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ART AND CULTURE



QUICK AND COMPREHENSIVE REVISION SERIES

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1

Indian Architecture

Introduction

Architecture basically means the **art** and **science** of **designing structures**. **Indian architecture** is rooted in the **history, culture, and religion of India**. The story of Indian architecture is also a story of evolution from ancient Indus Valley civilization to modern independent India.

ARCHITECTURE OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

The earliest remains of Indian architecture are to be found in **Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Ropar, Kalibangan, Lothal and Rangpur**.

- The towns of this civilisation were laid out in a **rectangular grid pattern** with roads cutting each other at the right angles.
- **Standardisation:** They used **burnt mud bricks** of standardised dimensions and layers of bricks were joined together using **gypsum mortar**.
- **Residential Buildings:** Houses were typically built with courtyards, flat roofs, and multiple rooms. Larger houses often had private wells and bathing areas. Doors and windows rarely opened onto the main streets, ensuring privacy.
- **Defensive structures:** Cities had fortified walls made of bricks to protect against floods and invasions.
- **Raised Platform:** Both upper and lower town were built on raised platforms but height of the platform of upper town was higher.
- Dholavira is unique site as it was divided into three parts and use of stones in construction instead of burnt bricks.
- **Advanced drainage network:** Cities were equipped with an **advanced drainage system** with small drains from each house connected to a bigger drain.
 - The drains were covered loosely to allow regular cleaning and maintenance.
 - **Cess pits** at regular intervals and the presence of **wells** were also observed.
- The **granaries** had strategic air ducts and raised platforms to protect from pests.

- **Great bath from Mohenjodaro** was equipped with galleries and rooms indicating the importance of ritual cleansing.
- The cities were divided into two divisions:

Citadel	Lower Town
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located in the western part.• Smaller than lower town.• Hosted large buildings like granaries, administrative buildings, pillared halls, residences of the rulers and aristocrats, courtyards etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located in the eastern part.• Larger than the citadel.• Contained small one-roomed houses, probably for working-class people.

MAURYAN ARCHITECTURE

Mauryan architecture was **influenced by Buddhism and Jainism**. It was divided into **court art** and **popular art** based on the presence or absence of state patronage.

1. Court Art

It includes the architectural works commissioned by rulers. It was used for **political as well as religious purposes**.

Palaces

- **Ashoka's Palace at Kumrahar** was a three-storey massive wooden structure with a high central pillar.
- The Palace of Chandragupta Maurya was inspired by the **Achaemenid palaces** at Persepolis in **Iran**. As per Megasthenes, it was one of the greatest creations of mankind.

Pillars

Ashoka's pillar inscriptions were built as a **symbol of the state** and to **commemorate battle victories**.

- The pillars were usually made of **Chunar sandstone**.
- The pillar is made up of **four parts**:
 - **Shaft:** The shaft formed the base and was made up of a single piece of stone or monolith.



- **Capital:** It lays above the shaft and could be either lotus-shaped or bell-shaped. The bell-shaped pillars, influenced by Iranian pillars, are known for their lustrous and polished finish.
- **Abacus:** On the top of the capital, there was a circular or rectangular base known as the Abacus on which animal figures were placed.
- **Capital Figure:** They are usually figures of animals like **bull, lion, elephant etc.**
- Some of the existing pillars with capital figures were found at **Basarah-Bakhira, Lauriya Nandangarh and Rampurva (Bull)** in Bihar, **Sankisa and Sarnath (Lion)** in Uttar Pradesh.

National Emblem

- The **abacus** and the **lion capital part of the Sarnath pillar** form the official National Emblem.
- In the **abacus** of the Sarnath pillar, **four animals** represent four directions - a **horse** (West), an **elephant** (East), a **bull** (South) and a **lion** (North). The **abacus** has the depiction of a **chakra** (wheel) having **twenty-four** spokes in all the four directions.
- The **Elephant** depicts the **dream of Queen Maya**, the **Bull** depicts the **zodiac sign** of the month in which Buddha was born (Taurus), the **horse** represents the **Buddha's horse Kanthaka** which he used for going away from princely life, and the **lion** shows the **attainment of enlightenment**.
- This pillar capital was built by Ashoka commemorating **Dharmachakrapravartana** (the first sermon by the Buddha).
- The **four lion symbols** symbolise Buddha spreading Dhamma in all directions.
- In the National Emblem, the words **Satyameva Jayate** from **Mundaka Upanishad**, meaning, **"Truth alone triumphs"**, are inscribed below the abacus in **Devanagari script**.

Differences Between Ashokan and Achaemenian Pillars

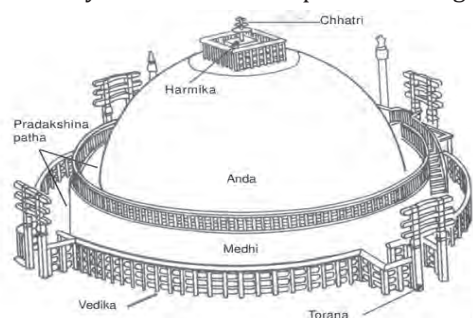
Aspect	Ashokan Pillar	Achamenian Pillar
Period	3rd century BC	6th - 4th century BC
Purpose	Independently erected as edicts to spread Ashoka's messages of Dhamma (moral law)	To support large palatial or ceremonial structures, such as audience halls (Apadana).
Material	Sandstone or other local stone	Limestone, sandstone or other local stones
Structure	Single monolithic shaft with a capital.	Tall, fluted shaft with elaborate capital and made up of several stones cemented together.
Religious influence	Associated with Buddhism.	Associated with Zoroastrianism and Persian culture.
Capitals	Sculptures of lions, elephants and bulls.	Capitals often feature twin bull heads, griffins, or other mythological creatures.

