

CHAPTER - 17

THE AHOM DYNASTY, THE MOGHULS AND THE MARATHAS

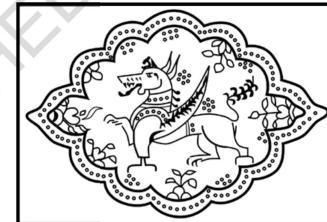


We learn about the the following in this chapter,

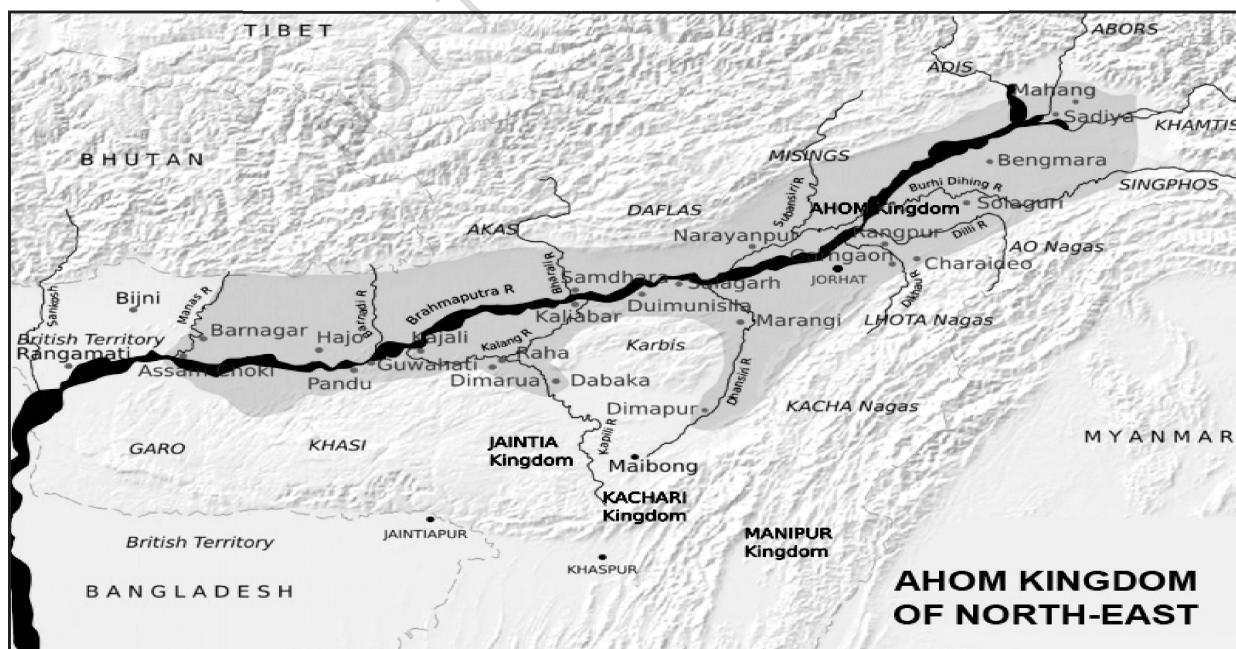
- Ahom Dynasty and their achievements.
- The Moghul rulers.
- The contributions of the Moghul sultans to literature, art and architecture
- The rise of the Maratha kingdom and Shivaji's administration

AHOM DYNASTY

It has been said of the Moghuls- undaunted, undefeated brave Kings. Under Aurangzeb the vast areas of India came under his control. Aurangzeb was very powerful although he was cruel and religious bigot. But there were Kings and rulers in India whom the Moghuls could neither capture nor defeat them. The Moghuls were driven out from the Indian rulers on many fronts. Less has been focused on this aspect in Indian history. Such a kingdom was ruled by Ahom Dynasty in the north-east.



The Emblem of Ahom Dynasty





Sukapha

Ahom founder

The descendants of Ahom dated back in the early 13th century came from Thailand and Myanmar and settled in Assam. It is said the name Assam came from Ahom. Although they came from outside very soon, they adopted Indian culture. Ahom was founded in 1228 by Sukapha. Their early capital was Cheroydoy. By 1300 Khaljis of Delhi attacked Ahoms but were defeated and driven away. Ahoms defeated Thoghlucks and Ilmasshahi army in 1350. By the end of 15th century Lodhis were also defeated by Ahoms. Later the sultans of Bengal also met their defeat by Ahoms. Aurangzeb sent his army under Mir Jumla and Dilerkhan to Ahoms to acquire Bengal and Ahom.

Jayadwaja Singha: The Moghul army which consisted of 70000 soldiers with elephants, horses made their attack first on Bengal. Later they moved to Ahom Kingdom along the Brahmaputra coast. The army captured Guwahati, Simalguri and Gargham. There was a dreadful bloodshed loss on the part of Ahom kingdom. Jaydwaja was forced to sign a pact with the Moghuls. With the effect, the Ahoms had to part a large sum of money as a part of war loss. Hundreds of elephants were also given. Even the daughter of Jayadwaja was handed over to the enemies. With all the loss occurred to the king, he lost his mental balance. He breathed last.

