

Reforms of the Early Mughal Emperors – Developments in Art

Beginning of Mughal Art

Mughal art combined Persian, Indian, and Central Asian influences. Babur and Humayun encouraged Persian-style miniatures. The real development started under Akbar, who supported painting and manuscripts. Jahangir promoted naturalism, while Shah Jahan focused on architecture. Together, they created a rich artistic culture.

Akbar's Contribution

Akbar set up royal workshops where artists worked together. His famous illustrated manuscript, *Hamzanama*, was a great achievement. He brought Indian and Persian artists together, creating a new style of Mughal art. Paintings showed court life, battles, and celebrations with detailed colors and designs.

Jahangir's Artistic Vision

Jahangir loved art deeply and encouraged realistic styles. His artists painted portraits of nobles and natural studies of birds, animals, and flowers. European techniques such as perspective and shading entered during his reign. Jahangir's era is considered the golden period of Mughal miniature painting.

Shah Jahan's Architectural Achievements

Shah Jahan was most famous for architecture. He built the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, and Jama Masjid. His buildings were made of white marble and decorated with precious stones. Symmetry, calligraphy, and floral designs became features of his architecture. Mughal architecture reached its height under him.

Legacy of Mughal Art

Mughal art left a long-lasting impact on Indian culture. Their paintings influenced Rajput and Deccan art schools. The Taj Mahal remains one of the world's most admired monuments. Their art showed unity, creativity, and cultural richness. This legacy proves that art is essential for building strong and cultured societies.