

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### Subject – UPSC GS-III

### Topic – Dara Shikoh

Dara Shikoh (also spelled as Dara Shukoh) was the son of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan and brother of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. He is an important part of Indian Medieval History and should be known to [IAS Exam](#) aspirants.


On the day of 20th March 1615, Dara Shikoh was born. This article will provide you relevant facts about Dara Shikoh for UPSC examination. You can download the notes on Dara Shikoh PDF provided in the end of the article.

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#### Dara Shikoh - Facts about UPSC Prelims

Dara Shikoh - UPSC Facts	
Who was Dara Shikoh? 	He was the son of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan
Was he the eldest son of Shah Jahan?	Yes, he was the eldest son of Shah Jahan and elder brother of Aurangzeb

What was the rank given to him in Mughal empire?	The rank of 'Padshahzada-i-Buzurg Martaba' (Prince of High Rank) was given to him
How is he related to princess Jahanara Begum?	Dara Shikoh was the brother of princess Jahanara Begum
Who defeated Dara Shikoh?	Aurangzeb defeated Dara Shikoh after Shah Jahan fell ill in 1657
When did Dara Shikoh die?	He was executed on Aurangzeb's order on 30th August 1659
How was he different from Aurangzeb?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was a liberal-orthodox Mughal prince in comparison to orthodox Aurangzeb</li> <li>• Dara Shikoh was inclined towards philosophy and mysticism over military pursuits in comparison to Aurangzeb</li> </ul>
Who was Dara Shikoh's mother?	Mumtaz Mahal gave birth to Dara Shikoh
What was his role in Mughal military?	<p>There were many posts, Dara Shikoh was promoted to. Some of them are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was the military commander</li> <li>• He was appointed as subahdar (governor) of Allahabad</li> <li>• He was appointed Governor of the province of Gujarat</li> <li>• He was appointed Governor of Multan and Kabul</li> </ul>
Was there any title given to Dara Shikoh?	<p>Yes, Shahzada-e-Buland Iqbal ("Prince of High Fortune") was given to him by his father Shah Jahan</p> <p>The other title was, 'Shah-e-Buland Iqbal ("King of High Fortune")'</p>

## UPSC Notes on Dara Shukoh

Dara Shukoh was an important figure in the history of the Mughal Empire. He was a great philosopher who was deeply spiritual too. Read about his life and times for a better understanding of history for the [IAS exam](#).

- Dara Shukoh was born to Prince Khurram (later Emperor Shah Jahan) and his wife Mumtaz Mahal at Taragarh Fort, Ajmer.
- His father became the king when he was 12 years old. In 1633, he married his cousin Nadira Banu and did not marry ever again.
- At a young age, he was made a military commander as every royal Mughal prince was. In 1652, he became the governor of Kabul and Multan. He was perhaps not as successful a military man as much as a philosopher and intellectual.
- Dara Shukoh was interested to read about various religions apart from his own. He learnt from pandits and Christian priests about Hinduism and Christianity.
- He learnt the Sanskrit language. He was inspired by the philosophy in the Upanishads that he translated them to Persian.
- He was an ardent follower of Sufism and a model for tolerance. He was a mystic and a poet. He also nurtured a friendship with the 7<sup>th</sup> seventh Sikh Guru, Guru Har Rai. All this made him popular with the people but unpopular with the orthodoxy.

- Dara Shukoh authored many books and his most famous one is “**Majma-ul-Bahrain**”. It means ‘The confluence of the two seas’ and is a comparative study of Vedanta and Sufism.
- He established a library which is still standing in Delhi and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. He also commissioned many paintings and architectural wonders.
- Shah Jahan greatly favoured him over his other sons and this led to animosity between Dara and his brother [Aurangzeb](#). Aurangzeb was a better military commander.
- After Shah Jahan became ill, the power struggle for the throne commenced between his sons. At the Battle of Samugarh in May 1658, Dara Shukoh was defeated by his brothers Aurangzeb and Murad. Aurangzeb then deposed his father and assumed power.
- Dara Shukoh retreated from Agra and then went to Kathiawar via Thatta in Sindh. He once again met Aurangzeb in battle at Deorai where he was again defeated. After this defeat, he went to Sindh and took refuge under an Afghan chieftain. Unfortunately for Dara, the chieftain betrayed him and handed him over to Aurangzeb’s soldiers.
- Dara is supposed to have been brought to Delhi and humiliated in public by his brother. He was then declared a threat to peace and an apostate of Islam. He was executed on 30 August 1659.
- In February 2017, the New Delhi Municipal Corporation renamed the Dalhousie Road to Dara Shikoh Road.