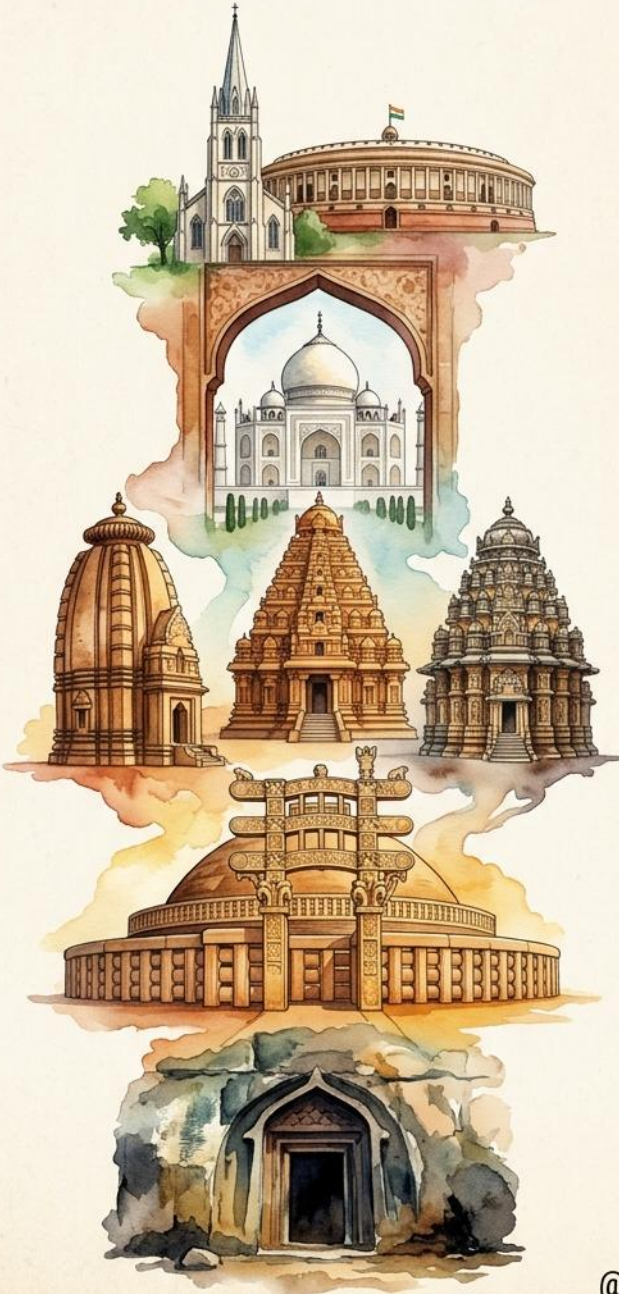


## ART & CULTURE

# Architecture & Sculpture

From Caves to Cathedrals – India Built in Stone

AC1.1 | 14 PYQs (2013-2025) | Highest Tested Topic in Art & Culture



## THE GREAT TRANSITION — WHY DID INDIA MOVE FROM CAVES TO TEMPLES?

Officer, this is the question that unlocks architecture.

For 800 years (300 BCE to 500 CE), India's greatest buildings were carved INTO rock. Then suddenly, they started building WITH rock. Why? The answer tells you everything about Indian cultural evolution.

### PHASE 1 (left): "ROCK-CUT (300 BCE - 700 CE)"



WHY caves? Buddhism needed PERMANENT worship spaces.

Monks needed monsoon shelters (vassa/rain retreat).

Rock = free material, no collapse, lasts forever.

BUT: limited by geology — you need the RIGHT kind of rock.

Examples: Barabar (Mauryan), Ajanta, Ellora, Elephanta, Karlo, Bhaja

#### What changed?

1. Hindu revival (Guptas onward) — needed temples for IDOL worship, not meditation halls
2. Royal patronage shifted — kings wanted VISIBLE monuments in cities, not hidden caves in hills
3. Engineering advances — iron clamps, lime mortar, better stone-cutting
4. South Indian dynasties (Pallavas, Chalukyas) experimented with both SIMULTANEOUSLY

What changed?

