

Component-I (A) – Personal details:

The cover page features the Pathshala logo (A Gateway to all Post Graduate Courses) and the MHRD logo (Govt. of India, An MHRD Project under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT)). The subject is **Indian Culture**. The production of courseware is for **Content for Post Graduate Courses**. The paper is **Indian Numismatics** and the module is **The Mughal Coinages**. A central graphic displays various fields of study: Metaphysics, Law, Philosophy, Arts, Religion, Science, Mind, Aesthetics, Epistemology, Language, Ethics, Logic, Politics, and Educations. It also includes images of a philosopher and a scholar, and the motto 'ज्ञान-विद्याल विमुक्तये' (Knowledge and Education liberate).

Subject: **Indian Culture**

Production of Courseware
- Content for Post Graduate Courses

Paper : **Indian Numismatics**

Module : **The Mughal Coinages**

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Component-I (B) – Description of module :

Subject Name	Indian Culture
Paper Name	Indian Numismatics
Module Name/Title	The Mughal Coinages
Module Id	IC / NMST / 25
Pre-requisites	
Objectives	To know about the Mughal coins, types, evolution, features, legends etc.
Keywords	Coins / Mughal Coins / <i>Hijri</i> type coins / <i>Ilahi</i> type coin

E-text (Quadrant-I):

1. Introduction :

The Indian coinage may broadly be divided into two groups: one issued with pictorial devices without inscription or with little inscription and another primarily struck with inscription without pictorial devices. The former types are mainly noticed on ancient Indian coins, bearing inscription in Greek and Brahmi scripts while latter types are seen on medieval Indian coins with Arabic and Persian inscription. It is interesting to note that the medieval Indian coins are mostly issued on Islamic tradition wherein inscription became the prime feature, therefore, it became more informative. These coins generally offer religious and secular messages. Religious messages include *Kalima* (basic creed of Islam): *Lailaha illaallah Muhammad-ur-rasul Allah* (there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger), name of the *Khalifah* (both Abbasid and pious Caliphs) religious titles used by the king and Quranic verses. The secular information generally includes the names of the rulers, some time with the name of the father and the grandfather, the date (in *hijri* calendar, inscribed both in numerals and words) and mint's name. The coinage of Islamic tradition in India in true sense was introduced by the Mameluk sultan, Iltutmish of Delhi Sultanate, followed by the other sultanates of Delhi and Provincial sultanates.

2. Mughal Coins :

Like Delhi sultanates and provincial sultanates, the Mughals also issued their coinage on Islamic pattern. The Mughal coinage tradition began with Babar, the founder of the empire, but the Mughal currency took its final shape during the time of Akbar.

2.1 Coins Babar :

Babar issued his coins in silver and copper. His silver coins, which are of broad and thin flan, are known as *Shahrukhi*, because they were modeled on the coin type introduced by Shahrukh, Timurid ruler in the 15th century. The *Shahrukhi* coins were issued in the weight standard of about 4.5 gm with *Kalima* and the name of four great Caliphs on one side and the ruler's name with his title, date and the mint name on the other. His silver coins are known from Agra, Lahore Jaunpur and Kabul mints. The copper coins of Babar are anonymous in the sense that they do not bear his name. They have only the date and mint name, reported from Agra, Kabul, Lahore and Jaunpur. It has been attributed to Babar with the help of date.

2.2 Coins of Humayun :

Humayun, the son and successor of Babar is known to have issued coins in gold, silver and copper. His coinage may be understood in two phases. In his first phase (1530-1540) silver *Shahrukhi* along with anonymous copper *falus* were his main currency. Besides, a few gold coins on *Shahrukhi* pattern were in also in circulation. His coins are known from Dehli, Jaunpur, Agra and Lakhnau mints. By the time Humayun recaptured the throne of India for his second phase (1555-1556 CE). the Indian currency system under the rule of Sher Shah Suri and his successors had taken a perfect shape in form of *rupiya* (silver coins) , weighed about 11.5 gm with broad flan 28mm and *paisa* (copper coins) weight about 21 gm. with moderate thickness of 7mm. became the common currency of India. The Suri silver *rupiya* was issued in bi-lingual with Devanagari and Arabic. Humayun in his second phase had issued his silver coins on *rupiya* pattern particularly from Bengal region. But these are not known in bi-lingual. The changes are well evident in the silver coinage of Humayun but he made no attempt to change his copper coins of 9.4 gm, which he had issued in his first phase. However, from three copper mints Dehli, Lahore and Narnol he adopted the standard Suri *paisa*. But he maintained its anonymity, while Suri coinage gave the name of the Emperor.

