

THE CENTRAL ISLAMIC LANDS (Learning and culture -2)

Class XI. History

Adab

- **In the mediaeval Islamic societies, fine language and creative imagination were among the most appreciated qualities in a person.**
- **These qualities raised a person's communication to the level of adab, the term which implied literary and cultural refinement.**
- **Poets of Persian origin revitalize and reinvented Arabic poetry and challenge the cultural hegemony of the Arabs.**

Influence of Persian culture.

- **After the invention of Arabs, a version of Pahlavi, known as new Persian, with a huge Arabic vocabulary, soon developed.**
- **The formation of Sultanates in khurasan and transoxiana took new Persian to great cultural heights.**
- **At the beginning of the 11th century Ghajni became the centre of Persian literary life.**
- **It was in keeping with the Ghajnavid tradition that persian later became the language of administration and culture in India.**

The tradition of history.

- **From the 9th century onwards, the scope of adab was expanded to include biographies, manuals of ethics, mirrors of princes, and above all history and geography.**
- **For rulers and officials, history provided a good record of the glorious and achievements of a dynasty as well as examples of the techniques of administration.**
- **The whole of human history was treated with the Islamic prayer as the focal point.**
- **The tradition of local history writing developed with the breakup of caliphate.**

Geographical writings.

- **Geography and travel constituted a special branch of adab.**
- **These combined knowledge from Greek Iranian and Indian books with the observation of merchants and travellers**
- **The exact position of a city was determined astronomically**

Islamic architecture.

- **By the 10th century and Islamic world had emerged which was easily recognisable by the travellers.**
- **Religious buildings were the greatest external symbols of this world.**
- **In the first Islamic century, the mosque acquired a distinct architectural form which transcended regional variations.**
- **Other buildings in Islamic world also followed the same pattern of mosques.**

Distinct Islamic art.

- **The rejection of representing living beings in the religious art of Islam promoted two art forms: calligraphy and arabesque.**
- **Plant and floral designs based on the idea of the garden were used in buildings and book illustrations.**

Relationship
between religion,
community and
politics.

- **The history of the central Islamic lands brings together three important aspect of human civilization: religion community and politics.**
- **Although in later period the religion and politics got separated, but the religion and the society remain inseparable for rest of the time**
- **The circles of religion and community overlapped.the only way the circles of religion community could have separated was through the progressive secularization of Muslim society suggested by the philosophers and the sufis.**

Homework

- 1. What was adab?**
- 2. How the Islamic regulations affected the architecture under the early Islamic rule?**
- 3. Discuss the relationship between religion community and politics under the Islamic Empire.**
- 4. Read the topic.**