

# Mughal Historiography as A Source of Administration as Well as Environmental History of Mughal Era: With Special Reference to Tuzuk-I-Jahangiri

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## Abstract:

The Emperor Jahangir had a genuine interest in serious subjects like Botany, Zoology and Medicine. The present work is an endeavour to evaluate Jahangir as a king as well as naturalist. In his auto-biography flora and fauna with minutest things with such meticulous care that readers of his dairy feel that the things are happenings before their very eyes. He became keen on the beauties of nature, flowers, foliage, brooks, rivers, valleys, and mountains. He became too eager to explain the flowers, veggies and end result which got here throughout in his excursions and journeys. The present paper analyses the Mughal Emperors Jahangir were interest in nature and environmental and their approach its development. His bright bills of birds and animals are as correct as that of a consultant in Zoology. Hence the above have a look at lent us to finish that the emperor Jahangir became a person of tremendous literary flavour with love of poetry, architecture, music, dance, portray and different first-class arts.

## Keywords:

Chambeli, Wilayat, Flora, Fauna, Aquatic animals, Ab-pasha, Itr-i-fahangiri.

## Introduction:

“Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri or Memoirs of Jahangir,” the autobiography of the Emperor Nuru-ud-din Jahangir, begins off evolved with this word: “In the call of Allah, the merciful, the clement...” As it offers an energetic photo of India with inside the early many years of the 17th century, its miles taken into consideration as a treasured complement to the “Akbar Nama” and different writings of the time. There are many descriptions of cities, towns, villages, gardens, expeditions, conquests, invasions, recreations, games, leisure, fairs, festivals, non-secular practices, beliefs, customs, rites, rituals etc. on these paintings. This paintings on the only hand offers a clean indication of Jahangir’s affection of flowers, fruits, birds, animals, valuable stones, gardens etc. being an admirer of beauty. But on the alternative hand, he himself admits his weak spot of searching being a professional in searching. Endless and common descriptions of searching of animals and birds are determined location withinside the paintings. Anyhow, we need to admit that he changed into having right know-how of the proper weather required for unique kind of flowers and trees. “Jahangir’s innate fondness for pleasure was developed by Nurjahan to a perilous extent, and if Jahangir’s reign forms an inglorious period in the annals of Mughal dynasty, she must share the responsibility,” says Ishwari Prasad. I George Dunbar summarizes his reign as “the ship of the State was kept on an even keel with Nur Jahan at the helm holding to the course laid down by Akbar.”

## Objectives:

- To evaluate Tuzuk-i-I-Jahangir as a study of Environmental history of Mughal Era.
- To study different species of flora and fauna mentioned by Emperor Jahangir.

## Research Methodology:

- The research methodology used in the present paper is based mostly primary as well as secondary sources especially, books, journals, web links and research papers etc.

## Jahangir interaction with nature:

Mirza Nuruddin Beg Mohammad Khan Salim, known by his imperial name Jahangir (Persian for “Conqueror of the world,” born on 31 August 1569) was the fourth Mughal emperor who ruled from 1605 until his death in 1627. Much romance has gathered around his name (Jahangir means “Conqueror of the world,” “world- conqueror,” or world seizer). Prince Salim succeeded to the throne on Thursday November 3, 1605, 8 days after his father’s death emerging victorious in the vicious struggle for succession between the five prominent and legitimate sons. Salim ascended the throne with the title of Nuruddin Mohammad Jahangir “Padshah Ghazi (world-seizer)”and thus began his 22-year reign at the age of 36. Jahangir soon after had to fend of his known son, Prince Khusrao Mirza, when the later attempted to claim the throne based on Akbar’s will to become his next heir. Khusrao Mirza was defeated in 1606 and confined the fort of Agra.

