



## **The Mughal Empire**

Mughal dynasty established and maintained, one of the largest empire in the Indian History. In terms of military power, administrative innovations, cultural developments, economic prosperity and political consolidation Mughal empire touched new heights.

- The Mughal empire, self-designated as Gurkani was an empire extending over a large parts of the Indian subcontinent. It begins with the victory of Babur over Ibrahim Lodhi with a brief interval of 15 years, when Sher Shah Suri and his successors ruled the country, the Mughal empire lasted from AD 1526 to 1707 for 181 years.

### **Babur (AD 1526-30)**

- He was the founder of the Mughal rule and belonged to chughtai section of the Turkish race. The Uzbegs taught him a novel method of warfare, called Tulughma by which the attention of the enemy was diverted by first attacking its flanking parties and thus, avoiding direct clash with the main forces. Wrote his autobiography Tuzuk-i-Baburi in Turki.
- He was defeated in the Battle of Chausa by Sher Shah Suri in 1539.
- He was invited to attack India by Daulat Khan Lodhi (Subedar of Punjab), Ibrahim Lodhi's uncle Alam Khan Lodhi and Rana Sanga.

### Babur's Invasions

Years	Territories	Specifics
AD 1518-19	Bajaur and Bhira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First invasion of India.</li> <li>• Babur's artillery played a decisive role.</li> <li>• Gun powder was used for the first time. AD 1520 Sialkot</li> </ul>
AD 1524	Lahore and Depalpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third expedition in India.</li> <li>• Gave Sultanpur to Dilwar Khan.</li> </ul>
AD 1526 AD 1527	Panipat Khanwa (near Fatehpur Sikri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defeat of Ibrahim Lodhi.</li> <li>• Defeated Rana Sanga.</li> <li>• This victory secured Babur's position in Delhi-Agra <b>region.</b></li> </ul>
AD 1528	Chanderi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defeated the Rajput ruler, Medini Rai.</li> </ul>
AD 1529	(near Patna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fought against the allied forces of Afghans, under Mahmud Lodhi, a brother of Ibrahim Lodhi, in Bengal and Bihar.</li> <li>• Sultan Nusrat Shah of Bengal faced crushing defeat.</li> </ul>

### Humayun (AD 1530-56)

- Humayun succeeded Babur to the throne at Agra. He divided the Mughal territories with his three brothers. A major problem after accession to the throne was the unsettled state of administration, the insufficient treasury and the ambition of the nobles. He constructed a grand acropolis at Delhi known as **Dinpanah.**
- He was again defeated in the Battle of Bilgram (Kannauj) by Sher Shah Suri in 1540.
- Defeat by Kannauj compelled Humayun to leave India. He fled to the refuge of Safavid Empire in Persia, where the Persian king Shah Tahmasp welcomed the Mughal and treated him like a royal visitor.

- He defeated the forces of Sikandar Shah Suri and occupied Agra and Delhi in 1555.

### **Campaigns of Humayun**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
6 months after succession	Bundelkhand	Humayun defeated the Chandela ruler of Bundelkhand. Besieged the powerful Fort of Kalinjar.
AD 1532 AD 1533-1534	Dadrah/Daurah Gujarat	Defeated Mahmud Lodhi. Defeated Bahadur Shah of Gujarat.
AD 1539	Chausa	Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun.
AD 1540	Bilgram	Defeated by Sher Shah Suri temporary end of Mughal Empire.

### **The Sur Empire**

#### **Sher Shah Suri (AD 1540-45)**

- He was the founder of Sur empire. He began his career with the administration of his father Hasan's Iqta at Sasaram in Bihar. He moved to the court of the Afghan ruler of Bihar, Bahar Khan Lohani, who gave him the title Sher Khan for his bravery.

### **Conquest of Sher Shah**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Territories</b>	<b>Specifics</b>
AD 1544	Samel	Defeated Maldeo, the ruler of Marwar.
AD 1545	Kalinjar	Sher Shah captured fort, but died due to accidental explosion.

### **The Sur Administration**

- An idea of Sher Shah's administrative structure is provided by his historian Abbas Khan Sarwani in the book Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi.

