

**JIWAJI UNIVERSITY, GWALIOR**

**BALLB II SEM**

**HISTORY PPT LECTURE**

**14**

**UNIT III**

**TOPIC- THE MUGHAL EMPIRE**

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# THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

## AKBAR AS A NATIONAL MONARCH:

Probable questions:-

1. Akbar was national monarch. Do you agree?
2. Discuss the akbar as a national king.

# Akbar as a national monarch

Professor T.K.Shah writes, ' akbar was the greatest of the mughals and perhaps the greatest of all indian rulers for a thousand years'.

Akbar's estimation as a national monarch is supported on the following basis.

- Harmony in society- As akbar made no distinction among his subjects on the basis of cast and creed, he was honoured with the title of national king. His liberal policies justified this title.

Unlike his predecessors, he treated muslims and non-muslims equally and sincerely ended this discrimination. Laurence binyan writes, ' his great achievements as a ruler was to bring of different states, different religion, different sects into a whole.

- Akbar was indianised- Akbar was so great because he was thoroughly indianised. Babur and humayun burried outside, but akbar completely identified himselg with india, its people, its soil.
- Political unity- Akbar aim to expand his empire in india was to unify the scattered kingdoms under one umbrella. However according to R.P.Tripathi

the aim of akbar was more ambitious than that of national king. Akbar in his view wanted to bring the entire world under his control as he was an expansenist.

- Sulah kul or universal tolerance- Akbar propounded a secular kingdom and did not submit the ulemas and mullah but he had absolute faith in god without being fanatic.

This liberalised his religious outlook and he gave birth to a new religious policy in which everyone was treated equal without the differences of cast and creed. V.A.Smith remarks, ' he was a broadminded person and he alone could follow a policy of sulah kul or universal tolerance.'

- Synthesis of all religions- Akbar attempted to bring about synthesis of all religions. 'Ibadatkhana' was established for religious discussions by theologians and scholars of all other faiths such as hindus, persians, jains and christians in order to know their ideas.

After coming in contact with the scholars of different religions, he adopted a liberal view towards the other religions and began to give them liberal grants.

- Appointments on merits- Merit was the basis of all appointments and this led to great efficiency in his administration. By this policy akbar won the heart of hindus. Raja Man singh and Raja Todarmal were given high mansabs because of their efficiency.

- The rules for hindu and muslim mansabdars were similar for he commanded loyalty of all castes and not of any particular creed.
- Liberal rajput policy- Akbar adopted the liberal rajput policy and made matrimonial relations with amer, bikaner, jaisalmer. The liberal rajput policy of akbar enabled the mughal empire to reach the zenith of progress in all spheres. It was an excellent mixture of hindu-muslim religion. Moreover rajputs were also granted freedom of worship and faith.
  - Removal of social evils- Akbar made efforts

to abolish the social evils prevalent in the society.

He abolished child marriage and infanticide from indian society. Slave trade and sati system were a great blot on society, he tried his best to uproot these evils.

Thus he improved and strengthened the indian society by his social and religious reforms. Dr. R.P.Tripathi has remarked about him , ‘ he was at once the child and the father of his age’.

- Cultural synthesis- He tried to bring about a synthesis of different schools of arts. Mughal art, which was a product of a mixture of hindu and mughal styles, was actually indian. There was no foreign touch in it.



Akabr made efforts to bring about the fusion of hindu and muslim art and literature-

- Architecture: The effects of bothpersian and indian art are clearly visible in his buildings built at fatehpur sikri, agra and delhi.
- Painting: It is said that most important painters of his court were hindus. Some of them being Daswanth, Basawan, Mukand, Jagan etc.
- Literature- Akbar established a translation department with the objective of translating the sacred books to the hindus from sanskrit to persian.

- Fine arts- Akbar was also the lover of fine arts. Music and painting flourished during his reign. Abul fazl gives a list of 33 famous musicians and a number of highly skilled painters.

Out of nine 'navratnas' of his court, four were hindus.

# CONCLUSION

To sum up, we may quote Dr. Ishwari prasad remarks, ' akbar was undoubtedly superior to his contemporaries both in intellect and character and his policy was more human...accurate and impartial research will reveal akbar as a national monarch in many aspects.'

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**THANK YOU**

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