### PHASE 2 (middle): "TRANSITIONAL (600-750 CE)"

#### PALLAVA INNOVATION:

Mamallapuram rathas — still carved from rock, but shaped like STRUCTURAL buildings

These are the 'missing link' — rock-cut technology creating free-standing FORMS



Pancha Rathas: each ratha mimics a different structural temple style

Shore Temple: one of India's FIRST structural stone temples



### PHASE 3 (right): "STRUCTURAL (750 onward)"

Built stone-by-stone, block-by-block

Freedom: build ANYWHERE, any size, any height

Result: the temple explosion — Khajuraho, Konark, Thanjavur, Belur, Halebidu

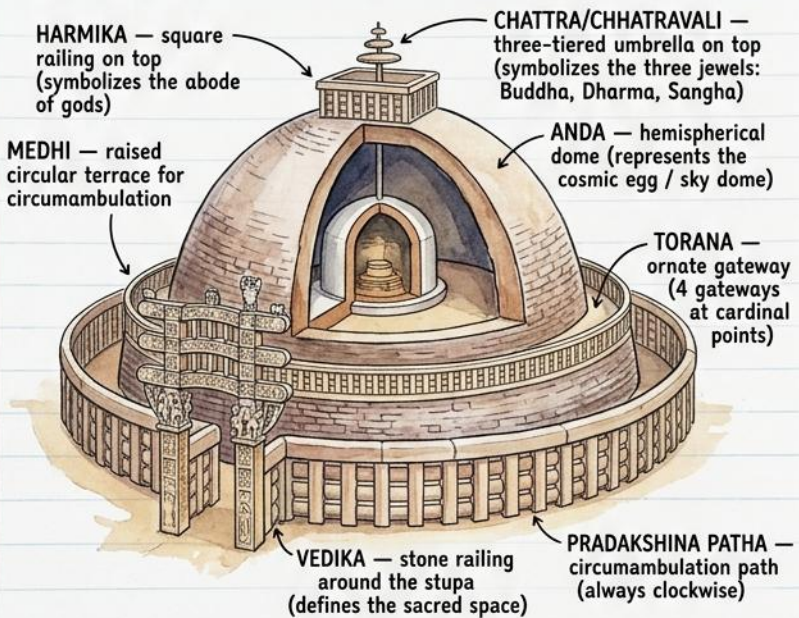


Officer, the Pallavas are the BRIDGE. UPSC loves asking about Mamallapuram because it represents the transition. If a question. If a question mentions "monolithic rathas" — it's Pallava. Always.

## THE STUPA — INDIA'S FIRST GREAT BUILDING

Officer, the stupa is where Indian architecture **BEGINS**. Before temples, before mosques, before forts — the stupa was India's first monumental structure.

And it's beautifully simple: a dome containing a relic, surrounded by a railing, with gateways for entry. That's it. But from this simplicity, an entire architectural tradition was born.



**SANCHI**  
(Madhya Pradesh)



- Founded by Ashoka (3<sup>rd</sup> BCE), enlarged by Satavahanas
- Famous for: 4 TORANAS (gateways) — Jataka tales carved in stone
- No Buddha IMAGE — only SYMBOLS (footprints, Bodhi tree, wheel)
- Discovered by: General Taylor (1818)

**BHARHUT**  
(Madhya Pradesh)



- Sunga period (2<sup>nd</sup> BCE)
- Famous for: MEDALLION reliefs — narrative panels of Jataka tales
- More 'folk art' style than Sanchi — earthy, vigorous
- Now mostly in Indian Museum, Kolkata

**AMARAVATI**  
(Andhra Pradesh)



- Satavahana period (2<sup>nd</sup> BCE - 3<sup>rd</sup> CE)
- Famous for: WHITE MARBLE, dynamic narrative panels
- Most refined and elegant of the three
- Influence spread to Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia

[2013 Q4] UPSC asked about stupa architectural features. Know the VOCABULARY: *anda, harmika, torana, vedika, pradakshina patha*. These terms ARE the question.

## THE CAVE MASTERPIECES — AJANTA, ELLORA, ELEPHANTA

Officer, three names. Three different stories. Students confuse them constantly. Let me untangle this ONCE so you never mix them up again.



### AJANTA (2nd BCE - 6th CE)

30 caves. ALL BUDDHIST — no Hindu, no Jain.