Chakradwaja Singha:

Chakradwaja Singha became the ruler. The treasury was empty, the enemies surrounded allover, and losing confidence everywhere kept the kingdom at a low esteem. But Chakradwaja had an intent desire to reestablish Ahom. He was in search of an able commander for his army. He found Lachith (Pronounced as Lasith). He was born in 1620. His father occupied a good position in Rajasthan. Lachith was well-versed in warfare. Soon he became the chief of the army. Lachith came to be known as Borphukan Lachith. Strict training sessions were conducted to the army men. Built warships and strong forts around Ahom. The warfare materials were modernized. No clues reached the ears of Moghuls as Lachith kept sending gifts to the moghuls and pretended friendly with them.

Guwahati captured: In 1667 Phiroz khan came to power. He was cruel. He ordered Chakradwaja to send Assamese young women. This aroused the assamese to fight the moghuls out and tried to capture the fort of Itkuli. Climbing over the fort, unknowingly to the Moghuls poured waters to their war materials. The next day Lachith with his huge army drove away the Moghul officials and army men from Guwahati. Thus, Guwahati was recaptured.

Alboi Fight:

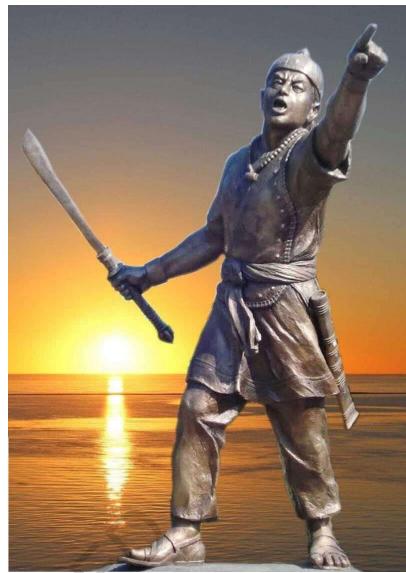
Auranzeb was furious. This time he sent 70000 soldiers to fight with Ahom. Both armies fought at Alboi. The Moghul army was stronger than the Ahoms. But the Ahoms defeated the Moghuls at last. Ahoms army fought very bravely on the battlefield. Lachith was wounded badly. Chakradwaja won the battle, but died later in the next year.

Saraighat struggle

Udayadithya Singha succeeded. The Moghuls wanted to take revenge of their defeat. They got such an opportunity in 1671. They understood Ahoms had kept less armymen in certain parts. They planned to get into such parts. The news reached Ahoms. Immediately Ahoms gave importance to building navy. They built 40 ships. Both the Moghuls and Ahoms came face to face at Saraighat in 1671. Ahom's army were fighting back. Lachith was ill but jumped out of his bed to keep his men encouraging. Munnawar Khan, the chief of Moghul army was killed in the battle. 4000 Moghul men were also killed and their dead bodies were thrown into Brahmaputra waters. Ahoms won the battle.

The last Ahom-Moghul struggle

Lachith died due to ill health. The Moghuls did not turn to the Ahoms for the next 11 years. In 1682 They came back when Gadhadhara Singha was the Ahom's King. Gadhadhara Singha drive out Mansur Khan, the chief of the Moghul army. He captured all the Ahom



Lachith
the great warrior

provinces that went to the Moghuls before. He extended his empire till Manasa River. This is the famous Itakuli Battle. This was also the last battle between Ahoms and the Moghuls.

Ahom kings developed Six capitals in their kingdom at different times. They combined together the tribal groups to keep Assam Strong and united. Vijayanagara in the South, Marathas in the Deccan, Rajputs in the northwest, Karkota in Kashmir and so Ahoms in the north east. They defeated the Muslim rulers in 17 battles. They ruled the north-east for 598 (1228-1826) years.

The Moghul dynasty was established in the early part of 16th century. As already mentioned in Chapter 3, when the administration of the Delhi Sultans was weak, Babar established the Moghul dynasty and rule in 1526.

MOGHULS IN INDIA (1526 – 1707)

Babar

Babar who established the Moghul rule in India, was originally from Turkistan. His father, Umarsheikh Mirza, was the king of a small kingdom called Pharghana in Afghanistan. Due to the death of his father, Babar had to ascend the throne at the very tender age of 11 years. When he lost his kingdom and was wandering aimlessly, he got the inspiration to attack India, and he invaded India five times. He defeated the Delhi sultan Ibrahim Lodhi in the battle of Panipat in 1526 and established the Moghul dynasty in India. This battle is known as the first battle of Panipat. Delhi was his capital. Over a period of four years, he defeated Rana Sangram Singh of Mewad, the Rajput king Mediniraya of Chanderi and Ibrahim Lodhi's brother, Mohammad Lodhi. Babar conquered Panipat, Goghra and Kanwa. He established Moghul rule over a Capital letter area in North India.