2.3 Coins of Akbar :

As mentioned above that the Mughal coinage took a distinct shape in the time of Akbar, the son and successor of Humayun. The currency system of Akbar was primarily based on the Suri coinage, but some modification and changes were made from time to time, which made it distinct. Akbar issued coins in gold in gold, silver and copper; these were called as *Muhar*, *rupiya*, *dam* or *falus* or *tanka* respectively. The gold and silver coins were issued in the weight standard of about 11-11.5 gm with their denominations. *Dams* or *falus* weighed about 20 gm. In his 40th RY Akbar issued copper coins of the weight of double *dams* (40 gm) and called them *tanka*. Like gold and silver his copper coins are also known in various denominations. Some of his copper coins particularly the *tanka* series are found with denomination inscribed on them in words such as *tanka*, *nim tanka*, etc.

Apart from the actual coins, the *Ain-i-Akbari* of Abul Fazl also help us to understand coin types of Akbar. It includes a separate chapter entitled the Imperial Household, discusses various aspects of coins such as minting technique, mint administration and the coins of glorious Empire etc. *Ain* explains gold, silver and copper coins separately with their names and weight. These are as under: -

Gold: 1. *Sahanshah*, 2. *Sahanshah*, but of 91 tolas, 3. *Rahas*, 4. *Atmah*, 5. *Binsat*, 6. *Chaugal* 7. *lal-i-jalali*, 8. *Aftabi*, 9. *Ilahi* , 10. *Lal jalali* (square), 11. *Adl- gutka*, 12. *Muhar* (round), 13. *Mihraji*, 14. *Muini* .

Silver : 1. *Rupiya* 2. *Jalalah* (square), 3. *Darb* (half *jalalah*). 4. *Charn* (1/4 part), 5. *pandu* (1/5 part), 6. *Asht* (1/8 part), 7. *Dasa* (1/10 part), 8. *Kala* (1/16 part), 9. *Suki* (1/20 *jalalah*).

Copper: 1. *Dam* 2. *Adhela* 3. *Pawlah* 4. *Damri*.

The coinage of Akbar may broadly be divided into two groups. The division of coins is based on the two different dating systems used on his coins named *Hijri* and *Ilahi*. His coins in all three metals (gold, silver and copper) adopted same dating system. The gold and silver coins are issued on similar typology while copper coins adopted different typology.

2.3.1 *Hijri* type coins: inscribing date has been one of the features of the medieval Indian coins and it is generally inscribed in *Hijri* era i.e. Islamic calendar (begins from 622 CE with

the migration of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Madina). Akbar too adopted *hijri* dates for his coins. But his coins with *hijri* date continued till 30th regnal year.

Apart from the *hijri* date the gold and silver coins of Akbar also bear *Kalima* and names of four great Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman and Ali with or without their epithets) on the one side and *Jalaluddin Mohammad Akbar Badshah Ghazi* on the other, besides, the date and mint. The copper coins with *hijri* pattern are primarily anonymous, these, however, bear date in words and numerals on the one side and mint name on the other. It is inscribed as *falus zarb* (mint name) on the one side and *nahsad hashtaad wa chahaar 984* on the other.

Hijri type coins in gold & silver



2.3.2 Ilahi type coin

Akbar in his 30 regnal year introduced *Ilahi* calendar, begins from the date of his accession i.e Hijri 963/ 1556 CE). It adopted month names from Zoroastrian/ Persian calendar (*Farwardi, Ardibahisht, Khurdad, Tir, Amardad, Shahrewar, Mehar, Abaan, Azr Di, Bahman, Asfandermuz*). *Ilahi* coins in gold and silver were issued without the name of Akbar. These bear a uniform legend i.e. *Allah-u-Akbar Jalle Jalalah* on one side and RY *Ilahi* month and mint name on the other, inscribed as for exp. 42 *Mehr* (*Ilahi* month) *Ilahi zarb Agra*.

Ilahi type coins of Akbar : Gold & silver



The copper coins of Akbar on *Ilahi* pattern neither bear *Allah -u-Akbar jalejalahau* nor the name of Akbar but mentions the mint name and *Ilhai* month with RY, inscribed as *falus*(mint name) on the one side and RY *Ilahi* month name (*37 Ilahi Di*) on the other. Akbar in his 40 RY introduced heavy copper coins of 40 gms. and termed as *tanka*. The coins of this series bear his name inscribed as *tanka-i-Akbar Shahi* on the one side and *Ilahi* month date on the other.

Hijri and Ilahi type copper coins of Akbar



Besides, the above-mentioned two major types, Akbar also issued some interesting coin types, which can be mentioned here. These are *mehrab* type, Ram Sita type (a very rare type issued only from Agra), bird type (issued only from Asirgadh), couplet types (from Allahabad). Akbar after capturing Malwa, Gujarat and Kashmir adopted coin type of these regions at least for early period.

