



## A HISTORICAL STUDY OF CONTRIBUTION OF MUGHALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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### Abstract

*The tourism literature of today frequently combines all of the Mughal contributions to Kashmir. Kashmir had a significant role in the magnificent Mughal Empire. The Valley was close to the Central Asian border in the Kabul area. Strong dynastic monarchs like Akbar, Jahangir, Shah-i-Jahan, and Aurangzeb ruled it. The region's trade and commerce were boosted by the Mughals' conquest because it put an end to the region's long-running domestic fighting, built a centralized government, did away with toll charges, and improved and widened its highways. The damaged economy of the province was also fixed by the maintenance of stability and the agriculture system changes. By taking a number of initiatives for the development of the tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir, it protected the region's emperors from squandering their enormous wealth on the construction of temples, parks, and wellness resorts and inns, effectively transforming the territory into a "Heaven on Earth." Hence, this paper discusses the influence and contribution of the Mughals for transforming Kashmir a beautiful tourist spot of the world.*

**Keywords:** *Mughals, Tourism, Kashmir, contribution and Gardens etc*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Overland and coastal commercial networks were greatly improved under Mughal rule, bringing nearly the whole Indian subcontinent under their control. The Taj Mahal and the Kashmir Mughal gardens are two of its most notable architectural achievements and cultural legacies. The famed Mughal gardens of Kashmir are mostly due to Emperor Jahangir and his son Shah Jahan, both of whom had an undying passion for Kashmir. Jahangir's job was to find the best place for the traditional paradise gardens and then make them look beautiful. The Mughals never changed much about the shape or idea of gardens, but in Kashmir, their biggest problem was making the most of the site they chose and the water resources they had. The places that were chosen were always at the base of a mountain, next to a stream, or near a natural spring. Because of this, gardens with steps were made. Even though the Mughals lived in a hilly area, their engineering and art didn't let that stop them from making the most of the beautiful natural scenery and the water supplies they had.

In India, it is important to compare the gardens of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Taj Mahal in Agra and Humayun's Tomb in Delhi. Even though all chahar Bagh layouts are based on the same basic idea and principles, the Mughal gardens of Kashmir stand out because they are not just a part of any monument but also have their own unique style. The Taj Mahal and Humayun's Tomb are both tombs with gardens around them. All of Kashmir's Mughal Gardens were made to be beautiful and fun places to spend time. We can compare these gardens to the Shalimar Gardens in Delhi, the Red Fort in Delhi, and the Shalimar Gardens in Lahore. The Delhi and Lahore Shalimar Gardens are both on the UNESCO list of World Heritage in Danger because they have been damaged. At one point or another, the Mughal Gardens in Red Fort were connected to the Fort. Since then, the Fort has been changed and lost a lot. As the integrity statement says, these six Mughal Gardens in Kashmir have kept their integrity and authenticity to a high degree. They are still growing and are among the most popular tourist spots in Kashmir. Style-wise, the Mughal Gardens in Kashmir can be compared to other gardens on the World Heritage List from different countries, continents, and times. However, they are unique in the history of garden art as a whole. Because of where they are in the world, they stand out from the rest of the Mughal Garden history.

During this time, the Mughal dynasty made some of the most beautiful garden designs. These designs show how good the Mughals were at art. Because of their unique setting in Kashmir Valley, these gardens must be thought of as masterpieces of Mughal gardens on mountain sides.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

The current examination is both comprehensive and comprehensively looking backwards. This indicates that the research may be seen by the audience. The investigation is based on both required and voluntary sources of information. There was also some subjective study done. The investigation considered data from optional sources such as books, online sources, paper articles, and international journals and periodicals. In addition to this, numerous people's points of view are incorporated into the study.

## **3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this article is to shed light on the contribution and significance of the Mughals to the development of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

## **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Akbar seized Kashmir in 1598. Mughal rulers got a summer home in one fell sweep. Kashmir gained major heritage sites. Emperor Akbar built a wall surrounding Hari Parbat with three gates. His second addition was Naseem Bagh, the garden of breezes, which is often overlooked among the city's Mughal gardens. This is a gigantic Chinar grove. It's distinctive since there's no falling water, terraced terraces, flower beds, or green lawns. It's never on tourist itineraries because of this. Now part of the Regional Engineering College grounds, it's one man's obsession with the native Chinar tree. Jahangir and Nur Jahan, Akbar's son and wife, visited Kashmir often. On his deathbed, Jahangir reportedly said, "Only Kashmir." Jahangir visited Kashmir eight times. He observed nature, commissioned paintings, built gardens, and did other touristy activities. One was weeklong picnics on the River Jhelum with musicians and cooks. Empress Nur Jahan influenced Valley architecture. She commissioned Srinagar's Patthar Masjid and the retaining wall at Verinag, the River Jhelum's source. She created Achhabal's garden. Kashmir's Mughal architecture is surprising. Unlike the plains buildings, those in Kashmir are not monumental. They seem to blend in with the surroundings, which is remarkable for a dynasty recognised for its architecture. Royals designed Shalimar Garden.