Do you know this? Babarnama – (Tuzuk – e – Babari)

Babar wrote his autobiography in the Turkish language. In addition to dealing with the political events, he has also described the natural features, beauty, the flora and fauna and gardens of the various areas. Babar was a poet and a talented artist. Abdul Rahim Khan translated Babar's book into Persian.

Humayun

Humayun, the second Sultan of the Moghul dynasty, was the eldest son of Babar. He had to face many tough problems when he

came to power. Such as problems of unstable and dispersed kingdom, trouble from the Afghans, enmity of Bahadur Shah of Gujarat and the hostility of his own brothers. He conquered Kalinjar fort Daura Jonpur, Chunar fort and Mandasar. Humayun who was defeated by Sher Shah, sought shelter in Sindh province and came back to power after the death of Sher Shah.

Sher Shah

The original name of Sher Shah was Farid, he was the founder of the Sur dynasty. His childhood was not happy. Deprived of parents' love, he wandered about for some years. When he was working under Baharkhan Lohani, the king of South Bihar, he killed a tiger single-handed, and thus earned the name Sher Khan. When Babar took over the administration of India, Sher Shah worked under him and played a significant role.

Sher Shah defeated Humayun and conquered Punjab, Sindh Multan, Gwalior, Malwa, Raisindurga, Marvad and Kalinjar.

Sher Shah's administrative system

Sher Shah's kingdom comprised the whole of North India with the exception of Assam, Gujarat and Kashmir. There were 25,000 infantry, 1,50,000 cavalry and 500 elephants in his army. The cavalry was very strong. The army was divided into various troops and Commandants had been appointed to supervise them. Sher Shah himself paid attention to the organization of the army, arms and ammunition and the discipline of the soldiers. If there was damage to crops during the movement of troops, the government compensated the farmers. Sher Shah constructed new forts at Delhi, Rohtas, Kanauj and Patna.

Do you know this?

To look after the administration, there were four main departments known as Diwan-e-Insa, Diwan-e-Arij, Diwan-e-Raslat and Diwan-e-Vajarat, and two subdivisions called Diwan-e-Khaja and Barid-e-Mamalik.

Do you know this?

The four main highways:

1. From Sonargaon to the banks of river Indus through Agra, Delhi and Lahore. This route was called Sadak-e-Azam
2. From Agra to Burhanpur
3. From Agra to Chittor
4. From Lahore to Multan. On either side of the highway, shade-giving trees were planted and 1700 sarais (shelters for relaxation of travellers) were constructed.

The land in the kingdom had been classified as excellent, average and bad according to their level of fertility. The farmers gave $\frac{1}{3}$ of their income as land tax to the government.

Sher Shah was known for his impartial justice. Hence he had earned the title "Sultan of the fair justice". The Sultan was the highest judge in the kingdom. He decided all the final appeals. He conducted his court every Wednesday evening.

Sher Shah brought a new silver coin known as 'daam' into circulation. This coin weighed 180 liquorice seeds. All the other Moghul kings continued this practice.

Akbar

The most famous Moghul king, Akbar, was born in Amarkot in Sindh. Humayun was his father. When Akbar assumed power, he was only 14 years old. After the death of Humayun, Hemu, the military General of Bengal king Mohammad Shah Abdali, conquered Delhi and Agra. This led to the terrific battle at Panipat in 1556 between Hemu and the Moghuls. This is known as the II Battle of Panipat. Akbar emerged victorious in this battle. His Prime Minister and royal representative, Bairamkhan came to Akbar's assistance during the war. With the help of mighty army, Akbar conquered Malwa, Jaipur, Gondavan, Chittor, Ranathambhor, Kalinjar, Gujarat and Bengal. The Battle of Haldighat is the most significant battle in the history of medieval India. After the death of the Chittor king, Rana Uday Sing, his son Rana Pratapsingh came to power. Akbar sent his powerful army under the leadership of Generals Mansing and Asaf Khan to fight against Rana Pratap. In the battle at Haldighat, the Moghul army was victorious. The remaining states of Kashmir, Sindh, Orissa, Baluchistan, Khandhar and Ahmednagar came under Akbar. Thus, for the first time, the Moghul kingdom expanded.