### Central Administration

Departments	Heads	Works
Diwan-i-wizarat Diwan-i-arz Diwan-i-insha Diwan-i-risalat	Financial matters Arz-i-mamalik Dabir Sadr	Military department Secretariat Religious and foreign matter

### Local Administration

- Provinces were divided into Sarkars headed by Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaran (incharge of law and order) and Munsif-i-mansifan (incharge of local revenue). Sarkars divided into Paraganas headed by Shiqdars and Munsif or Amin.
- Paraganas further divided into villages under headmen.

### Land Revenue Administration

- Sher Shah's Land Revenue Policy is an important landmark in the history of Indian Agrarian System.
- After a survey of the lands, Sher Shah settled the land revenue directly with the tillers of the soil.
- Peasants had to pay Jaribana (survey charge i.e. 2.5%) and Muhasilana (tax collection charge i.e. 5%).

Some important features of Sher Shah's land revenue arrangement were as follows:

- Assessment of land revenue on the basis of measurement of land. For measurement of the land, **Sikandari Gaja** (32 inches) was made the base.
- Drawing up of schedules of crop rates on the basis of the quality of land.
- Classification of land into three categories on the basis of their yield (Good, bad and middling).
- Computation of the produce of three kinds of land and fixing 1 / 3rd of their average as the land revenue, payable either in cash or kind.
- The rights and liabilities of the tenants were clearly defined in documents known as **pattas** (title deeds) and **qabooliyats** (deed of agreement). Each peasant thus, knew what he had to pay.

### **Military Administration**

- Dispensation of tribal levies and beginning of direct recruitment of soldiers. Payment of salaries to the soldiers in cash.
- Maintenance of chehra or descriptive rolls of soldiers and dagh or the branding of horses.
- Setting-up of cantonments in different places and posting a garrison in each of them.

### **The Sur Architecture**

- Sher Shah was also a great builder. He got build sarais or rest-houses along the roads for the convenience of the traders and travellers.
- Sher Shah's Chief architect Aliwal Khan constructed the tomb of Hasan Khan, the father of Shah and the octagonal mausoleum which Sher Shah built for himself at Sasaram. It is made of Chunar sandstone.
- The old fort (Purana Quila) **in Delhi**, whose surviving monuments are Qilai-Kuhna Masjid and the Sher Mandal library, is another important architectural creation of Sher Shah.

### **Infrastructure Development**

- Sher Shah improved communications by building roads. Four important roads constructed by him were as follows.-
  - (i) Grand Trunk (GT) road from Sunargaon in East Bengal to Peshawar.
  - (ii) Road from Agra to Multan via Burhanpur and Delhi.
  - (iii) Road from Multan to Lahore.
  - (iv) Road from Mandu to Agra.
  - (v) Out of four roads, the first was the most important. The roads built by Sher Shah are called the **arteries** of the **empire**.
  - (vi) Sher Shah introduced a regular postal service and attempted the standardisation of weights and measures.

### **Reforms of Sher Shah**

*His currency reform deserves high praise. He issued a large number of silver coins (dam) and abolished all old and mixed metal currency. His silver rupia after elimination of its inscription was in use till 1835 and formed the basis of the later British Indian currency.*

*Other reforms include collection of customs duty on goods only twice, once at the time of entering the country and another at the time of sale of goods making the local headmen and Zamindars responsible for the loss of the goods of merchants on roads.*

### **Restoration of Humayun (AD 1556)**

- With the help of a noble officer Bairam Khan, Humayun defeated the weak rulers of the Sur dynasty and took control over Agra and Delhi in AD 1556. He died from the effects of an accidental fall from the staircase of his library at Delhi in AD 1556.

### **Akbar (AD 1556-1605)**

- He was born at Amarkot in the palace of Rajput Chieftain Rana Virsal in 1542. He was king of no land at the time of his coronation 1556 as the emperor of Hindustan.
- He fought the 2nd Battle of Panipat in 1556 with Hemu, the Hindu Minister of Mohammed Adil Shah.
- One of the greatest humanitarian measures of Akbar was abolition of slavery and the practice of converting prisoners of war to Islam, in AD 1562. He abolished pilgrimage tax in AD 1563 and Jaziya in AD 1564.