- Phase 1 (Hinayana, 2nd-1st BCE): Simple viharas. No Buddha images.
- Phase 2 (Mahayana, 5th-6th CE, VAKATAKA period): The FAMOUS murals.
- Chaitya halls (prayer) + Viharas (monastery/living quarters)
- PAINTINGS are the star — tempera on wet plaster
- UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Rediscovered: John Smith (1819) — a British officer hunting tigers!



Buddhist, Hindu, Jain

### ELLORA (6th-11th CE)

34 caves. THREE RELIGIONS — this is what makes Ellora unique.

- Caves 1-12: BUDDHIST (6th-7th CE)
- Caves 13-29: HINDU (7th-9th CE) — including Cave 16: KAILASA TEMPLE
- Caves 30-34: JAIN (9th-11th CE)

#### KAILASA TEMPLE (Cave 16):

Carved TOP-DOWN from a single rock. 200,000 tonnes removed. Rashtrakuta dynasty. The LARGEST monolithic excavation in the world.

- UNESCO World Heritage Site



### ELEPHANTA (5th-8th CE)

7 caves on an island near Mumbai. Primarily HINDU (Shaivite).

STAR: Trimurti Shiva — 20-foot bust with three faces:

- ↳ Creator (left, Brahma/feminine)
- ↳ Preserver (center, Vishnu/serene),
- ↳ Destroyer (right, Rudra/fierce)

- Rashtrakuta period (debated — possibly earlier)
- UNESCO World Heritage Site

### THE CONFUSION KILLER:

Ajanta = ONLY Buddhist + famous PAINTINGS

Ellora = Buddhist + Hindu + Jain + Kailasa Temple

Elephanta = ONLY Hindu (Shiva) + Trimurti

UPSC trap: 'Ajanta contains Hindu caves' → FALSE.

'Elephanta has Jain caves' → FALSE.

**EXAM MOMENT:** "[2023 Q82] tested cave architecture features. [2014 Q89] tested Buddhist cave characteristics.

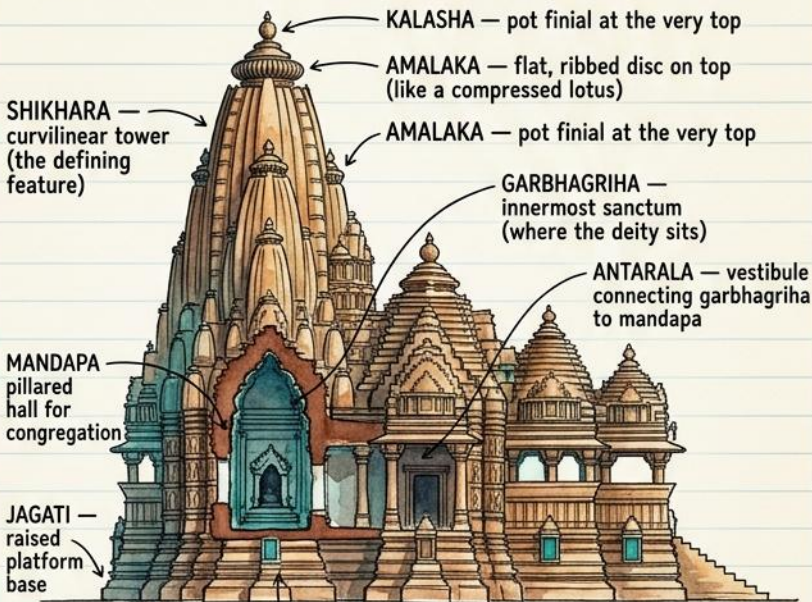
The KEY: know which religion belongs to which cave complex.

## NAGARA — THE TEMPLES OF THE NORTH

Officer, when you hear 'Nagara,' think CURVES.

The Nagara temple's signature is its curvilinear shikhara — a soaring tower that sweeps upward like a mountain peak.

No flat steps, no pyramid. Pure upward ENERGY.