Akbar

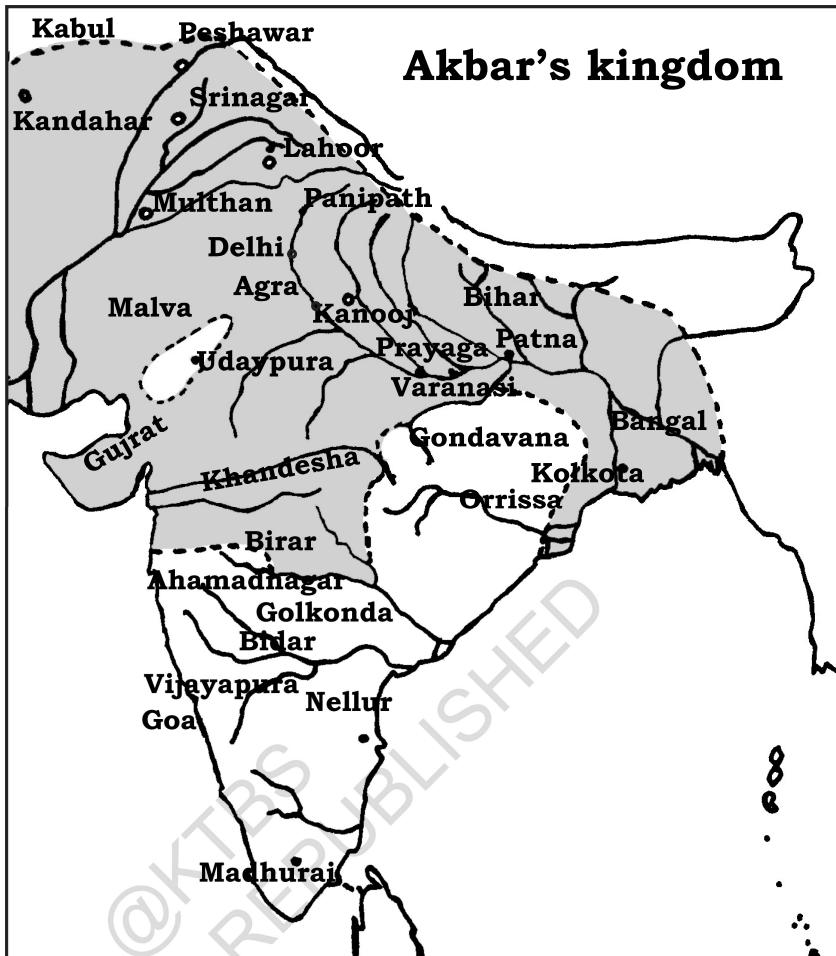
Din-e-Ilahi : Akbar was influenced by traditional broad-minded principles in his childhood. As a result, he assimilated the best aspects of all religions in his life. He established a new religious order named Din-e-Ilahi in 1582. This was based on the motto 'Peace with all' (sal-i-kul). This new religion contained the noble aspects

of all religions. Abul Fazal was the high priest of this religion. This religion was an amalgamation of thoughtfulness, concern and worship of natural forces.

Akbar's Hindu policy : The Sultan adopted a policy of tolerance towards Hindus. He permitted his Rajput wives to worship their gods in the palace itself. He abolished the jizia tax on Hindus. He contributed towards the construction and renovation of Hindu temples. He

translated the Hindu religious books into persian language. He showed respect towards qualified Hindus by appointing them to high positions. Raja Todarmal was a famous minister of finance. Bhagavandas, Mansingh, Todarmal and Raysingh were governors. There were 8 Hindus among the 12 provincial finance ministers. Akbar directed that the festivals of Rakhi, Deepavali and Shivaratri should be celebrated in his court.

Akbar's administrative system : For administrative convenience, Akbar had divided his kingdom into Central government, provincial government and paraganas. Mansabdari system was a unique feature of his administration. Akbar was the Emperor of a vast kingdom, the Commandant of his army, head of the Executive and head of the Judiciary. There were four ministers called Vakil, Diwan, Mirbhakshi and Main Sadar to assist him in the administration. He had divided the kingdom into various provinces. They were called subhas. There were altogether 15 subhas. Each subha had a "Sipaha-Salar" (governor), a diwan, a bhakshi, a sadar, a priest, a constable and a vakiya navis.



Every district had a faujdar, an amal gujar and a batikchi. The administration of the paraganas was carried out by shikdar, amil, potdar and kanungo. Akbar had established many hierarchies in his army. These called Mansab and its supervisor was called Mansabdar. There were infantry, cavalry, elephant units and cannon units in the Moghul army. There was a separate department to stamp the horses known as daag mahali.

Revenue system : This was one of the important achievements of Akbar's administration. He brought jubti system into practice. Bamboo measuring sticks with iron hooks were used to measure the land. Based on the tilling done on the land, the land had been classified as polaj, parauti, chachar and banjar. With the exception of banjar (barren) land, based on the fertility of the soil, all the other land was classified as excellent, average and mediocre. Each farmer was given a patta.

The Police system (kotwal) during Akbar's time was well organized and capable. The constables assisted in the districts whereas the revenue officials assisted in the paraganas. Their duty was to preserve tight security on the highways of the district. There were police stations in the paragons. In this manner, for the first time in the medieval age, Akbar had brought in a very efficient administrative system. Akbar encouraged art and architecture too. The important monuments in Fatehpur Sikri are Kwajaha Bhaga, Daftara Khana, Jodhabai palace, Daulat Khana, Panch Mahal, Birbal House, Kabutar Khana etc.

After Akbar, his elder son Jahangir ruled with good admistation. Shahjahan became the king after the death of his father.

Shahjahan

He constructed the famous, immensely valuable ruby-studded Peacock throne. He appointed his son Aurangzeb as the royal representative of Deccan. In 1636, he defeated the Portuguese and conquered Ahmednagar. He brought into practice measurement and evaluation of land in the Deccan region. Later events led Aurangzeb to become the Sultan. During Shahjahan's time, trade developed

Do you know this?

