



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## The Historical Study Of Art, Culture And Society From 1526 to 1707

Abhineet Vaidya  
Student

Faculty Guide: Dr .Pushpraj Singh  
Amity University

### INTRODUCTION

The period from 1526 to 1707 in India was marked by the emergence and consolidation of the Mughal Empire, which had a profound impact on the country's art, culture, and society. This period witnessed a fusion of Persian and Indian styles, resulting in a unique aesthetic that continues to influence contemporary art in India.

Artistically, this period saw the development of the Mughal school of painting, which was characterized by its fine attention to detail, vibrant colors, and exquisite craftsmanship. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of the arts, and their courts were home to some of the finest artists and craftsmen of the time. Mughal painting depicted themes from Indian mythology, portraits of the emperors and their families, and scenes from court life. The most notable painters of this era were Ustad Mansur and Bichitr.

Architecture also flourished during this period, with the construction of several iconic structures such as the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and the Red Fort in Delhi. These buildings combined elements of Indian and Islamic architecture, with intricate carvings, ornate domes, and symmetrical gardens.

Society during this period was marked by a strict hierarchy, with the Mughal emperors at the top and the common people at the bottom. The emperor was seen as a representative of God, and his court was characterized by elaborate rituals and ceremonies. The Mughals were also responsible for the spread of Islam in India, which led to a significant cultural and social transformation.

The period from 1526 to 1707 in India was a time of great artistic and cultural development, as well as social and political change. The legacy of this era continues to influence contemporary Indian culture, and its impact can be seen in everything from art and architecture to music and fashion.

## MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE

Mughal architecture is a blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic architectural styles that were prevalent during the Mughal Empire in the Indian subcontinent from the 16th to the 19th century. Mughal architecture is characterized by its grandeur, symmetry, and intricate details.

The most famous Mughal buildings are the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, and the Jama Masjid Mosque in Delhi. These buildings were constructed using materials such as red sandstone, marble, and white marble.

The architecture of the Mughal Empire can be divided into three main periods: the early period, the middle period, and the late period. The early period, which lasted from 1526 to 1605, saw the construction of the Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, which is considered the first example of Mughal architecture.

The middle period, which lasted from 1605 to 1658, was marked by the construction of the Agra Fort, the Jama Masjid Mosque in Delhi, and the Fatehpur Sikri complex, which includes the Buland Darwaza gate and the Panch Mahal palace.

The late period, which lasted from 1658 to 1858, was characterized by the construction of the Red Fort in Delhi, the Shalimar Bagh gardens in Srinagar, and the Taj Mahal in Agra. The Taj Mahal is considered the epitome of Mughal architecture and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Mughal architecture is known for its use of the arch, the dome, and the minaret. The arches were used to create grand entrances and to support the weight of the structures. The domes were used to create an iconic shape that symbolized the Mughal Empire's grandeur and power. The minarets were used to create a visual focal point and to provide a place for the muezzin to call the faithful to prayer.

Mughal architecture also incorporated intricate details such as calligraphy, geometric patterns, and floral motifs into the building's design. These details were often created using materials such as marble and inlaid with precious stones such as lapis lazuli and turquoise.

Mughal architecture is a unique blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic architectural styles that reflect the grandeur, power, and intricate details of the Mughal Empire. The architecture's iconic shapes, use of arches, domes, and minarets, and incorporation of intricate details into the building's design have made Mughal architecture a legacy in the world of architecture.

The Mughal emperors were great patrons of architecture and they commissioned some of the most beautiful and magnificent buildings in India. Mughal architecture reached its zenith during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan, who was responsible for some of the most iconic Mughal buildings, including the Taj Mahal. Let's take a closer look at the architecture of the Mughal Era under various emperors.

### **Babur:**

The first Mughal emperor, Babur, was an avid builder and he commissioned several important buildings during his reign. However, most of these buildings have not survived the ravages of time. The most important surviving building from the Babur period is the garden of Babur, which is located in Kabul, Afghanistan. This garden is considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the world and it is a fine example of the Persian style of garden design.

**Humayun:**

Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, did not have a chance to commission many buildings during his brief reign. However, he did commission the construction of his own tomb in Delhi, which is considered an early example of Mughal architecture. The tomb is built in the Persian style, and it features a central dome and four minarets. The tomb is considered an important precursor to the Taj Mahal.

**Akbar:**

Akbar, the third Mughal emperor, was a great patron of architecture and he commissioned several important buildings during his reign. The most important surviving building from the Akbar period is the Agra Fort, which was built between 1565 and 1573. The Agra Fort is considered an important example of Mughal military architecture and it features several beautiful buildings, including the Jahangir Mahal and the Khas Mahal.

**Jahangir:**

Jahangir, the fourth Mughal emperor, did not commission many important buildings during his reign. However, he did commission the construction of his own tomb, which is located in Lahore, Pakistan. The tomb is built in the Mughal style, and it features a central dome and four minarets.

**Shah Jahan:**

Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal emperor, was a great patron of architecture and he commissioned some of the most iconic Mughal buildings. The most famous building commissioned by Shah Jahan is the Taj Mahal, which was built between 1632 and 1653 in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The Taj Mahal is considered one of the most beautiful buildings in the world and it is a fine example of Mughal architecture. Other important buildings commissioned by Shah Jahan include the Red Fort in Delhi, the Jama Masjid in Delhi, and the Shalimar Bagh in Kashmir.

**Aurangzeb:**

Aurangzeb, the sixth Mughal emperor, did not commission many important buildings during his reign. However, he did commission the construction of the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, Pakistan. The Badshahi Mosque is considered one of the most beautiful mosques in the world and it is a fine example of Mughal architecture.

In conclusion, Mughal architecture is a unique blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles that emerged during the Mughal era in India. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of architecture and they commissioned some of the most beautiful and magnificent buildings in India. The architecture of the Mughal Era reached its zenith during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan, who was responsible for some of the most iconic Mughal buildings, including the Taj Mahal. The legacy of Mughal architecture has had a lasting impact on Indian architecture and continues to inspire architects and designers today. Mughal architecture is characterized by the use of red sandstone and marble, intricate geometric patterns, and the use of domes and minarets. The Mughal architects were skilled in the use of materials, and they were able to create beautiful and durable buildings that have stood the test of time.

One of the most important features of Mughal architecture is its emphasis on symmetry and proportion. Mughal buildings are characterized by their balance and harmony, and every element of the building is carefully proportioned and arranged. The use of geometry and repetition is another important feature of Mughal

architecture. Geometric patterns are used to create intricate designs that cover the surfaces of buildings, and these patterns are often repeated throughout the building.

Another important feature of Mughal architecture is its use of gardens and water features. Mughal gardens are known for their beauty and tranquility, and they were often used as a place of relaxation and contemplation. Water features, such as fountains and pools, were also an important part of Mughal architecture, and they were used to create a sense of coolness and calm.

Religious architecture was also an important part of Mughal architecture. The Mughal emperors were tolerant of different religions, and they commissioned buildings for Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh communities. The Jama Masjid in Delhi and the Akbari Mosque in Agra are fine examples of Mughal religious architecture.

In addition to religious buildings, Mughal architecture also included palaces, forts, and tombs. The Red Fort in Delhi and the Agra Fort are two important examples of Mughal military architecture, while the tomb of Humayun in Delhi and the tomb of Akbar in Agra are examples of Mughal funerary architecture.

Mughal architecture has had a lasting impact on Indian architecture, and it continues to inspire architects and designers today. The use of symmetry, proportion, and geometric patterns has become a hallmark of Indian architecture, and the use of gardens and water features has become an important part of Indian landscape design.

In conclusion, Mughal architecture is a unique blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles that emerged during the Mughal era in India. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of architecture, and they commissioned some of the most beautiful and magnificent buildings in India. Mughal architecture is characterized by its use of symmetry, proportion, and geometric patterns, as well as its emphasis on gardens and water features. The legacy of Mughal architecture continues to inspire architects and designers today, and it has had a lasting impact on Indian architecture.

### **PAINTINGS IN THE MUGHAL ERA**

Mughal painting is a form of Indian miniature painting that originated during the Mughal Empire in the 16th century and continued to flourish until the 19th century. It is known for its detailed and intricate brushwork, vivid colors, and the depiction of themes ranging from daily life to royal court scenes and religious subjects.

The Mughal painting tradition was heavily influenced by Persian and European art, and it evolved over time as different Mughal emperors and their courts patronized and encouraged artists to create new styles and techniques. The earliest surviving examples of Mughal painting are the illustrations in the Akbar-nama and the Babur-nama, which were commissioned by Emperor Akbar and his grandfather, Babur, respectively.

Under Akbar's reign, Mughal painting flourished and reached new heights of creativity and innovation. The emperor established a royal atelier in his court and invited artists from various parts of India and Persia to join his court. The artists were given special privileges and were encouraged to experiment with different styles and techniques.

One of the notable features of Mughal painting under Akbar's reign was the use of a vibrant color palette and the depiction of naturalistic scenes. The artists often portrayed scenes from nature, such as animals, birds, and plants, and used intricate brushwork and shading to create a sense of depth and realism.

Akbar also commissioned several illustrated manuscripts, such as the Hamzanama, the Razmnama, and the Ain-i-Akbari, which featured stories of adventure, warfare, and courtly life. These manuscripts were richly illustrated with colorful and detailed paintings that depicted the main characters and scenes from the stories.

The reign of Jahangir, Akbar's son, marked a shift in Mughal painting towards a more introspective and romantic style. Jahangir was a great patron of the arts and encouraged artists to experiment with different styles and techniques. The artists during his reign focused on portraiture and the depiction of royal court scenes.

One of the most famous Mughal paintings from Jahangir's reign is the Jahangir Nama, which is a memoir that Jahangir wrote and illustrated himself. The paintings in the Jahangir Nama depicted the emperor in various poses and scenes, including hunting, holding court, and spending time with his family.

During the reign of Shah Jahan, Mughal painting reached its pinnacle of elegance and refinement. The artists during his reign were known for their use of delicate brushwork and vivid colors. The most famous example of Mughal painting from Shah Jahan's reign is the Taj Mahal, which is adorned with intricate floral motifs and calligraphy.