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Jahangir, the fourth Mughal Emperor become additionally a lover of splendour, be it that of an artefact created via way of means of human hands or that located in nature, the paintings of God. His Memoirs, typically referred to as Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri or Jahangirnama, are as an awful lot of albums of his aesthetic reports as a chronicle of his reign. With his eager sensibility, those reports have been an everlasting supply of pleasure for him. Nature and splendour have been preserved thru the comb of his artists. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, it not only covers political and military events, but also economic, social, and cultural eras of the period, together with Jahangir's own keen observation of men, manners, and events. The Emperor Jahangir had a genuine interest in serious subjects like Botany, Zoology and Medicine. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri offers lengthy descriptions of Jahangir's love for nature and its gadgets, animate or inanimate. His eager commentary of these kinds of gadgets led him to suppose with devotion for them and additionally to offer possibilities for his or her love and adoration. During his reign, the artwork of portray reached its excessive water mark. Jahangir become a naturalist of the primary order, with a sturdy interest for facts. He became deeply inquisitive about nature. He usually checked out nature with the attention of a poet or a naturalist and the whole lot that become charming, stunning, and specific attracted his attention. He became a lot curious approximately numerous sorts of birds, animals, flora, and plants. He maintained a wealthy menagerie and an aviary, controlled through professional officers and a workforce below his private supervision. Regular report had been saved to every man or woman specimen, as additionally of such statistics as he favoured to acquire. His investigations were determined to be of big medical value.

However, Jahangir with the centre in addition to together along with his description of diverse plants and fauna gadgets their evaluation as evidence of obvious. The Tuzuk is completely committed to 33 species of animals and to the 11 species of plants; of them a few are represented through their end result or flowers. These sections additionally incorporate Jahangir's references to thirty 3 species of animals and 57 species of plants, displaying their distinguishing traits, ecology, anatomical note, conduct, nearby names, weights measurements. The memoirs of Jahangir all even though basically a historic file of his reign is complete of statistics on herbal records and its attachment with them accuracy continues to be undisputed. A huge aviary and menagerie have been mounted beneath Neath Jahangir's order, they have been required to perform observations, checks and experiments approximately the appearance, conduct and traits of birds and beasts.

The Mughal gardens was brought to perfection during the reign of Jahangir who laid out most elegant gardens. The gardens were kept in order by Khwaja Waysi, well acquainted with horticulture. The garden was planted with many varieties of fruits, trees, and flowers shrubs. It also produced many kinds of vegetables. The remarkable gardens constructed during his reign were the tomb garden of Itmad-ud-Daulah at Agra and his own at Shahdara near Lahore. Nurbagh, a garden constructed in the reign of Jahangir at a cost of two lakhs near Agra is fully described in Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri. The emperor's affection for animals is validated in the initial portion of the work itself as it deals with the city of Agra. He even knew which climate was unsuited for a particular species of animals. It is understood from the details given by him that the air of Agra was warm and dry and hence unsuited to most temperaments, except to the phlegmatic and melancholy, which were safe from its bad effects. For these reasons animals of this constitution and temperament, such as the elephant, the buffalo, and other, thrive in this climate. This also indicates emperor's knowledge of climate, weather and fauna. In the first part of the work itself he refers to mangoes, melons and other fruits grow well in Agra its neighbourhood. Of all fruits, he says that he was fond of mangoes. He even says that in the reign of his father (Arsh-ashyani) many fruits of other countries which till them were not had in India, were obtained there. Several sorts of grapes, such as the Sahibi and the habshi and the kishmishi. Became common in several towns; for instance, in bazaars of Lahore every kind variety that may be desired can be had in the grape season. Among fruits, one which they call ananas (Pineapples), which is grown in the Frank ports was of excessive Fragrance and fine flavour. Many thousands of pineapples were produced every year than in the Gul-afshan Garden at Agra. Of other fruits, produced in abundance, there were several kinds of apples, apricots and beh-alu (some kind of plum), together with a variety of fruits brought from Kabul and other parts of the west, which were unfamiliar to this land and climate, are now cultivated largely.

The excellences of its sweet-scented flowers one may prefer the Fragrances of India to those of the flowers of the whole world. It has many such that nothing in the whole world can be compared to them. The first is the champa (*Michelia – champaca*). Which is a flower of exceedingly sweet Fragrance. It has the shape of the saffron flowers but is yellow inclining to white. The tree is very symmetrical and large full of branches and leaves and is shady. When in flowers one tree will perfume a garden. Surpassing this is the keor flower (*Pandanus odoratissimus*). Its shape and appearance are singular, and its scent is so long and penetrating that it does not yield to the odour of musk. Another is the rae bel (one of the jessamine) which is sent resemble white Jessamine. Its flowers are double and treble. Another is the mulsari (name of a fruit tree found in Indian gardens). This tree too is very graceful and symmetrical and is shady. The scent of its flower's is very pleasant. Another is the ketaki (*panjunus*) which is of the nature of the Keora, but the latter is thorny, whereas the Ketki has no thorns. Moreover, the ketki is yellowish whereas the keora is white from these two flowers and also from the chambeli (*jasminum grandiflorum*). Which is the white Jassamine of wilayat (Persia or Afghanistan), they extract sweet, scented oils. There are other flowers too numerous to mention. There is cypress (*sarw*) the pine (*sanubar*), the chandar (*platanus orientalis*), the poplar (*safidar*, *populus Alba*) and the bid mulla (*willow*), which they had formerly never thought of in Hindustan, but are now plentiful. The sandal-tree, which one was peculiar to the Islands (i.e., Java sumatratra etc.) also flourishes in the gardens.