The nine gems or navratans in Akbar's court :

Todarmal, Abul Fazl, Faizi, Birbal, Tansen, Abdur Rahim, Khan-e-Khanana, Hamim Humam, Mulla do Payaz and Mansingh.

between India and the countries of West Asia and Europe. Shahjahan constructed the famous 'Taj Mahal' in Agra in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz. The Red Fort at Delhi and the buildings in it are the contributions of Shahjahan. Hence, his period is referred to as the 'Golden Age of Moghul Art and Architecture'.



Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal: The Moghul king, Shahjahan built the Taj Mahal in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal on the banks of the river Yamuna at Agra in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The construction of this monument began around 1632 and was completed around 1653. This is built using white marble stone. It is one of the seven wonders of the world, and is included in the list of UNESCO monuments.

Aurangzeb

Aurangzeb received good military training in his childhood and became a capable soldier. He imprisoned his father, Shahjahan, and seized power. In memory of this feat, he earned the title Alamgir, and ascended the throne. Aurangzeb put the principles of Quran into practice. To supervise the implementation of the Quran, he appointed muhtasibs in important cities. He banned practice of sati, music concerts, gambling, drinking and cultivation of ganja in his kingdom.

The Jats, Satnamis, Bundelas and the Sikhs in North India rose in rebellion against the despotic rule of Aurangzeb. The ninth Sikh Guru Tej Bahadur was imprisoned, tortured and killed. Aurangzeb developed hostilities against the powerful Rajput forces which led to the downfall of the Moghul dynasty. Intolerant of the Maratha kingdom, he waged wars against Shivaji perpetually. After Shivaji died, he imprisoned Sambhaji, tortured and killed him. He fought against the South Indian kingdoms of Adil Shahi of Vijayapura and Nizamshahi of Golconda, defeated them and merged their kingdoms with his own.

Please Note : (BCE - refer to before common era)

Wherever BCE is not mentioned it is CE-Common era

The contributions of the Moghuls

Administration : The Moghul administration was hereditary, and absolute monarchy was in practice. The kings referred to themselves as Badshahs. There were ministers as well as officials to advise in matters of administration. Persian was the language of administration. In order to achieve efficiency in administration, the kingdom was divided into provinces, districts and cities. There were administrative officers to supervise them. The Sultan was the head of the judiciary. The Moghul kings had the authority to appoint or dismiss military generals and ministers. The appointment of mansabdars, giving jagirs and framing laws were the duties of the king. Vakil, Diwan, Mirbakshi and Mukhya sadar were the important ministers in the central government. The provincial administration was taken care of by the governor, diwan, bakshi, vakiya navis, kotwal, faujdar, amal gujar and batikchi.

Revenue system: Agriculture was the main occupation of majority of the people in the Moghul kingdom. Land tax was collected according to the fertility of the soil. The agricultural land was measured meticulously and only then the tax was fixed.

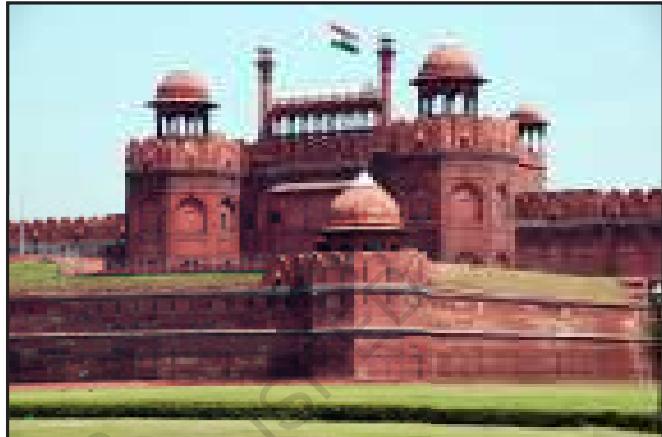
Society and the economic system: The king, ministers, officials and other employees enjoyed a dignified status in society. They used expensive cloths, with the exception of Aurangzeb, all the rest used to engage in past-times like music entertainment, drinking of alcohol and gambling. There were many maid-servants to look after the queens in the palaces. People wore jewellery made of pearls, rubies and other metals.

Raja Todarmal had implemented an efficient practice of measuring the land and classifying it. Since North India had many rivers, fertile land was naturally available. Irrigation encouraged development of agriculture.