The Mughal painting tradition continued to thrive under the reign of Aurangzeb, although it became more conservative and less experimental. The artists during his reign focused on the depiction of religious and courtly scenes. Mughal painting is a unique form of Indian miniature painting that flourished during the Mughal Empire. The tradition was heavily influenced by Persian and European art and evolved over time as different Mughal emperors and their courts patronized and encouraged artists to create new styles and techniques. The paintings are known for their detailed and intricate brushwork, vivid colors, and the depiction of themes ranging from daily life to royal court scenes and religious subjects.

The Mughal era was a time of great artistic expression, and one of the most notable forms of art during this period was painting. Mughal paintings were characterized by their intricate detail, use of bright colors, and realistic portrayal of figures and landscapes. There were several schools of painting that emerged during the Mughal era, each with its own unique style and techniques.

**Mughal School of Painting:** The Mughal school of painting was established by Emperor Akbar in the late 16th century. The paintings from this school were characterized by their detailed and intricate workmanship, and a focus on realism. The Mughal painters were skilled in portraying human figures, animals, and landscapes with great accuracy, and their paintings were often used to illustrate historical and literary works. Some of the most famous Mughal paintings include the Akbar Nama, a book chronicling the life and reign of Emperor Akbar, and the Hamzanama, a series of paintings depicting the adventures of Amir Hamza.

**Deccani School of Painting:** The Deccani school of painting emerged in the Deccan region of southern India during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The paintings from this school were characterized by their bold colors and dramatic compositions. The Deccani painters were known for their use of gold and silver in their paintings, which gave them a distinct shimmering effect. The paintings from this school often depicted scenes from Hindu mythology and were used to illustrate literary works.

**Rajasthani School of Painting:** The Rajasthani school of painting emerged in the Rajputana region of northern India during the 17th century. The paintings from this school were characterized by their bright colors, intricate detailing, and a focus on portraying emotions and moods. The Rajasthani painters were skilled in using natural pigments and dyes to create their paintings, and their works often depicted scenes from Indian mythology and daily life. Some of the most famous Rajasthani paintings include the Bani Thani paintings, which depict women in various moods and emotions.

**Pahari School of Painting:** The Pahari school of painting emerged in the hill regions of northern India during the 17th century. The paintings from this school were characterized by their delicate and intricate detailing, and a focus on portraying love and devotion. The Pahari painters were skilled in using natural pigments and dyes, and their paintings often depicted scenes from the life of Lord Krishna and Radha. Some of the most famous Pahari paintings include the Basohli paintings, which depict scenes from the life of Lord Krishna and his consort Radha.

In addition to these schools of painting, there were also several individual painters who emerged during the Mughal era and made significant contributions to the art form. Some of the most notable painters of the Mughal era include Basawan, who was a court painter of Emperor Akbar and known for his portraits and illustrations; Bishandas, who was a painter of the Deccani school and known for his use of gold and silver in his paintings; and Nainsukh, who was a painter of the Pahari school and known for his delicate and detailed paintings of Indian life and culture.

### **MINIATURE PAINTINGS**

Miniature painting was one of the most popular art forms during the Mughal era. It flourished during the reigns of several Mughal emperors, including Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan. The Mughal miniature paintings were characterized by their vivid colors, intricate details, and depictions of life and culture during the Mughal era.

The Mughal miniature paintings were created using a variety of materials, including watercolor, gold leaf, and ink. The paintings were usually created on paper or ivory, and were often very small in size, hence the name "miniature". The small size of the paintings made them portable, and they were often used as illustrations for manuscripts, books, and albums.

The Mughal miniature paintings were heavily influenced by Persian and Indian art styles, and often depicted scenes from everyday life, as well as religious and historical events. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of the arts and commissioned many works of miniature paintings to decorate their palaces and courts.

One of the most famous schools of Mughal miniature painting was the "Mughal-e-Azam" school, which was founded by Akbar's court painter, Basawan. The Mughal-e-Azam school was known for its realistic depictions of people and landscapes, as well as its use of vibrant colors and intricate details.

Another notable school of Mughal miniature painting was the "Jahangir School", which was established during the reign of Jahangir. The Jahangir School was characterized by its use of delicate brushwork and pastel colors, as well as its depiction of nature and wildlife.

The Mughal miniature paintings were also known for their depictions of women, who were often portrayed as beautiful and graceful, with elaborate clothing and jewelry. The paintings often showed women engaged in leisure activities, such as playing musical instruments, dancing, or enjoying nature.

Overall, Mughal miniature painting was a major artistic achievement of the Mughal era and continues to be appreciated for its beauty and historical significance. Today, Mughal miniature paintings can be found in museums and private collections around the world and are considered a valuable part of India's cultural heritage.

## MUSIC

The Mughal era in India is known for its cultural richness and diverse forms of art. Music was one such art form that flourished during this period. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of music, and they invited musicians from all over India and Persia to their courts. The result was a fusion of Indian and Persian music that gave rise to a new genre of music that was unique to the Mughal era.

Music played an important role in the Mughal court. It was an essential part of the courtly rituals and ceremonies, and it was also used to entertain the emperors and their guests. The Mughal emperors were themselves accomplished musicians, and they often participated in musical performances. Akbar the Great, for example, was known for his love of music and his skill at playing the veena, a traditional Indian stringed instrument.

The Mughal era saw the emergence of several prominent musicians who made significant contributions to the development of Indian classical music. One such musician was Tansen, who was a prominent member of Akbar's court. Tansen was known for his exceptional voice and his ability to compose music that could evoke strong emotions in his listeners. He was also a master of several musical instruments, including the sitar and the veena.

Another important musician of the Mughal era was Miyan Tansen's disciple, Baiju Bawra. Baiju was a talented musician who was known for his ability to sing complex ragas with great ease. He was also a skilled composer and is credited with several popular compositions that are still performed today.

The Mughal era saw the development of several new musical instruments. One such instrument was the sarangi, a stringed instrument that was used extensively in Indian classical music. The sarangi was popularized by musicians such as Ustad Abdul Karim Khan and Ustad Bundu Khan.

The Mughal emperors also patronized the development of dance forms that were closely linked to music. One such dance form was Kathak, which originated in North India during the Mughal era. Kathak is a classical dance form that combines elements of Indian classical music, dance, and storytelling. It was performed by both men and women and was an important part of the Mughal courtly traditions.

The Mughal era also saw the emergence of several Sufi musicians who made significant contributions to the development of devotional music in India. Sufi music is a form of Islamic devotional music that is characterized by its use of the qawwali style of singing. Qawwali is a form of Sufi music that involves singing devotional poetry in praise of Allah and the Prophet Muhammad. The most famous Sufi musician of the Mughal era was Hazrat Amir Khusro, who is credited with inventing several new forms of devotional music, including qawwali.

The Mughal era was also characterized by the emergence of several music schools, or gharanas, that were based on different musical traditions. These gharanas were usually named after the city or region where they originated. Each gharana had its own distinctive style of music and was known for its own set of musical instruments and compositions.

The Mughal emperors also commissioned the construction of several music halls, or baithaks, where musicians could perform in front of an audience. These baithaks were often decorated with beautiful paintings and other works of art, and they were considered to be important centers of cultural activity.

The Mughal era was a period of great cultural richness and diversity, and music was an important part of this cultural heritage. The fusion of Indian and Persian musical traditions gave rise to a new genre of music that was unique to the Mughal era. The contributions of musicians like Tansen, Baiju Bawra, and Hazrat Amir Khusro helped to shape the development of Indian classical music, devotional music, and Sufi music.

In addition to being a form of entertainment, music also played an important role in the spiritual and cultural life of the people during the Mughal era. Music was used to express devotion to God, to tell stories and to convey emotions. Music was also used as a means of communication and was often performed at important social and religious events.

One of the most significant contributions of the Mughal era to music was the creation of a rich musical legacy that continues to influence music in India and beyond. The musical traditions that were developed during the Mughal era continue to be practiced today, and many of the compositions that were created during this period are still performed.

Overall, the Mughal era was a period of great cultural and artistic flourishing, and music was an important part of this cultural heritage. The fusion of Indian and Persian musical traditions, the emergence of new musical instruments, the development of new musical genres, and the contributions of prominent musicians all helped to shape the development of music during this period. The Mughal era continues to inspire and influence music in India and beyond, and its musical legacy remains an important part of the country's cultural heritage.

## **DANCE**

Dance was an important part of Mughal culture, and the Mughal emperors were known for their love of dance and music. They invited dancers from all over India and Central Asia to entertain them at their courts. The Mughals also established their own style of dance, which was a blend of Indian and Persian styles.

The Mughal era saw the development of many new dance forms, and many of these dance forms are still performed in India today. Some of the most popular Mughal-era dance forms are Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Manipuri.

Kathak is one of the most popular dance forms of North India, and it originated in the Mughal courts. Kathak is a form of storytelling through dance, and it is known for its intricate footwork and graceful hand gestures. Kathak dancers wear ankle bells called ghungroos, which create a rhythmic sound as they dance. The dance form is characterized by its use of facial expressions and storytelling, and it often tells stories from Indian mythology.

Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form from South India, and it is known for its grace, purity, and sculptural poses. The dance form originated in the temples of Tamil Nadu and was popularized during the Mughal era. Bharatanatyam is characterized by its use of intricate footwork, hand gestures, and facial expressions. The dance form often tells stories from Hindu mythology and is accompanied by classical music.

Kuchipudi is a classical dance form from Andhra Pradesh, and it originated in the Mughal courts. Kuchipudi is characterized by its use of intricate footwork, hand gestures, and facial expressions. The dance form often tells stories from Hindu mythology, and it is known for its grace and fluidity. The dance form is accompanied by classical music and is often performed by both men and women.

Manipuri is a classical dance form from Manipur, and it originated in the Mughal courts. Manipuri is characterized by its gentle, fluid movements and graceful hand gestures. The dance form often tells stories from Hindu mythology, and it is known for its use of props like lamps, fans, and baskets. The dance form is accompanied by classical music and is often performed by both men and women.