✗ NO BOUNDARY WALL — temple stands in the open

ANTARALA — raised platform to mandapa

✗ NO GOPURAM — the shikhara IS the main tower

### NAGARA SUB-STYLES



**LATINA** (most common):  
Single, curved shikhara  
Example: Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswar



**PHAMSANA**: Multiple tiers, each slightly receding  
Example: Smaller shrines in Khajuraho complex



**VALABHI**: Rectangular roof with ridge (like an inverted boat)  
Example: Teli-ka-Mandir, Gwalior

### KEY EXAMPLES



Kandariya Mahadeva, Khajuraho (Chandela, 11<sup>th</sup> c.) — FINEST Nagara example  
Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswar (Somavamshi, 11<sup>th</sup> c.) — Odisha Nagara  
Sun Temple, Konark (Eastern Ganga, 13<sup>th</sup> c.) — designed as a Jagannath Temple, Puri (Ganga dynasty, 12<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Somnath Temple, Gujarat (rebuilt multiple times)

CHARIOT with 24 wheels



Officer, Odisha deserves special mention. Bhubaneswar alone has 500+ temples from 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Lingaraj-Jagannath-Konark progression shows Nagara evolving over 200 years in ONE region.

### EXAM MOMENT

[2017 Q75] UPSC tested temple architectural features.  
[2016 Q65] tested specific temple identification.  
Anchor: CURVED tower + NO gopuram = Nagara.

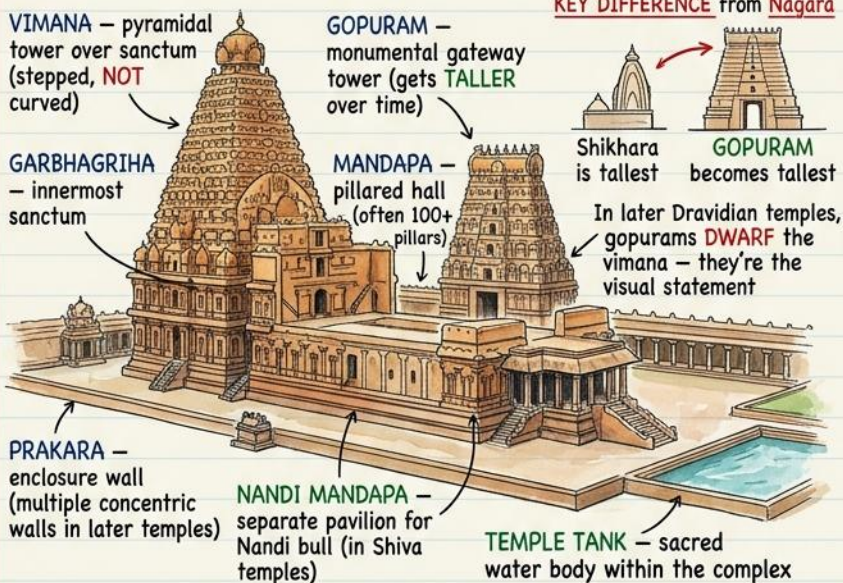


# DRAVIDIAN — THE TEMPLES OF THE SOUTH

Officer, if Nagara is about curves, Dravidian is about **GEOMETRY**.

The Dravidian temple is a fortress of faith – enclosed, monumental, with towering gateways that can be seen for kilometers.

And unlike the North, the South preserved an **UNBROKEN** temple-building tradition from the 7<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.



## DYNASTY EVOLUTION

**PALLAVA (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> CE) – The pioneers**



Mamallapuram: Rathas + Kanchipuram: Temple + Arjuna's Penance Kailasanatha Temple

**VIJAYANAGARA (14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> CE) – The grandest**



Hampi: Vittala Temple (stone chariot, musical pillars)

**CHOLA (9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> CE) – The masters**

Brihadeeswara, Thanjavur (Rajaraja I, 1010 CE) – 66m vimana, **NO** mortar, capstone = 80 tonnes



Hampi: Vittalala Temple (stone chariot, musical pillars)

● **THREE Chola temples = UNESCO 'Great Living Chola Temples'**

**NAYAKA (16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> CE) – The decorators**

Meenakshi Temple, Madurai – 14 gopurams, 33,000 sculptures



Gopurams reach maximum height and decoration

**EXAM MOMENT** [2021 Q49] and [2021 Q31] both tested South Indian temple features. [2015 Q54] tested Chola temple specifics.

