

Part 1: Amrit Udyan Vs. Mughal Gardens:

**Mughal Gardens to Open for Public from January 31
January 30, 2023**

January 29, 2023: **Opening of the Amrit Udyan:** President Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the opening of the Amrit Udyan for visits by the public:

The Amrit Udyan will be open from 31st Jan to 26th Mar, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Those, who want to visit the Udyan, should purchase tickets ONLINE.

From 10 AM to 12 noon: 7500 tickets will be issued.

From 12 noon to 4 PM: 10,000 tickets will be issued.

SPECIAL INVITEES:

- 28th Mar is reserved for farmers only.
- 29th Mar is reserved for Divyangs (persons with handicaps)
- 30 Mar is reserved for visits by personnel of the Soldiers, Police, Security forces and their families.

The Gardens were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1917. However, the plantings were done during 1928-29 by the British authorities.



The British called the gardens- ‘Mughal Gardens’, because the British regime visualized itself as the successor of the Mughals. This vision was a part of the distortion of India’s history, with the **ulterior objective** of establishing the falsehood that India was always ruled by outsiders. The facts are that **the British took over a large part of India from the Marathas and the Sikhs.**

Mughals had lost effective power much before 1757, when East India Company started acquiring power in Eastern and South East India. They were able to take over the area in the western part of India and the area, south of Delhi from the Marathas, who had been weakened during the 3rd battle of Panipat 1761, in which the British had no role to play. Punjab, Kashmir and Pakhtoon areas, outside Afghanistan, fell into their lap due to the Sikh court machinations, after Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s death. Some elements of the court conspired, along with the British under-cover agents, to get the Sikh army defeated.

(Please see ” Part 2: Background: Amrit Vs. Mughal Gardens: Brief History” at <https://diginews360.com/part-2-background-amrit-vs-mughal-gardens/>)

Note: The name of the gardens in the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President House) was changed from its old name of Mughal Gardens to its new name of **Amrut Udyan (Diamond Jubilee Gardens)** on 28th January 2023.

HISTORY of the Gardens:

In 1911, the British decided to shift the Indian capital from Calcutta to Delhi.

About 4,000 acres of land was acquired to construct the Viceroy’s House (re-named Governor General’s House on August 1947. It was renamed as Rashtrapati Bhavan (President’s House) after 26th January 1950) with Sir Edwin Lutyens being given the task of designing the building on Raisina Hill.

Crucial in the design of the Viceroy’s House was a large garden in its rear. While initial plans involved creating a garden with traditional British sensibilities in mind, Lady Hardinge, the wife of the then Viceroy, urged planners to create a Mughal-style garden. It is said that she was inspired by the book Gardens of the Great Mughals (1913) by Constance Villiers-Stuart as well as her visits to Mughal gardens in Lahore and Srinagar.

The famous roses of the garden: Though the layout of the garden was in place by 1917, the planting was taken up only in 1928-29. Director of horticulture William Mustoe, who planted the garden, was especially skilled at growing roses and is said to have introduced more than 250 different varieties of hybrid roses gathered from every corner of the world. Lady Beatrix Stanley, a prominent horticulturist, noted in 1931 that she had not seen better roses in England.

Each resident of the Rashtrapati Bhavan has left his own touch: The gardens have evolved over time. While roses remain the star attraction, residents of the Rashtrapati Bhavan have all added their own personal touch to the garden.

ROSES: The gardeners of the Rashtrapati Bhavan have kept alive the tradition of nurturing the defining feature of the gardens — the multitude of rose varieties. They include Adora, Mrinalini, Taj Mahal, Eiffel Tower, Scentimental, Oklahoma (also called Black Rose), Black Lady, Blue Moon and Lady X. There are also roses named after personalities: Mother Teresa, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Abraham Lincoln, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Queen Elizabeth — not to forget Arjun and Bhim. The ingenious gardeners also introduced new, exotic varieties of flowers like birds of paradise, tulips and heliconia in 1998.

Later, more variety was added, especially during the presidency of **Dr Zakir Husain**.

C. Rajagopalachari, the last Governor General of India (1948-50), made a political statement when during a period of food shortage in the country, he himself ploughed the lands and dedicated a section of the garden to foodgrains. Today, the Nutrition Garden, popularly known as Dalikhana, stands in that spot, organically cultivating a variety of vegetables for consumption at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President R Venkatraman added a cactus garden.

President APJ Abdul Kalam added many theme-based gardens: from the musical garden to the spiritual garden.
