

Key Notes

Chapter-09

Kings and Chronicles

- The Mughals and their empire - The name Mughal derives from Mongol period of Mughal empire 1526 -1707 the production of chronicles
- From Turkish to Persian - Mughal court chronicles were written in Persian
- The making of manuscripts - all books in Mughals were manuscripts i.e. they were handwritten.
- The Akbarnama and Badshahnama - among the important illustrated Mughal official histories the Akbarnama and Badshahnama.
- A unifying force - sulh-i-kul - Abul Fazl describes the ideal sulh-i-kul (absolute peace) .
- Capitals and courts - capital city - the heart of Mughal empire is capital city. Where the court assemble.
- Titles and Gifts - The granting of titles to men of merit was an important aspect of Mughal policy.
- Mughal kings commissioned court historians to write accounts. These accounts recorded the event of the emperor's time.
- Babur laid the foundation for the Mughal Empire in India by defeating the last Lodhi King Ibrahim Lodhi through the battle of Paniput.
- Modern historians writings in English have termed this original text or accounts of texts as chronicles, as they present a continuous chronological record of events.
- The creation of a manuscript involved a number of people performing a variety of tasks.
- Painters too were involved in the production of Mughal manuscripts.
- Babur took over the Lodi capital of Agra.
- During the 1560s Akbar had the fort of Agra constructed with red sandstone quarried from the adjoining regions.
- In the 1570s he decided to build a new capital, Fatehpur Sikri.
- The keeping of exact and detailed records was a major concern of the Mughal administration.
- Akbar was curious about Christianity and dispatched an embassy to Goa to invite Jesuit priests.
- The first Jesuit mission reached the Mughal court at Fatehpur Sikri in 1580 and stayed for about two years.
- The Jesuit spoke to Akbar about Christianity and debated its virtues with the ulama. Two more missions were sent to the Mughal court at Lahore, in 1591 and 1595.