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Adjacent Navniti Apartments
I.P. Extension, Patparganj Delhi-110092

Session: 2026-2027

CLASS: VIII

SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: HISTORY

CH-2

Reshaping India's Political Map

A. Tick (✓) the correct option:

1. The Vijayanagara Empire was founded in 1336 CE by **(ii) Harihara and Bukka.**
2. The Raichur Doab was contested mainly because it **(iii) had fertile agricultural land.**
3. The Mughal Empire was established after **(iv) First Battle of Panipat.**
4. Which reform is associated with Sher Shah Suri? **(ii) Building the Grand Trunk Road**
5. Akbar's policy of Sulh-i-kul meant **(i) universal peace and tolerance.**
6. Pietra Dura work became popular during the reign of **(iii) Shah Jahan.**
7. Which group offered strong resistance to the Mughal Empire using guerrilla warfare? **(ii) Marathas**

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. The Vijayanagara capital was located on the banks of the **Tungabhadra** River.
2. The Battle of Talikota in **1565 CE** led to the destruction of Hampi.
3. Babur used **Tulughma strategy** to gain victory at the First Battle of Panipat.
4. Sher Shah Suri introduced a new **Rai** system to improve tax collection.
5. Akbar abolished the **Jizya** tax to promote religious harmony.
6. The Taj Mahal was built in memory of **Mumtaz Mahal.**
7. Aurangzeb's long military campaigns in the **Deccan** weakened the empire.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. Krishnadevaraya was known for his patronage of art and literature. — **True**
2. Humayun ruled the Mughal Empire without any interruptions. — **False**
3. Jahangir encouraged miniature painting and garden architecture. — **True**
4. The Mansabdari system assigned ranks and military responsibilities. — **True**
5. Aurangzeb's policies helped strengthen unity in the empire. — **False**
6. The Ahoms won the Battle of Saraighat against the Mughals. — **True**
7. Sher Shah Suri built the Grand Trunk Road to improve trade and travel. — **True**

D. Answer the following in brief:

1. **Why was the Raichur Doab so important to Vijayanagara and the Bahmani Sultanate?**
The Raichur doab was a fertile stretch of land lying between the Tungabhadra and the Krishna rivers. This region has very fertile soil, making it economically and strategically valuable. Because of this, the Raichur doab became a valuable and highly desired territory.
2. **What military strategies helped Babur win the First Battle of Panipat?**

Babur's victory was largely due to his superior military techniques, especially his effective use of artillery, including powerful cannons, which created shock and confusion among enemy soldiers. He also used the tulughma strategy, a clever method of dividing his army into several wings to attack from the sides and surround the enemy.

3. Why is Sher Shah Suri remembered as a great administrator?

Sher Shah Suri is remembered as a great administrator as he introduced many reforms like efficient revenue system, better road connectivity (Grand Trunk Road), improved communication, introduced new currency etc.

4. What was Akbar's policy of Sulh-i-kul?

Omitted (same as E4)

5. Mention one cultural contribution of Jahangir or Shah Jahan.

Jahangir had a deep love for nature and beautiful things. Under his rule, Mughal miniature painting reached its highest quality.

Shah Jahan was called the Engineer King because of his extraordinary passion for architecture. His most famous creation is the Taj mahal built at Agra in the memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

6. Why did Aurangzeb's Deccan campaigns weaken the Mughal Empire?

The wars were long, expensive and exhausting for the empire. They drained the Mughal treasury, weakened the army, and made it difficult to manage such large territory.

Communication and administration became increasingly difficult. While Aurangzeb was occupied in the Deccan, new powers such as the Marathas grew stronger and began to challenge the Mughal authority.

7. Who were the Ahoms, and how did they resist the Mughal expansion?

The Ahoms were expert warriors from the North-east India. They lived in forests of present-day Assam. They cleverly used the natural environment to their advantage.

E. Answer the following in detail:

1. Describe the achievements of Krishnadevaraya in strengthening the Vijayanagara Empire.

- Krishnadevaraya was an excellent military commander. Under his leadership, the empire became strong, wealthy and culturally vibrant.
- He led his armies in several successful campaigns through these victories, he ensured the security of the empire and expanded its boundaries.
- Because of his strong and disciplined army, the people of the empire enjoyed peace and stability.
- He promoted agriculture with irrigation works and encouraged trade.
- His royal court became a centre of literary brilliance and included gifted poets, especially the group of eight famous scholars known as Ashtadiggajas.
- His reign is considered the golden age of the Vijayanagara Empire.