### **Rajput Policy**

- Akbar made the Rajputs not only his friends, but also took many Rajput princesses as his bride. He established matrimonial alliances with the royal families of the Rajput states, such as Amber; Bikaner and Jaisalmer.
- He granted the Rajputs equal rights with the Muslims and appointed them on high and elevated positions.

### **Ibadat Khana**

- In AD 1575, Akbar ordered the construction of the Ibadat Khana (House of worship) near the Jama Masjid in his newly built town of Fatehpur Sikri. Only the Sunnis were initially allowed to participate in religious discussions. Abdul Qadir Badayuni and Abul Fazl were the principal debaters. Both had been trained by Abul Fazl's father, Shaikh Mubarak.

### **Special Invitees to Ibadat Khana**

<b>Religions</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
Hinduism Zoroastrianism Christianity Jainism	Purushottam and Devi Maharaja Rana Acquaviva and Monserrate (Both Portuguese) Hira Vijaya Suri

- Father Monserrate, a member of the first Jesuit mission at Akbar's court AD 1580-83, who accompanied the emperor in the Kabul campaign AD 1581 against his half-brother Mirza Hakim, has left a lively account of the religious debates during the journey.

### **Din-i-llahi**

- Father Daniel Bartoli, a later Jesuit author, claims that after his return from Kabul, Akbar made himself the founder and head of a new religion. This religion, Bartoli continues, was discussed by a council is regarded by modern scholars as the inauguration of Akbar's new faith, I the Din - i-llahi (Divine Monotheism).
- In the Ain-i-Akbari, Abul Fazal deals with a number of laws made by Akbar for secularising the state, which were, however, termed as illegal by the orthodox Badayuni.
- For instance, Akbar prohibited polygamy and allowed a second wife only in exceptional circumstances.
- He also prohibited child marriages, the circumcision of boys below the age of twelve and the slaughter of animals on certain days totaling about half the year.

### **The Conquest of Akbar**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Territories</b>	<b>Specifics</b>
1561	Malwa	The ruler of Malwa was Baz Bahadur.
1564	Garhkatanga (a kingdom in Gondwana)	Rani Durgawati and her minor son, Bir Narayan, died fighting Mughals. The Mughal army was led by Asaf Khan.
1567	Chittor	The storming of the fortress of Chittor was one of the most famous military feats of Akbar. Rana Udai Singh was its ruler.
1572-73	Gujarat	Akbar built the famous Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri in commemoration of this victory.
1574-76	Bihar and Bengal	Akbar personally marched against Bihar and drove out Daud from Patna and Hajipur.

<b>Years</b>	<b>Territories</b>	<b>Specifics</b>
1576	Battle of Haldighati	Rana Pratap, the son of Udai Singh of Mewar, was severely defeated by the Mughal army under Maan Singh and Asaf Khan.
1581	Kabul	Mirza Hakim was defeated.
1586	Kashmir and Baluchistan	—
1591	Sindh	—
1592	Orissa	The Mughal army was led by Maan Singh.
1595	Qandhar	The Mughal army in this battle was commanded by Abdur Rahim Khan-e-Khanan.
1601	Asirgarh	The capture of Asirgarh marked the climax of Akbar's career of conquest.

### **Nine Jewels (Navratnas) at Akbar's Court**

- Following the footsteps of Chandragupta Vikramaditya of the Gupta period, Akbar maintained a court of nine distinguished persons who were known as **nine jewels** or **navratnas**.

