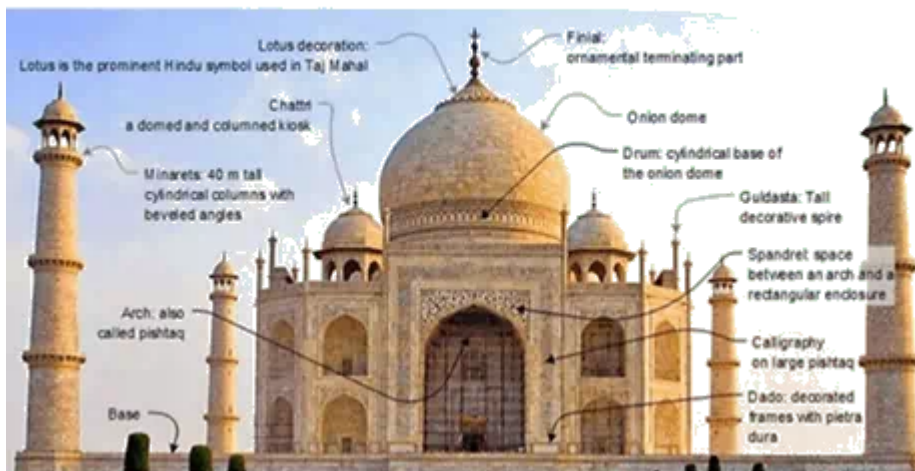


# Taj Mahal & Aurangzeb: Characteristics and Architecture Details for Competitive Exams

## Taj Mahal

### Characteristics



*Details of Taj Mehal*

- Taj Mahal was built in Agra by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum (a kind of large tomb) for his deceased wife Mumtaz Mahal.
- It was commissioned in the year of **1632** and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Taj Mahal was the apogee of the evolutionary architectural process in medieval India.
- The Taj complex is entered through a monumental red sandstone gateway, the opening arch of which beautifully frames the mausoleum.
- The tomb is laid out in a Chahar Bagh (garden), crisscrossed with paths and watercourses, interspersed with pools and fountains.
- The structure is placed on the northern extremity of the bagh instead of the middle to take the advantage of the riverbank (Yamuna).
- The straight path through the bagh reaches the plinth of the tomb.
- At the corners of the terrace stand four tall minarets, one hundred and thirty two feet high.



*Image of Tajmahal's Top Part*

- The main body of the building is topped with a drum, a dome, and four cupolas forming a beautiful skyline.
- Towards the west of the white marble faced tomb lie a red sandstone mosque and a similar construction in the east to maintain balance.
- The marbles for the building was quarried from the **Makrana Mines, Rajasthan.**
- The inner arrangement of the mausoleum consists of a crypt below and a vaulted, octagonal tomb chamber, with a room at each angle, all connected by corridors.
- Light to every part of the building is obtained by means of carved and perforated Jalis, set in the arched recesses of the interior.
- Four types of embellishments have been used with great effect for the interior and exterior surfaces of the Taj Mahal.
- These are stone carvings in high and low relief on the walls, the delicate carving of marble into jalis and graceful volutes (spiral ornament on the pillars), and the creation of arabesque with **pietra dura** on walls and tombstones and geometric designs with tessellation.
- The art of calligraphy is used with the inlay of jasper in white marble to unite Quranic verses.
- Calligraphy provides a decorative element on the walls and a continuous connection with the almighty.

## **Aurangzeb**

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*Aurangzeb's Bibi Ka Makbara*

- Decline in architecture
- Bibi ka makbara-poor replica of taj mahal
- Construction of red fort at delhi
- Badshahi mosque at lahore