2. Explain the causes and results of the Battle of Talikota.

Causes:

- i. After the death of Krishnadevaraya, the empire began to suffer from internal conflicts and disputes among the nobles and the leaders. These disagreements weakened the unity and strength of the kingdom.
- ii. In 1565 CE, the combined armies of the five Deccan Sultanates, who were the successor states of the Bahamani kingdom, joined together to fight against Vijayanagara.

Effects:

- i. The Vijayanagara army was heavily defeated in this battle.
- ii. After the defeat Hampi was extensively looted and destroyed, marking the end of Vijayanagara's political dominance.
- iii. After this event the empire slowly broke into smaller states and never regained its earlier glory.

3. Discuss the major reforms introduced by Sher Shah Suri and their significance.

Sher Shah Suri introduced important reforms in administration.

- i. He improved the revenue system by measuring land, assessment of crop production and fixing taxes. It made the tax collection process more fair and efficient.
- ii. He built roads like the Grand Trunk Road to improve travel and communication and set up rest houses for travellers.
- iii. He introduced a proper currency system, where he introduced standard silver and copper coins and encouraged stable trade and economic growth.

These reforms helped in better governance and trade.

4. Explain Akbar's contribution to the Mughal Empire through military expansion and religious tolerance.

Military Expansion by Akbar:

- Akbar defeated the Afghan forces led by Hemu in the second battle of Panipat in 1556 CE.
- He then expanded the empire through successful military campaigns and by forming strategic alliances, especially with the Rajputs. Many Rajput kings accepted Akbar's leadership and served in his administration.

Religious Tolerance of Akbar:

- He made the policy of Sulh-i-kul, which means Universal Peace.
- He abolished Jizya, the tax paid by the non-Muslims.
- He also established the Ibadat Khana or House of Worship, at Fatehpur Sikri where he invited scholars of many religions to discuss ideas and beliefs.

5. Describe Shah Jahan's architectural contributions and their importance.

- Shah Jahan was called the Engineer King because of his extraordinary passion for architecture.
- His most famous creation is the Taj mahal built at Agra in the memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.
- Taj mahal is made of shining white marble and decorated with Pietra Dura, a beautiful form of inlay work that uses coloured stones to make floral patterns.
- Shah Jahan also constructed many other magnificent structures such as Red Fort and Jama masjid in Delhi.
- He even created the luxurious Peacock Throne, decorated with precious stone.

6. Analyse the policies of Aurangzeb and how they contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire.

- i. Aurangzeb's strict and conservative policies created widespread dissatisfaction and ultimately weakened the empire.
- ii. Aurangzeb rejected the policy of Sulh-i-kul, or universal peace, which had been promoted by Akbar to maintain harmony among all religions.
- iii. He followed a more rigid religious policy that caused tension among the non-Muslim communities.
- iv. In 1679, he reimposed Jizya tax, which was abolished by Akbar.
- v. These actions damaged the unity and trust that earlier emperors had worked had to build.

7. Describe the resistance movements against the Mughals by the Rajputs, Ahoms and Sikhs.

Rajputs:

- Resisted Mughal expansion to protect their independence.
- Maharana Pratap fought against Akbar in the Battle of Haldighati. Although he lost the battle but he continued to resist Mughal rule through Guerrilla warfare.
- The Bhil community also joined the army as archers to oppose the Mughals.
- Some Rajput states later formed alliances with the Mughals through diplomacy and marriage.

Ahoms:

- Ruled Assam and strongly opposed Mughal expansion.
- Used guerrilla warfare and the knowledge of natural environment effectively.
- Defeated Mughals in the Battle of Saraighat, 1671.

Sikhs:

- Opposed Mughal rule, especially under Aurangzeb.
- Conflict increased after execution of Guru Arjan Dev and Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa, a community of trained and disciplined warrior followers, to resist Mughal oppression and protect justice.