



QUICK REVISION MODULE
(UPSC PRELIMS 2024) ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

THE GREAT MUGHALS

(Six Major Rulers)



ZAHIRUDDIN MUHAMMAD BABUR

1526–1530

NASIR-UD-DIN MUHAMMAD HUMAYUN

1530–1540 & 1555–1556





ABU'L-FATH JALAL-UD-DIN MUHAMMAD AKBAR

1556–1605

NUR-UD-DIN MUHAMMAD SALIM JAHANGIR

1605–1627



SHAHAB-UD-DIN

MUHAMMAD KHURRAM SHAH JAHAN

1627-1658



MUHI-UD-DIN MUHAMMAD AURANGZEB

1658–1707



IMPORTANT BATTLES 1526-1556



S. No	Name of the Battle	Participants	Result
1	First Battle of Panipat, 21 April 1526	Babur Vs. Ibrahim Lodi	Babur won with the help of strategic positioning of his forces and the effective use of artillery.
2	Battle of Khanwa, 1527	Babur Vs. Rana Sanga of Chittor, Mahmud Lodi, brother of Ibrahim Lodi, and Hasan Khan Mewati, ruler of Mewat	Babur defeated Rana Sanga's forces. The capture of forts at Gwalior and Dholpur which further strengthened Babur's position.

S. No	Name of the Battle	Participants	Result
3	Battle of Chanderi, 1528	Babur Vs. Medini Rai	Babur won.
4	Battle of Ghagra, 1529	Babur Vs. Sultan Ibrahim Lodi's brother Mahmud Lodi and Sultan Nusrat Shah, son-in-law of Ibrahim Lodi	Babur defeated the Afghans. But he died on his way from Agra to Lahore in 1530
5	Battle of Chausa (1539)	HUMAYUN Vs. Sher Shah	Sher Shah won due to his superior political and military skills.
6	Battle of Kanauj (1540)	HUMAYUN Vs. Sher Shah	Sher Shah won. Humayun became a prince without a kingdom.
7	Second Battle of Panipat, 1556	Akbar Vs. Hemu (the Hindu general of Adil Shah)	The Mughal forces won the war.



AKBAR'S MILITARY CONQUEST



Malwa

1562

Baz Bahadur, who was later made a mansabdar in Akbar's court.

Gondwana region

1564

Rani Durgavati And Narayan. Central India was annexed

Mewar

1567

From **Rana Uday Singh**.

Gujarat

1573

From **Muzaffar Shah**

Kabul

1581

From **Mirza Hakim**

Khandesh

1591

From **Raja Ali Khan** ruler of Khandesh, accepted Mughul emperor's suzerainty and agreed to pay an annual tribute.

Berar

1596

From Chand Bibi

Ahmednagar

1600

From Muzaffar Shah



IMPORTANT WARS/EVENTS UNDER JAHANGIR



Challenging Jahangir's ascension

- ★ Prince Khusrau who staged a revolt with the blessings of Sikh Guru Arjun Dev (5th Sikh Guru).
- ★ Prince Khusrau was defeated, captured and blinded, while Guru Arjun Dev was executed.

Capturing Rebellious Provinces

- ★ Tamed the rebel Afghan Usman Khanin in Bengal.
- ★ Rana Udai Singh and his son Rana Pratap Singh of Mewar Jahangir after a military campaign led by his son Prince Khurram.

IMPORTANT WARS/EVENTS UNDER SHAH JAHAN

Consolidation of Deccan in Mughal Empire:
Shah Jahan divided Deccan into four provinces:
Ahmednagar with Daulatabad; Khandesh;
Berar; and Telengana. The viceroyalty of the four provinces
was conferred to Aurangzeb.

Ahmednagar, which offered resistance to the Mughals,
was annexed despite the efforts of Malik Ambar

1638 Shah Jahan annexed Kandahar, conquered by Akbar and lost by Jahangir

Portugese 200 in number were driven out of Hugli area (Bengal)

IMPORTANT WARS/EVENTS UNDER AURANGZEB

A war of succession broke out between the four sons of Shah Jahan in which Aurangzeb won

The Jat rebellion (1669), Mathura rose under the leadership of a local Zamindar Gokul. Mughal army pursued the Jats and the leader Gokul was captured and executed

The Sikhs rebelled against Aurangzeb. The Sikh (The Punjab) rebellion, 1670 This erupted due to the political intrigues of Ram Rai, a claimant for the position of Sikh Guru, against the incumbent Guru Tegh Bahadur. This finally ended with the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur (9th Sikh Guru).

The Satnamis Haryana region(1672), the Satnamis – a sect comprising peasants, artisans and untouchables – rebelled against the mighty Mughal Empire

Aurangzeb's Deccan Policy, to contain:

1. growing influence of the Marathas
2. The rebellious attitude of the Shia kingdoms of Deccan like Golkonda and Bijapur
3. Curtail the rebellious activities of his son Akbar

THE MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION

Highly Centralised > Pan India

Humayun & Babur

Did not concentrate on establishing a definite system

focus was more on military matters.

