhi.

CONQUEST

ShahJahan fought with the Portuguese. He sent Mahabat khan towards Deccan to conquer Ahmed Nagar. It was annexed with the Mughal empire in A.D.1636. He tried to recapture khandhahar, and made three attempts but failed. It exposed the weakness of the Mughal army. He defeated the rulers of Bijapur and Golkonda. He made Aurangazeb, as the Governor of Deccan.

Golden Age of the Mughals

The reign of ShahJahan has been considered as the "**Golden Age of the Mughals**". The power and prestige of the Mughal empire reached its height during his time. There was both prosperity and poverty during his period. His architectural wonders tell about prosperity while poverty is known through the accounts of foreigners.

Whose period was known as "The Golden Age" in Ancient India?

Prince of Builders

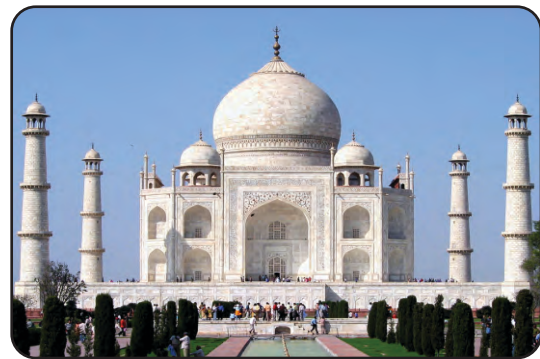
Shah Jahan has been called as the "**Prince of Builders**", and "**Engineer King**". Shah Jahan founded the Mughal cities in Red sandstone and left them in white marbles. He built a new capital "**Shahjahanabad**". He built the Red fort in Delhi which consisted of **Rang Mahal, Moti Mahal, Diwan-i-Kham** and **Diwan-i-khas, "Paradise on Earth"**.

Jama Masjid

It was built by ShahJahan at Delhi in white marbles. It is considered to be one of largest mosques in the world.

The Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is the most famous building of Shah Jahan. It



Taj Mahal

was built at Agra on the banks of river Yamuna, in memory of his beloved wife **Mumtaz**. The Taj Mahal has been considered as one of the seven wonders of the world and a dream in marble. It was built by Ustad Isa, the chief architect of that time. It was estimated cost about Rs.20 lakhs and took nearly 22 years to

complete it. He also built **Moti Masjid** or “**Pearl Mosque**” at Agra and the **Tomb of Jahangir**. He had a grand collection of precious stones. It included the '**Peacock Throne**' and the valuable **Kohinoor Diamond**.

The peacock throne is a crowning example of Mughal Jewellery art. The Persian invader Nadir Shah had taken it away in A.D.1739.

Do you know where is the Peacock Throne now?

Fine arts like music, painting and literature reached high level of development during the reign of Shah Jahan. He was a great patron of arts and letters.

Shah Jahan fell ill in A.D. 1657. A war of succession broke out among his four sons. Shah Jahan was imprisoned in A.D.1658 and remained in prison till the last days of his life. He passed away in A.D.1666.

ESTIMATE

Undoubtedly, Shahjahan was one of the greatest rulers that India had ever produced. The travellers who had visited India during his period i.e., **Bernier** and **Travernier**, the Frenchmen and **Manucci**, an Italian adventurer had left behind good records about Shahjahan's reign.

AURANGAZEB (A.D.1658-A.D. 1707)

Aurangazeb was the last Great Mughal emperor. He was the third son of ShahJahan. When

ShahJahan fell ill in A.D. 1657, a war of succession started among the four sons of ShahJahan namely, **Dara Shuko**, **Shahshuja**, **Aurangazeb** and **Murad**. On hearing the illness of ShahJahan, **Aurangazeb** who was in Deccan rushed towards Delhi. He ascended the throne in A.D.1658 after killing his three brothers and imprisoning his father. He assumed the title of “**Alamgir**”.



Aurangazeb

Religious Policy

Aurangazeb was a pious, orthodox Sunni Muslim. He regularly read the “**Koran**”. He hated not only the non-muslims but also Shia muslims. He reimposed **Jizya**, a tax on the non-muslims and pilgrimage tax. He took away all the Hindus from the state service. As a result he had to face the revolts of Rajaputs, Jats, Satnamis, Sikhs and Marathas.

Compare Akbar and Aurangazeb as two extremes in their religious policy.

AURANGAZEB AND THE SIKHS

The Mughal-Sikh relations became strained after Jahangir.

Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru protested the anti-Hindu policy of Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb was annoyed and the Guru was summoned to Delhi and compelled to embrace Islam. As the Guru refused to do so, he was tortured and beheaded. This infuriated the Sikhs. **Guru Gobind Singh** who succeeded his father as the tenth Guru, determined to avenge the mughals. He organized the Sikhs into a military brotherhood against the Mughals. The military organization of the Sikhs was called the “**khalsa**”.

Who was the founder of Sikhism? Identify “5 'K's in “Khalsa”?”

AURANGAZEB AND THE MARATHAS

Aurangzeb sent **Shaista Khan**, the Governor of Deccan to suppress Shivaji, the great Maratha leader. Shivaji attacked Shaista Khan with a band of 400 soldiers in his residence at Pooná. In this attempt, Shaista Khan escaped but lost one of his fingers. Later Aurangzeb sent Jai Singh against Shivaji and peace was made. Shivaji accepted to visit Mughal court. When Shivaji visited mughal court, he was not received properly by Aurangzeb. Later on Shivaji was imprisoned. But he escaped from the prison and continued to be a constant enemy to the Mughals.

DECCAN POLICY

Aurangzeb spent about 25 years in the Deccan. On account of

his continued stay in the Deccan, the administration went out of gear. He could see his own empire declining. His endless wars emptied the treasury. Enemies arose on all sides. It was the “**Deccan ulcer**” that ruined Aurangzeb. He died in A.D.1707.

ESTIMATE

Aurangzeb was chiefly responsible for the disintegration of the Mughal empire. His strict religious policy, long stay in the Deccan, vastness of his empire, and his suspicious nature not only ruined himself but also paved the way for the downfall of the mighty Mughal empire. Aurangzeb was a successful Musalman, but as a king, he thoroughly failed.

MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION Central Administration

The Mughal administrative system was in the nature of a military rule and was a centralized despotism. The Emperor (or) Padshah had all the powers in his hands. He was an absolute ruler. He was regarded as the “**shadow of God on Earth**”. He was assisted by a council of ministers. The most important among them was the Wazir (or) the Prime Minister.

Provincial Administration

For the administrative convenience the empire was divided into a number provinces known as “**Subas**”. Each Suba was under a Subedar (or) Governor. During the Akbar's time, there were 15 Subas. The Subedar was incharge of the