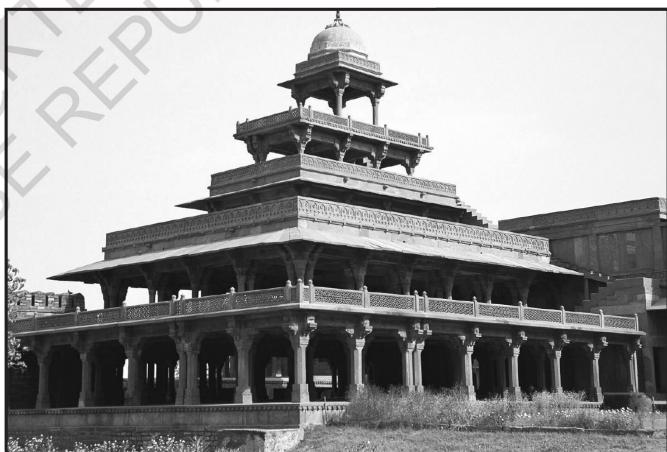
There were government factories in Lahore, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri and Ahmedabad. The famous textile industries of that period were in Benares, Patna, Dacca, Chabaspura, Sonar, Lahore, Fatehpur Sikri and Agra. The weaving of shawls and carpets developed during Akbar's time. Kashmiri shawls became popular. During the Moghul period, India had trade relations with many countries in Asia and Europe. Raw silk, metals, horses, perfumes, gold and silver were imported

whereas cotton cloth, pepper, saffron, opium, salt petre and woollen clothes were exported.

Literature: During the Moghul period, many books were written in Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Hindi and Sanskrit languages. Babar and Jehangir were scholars and they wrote their autobiographies Baburnama and Tuzik-e-Jehangir. Abul Fazl who was in Akbar's court, wrote Ain-E-Akbari and Akbarnama in Persian. Badauni translated the Ramayana, Faizi the mathematical work Leelavati and Raja Todarmal the Bhagavat Puran into the Persian language. Great works were written like Ramacharitamanas by Tulsidas, Sursagar by Surdas.



Red Fort



Panch mahal at Fatehpur Sikri

After constructing the Red Fort, Diwan-e-Khas, Rang Mahal, Mumtaz Mahal, Moti Masjid, Nakkar Khana, Khas Mahal and other structures were accommodated. In addition to this, the country's largest mosque, Jamia Masjid, was also built at Delhi during Shahjahan's period.

Painting: During the period of Humayun, the art of painting evolved. With the help of Mir Sayyed Ali and Abdus Samad of Persia, various painted canvases were created. Of the 17 artists in the court of Akbar, 13 artists were Hindus. Famous among them were Daswant,

Basavana, Lala and Mukunda. In Jehangir's court, Ustad Mansoor and Abdul Hassan were present. These artists mainly produced huge paintings of Moghul kings and their queens.

THE MARATHAS

The rise of the Maratha kingdom in Deccan during the 17th century was an important development. It spread over the present North India. During the 17th century, Maharashtra was under the control of Nizam Shahi of Ahmednagar and Adil Shahi of Vijayapura. These Sultans employed local Marathas in their armies. Deshpandes and Deshmukhs were the collectors of land tax. Among them, Shahaji Bhonsle was an administrator under Vijayapura Sultan and had been gifted lands.

Shivaji

The establishment of Maratha kingdom opened up a new chapter in Indian history. The Marathas fought with the Moghuls to protect the integrity of the nation and to save it from external aggression. Shivaji was the most famous of the Maratha kings. He was successful not only in expanding the kingdom but also in giving a good administration. The teachings of famous saints of Maharashtra influenced the protection of Hindu religion and establishment of Maratha kingdom.



Shivaji

Shivaji was born in Shivaneri of Pune district. His father, Shahaji Bhonsle, was in the service of the Vijayapura Sultan. His mother, Jijabai, was a pious woman who inculcated religious fervor, uprightness, honesty and sincerity in her son. Dadaji Kondadeva was Shivaji's guru and he trained him in armed warfare and the scriptures. Shivaji achieved proficiency in body-building, fencing, horse-riding and other field events.

In his childhood itself, Shivaji had dreamt of establishing an independent kingdom. Therefore, he made Pune as his centre and started the process of expansion of his kingdom. Towards this end, Shivaji assembled an army of the local Mavali youths and trained them in guerilla warfare. Shivaji conquered Torana fort, Purandhar gadh fort, Chakkankot, Simhagadh and Javali fort from the Vijayapura Sultan. He renamed Hosadurga near Torana fort as Raigadh. He built a new fort called Pratapgad. Since Shivaji fought against Vijayapura Sultans, his father, Shahaji, was captured by the Sultan. On the assurance that he would not attack them again, Shahaji was released.

The relationship between the Moghuls and Shivaji

Shivaji fought the Moghul sultan, Aurangzeb, for many years. In addition to defeating the Shia kingdoms in South India, Aurangzeb had determined to vanquish the Maratha kingdom completely. To achieve this, he appointed Shahista Khan and Jaisingh. Jaisingh defeated Shivaji and made an agreement in Purandargadh. As per the agreement, Shivaji surrendered 23 of his forts and the land yielding 16 lakhs income annually. He promised to be loyal to the Moghuls and sent 5000 cavalry under the leadership of his son, Sambhaji, to Delhi. With an intention to stop Shivaji becoming intimate with Adil Shah of Bijapur and Kutub Shahi of Golconda, Jaisingh called Shivaji to Agra. Aurangzeb did not show proper respect to Shivaji in his court and insulted him. When Shivaji protested against this, Shivaji and his son Sambhaji were kept in prison in Agra. But after a few days, Shivaji, along with his son, escaped from the prison by hiding in a fruit basket, and reached Raigadh. Later he strengthened his army and conquered many of the forts that he had lost. Shivaji's coronation took place in the year 1674 at Raigadh. There he was given the title Chatrapathi and felicitated.