Akbar

Established various offices with assigned functions

Elaborate rules and regulations were placed to guide officers in charge of administration



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION



Emperor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Divine origin of monarchy.★ All officers in Mughal administration owe their position in power to the emperor.
Wazir/wakil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Enjoyed both military and civil powers till Humayun's Reign.★ Under Akbar Financial powers were transferred to diwan kul.
Diwan Kul (chief Diwan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Supervise imperial treasury & check all accounts.
Mir Bakhshi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Appointment of Mansabdars.★ Supervision of Dagh (branding of horses) & Chehra (preparation of muster roll based on facial description).
Mir Saman/ Khan Saman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Officer in charge of royal karkhanas
Sadr-us-Sudur	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Head of Ecclesiastical department.★ Duty to protect laws of the Shariat.
Qazi-ul quzzat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Administer Shariat law both in civil and criminal matter.★ Head of judiciary (prior to Aurangzeb this office did not exist).



PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION



Akbar

1580

- ★ Empire was divided into 12 subas (later 3 were added total 15)
- ★ Suba > Sarkar > Parganas > Mahal

Shah Jahan

- ★ Added another administrative unit Chakla i.e cluster of Parganas.
- ★ Chakla > Pargana > Mahal

Subadar/Sipah Salaror Nazim

- ★ Governor of a province.
- ★ Directly appointed by the emperor.
- ★ Tenure: 3 years

Diwan

- ★ Head of revenue department.
- ★ Independent officer answerable to the Centre.
- ★ Roznamcha (daily register) maintained by him to enter amounts deposited in royal treasury.

Bakhshi

- ★ Performed same functions as performed by Mir Bakhshi but for provinces.

Darogha- I Dak

- ★ Head of Imperial Postal System.

Waqai navis & Waqai nigars

- ★ Part of the postal system.
- ★ Duty was to supply important reports directly to the emperor.

Sawanih nigar

- ★ Supplied confidential reports to the emperor, part of the secret services

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Sarkars >

Pargana
(tehsil)>

Mauza
(village)

At level of Sarkar 2 important officers:

Faujdar: Head of the sarkar, take care of law and order problems.
Also help Amalguzar in matters of revenue collection.

Amalguzar/Amil: Assess and supervise the revenue collection.
Sends receipts and expenditure reports to provincial diwan.

Thanedar: Was the head of thana where army was stationed.
He was placed under faujdar.



PARGANA ADMINISTRATION



Pargana

Shiqqdar : executive officer of the paragana, assisted amils in revenue collection.

Amil : Revenue collection at pargana level.

Qanungos : Kept all records pertaining to land in his area. Take note of different crops in the pargana.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

Muqaddam/Mandal Village headman

Patwari Took care of village revenue records.

Town, Fort and Port Administration

Kotwal: Duty to safeguard life and property in towns. Maintain register of people entering and leaving towns.

Qiladar: Officer incharge of forts. Generally a high ranking mansabdar.

Mutasaddi: Governor of the port, directly appointed by the emperor.



THE MUGHAL ARMY



Consists of

- ★ Cavalry
- ★ Infantry
- ★ Artillery
- ★ Elephants
- ★ Camels
- ★ There was no navy but there was a flotilla of boats.

Cavalry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Dagh system (branding of horses) was used to main an efficient and well-equipped force of cavalry.
Dakhili	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Soldiers directly employed by state and sent to high ranking mansabdars.
Ahadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ A separate category of soldiers called gentlemen troopers, were allowed to keep 5 horses or more. ★ Could be appointed in army or can serve as a messenger.
Artillery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Developed rapidly in India after Babur. ★ Consists of 1 heavy artillery i.e., siege guns and heavy guns on forts. ★ 2 light artilleries: narnal (mounted on man), gajanal (mounted on elephants) & shutrnal (mounted on camels)



MANSABDARI SYSTEM



Administrative system of Mughals. The word mansab is of Arabic origin meaning rank or position.

The system determines rank and status of a government official and military generals.

Every civil and military officer was given a mansab, which determined their salaries & allowances

The mansab were in multiples of 10.

Highest Rank under Akbar was 10000 which was increased by him to 12000. Rank above 7000 was given to princes.



CLASSIFICATION OF MANSABDARS



Amir- I - Azam/Udma: > Rank 2500

Amir: Rank 500 to 2500

Mansabdar: < Rank 500

Structure of Mansabdari System

- ★ The system was designated by dual representation: 1 personal rank called zat. 2 Cavalry rank called sawar.
- ★ Sawar rank determined number of armed cavalry men that the masabar had to maintain for imperial army.

1st class mansabdar: Number of Sawar = Number of zat

2nd class mansabdar: Number of Sawar = 1/2 Number of zat

3rd class mansabdar: Number of Sawar < 1/2 Number of zat

SALARY AND PAYMENT SYSTEM

Paid in cash (**naqdi**) or assigning mansabdars with **jagirs (land)** and allowed to collect land revenue and all other taxes from the jagirs.