The Mughals also patronized many other dance forms, including the Sufi dance form of Qawwali. Qawwali is a form of devotional music and dance, and it originated in the Sufi shrines of India and Pakistan. The dance form is characterized by its use of vocal improvisation and repetitive rhythms, and it often tells stories of love and devotion.

The Mughal emperors were known for their love of dance and music, and they played a significant role in the development of Indian dance during the Mughal era. The Mughals invited dancers and musicians from all over India and Central Asia to their courts, and they established their own style of dance and music. The Mughal era saw the development of many new dance forms, and these dance forms continue to be an important part of Indian culture today.

Another popular dance form during the Mughal era was the Kathak. Originating in the northern regions of India, Kathak was influenced by both Hindu and Muslim cultures. It was performed in the courts of Mughal emperors by both male and female dancers. Kathak involves a lot of footwork, intricate hand movements, and facial expressions, which were used to convey various emotions and stories.

In addition to these classical dance forms, there were also a number of folk dances that were popular during the Mughal era. These dances were performed by people in rural areas and were often associated with specific festivals and rituals. Some of the popular folk dances during the Mughal era included the Bhangra, Giddha, Garba, and Dandiya.

Bhangra is a folk-dance originating from the Punjab region of India, and it was often performed during the harvest festival of Baisakhi. The dance involves energetic and lively movements, with dancers dressed in colorful costumes and playing musical instruments such as the dhol.

Giddha, also originating from the Punjab region, is a female folk dance that involves a lot of singing, clapping, and twirling. It was often performed during weddings and other festive occasions.

Garba is a folk-dance originating from Gujarat and is performed during the festival of Navratri. It involves circular movements and intricate hand gestures, and dancers often wear colorful traditional attire.

Dandiya is another folk-dance originating from Gujarat and is also performed during Navratri. It involves dancing with sticks, with dancers forming two circles and moving in opposite directions.

In conclusion, dance was an important part of Mughal culture, and the Mughal emperors were known for their love of dance and music. The Mughal era saw the development of many new dance forms, and these dance forms continue to be an important part of Indian culture today. Some of the most popular Mughal-era dance forms are Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Manipuri.

Overall, the Mughal era was a time of great cultural development, and dance played an important role in the artistic expression of the period. The classical dance forms of Kathak and Bharatanatyam were refined and developed, and new forms such as the Kathakali and Manipuri emerged. In addition, the folk dances of different regions were also popularized and spread throughout the Mughal empire, leading to a rich and diverse dance culture that continues to thrive in India today.

## LITERATURE

The Mughal era, which spanned from the early 16th century to the mid-19th century, was a period of great literary activity in India. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of literature and established royal libraries, ateliers, and courts that nurtured some of the greatest writers of the time. The Mughal literature was characterized by its diversity, richness, and its fusion of Indian, Persian, and Islamic literary traditions.

One of the most famous works of Mughal literature was the Akbarnama, a chronicle of the reign of Emperor Akbar written by his court historian and biographer, Abul Fazl. The Akbarnama was written in Persian and was completed in 1590. It is a comprehensive account of the life and times of Akbar, as well as a record of the political, social, and cultural events of the Mughal empire during his reign. The Akbarnama is considered as one of the greatest works of Persian literature and is still studied and celebrated today.

Another famous work of Mughal literature was the Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, a memoir of the reign of Emperor Jahangir written by himself. The Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri was written in Persian and was completed in 1627. It is a detailed account of Jahangir's life and times, as well as a record of the political, social, and cultural events of the Mughal empire during his reign. The Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri is considered as one of the greatest works of autobiography in world literature.

Apart from the court chronicles and memoirs, the Mughal era also witnessed the emergence of a rich tradition of poetry, both in Persian and in Indian languages such as Urdu, Hindi, and Punjabi. The Mughal emperors and the nobility were great patrons of poets and established royal ateliers and courts that nurtured some of the greatest poets of the time.

One of the most famous poets of the Mughal era was Mirza Ghalib, who wrote in Urdu and Persian. Ghalib's poetry was characterized by its complexity, its use of metaphor, and its fusion of Indian and Persian literary traditions. Ghalib's poetry was greatly admired by the Mughal emperors and the nobility, and he was given the title of "Mirza" by the Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II.

Another famous poet of the Mughal era was Mir Taqi Mir, who also wrote in Urdu and Persian. Mir's poetry was characterized by its simplicity, its use of everyday language, and its focus on love, longing, and separation. Mir's poetry was greatly admired by the Mughal emperors and the nobility, and he was given the title of "Khuda-e-sukhan" by the Emperor Muhammad Shah.

Apart from the courtly poets, the Mughal era also witnessed the emergence of a rich tradition of popular poetry, which was written in Indian languages such as Hindi and Punjabi. The popular poetry was characterized by its simplicity, its use of everyday language, and its focus on the lives of ordinary people. The popular poetry was greatly admired by the common people and played an important role in the cultural life of the Mughal era.

The Mughal era also witnessed the emergence of a rich tradition of prose writing, particularly in Persian. The Mughal emperors and the nobility were great patrons of prose writers and established royal libraries and ateliers that nurtured some of the greatest writers of the time. The prose writing was characterized by its diversity, richness, and its fusion of Indian, Persian, and Islamic literary traditions.

The Mughal emperors were great patrons of literature, and they encouraged the development of a rich literary tradition in their courts. The Mughal literature can be divided into four broad periods based on the reigns of the various emperors.

**Babur and Humayun Period:** Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, was a great lover of poetry and literature. He was a prolific writer himself and wrote a memoir, the Baburnama, which is considered to be one of the finest examples of Mughal literature. The Baburnama is a detailed account of Babur's life, conquests, and experiences, and it provides valuable insights into the social and cultural life of the Mughal era.

Humayun, the son of Babur, was also a patron of literature, and he invited many Persian poets and scholars to his court. Some of the famous Persian poets who lived and worked during the Humayun period include Mir Ali Shir Nava'i, Mirza Kamran, and Mirza Ghiyas Beg.

**Akbar Period:** Akbar, the greatest of the Mughal emperors, was a great patron of literature, and he played a significant role in the development of Mughal literature. Akbar was interested in all forms of literature, and he invited many writers, poets, and scholars to his court. Some of the famous poets who lived and worked during the Akbar period include Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana, Faizi, and Abul Fazl.

Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana was a famous poet and writer of the Akbar period, and he is known for his unique style of writing. His most famous work is the Rahimia, a collection of poems that is still popular among Hindi and Urdu-speaking people.

Faizi was a Persian poet and scholar who lived during the Akbar period. He was a close associate of Akbar and served as his court poet. Faizi is best known for his poetry, which was written in Persian and dealt with a variety of subjects, including love, nature, and politics.

Abul Fazl was a Persian scholar and writer who served as Akbar's court historian. He is best known for his work, the Akbarnama, which is a detailed account of Akbar's reign. The Akbarnama is considered to be one of the most important works of Mughal literature, and it provides valuable insights into the social and cultural life of the Mughal era.

**Jahangir and Shah Jahan Period:** Jahangir and Shah Jahan were also great patrons of literature, and they continued to encourage the development of Mughal literature. During the Jahangir period, many Persian poets and scholars continued to work at the Mughal court. Some of the famous poets of the Jahangir period include Khwaja Shamsuddin Muhammad Hafiz, Muhammad Sadiq Kashani, and Inayat Khan.

Shah Jahan was also a patron of literature, and he invited many Urdu poets and writers to his court. Some of the famous Urdu poets who lived and worked during the Shah Jahan period include Abdul Haq Dehlavi, Mir Taqi Mir, and Ghalib.

Abdul Haq Dehlavi was a famous Urdu poet and writer who lived during the Shah Jahan period. He is known for his work, the Sharah-e-Deewan-e-Ghalib, which is a commentary on the poetry of Mirza Ghalib.

**During the reign of Aurangzeb,** Urdu became a prominent language of literature. It was during this time that the famous poet Mirza Bedil (1642-1720) gained recognition for his work. He is known for his complex philosophical poetry and is regarded as one of the greatest poets in the Urdu language.

Under the reign of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor, there was a great flowering of Urdu poetry. Mirza Ghalib (1797-1869) is perhaps the most famous poet of this era. His poetry is characterized by its depth, complexity, and wit. He is also known for his letters, which are considered masterpieces of Urdu prose.

In addition to Urdu, Persian continued to be a major language of literature during the Mughal era. The Mughal emperors themselves were great patrons of Persian literature and often wrote poetry in the language. The Persian

poet Saib (1689-1732) was a favorite of Emperor Muhammad Shah, and his poetry is still read and admired today.

The Mughal era was also a time of great literary activity in the regional languages. In Bengal, the poet Alaol (fl. 1651-71) wrote in a style influenced by Persian literature. In the Deccan, the poet Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah (1565-1611) was a patron of Urdu and Telugu literature. In Rajasthan, the poetess Mirabai (c. 1498-1547) wrote devotional poetry in Hindi.

Overall, the Mughal era was a time of great literary creativity and diversity. It was a time when different languages, cultures, and traditions came together to create a rich and vibrant literary heritage that continues to be celebrated and enjoyed today.

## **LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY**

Language and linguistic diversity played a significant role in Mughal India, which was a period of cultural exchange and assimilation. The Mughal Empire encompassed a vast territory, and the diverse population of the empire brought with them their respective languages and dialects. Therefore, the Mughal period witnessed a rich and vibrant linguistic landscape.

The official language of the Mughal court was Persian, which was also the language of administration and correspondence. Persian was the language of choice because it was widely spoken and understood throughout the empire, and it was also the language of the intellectual elite. The Mughal emperors themselves were great patrons of Persian literature and poetry, and many Persian scholars and poets were invited to the Mughal court.

Apart from Persian, many other languages were spoken and used for literary and cultural expression in Mughal India. Hindi, which was the vernacular language of the north, also gained prominence during the Mughal period. It was used for literary and religious purposes, and a significant body of Hindi literature was produced during this period. The Mughal emperors themselves were patrons of Hindi literature, and the famous poet Tulsidas was granted an audience by Emperor Akbar.