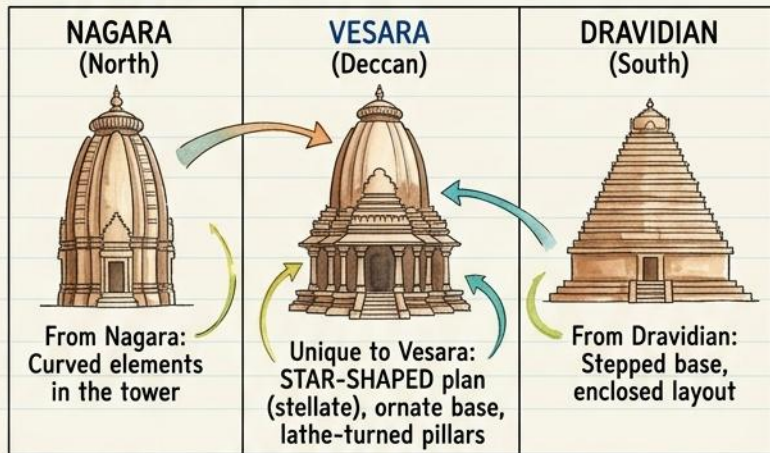
Two anchors: **PYRAMIDAL** tower = Dravidian. **GOPURAM** gateway = Dravidian.

## VESARA — THE HYBRID GENIUS OF THE DECCAN

Officer, the Deccan sits between North and South — geographically AND culturally. So naturally, its temples blend **BOTH** traditions.

The Vesara style isn't confusion — it's **CREATIVE SYNTHESIS**.

And the Hoysala temples of Karnataka are among the most beautiful buildings humans have ever created.



## CHALUKYAN EXPERIMENTS

**AIHOLE** — “Cradle of Indian temple architecture”

70+ temples in different styles — Chalukyas EXPERIMENTED here

**Durga Temple**: apsidal (curved back wall) — Buddhist chaitya hall form in a Hindu temple!

**Lad Khan Temple**: possibly earliest structural temple in the Deccan

**PATTADAKAL** — UNESCO site. 10 temples: some Nagara, some Dravidian, **SIDE BY SIDE**

The Chalukyas literally placed both styles next to each other to compare!

## HOYSALA MASTERPIECES



**BELUR**: Chennakeshava Temple (1117 CE, Vishnuvardhana)

**HALEBIDU**: Hoysaleswara Temple (12<sup>th</sup> CE)

Features that define Hoysala:

1. **STELLATE** (star-shaped) plan — walls project and recede
2. **SOAPSTONE** (chloritic schist) — soft when quarried, hardens with age → ultra-fine carving
3. **LATHE-TURNED** pillars — each pillar looks machine-made (it's not)
4. **HORIZONTAL BANDS** of sculpture: elephants → lions → scrollwork → horses → Puranic scenes
5. Raised **JAGATI** platform — you walk around the temple **ON** the platform

## EXAM MOMENT


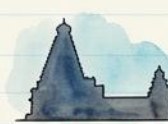


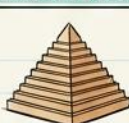



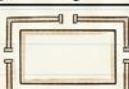

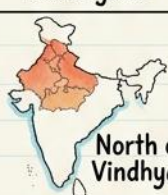


[2023 Q42] tested Deccan architectural features.

[2018 Q72] tested Chalukyan and Hoysala specifics.

Anchor: **STAR-SHAPED** plan + soapstone = Hoysala.

THE ULTIMATE COMPARISON — NAGARA vs DRAVIDIAN vs VESARA

Officer, this is your **ONE-PAGE** reference. Pin it to your wall.