Mehrab type



Ram Sita type



Kashmir pattern



Gujarat pattern



Akbar is known to have issued coins from various mints. Agra, Fatahpur, Delhi, Ajmer, Lahore, Burhanpur, Ahmadabad, Patna, Kabul and Thatta etc. are the some important mints. Sometimes these mints are inscribed with their epithets such as *dar-al-sultanates*, *dar-al-khilafah* etc.

2.4 Coins of Jahangir :

Jahangir, the son and successor of Akbar, more or less followed the existing coin types but in his early period he made two important changes in his coinage:

- (1) Re-introduced hijri date on the coinage along with Ilahi month.
- (2) Increased the weight standard of existing coinage by 20% and then 5%. But within a few years it was reduced to its original weight.

His coinage were issued in various types but may broadly be divided into following types:

1. *Kalima* with his name along with his father's name: Like Akbar, Jahangir too issued coins with Kalima but discarded the name of four great caliphs. He was the only Mughal emperor who used his name along with his father's name, inscribed as Nuruddin Jahangir shah bin Akbar shah.

Jahangir Kalima type: Gold & silver



2. Couplet type coins: The inscription in form of a Persian couplet has been noticed on the coins of Akbar, but it became popular on the coins of Jahangir. His coins are reported from different types of couplet.

3. Coins in the name of his wife Nurjahan: She was beloved wife of Jahangir and most influential lady of the court of Jahangir is also represented in coins, her name is inscribed in the form of a couplet.

4. Zodiac type coins: He was the only ruler of India known to have issued coins depicting different Zodiac signs both in gold and silver.

6. Portrait type: No Muslim ruler of India had issued coins with his bust or portrait. Jahangir was the only ruler who is represented with his portrait and the portrait of his father.

Couplet type



In the name of Nurjahan



Zodiac type



Portrait type



His copper coins are less common than those of his silver coins. These were issued in many types with denominations. Some of the inscriptions are inscribed as *falus Jahangiri* on the one side and *Ilahi* month and mint name on the other and *sanah- ravani* date on the one

side and mint name, sanah on the other. Agra, Delhi, Lahore, Kabul, Qandharand Ahmadabad, Ahmadnagar, Patna and Burhanpur etc. are the important mint of his period. Copper coins of Jahangir



2.5 Coins of Shahjahan :

Like his predecessors, Shahjahan too issued coins in gold, silver and copper and followed the weight standard of the coins of Akbar. Typologically gold and silver coins are similar while copper coins followed different typology. The coins in first two metals were issued mainly with *Kalima* along with name of four great Caliphs with or without their epithets on the one side and *Shahjahan Badshah ghazi* along with his *laquab Shahabuddin sahib qiran sani* with mint and date on the other. The *laquab sahib qiran* (lord of fortune) was first adopted by Timur, to whom Mughals traced their lineage from father side. Since Shahjahan was second king who adopted this title, he rightly called himself *sahib qiran sani*. The word *sani* is Arabic word for second.

Like his father, he too issued some of his coins with couplet. His gold and silver coins are represented with different couplets. Interestingly, even his couplet coins bear *Kalima* with the names of four great Caliphs on the one side and couplet on the other. Some of the couplets are inscribed as *Sikka-e- Shahjahanabad rajj dar Jahan Jawedan bada baname sani sahib qiran* in the margin and *Shahjahan Badshah ghazi sikkah* in the centre and *sikkah Shahjahanabad rajj darjahan Jawedan bade banam sani sahib qiran* inscribed in the margin and *Badshah ghazi* in the centre.

His copper coins bear *falus Shahjahan* on the one side and the mint name and date on the other. Jahangir and Shahjahan are also known to have issued some of their copper coins on the pattern of Nizam shahi of Ahmadnagar. These coins bear inscription *fi shahur sanah* on the one side and *Jahangir zarb Ahmadnagar or Shahjahan zarb Ahmadnagar* on the other. Issuing coins on local pattern can be understood as the continuity of type for the easy acceptance among the masses.

Shahjahan: Silver & copper coins





2.6 Coins of Aurangzeb :

Aurangzeb, the son and successors of Shahjahan is also known to have issued coins in gold, silver and copper. His gold and silver coins are issued in the weight standard of about 11gms. The copper coins of his early years are issued with dam standard, i.e 20gms. But later in 6th RY he reduced the weight of his copper coins to 14 gms. Reduction in the weight was implemented only in the 8th RY due the paucity of copper. Thus the copper coins (*dam*) of Aurangzeb are represented both in heavy and light weight standard. Aurangzeb also made an important change in the inscription of the Mughal coinage, discarded the long tradition of inscribing *Kalima* and the name of Caliphs from the coins. In their place an altogether a new legend was introduced, which had nothing to do with any religion not even Islam. His coins, particularly in silver and gold were issued with the legend *sikka zad chu Badr Munir dar jahan Shah Aurangzeb Alamgir* on the obverse side and *Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb---* on the reverse side. The typology of his coins may broadly be divided into following groups.