For him Kashmir changed into the perpetual spring garden. He visited Kashmir first while he changed into nonetheless a prince and changed into charmed with the top-notch petals of the saffron flora, and the flaming orange blossoms of the palas. He observed additionally the splendour of 100 aircraft timber gracefully giving colour to a plot of ground, best and inexperienced like (chanar). In a subsequent go to after event to the throne he changed into pleased with pleasure at sight of inexperienced meadows interspersed with the hibiscus flora in bloom, or an unidentified flower flaming like a solar set afire, or the aromatic wild violets and narcissus blossoming at the hill slopes which lingered lengthy in his memory. A strangely stunning aggregate of 5 or six orange flora blooming with their heads downwards and from the centre of which got here out inexperienced leaves, changed into the Bulanik flower of Srinagar. Another tremendously quite flower in look changed into the Ladar pusi round which bloomed hundreds of small flora of the form and coloration of jessamine, a few blue and a few pink with yellow factors with inside the centre. He additionally observed candy scented natural white jessamines, or of the coloration of sandal wood, numerous types of pink rose, and a flower of mild yellow coloration with a very sensitive fragrance.

The have an effect on of vegetation withinside the competition is honestly understood while we listen of the birthday party of a Persian competition called, Ab-pashan or Gulab pashi (rose water scattering) which turned into hung on 13th Tir in reminiscence of a rainfall in this date that positioned an stop to a famine. The humans amused themselves with sprinkling rose water over every different. The competition of Khwaja Khizr, popularly referred to as Khizri, turned into celebrated in honour of the legendary Khwaja Khizr, a water spirit recognized with the Prophet Elisha. People on each Thursday positioned some vegetation and a few sugars in a leaf plate (dona) and release it withinside the water withinside the of Khwaja Khizr. Mirza Nathan, the writer Baharistan-i-Ghaibi writes approximately the rituals associated with the beginning of a male baby. Among them one turned into scattering of saffron on all and sprinkling of the Otto of roses. Even in the course of the events of marriage and dying vegetation, leaves of flora and a few animals have been used. It is known that pan or betel leaves have been dispensed as a token of attractiveness of the thought with the aid of using the individuals of bride's family. The henna or mehndi (*Lawsonia inermis*) with different standard articles turned into introduced and the rite of henna-bandi turned into held while the bridegroom's hand and toes have been dyed crimson with henna with the aid of using women hid in the back of the curtains. On the day of marriage the bridegroom finely clad, with a gold community constant to his head and falling down his chest, being additionally adorned with numerous vegetation in line with the season will visit the residence of bride on horse- again followed with the aid of using his kindred and friends.

From his account we can realize that the Muslims were fond of perfume and scents. Under the supervision and efforts of the mother of Nurjahan Begum called Itr-i-ifahangiri was first manufactured out of rose water. It was extremely a wonderful perfume that if one drop was rubbed on the palm of the hand it scented a whole assembly and it appeared as if many rose-buds had bloomed at once. The sprinkling of rose water, so popular at private social gathering of the gentry, appears to have been a hilarious modification of the Timurid ceremony of Gulabpashi, mentioned by Jahangir in connection with his court festivals Itr-i-jahangiri was given name by the Salima Sultan Begam which she made.

He describes the albino varieties among animals like squirrel, the antelope, the gazelle, and a tiger having spots of blue colour on a white body inclined to bluishness. Similarly, his description about a number of birds like falcons, hawks, sparrows, crows, partridges, quails, and peacocks, parrots, pigeons, wagtail bird, blue bull is really remarkable.

