



- He is rightly called '**the prince of builders**' as the Mughal architecture reached its zenith under his reign.
- He immortalized himself as he built the **Taj Mahal** in the memory of his late wife, Mumtaz Mahal.
- He built **Shahjahanabad**, the 7th city of Delhi, today is known as **Old Delhi**.
- His period in specific came to be known as the **golden period of Indian architecture**.

Elements of continuity during Shah Jahan's rule:

- Shah Jahan's buildings also display a synthesis of Indian and foreign architectural style i.e. **Indo-Sarcenic style**.
- The **employment of calligraphy, pietra-dura works, foreshortening method, Charbagh style gardens, and the usage of water in the premises for ornamentation** were all hallmarks of Mughal architecture which continued in Shah Jahan's time too.

Elements of change during Shah Jahan's rule:

- Shah Jahan's buildings have a great variety—**cities, forts, gardens, mosques and palaces**
- He made **extensive use of white marble** as opposed to red sandstone which was preferred by his predecessors. E.g.: Tajmahal in Agra
- The **decorative art of inlaying** achieved distinction with the introduction of semiprecious stones as inlay material, called **pietra dura**.
- He also built the **Jama Masjid in Delhi, Moti Masjid in the Agra Fort, and the Sheesh Mahal in the Lahore Fort** brilliantly using **pietra dura** and complex mirror work.
- He introduced the **bulbous domes and convoluted arches** in the buildings. E.g.: Tajmahal in Agra
- The employment of calligraphy, pietra-dura works, foreshortening method, Charbagh style gardens, and the usage of water in the premises for ornamentation were all hallmarks of Mughal architecture. Apart from that, the Taj Mahal has several distinctive features:
 - The **jaali work in Taj Mahal** is lace-like and incredibly exquisite;
 - The **marble carvings** were low relief.
- The buildings during his time have no parallel in symmetry of design and are unsurpassed in grandeur.
- Aside from large-scale structures, one of his outstanding works was **the Peacock Throne**, which is considered one of the finest examples of metalwork during this time period.

Conclusion

Thus, during Shah Jahan's reign, architecture reached its highest water mark in India. Shah Jahan's buildings combine firmness and vastness with beauty and delicacy. As observed by the noted art critic **Percy Brown**, "As it was the proud statement of Augustus that he found Rome built of bricks and left it of marble, similarly Shah Jahan had found the Mughal cities of stones, he left them of marble".