

**CLASS 7**  
**SUBJECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE (HISTORY)**

**CHAPTER 4: THE MUGHAL EMPIRE**

**EXPLANATION CONTENT**

**Who were the Mughals?**

The Mughals were descendants of two great lineages of rulers. From their mother's side they were descendants of Genghis Khan (died 1227), ruler of the Mongol tribes, China and Central Asia. From their father's side they were the successors of Timur (died 1404), the ruler of Iran, Iraq and modern-day Turkey. However, the Mughals did not like to be called Mughal or Mongol. This was because Genghis Khan's memory was associated with the massacre of innumerable people. It was also linked with the Uzbegs, their Mongol competitors. On the other hand, the Mughals were proud of their Timurid ancestry, not least of all because their great ancestor had captured Delhi in 1398.

**Mansabdari System**

The term mansabdar refers to an individual who holds a mansab, meaning a position or rank. It was a grading system used by the Mughals to fix (1) rank, (2) salary and (3) military responsibilities.

## **The relationship between the mansabdar and the jagir**

Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called jagirs. Most mansabdars did not actually reside in or administer their jagirs. They only had rights to the revenue of their assignments which was collected for them by their servants while the mansabdars themselves served in some other part of the country.

## **Akbar's religious policy.**

Akbar introduced the idea of sulh-i kul or “universal peace”. Its main features were:

This idea of tolerance did not discriminate between people of different religions in his realm.

Instead it focused on a system of ethics – honesty, justice and peace – that was universally applicable.