Administration : Shivaji had organized an efficient administrative system in his vast kingdom. He had divided his kingdom into many provinces. They were called Swaraj and Moghul areas. Marathi was the language of administration. There were ministers known as Asthapradhans in the central government to assist the king. In addition to them, there were other officials. Province, district and village were the administrative units.

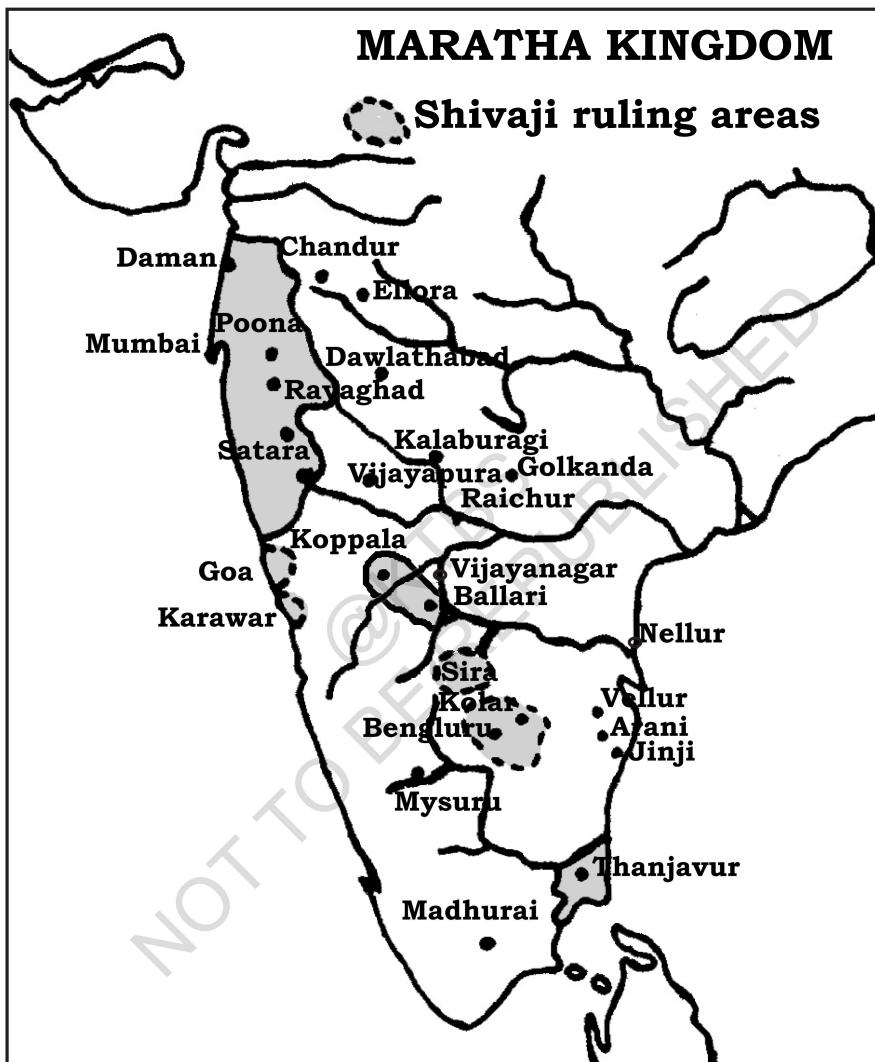
Revenue system: Shivaji's system of revenue collection was Ryotwari system, favorable to farmers. He abolished the jahagir revenue system. The tax was collected in the form of money or material. Chauth ($\frac{1}{4}$ of the land tax) and sardeshamukhi ($\frac{1}{10}$ of the land tax) types of land taxation were in practice.

Do you know this?

Guerilla warfare: *Hiding in hills, forests and shrubs, and attacking the enemies abruptly is called guerilla warfare.*

Judiciary system: In Shivaji's administration, traditional system of justice was in practice. The village panchayat used to dispense justice in villages. The Brahmin judges used to give decisions based on smritis (scriptures).

Army : The Maratha army had infantry, cavalry, elephant units and cannon units. There were important forts in Raigadh, Rajgadh, Toranagadh, Pratapgadh and Simhagadh. The hawaldar (constable) was the supervisor of the fort. The army was divided into small units. Shivaji's soldiers were specially trained in guerilla warfare.