2.6.1 Couplet with Badr Munir or Mehr-e-munir

Most of his gold and silver coins are inscribed with a fixed couplet inscribed as *Aurangzeb Alamgir Shah zad chu badar Munir Sikkah Dar Jahan* on the one side and *Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb* on the other. In some of the coins, the same couplet is changed with word *mehr munir*. The gold coins are mostly represented with *mehr-munir* while silver coins are inscribed with *badr-e munir*.

Aurangzeb: *Mehr-i- Munir* or *Badrr-e-munir* type



The couplet coins particularly with *badr munir* type are also reported in geometrical designs. The couplet is arranged as *Alamgir Aurangzeb Shah* in square and *sikkah zad chu badr Munir* in the margin. Similarly on the reverse side *Manus maimanat julus* is written within the square and name of the mint along with *sanah* in the margin. The type is reported from Junagadh and Jahangirnagar.

2.6.2 Muhiuddin type

In the first three years of his reign (AH 1068-1070), Aurangzeb had issued coins with his name and title inscribed as *Abul Muzaffar Muhiuddin Muhammad Aurangzeb Alamgir Bahadur Badshah ghazi* on the one side and *manus maimanat sanah julus zarb* on the other. The type is known from Aurangabad, Shahjahanabad and Multan mints. It is also

issued in different geometrical designs. The legend is arranged as *Alamgir Shah Ghazi* within square and *Abul Muzaffar Muhiuddin Aurangzeb Bahadur sanah* in the margin on the obverse. The reverse bears *zarb* (Mint name) within the square and *manus maimanat sanah julus* in the margin. Type is known from Akbrabad and Shahjahanbad mints.



Like his predecessors Aurangzeb also issued his copper coins with smaller inscription. Some of his copper coins are anonymous. These are broadly divided into following groups:

2.6.3 Julus Mubarak type

This is an anonymous type. The legend is written as *Julus Mubarak sanah (hijri date)* on the one side and *zarb sanah (RY)* on the other¹⁷⁷. The type is represented both in heavy and light weight of *dam*. Heavy weights (half *dam*, about 10 gm.) are mainly represented from Surat mint, while light weight coins are known from Hyderabad, Macchalipattan, Sholapur mints. Sholapur is the only mint of Maharashtra which represents in the above mentioned type.

2.6.4 Aurangzeb *falus* Shahi

It bears the legend *Aurangzeb falus shahi* on the one side and *zarb sanah* on the other side¹⁷⁸. The type is known in both light and heavy weights, represented from Akbarabad, Bairata, Hyderabad, Katak, Machalipattan, Multan, Narnol, Shahjahanbad, Sholapur and Surat mints.

Aurangzeb: copper coins



3. Coins of Later Mughals :

After the death of Aurangzeb the Mughal Empire witnessed its gradual disintegration, but coinage tradition of Mughals continued for a long period in India. Shah Alam Bahadur, the son and successor of Aurangzeb followed the coin type of his father bearing his name in the form of a couplet on the one side and *Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb..* on the other. Some of the coins are issued without couplet inscribed as *Shah alam bahdur badshah ghazi sikkah mubarak* on the one side and *Manus maimanat sanah julus zarb..* on the other. His successors Jahandar, Farukhsiyar, Rafi ud-darjjaat, Rafi-ud-daula, Muhammad Shah, Ahmad Shah and Shah Alam II etc. also issued their coins on the pattern of the coins of Aurangzeb.

The Mughal currency was accepted throughout the country and interestingly, the coins of Princely states of India, even English, East India Company and French East India Company were issued in the name of feeble later Mughal emperors such as Ahmad shah Shah Alam II etc. Issuing coins in their names were just to continue the type which were accepted to the masses and it continued till 1857.

The changes in the inscription introduced by Aurangzeb were followed by his successors. Even the coinages of princely states and East India Company were issued on this pattern. The words *Manus Maimanat Sanah Julus Zarb* more or less continued on Indian coins till 1857 and in the case of coinage of Nizam of Hyderabad, it remained till 1947.

4. Summary :

Mughal coins are known to have issued from a large number of mints. Some of the mints exclusively issued gold or silver or copper coins, while some were producing coins in all three metals

