

Ancient and Medieval History Class 11

1st February, 2024 at 9:00 AM

THE CLASS STARTED (IN CONTINUATION) AT: (09:16 AM):

SUR EMPIRE (1540-1555 A.D.):

- Sher Shah Suri was the most important ruler of this dynasty.
- Many of his initiatives served as templates for the Mughal Emperor Akbar in later times.
- **He took the following initiatives in his tenure:**
- 1) He started codifying the Shariat Law to decrease the deviation and misinterpretation during any religious dispute.
- 2) His provincial administration was an inspiration to the Mughal Emperor Akbar who further elaborated it in his tenure.
- 3) He was known for creating many architectural marvels in different parts of the sub-continent.
- For example, his tomb at Sasaram, Rohtas Fort (Pakistan), Purana Qila.
- He created the Grand Trunk Road which ran from Kolkata to Peshawar originally known as the Badshah Road and many peripheral highways connected with it.
- He also created resting places (Sarai), and water wells (Baolis) along the roadside.
- He released the official currency of his empire in silver called Rupiah and Copper called Dam.
- In far-flung areas, he created Daakhana or post offices.
- In 1554 Shersah Suri died at the Kalinjar campaign. His successors were not powerful which resulted in the end of the Sur Dynasty.
- In 1555, Humayun returned from Iran and uprooted the Sur Dynasty, and with the help of the Shah Tamashp reestablished his control.
- Humayun was a keen believer in astrology and an observer of astronomical arrangements.
- On one fine day, he was observing the celestial arrangements from his observatory (Sher Mandal) while descending he fell from the stairs and died.
- After his death, Hemachandra took over the Mughal throne and was a trusted aid to Afghans. Later Bairam Khan marched from Kabul which led to the Second Battle of Panipat in 1556 between Hemu and Bairam Khan.
- Hemu was defeated and once again the Mughals regained the rule and Humayun's 14-year-old son Akbar ascended the throne.

JALALUDDIN AKBAR (1556-1605): (09:43 AM):

- From 1556 to 1560 Akbar was under the regency of Bairam Khan who died in 1560.
- After that, a lady named Mahamanga started to interfere in the court politics which continued till 1564.
- In 1564 Akbar started to make his decisions without any influence.
- Akbar started his military campaign in 1564, he captured Malwa, Gujrat, Bihar, Bengal, Kashmir, Kabul, and Khandesh.
- He also occupied some of the areas of Ahmednagar.
- With the Rajput rulers, he adopted the policy of diplomacy and negotiation as per this policy if Rajputs accepted the supremacy of Akbar then they were allowed to exercise autonomy in their respective areas. As a result, many of the rulers accepted Akbar's supremacy except Maharana Pratap, this episode led to the Battle of Haldighati between the Maharana and Maan Singh of Amer.
- In the last phase of this battle, Maan Singh had the upper hand due to the support of Akbar, but it did not lead to the annexation of Mewar.
- After the death of Akbar in 1605, his son Salim ascended the throne with the title of Jahangir.
- **Administration of Akbar:**
- For ease of administration, many sub-divisions were created which are as follows:
- Suba (province), Sarkar (divisions), Pargana (districts), Chakla (sub-districts, only a few places), and Gram.
- The administrative system of Akbar was popularly known as the Mansabdari System.
- The Akbar's system of Mansabdari was carried forward by all the Mughal rulers but some changes were introduced in the Sawar component of the Mansabdari during the Jahangir and Aurangzeb's time.
- Jahangir introduced the Duh-Aspah in the Sawar component of the Mansabdari which doubled the responsibility of maintaining horses in the army.
- Aurangzeb changed into Sih-Aspah whereby without changing the rank the responsibility of maintaining the number of horses increased to more than three times.
- **Taxation Policy During Akbar's Reign:**
- Finance Minister Akbar Raja Todarmal initiated the progressive taxation system based on extensive surveys and classification of land according to fertility.
- His taxation policy is often referred to as Dahisala System, under this system land was classified into four categories:
- i) Polaj Land: Most fertile land and cultivation was done every year.
- ii) Parati Land: It was left fallow for one year to regain fertility.
- iii) Cachar Land: It was left fallow for three years to regain fertility.
- iv) Banjar Land: It was left fallow for five or more years to regain fertility.
- The most fertile land (Polaj) attracted the maximum amount of taxation and Banjar attracted the least amount of taxes.
- **Note:** In some of the areas particularly in the Banjar land, Akbar initiated the Ijara System as per Akbar's initiative this move was meant for increasing the fertility of Banjar land.
- **During this time there were two types of peasants:**
- 1) Khud Kasht: They were the inhabitant of the villages and they cultivated their land.
- 2) Pahi Kasht: They were nomadic did not own any land and worked on other's land on a contract basis.

SOCIO-RELIGIOUS INITIATIVES OF AKBAR: (10:42 AM):

- Akbar stopped the practice of forceful conversion of prisoners of war into the Islamic faith.
- He also abolished the Jizya tax and pilgrimage tax.
- He issued the Decree of Mazhar (document of infallibility): As per this document in case of any religious dispute decision of Akbar would be final.
- In Fatehpur Sikri, Akbar created Ibadat Khana, which was meant for religious discussion and deliberations with the representatives of all religions.
- The outcome of this discussion was Akbar's theology of Tauhid-i-Ilahi which was later popularly known as Din-i-Ilahi (religion of the common people).
- With this new theology, Akbar wanted to spread the message of Suhl-e-Kuhl which means universal peace and brotherhood.
- Akbar's minister Raja Maan Singh of Amer started the construction of the Govind Dev temple at Vrindavan.
- Akbar heavily funded the construction of this temple and it went on to become one of the largest temples in India which was later destroyed by Aurangzeb.

JAHANGIR (1605-1627): (11:14 AM):

- The most important political achievement of Jahangir is the annexation of Mewar.
- In 1611 he got married to an Iranian lady Mehrunissa who was given the title of Noor Jahan.
- She was an aspirational lady and wanted to have a political say in the kingdom.
- Her father Mirza Gyas Baig was given the position of Wazir, and her brother Asaf ud Daula was given the position of Khan-e-Saman (head of the royal household and treasury).
- It is said that due to her influence, the British East India Company got many privileges.
- She also ran a small kitchen cabinet known as Junta.
- The daughter of Mehrunissa from her previous marriage was Ladli Begum.
- Ladli Begum was married to one of the sons of Jahangir, Saharyar.
- When Jahangir was terminally ill, Noor Jahan wanted to appoint Saharyar as the next ruler.
- But with the support of Asaf ud Daula, Prince Khurram ascended to the throne with the title of Shah Jahan.
- Jahangir installed a very big bell outside his palace which was known as the Bell of Justice.

SHAHJAHAN (1627 to 1658): (11:39 AM):

- The most important political achievement of Shah Jahan was the annexation of the Ahmednagar
- His regime was more remembered for its architectural initiatives.
- He constructed a large number of landmark buildings in Agra, Delhi, and Lahore.
- he also laid the foundation of the last pre-cursor city of Delhi, Sahajahanabad.
- In memory of his beloved wife Anjuman Bano Begum, he started the construction of the Taj Mahal in Agra which was completed in 20 years by 1653.
- During his life, a war of succession started among his sons. One of his sons Alamgir Aurangzeb house arrested Shah Jahan in the Red Fort Agra and in the Battle of Samugarh he killed his brother Dara Sikoh.

TOPICS OF THE NEXT CLASS:Continuation of the Mughal Rule, etc.