Urdu, which was a hybrid language created from the fusion of Persian, Hindi, and other regional languages, also emerged during the Mughal period. It gained prominence in the later years of the empire and eventually became the language of the courts of the successor states of the Mughal Empire. Urdu was heavily influenced by Persian, which gave it a refined and poetic quality.

The regional languages of India also flourished during the Mughal period. Bengali, for instance, was the language of the Bengal region and had a rich literary tradition. The famous poet and saint, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, composed his works in Bengali, and the language continued to be used for literary expression throughout the Mughal period.

Similarly, the Tamil language also had a rich literary tradition during the Mughal period. The famous poet and saint, Thiruvalluvar, composed his works in Tamil, which continue to be revered to this day. The Mughal

emperors themselves showed great interest in Tamil literature and poetry, and the famous work, the Tirukkural, was translated into Persian by a Mughal prince.

Apart from these languages, other regional languages like Marathi, Gujarati, and Punjabi also had a significant presence during the Mughal period. Many poets and writers composed their works in these languages, and they were used for literary and cultural expression.

In conclusion, the Mughal period was marked by a rich and diverse linguistic landscape, which was a result of the assimilation of various cultures and traditions. Persian was the official language of the court and administration, but many other languages like Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, and others flourished during this period. The Mughal emperors were patrons of literature and poetry in many languages, which led to a rich and vibrant literary tradition. This linguistic diversity played a crucial role in the cultural and intellectual development of the Mughal Empire.

## **CALLIGRAPHY**

Calligraphy was an important art form during the Mughal era and was used extensively for religious and secular purposes. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of calligraphy and commissioned many works of calligraphy to decorate their palaces, mosques, and other public buildings.

Mughal calligraphy was heavily influenced by Persian calligraphy, which had been developed over centuries in Iran and other parts of the Islamic world. Persian calligraphy was characterized by its flowing lines and elegant curves and was used to create beautiful scripts that were both artistic and functional.

Under the Mughals, calligraphy became even more refined, and many new scripts and styles were developed. The Mughal emperors themselves were skilled calligraphers, and many of them wrote their own letters and documents in beautiful script.

One of the most famous Mughal calligraphers was Abd al-Rahim al-Khan-i-Khanan, who was a prominent courtier during the reign of Akbar. Abd al-Rahim was known for his elegant handwriting and his ability to create beautiful compositions that combined calligraphy with other forms of art, such as painting and illustration.

Another notable Mughal calligrapher was Mir Ali Tabrizi, who was active during the reign of Shah Jahan. Mir Ali was known for his mastery of the Nasta'liq script, which was a Persian script that was widely used in Mughal India for both religious and secular purposes. Mir Ali's calligraphy was highly respected by the Mughal court, and he was commissioned to create many works of calligraphy for the emperor and his courtiers.

Mughal calligraphy was used to create a wide range of objects, including books, manuscripts, and inscriptions on buildings and monuments. Calligraphy was also used to decorate textiles, ceramics, and other decorative objects, and was often combined with other forms of art, such as painting and embroidery.

Today, Mughal calligraphy is considered a valuable part of India's cultural heritage, and many examples of Mughal calligraphy can be found in museums and private collections around the world. The beauty and elegance of Mughal calligraphy continues to inspire artists and calligraphers today, and it remains an important art form in India and other parts of the Islamic world.

## **CARPETS AND TEXTILES**

Mughal carpets and textiles were known for their luxurious quality and exquisite beauty. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of the arts and invested heavily in the production of textiles and carpets. The production of these goods became a thriving industry during the Mughal era and the textiles and carpets produced were not only functional but were also considered to be important symbols of wealth and status.

### **Carpets:**

Mughal carpets were among the finest in the world during the 16th and 17th centuries. They were highly valued for their intricate designs, fine wool, and rich colors. The carpets were produced in many different styles, ranging from floral patterns to geometric designs.

One of the most famous types of Mughal carpet is the "Kashan" carpet. These carpets were made in Kashan, a city in modern-day Iran, and were highly prized by the Mughal emperors. The Kashan carpets were characterized by their intricate floral patterns and their use of vibrant colors, such as deep reds, blues, and greens.

Another type of Mughal carpet is the "Millefleur" carpet. These carpets were characterized by their use of small, detailed floral motifs and their use of bright, bold colors. They were often used as wall hangings or as covers for furniture.

The Mughal emperors also commissioned carpets with specific designs and motifs. For example, the "Dara Shikoh" carpet was commissioned by the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh and featured a central medallion surrounded by intricate floral patterns.

### **Textiles:**

Mughal textiles were also highly valued for their beauty and quality. The textiles were made using a range of techniques, including weaving, embroidery, and printing.

One of the most famous types of Mughal textiles is the "Jamdani" textile. These textiles were made using a technique where small, intricate patterns were woven into the fabric. The patterns were often floral or geometric in nature and were created using a combination of fine cotton and silk threads.

The Mughal emperors also commissioned textiles with specific designs and motifs. For example, the "Tree of Life" textile was commissioned by the Mughal emperor Jahangir and featured a central tree motif surrounded by intricate floral patterns.

The production of textiles and carpets during the Mughal era was a highly skilled and labor-intensive process. The materials used were of the highest quality and the techniques used were highly specialized. As a result, these goods were highly prized and were considered to be symbols of wealth and status. Today, Mughal carpets and textiles are highly sought after by collectors and are considered to be some of the finest examples of textile and carpet production in the world.

## **JEWELLERY AND METALWORKS**

Jewellery and metalwork were highly valued during the Mughal era and were considered an important aspect of the courtly culture. The Mughal emperors and their nobles were patrons of skilled craftsmen who produced some of the finest works of jewellery and metalwork in India.

The Mughal era witnessed a great flourishing of jewellery and metalwork, with the use of precious metals such as gold and silver, as well as precious and semi-precious stones such as diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and sapphires. The Mughal craftsmen were renowned for their skill in working with metals and were able to create intricate designs and patterns in gold, silver, and other metals.

The Mughal emperors and their nobles were fond of wearing ornate jewellery, which was often adorned with precious stones and pearls. They also commissioned works of metalwork, such as swords, daggers, and other weapons, which were highly prized for their craftsmanship and beauty.

One of the most notable examples of Mughal metalwork is the famous Peacock Throne, which was commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in the mid-17th century. The throne was made of solid gold and encrusted with precious stones, including diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Unfortunately, the Peacock Throne was later looted and destroyed by the Persian emperor Nadir Shah in the 18th century.

Other examples of Mughal metalwork include the exquisite silver filigree work that was produced in Agra and Jaipur, as well as the beautiful brass and copper utensils that were made in the city of Bidar.

In addition to jewellery and metalwork, the Mughals were also known for their exquisite enamelling work, which involved fusing coloured glass onto metal surfaces to create intricate designs and patterns. This technique was used to decorate a wide range of objects, including vases, cups, and plates.

Overall, the Mughal era was a golden age for jewellery and metalwork in India, with the skilled craftsmen of the time producing some of the finest works of art in these mediums. These works continue to be highly valued today for their exquisite beauty and exceptional craftsmanship.

## **SOCIAL HIERARCHY**

The Mughal Empire, which ruled over much of the Indian subcontinent from the early 16th century to the mid-19th century, had a complex social hierarchy that was shaped by a variety of factors, including religion, occupation, and status. The social hierarchy of the Mughal era was characterized by a rigid caste system, where everyone was born into a particular caste that determined their social position and occupation. The Mughal emperors were at the top of the social hierarchy and were regarded as the representative of God on earth.

Below the Mughal emperors were the nobility, who were often landowners and administrators, and were given vast land grants and titles by the emperor. The nobility consisted of two main groups: the mansabdars, who were appointed by the emperor to military and administrative positions, and the jagirdars, who were given land grants in exchange for their military and administrative services. The mansabdars were ranked according to their military rank, or mansab, which determined their salary and position in the hierarchy.

The middle class, which consisted of traders, merchants, and artisans, played an important role in the growth and development of the Indian economy. They were often wealthy and influential and were able to exert considerable influence on the political and social life of the Mughal Empire. The middle class also included the urban elite, who were often educated and held important positions in the government and society.

The common people, who were mostly peasants and laborers, formed the backbone of the economy. They were often poor and had limited access to education, employment, and political power. The common people were divided into different castes, with each caste occupying a particular place in the social hierarchy. The lower castes, such as the Dalits or untouchables, faced discrimination and marginalization, and were often excluded from the mainstream of society.

Religion also played a significant role in the social hierarchy of the Mughal era. Muslims occupied a higher position in society than Hindus, and their access to education, employment, and political power was greater. Hindus who converted to Islam, however, could rise in the social hierarchy and were often given positions of power and influence. Other religious groups, such as Sikhs and Christians, also occupied a lower position in the social hierarchy and faced discrimination and marginalization.

Despite the rigidity of the social hierarchy, there were some exceptions to the caste system. The Mughal emperors often married women from different castes and religions, and some individuals were able to rise in the social hierarchy through their talent and ability. Emperor Akbar, for example, was known for his liberal policies and for promoting individuals based on merit rather than caste or religion.

In conclusion, the social hierarchy in the Mughal era was shaped by a variety of factors, including caste, religion, and status. The Mughal emperors and nobility occupied the highest positions in the social hierarchy, while the middle class played an important role in the growth and development of the Indian economy. The common people, particularly those from lower castes and religions, faced discrimination and marginalization, but there were some exceptions to the rigid caste system. The social hierarchy of the Mughal era left a lasting impact on Indian society, and its influence can still be seen today in the social, cultural, and economic life of the subcontinent.

## WOMEN

The Mughal era in India witnessed a significant role played by women in various fields. Women in the Mughal Empire enjoyed greater freedom, education, and social status than their contemporaries in other parts of the world. The Mughal emperors recognized the contribution of women to the society and encouraged their participation in various activities. The following are some aspects of the role of women in the Mughal era:

**Education:** Women in the Mughal era received education in a variety of subjects, including literature, poetry, music, and painting. Some of the prominent women scholars during this period were Gulbadan Begum, who wrote Humayun-nama, and Zeb-un-Nissa, who was a poet, calligrapher, and a patron of the arts.

