



# FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

SUBJECT CODE: BAL 102

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# Lecture-36



## MEDIEVAL INDIA

### Kings and their Courts

#### Mughal State (Mansabdari System and Administrative Apparatus)

##### **Main Elements and Structure of the Mughal Administration:**

##### **1. Emperor as the representative of God:**

Mughal emperors considered themselves as God's representatives on earth. They claimed to be the "Shadow of God", or "Visible God." or "Wakil to God" or "Khatifa of her country."

##### **2. Centralized power:**

The emperor was the head of administration and the state. He was the law-maker as well as dispenser of justice, the commander-in-chief and the fountain-head of all honours. He was the source of all authority.

##### **3. Benevolent despot:**

The Mughal emperor accepted two primary duties for themselves—'Jahan Bani' protection of the state, and 'Jahangiri' (extension of the empire). They attempted to create those conditions which were conducive to economic and cultural progress of their subjects. They devoted lot of time to look after the affairs of the state.

##### **4. Rule of Aristocracy:**

Dr. Tara Chand describes the rule of the Mughal emperors as 'the rule of aristocracy'. This implies that the nobles exercised enormous influence on the administration of the state.

##### **5. Foreign-cum Indian system of administration:**

Dr. J.N. Sarkar has observed, "The Mughal administration presented a combination of Indian and extra-Indian elements, or more correctly, it was the Perso-Arabic system in Indian setting." A compromise was affected with the older native system already in vogue and familiar to the people governed. The Mughals carried out certain modifications in it in the light of foreign experiences.

#### **6. Secular versus theocratic state:**

The Mughal administration was not entirely based on Islamic tenets. At least important emperors like Akbar did not work under the influence of the 'Ulemas'. Even Aurangzeb, though a fanatic Sunni never allowed the Ulemas to dictate him in administrative matters.

#### **7. Administration-military in origin:**

The Mughal administration was a military based government from beginning to the last.

#### **8. Revenue administration:**

Several Mughal rulers imposed taxes in accordance with Islamic laws.

#### **9. The administration as manufacturer:**

The administration/State used to maintain several 'Karkhanas' or factories of its own.

#### **10. Council of Ministers:**

It was not necessary for the Mughal emperor to consult his ministers on all occasions. According to J.N. Sarkar, "The Mughal emperor had no regular Council of Ministers. The 'Wazir' (Prime Minister) and the Diwan (Finance Minister) were the highest persons below the emperor, but the other officers were in no sense, his colleagues. They were admittedly inferior to him and deserved rather to be called secretaries than ministers. Nearly all their work was liable to revision by the 'Wazir' and Royal orders were often transmitted to them through him."

#### MCQ

1. The Mughals ruled India for one and a half centuries effectively and gave political unity to the country. In which of the following fields could they not succeed fully ?

- (A) An efficient system of administration
- (B) Political stability
- (C) Development of trade and industry
- (D) Establishment of a common culture and unification of all communities to become a homogeneous nation

2. After his marriage with a Rajput princess, Akbar took various steps for pleasing the Hindus. Which of the following impressed them the most ?

- (A) Abolition of Jaziya

- (B) Condemnation of Sati
- (C) Prohibition of Child Marriage
- (D) Abolition of Pilgrim Tax

3. Akbar promulgated Din-i-Ilahi in 1581. It was —

- (A) A code of conduct
- (B) An Islamic doctrine
- (C) A Hindu law influenced by Islam
- (D) None of the above

4. The first military expedition of Jahangir's reign was against —

- (A) Kangra
- (B) Bengal
- (C) Mewar
- (D) Ahmednagar

5. Among the four sons of Shah Jahan, who is credited to have got translated Atharva Veda ?

- (A) Shuja
- (B) Murad
- (C) Dara
- (D) Aurangzeb