Stupa

The stupas are basically **burial mounds** and are a conventional representation of a funeral mound in which **relics and ashes** of the dead are kept. Though being **pre-Buddhist**, stupas were popularised by the Buddhists. [UPSC 2023]

Patrons of Stupa

Patrons range from lay devotees to Gahapatis and kings.



Layout of a Stupa



Sanchi Stupa

- Donations by the guilds are also mentioned at several sites. However, there are very few inscriptions mentioning the names of artisans such as **Kanha at Pitalkhora** (Satmala range in western ghats) and his disciple **Balaka at Kondane** caves (near Lonavala) in Maharashtra.
- Artisans' categories like stone carvers, goldsmiths, stone polishers, carpenters, etc. are also mentioned in the inscriptions.
- From the second century BC onwards, the pattern of patronage has been a very collective one, and there are very few examples of royal patronage.

Features of the Stupa

The Buddhist stupa is a **hemispherical dome with a solid structure**.

- The **core** of the Stupa was made of **unburnt brick**, while the outer **surface** was made of **burnt bricks**.
- It consists of a **circular cylindrical drum** with a **Harmika** and **Chhatra** on the top.
- It is surrounded by a **circumambulatory passage** or **Pradakshinapatha**, where devotees walk around.
- The whole structure was also surrounded by **wooden railings** and gateways called **Toranas**.
- Buddha's life events like the **birth, renunciation, enlightenment, dhammachakrapravartana**, and **mahaparinibbana** were depicted through the symbols like **lotus, elephant, Jataka stories** etc.

Important Stupa

- Stupa constructed over the **relics** of Buddha:
 - **Rajagraha, Vaishali, Vethadipa**.
 - **Kapilavastu, Allakappa and Ramagrama** in Nepal.
 - **Kushinagar and Pippalvina, Pava** in Uttar Pradesh.
- The textual tradition also mentions the construction of various other stupas on the relics of the Buddha at several places, including **Avanti** and **Gandhara**, which are outside the Gangetic valley.
- **Bharhut, Bodh Gaya, Amravati and Nagarjunakonda** were other important sites.

Sanchi Stupa

Sanchi stupa, a **world heritage site**, lies to the west of the **Betwa River**, in Raisen district near **Bhopal**. [UPSC 2021]

- Along with other relatively small stupas, there are **three main stupas at Sanchi**.
 - **Stupa-1** is presumed to have the **relics of the Buddha**.
 - **Stupa-2** contains the **relics** of ten less famous **arhats** (who have attained enlightenment) belonging to three different generations. Their names are found on the relic casket.
 - **Stupa-3** has the relics of **Sariputta** and **Mahamougalayana** (the two chief disciples of the Buddha).
- Originally, the stupa was a small brick structure that expanded over a period. Later, it was covered with stone and surrounded by **vedika** and the **torana** (gateways).
- The **Ashokan lion-capital pillar** with an inscription is found on the **southern side of the stupa**.
- There is also the **upper Pradakshina path** which is unique to this site.
- The **four gateways** are decorated profusely with sculptures. The sculptures at Sanchi, despite being **small in dimension**, are **very naturalistic**.
- There are guardian images on pillars, and the **Shalbhanjika** (lady holding the branch of a tree) sculptures are remarkable in their treatment of volume.

The art of stupas **reached its climax during the period of Ashoka**.

2. Popular Art

In addition to royal support, a variety of artistic mediums, including sculpture, ceramics, and cave construction, arose via local support. These were categorised as forms of popular art.

Cave Architecture

Rock-cut cave architecture emerged during the Mauryan period and was generally used as **viharas** (living quarters) by the **Jain** and **Buddhist monks**.

- The caves were characterised by **highly polished interiors** and **decorative gateways**.

- The early Mauryan caves were used by **Ajivika sects**, later, they became popular as **Buddhist monasteries**.
- **Barabar and Nagarjuni caves** in **Bihar** were formed during the Mauryan period.
 - Key features include rectangular and circular entrances, smooth interior walls, and minimalist chambers for meditation. Some caves, like Lomas Rishi Cave, have arched doorways and inscriptions from Emperor Ashoka. The caves are strategically placed in natural surroundings, with geometric carvings and inscriptions, emphasizing the sect's austere lifestyle and connection to nature.

- The Barabar Hills embrace the cluster of four caves, together called Barabar caves. These are known as 'Lomas Rishi', 'Sudama', 'Vishwakarma' and 'Karan Chaupar' caves.
- **Nagarjuni caves** include Vadathi-ka-kubha, Vape-ka-kubha and Gopi-ka-Kumbha.

Lomas Rishi Caves [UPSC 2013]

These are rock-cut caves carved at **Barabar hills** near Gaya in Bihar.

- These caves were donated by **Ashoka** to the **Ajivika sect**.
- The cave is decorated with the **semicircular chaitya arch** at the entrance.
- **Nasik caves (Maharashtra)** are also known as **Pandav Leni caves**. [UPSC 2021]

Sculptures

It was primarily used for the decoration of stupas, in the Torana, medhi and as a form of religious expression.

- Sculptures of the Mauryan period are related to all three religions - **Jainism, Hinduism and Buddhism**.

- The earliest mention of yakshi can be found in **Silappadikaram**.

