

Kohinoor diamond's association with British Crown

September 17, 2022























In news- After the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the formal coronation ceremony of the King Charles III will see him wear the Imperial State Crown for the first time & Kohinoor diamond will also be part of Crown Jewels.

The UK Crown Jewels-

- They are the ceremonial treasures which have been acquired by English kings and queens, mostly since 1660.
- The **collection is at the Tower of London** and includes the crowns acquired by various monarchs, their robes, and other items of great historical value.
- **The regalia is used for rare, ceremonial occasions.**
- **The Kohinoor diamond was embedded in the crown of Queen Elizabeth's mother, Queen Elizabeth I, for the coronation ceremony of her husband King George VI in 1937.**
- She wore it again during her daughter's coronation in 1953. During her funeral procession in 2002, it was placed atop her coffin.
- **The crown has been worn by her as the Queen Consort, the person who is married to the King** but is not a queen through the line of succession.
- According to reports in the British media, Charles's wife Camilla will wear it next as the new Queen Consort.
- The **Queen Consort is usually crowned with the King**, in a similar but simpler ceremony .

Journey of Kohinoor from India to Britain-

- Famed as a shiny, big diamond, the **Kohinoor, Persian for 'Mountain of Light'**, is counted **among the largest precious stones in the world.**
- There is some disagreement over where and when it was mined, but **it is generally believed to have its origins in India, in the Golconda mines(Kollur Mine) of present-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**
- It was **found during the period of the Kakatiya dynasty,** who placed it in the Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal.
- Since its discovery, the stone has moved from king to king. **It was placed on the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's famous Peacock Throne** at the Red Fort in Delhi in the 17th century.
- Following the invasions of **Iranian ruler Nadir Shah, the Kohinoor was taken away from India,** and it finally **reached the Afghan invader Ahmad Shah Durrani.**
- In the 19th century, it went to **Maharaja Ranjit Singh,** the founder of the Sikh empire, who had his capital in Lahore.
- **After the Second Anglo-Sikh War of 1849, the kingdom of Punjab** was annexed by the East India Company, and the child king Duleep Singh was forced to give up the diamond to Queen Victoria.
- The movement of the diamond through its history has made the claims for its return contentious.
- Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as India, have at various points demanded it from the British government.

 <p>Koh-i-Noor, set into the crown worn by the queens of England, is now on display in the Tower of London.</p>	 <p>Koh-i-Noor was found in Ganpur, Andhra Pradesh during the Kalchuri Dynasty.</p> <p>It was used as one eye of the deity in a Hindu temple in Warangal in 1300.</p>	 <p>Malik Kafur, Alauddin Khalji's general, looted Koh-i-Noor during a raid on Warangal.</p> <p>Koh-i-Noor passed on to the ruler of the Delhi Sultanate from the Khalji Dynasty.</p>
 <p>Queen Elizabeth 1906-2002</p>	 <p>Babur, founder of Mughal Empire, possessed Koh-i-Noor after the first Battle of Panipat in 1526. Then his son Humayun inherited it.</p>	 <p>Shah Jahan, fifth Mughal Emperor, used Koh-i-Noor to adorn the Peacock Throne.</p>
 <p>Queen Mary 1847 - 1953</p>	 <p>When he was imprisoned in Agra Fort by his son Aurangzeb, he used to see Taj Mahal's reflection by Koh-i-Noor placed near a window.</p>	
 <p>Queen Alexandra 1844-1902</p>		<p>Nader Shah from Persia looted both Koh-i-Noor and Peacock Throne during his invasion of Agra and Delhi in 1739.</p>
 <p>Queen Victoria 1819 - 1901</p>		
<p>On 1 July 1850, Koh-i-Noor reached Portsmouth, then it travelled to London. It was presented to Queen Victoria on 9 July.</p> 	 <p>After Nadir Shah's assassination in 1747, Koh-i-Noor came into the hands of his general, Ahmed Shah Durrani, the Emir of Afghanistan.</p>	
<p>Koh-i-Noor came to Bombay from Calcutta and was sealed in an iron safe for shipping to England. But it had a difficult voyage.</p> 		<p>In 1830, Shujah Shah Durrani, the deposed Emir of Afghanistan and a descendant of Ahmed Shah Durrani, fled with Koh-i-Noor to Lahore.</p> 
<p>Lord Dalhousie ordered Dulep Singh, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's youngest son, to present Koh-i-Noor to Queen Victoria. Dulep Singh travelled to Calcutta in 1850.</p> 		<p>Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh possessed Koh-i-Noor in Lahore and came to Punjab. He wished to donate it to Puri's Lord Jagannath temple in Odisha. But the British occupied it after his death in 1839.</p> 