### **Nine Jewels**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Specifics</b>
Abdul Rahim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Got the title of Khan-e-Khana by Akbar He was a celebrated Hindi scholar. Remembered for the compilation of 'Rahim Satsai' (a collection of dohas). He was also a great scholar of Turki.</li> <li>• He translated 'Baburnama' into Persian language. He wrote two books on Astrology, Kheta Kautukama and Dwawishd Yogavali.</li> </ul>
Abul Fazl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A profound thinker and writer.</li> <li>• He was known for the authorship of, 'Akbarnama' and Ain-i-Akbari'.</li> </ul>
Birbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brahman of Kalpi.</li> <li>• He was known for his gift of humour and wits.</li> <li>• Original name was Mahesh Dass. He was incharge of administration of justice at the royal court.</li> <li>• Died fighting with the Yusufzai tribe on the North-West frontier of India.</li> </ul>

Faizi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A poet laureate of Akbar's court.</li> <li>• Faizi is credited with the translation of 'Leelawati' into Persian.</li> </ul>
Hamim Human	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A very close friend of Akbar.</li> <li>• He was the chief of royal school (Pathasala).</li> </ul>
Raja Man Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A great Rajput general of Akbar.</li> </ul>
Mulla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credited with defeating Maharana Pratap, in the Battle of Haldighati and the Afghans.</li> </ul>
Tansen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Sufi, Shaikh Mubarak was the brain behind Akbar's Do-Piyaza Mahzar.</li> </ul>
Todarmal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was born at Gwalior.</li> <li>• He was known as <b>Sangeet Samrat</b>. He was a court singer of Akbar.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was known for his expertise in land revenue matters.</li> <li>• He evolved a Land Revenue System which was followed not only by Sher Shah and Akbar, but also by the Marathas.</li> </ul>

### **Jahangir (AD 1605-27)**

- Prince Salim assumed the title of Jahangir and adhered to Akbar's ideals of the co-existence of all religious communities.
- He married Mehr-un-Nissa, later titled as Nur Jahan, who was an accomplished lady. She is said to have been the real power behind the throne.
- He shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscript to album and individual portrait.

### **Conquest of Jahangir**

- Jahangir defeated Amar Singh of Mewar.
- He conquered Ahmednagar in 1617 under prince Khurram, who was rewarded with the title Shah Jahan.
- In AD 1622, the Mughals lost Kandhar to the Iranian king, Shah Abbas.
- In AD 1606, Jahangir's son, Khusrau revolted, but was defeated and imprisoned. Guru Arjan Dev (5th Guru of the Sikhs), one of Khusrau's well wisher was beheaded.

### Shah Jahan (AD 1627-1658)

- He had to overcome the revolts of the Bundelas and the Afghan noble named Khan-i-Jahan Lodhi. Foreign travellers Bernier, Tavernier and Manucci visited his court. He reimposed pilgrimage tax. He revived the Jagirdari system.
- It is said that the kingdom founded by Babur, nurtured by Akbar, consolidated by Jahangir, reached to its zenith during the reign of Shah Jahan.

### Conquest of Shah Jahan

- He conquered Ahmednagar, in 1633 which was under Fateh Khan.
- Other Deccan states like Bijapur, Golconda, Khandesh, Berar, Telangana and Daulatabad came under Mughal rule.
- Aurangzeb was appointed the first Viceroy of Deccan.
- Shah Jahan tried to capture Kandhar. It was lost forever in the Mughal empire.
- Shah Jahan also expelled Portuguese from Hooghly as they were abusing trading privileges.
- Kamrup was also annexed.

### Aurangzeb (AD 1658 -1707)

- He was the third son of Shah Jahan. During his reign, the Mughal empire reached its territorial climax. His reign was marked by a gradual departure from Akbar's policy of co-existence. He was a proficient player of Veena. Being an orthodox Muslim, he forbade music in the court, ended Jharokha Darshan, use of almanacs and weighing of the emperor. Aurangzeb fought the following battles of succession with his brothers War of Successions

<b>Battles</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Significances</b>
Battle of Bahadurgarh	February 1658	Sulaiman Shikoh and Raja Jai Singh of Amber defeated Shah Shuja.
Battle of Dharmat	April 1658	Raja Jaswant Singh and Karim Khan were defeated by Murad and Aurangzeb.
Battle of Samugarh	May 1658	Dara Shikoh was defeated by Aurangzeb.