Pottery

- Pottery of the Mauryan period is known as **Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)**.
- They were characterized by black paint and a **highly lustrous finish** and were considered the **highest level of pottery**.

POST MAURYAN ARCHITECTURE

The art of the period reflected the changing socio-political scenario which had been carried forward by **Shungas, Kanvas, Kushanas and Shakas** in the North and **Satavahanas, Ikshvakus, Abhiras and Vakatakas** in Southern and Western India.

Rock-Cut Caves

This period saw the development of two types of caves:
1) Chaityas and 2) Viharas [UPSC 2013]

- The caves were generally decorated with human and animal figures, they also had **courtyards** and **stone screen walls**.

Chaityas	Viharas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Used as prayer halls. ● These have a small rectangular doorway which opens to a vaulted Hall with an apsidal end . At the end, there is a stupa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Residential places for Buddhist and Jain monks. ● They consist of a main hall, assembly hall and dining chambers. ● From the halls deep into the rocks, cells are provided for meditation.

Cave Tradition in Western India

It hosts many Buddhist caves dating back to the 2nd century BC.

- Mainly, there were three architectural types:
 - **Apsidal vault-roof chaitya halls** (found at Ajanta, Pitalkhora, Bhaja).
 - **Apsidal vault roof pillarless Hall** (found at **Thana-Nadsur** in Maharashtra).
 - **Flatroofed quadrangular hall** with a circular chamber at the back (found at **Kondivite** in Maharashtra).
- Important sites of rock-cut caves: **Vihara caves at Nashik, Ganeshleni at Junnar (Maharashtra)**, and **Kanheri caves in Mumbai**.
- **In Karla**, the **biggest rock-cut chaitya hall** was excavated & decorated with human and animal figures.
- Some of the important **vihara caves** are at **Ajanta Caves, Bedsa Caves and Nashik Caves**.
- The **vihara caves** at **Nashik** were excavated with front pillars carved with **ghata-base** and **ghata-capital** with **human figures**.
- **Other Cave Sites:** **Bhaja Caves** near Pune has Buddhist caves. [UPSC 2023], **Kanheri** in Mumbai
- **Junnar** has the **largest cave excavations**
 - Vihara cave was also excavated at **Junnar** in Maharashtra, which is popularly known as **Ganeshleni** because an image of Ganesha belonging to a later period was installed in it.



Unfinished chaitya cave, Kanheri



Chaitya hall, Karla



Nashik Cave No. 3

Cave Tradition in Eastern India

Buddhist caves have been excavated mainly in the coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Guntapalle Cave (Andhra Pradesh)

The caves were excavated in the **second century BC**. The cave is **relatively small** compared to the caves of western India. It is among the unique sites where **structured stupas, viharas** and **caves** are excavated in one place. It has circular chaitya cave and rectangular vihara caves

Other Cave Sites in Andhra: Rampaerrampallam, Anakapalli and Dhanyakataka.

- **Anakapalli in Vishakhapatnam:** A huge rock-cut stupa was carved out of the hillock during the fourth-fifth centuries AD. It is a unique site as it has **the biggest rock-cut stupas** in the country.
- **Dhanyakataka (Andhra Pradesh):** Prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas. [UPSC 2023]

Udaygiri-Khandagiri Caves (Odisha)



They have inscriptions of **Kharavela Jain kings**. According to the inscriptions, the caves were meant for **Jain monks**.

- The figures in this cave are **voluminous, move freely in the picture space**. Some caves in this complex were excavated later, sometime in the eighth-ninth centuries AD.
- There are numerous **single-cell excavations**.

Stupas

- Stupas became **larger** and **more decorative** in the post-Mauryan period.
- **Stone** was increasingly used in place of wood and brick.
- The **Shunga dynasty introduced the idea of torans**.
- The Torans were carved with figures and patterns and were evidence of Hellenistic influence.
- Examples: **Barhut Stupa** and **Sanchi Stupa** in Madhya Pradesh.

STUPAS AND FOLK TRADITIONS

1. **Folk deities:** Ancient Buddhist stupas feature depictions of folk deities like Yakshas and Yakshis (nature spirits), with the famous Shalabhanjika Yakshi at Sanchi Stupa symbolizing fertility. Naga deities, representing water and fertility, appear at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda, while Dvarapalas

(guardian deities) are found at stupa gateways, like those at Bharhut. Celestial deities such as Surya and Chandra are also included, reflecting cosmic harmony. Fertility figures like Matrikas appear, especially in subsidiary roles at sites like Sanchi and Bharhut, connecting Buddhist teachings with local agrarian traditions. Many stupas feature carvings of sacred trees associated with Bodhi trees or folk deities. Trees were venerated as abodes of local deities, connecting Buddhist and indigenous spiritual practices.

2. **Daily life:** Intricately carved toranas (gateways) depict scenes from Jataka tales and everyday life, such as hunting, dancing, and farming. Amaravati Stupa (Andhra Pradesh, India): Ex: Amravati stupa, known for its detailed narrative sculptures showing trade, travel, and religious practices.
- The panels depict interactions between humans and nature, emphasizing harmony and simplicity.

GUPTA ARCHITECTURE

The Gupta empire is often hailed as the **“Golden age of ancient India”**. Early Gupta rulers encouraged **Buddhist Architecture**, but later, **temple architecture** was encouraged.

Caves

During the Gupta period, **mural paintings** on the walls of the caves became an added feature.