A series of pavilions with paper mache ceilings, gently graded terraces, an opportune setting (hills in the back, lake in front), fruit trees, and flower beds were built as an outdoor royal court, with specific sections for the royal couple, court ladies, and courtiers. Asaf Khan, Nur Jehan's brother, commissioned the Nishat. It has more impressive terraces than Shalimar. Jahangir reached the same opinion after seeing Nishat. Today's tourist literature combines all Mughal contributions to Kashmir. Seeing each emperor's vision of Kashmir through their monuments is intriguing. When the famine of 1590 struck, Emperor Akbar commissioned a wall to provide work for an army of labourers. By commissioning Mughal gardens in Kashmir, Emperor Jahangir gilded the lily. His grandson Dara Shikoh loved the Valley, but considered it as a spiritual home for Sufis. Pari Mahal and Mullah Akhund Shah's mosque on Hari Parbat are Dara Shikoh's contributions. The former is one of Srinagar's must-see gardens, but its proximity to Cheshmashahi means it's often overlooked. Pari Mahal's seclusion, towering location above the Dal and the rest of the city, and stone structures make an outdoor spiritual retreat centre. Dara Shikoh was part of the Mughal dynasty; hence Pari Mahal is a Mughal garden, missing the point. From Pari Mahal, one could see Akhund Mullah Shah's mosque on Hari Parbat. Srinagar has three stone Mughal mosques. Time hasn't been kind to it, yet some of its magic remains. Cheshmashahi, Nishat, and Shalimar gardens are rushed through by most tourists in Kashmir. Most are too busy taking photos of themselves in



gaudy 'Kashmiri' costumes to understand the mentality of the country's most famous reigning family and their passion for a cool, pleasant outpost of their empire analogous to Fergana, their forefathers' land.

#### 4.1 Influence of mughal era on Kashmir's infrastructure

Even though just a small portion of the numerous Mughal gardens that once existed in and around Srinagar still exist, they are the main attraction of the city. Two of these gardens were constructed by Jahangir in 1619–1620: Shalimar, a rectangular Charag by the Dal Lake in Srinagar, spread out on three escalating stages, each with fashionable pavilions, and the Vernag garden, with a wide, octagonal lake at the origin of the river Jhelum, which was especially favored by Nur Jahan, Jahangir's influential Persian wife. She gave instructions for the construction of Srinagar's Patthar Masjid, a stone mosque that included traditional Indian style but had a thatched wooden top. Jahangir established other gardens in the area of Srinagar, including one in Achhabal. In Kashmir, where Sahjahan also spent several holidays, he constructed new gardens, extended already-existing ones, and added an arcade around the pool at Vernag Park. For her spiritual advisor, Molla Sah Badaksi, his daughter Jahan Ara Begom built a stone mosque in Srinagar. His minister, Asaf Khan, a Nur Jahan sibling, erected Nesat Bag, a beautiful park, in stages next to Salimar. The platform structure found in Kashmiri gardens is thought to be modeled after mansions and buildings, with a forecourt at the lower stage rising to the centre stage as the public location and the higher platform acting as the private quarters.

However, the more likely explanation for terracing is to handle the capacity of the steep slopes, thereby addressing its difficulties in a realistic manner. The Pari Maal or Pir-e Maal is the final of Kashmir's Mughal gardens. Dara Sokuh created it in 1644 as his home on the side of a large slope with a view of Srinagar and the Dal Lake. The terraces and structures from the garden are still standing, but the garden and its trees are gone. The majority of Kashmir's gardens have recently been revitalized and trimmed with ornamental trees and flowering plants, but the various fruit trees that Jahangir extensively described are missing. Due of its exquisite architectural design, the Mughal Empire continues to be the main source of tourism in Kashmir. Arrivals of tourists have a favorable impact on the state because of the income they provide, which increases tax receipts for the government and fosters the growth of employment and business prospects.

The host economy receives income from hospitality costs as well as from the sale and import of related goods and services. These activities may also encourage investment needed to sustain growth in other economic sectors. Primary and indirect donations are the two divisions of tourism-related government levies. Taxes on earnings from tourism-related employment and businesses result in donations in this area. Contributions that are made indirectly are those brought about by taxes and fees levied on goods and services provided to tourists. The province's job growth has significantly improved with a rise in tourism inflows. To take advantage of this, it is imperative to make tourism education in schools essential so that it may be exploited as a key tool for job creation and to provide a competent workforce to meet the expectations of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The Mughal Empire played a vital role in unifying practically the entire Indian subcontinent through enhanced overland and coastal commerce networks. Furthermore, it was known for its contributions to arts and architecture. Until the 18th century, Mughal Empire produced 25% of the world's manufacturing output. India's GDP grew faster under the Mughal Empire than in the 1,500 years before. By the late 17th century, most of the Indian subcontinent was united under the Mughal Empire, which produced a quarter of global GDP before fragmenting and being invaded over the next century. The Mughals dominated trade, agriculture, and industry. Good connections with the rest of the world meant increased trade, which boosted its economy. Mughal gardens were filled with symbolism. Standard Quranic references to paradise were in

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architecture, layout, and plant life, but secular references, including numerological and zodiacal significances, were often juxtaposed.

The Tourism in Kashmir is a testament to the Mughals' skill in using the mountain slopes and natural setting to fulfill their landscape dreams and demands. The gardens show how well the Mughals used the terrain and water. These gardens are unique and indicative of nearly 700 Mughal-era gardens in Kashmir. Methods and traditions used to create and develop the gardens and their wider landscape settings are instances of human-nature interactions. Continuity in land use and maintenance of the gardens and, most crucially, their wider landscape contexts is a significant tradition for protecting the environment from urban growth and change. Kashmir tourism originated as a unique landscaping expression within the greater history of garden art. They stand out among Mughal Gardens for their unique locations. They are excellent examples of the Mughals' prolific garden-building period and the height of their gardening skill. These gardens, designed as complete art works in the Kashmir Valley, are mountain-side Mughal Garden wonders. In 1707, with the death of Aurangzeb, the last Mughal king, the Durrani Empire took over Srinagar. Kashmir's Mughal occupation caused many changes. With the end of political isolation, the valley was opened to the world, which led to trade and cultural relations with various countries. Consequently, society changed radically.

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