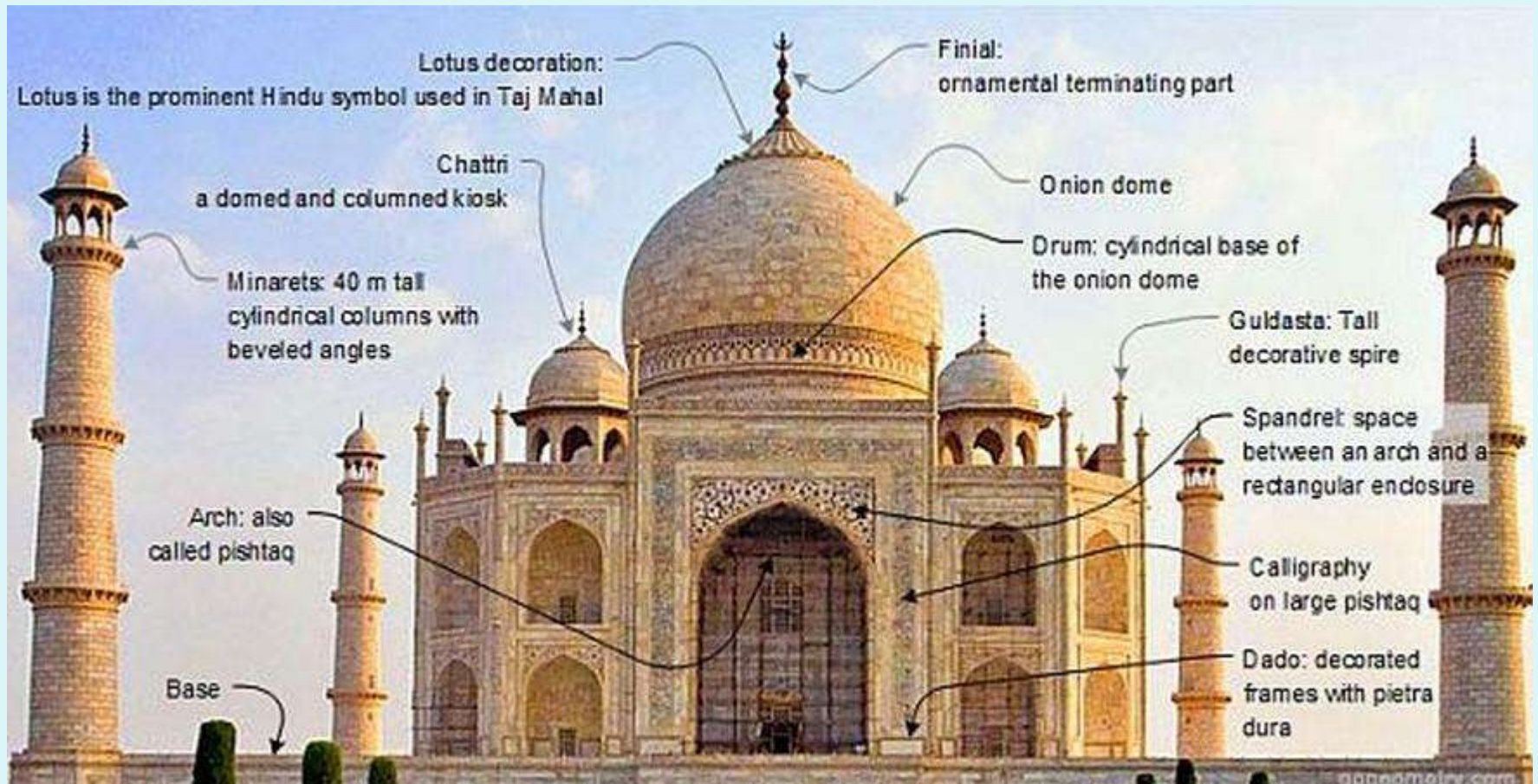


HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL INDIA MODULE III-CULTURAL SYNTHESIS



**TOPIC-INDO-PERSIAN ART-TAJ MAHAL-
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Structural details of Taj Mahal



MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE



- The Mughals were great patrons of art and architecture.
- Under them, architecture regained its place of importance, as new buildings were built with great vision and artistic inspiration.