Ajanta Caves

[UPSC 2016, 2021]

Ajanta is a series of **rock-cut caves**, all arranged in a **horse-shoe shape**, are located in the **Sahyadri hills** by the gorge of the **Waghora River** in the **Aurangabad district of Maharashtra**.

- It has **29 caves** - **25** were **viharas**, and **4** were **chaitya**.
- The Ajanta caves were inscribed by the Buddhist monks under the **patronage** of the **Vakataka Kings**; **Harisena** being a prominent one.
- In **Ajanta caves**, the **sculpture of Buddha in the garba-griha** is in the classical model. Heaviness is the general character of the sculptures. Sculptures of **Yakshis** and **Hariti** with children are significant. The popular Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara is depicted in paintings and sculptures.
- **Cave no.26 is the biggest** and is carved with a variety of Buddha images, the biggest one being the Mahaparinibbana image.

Ajanta caves has **four chaitya** caves datable to the **earlier phase** (the **second** and the **first century BC**) (Cave No. 10 and 9) and the later phase the fifth century AD (Cave Nos. 19 and 26). It has large **chaityaviharas** and is decorated with **sculptures** and **paintings**. Ajanta is the only surviving example of **painting** of the **first century BC** and the **fifth century AD**.

Ellora Caves

It is located in the **Aurangabad** district, 100km away from Ajanta. It is excavated from the basalt cliffs in the **Charanandri Hills**.

- It is a group of **34 caves** - 17 **Brahmanical**, 12 **Buddhist** and 5 **Jain**. [UPSC 2013]
- These caves were developed between the **5th and 11th centuries AD** (newer as compared to Ajanta caves).
- They have **diversity in terms of theme and architectural styles**.
- Their pillars are massive. Ajanta also has excavated **double-storeyed caves** but at Ellora, the **triple-storey** is a unique achievement.

Buddhist Caves

- The shrine Buddha images are big in size; they are generally guarded by the images of **Padmapani** and **Vajrapani**.

- The Buddhist caves have many images belonging to Vajrayana Buddhism, like **Tara, Mahamayuri, Akshobya, Avalokiteshwara, Maitreya, Amitabha etc.**
- The central figure is Buddha, found in three sagacious postures: meditating (**dhyana mudra**), preaching (**Vyakhyana mudra**) and touching the earth by the index finger of the right hand (**bhumi-sparsha mudra**).
- Buddhist caves represented **goddesses** by way of the carved images of **Tara, Khadiravani-tara, Chunda, Vajradhat-vishvari, Maha-mayuri, Sujata, Pandara and Bhrikuti**.

Jaina caves

Figures of Yaksha-matanga, Mahavira, Parsvanatha, and Gomatesvara

Caves of Vedic Religions

- The earliest caves in these groups are modest and simple. Mostly, they are square-shaped except for the Kailasanatha cave (**cave-16**).

Kailasanatha Temple (Cave-16)

- It is a **monolithic** structure, carved out of a **single solid rock**. This temple is said to represent Kailash, the abode of Lord Shiva.
- The temple was built by **Krishna I (756-773 AD)** of the **Rashtrakuta Dynasty**.
- The temple is **two-storied**, and the **Kailasa temple is on the first one**.
- The **lower storey** has carved **life-size elephants**, which look like they are holding up the temple on their backs.
- The temple exterior has images of **Saivite and Vaishnavite** deities.
- The courtyard has two huge pillars with the **flagstaff** and a **Nandi mandapa**.
- The **wedding ceremony of Siva-Parvati**, the attempted **lifting of the Kailasa mountain by Ravana**, and the **destruction of Mahisasura by the goddess Durga** are beautiful sculptures.
- An interesting sculpture is that of the **river goddess Ganga** mounted on a crocodile and the river goddess Yamuna mounted on a tortoise.
- Among the Shaivite themes, **Ravana shaking Mount Kailash, Andhakasurvadha**, and **Kalyanasundara** are profusely depicted, whereas among the Vaishnavite themes, the different avatars of Vishnu are depicted.



Some of the Prominent Caves of Ellora

Cave No.	Features
10	Vishwakarma Cave or Carpenter's Cave . Buddha seated in Dharmachakra Mudra with a Bodhi tree carved at his back.
12	A stout female figure is depicted wearing a waistband and headgear of a cobra. Khadrivani-tara also holds a cobra in one of her hands in the same cave.
Cave 14-Ravan ki Khai Cave 15-Dashavatar temple	
Cave 29-Dhumar Lena Cave 30-Chhota Kailash (Jain cave) Cave 32-Indra sabha (Jain cave) Cave 33-Jagannath Sabha (Jain cave)	

Elephanta Caves (Mid-5th to 6th centuries AD)

It is located on Elephanta Island (otherwise known as the Island of Gharapuri) near **Mumbai** and was **originally a Buddhist site**, later dominated by the **Shaivite faith**. It is contemporary with Ellora, and it is famous for its **sculptures**. It is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.



Maheshmurti

- It has **Five Hindu caves** and a **pair of Buddhist caves**.
- The most important cave is the **Maheshmurti cave**.

Bagh Caves

It is located on the banks of **Baghni River** in Dhar district of **Madhya Pradesh** and is a group of **nine Buddhist caves**. It was developed around 5th-6th century AD, mostly during the **Satvahana period**. The most significant cave is **the Rang Mahal**.

Junagadh Caves (Gujrat)

Its unique feature is the prescience of a 30-50 ft high citadel known as '**Upur kot**' in front of the prayer hall.

