



# Humayun's Tomb: Mughal Architecture

## Why in News

Recently, the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) notified that all centrally protected monuments, sites, and museums across the country including the Humayun's Tomb will reopen for visitors from 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

- Humayun's tomb in Delhi is a fine specimen of the great **Mughal architecture**.
- **ASI**, under the Ministry of Culture, is the **premier organization for the archaeological research and protection** of the cultural heritage of the nation.

## Key Points

- **Humayun's Tomb:**



- **About:**

- This tomb, **built in 1570**, is of particular cultural significance as **it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent**.
- It **inspired several major architectural innovations**, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.
- It was built under the patronage of Humayun's son, the **great Emperor Akbar**.
- It is also called the '**dormitory of the Mughals**' as in the cells are **buried over 150 Mughal family members**.
- It is **an example of the charbagh** (a four quadrant garden with the four rivers of Quranic paradise represented), with pools joined by channels.
- The [United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation \(UNESCO\)](#) recognized it as a [World Heritage Site](#) in **1993**.

- **Mughal Architecture:**

◦ **About:**

- This is a building style that flourished in **northern and central India** under the patronage of the Mughal emperors from the **mid-16<sup>th</sup> to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century**.
- The Mughal period marked a striking **revival of Islamic architecture in northern India**. Under the patronage of the Mughal emperors, Persian, Indian, and various provincial styles were fused to produce works of unusual quality and refinement.
- It became so widespread especially in north India that these can be seen further in the **colonial architecture of Indo-Saracenic style**.

◦ **Important Features:**

- **Mixed Architecture:** It was a blend of Indian, Persian, and Turkish architectural style.
- **Diversity:** Different types of buildings, such as majestic gates (entrances), forts, mausoleums, palaces, mosques, sarais, etc.
- **Building material:** Mostly, red sandstone and white marble were used.
- **Speciality:** Specific features such as the **Charbagh style** of the mausoleums, pronounced **bulbous domes**, slender turrets at the corners, **broad gateways**, beautiful **calligraphy, arabesque**, and **geometric patterns** on pillars and walls, and palace halls supported on pillars.
- The **arches, chhatri, and various styles of domes** became **hugely popular** in the Indo-Islamic architecture and were further developed under the Mughals.

◦ **Some Examples:**

• **Taj Mahal:**

- Built by **Shah Jahan** between **1632 and 1653**, in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.
- UNESCO recognized the Taj Mahal as **a World Heritage Site in 1983**. It is located in Agra.

• **Red Fort:**

- Built by **Shah Jahan in 1618** when he decided to move the capital from Agra to Delhi. It was the residence of Mughal rulers.
- UNESCO designated it as the **World Heritage Site in 2007**.

• **Jama Masjid:**

- Built by **Shah Jahan** in Delhi. The construction was completed in **1656**.

• **Badshahi Mosque:**

- Built during the reign of Aurangzeb. At the time of **completion in 1673**, it was the **largest mosque in the world**. It is located in **Lahore**, capital of the Pakistani province of Punjab.

**Source: HT**