Battle of Rupnagar	June 1658	Murad was captured and executed.
Battle of Khajwah	January 1659	Shah Shuja was defeated by Aurangzeb.
Battle of Deorai	March 1659	Defeated Dara Shikoh second time.

### Revolts Against Aurangzeb

- The **Jat revolt** was suppressed temporarily, but again Jats empowered themselves under the leadership of Churaman. The death of Aurangzeb led to the establishment of separate Jat kingdom.
- **Satnami revolt** of peasants in 1672 was sparked off by a minor dispute between a peasant and a Mughal foot soldier, but finally the revolt was crushed.
- **Bundelas** under Champat Rai and Chhatrasal revolted against policies of Aurangzeb. An independent Bundela state was established after Aurangzeb's death.
- **Sikh** Guru Har Rai's good relations with Dara Shikoh brought him into direct conflict with the emperor. The next Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur opposed the religious policy of Aurangzeb openly.
- Aurangzeb invaded Ahom kingdom, Marwar, Bijapur and Golconda.

### The Mughal Period Administrations

Departments/ Officers	Works
Diwan-i-ala	Finance Minister looked after revenue and expenditure of state.
Mir Bakshi	Minister incharge of military establishment.
Sadr-us-sadr	Ecclesiastical department
Qazi-ul-Quzat	Supervised and controlled entire judicial set-up.
Khan-i-Saman	Head of royal household.

### Mughal Administration

- **Subah** was the largest unit equivalent to province. The head was known as Nazim or Subedar.
- **Sarkar** was equivalent to district, headed by Faujdar or Shiqdar. Other officers were Amalgujars, Kotwal.

- The administrative unit next to Sarkar was **Paragana**. It was headed by Shiqdar who was incharge of law and order. Other officers were Amir, Kanungo, Qazis.
- **Village** affairs were looked after by the Panchayat. Lambardar was the head of the Panchayat.

### **Mansabdari System**

- It was introduced in 1595-96, showing a noble's civil and military capacity. Twin rank(s) zat and sawar were allotted.
- Zat A noble's personal status.
- Sawar The number of troops a noble had to maintain.
- It had three scale gradation
  - Mansabdar (500 zat and below)
  - Amir (between 500-250 zat)
  - Amir-i-umda (2500 zat and above)
- Salary of the Mansabdar was fixed on a month scale system. It was not a hereditary system. They were paid through revenue assignments Jagir.
- During Jahangir's reign, Duaspa, Sihaspa system was introduced through which a nobles sawars rank could be increased without affecting his zat.

### **The Jagir System**

- Jagir or tuyul was a unit of land, whose revenues were assigned to a Mansabdar in lieu of his salary. The Jagirs assigned in lieu of salary were known as **Tankhwah Jagirs**. Besides, there were the **Watan Jagirs** (Hereditary possessions) of the autonomous chiefs.
- Hence, the Jagir of the Mughal times was similar to the Iqta of the Delhi Sultanate. Like the Iqta, the assignment of a Jagir to a Mansabdar did not confer any hereditary rights to that Jagir on the Mansabdar.
- He could enjoy the revenues of the Jagir only as long as he held the Mansab or official rank and rendered services to the state.
- In other words, the Jagirdars, (Holders of Jagirs) owed their position to the Mughal emperor, there being no practical difference, between the state and the emperor in Mughal times.

- The Mughal emperors jealously guarded their privileged position against any hereditary claims to the Jagirs by the Jagirdars by following the policy of frequent transfer of Jagirs of the Jagirdars.

### Land Revenue System

- Land was classified into four types
  - (i) **Polaj** Continuously cultivated and very fertile.
  - (ii) **Parauti** Left fallow for a year or two to recover productivity.
  - (iii) **Chachar Left fallow for 3/4 years.**
  - (iv) **Banjar** Uncultivated for 5 years or more and infertile land.
- The three main principal revenue systems in the Mughal empire were as follows
  - **Ghallabaksh or Batai or Crop Division** Under this system, a share of each crop was taken by the state. This system prevailed in lower Sindh, a part of Kabul and Kashmir.
  - **Kankut** Cultivator and official arrived at a general estimate of produce of whole area the basis of sample survey by mutual agreement.
  - **Nasaq/Estimate** Past assessment determined the present. Todarmal collected the accounts of the Kanungos and in some places ascertained their accuracy by local enquiries. From these accounts he prepared the rent roll of the Subah. The Nasaq system did not depend upon survey or seasonal records of produce. It resembled the Zamindari settlement.