Under Shah Jahan, Mughal architecture reached its climax.

- Some of his principal works are described below.
- TAJ MAHAL
- Taj Mahal is the finest specimen of Mughal architecture, exhibiting the full range of grandeur and opulence.
- It was constructed in the memory of Arzuman Bano Begum or Mumtaz Mahal.
- It had all the features of Mughal architecture including the use of calligraphy, pietra dura works, foresightening technique,



- Charbagh style gardens and the use of water in the premises for decoration.
- Some of the unique features of Taj Mahal are:
- The jaali work in Taj Mahal is lacee like and extremely fine.
- The carvings on the marble were low relief.
- Apart from Taj Mahal, Shah Jahan constructed a number of other monuments, gardens and buildings such as
- RED FORT in Delhi
- Jama Masjid in Delhi
- Shalimar Bagh in Lahore
- City of Shahjahanabad.
- Besides such large scale construction, one of his finest work was the construction of Peacock Throne that is one of the finest example of metal work in this period.

TAJ MAHAL



- Taj Mahal literally means the ‘crown of Palaces’ is an ivory white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the river Yamuna, in Agra
- It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, to house the tomb of his wife, Mumtaz.
- The tomb is the centre piece of a forty two acre complex which includes a mosque and a guest house and it is set in formal gardens bounding on three sides by crenellated wall
- The construction of the mausoleum was completed in 1643.
- The Taj Mahal complex completed around in 1653.
- The construction project employed nearly 20,000 artisans under the guidance of a board of architects led by the court architect to the emperor, Ustad Ahmad Lahauri
- Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983 for being ‘the jewel



- Of Muslim art in India
- Nobel Laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore hailed Taj Mahal as the ‘Tear drop on the cheek of time’
- Shahjahan promoted the use of white marble in laid with semi-precious stones
- The most spectacular feature is the marble dome that surrounds the tomb
- The top is decorated with a lotus design
- The shape of the dome is emphasized by four smaller domed Kiosks placed at its corners.
- The Taj Mahal complex is bordered on three sides by crenellated red sand stone walls, the side facing the river is open
- The main gate way is a monumental structure built primarily of marble

AGRA FORT



- UNESCO world heritage site in india, located in Agra,Uttar pradesh
- It is about 2.5 km,north west of its more famous partner monument,Taj Mahal.
- The Agra fort was originally a brick fort known as Badalgarh,held by Raja Badal singh, a Rajput king,
- Sikander Lodi(1488-1517) was the first sultan of Delhi who shifted to Agra and lived in the fort
- He died in the fort in 1517 and his son Ibrahim Lodi held it for nine years until he was defeated and killed at panipat in 1526
- Victorious Babur stayed in the fort and Humayun was crowned here
- Akbar made it his capital in 1558.
- It was Akbar who rebuilt it with red sand stone
- Around 4000 builders worked daily for 8 years to complete the constructions in 1573.



- Shahjahan made his own contributions to the fort.
- The 94 acre fort has a semi circular pla, its chord lies parallel to the Yamuna river and its walls are 70ft.high.
- Double rampants have massive circular bastions at intervals
- Four gates are provided at its four sides, one opening to the river
- Abul Fazal, the court historian of Akbar recorded that five hundred buildings in the beautiful designs of Bengal and Gujarat were built in the fort
- Hardly 30 Mughal buildings have survived on the south-eastern side, facing the river, of these the Delhi Gate, Akbar Gate, Bengali mahal palace are representative Akbar buildings
- Exquisite structures –Diwan-i-arm(Hall of public Audience), Jahangir palace, Sheesh Mahal(Glass palace), Diwan-i-khas(Hall of private audience), Khas Mahal(White marble palace),Mina Masjid(Heavenly mosque),Nagina Masjid



- (Gem mosque), Musamman Burj(large octagonal tower with a balcony facing the Taj Mahal) etc.