

Reforms of the Early Mughal Emperors – Architecture

Beginning of Mughal Architecture

Mughal architecture was a mixture of Islamic, Persian, Timurid, and Indian influences. Babur introduced gardens, while Humayun's Tomb in Delhi became the first grand Mughal monument. Each emperor added their own style, with Shah Jahan's reign reaching the peak of architectural achievement.

Akbar's Contribution

Akbar was a great patron of architecture. He built Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort, and Buland Darwaza. His style combined Persian arches with Indian columns and decorations. His buildings were strong, symmetrical, and creative, creating a new Indo-Islamic identity for the empire.

Jahangir's Contribution

Jahangir preferred elegance over size. He created famous gardens like Shalimar in Kashmir and encouraged marble decoration with pietra dura (colored stone inlay). His most famous work is the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, which influenced Shah Jahan's later architecture.

Shah Jahan's Contribution

Shah Jahan is known as the greatest Mughal builder. He constructed the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, and Jama Masjid. His works used white marble, symmetry, domes, and stone inlay. His reign is considered the golden age of Mughal architecture.

Legacy of Mughal Architecture

Mughal architecture left a deep impact on Indian culture. Their forts, mosques, gardens, and monuments became symbols of power and beauty. The Taj Mahal is admired worldwide. Their style, blending Indian and Persian traditions, became the foundation of Indo-Islamic architecture.