The successors of Shivaji : After the death of Shivaji, Sambaji by his own strength became the successor of the Marata kingdom. Instead of protecting his kingdom, he himself became the victim of Aurangzeb's army. His wife and young son Shahu were captured. Thus, Sambhaji's step-brother, Rajaram Shahu, became the royal representative and took over the administration. Rajaram fought against the Moghuls again and recaptured Gujarat, Malwa, Khandesh, Berar and other

forts. Since Rajaram died in 1700, his wife, Tarabai Mohite, made her 10-year old son, Shivaji II the king, and ruled over the kingdom on his behalf. She served as the royal representative from 1700 to 1708. She also waged war against Aurangzeb. Although initially, the Moghuls were victorious, later on the Marathas recaptured their lost territory. Aurangzeb's successor, Bahadur Shah I released Sambhaji's son Shahu from prison and permitted him to collect chauth and sardeshmukhi taxes from Moghul lands in the South. This led to internal strife between Tarabai and Shahu, and Tarabai gave up. But Shahu was not competent enough. He handed over the administration to his Peshwa (Prime Minister). In this manner, the Peshwa rule began in the Maratha kingdom.

THE PESHWAS

Balaji Vishwanath : Balaji Vishwanath was nominated as Peshwa for his efficient and loyal service as a commander of Shah. He played a decisive role in successfully getting Sahu and his mother free from the captivity of the Moghuls. He gained the friendship of Sayyed brothers of the Moghul dynasty and under the employment of Shivaji, earned the responsibility of collecting land taxes on the areas captured by the Moghuls during their administration. He was able to bring together the members of the Maratha Union: Bhonsle, Gaikwad, Holkar, Scindhia and the Peshwas. Thus he established the fame of the Marathas.

Baji rao I : After the death of Balaji Vishwanath, his eldest son, Baji Rao I, got appointed as Peshwa. Although he was only 19 years old, he was an unparalleled warrior. With the intention of expanding the Maratha kingdom in North India, he conquered Gujarat, Malwa and gained the authority to collect chauth and sardeshmukhi taxes. He invaded Chitradurga and Srirangapatna of Karnataka. When Baji Rao declared war against the Moghuls, Nizam-ul-Mulk, with the intention of assisting the Moghuls, tried to march towards Delhi. But he lost to the Marathas in a battle near Bhopal. Due to this, the vast stretch of land between the Narmada and Chambal rivers and 50 lakh rupees came to Baji Rao as war compensation. In addition to this, he conquered Salcet and Basin from the Portuguese and Janjira from the Siddhis. Pune became his administrative centre. At this juncture, the members of the Maratha union, Scindhia of Gwalior, Holkar of

Indore, Bhonsle of Nagpur and Gaikwad of Baroda decided together to become independent. Baji Rao I not only ruled with efficiency but also re-established the glory of the Maratha empire. Hence he was called Shivaji II.

Balaji Baji Rao: Since he came to power at the age of 20 years, Balaji Baji Rao appointed his close relative, Sadashiv Bavu, to guide him in the administration. He aspired to enhance the image of the Marathas. He took measures to improve the economic state of the kingdom. To establish the empire of Bundelkhand, he travelled with the armies of Holkar and Scindia in the year 1742. Ahmed Shah Abdali of Afghanistan attacked Moghul areas and captured Lahore, Multan and Kashmir. Then the Moghul king, Safdarjung, entered into an agreement with the Marathas. This agreement related to internal and external invasions. As expected, Ahmed Shah Abdali invaded India. Balaji Baji Rao fought with his army in Panipat mention the year and got defeated.

Madhav Rao I : He was the second son of Balaji Baji Rao and became the Peshwa after the death of his father. Since he was a minor, he appointed his uncle as the royal representative. After the defeat in the III Battle of Panipat, he recovered in an astonishing manner, and established his kingdom in South and North India. When the Nizam attempted to benefit from the defeat of Panipat, Madhav Rao I defeated him in the battle near Ahmednagar. He defeated Hyder Ali of Mysore also. He not only waged war against Mysore a second time, defeating Shrirangapatna and acquiring all the area earlier occupied by Hyder Ali, but he also received a huge amount of money as war compensation. He overthrew the Rajputs, Jats and Rohils of North India. He helped the Moghul Emperor, Shah Alam II who had been banished as a traitor, to regain his throne at Delhi. In this manner, Madhav Rao re-established the lost glory of the Marathas in a very short period. After the British routed the Marathas in the Third Anglo-Maratha War, Maratha rule came to an end.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

1. The founder of Ahom dynasty _____.
2. The founder of the Moghul dynasty was _____.
3. The most famous emperor among the Moghuls was _____.
4. The king who built the Taj Mahal at Agra was _____.
5. The Moghul emperor who established the new religion Dine-Ilahi was _____.
6. Shivaji's mother was _____.

II. Answer the following questions by discussing with your group.

1. Write briefly important achievements of Ahom dynasty.
2. Describe the military achievements of Babar.
3. Compare and contrast the present-day administrative system with that of Sher Shah.
4. What are the areas won by Akbar ?
5. Describe the contributions of Shahjahan to art and architecture.
6. Describe Shivaji's system of administration.
7. Explain the achievements of Bajirao I.

III. Activities :

1. Mark on a map of India the areas conquered by Akbar.
2. Write an essay on how Shivaji's mother Jijabai was successful in inculcating patriotism in Shivaji.
3. Mark on a map of India the Ahom Kingdom and its places.

IV. Project :

Write a report on the administrative system in your area.

