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## Module 2

### Abu'l Fath Jalal-Ud-din Muhammad Akbar, and Jahangir

In this Exercise we are going to discuss the following points:-

Who was Akbar?

When did he become the emperor of Delhi?

Who was the successor of Akbar? And his administrative policy.

Who was Akbar?

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Akbar was the third great emperor of Delhi from the Mughal dynasty. His full name was Abu'l Fath Jalal-Ud-din Muhammad Akbar, is regarded as one of the great rulers of all time, regardless of country. Akbar succeeded to the throne at the age of 13, when he became emperor. His reign can be divided into three periods.

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1. From 1556 to 1570- Akbar became independent of the regent Bairam Khan and other members of his domestic staff. He launched military campaign against the Suris, and other Afghans, against the neighbouring kingdoms of Malwa and Gondwana , and to suppress the revolt of his half-brother Mirza Hakim and the Uzbegs. He seized the capital of Sisodiya Chittor garh in 1568 and Ranthambhore in 1569.
2. From 1570-1585 He launched the military campaign against Gujarat , Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. These campaigns were complicated by the revolt in support of Mirza Hakim.
3. From 1585- 1605-expansion of Akbar's empire. He launched military campaigns in the north-west. Qandahar was seized from the Safavids, Kashmir was annexed After the death of Mirza Hakim. Kabul was also included in his territory. He started campaigns in the Deccan and annexed Berar, Khandesh, and Ahmadnagar.

Akbar started to recapture the remaining territory lost from Babur's empire. By the time of his death in 1605, he ruled over most of north, central, and western India. Akbar worked hard to win over the hearts and minds of the Hindu leaders. While this may well have been for political reasons - he married a Hindu princess. It was also a part of his philosophy. Akbar believed that all religions should be tolerated and that a ruler's duty was to treat all believers equally, whatever their belief. He established a form of delegated government in which the provincial governors were personally responsible to him for the quality of government in their territory. Akbar's ministry included many

Hindus in positions of responsibility - the governors were allowed to take a major part in the governing. Akbar also ended a tax (jizya) that had been imposed on non-Muslims. He ordered one of his close friends and courtiers, Abul Fazl to write a history of his reign. He wrote a three-volume history of Akbar's reign, titled Akbarnama. The first volume dealt with Akbar's ancestors and the second volume recorded the events of Akbar's reign. The third volume is the Ain- i- Akbari. It deals with Akbar's administration, household, army, the revenue, and the geography of his empire. The most interesting aspect of the Ain-i- Akbari is its rich statistical details about things as diverse as crops, yield, prices, wages, and revenues.

Who was Jahangir?

**Jahangir** Akbar's son, Emperor Jahangir included large numbers of Indian Hindus in his court, Persian shi'ya and Sunnis and members of local heterodox Islamic sects. Jahangir also began building the magnificent monuments and gardens by which the Mughals are chiefly remembered today, importing hundreds of Persian architects to build palaces and created magnificent gardens. Jahangir's approach was typified by the development of Urdu as the official language of Empire. Urdu uses an Arabic script, but Persian vocabulary and Hindi grammatical structure.

### **The administrative policy of Akbar**

Akbar's work was found in the book Akbarnama written by Abul Fazal Akbar divided his kingdom into provinces called Subas, governed by the Subedar. The subedar was supported by the other officers such as the military paymaster( Bakshshi) the minister of religious and charitable patronage(sadr) the military commander Faujdars and the town police commander ( Kotwal)

Akbar's nobles commanded a large army and had access to large amounts of revenue. While Akbar was at Fatehpur Sikri, he started a discussion on religion with the Ulemas, Brahmins, Jesuits, and Priests who were Roman Catholic and Zoroastrian.

The discussion took place in the Ibadat Khana. It led Akbar to the idea of Sulah-i-kul or universal peace. This idea of tolerance did not discriminate between people of different religions.

Akbar realized those religious scholars' emphasized rituals and dogmas were often bigots. their teachings created divisions amongst the subjects. Abul Fazal one of the Akbar's friends and courtiers wrote three volumes History of Akbar's reign, titled Akbarnama.

The Mughal administrative and military efficiency of the Mughal Empire led to the great economic and commercial prosperity. The Mughal Emperor and Mansabdars expend a great deal of their income on goods and salaries. The Mansabdars received their salaries revenue assignment called Jagir. The main source of income to the Mughal rulers was the tax received by the produce to the peasantry. The wealthier peasants and artisans groups,

merchants, and bankers were benefited in the economic world. Primary producers, however, lived in poverty.

Akbar introduced a land revenue system called Todar Mal Bandobast or Zabti system, through his finance minister Raja Todar Mal, wherein the classification of land and fixation of rent was introduced

He also introduced the Mansabdari System or the rank-holder system to organize the nobility and army The Navratnas or the nine famous intellectuals of Akbar's court were Todar Mal, Abul Fazal, Faizi, Birbal, Tansen, Abdur Rahim Khana-i-Khana, Mullah-do-Pyaza, Raja Man Singh, and Fakir Aziao-Din

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We will meet again in the next exercise with more information about the Mughal Empire.

Thanks

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