

JIWAJI UNIVERSITY, GWALIOR

BALLB II SEM

HISTORY PPT LECTURE

11

UNIT-III

**TOPIC- THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (1526-
1740 A.D)**

SHARAD KATIYAR

INSTITUTE OF LAW

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THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

SOURCES OF MUGHAL HISTORY:-

Probable questions:

1. Describe the main sources of history of the mughal period.
2. Discuss the persian and arabic sources of indian mughal history.

Sources of Mughal history

Unlike the hindu rulers of ancient india, the kings and nobles of medieval india were very much interested in the contemporary source material which helps in studying the history of different dynasties which ruled at delhi from time to time.

The medieval rulers employed court historians and diarists in order to maintain the records of their activities in a systematic way.

Besides the descriptions of the contemporary historians, mughal rulers like babar and jehangir also wrote their autobiographies which are the important source material

❖ Tuzuk-i-Babri -

This book, also known as babarnama was written by mughal emperor babar in turki, his mothertongue. It is very important source material for the history of the period of babar. Hence it was translated into various languages.

It not only throws light on the personal life and achievements of babar but it is the most authentic source for knowing the history of the contemporary period. Owing to its significance and style babar is ranked high among autobiographers. It contains account of farghana, samarkand, kabul and hindustan. Babar's description of india clearly indicates his ability to understand the things properly

❖ Qanun-i-Humayuni-

Ghiyasuddin Muhammad alias Khvandmir wrote this book. He visited india in 1528 and joined the court of babar. After the death of babar, humayun patronised him and instructed him to write this book.

This book throws light on the rules and regulations of humayun's time, his love for astrology and his achievement in field of architecture. The character and personality of humayun has also been depicted in this significant book.

❖ Humayun-nama-

Gulbadan begum, daughter of babar, and the real sister of Hindal, wrote this book in persian during the reign of akbar. She completed humayunnama between A.D 1580 to 1590. she wrote about the character and personality of babar, her father, his behaviour towards relatives, important events of his reign and about the sickness and death of babar.

❖ Tarikh-i-Shershahi-

It was written by Abbas khan Sarwani in persian, an account of the achievements of Shershah suri at the instructions of emperor akbar. Abbas khan had first hand knowledge of the character and achievements of shershah suri and depicted the same in his book quiet effectively. He has also thrown light on the lineage, career and administration of shershah.

❖ Waqiyat-i-Mustaqi-

Sheikh Rizkullah Mustaqi wrote this book in persian. The learned author has written about shershah's expedition to bengal, death of qutub khan and campaign of humayun in bengal.

Besides the details of the reign of shershah we get information about his successor islam shah. War of succession between islam shah and aadil shah has been dealt within this book.

❖ Akbarnama-

Abul fazl was the most popular historian and chronicler of mughal period. The akbarnama is divided into three parts. The first part deals from the reign of amir timur to humayun and the second and the third part the author has thrown light on the history of the reign of akbar upto 1602.

Thus akbarnama also throws light on the political and social activities of all the mughal emperors.

It is translated into english by Henry beveridge.

Other sources of akbar's reign:

- Tarikh-i-Firishta by Mullah muhammad qasim hindu shah.
- Tarikh-i-haqqi by Abdul haq.
- Muntakhav-ut-tawarikha by Yayya bin Abdul latif.
- Tarikh-i-Khandan-i-taimuria by some anonymous writer.
- Tarikh-i-Alfi compiled by maulana ahmed.

❖ Tuzuk-i-jahangiri-

Most significant source of information about the reign of jehangir is his autobiography known as tuzuk-i-jehangiri.

It contains detailed account of battles, conquests and rebellions, appointments and dismissals of civil and military persons. But jehangir has not mentioned details of his own revolt against his father, khusrav's revolt and his death and the circumstances which led to his marriage to nurjahan.

❖ Padshahnama-

Muhammad amin qazvini wrote padshahnama on the instructions of shahjahan. The events of the first ten years have been described in this book.

In the first part the author had described the early life and career of shahjahan. The second part contained the history of the first ten years reign of shahjahan and the third part the life and achievements of the contemporary saints has been discussed.

❖ Alamgirnama-

It was written by Mirza muhammad qasim and contains the history of early ten years reign of aurangzeb. It was published before aurangzeb has issued orders for ban on history writing.

Professor Sarkar opines that it is the independent work of the author. It contains the description of some such events as could never be liked by the emperor.

Besides the above persian sources, the foreign tourists who visited india from time to time and wrote accounts of different mughal rulers.

Among them father Anthony Monserrate, Edward maclegan, Hawkins, sir Thomas roe, Terry, John delaet, Nicholas manucci, Francis gladvin, Peter dellavella, Bernier travernier etc.

Hence all these sources enable us to understand the history of mughal period fully well.

THANK YOU

SHARAD KATIYAR

NET SET

Research Scholar, JU

sharadkatiyar04@gmail.com

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