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**Topic:- The Rajput Policy Of Akbar**

# Mughal-Rajput relations

- The relations between the Mughal Empire and the Rajput empire were complex. At times they were allies, and at other times they were adversaries. There were marriages between the two, leading to cooperation but also battles.
- The initial interactions were largely confrontational. Babur, the founder of the Mughal empire, fought several battles against the Rajputs, especially the Rana of Mewar. However, his son Humayun allied with some Rajput kingdoms against Sher Shah Suri.
- Akbar, the grandson of Babur, followed a policy of alliance and integration with the Rajputs. He made alliances through marriage and gave high positions to Rajput warriors at his court. This brought most Rajput kingdoms into the Mughal Empire.
- The Rajputs maintained their status and identity even while becoming part of the Mughal Empire. They fought in Mughal armies and held important offices in Mughal rule.

# Akbar and the Rajputs

- The Mughal emperor Akbar had many conflicts with the Rajput kingdoms in northern India. The Rajputs were proud warriors who ruled many areas that Akbar wanted to expand his Empire into. This led to several wars between Akbar and different Rajput kingdoms.
- When Akbar came to the throne, he wanted to expand the Mughal Empire. The Rajput kingdoms controlled a large part of northern India, including areas like Rajasthan and Haryana. So Akbar first had to defeat the Rajputs to gain control of these areas.
- One of Akbar's first conflicts was with Rana Sanga of Mewar in 1567. Rana Sanga led a big coalition of many Rajput kingdoms against Akbar. They fought a big battle where Akbar's army narrowly defeated the Rajputs. However, Mewar remained independent and refused to join the Mughal empire.
- However, Mewar continued to remain independent and never joined the Mughal empire through marriage. The queen of Mewar even stopped her ladies-in-waiting from marrying Mughal princes.

# Features Of The Rajput Policy Of Akbar

- Akbar pursued a liberal Rajput policy during his reign. He followed some major features in handling the Rajputs.
- The first feature of the Rajput policy of Akbar was intermarriage alliances or political marriages. Akbar married many Rajput princesses to strengthen ties with the Rajput states. He married Princess Heer Kunwari from Bikaner, Princess Bhagirathi from Jodhpur, and Princess Jagat Gosaini from Amer. These political marriages helped create friendly relations with the Rajputs.
- The second feature of the Rajput policy of Akbar was granting of high mansabs or ranks to Rajput chiefs. Akbar granted high mansabs and ranks to many Rajput chieftains to make them part of his imperial service. Rajputs like Raja Bhagwan Das, Raja Man Singh, and Raja Todar Mal were given important ranks and positions in the Mughal court.

# Conclusion

The Rajput policy of Akbar featured intermarriage alliances, grants of high ranks, religious tolerance, non-interference in Rajput affairs, and the gift of jagirs. These features helped establish peaceful relations between the Mughals and Rajputs, laying the foundations of Mughal rule in Rajputana.