

# Mughal Dynasty: Shah Jahan

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Mughal Dynasty : Shah Jahan history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

## Shah Jahan's Reign (1628-1658)

### I. Foreign Policy & Military Campaigns



- **Qandahar Conflict:**
  - The primary root of the dispute with the Shah of Iran was control of the strategic fortress city of Qandahar.
  - Its eventual loss was a major strategic blow to the Mughal Empire.
- **Balkh Campaign:**
  - Motive: To secure a friendly ruler in Balkh and Badakshan (which bordered Kabul) to create a buffer zone.
  - Secondary Aim: To curb rebellions by Afghan tribes near Ghazni and the Khyber Pass.

### II. Administration & Religious Policies

- **Court Customs:**
  - Abolished the Persian court custom of 'Sijda' (prostration before the emperor) in 1636-37.

- *Note: This custom was begun by the Delhi Sultanate ruler, Sultan Balban.*
- **Religious Policies:**
  - The famous Sanskrit scholar Kavindracharya led a deputation of Banaras pandits to successfully petition Shah Jahan for the abolition of the pilgrim tax in Benaras and Allahabad.
- **Dara Shukoh:**
  - Shah Jahan's son, Dara Shukoh, was a liberal scholar who studied Hindu scriptures.
  - He was the first Muslim to make a dedicated study of Hindu scriptures.
  - He translated the Upanishads into Persian under the title 'Sirr-i-Akbar' (The Great Secret), a compilation of 52 Upanishads.
  - Shah Jahan bestowed upon him the title 'Shah Buland Iqbal'.

### III. Architecture & Cultural Patronage

- **Capital & Major Constructions:**
  - Shifted the Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi in 1638, founding the city of Shahjahanabad.
  - Constructed the Red Fort (Lal Qila) in Delhi (1648).
  - Built the Jama Masjid in Delhi.
  - Built the Moti Masjid in Agra.
  - Built the Taj Mahal in Agra in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal; it is a prime example of the coordination of Hindu and Iranian architecture.
- **Cultural Patronage:**
  - The court poet Kaleem (Abu Talib Kalim) was the Poet-Laureate during his reign.

### IV. Court & Family

- **Mumtaz Mahal:**
  - Her actual name was Arjumand Bano Begum.

- She was the daughter of Asaf Khan and wife of Prince Khurram (Shah Jahan).
- **Kohinoor Diamond:**
  - The famous Kohinoor diamond was presented to Shah Jahan by his prime minister, Mir Jumla, who acquired it from the Golconda mines.
- **Aurangzeb:**
  - Shah Jahan's son Aurangzeb was the governor of the Deccan for the major part of his reign (1636-44 and again in 1652).

## V. Historical Assessment

- Historian A.L. Srivastava declared Shah Jahan's regime to be the 'Golden Era' of the Mughal period, particularly praising its art and architecture.

## Other Mughal & Historical Facts (For Context)

### I. Architecture



- **Alai Darwaza** (Delhi): Built by Alauddin Khalji.
- **Buland Darwaza** (Fatehpur Sikri): Built by Akbar.
- **Moti Masjid** (Agra): Built by Shah Jahan.
- **Moti Masjid** (Delhi): Built by Aurangzeb.

### II. Earlier History

- The Persian court custom of 'Sijda' (prostration before the monarch) was begun by the Delhi Sultanate ruler, Sultan Balban.

### Know More About the Mughal Dynasty: Shah Jahan:

- [Mughal Dynasty: Shah Jahan– Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Mughal Dynasty: Shah Jahan One Liner Questions & Answers](#)