

## UNIT-II ① Social and Economic Conditions under the Mughals:

The Indian economy was large and prosperous under the Mughal Empire. During the Mughal era, the gross domestic product of India in 1600 was estimated at about 22% of the world economy, the second largest in the world behind only Ming China but larger than Europe. By 1700 the GDP of Mughal India had risen to 24% of the world economy, the largest in the world, larger than both Qing China and western Europe. Mughal India was the world leader in manufacturing, producing about 25% of the world's industrial output up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. India's GDP growth increased under the Mughal Empire, with India's GDP having a faster growth rate during the Mughal era. Mughal India's economy has been described as a form of proto-industrialization like that of 18<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe prior to the Industrial Revolution.

The Mughals were responsible for building an extensive road system, creating a uniform currency and the unification of the country. The empire had an extensive road network which was vital to the economic infrastructure built by a public works department set up by the Mughals which designed, constructed and maintained roads linking towns and cities across the empire, making trade easier to conduct. The main base of the empire's collective wealth was agricultural taxes instituted by the third Mughal emperor.

## ② Impact of Mughals on Indian Society:

The Mughal Empire is conventionally said to have been founded in 1526 by Babur, a warrior chieftain from what today is Uzbekistan, who employed aid from the neighboring Safavid and Ottoman empires to defeat the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodhi, in the First Battle of Panipat and to sweep down the plains of upper India. The Mughal imperial structure, however, is sometimes dated to 1600, to the rule of Babur's grandson, Akbar. This imperial structure lasted until 1720, until shortly after the death of the last major emperor, Aurangzeb, during whose reign the empire also achieved its maximum geographical extent. Reduced subsequently, especially during the East

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India Company rule in India to the region in and around old Delhi, the Empire was formally dissolved by the British Raj after the India Rebellion of 1857.

Although the Mughal empire was created and sustained by military warfare, it did not vigorously suppress the cultures and people it came to rule rather it equalized and placated them through new administrative practices and diverse ruling elites, leading to more efficient, centralised and standardized rule. The base of the empire's collective wealth was agricultural taxes instituted by the third Mughal emperor Akbar. These taxes which amounted to well over half the output of a peasant cultivator, were paid in the well-regulated silver currency, and caused peasants and artisans to enter larger markets.

### ③ Sikhism

Sikhism developed from the spiritual teachings of Guru Nanak, the first Guru 1469-1539 and of the nine Sikh gurus who succeeded him. The tenth guru, Gobind Singh 1676-1708 named the Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib as his successor, bringing to a close the line of human gurus and establishing the scripture as the eternal religious spiritual guide for Sikhs. Guru Nanak taught the living an active creative and practical life of truthfulness, fidelity, self-control and purity, is above the metaphysical truth and that the ideal man established union with God, knows His will and carries out the will. Guru Hargobind the Sixth Sikh Guru 1606-1644 established the concept of the mutual co-existence of the miri and piri realms.

Sikhism emphasizes simran meditation and remembrance of the words of God which can be expressed musically through kirtan or internally through naam japna as a means to feel God's presence. It teaches followers to transform the 'Five Thieves'. The religion developed and evolved in times of religious persecution gaining converts from both Hinduism and Islam. Mughal rulers of India tortured and executed two of the Sikh gurus.

## ④ Impact of the West on India Society, Culture, Art and Architecture.

Indian culture is the heritage of social norms, ethical values, traditional customs, belief systems, political systems, artifacts and technologies that originated in or are associated with the Indian Subcontinent. The term also applies beyond India to countries and cultures whose histories are strongly connected to India by immigration, colonization, or influence, particularly in South Asia and Southeast Asia. India's languages, religions, dance, music, architecture, food and customs differ from place to place within the country.

Indian culture, often labelled as an amalgamation of several cultures, has been influenced by a history that is several millennia old, beginning with the Indus Valley Civilization. Many elements of Indian culture, such as Indian religions, mathematics, philosophy, cuisine, languages, dance, music and movies have had a profound impact across the Indosphere, Greater India and the world.

Indian art consists of a variety of art forms including painting, sculpture, pottery and textile arts such as woven silk. A strong sense of design is characteristic of Indian art and can be observed in its modern and traditional forms.

The architecture of India is rooted in its history, culture and religion. Among a number of architectural styles and traditions, the contrasting Hindu temple architecture and Indo-Islamic architecture are the best known historical styles.

Hindu temple architecture is mainly divided into Dravidian and Nagara styles. Dravidian architecture flourished during the rule of the Rashtrakuta, Hoysala, Chola, Chera, and Pandyan empires, as well as the Vijayanagara Empire.

## Reference Book

- (1) T.V. Mahalingam :- Administration and Social Life under Vijayanagar Empire
- (2) R.K. Datta :- Renaissance, nationality and social changes in Modern India