**Political Participation:** Women in the Mughal era actively participated in politics. The Mughal emperors often consulted their wives, mothers, and other female relatives on matters of state. Nur Jahan, the wife of Emperor Jahangir, was known for her political acumen and was actively involved in the administration of the empire. She issued coins in her own name and had her own court.

**Arts and Literature:** Women in the Mughal era were prominent patrons of the arts and literature. Many of the paintings, calligraphy, and architecture of the period were commissioned by women. Empress Nur Jahan was a skilled artist and patronized many artists during her reign. Empress Mumtaz Mahal, for whom the Taj Mahal was built, was also known for her patronage of the arts.

**Social Status:** Women in the Mughal era enjoyed a relatively higher social status. They had the right to inherit property and were often given gifts by the emperor. They also had the right to divorce and remarry. However, the practice of purdah (seclusion) was prevalent, and women were expected to cover themselves in public.

**Military Role:** Women in the Mughal era played a significant role in the military. They were trained in archery, sword fighting, and horse riding. Some women even led armies into battle. One such example is the legendary Rani Karnavati of Mewar, who fought against the Mughal emperor Akbar.

**Sufism:** Women in the Mughal era were active participants in the Sufi movement. Many of them were spiritual guides and had a significant influence on the religious and social life of the people. One such example is the Sufi saint Bibi Samira, who was the daughter of Emperor Akbar's courtier.

During the Mughal era, women played a crucial role in various aspects of society, despite being subject to strict social and cultural norms. Women of different social classes and religious backgrounds had distinct roles and experiences in Mughal society, and their status and influence varied based on factors such as family background, education, and personal connections.

In the royal court, women played an important role as queens, princesses, and other female members of the royal family. They were expected to maintain the honor and reputation of their family and were often involved in diplomatic affairs, especially when it came to marriage alliances. They also had access to education and patronized the arts, especially poetry, music, and dance. The Mughal emperors themselves were patrons of the arts and often commissioned works from female artists and poets.

However, the influence and status of women in non-royal households varied greatly based on social class and religious background. Hindu and Muslim women had different social norms and practices, and this affected their roles in society. In general, upper-class women had more freedom and agency than their lower-class counterparts. They could receive education, participate in cultural events, and even have some degree of economic independence. Lower-class women, on the other hand, had to adhere to strict gender roles and were often confined to domestic tasks.

Despite these limitations, women of all classes and backgrounds found ways to assert their agency and influence in various ways. They often used the power of their personal networks and connections to negotiate their roles and protect their interests. Many women were involved in religious and charitable activities, and some even became political figures in their own right. For example, the wife of the Mughal emperor Akbar, Jodha Bai, was known for her political acumen and was involved in diplomatic affairs.

One of the most famous examples of a powerful woman during the Mughal era was Nur Jahan, the wife of Emperor Jahangir. Nur Jahan was known for her intelligence, wit, and political skills. She was involved in decision-making and even held some official titles, such as the chief of the imperial harem. She was also a patron of the arts and commissioned many works of literature and art.

In conclusion, women played a multifaceted and complex role in Mughal society, despite being subject to strict social norms and expectations. While the experiences of women varied based on social class and religious background, they found ways to assert their agency and influence in various ways, especially in the domains of culture, religion, and personal networks.

## **EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

Education and literacy were an integral part of the Mughal Empire's social and cultural life. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of learning, and they established many educational institutions to promote literacy and knowledge among the people. The Mughals brought with them a rich cultural heritage, and they were instrumental in spreading it throughout the Indian subcontinent. They also supported the Persian language, which became the court language during their reign. Let us explore the education and literacy in Mughal era in detail.

The education system in the Mughal Empire was mainly based on the Persian model. Persian was the language of administration and court, and it was also the medium of instruction in most educational institutions. The Mughal emperors established many schools, colleges, and universities to promote education and literacy. These institutions were known as madrasas, maktabas, and darul-ulooms.

The madrasas were the primary schools, where children aged 5-10 years were taught the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. The maktabas were the secondary schools, where children aged 10-15 years were taught more advanced subjects such as mathematics, geography, history, and literature. The darul-ulooms were the universities, where students could pursue higher education in various disciplines such as Islamic law, theology, philosophy, and literature.

Apart from these formal institutions, there were also private tutors and scholars who provided education to the elite class. The Mughal emperors also established libraries, which were stocked with books on various subjects.

The Mughal emperors were great patrons of learning, and they encouraged literacy among their subjects. They believed that education was essential for the progress of society and the nation. They also established many initiatives to promote literacy, such as free education for the poor, scholarships for the talented students, and rewards for the scholars.

The Mughals were also instrumental in the promotion of the Persian language, which became the language of administration and court during their reign. The Persian language was considered a symbol of prestige and social status, and it was the language of the elite and the educated. The Mughals patronized many Persian scholars, poets, and writers, who enriched the literature of the Persian language.

The Mughal era was a time when women's education was considered essential for their empowerment and progress. The Mughal emperors believed that educated women could contribute significantly to the society and the nation. As a result, they established many schools and colleges for women.

The women's educational institutions were called zenanas, and they were meant for the education of women of the elite class. These institutions were run by female teachers, and they taught subjects such as reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing, and embroidery. The Mughal emperors also encouraged the education of their wives, daughters, and other female members of the royal family. Many women of the royal family became scholars and poets and made significant contributions to the literature of the era.

The Mughal Empire was a period of great cultural and intellectual achievements. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of learning, and they established many educational institutions to promote literacy and knowledge among the people. The education system in the Mughal era was mainly based on the Persian model, and Persian was the language of instruction. The Mughals patronized many Persian scholars, poets, and writers, who enriched the literature of the Persian language. The Mughal era was also a time when women's education was

considered essential for their empowerment and progress, and the Mughal emperors established many schools and colleges for women.

## **CUSTOMS**

Mughal India was a diverse and culturally rich society that was characterized by a variety of customs, traditions, and practices. These customs reflected the religious, social, and cultural diversity of the Indian subcontinent and shaped the everyday life of the people who lived there.

### **Religious Customs**

Religion played an important role in the lives of the people of Mughal India, and many customs were associated with different religions. Hindus, for example, believed in the concept of karma, which stated that a person's actions in this life would determine their fate in the next. As a result, many Hindus practiced a variety of rituals and customs that were aimed at achieving good karma and ensuring their future prosperity. Some of these customs included the performance of puja, or religious worship, the celebration of festivals such as Diwali and Holi, and the practice of yoga and meditation.

Muslims, on the other hand, followed a different set of customs and traditions that were associated with their faith. One of the most important customs in Islam was the performance of the five daily prayers, which were mandatory for all Muslims. Other customs included fasting during the month of Ramadan, performing the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, and giving alms to the poor.

### **Social Customs**

Social customs were also an important part of life in Mughal India, and many of these customs were associated with the social hierarchy and the roles and responsibilities of different groups within society. The caste system, for example, was an important social custom in Mughal India, and it determined a person's social position and occupation based on their birth. This social hierarchy was rigid and often led to discrimination and inequality, particularly for those in lower castes.

Another important social custom in Mughal India was the practice of purdah, or the seclusion of women from men outside of their family. Purdah was common among the upper classes and was seen as a way to protect women's honor and reputation. Women who practiced purdah were often confined to the home and were only allowed to interact with men from their own family.

### **Economic Customs**

Economic customs were also an important part of life in Mughal India, and many of these customs were associated with trade, commerce, and agriculture. One of the most important economic customs in Mughal India was the practice of barter, which was a common form of trade before the widespread use of currency. Barter involved the exchange of goods and services for other goods and services, and it was an important way for people to obtain the goods they needed to survive.

Another important economic custom in Mughal India was the practice of zamindari, which was a system of land ownership and revenue collection. The zamindars were landlords who owned vast tracts of land and were responsible for collecting taxes from the peasants who worked the land. This system was often exploitative and led to widespread poverty and economic inequality.

Customs in Mughal India were shaped by a variety of factors, including religion, geography, and social status. The following are some of the most notable customs and traditions that were prevalent during the Mughal era:

**Clothing:** Clothing was an important aspect of Mughal culture, and the elite classes often wore elaborate and intricately designed garments made from silk, velvet, and other luxurious fabrics. Men often wore long shirts and loose pants, while women wore long flowing dresses called saris.

**Food:** Food was another important aspect of Mughal culture, and the cuisine was known for its rich flavors and spices. Some of the most popular dishes included biryani, kebabs, and various types of bread, such as naan and roti.

**Marriage:** Marriage was considered a sacred institution in Mughal society, and arranged marriages were common among the elite classes. The bride and groom often exchanged gifts, and elaborate ceremonies were held to mark the occasion.

**Music and Dance:** Music and dance played an important role in Mughal culture, and various musical instruments, such as the sitar and tabla, were popular. Classical dance forms, such as Kathak and Bharatanatyam, were also popular and often performed at courtly events.

**Festivals:** Mughal India was known for its diverse range of festivals, which were celebrated with great pomp and show. Some of the most popular festivals included Diwali, Holi, and Eid.

**Etiquette:** Etiquette was an important aspect of Mughal society, and various rules and customs were followed to maintain social decorum. For example, it was customary to bow to elders and show respect to people of higher social status.

In conclusion, Mughal India was a diverse and culturally rich society that had a unique set of customs and traditions. Clothing, food, marriage, music and dance, festivals, architecture, religion, and etiquette were some of the most notable aspects of Mughal culture, and they continue to influence Indian society to this day.

## **RELIGIOUS POLICY**

The Mughal Empire, which spanned from the early 16th century to the mid-19th century, was characterized by a unique religious policy that promoted religious tolerance and unity. The Mughal emperors, who were Muslims, were known for their liberal policies towards different religions, and many different religious communities, such as Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians, coexisted peacefully. However, the religious policy of various Mughal emperors differed depending on the circumstances of their reign.

Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, was a Sunni Muslim who followed the Chishti order of Sufism. He was known for his liberal attitude towards other religions and respected the religious beliefs of his subjects. Babur allowed Hindus to practice their religion freely and even appointed a Hindu as one of his generals. However, during his reign, he also destroyed several Hindu temples, including the famous Somnath temple in Gujarat.