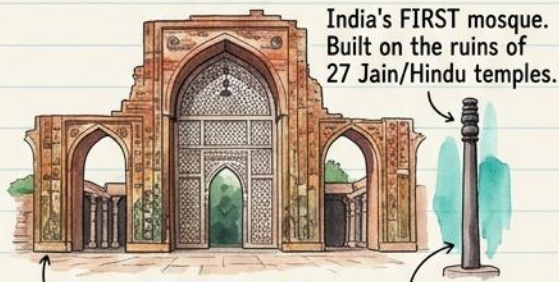
	 NAGARA	 DRAVIDIAN	 VESARA
ROW 1 — TOWER SHAPE	 CURVILINEAR (Shikhara)	 PYRAMIDAL (Vimana)	 MIXED (stepped base, softer curve)
GATEWAY	<b>NO</b> elaborate gateway	 GOPURAM — massive gateway tower	Moderate gateway
ROW 3 — PLAN SHAPE	 SQUARE or rectangular	 RECTANGULAR, enclosed compound	 STELLATE (star-shaped)
REGION	 North of Vindhyas	 South of Krishna River	 Deccan plateau
KEY DYNASTIES	Chandelas, Solankis, Gangas, Pratiharas	Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas, Vijayanagara, Nayakas	Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas
STAR EXAMPLES	Kandariya Mahadeva (Khajuraho), Konark Sun Temple, Lingaraj	Brihadeeshwara (Thanjavur), Meenakshi (Madurai), Shore Temple	Belur, Halebidu, Pattadakal, Aihole
MATERIAL	Sandstone (red, buff)	Granite (hard, durable)	Soapstone (soft, allows fine carving)
UNIQUE FEATURE	Amalaka disc on top	Temple tank + multiple prakara walls	Lathe-turned pillars, horizontal sculpture bands

## THE NEW LANGUAGE — SULTANATE ARCHITECTURE (1206-1526)

Officer, when the Delhi Sultanate arrived, they brought an entirely different architectural vocabulary. **TRUE arches (not corbelled)**, domes, minarets, calligraphy — all were **NEW** to India.

But here's the twist: they used **INDIAN** craftsmen. And Indian craftsmen carved what they knew: floral patterns, brackets, corbels. The result was neither purely Islamic nor purely Indian — it was **something entirely new**.

**QUWWAT-UL-ISLAM MOSQUE, Delhi**  
(1192, Qutbuddin Aibak)



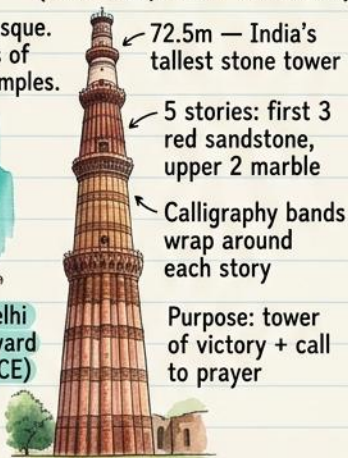
**REUSED temple pillars**  
— you can still see Hindu carvings!

India's **FIRST** mosque.  
Built on the ruins of 27 Jain/Hindu temples.

**Iron Pillar of Delhi**  
stands in its courtyard  
(Gupta period, 4th CE)

**QUTB MINAR**

(1199-1236, Aibak → Iltutmish)



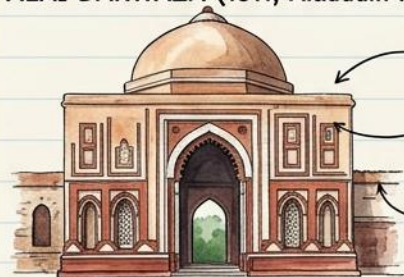
72.5m — India's tallest stone tower

5 stories: first 3 red sandstone, upper 2 marble

Calligraphy bands wrap around each story

Purpose: tower of victory + call to prayer

**ALAI DARWAZA (1311, Alauddin Khalji)**



First building in India with **TRUE pointed arch + TRUE dome**

Before this: Indian builders used **CORBELLED** arches (stepped stones)

Red sandstone + white marble = **template for all later Sultanate buildings**

**TUGHLAQ ARCHITECTURE (1320-1414)**



Tughlaqabad Fort, Firoz Shah Kotla

**AUSTERE** — fortress-like. Sloping walls (battered walls). Minimal decoration.

Tughlaq style = functional, military, **NO** excess

**Contrast:** Khalji = ornate → Tughlaq = stark

Officer, the evolution is clear: Slave/Khalji = experimental fusion → Tughlaq = austere military → Lodi = transitional → Mughal = refined perfection. **Each dynasty's PERSONALITY** shows in its buildings.

