

Class Notes: Medieval India

Introduction to Medieval India

- **Two Key Kingdoms:** Mughal Empire (North India) and Vijayanagara Empire (South India).
- **Notable Sites:** Red Fort in Delhi (Mughal) and Hampi (Vijayanagara).

The Mughal Empire

- **Establishment:** Founded by Babur in 1526 after defeating Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat.
- **Main Rulers:**
 - **Babur (1526-1530):** Founder of the Mughal Empire.
 - **Humayun (1530-1540, 1555-1556):** Faced setbacks but eventually regained the throne.
 - **Akbar (1556-1605):** Known for his military, administrative skills, and religious tolerance.
 - **Jahangir (1605-1627):** Continued Akbar's policies.
 - **Shah Jahan (1628-1658):** Built the Taj Mahal.
 - **Aurangzeb (1658-1707):** Expanded the empire to its largest extent.
- **Key Policies and Contributions:**
 - **Religious Tolerance:** Akbar's Din-i-Ilahi and abolition of the Jizya tax.
 - **Administration:** Implemented Mansabdari system.
 - **Socio-Economic:** Flourished in trade, agriculture, and technology (e.g., Persian wheel).

The Vijayanagara Empire

- **Establishment:** Founded by brothers Harihara and Bukka in 1336 CE.
- **Main Rulers:**
 - **Krishna Deva Raya (1509-1529):** Most notable ruler, known for his military conquests and cultural patronage.
- **Key Policies and Contributions:**
 - **Religious Tolerance:** Allowed freedom of worship.
 - **Administration:** Divided into mandalam (provinces), nadu (districts), sthala (sub-districts), and grama (village). Implemented the Amara-Nayaka system.
 - **Socio-Economic:** Strong agricultural base, trade (notably with Arabs and Portuguese), and advancements in irrigation.
 - **Cultural Integration:** Flourished in arts, literature, and architecture.

Cultural Integration

- **Architecture:** Fusion of Indian and Persian styles in structures like the Taj Mahal.
- **Language:** Development of Urdu, a blend of Persian and Hindi.
- **Music:** Emergence of Hindustani music.

Question and Answers

1. **Q: Who founded the Mughal Empire and when?**
 - A: Babur founded the Mughal Empire in 1526.

2. **Q: What was Akbar known for during his rule?**
 - A: Akbar was known for his military and administrative skills, religious tolerance, and the creation of Din-i-Ilahi.
3. **Q: Describe the Mansabdari system.**
 - A: The Mansabdari system was a military and administrative system where each officer had a regiment under him. Their rank was determined by the number of soldiers they maintained, and they collected taxes from the land allotted to them.
4. **Q: What is the significance of Hampi in the Vijayanagara Empire?**
 - A: Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, known for its architectural and cultural advancements. It was a major trading center and a hub of cultural activities.
5. **Q: Compare the religious policies of Akbar and Krishna Deva Raya.**
 - A: Both rulers practiced religious tolerance. Akbar created Din-i-Ilahi, aiming for peace and unity among different religions. Krishna Deva Raya allowed people of all religions to live and practice their faith freely in Vijayanagara.
6. **Q: Name two architectural examples of cultural integration during the Mughal era.**
 - A: The Taj Mahal and the Red Fort are examples of cultural integration, blending Indian and Persian architectural styles.
7. **Q: How did trade flourish during the Vijayanagara Empire?**
 - A: Trade flourished due to strong agricultural productivity, the development of infrastructure like irrigation, and active trade with foreign countries including the Arabs and Portuguese.

These notes and questions should help Grade 5 students understand the key aspects of Medieval India and prepare them for related questions.