### Zabti or Bandobast System

- **Todarmal** framed a regulation or standard system of revenue administration known as the Zabti system. Under this system, lands were accurately surveyed and a new Jama was prepared.

### Dahsala System

- On the basis of the above Zabti system fresh reforms were undertaken by Todarmal. These reforms, collectively known as **Ain-i-Dahsala**, were completed in 1580. Under this system, land was classified into four categories, **viz. Polaj** - annually cultivated, **Parauti** - left fallow for a short period (1 or 2 years), **Chachar** - left fallow for 3 to 4 years and **Banjar** - uncultivated for 5 years or more.

- Further as Abul Fazl mentioned, according to Ain-i-Dahsala, a 10 years state of every Paragana was ascertained in regard to the category of cultivation and level of prices. The aim was to introduce a permanent Jama (Dastur-ul-amal) and remove difficulties and delays associated with yearly sanction.
- Dasturs for cash crops were fixed separately. In 1588, Todarmal introduced a uniform unit of measurement, **Ilahi Gaz**, which was a medium gaz of 41 digits (33 inches).
- The Karori experiment was started by Akbar with the extension of Khalisa land, so as to provide facilities to revenue department to collect extensive data.
- Khalisa land was divided into circles, each yielding the revenue of one karor. That is why, it is known as the **Karori experiment**.
- Each circle was placed under a revenue official Karori. Aim was to make as extensive a measurement as possible, then use it as a basis for compiling a new general assessment. Instead of a rope, a Tanab made of bamboo sticks joined by iron rings, came to be used for measuring land in 1575.

## **Mughal Architecture**

### **Forts**

- The Mughal emperors were great builders and that is why the Mughal period is called the **Golden Age of Architecture** in the Indian history. The first to undertake construction on a large-scale was Akbar. He constructed a series of forts, the most important, being the Agra Fort AD 1565, built in red sandstone.

### **Palaces**

- Humayun laid the foundation of the city **Din Panah** at Delhi. Akbar adorned his capital, Agra with magnificent buildings and the palace known as **Jahangiri Mahal**.
- The architecture of **Fatehpur Sikri** is an excellent blending of Persian, Central Asian and various Indian (Bengal and Gujarat) styles. Gujarat style buildings were for their Rajput wives.

### Mausoleums

- During Akbar's reign, **Humayun's tomb** at Delhi was the first Mughal tomb to be placed in the centre of a large park-like enclosure. It was built by his widow Haji Begum or Hamida Bano begum. It has a double dome of marble while the central dome is octagonal.

### Mosques

- During **Babur's** reign four mosques, one each at Sambhal (in Rohilkhand), Panipat (in Kabul Bash), Agra (old fort) and Ayodhya were built.
- **Humayun's** troubled reign left him little opportunity to indulge in artistic taste.
- **Jamia masjid** at, Fatehpur Sikri built during Akbar's reign is one of the most magnificent buildings.
- **Shah** Jahan's reign saw the climax as seen in Moti masjid at Agra.
- **Aurangzeb** cared little for architecture. He built Moti masjid in the Red Fort and Badshahi Mosque in Lahore.

### Gardens

- The special contribution of the Mughals was the laying out of beautiful gardens. Babur laid the first such garden in Agra, the Nur-i-Afshan. All the Mughal buildings generally incorporate gardens. Jahangir, perhaps, is most famous for his gardens **Shalimar** at Srinagar and the garden in Lahore.

### Mughal Painting

- The Mughal art of painting like the Mughal architecture, was the outcome of many influences. In the beginning, during the reign of Babur and Humayun, it was affected altogether by the Persian influence.