Mandapeshwar Caves (Borivalli near Mumbai)

are also known as **Montperir Caves**; Developed in the late Gupta period as a Brahmanical cave and was later converted into a Christian cave.

Udayagiri Caves (Different from Udayagiri - Khandgiri caves of Odisha)

It is located in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh and created in the early 5th century AD under the patronage of **Chandragupta II**.

- **Sculptures: Varaha or Boar incarnation of Vishnu.** [UPSC 2014, 2015]

Stupa Sites

Samat (Uttar Pradesh), **Ratnagiri** (Orissa) and **Mirpur Khas** (Sind). **Dhamek stupa** (near Varanasi) was developed during this period.

Devnimori in Gujarat is an important stupa site **outside the Gangetic Valley**. The site is vaguely dated to the 3rd century or 4th century AD.

Terracotta and Pottery

Clay figurines were used both for **religious** and **secular** purposes. Gupta pottery remains were found at Ahichchhatra, Rajgarh, Hastinapur and Bashar. The most distinctive class of pottery of this period is "**red ware**".

Temple Architecture

During the Gupta period, there was a gradual progression of temples from flat-roofed monolithic temples in the initial stages to the sculptured shikhara in the later years. The progression can be distinguished into **5 stages**:

- **First Stage:** The temples were **square in shape** with a **flat roof**. The entire structure was built on a low platform.
- **Second Stage:** The platforms were higher or upraised. **Two-storied temples** have been found. An important addition was a covered ambulatory passageway around Garbhagriha called a **Pradakshinapath**. Eg. **Parvati temple at Nachnakuthara** (Madhya Pradesh)
- **Third Stage:** Emergence of **Shikharas** in place of a flat roof. **Panchayatan style** of temples was introduced.
- **Fourth Stage:** Similar to the third stage, except that the **main shrine became more rectangular**. Eg. Ter temple in Maharashtra.

Fifth Stage: **Circular temples** with shallow rectangular projections were introduced. Eg. Maniyar math at Rajgir.

INDO ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Indo-Islamic architecture started with the **Ghurid occupation** of India at the end of the 12 century AD.

- The Muslims have combined varied designs from the **Sassanian** and **Byzantine empires**, which they inherited, with the local culture, giving rise to **Indo-Saracenic** or **Indo-Islamic architecture**.
- They introduced new elements such as **calligraphy**, **ornamentation using inlay work**, **trabeation**, **brackets**, **domes** etc.

Important Features of Indo-Islamic Architecture:

- **Arcuate style** of architecture replaced the traditional **Trabeate style** of architecture.
- Introduced the **use of Minars** around mosques.
- **Mortar** was used as a cementing agent.
- Muslims, forbidden to replicate living forms on any surface, developed their religious art and architecture, consisting of the arts of **Arabesque**, **geometrical patterns** and **calligraphy** on plaster and stone
 - **Arabesque:** An ornamental design consisting of intertwined flowing lines, leaves and flowers
- The buildings had intricate **jaali works**, which signifies the **importance of light** in the Islamic region.

- The **use of water** in the courtyard pools, fountains and small drains gained importance.
 - Water was used primarily for three purposes, i.e. **Religious, Decorative, and to cool the premises.**
- They introduced the '**Charbagh style**' of garden, in which a square block was divided into four identical gardens.



- **Pietra-dura technique** refers to the **pictorial mosaic work** using **semi-precious stones**.
- **Tessellation:** A technique for the decoration of walls and floors with mosaic.
- **Foreshortening technique**, which makes the inscriptions appear closer than they really are.

Difference Between Arcuate Style and Trabeate Style

Arcuate Style	Trabeate Style
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of arches and domes. • Arches needed to be constructed with voussoirs (series of interlocking blocks), fitted with keystones. • Use of hemispherical domes on the top of the mosques. • Minars were present on the four corners of the mosques. • Lime plaster, Brick and Mortar were used for the construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of brackets, pillars and lintels. • Use of conical or curvilinear shikhara on the top of the temples. • Minars were absent. • Stone was the primary component of all constructions.

Categories of Styles

The study of Indo-Islamic architecture is conventionally categorised into:

- The Imperial Style (Delhi Sultanate)
- The Provincial Style (Mandu, Gujarat, Bengal, and Jaunpur)
- The Mughal Style (Delhi, Agra, and Lahore)
- The Deccani Style (Bijapur, Golconda)

1. Imperial Style

It flourished under various dynasties that ruled during the Sulatnate period, and each ruler imparted certain characteristics of his own.

Slave Dynasty: The style of architecture during this period is known as the **Mamluk style of architecture**.

- Most of the constructions during the period were **remodelling of the existing religious structures**.
- The **tomb of Balban** was adorned with the **first true arch**.
- **Qutub Minar, Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in Delhi, Arhai-di-ka-jhopra** in Ajmer etc., were other structures of this period.

Qutub Minar

It is divided into **five-storey** buildings initiated by **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** and later completed by **Iltutmish** and **Feroze Shah Tughlaq**. It came to be associated with the **Saint Khwaja Qutbuddin Bhaktiyar Kaki**.



- Feroz Shah Tughlaq (1351- 88) rebuilt its two storeys.
- It is the highest stone tower in India.
- The minar is a mix of **polygonal** and **circular** shapes.
- It is largely built of **red** and **buff sandstone** with some use of **marble** in the upper stories.
- It is characterised by highly **decorated balconies** and **bands of inscriptions** intertwined with foliated designs.

The everyday use of the Minars was for the azaan or call to prayer. Its phenomenal height, however, symbolised the might and power of the ruler.

Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque: **Qutub-ud-din Aibak** built the Mosque around 1197 AD.

Khalji Dynasty

They ruled from 1290 AD to 1320 AD and established the **Seljuk style of architecture**.

- Mortar began to be used prominently as a cementing agent.

- Khalji architecture is characterised by its use of **red sandstone and arcuate style** relieved by marble, recessed arches beneath the squinch, perforated windows, a large dome, and a genuine arch in the shape of a pointed horseshoe.
- Examples: **Alai Darwaza by Ala-ud-din Khalji**, **Siri Fort** etc.

Alai Darwaza: It was built by **Ala-ud-din Khalji** as a gateway to the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque and is adorned with the **first true dome**.

Tughlaq Dynasty: The focus was **more on the strength** of the building and **less emphasis on decoration**. It introduced a style of construction known as '**batter**', which was characterised by **sloping walls** to give more strength, as seen in the tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.

- Their **features** include the use of **stone rubble** as the principal building material, the experimental use of the **four-centred arch** (Arch-Beam combination is a hallmark of the Tughlaq style), the emergence of a **pointed dome and octagonal plan**, in the tombs, the introduction of **encaustic tiles** as an **element of decoration** in the panels of the buildings.
- The cities of **Tughlaqabad, Jahapanah** and **Ferozabad** are examples of Tughlaq construction.

Lodi Dynasty: A large number of tombs were built in and around Delhi **without any lavish decorations**. These mausoleums were designed on an **octagonal plan**.

- **Double domes** were introduced, which consisted of a **hollow dome inside the top dome**.
- **Sikander Lodi's tomb (Delhi)** was the **first garden tomb** built in India.

Public Buildings of the Sultanate Period comprised of Sarai, Bridges, Baolis, Dams, Kachehri (Administrative Buildings), Kotwali (Police stations), Dak-Chauki (Post-Stations), Hammam (Public Baths), and Katra (Market Places).

Sarai: It was **introduced** in India by the **Turks** in the 13th century. The earliest mention of the existence of Sarai is from **Balban's time** (1266).

- Muhammad Tughlaq and Firuz Tughlaq are known to have built a large number of Sarais in Delhi as well as along the major land routes of the Sultanate.

Wells and Step-Wells were a part of the Delhi Sultanate architecture. **Gandhak ki Baoli**, built by **Iltutmish** at Mehrauli (Delhi), is one of the step-wells.

2. Provincial Style

Indo-Islamic architecture incorporated the local architectural styles of the provisional kingdoms of Bengal, Gujarat, Jaunpur, Golconda, Malwa and the Deccan, giving rise to the Provincial style. Some of these provincial features were:

BENGAL: The **Bengal roof** with sloping cornices, which originated from the **bamboo construction**, was adopted by the Muslims.

- **Brick** was the **chief building material** and use of **stone** was limited largely to **pillars**.
- **Covered brick** and **Glazed tiles** were usually pressed into service for **decoration**.
- Examples include the **Qadam Rasul mosque** and **Dakhil Darwaja** in Gour, **Adina mosque** in Pandua, **Darsbari Masjid** in Bengal, and **Sidi Said Mosque** in Ahmedabad.

JAUNPUR: It was patronized by the **Sharqi rulers**. It avoided the use of Minars. Examples include **Atala Mosque** and **Lal Darwaza mosque** at Jaunpur.

MALWA: It involves **environmental adaptation**, as seen in the large windows, arches, artificial reservoirs (Baulis) etc. A prominent feature was the use of different **coloured stones and marbles**.

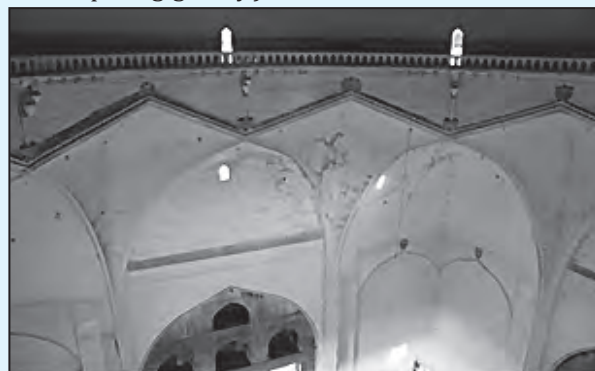
- Examples include the **Hindola Mahal**, **Rani Roopmati Pavilion**, **Jahaz Mahal**, **Ashrafi Mahal** etc.

DECCAN: It is also known as the **Bijapur style** and was developed under the **patronage** of **Adil Shah**. The constructions of this style were characterised by **3-arched facade**, **bulbous dome** and **use of cornices**.

- **Iron clamps** and strong **plaster of mortar** were used to strengthen the buildings. The ceilings were without any support. The walls were also decorated with rich carvings. **Gol Gumbaz** in **Bijapur (Karnataka)** was built in this style.

Gol Gumbaz: It was built as the burial place of **Muhammad Adil Shah (1626-1656)**, the **seventh Sultan of the Adil Shahi Dynasty**.

- Gumbad Complex has a **Naqqar Khana** (a ceremonial drum house), a mosque, and a Sarai.
- It was built using dark grey basalt combined with ornate plasterwork.
- Timurid and Persian influences are evident in its domes, arches, and geometric emphasis.
- It has the second-largest dome in the world.
- The whispering gallery, an acoustic marvel along the dome's drum, can magnify and echo sounds repeatedly. (Victoria Memorial (Kolkata) also has a whispering gallery.)



