

The background of the slide features a photograph of the Qutub Minar, a tall brick tower in Delhi, India. To its right is a smaller domed building with arched windows. The sky is clear and blue. The slide has a blue geometric overlay on the right side.

# SOURCES OF MEDIEVAL INDIAN HISTORY (PART-5) मध्यकालीन भारतीय इतिहास के स्रोत (भाग-5)

(UG , SEM-4, PAPER MJC-7)

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# ACCOUNTS OF FOREIGN TRAVELLERS ( वदेशी यात्रियों का वृत्तांत)

- ▶ Many foreign travelers visited India during the Mughal period. Their accounts constitute an important source material. Among the noteworthy accounts are **Travels of Ralph Fitch; Early Travels in India of W. Hawkins, Finch, Withington , Coryat, W. Terry; The Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to India (1615-19) (edited by W. Foster); the Travels of Peter Mundy; Travels in the Mogul Empire (1656 -1688) by Bernier (edited by A. Constable); Travels in India by J.B Tavernier, etc.** These accounts along with many similar

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accounts deal not only with the life of the court but also with the habits, customs and attitudes of people in general. As Prof. Srivastava mention “these accounts cannot be accepted at their face-value, for some of them are mere bazar gossip, and certain others are vitiated on account of their racial, religious and national prejudices”.

- ▶ However, these accounts do serve as an important source of information for the period under consideration.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES (पुरातात्विक स्रोत)

Nearly all the archaeological sources of the Mughal period have been catalogued and the notable remains have been critically analyzed and put in proper shape. Exhaustive works on the numismatic sources also supplement the work of archaeological surveys. Edward Thomas, Stanley Lane-Poole, Nelson, Whitehead, Dames, Rodgers and others have contributed greatly in proper collection and explanation of numismatic sources. The architectural remains of the age attest the excellence reached by the great Mughals.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES (पुरातात्विक स्रोत)

Massive and magnificent palaces, big forts, great mausoleums, dream like cities such as Fatehpur Sikri, etc., are outstanding examples of Mughal architecture and form a treasured clue to the unfolding of Mughal story. Babur's mighty structures have been ravaged by time but his tomb at Kabul is a magnificent one. Akbar, a great builder, left permanent imprint in the architecture of Fatehpur Sikri, described as a "romance in stone, inconceivable and impossible at any other time or in any other circumstances".

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES (पुरातात्विक स्रोत)

- ▶ Shah Jahan's creation, one of the wonders of the world, is enthusiastically admired by one and all and bears eloquent testimony to the art and architecture of his times. The Mughal painting which reached its zenith during the reign of Jahangir also testifies to the extraordinary achievements in the field of fine arts by the Mughals. The works of Percy Brown and Moti Chand describes the technique of Mughal painting.

## SUMMARY (सारांश)

- ▶ The term medieval has been derived from the Latin words '*medius*' and '*aevum*' which means Middle Age. Medieval period is the period that lies between the ancient and the modern period.
- ▶ Medieval period in India is generally considered to be between 7th and the 18th century.
- ▶ For the convenience of studying the state and society of medieval India, historians usually divide the medieval period into the Early Medieval Period (700-1200) and Late Medieval Period (1200-1707).

## SUMMARY (सारांश)

- ▶ In early medieval period in Northern India there was no larger state until the Delhi Sultanate, or certainly the Mughal Empire, but there were many dynasties.
- ▶ The late medieval period follows the Muslim conquests of the Indian subcontinent and the decline of Buddhism, the subsequent founding of the Delhi Sultanate and the creation of Indo-Islamic architecture, followed by the Bengal Sultanate.
- ▶ The beginning of the Mughal Empire in 1526 marked the commencement of the Mughal era. Sometimes, the Mughal era is also referred as the 'late medieval period'.



## SUMMARY (सारांश)

- ▶ There are a large number of literary and archeological sources available for studying the history of Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire.
- ▶ The literary sources comprise biographies, autobiographies, court histories, chronicles, accounts of foreign travellers, and private correspondence etc.
- ▶ Among the archaeological sources, coins, inscriptions and monuments and paintings are important sources for the construction of the history of medieval period of India.