### Under Humayun

- At Tabriz, he met two young painters, **Mir Sayyed Ali** and **Abd-us-Samad** (or Abdus Samad), to whom he gave hope of future employment in case he regained his kingdom. Later on those two joined him in Kabul and Abd-us-Samad gave drawing lessons to little Akbar.

### Under Akbar

- Under the supervision of **Mir Sayyed Ali** and **Abdus Samad** the imperial atelier of painters and calligraphers took shape. Their first endeavour was to complete the pictures for the earliest Mughal illustrated

manuscript, the **Dastan-i-Amir Hamza**. Begun in 1550 under Humayun, it took 25 years to finish. He called a great number of artists to his court. Going by their names, the majority of these seemed to be Hindu.

- The chief painters were Mir Sayyed Ali, Abdus Samad (already in the service of Humayun), Farrukh Beg, Basawan and Daswant Mir Sayjid Ali and Abdus Samad trained the Mughal craftsmen in all the technical details of Persian miniatures.
- Many Indians such as Basawan, Miskina and Daswant attained great positions as court artists and Abul Fazl in his 'Ain-i-Akbari' (Biography of Akbar) bestows high praise on them.
- The **Tuti Namah** (The Parrot's tale) and 'Anwar-i-Suhaili' show each bird and animal with detailed realism. This portrayal of animals foreshadows the perfection attained under Jahangir.

### Under Jahangir

- He had a predilection for the art of painting which he cultivated much more than architecture. During his residence at Allahabad as Salim, he had already employed a number of painters, notably Aqa Raza, whose son Abul Hasan later served under Jahangir.
- The co-operation of several painters on one work continued, but Jahangir could distinguish which part each artist had contributed.
- During this period, European influence manifested itself more and more. The custom of copying European paintings and engravings continued. By that time book illustrations became outdated except for the representation of fables, e.g. **Iyar-i-Danish** and '**Anwar-i-Suhaili**'. The portrayal of officers also continued.
- Jahangir preferred group portraits as well as court scenes and different episodes of his life. 'Jahangir embracing Shah Jahan' shows the same careful portrayal as in Akbar's time.
- Portrait paintings reached a climax in his period. The early portraits show the persons standing or seated either in front of the buildings or inside. During the last 10 years of Jahangir's reign Mughal paintings witnessed a change and an increased predilection for symbolism.

### Under Shah Jahan

- Though, interested mainly in architecture, he continued to patronise painting. The visit of the emperor with his nobles and royal ladies to ascetics and dervishes constitutes a predominant theme of this period. Many night scenes were also painted for the first time in the Mughal period. A new technique, consisting of fine, delicate line drawings slightly tinted with washes of pale colours and gold and known as **Siyahi Qalam**, became fashionable.
- **Emperor Shah Jahan** on the peacock throne, one of the best known Mughal miniatures, shows the famous peacock throne now lost, but much admired by contemporaries and described by the French traveller Bernier. On the other hand, it typifies the portraits of this time.

### Under Aurangzeb

- He did not patronise any arts. Culture lost its vitality and finally declined. Perhaps during his waning years he may have consented to have his portraits painted, for there are surviving examples where he is shown either as a bearded old man hunting or holding a copy of the Quran in his hand.

### Other Schools of Painting

- Besides, the Mughal painting, there grew up in this age two more schools of painting, they are as follows:
  - The Rajput School of Painting was developed in Rajputana, particularly Jaipur, in the 18th century. The Rajput paintings were excellent masterpieces from Hindu mythology.
  - In it, familiar and popular themes have been taken and an effort has been made to show or depict village life, an ordinary citizen, his religious rites and amusements. Religion and art are very closely related to each other in it and the spiritual and emotional themes have special importance in this school of painting.

### Kangra School of Painting

- Towards the end of the 18th century, another kind of painting was developed in Northern India, particularly Kangra, known as the **Kangra School of Painting**. The theme relates to Hindu Gods and Goddesses in this art. Many subjects were selected from the Hindu religious books like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Ram Mala, Geet Govinda etc and they were depicted beautifully in pictures.

- Similarly, beautiful paintings (Portraits) of Shiva-Parvati, Radha-Krishna etc were produced.