Whisper Gallery

3. Mughal Style

The Mughals were **great patrons of art and architecture**.

BABUR: He undertook the construction of mosques in **Panipat** and **Rohilkand**.

HUMAYUN: He laid the foundation of a city named **Dinpanah**.

Humayun Tomb (Delhi)

It is the **first** distinct example of Mughal architecture built by his widow, **Begha Begum**.

- It is a **synthesis** of **Persian architecture** and **Indian traditions**. It has a high **double dome** as well as the kiosks (chhatris), which give it a pyramidal shape from a distance.
 - It has a **Charbagh** style garden.
- The red sandstone, double-storeyed structure of the mausoleum has been raised over a series of cells which are like a **musical composition**.
 - The **octagonal form** of the central chamber contains the cenotaph.
 - It is for the **first time** that **red sandstone** and **white marble** are used.

SHER SHAH: His period is a phase of **transition from the Lodi style to the Mughal style** of architecture.

- He Built **Purana Qila** and the **Quila Kohna Masjid** in Delhi.
- He also built **Shershah Sufi masjid** in Patna, and **Rohtas Fort** in Pakistan and his **own tomb at Sasaram**.
- He extended and reconstructed an old Mauryan route and renamed it '**Sadak-e-Azam**'. It was later called the **Grand Trunk Road**.

AKBAR: It was the beginning of the **golden period** of Mughal art and architecture and was a blend of the Hindu and Islamic style of construction.

- Principal features of his constructions were the use of **red sandstone** and the **widespread use of Trabeate construction**.
 - The **arches** are used mainly in **decorative form** rather than in structural form.
 - The domes were sometimes hollow, but never technically of the true double order.
- Akbar's building projects can be divided into **two main groups**, each representing a different phase.
 - The first group comprised **buildings of a fort** and a few palaces at Agra, Allahabad and Lahore.
 - The second group related basically to the construction of his **new capital** at **Fatehpur Sikri**.

Agra Fort

- Today the **Delhi Gate** of the fort and **Jahangiri Mahal** are the only representative buildings of Akbar's reign.

Jahangiri Mahal

- It is conceived as a robust building in **red sandstone**. Gardens are built in **charbagh style**.
- Most of the structures present inside were built during the reign of Shah Jahan. It contained **Diwan-i-aam** (Hall of public audience) and **Diwan-i-khaas** (Hall of private audience) both built by Shah Jahan.

Fatehpur Sikri: It was founded as a token of gratitude to **Sheikh Salim Chisti**.

- It has been described as a "frozen moment in history" as the buildings here represent a **unique blend** of **Hindu** and **Persian styles**. It was the new capital city of Akbar.
- All the buildings are in characteristic rich **red sandstone**, using traditional **trabeate construction**.
- The structures were built from local rocks and assembled without the use of mortar.

Important Buildings Inside the City of Fatehpur Sikri

- **Buland Darwaza** (built in 1576, to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujarat) is the highest gateway in the world. **[UPSC 2018]**
 - **Salim Chisti's tomb** - It is the only building at Fatehpur Sikri built of **white marble**.
 - **Ibadat Khana-Akbar** used to have discussions with leaders of different religions. **[UPSC 2014]**
 - Other buildings include **Panch Mahal**, **Pachisi Court** (to play chess), **Jami Masjid**, **Hiran Minar**, **Jodha Bai's Palace** etc.
- **Govind Dev temple** in **Vrindavan** was built in **Red stone** by **Raja Maan Singh**. The stone for the construction of the temple was donated by Akbar.

JAHANGIR: He focused more on paintings and architecture took a back seat.

- Some of the constructions under his reign were **Akbar's tomb (Sikandara)**, **Moti Mahal (Lahore)** and **Shalimar Bagh** and **Nishat Bagh** in Kashmir.

Akbar's Tomb: It was **designed** by **Akbar** himself, and its construction began in his own lifetime. It was later **completed** by **Jahangir**.

- **Nur Jahan**, wife of Jahangir, commissioned the construction of the **tomb of I'tmad-ud-Daulah** (Agra) in **white marble**.

SHAH JAHAN: Mughal architecture reached its **climax** under Shah Jahan.

- His buildings are full of delicate carvings in marble and inlay with pietra dura work.
- The arch became foliated, the dome became bulbous with a constricted neck and pillars raised with shaft capitals.
- His notable constructions include - **City of Shahjahanabad** (present day old Delhi), **Moti Masjid** (made exclusive of marble) in the **Agra Fort**, **Jama Masjid at Delhi**, **Lal Qila at Delhi**, and the **Taj Mahal**.

Red Fort (Lal Qila)

- It is near the old course of the Yamuna River.
- There are two gateways - **Delhi Gate** and **Lahore Gate**.
- Notable buildings inside the fort which are **Diwan-i Am**, **Diwan-i Khas**, **Moti Mahal**, **Hira Mahal** and **Rang Mahal**.
 - **Diwan-i-Khas**: It is also said that its marble dais once supported the famous Peacock Throne.
 - ◆ The well-known statement, "**If there be a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this,**" are emblazoned on the walls of this marble castle.

Taj Mahal

- It is the tomb of his beloved wife, **Aljumand Bano Begum**, also known as **Mumtaz Mahal**.
- The chief architect was **Ustad Ahmad Lahawri**, an Indian of Persian descent.
- It has all the features of Mughal architecture, like calligraphy, Pietra Dura, and char bagh style garden.

