

What is Kohinoor Diamond?

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About Kohinoor Diamond:

- The **Kohinoor**/Koh-i-Noor diamond (also Koh-i-Nur or Kūh-e Nūr) is **one of the largest and most famous cut diamonds** in the world.
- **The name** of the stone **is Persian, meaning 'Mountain of Light'** and refers to its **astounding size**.
- The diamond **originally weighed 191 carats**, but it was **recut to 105.6 carats** to enhance its fire and brilliance **in 1852 by Garrard of London, the royal jeweller**.
- **History:**
 - It is believed that the diamond was **first mentioned more than 5000 years ago** in a **Sanskrit script**, where **it was called the Syamantaka**.
 - After this first written mention, **for over 4,000 years, the diamond is not mentioned**.
 - **Up until 1304, the diamond** was in the **possession of the Rajas of Malwa**.
 - **In 1304, it belonged** to the Emperor of Delhi, **Allaudin Khilji**.
 - **In 1339, the diamond was taken back to the city of Samarkand**, where it **stayed for almost 300 years**.
 - **In 1526** the Mogul ruler **Babur mentioned the diamond in his writings, Baburmama**. The diamond was **gifted to him by Sultan Ibrahim Lodi**.
 - **From Babur, the diamond passed to Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb** before coming into the **possession of his grandson, Sultan Mahamad**.
 - **In 1739**, the Persian general **Nadir Shah defeated Sultan Mahamad to conquer Delhi** – and **the diamond**. It was **Nadir Shah that gave the diamond its current name**.
 - **In 1747, Nadir Shah was assassinated**, and the **diamond got to one of his generals, Ahmad Shah Durrani**.
 - A descendant of Ahmad Shah, **Shah Shuja Durrani brought the Koh-i-noor back to India in 1813 and gave it to Ranjit Singh** (the founder of the Sikh Empire). In exchange, Ranjit Singh helped Shah Shuja get back the throne of Afghanistan.
 - **In 1849, after the conquest of the Punjab by the British forces, the properties of the Sikh Empire were confiscated**.
 - The Koh-i-Noor was **transferred to the treasury of the British East India Company** in Lahore.
 - **Since 1849, the Koh-i-Noor has been part of the British crown jewels**.

Q1) What is a Diamond Cut?

Cut refers not to a diamond's shape (e.g. round, oval, pear, etc.) but to a diamond's proportions, symmetry and polish. The beauty of a diamond depends more on cut than any other factor.

Source: [India's PM Modi eyes return of Kohinoor, thousands of other treasures from Britain](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-kohinoor-diamond/>

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