The Jagirdari System was integral part of the Mansabdari system.

Types of Jagirs



Tankha

non hereditary
(transferable)

Jagirs
given in
lieu of
salary

Mashrut

non hereditary

Given
under
certain
conditions.

Watan

hereditary (non
transferable)
Rajputs entitled to
this.

Given to
Zamindar or
Rajas in
their local
dominion

Given to Muslim
Nobels in his
places of
birth or
hometown

Altamagha

non hereditary

CHANGES IN MANSABDARI SYSTEM

Du-aspah sih-aspah

- ★ Introduced by Jahangir.
- ★ Selected nobels were allowed to maintain a large quota of soldiers without changing the zat rank

- ★ Introduced by Shah Jahan.
- ★ Salaries of mansabdars were put on the monthly scale i.e. 8 months, 6 months or even less.

Month ratio or month- scale system

SOCIO- ECONOMIC LIFE UNDER MUGHALS



Mughal Land Revenue System: Known as **mal** and **mal wajib**



Process of land revenue collection:

Assessment called **Tashkhis/ Jama**

Actual collection called **hasil**. It was done separately for **kharib** and **rabi** crop



After assessment the findings are written on documents called **patta, qual** or **qualqarar**.

METHODS OF LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT



Ghalla Bakshi/ bhaoii/ batai: Division of crop at threshing floor after the grain was extracted.



Khet batai: Share decided before the harvesting of crops.



Lang batai: crop was cut but assessment was done before threshing.



Nigamama-i Munshi: best method as the peasant and the State shared the risk of farming equally.



Kankut/ danabandi: System where the revenue demand was fixed after the grain yield was estimated.



Zabti System: For each crop cash revenue was fixed known as **dastur ul amal/ dastur**. It was to be paid in cash. It was based on Sher Shah rai system.

Adopted only in Delhi, Agra, Awadh, Lahore and Multan.

Revenue Farming or Ijara system

- ★ When peasants lacked the means to cultivate their land or cultivation was impossible due to a calamity, the lands were farmed out on *ijarah* to a third party known as revenue farmers.
- ★ Mughals disapproved of this system but yet it was common in jagir lands.



PEASANTS



Peasants/ raiyat/ muzarian/asami

Two kinds of peasants:

1. *khud-kashta*: residents of the village in which they held their lands.
2. *pahi-kashta* non-resident cultivators who belonged to some other village, but cultivated lands on a contractual basis



TRADE



Wholesale trade carried out by **seth/bohra**

Retail trade was carried out by **beoparis/banik**

Banjaras specialised in transporting goods.

Sarraf/shroff specialised in changing, keeping or lending money.

Hundi was letter of credit payable after certain time.

Religious Ideas and Beliefs

- ★ **Tawhid-i-ilahi/ Din-i-ilahi:**
- ★ Syncretic religion propounded by Akbar in 1552.
- ★ The spirit and core elements were borrowed from Sufism.
- ★ Main elements from Islam, Hinduism & Zoroastrianism.
- ★ Some elements of Christianity, Buddhism and Jainism can also be found.

- ★ **Shul-i-kul**
- ★ Discussion with various religious leaders used to take place in ibadat khana.
- ★ Akbar got the idea of shul-i-kul or Universal peace from participating in these discussions. It was one of the important visions of governance.
- ★ Jahangir and Shah Jahan too followed this principle.



TRAVELLERS DURING THE GREAT MUGHAL REIGN



Traveller	Emperor	About/Observations/books
Anthony Monserrate (1578-1582)	Akbar	Portuguese priest
Ralph Fitch (1585-1591)	Akbar	A merchant, 1st Englishman to travel through India and Southeast Asia. Described about village life in detail.

Traveller	Emperor	About/Observations/books
William Hawkins (1608-1611)	Jahangir	English Ambassador of King James I
Sir Thomas Roe (1615-1619)	Jahangir	English Diplomat came to India seeking for a trade agreement with Mughals.
Francisco Pelasaert (1620-1627)	Jahangir	Dutch merchant, author of "Jahangir's India".
Pietro Della Valle (1622- 1633)	Jahangir & Shah Jahan	Italian music composer. Gave vivid description of Ahmedabad.
Peter Mundy (1628-1634)	Shah Jahan	British merchant.

Traveller	Emperor	About/Observations/books
Jean Baptiste Tavernier (1640-1668)	Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb	French Gem merchant, travelled India 6 times.
Francois Bernier (1656-1668)	Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb	French physician, political philosopher, closely associated with Dara Shukoh. Author of "Travels in the Mughal Empire". Made adverse remarks on efficiency of Mughal army (no drills or discipline). Excessive oppression of peasantry. Gave an account of royal Karkhanas.
Niccolao Manucci (1658-1687)	Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb	Venetian writer, stayed back in India did not return to his homeland. Author of "Storia de Mogor", a book on Mughals.
Jean De Thevenot (1666-1668)	Aurangzeb	French botanist and traveller.

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