AURANGAZEB: He was puritanical and did not take an active interest in architecture.

- The major buildings of his reign include the **mausoleum of his wife Rabia ud Dauran (Bibi-ka-Makbara)** in Aurangabad, the **Badshahi Masjid** in Lahore and the **Moti Masjid** at Lal Qila, Delhi.
 - An attempt has been made to mimic the Taj Mahal in the mausoleum of his wife in Aurangabad.

Civil works of public utility during Mughals: **Bridge over the Gomati River at Jaunpur** and the **West Yamuna Canal**.

Bada Imambara, located in Lucknow, was built by **Asaf-ud-Daula** in 1784. This structure has been made by interlocking bricks without the use of mortar in its construction.

Rumi Darwaza is also located in Lucknow. It was built by the Nawab of Awadh, Asaf-ud-Daula. It was built using bricks, coated with lime. **[UPSC 2018]**

MODERN ARCHITECTURE

The introduction to modern building construction and planning occurred after the arrival of the British into India. The main aim of this architecture was to house their organisations, their people, and whatever was necessary to control a big empire like India.

Portuguese Influence

- Introduced the **Iberian style** of architecture in India.
- They also introduced the concept of **Patio houses** and the **Baroque style** involving the use of contrasting colours.
- Examples of Portuguese constructions are **Se Cathedral in Goa**; **Basilica of Bom Jesus, Goa**; **Diu Fort** etc.

French Influence

- Brought the concept of **Urban city planning**.
- They developed the towns of **Puducherry**, **Chandannagar**, **Mahe** (Kerala), **Karaikal** (Tamil Nadu), and **Yanam** (Andhra Pradesh).
- Other examples of French constructions are: **the Church of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Puducherry** and, **the Sacred Heart Church of Chandannagar (West Bengal)**.

British Influence

- Brought with them the **Gothic style** and merged it with Indian architecture resulting in the **Indo-Gothic style** of architecture.
- **Neo-Roman** architecture emerged post-1911.

Indo-Gothic Style

It is a unique blend of Indian, Persian and Gothic styles of architecture and is also known as the **Victorian style**.

- The buildings are large and elaborate, with **thinner walls** compared to the Indo-Islamic era.
- The **arches were pointed**, unlike the curving arches of the Indo-Islamic era.
- **Large windows** are the unique features of the Victorian style.
- Examples: **Victoria Memorial in Kolkata**, **Gateway of India in Mumbai** etc.

Neo-Roman Style

- The works of **Edwin Lutyens** and **Herbert Baker** were the finest examples of this style. Example: **New Delhi Government complex**.
- It was a confluence of all styles of architecture, which made the style congested and cramped.
- As a result of the **hybrid nature** of the construction, **simplicity, modernity and utility were highly compromised**.

- The focus was more on **circular buildings**, and there was an overuse of oriental motifs to realise western architectural designs.

Post-Independence Architecture

Two Schools of Architecture emerged after Independence - **The Revivalist** and **the Modernist**, but both couldn't break away from the colonial hangover resulting in a **decline in the standard** of the architectural traditions of India.

- Examples of modern architecture: the **City of Chandigarh designed by Le Corbusier**, the **Supreme Court, Rashtrapati Bhavan** etc.
- Post-independence Indian architecture is marked by a blend of modernism, sustainability, and traditional elements. Key developments include Chandigarh's modernist design by Le Corbusier, iconic structures like the Lotus Temple and Vidhana Soudha, and a

focus on green buildings like the CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre.

- The revival of vernacular architecture and the integration of local materials also became significant.
- Notable achievements include world-class government buildings, religious temples, and modern transportation infrastructure such as metros and airports, reflecting India's growth and cultural heritage. Architects like Charles Correa, Balkrishna Doshi, Pierre Jeanneret, and Sahib Singh have greatly influenced the post-independence architectural landscape of India with their designs blending modernism with Indian tradition.
- Balkrishna Doshi's IIM Ahmedabad and Charles Correa's Kanchanjunga Apartments are excellent examples of modern Indian architecture that respect the climate and context.




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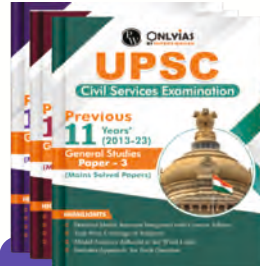

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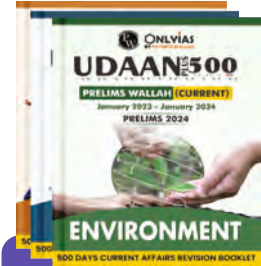
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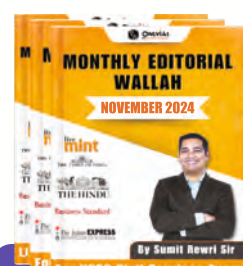
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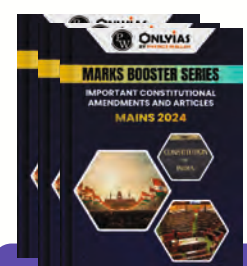
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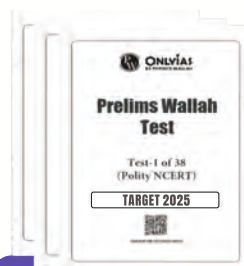
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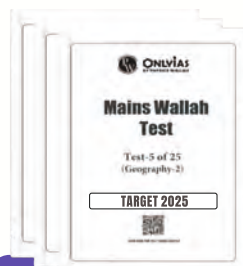
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