Humayun, the second Mughal emperor, continued the policy of religious tolerance initiated by his father. However, during his reign, he faced several rebellions by the Afghan nobles who were opposed to the liberal policies towards Hindus. Humayun also patronized the Persian culture and encouraged the study of Persian literature and art.

Akbar, the third Mughal emperor, is widely regarded as the most liberal and tolerant of all Mughal emperors. Akbar was a Shia Muslim, but he followed a policy of religious syncretism and encouraged the fusion of different religious beliefs. He abolished the Jizya tax, which was a tax levied on non-Muslims, and granted several concessions to the Hindus. Akbar also married several Hindu princesses and appointed Hindus to high-ranking positions in his court. He even started a new religion called Din-i-Ilahi, which was a fusion of different religious beliefs.

Jahangir, the fourth Mughal emperor, continued the policy of religious tolerance initiated by Akbar. Jahangir was a Sunni Muslim, but he respected the religious beliefs of his Hindu subjects and even patronized several Hindu scholars and artists. However, during his reign, he faced several rebellions by the Sikh community who were opposed to the liberal policies towards Hindus.

Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal emperor, was a Sunni Muslim who followed a policy of religious tolerance towards Hindus. Shah Jahan was known for his patronage of the arts and literature, and he commissioned several monuments and buildings, such as the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort. However, during his reign, he also faced several rebellions by the Marathas who were opposed to the Mughal rule.

Aurangzeb, the sixth and last effective Mughal emperor, is known for his conservative policies towards non-Muslims. Aurangzeb was a Sunni Muslim who followed a policy of religious orthodoxy and abolished the liberal policies towards Hindus initiated by Akbar. He reimposed the Jizya tax and destroyed several Hindu temples. Aurangzeb also persecuted the Sikh community and executed the ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur. Aurangzeb's conservative policies led to several rebellions, including the Maratha rebellion, which weakened the Mughal Empire.

The religious policy of various Mughal emperors differed depending on the circumstances of their reign. While some emperors, such as Akbar, followed a policy of religious tolerance and unity, others, such as Aurangzeb, followed a policy of religious orthodoxy and conservatism. Despite the differences in their policies, the Mughal emperors were known for their liberal attitudes towards different religions, and their legacy of religious

tolerance continues to influence Indian society to this day. The Mughal Empire was characterized by a unique religious pluralism that allowed different religions to coexist peacefully. This legacy of religious tolerance has influenced Indian society and has contributed to India's diversity and pluralism.

The social hierarchy during the Mughal era was also closely linked to religion. The Mughal emperors were Muslim, and Islam was the dominant religion of the empire. Muslims were at the top of the social hierarchy, and they held most of the high-ranking positions in the government and the military. However, the Mughal emperors were also aware of the importance of other religious communities in their empire, and they granted concessions to Hindus and other non-Muslims.

Hindus were the largest religious community in the Mughal Empire, and they occupied a significant place in the social hierarchy. Hindus were organized into castes, and their status in society was determined by their caste. Brahmins, who were the highest caste, held significant power and influence in society. However, the Mughal emperors also appointed Hindus to high-ranking positions in the government and the military, which gave them significant power and influence.

Sikhs emerged as a significant religious community during the Mughal era, and they played an important role in the social and political life of the empire. The Sikh Gurus played a critical role in promoting religious unity and tolerance, and they were respected by both Hindus and Muslims. However, during the later years of the Mughal Empire, the Sikhs faced significant persecution and oppression by the Mughal authorities.

The social hierarchy in the Mughal Empire was also closely linked to wealth and status. The Mughal emperors were known for their patronage of the arts and literature, and they granted significant wealth and privileges to their courtiers and nobles. The nobles were organized into mansabs, which were ranks based on the number of troops they could muster for the emperor. The higher the mansab, the more wealth and status a noble had in society.

The Mughal Empire was characterized by a complex social hierarchy that was closely linked to religion, caste, and wealth. However, the Mughal emperors were also aware of the importance of different religious communities in their empire, and they promoted religious tolerance and unity. The legacy of the Mughal Empire's religious pluralism continues to influence Indian society to this day and has contributed to India's diversity and pluralism.

## **FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS**

The Mughal Era was marked by a rich cultural heritage and a plethora of festivals and celebrations. The Mughal Emperors and their courts patronized and celebrated festivals with great enthusiasm, and these festivities were an important part of Mughal social life.

One of the most significant festivals celebrated during the Mughal Era was Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The Mughal Emperors would celebrate this festival by dressing in their finest attire, distributing gifts and sweets to their subjects, and holding public feasts. Another important Muslim festival was Eid-ul-Adha, which commemorates the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim. The Mughal Emperors would also celebrate Hindu festivals such as Diwali, Holi, and Dussehra, and would often participate in the festivities themselves.

The Mughal Emperors also celebrated their own birthdays and coronation anniversaries with great pomp and show. These occasions were marked by elaborate processions, public feasts, and the distribution of gifts and alms to the poor. The emperor's courtiers would often present him with gifts such as precious jewels, gold, and silver coins, and works of art.

The Mughal Era was also marked by the celebration of the Spring Festival or Nauroz, which was a pre-Islamic Persian festival. This festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Mughal courts, and was marked by public feasts, poetry recitations, and music and dance performances. The Mughal Emperors were known to be great patrons of music and dance, and many renowned musicians and dancers were part of their courts.

The Mughal Era was also marked by the celebration of the annual Urs or death anniversary of Sufi saints. These Urs festivals were marked by processions, poetry recitations, and music performances, and were attended by people from all walks of life. The Mughal Emperors would often visit the tombs of Sufi saints on these occasions and make offerings of flowers and sweets.

Apart from religious and cultural festivals, the Mughal Era was also marked by the celebration of special occasions such as weddings and childbirth. Weddings in particular were celebrated with great pomp and show and would often last for several days. The emperor's courtiers would present the bride and groom with lavish gifts, and there would be music, dance, and feasting throughout the duration of the wedding.

In conclusion, the Mughal Era was marked by a rich and diverse cultural heritage, and festivals and celebrations played an important role in Mughal social life. The Mughal Emperors and their courts were great patrons of art, music, and literature, and their contributions to the cultural heritage of India continue to be celebrated to this day.

## **SPORTS AND RECREATION**

Sports and recreation were an important part of the Mughal lifestyle. The Mughal emperors and nobility were known for their love of sports and outdoor activities. They were particularly fond of hunting, polo, and archery.

Hunting was a popular pastime among the Mughal emperors and nobles. They would often go on hunting expeditions accompanied by a large retinue of attendants and servants. The emperors would hunt wild animals such as tigers, leopards, deer, and antelopes. They would also hunt birds such as hawks, falcons, and peacocks.

Hunting was not only a leisure activity but also a way of demonstrating the emperor's power and dominance over nature.

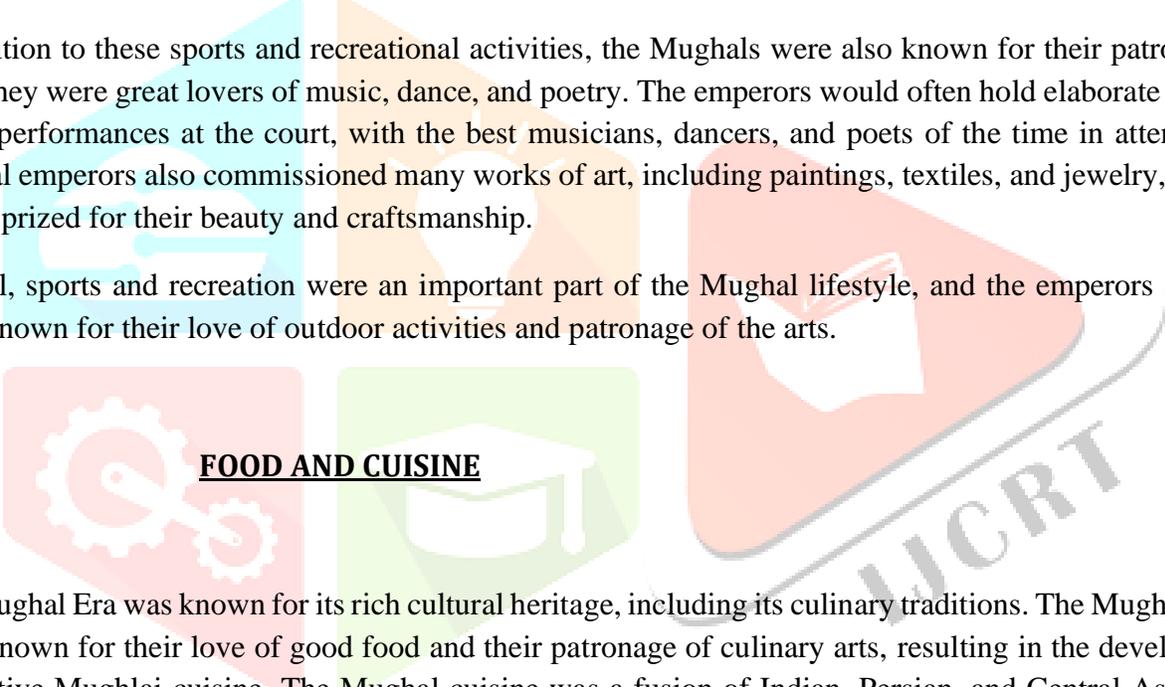
Polo was another popular sport among the Mughals. It was played on horseback with a small ball and a long-handled mallet. The aim of the game was to score goals by hitting the ball with the mallet into the opposing team's goal. Polo was a popular sport among the nobility and the emperors themselves would often participate in matches.

Archery was also a popular sport in Mughal India. The Mughal emperors and nobility were skilled archers and would often participate in archery competitions. The competitions were held in the presence of the emperor and the winner was rewarded with valuable prizes.

Other sports and recreational activities during the Mughal era included chess, card games, swimming, and kite-flying. Chess was particularly popular among the nobility and the emperors themselves were known to be skilled chess players. Swimming was also a popular pastime, especially during the hot summer months. Kite-flying was a popular recreational activity, especially during the spring season.