The description of a monkey which was strange and wonderful by look, struck very much to the mind of Jahangir. Although it had the normal hands, feet, ears, and head, its face was like that of a fox, the colour of its large eyes resembled the hawk's eyes; its hair was the wool of a sheep. Its tail hanging down like that of a cat and sometimes it made a sound like a young antelope.

The elephants were his favourite animals. He watched the period of their gestation and informs us that it was 18 months for a female young one 19 months for a male. He narrates the birth of a young one in his presence and noted that the elephant, unlike the humans was born with its feet first, and makes towards its mother's breasts. It was a gesture of deep concern for his elephants that he had ordered the water to be made lukewarm during winter before they took their bath in it.

'On the 24<sup>th</sup> news came that Maha Singh, grandson of Raja Man Singh had died at Balapur in the province of Berar. Same day they had brought to my private fruit house many mangoes from all parts of the province of the Deccan, Burhanpur, Guajrat, and the pargahans of Malwa. Although his province is well known and celebrated for the sweetness, freedom from stringiness and size of its mangoes, and there are few mangoes that equal to its mangoes.' Similarly, Jahangir described about the peaches. He pointed out that the peaches also are very delicious and plentiful. They had brought some peaches from Istalif. Notwithstanding the sweetness of Kabul fruits, not of them has, to my taste, the flavour of the mango. Furthermore, he described 'several sorts of grapes, such as the sahibi and the habshi and the kishmishi, became common in several towns, for instance, in the bevans of Lahore every kind and variety that may be desired can be had in the grape season. Next to it, Jahangir discusses about the wild plantain and golden plantation. About wild plantation he said 'as it had been several times mentioned to me that a kind of sweet meat was obtained from wild plantation such that dervishes and other poor people made their food, I wished to enquire into the matter. What I found was that the fruits of the wild plantation were an exceedingly hard and tasteless thing. The real fact is that in the lower part (of the trunk) there is a thing shaped like a fir-cone from which the real fruit of the plantation come out. On this a kind of sweet mean forms which has

exactly the juiciness and taste of paluda. It appears that men eat this and enjoy it'. In the similar way he pointed out some sona- kela (Golden plantation bananas) of which I had never come to know. In size they are one finger and are very sweet and of good flavour'.

Jahangir's memoir is a complete record of all aspects of hunting and also of those who loved hunting. The animals that were objects of shikar were classified according to the pain and peril, the hunter was likely to suffer. The shikar of a tiger or a lion was considered to be a royal privilege for it. The rest required previous sanction from the king. Tiger or lion hunting was very dear to Jahangir. He was so interested in the tiger hunting that upon the age of fifty, he had killed eighty-six tigers. He adopted various methods either to catch or kill the ferocious beast. Mughal shot the beast from the haewdah- a seat fastened on the back of the elephant. Jahangir was skilled marksman, and he often displayed his dexterity by inviting part of the body of the animal to be shot.

Jahangir particularly noticed Indian flowers and trees 'from the excellence of its sweet, scented flowers one may prefer the fragrance of India of those of the flowers of the whole world. He then marvelled at the very symmetrical and large tree of the champa, full of branches, leaves, and flowers of exceeding sweet fragrance. It has the shape of the saffron flower but is yellow inclining to white. Next to it this was the white keora flower with a scent so strong and penetrating that it did not yield to the odour of musk. Similar in nature was the yellow ketaki flower. The chambelli is the white jessmine of wilocyat (Persia or Afghanistan), they extract sweet, scented oils. He noticed the double and treble flowers of the Rae-bel exuding a fragrance that reminded him of the white jessamine. The Mulasari attracted him as another elegant tree with flowers of very pleasant scent. The flowers of the lotus, which in the Hindi, language they call Kumudini, is of three, colours- white, blue and red. I had already seen the blue and white, but had never seen the red. A scene which remained memorable in the record of his experiences was a tank full of exquisite lotus blossoms of the red colour the like of which he had not seen before. He particularly observed the kanwal and the kumudini varieties of the louts, the former opening during the day and becoming a bud at night, and the latter opening only at night and budding a new in the day time, and watched how the romantic black bee stayed inside the close blossoms to drink the sweet juice and come out after the petals had again spread open. Jahangir pointed out that when Mirza Rustam and Khwaja Abudul latif were appointed to Deccan, there on Sunday, the 5tyh I saw a flower, white inside, and red outside, white some of them were red inside and yellow outside. In Persian they call it La'la-i-bigana, and in Hindi thal kanwal. Thal means land, and as the lotus (kanwal) is an aquatic plant, they have called this land lotus'.