### **Mughal Literature**

#### **Hindi Literature**

- Malik Muhammed Jayasi wrote a poetical composition Padmavat on Padmani, the queen of Mewar in 1540.
- Akbar also gave impetus to Hindi poetry. His reign was the golden age of the Hindi poetry because it was in his time that some Hindi poets of immortal fame, such as Tulsī Das, Sur Das, Mira, Rahim and Ras Khan, lived.
- The greatest Hindi poet of Akbar's time was Sant Tulsī Das 1532-1623 who wrote the famous Ramcharitamanas.

#### **Sanskrit Literature**

- Akbar was the first Mughal monarch who patronised Sanskrit as well as Hindi. During his reign, many Hindi writers were also writers of Sanskrit. In his time, the first Sanskrit-Persian dictionary, named Parsi Prakash was compiled. Jahangir too extended royal patronage to Sanskrit writers and kept them in his court.

#### **Developments in Music**

- The Mughal kings, except Aurangzeb, had a great attachment with music. Babur is said to have composed songs. However, it was due to Akbar's interest and patronage of this art that both kinds of music instrumental and vocal made unusual advancement. In his time, the **National Indian Music** took its birth by the blending of the Hindus and Muslims types of music. His court was adorned by famous musicians like Tansen of Gwalior and Baz Bahadur of Malwa.
- Shah Jahan was fond of vocal and instrumental music. The two great Hindu musicians of his time were Jagannath and Janardhan Bhatta. It is said that once Shah Jahan was so pleased with the singing of Jagannath, the royal poet of Sanskrit, that he weighed him against gold and gave him the whole of this gold as a prize.
- But Aurangzeb who was a puritan dismissed singing from his court. However, ironically, the largest number of books on classical music was written in his reign.

### Literature of the Mughal Periods

Authores	Name of the Works	Specifics
Gulbadan Begum	Humayun Nama	History of Humayun
Abul Fazl	Ain-i-Akbari	History of Akbar's reign
Abul Fazl	Akbar Namah	History of Akbar's reign
Badauni	Muntakhab-ul-Tawarikh	History of Akbar's reign
Mulla Daud	Tawarikh-i-Alfi	History of Akbar's reign
Nizam-ud-din Ahmed	Tabaqat-i-Akbari	History of Akbar's reign
Jahangir	Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri	Autobiography
Mutamed Khan	Iqbal Namah	History of Jahangir's reign
Abdul Haq	Nuriyya-i-Sultaniyya	Theory of Kingship
Abdul Hamid Lahori	Padshah Namah	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Muhammad Waris	Padshah Namah	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Inayat Khan	Shah Jahan Namah	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Muhammad Salih	Shah Jahan Namah	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Dara Shikoh	Safinat-ul-Auliya	Biographies of Sufi saints
Dara Shikoh	Sakinat-ul-Auliya	Translation of Upanishads
Dara Shikoh	Hasnat-ul-Arifeen	His religious and philosophical ideas
Dara Shikoh	Majma-ul-Bahrain	His religious and philosophical ideas
Aurangzeb	Raqqat-i-Alamgiri	A collection of his letters
Khafi Khan	Muntakhab-ul-Lubab	History of Aurangzeb's reign
Muhammad Kazim	Alamgir Namah	History of Aurangzeb's reign

Muhammad Saqi	Masir-i-Alamgiri	History of Aurangzeb's reign
Aquil Khan Zafar	Namah-i-Alamgiri	History of Aurangzeb's reign
Mohammed Rafi Khan	Hamlai-Haidari	History of Aurangzeb's reign
Sujan Rai Khatri	Khulasat-ul-Tawarikh	History of Aurangzeb's reign
Bhimsen	Nuskha-i-Dilkusha	History of Aurangzeb's reign
Iswar Das	Futuh-i-Alamgiri	History of Aurangzeb's reign
NimatKhanAli	Waqai-i-Hyderabad	Conquest of Golconda by Aurangzeb
Faizi	Masnavi Nala-in-Daman	Translation work of Nala-Damyanti kalha (in Persian)