In addition to these sports and recreational activities, the Mughals were also known for their patronage of the arts. They were great lovers of music, dance, and poetry. The emperors would often hold elaborate musical and dance performances at the court, with the best musicians, dancers, and poets of the time in attendance. The Mughal emperors also commissioned many works of art, including paintings, textiles, and jewelry, which were highly prized for their beauty and craftsmanship.

Overall, sports and recreation were an important part of the Mughal lifestyle, and the emperors and nobility were known for their love of outdoor activities and patronage of the arts.



## **FOOD AND CUISINE**

The Mughal Era was known for its rich cultural heritage, including its culinary traditions. The Mughal Emperors were known for their love of good food and their patronage of culinary arts, resulting in the development of a distinctive Mughlai cuisine. The Mughal cuisine was a fusion of Indian, Persian, and Central Asian culinary traditions and was characterized by its richness, complexity, and the use of fragrant spices.

One of the hallmarks of Mughal cuisine was the use of aromatic spices, such as cardamom, cinnamon, cumin, coriander, saffron, and turmeric, which were used to create rich, flavorful dishes. Mughal cuisine was also known for its use of nuts and dried fruits, which added a sweet and nutty flavor to many dishes.

Mughal cuisine was largely influenced by the royal kitchens of the Mughal Emperors, which were staffed with skilled chefs who specialized in creating elaborate and luxurious dishes. Some of the most popular Mughal dishes included:

1. Biryani - a rich and flavorful rice dish made with spices, vegetables, and meat.
2. Kebabs - marinated and grilled meats, usually served with a variety of sauces.
3. Rogan Josh - a spicy lamb or mutton curry made with tomatoes and aromatic spices.
4. Haleem - a rich and hearty stew made with wheat, lentils, and meat.
5. Korma - a creamy and fragrant meat or vegetable curry made with yogurt, cream, and spices.
6. Naan - a flatbread that is usually baked in a tandoor oven and served hot.

7. Pulao - a rice dish similar to biryani, but usually less spicy and with fewer ingredients.

The Mughal Emperors were also known for their love of sweets and desserts, and Mughal cuisine included a variety of rich and indulgent desserts, such as:

1. Kulfi - a type of frozen dessert similar to ice cream, but made with condensed milk and flavored with cardamom, saffron, or rose water.
2. Gulab Jamun - small, round dumplings made from milk solids and soaked in a sweet syrup.
3. Jalebi - a sweet and crispy fried pastry that is soaked in syrup.
4. Barfi - a sweet and dense confection made from milk solids and flavored with cardamom, saffron, or rose water.
5. Falooda - a sweet and refreshing drink made with rose syrup, milk, and vermicelli noodles.

In addition to its rich and flavorful cuisine, the Mughal Era was also known for its tea culture. The Mughals were avid tea drinkers, and they introduced tea to India, where it quickly became a popular beverage. Mughal tea, also known as chai, is a sweet and spiced tea made with black tea, milk, and aromatic spices such as cardamom, cinnamon, and ginger.

Overall, the Mughal Era was a time of great culinary innovation and refinement. The Mughal Emperors and their royal kitchens played a major role in the development of Mughlai cuisine, which remains a popular and beloved cuisine in India and around the world today.

## ECONOMY

The Mughal Empire was one of the wealthiest and most prosperous empires in the world during the 16th and 17th centuries. The economy of the Mughal Empire was driven by agriculture, trade, and industry, and the Mughal emperors implemented several economic policies to promote growth and development.

Agriculture was the backbone of the Mughal economy, and the Mughal emperors recognized the importance of agriculture in their empire. The Mughal Empire had a highly developed irrigation system that allowed farmers to grow crops throughout the year. The Mughal emperors implemented several policies to promote agriculture, including land grants to farmers and tax concessions. The Mughal emperors also established state-owned farms, where experimental farming methods were tested.

Trade was another important sector of the Mughal economy. The Mughal Empire was strategically located on the trade routes between Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. The Mughal emperors recognized the importance of trade in their empire and implemented several policies to promote trade. The Mughal emperors established a system of trade fairs, where merchants from different parts of the world could trade their goods. The Mughal emperors also established a system of state-controlled markets, where goods were sold at fixed prices.

The Mughal Empire also had a thriving industry, which was supported by the availability of raw materials, such as cotton, silk, and spices. The Mughal emperors encouraged the development of handicrafts and textiles, which were in high demand in the international market. The Mughal emperors established several state-run industries, including the production of textiles, metalwork, and leather goods.

The Mughal emperors also implemented several economic policies to promote growth and development in the economy. One of the most significant economic policies of the Mughal emperors was the introduction of a centralized revenue system. The Mughal emperors established a system of taxation that was based on the land revenue system. The revenue from the land was collected by the state and distributed among the various levels of government.

The Mughal emperors also established a system of currency, which was based on the silver rupee. The Mughal emperors minted their own coins, which were used throughout the empire. The Mughal emperors also established a system of weights and measures, which was used to regulate trade and commerce.

The Mughal emperors were also known for their patronage of the arts and literature. The Mughal emperors provided significant support to the development of arts and literature, which helped to promote cultural growth and development in the empire. The Mughal emperors also established several institutions of learning, including universities and libraries, which helped to promote the spread of knowledge and education in the empire.

The Mughal Empire was one of the wealthiest and most prosperous empires in the world during the 16th and 17th centuries. The Mughal emperors implemented several economic policies to promote growth and development in the economy, including the promotion of agriculture, trade, and industry. The Mughal emperors also introduced a centralized revenue system, established a system of currency, and supported the development of arts and literature. The legacy of the Mughal Empire's economic policies continues to influence India's economy to this day.

## TRADE

During the Mughal Era, trade played a crucial role in the economic development of India. The Mughal Empire was a hub of trade and commerce as it was strategically located at the center of the trade routes between Asia, Europe, and Africa. The empire also had a strong infrastructure, including roads, waterways, and ports, which facilitated trade within and outside the country. Here are some key aspects of trade during the Mughal Era:

**Domestic Trade:** Domestic trade played a significant role in the Mughal Empire as various regions had different specialties. For instance, cotton textiles were produced in Gujarat and the Deccan, while the metal industry was concentrated in Bihar and Orissa. The Mughal rulers encouraged domestic trade by constructing roads and sarais (resting places for merchants) to facilitate the movement of goods and people. The empire also introduced standardized weights and measures, which further facilitated domestic trade.

**Foreign Trade:** The Mughal Empire was a significant player in the global trade network. The empire had trading relationships with various countries, including China, Persia, Arabia, and Europe. The primary exports from India were textiles, spices, precious stones, and indigo, while the primary imports were gold, silver, horses, and firearms. The Mughal rulers encouraged foreign trade by negotiating trade agreements with various countries and granting concessions to foreign traders.

**Ports:** The Mughal Empire had several ports on the east and west coasts of India, including Surat, Cambay, Calicut, Masulipatnam, and Hoogly. These ports were crucial in facilitating both domestic and foreign trade. The Mughal rulers invested heavily in developing and maintaining these ports, including constructing harbors and warehouses.

**Currency:** The Mughal Empire had a well-established monetary system. The primary currency was the silver rupee, which was used for both domestic and foreign trade. The empire also issued gold coins called mohurs, which were used for large transactions. The Mughal rulers introduced various reforms to stabilize the currency, including the standardization of weights and measures and the regulation of moneylenders.

**Trade Guilds:** Trade guilds played a crucial role in regulating trade during the Mughal Era. These guilds were associations of merchants who traded in similar commodities. The guilds had their own rules and regulations, which governed the conduct of trade and resolved disputes. The Mughal rulers recognized these guilds and often consulted them on matters related to trade.

**Taxes and Duties:** The Mughal Empire had a complex system of taxes and duties on trade. The primary taxes were the land revenue and the customs duty (known as the 'octroi'). The customs duty was levied on goods entering and leaving a city and was a significant source of revenue for the empire. The Mughal rulers also imposed other taxes, such as the transit tax and the toll tax, to finance their military campaigns and public works.

**Impact of Trade on Society:** Trade had a significant impact on the society and culture of the Mughal Empire. The influx of wealth from trade led to the growth of cities and the emergence of a wealthy merchant class. This class played a significant role in patronizing the arts and culture, including music, dance, and literature. Trade also led to the diffusion of ideas and technologies, which enriched society.

The Mughal Empire also established trade relations with European powers, particularly the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in India and establish a foothold in the region. They controlled several ports along the western coast, including Goa, and engaged in trade with the Mughals. The Dutch also established trade relations with the Mughals and were granted permission to establish a factory in Surat in 1616. The French and English followed suit, establishing trading posts in India and competing with each other for dominance in the region.

The Mughals also developed their own manufacturing industries, particularly in textiles, which were in high demand both within the empire and in international markets. The Mughal court encouraged the development of textiles, particularly silk and cotton, and established state-controlled factories to produce them. The textiles produced in the Mughal Empire were renowned for their intricate designs and high quality.

In addition to textiles, the Mughals were also skilled in the production of metalwork, particularly in the production of weapons and armor. The Mughal emperors maintained large arsenals of weapons and armor, which were both functional and decorative. The Mughal craftsmen were skilled in the use of various materials, including gold, silver, and precious stones, and created intricate designs and patterns on their metalwork.

Overall, trade played a significant role in the economy of the Mughal Empire. The empire was able to establish trade relations with various foreign powers and to develop its own manufacturing industries, particularly in textiles and metalwork. The Mughals also maintained a sophisticated system of taxation and revenue collection, which enabled them to fund their military campaigns and support the development of their economy. Despite its eventual decline, the Mughal Empire played a significant role in the history of India, particularly in the areas of trade and commerce.

## **AGRARIAN SOCIETY AND LAND OWNERSHIP**

During the Mughal Era, agriculture was the primary source of livelihood for the majority of the population. Land ownership was a crucial aspect of agrarian society and played a significant role in the economic and social structures of the time.