As regards his interest in botany, it was mainly horticultural (Tuzuk) contains his inclination for the plantation of high-altitude trees like the cypress, the pine, the chenar, the white poplar, the bid mulla, jawanese sandal trees in the plains of India. He also discussed about the banvan tree, the tamarind tree, palas tree, and tree oak. He had good knowledge of fruits bearing trees and also about their presentation. Mango was one of his most relished fruits. For him date tree looked very graceful, and he ordered the painters to give a platform around a date tree and be represented in colour, but the paintings of those plants, trees and flowers are not traceable today.

In Tuzku-i-Jahangiri Jahangir writes 'I eat no fish but those that have scales, but not because the professors of the Shia faith look on those without scale as unlawful, but the case of my aversion is this, that I have heard from old men, and it has become known to me by experience as well that fish without scale eat the flesh of dead animals and fish with scale do not eat it. But he writes about fish procurable in this place, the name of which is Arbiyat was caught and frequently brought for me by the fishermen without double these fish are as compared with other fresh of this country. There is also called Laziza it is kind of split grain which does not grow in other country, but Hindustan.

His statement of birds, animals and vegetation become very minute, and his spouse Nur Jahan had the identical love of plant life which her husband had, and she or he additionally contributed appreciably to India's adornment thru lawn making plans and construction. The lawn of Jahangir's tomb at Lahore with separate plots allocated to an unmarried flower range like tulips, violets, roses, poppies, lilies, anemones and crimson cyclamen, the deep never-ending shadows of the cypresses in symmetrically laid out avenues, and the rose timber bordering the raised walks. Jahangir's love for novelties and series of exotica have been now no longer limited to the visible and ornamental arts handiest, however prolonged to herbal history, to uncommon and delightful animals, vegetation, and trees. He could now no longer handily display his interest however additionally describe them in detail, withinside the Tuzuk and educate his painters to maintain correct likenesses of them. Thus, in Jahangir's length we discover a massive wide variety of miniatures representing out of the manner subjects. It could now no longer be unfair to name him nature conflict shipper.

### **Conclusion:**

Jahangir, a lover of splendour and nature, has been defined because the prince of artists and additionally maximum fastidious critic of art. He widespread the splendor, softness, and delicacy of each the culmination and artwork. It turned into stated that if there had been comparable photos finished through numerous artists, he ought to factor out the painter of each. Even if one portrait turned into completed through one-of-a-kind painters, he ought to pick out the names folks who had drawn one-of-a-kind quantities of that portrait. He turned into capable of pick out through whom the eyebrow or eyelashes had been drawn or if a person touched the portray after it turned into finished through the primary painter. There had been painters in animal portraiture, who produced the artwork of birds, animals, beasts, and flowers. Their attachment to the character and the recognition of flower research suggests the encouragement given through the emperor to such. On the alternative hand, it turned into additionally splendid that searching scenes have

become famous in the one's days. At Lahore fort, the homes interior had been adorned with the elephants and lions with inside the brackets and peacocks on the friezes which had been much like the Jahangir Mahal at Agra. His first-rate pleasure turned into can be in laying out gardens, as he mounted as many as gardens in Kashmir, Lahore, Udaipur, Agra, Hassan Abdal etc.

His brilliant money owed of birds and animals are as correct as that of an expert in Zoology. Hence the above examine lent us to finish that the emperor Jahangir became a person of amazing literary flavor with love of poetry, architecture, music, dance, portray and different pleasant arts. To quote A.A. Macdonell, "He became the most effective Muhammadan ruler of India who located his portrait on his coins." From the above dialogue multi traits of Jahangir is surely understood. He became a sturdy compound of tenderness, stubbornness, cruelty, kindness, justice, caprice, refinement and brutality, appropriate feel and childishness. Beni Prasad writes: "Jauntily to disregard him as a hard-hearted, fickle-minded tyrant, soaked in wine, and sunk in debauch, as multiple authors has done, is straight away unscientific and unjust." To quote Sidney Owen, "On the complete Jahangir appears to be never an awful king, judged from a European factor of view; and really a good deal above the common of oriental sovereigns; whilst the disturbances of his reign had been episodically, and of brief duration."

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