Land ownership during the Mughal era was divided into three categories: Crown land, Jagir land, and private land. The Crown land was directly under the control of the Mughal emperor and was used for the maintenance of the royal household, administration, and defense. Jagir land was given to the nobles as a reward for their services to the emperor. The Jagirdars were responsible for collecting taxes and maintaining law and order in their territories. Private land was owned by individuals, either through inheritance or purchase.

The Mughal administration collected revenue from the landowners in the form of land taxes or 'zamindari.' The zamindars were responsible for collecting taxes from the cultivators and forwarding it to the state. The revenue system during the Mughal era was well-organized and efficient, with a fixed rate of taxation that varied according to the quality of the land and the type of crops grown. The state also provided support to the farmers in the form of irrigation facilities, seeds, and fertilizers.

The Mughal Empire was known for its policies that encouraged agriculture and trade. Akbar, one of the most significant Mughal emperors, introduced several measures to improve agriculture and landownership. He abolished the practice of revenue farming, which was the system of leasing out the right to collect taxes to private individuals. This led to a significant improvement in the living conditions of the peasants.

Akbar also introduced the system of 'Todar Mal Bandobast,' which was a land survey system aimed at assessing the fertility of the land and the actual yield of crops. This helped the state to determine the correct amount of revenue to be collected from the landowners.

There was also a significant expansion of the cultivation of cash crops such as cotton, indigo, and opium. This led to an increase in trade and commerce, and the growth of the textile industry. The Mughal emperors encouraged the growth of trade by building roads, bridges, and waterways to connect different regions of the empire.

The Mughal Empire was also known for its highly developed market system, which was facilitated by the extensive network of roads and waterways. The markets were well-regulated, with fixed prices for goods and a system of weighing and measuring to prevent fraud. The state also issued currency, which facilitated trade and commerce.

During the Mughal Era, agriculture was the backbone of the economy, and the vast majority of the population was engaged in agriculture. The Mughal Emperors were known for their enlightened land revenue policies, which enabled them to generate revenue from the land without exploiting the farmers. The Mughal administration recognized the importance of the peasantry in the economy and attempted to create a favorable environment for them to thrive.

Landownership during the Mughal Era was divided into two categories: zamindars and peasant proprietors. Zamindars were the primary landowners, and they were responsible for paying the land revenue to the state. They were also responsible for maintaining law and order in their respective areas. Peasant proprietors were the farmers who cultivated the land and paid a share of the crop as rent to the zamindar.

The Mughal Emperors implemented a system of revenue collection known as the zamindari system. Under this system, the state granted the right to collect land revenue from zamindars in exchange for their services as revenue collectors and maintainers of law and order. Zamindars were given a percentage of the revenue they collected as a commission, and they were also responsible for ensuring that the land was cultivated and that the farmers paid their rent.

The zamindari system was designed to ensure that the peasantry was not exploited by the state or the zamindars. The state ensured that the revenue collected by the zamindars was reasonable and that they did not extract more than what was due. The zamindars, in turn, were responsible for ensuring that the farmers were not overburdened with taxes and rent.

One of the most significant advantages of the zamindari system was that it enabled the Mughal Emperors to maintain control over vast territories without the need for a large standing army. The system ensured that the peasantry was invested in the state's stability and that they would not rise up in rebellion against the state.

However, the zamindari system had its drawbacks. One of the biggest problems was the exploitative nature of some of the zamindars. Some zamindars abused their power and extracted more than what was due from the farmers. This resulted in the farmers being forced to abandon their land and migrate to other areas.

Another issue with the zamindari system was that it was susceptible to corruption. The zamindars were responsible for collecting revenue, and some of them embezzled funds, resulting in a loss of revenue for the state.

Despite these issues, the zamindari system was an essential part of the Mughal administration and played a significant role in the economic development of the Mughal Empire. It ensured that the state was able to generate revenue from the land while also protecting the interests of the farmers.

In conclusion, the agrarian society and landownership during the Mughal Era were characterized by the zamindari system. The system was designed to protect the interests of the farmers while also generating revenue for the state. While the system had its drawbacks, it played a crucial role in the economic development of the Mughal Empire.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The Mughal Empire, which ruled over the Indian subcontinent from the early 16th century to the mid-19th century, is known for its rich and complex administrative system. The Mughal emperors, who were Muslims of Turkic-Mongol origin, were adept at governing their diverse and populous empire, which included a wide range of ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups. The Mughal administration was characterized by a strong central government, a well-developed revenue system, and an extensive network of roads, waterways, and other infrastructure.

The Mughal administrative system was based on the principles of centralization and hierarchy. At the top of the administrative hierarchy was the emperor, who was the ultimate authority in all matters of governance. Below the emperor were a number of high-ranking officials, including the vizier (prime minister), the diwan (revenue minister), the wazir-i-mamalik (foreign affairs minister), and the mir bakhshi (military commander-in-chief).

These officials were appointed by the emperor and were responsible for the day-to-day administration of the empire.

The Mughal Empire was divided into several provinces, known as subahs, each of which was governed by a subahdar (governor). The subahdars were appointed by the emperor and were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting taxes, and overseeing the administration of justice in their respective provinces. The subahdars were assisted by a number of officials, including the diwan-i-subah (revenue minister), the sadr-i-subah (ecclesiastical officer), and the faujdar (military commander).

The Mughal administration was characterized by a well-developed revenue system, which was based on the collection of land revenue. The Mughal Empire was a predominantly agricultural society, and the collection of land revenue was the most important source of revenue for the government. The land revenue was collected by a class of revenue officials known as the zamindars, who were responsible for collecting taxes from the farmers and forwarding them to the government.

The Mughal Empire also had a well-developed system of justice, which was based on the principles of Islamic law. The emperor was the ultimate authority in matters of justice, and was assisted by a number of officials, including the qazi (Islamic judge) and the mufti (Islamic scholar). The Mughal Empire also had a system of courts, which were presided over by the qazis and dealt with civil and criminal cases.

The Mughal Empire was known for its extensive network of roads, waterways, and other infrastructure. The empire had a well-developed system of roads, which were used for transportation and communication. The Mughal Empire also had an extensive network of waterways, which were used for transportation and irrigation. The empire was also known for its impressive architecture, including the Taj Mahal and other Mughal monuments.

The Mughal administration was also known for its patronage of the arts and sciences. The Mughal emperors were great patrons of the arts, and encouraged the development of literature, music, painting, and other forms of artistic expression. The Mughal Empire was also known for its impressive achievements in the field of science and technology, including the development of astronomy, mathematics, and medicine.

The empire was divided into provinces, each headed by a governor, known as a Subedar. The governor was responsible for the administration of the province, including the collection of taxes and maintenance of law and order. The provinces were further divided into districts, each headed by a Faujdar, who was responsible for maintaining law and order in the district.

The Mughal administration was based on the principle of decentralization, which allowed the provincial governors a certain degree of autonomy in the administration of their provinces. However, the Emperor retained ultimate control over the empire and could overrule the decisions of the provincial governors if necessary.

One of the most important aspects of Mughal administration was the revenue system. The Mughals inherited the revenue system of the Delhi Sultanate, which was based on the land revenue system. Under this system, the state collected a percentage of the agricultural produce as revenue from the landowners. The revenue was collected by officials known as Amils, who were responsible for the assessment and collection of revenue.

The Mughals introduced several reforms to the revenue system to make it more efficient and effective. One of the most important of these was the introduction of the Zabt system, which was a fixed revenue system based on the measurement of land. Under this system, the land was measured, and a fixed revenue was assessed based on the productivity of the land. This system helped to increase revenue collection and reduce corruption.

The Mughals also introduced a number of measures to improve the infrastructure of the empire. They built a vast network of roads and highways to facilitate trade and commerce. They also constructed numerous canals and waterways to irrigate agricultural land and improve agricultural productivity. The Mughals were also known for their patronage of the arts and architecture, and they built numerous magnificent buildings and monuments throughout the empire.

The Mughals also had a well-organized and disciplined army. The army was composed of both cavalry and infantry units and was supported by a large number of artillery units. The Mughal army was known for its use of gunpowder and firearms, which gave them an advantage over their enemies. The Mughal army was also known for its strict discipline and organization, which made it one of the most effective armies of its time.

In conclusion, the Mughal administration was characterized by its efficient and effective revenue system, its infrastructure development, and its patronage of the arts and architecture. The Mughals also had a well-organized and disciplined army, which was instrumental in their success in maintaining their vast empire. The legacy of the Mughal administration can still be seen in modern-day India, in the form of its infrastructure and administrative systems.

## **CONCLUSION**

The period from 1526 to 1707 in India was marked by significant political changes, with the Mughal Empire dominating much of the region during this time. This period also saw significant developments in art and culture, as the Mughal rulers were great patrons of the arts.

During this time, the Mughal court attracted some of the finest artists and craftsmen from across India, resulting in a flourishing of artistic expression. Mughal art and architecture blended Indian and Persian styles, resulting in a distinctive style that is still celebrated today.

One of the most significant cultural achievements of this period was the development of Mughal miniature painting, which was characterized by its intricate detail, vibrant colors, and exquisite composition. This art form was used to depict a wide range of subjects, including religious scenes, courtly life, and landscapes.

Music and dance also thrived during this period, with the Mughal courts hosting lavish performances that showcased the talents of musicians and dancers from across India. These performances often incorporated elements of both Indian and Persian music and dance.

Overall, the period from 1526 to 1707 was a time of great artistic and cultural achievement in India. The Mughal rulers played a significant role in fostering the development of these arts, resulting in a legacy that is still celebrated today.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b><u>SL.NO.</u></b>	<b><u>BOOK NAME</u></b>	<b><u>AUTHOR</u></b>	<b><u>PUBLICATION</u></b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>
1.	History of Medieval India	V.D Mahajan:	S. CHAND	2018
2.	Indian Architecture (Islamic Period)	Percy Brown:	DB Taraporevala Sons & Co.	1981
3.	Indian Painting Under the Mughals A.D 1550 to A.D 1750	Percy Brown	Oxford University Press	2020
4.	Architecture of Mughal India.	C.B. Asher:	Cambridge University Press	1992
5.	Socio -Cultural and Economic History of Medieval India	Dr. Ganeswar Nayak	-	