## THE MUGHAL ZENITH — ARCHITECTURE AS POWER (1526-1707)

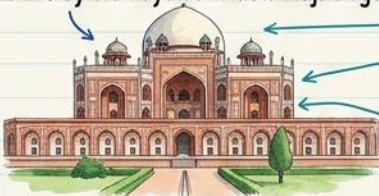
Officer, Mughal architecture is arguably the most TESTED Indo-Islamic topic. And there's a reason: each Mughal emperor had a DISTINCT architectural personality. If you know the emperor, you know the style.

### BABUR (1526-1530)



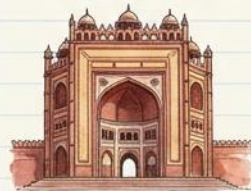
- Contributed: **CHAR BAGH** (four-part garden) concept from Persia.
- **Green for correct/safe**: Ram Bagh, Agra — possibly India's first Mughal garden.
- **Red for danger/warning**: No major buildings — too busy fighting!

**HUMAYUN'S TOMB (1565-1572)** —————> FIRST major Mughal structure  
Built by Humayun's widow Haji Begum



- Red sandstone + white marble dome
  - **CHAR BAGH** garden surrounding it
  - Prototype for the Taj Mahal (built 70 years later)
- DOUBLE DOME** — inner dome for interior proportions, outer dome for exterior grandeur

### AKBAR (1556-1605)



- **MAXIMUM FUSION** — boldest experimentation
- Fatehpur Sikri: Red sandstone city combining Hindu brackets + Islamic arches + Buddhist railings
- Buland Darwaza: 54m — tallest gateway in the world
- Panch Mahal: 5-tiered palace (like Buddhist vihara design)
- Agra Fort: Red sandstone fortress-palace

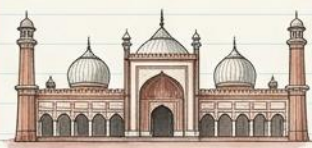
### SHAH JAHAN (1628-1658)



- The **AESTHETIC** emperor — white marble replaced red sandstone (⚠ massive effort)
- **Red**: TAJ MAHAL (1632-1653): 20,000 workers, 22 years
- Perfect symmetry + pietra dura (inlaid semi-precious stones)
- Red Fort, Delhi: Shahjahanabad — his new capital
- Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque): pure white marble

Shah Jahan = WHITE MARBLE. If the question mentions white marble Mughal = Shah Jahan.

### AURANGZEB (1658-1707)



- **DECLINE** of architecture — austere, puritanical
- Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad — called 'poor man's Taj'
- Badshahi Mosque, Lahore — his largest commission
- After Aurangzeb: Mughal architecture decays rapidly

**EXAM MOMENT** : [2024 Q65] tested Mughal architectural features.

Anchor: **RED** sandstone = Akbar. **WHITE** marble = Shah Jahan. Austere = Aurangzeb.

## THE COLONIAL CHAPTER — ARCHITECTURE AS IMPERIAL STATEMENT

Officer, colonial architecture is the **LEAST** studied but increasingly tested area. The British didn't just rule India — they **BUILT** India. Railways, post offices, universities, courts — all in European styles, but slowly absorbing Indian elements.

### GOTHIC REVIVAL (1860s-1900s)



Victoria Terminus (CST),  
Mumbai — F.W. Stevens (1888)

Bombay High Court,  
University of Mumbai

Gothic arches + Indian domes  
= "Indo-Gothic"

Why Gothic?  
British wanted to project **PERMANENCE** and **AUTHORITY**

### NEO-CLASSICAL (1780s-1850s)

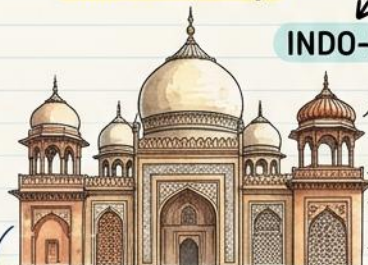
Raj Bhavan, Kolkata — modeled  
on English country house

St. Andrew's Church, Chennai

Greek columns + Roman domes  
= "civilized authority"



### INDO-SARACENIC (1880s-1930s)



**FUSION:** European structure +  
Indian decorative elements

Gateway of India, Mumbai  
(George Wittet, 1924)

Victoria Memorial, Kolkata  
(William Emerson, 1921) — Mughal  
dome on classical base

Mysore Palace, Madras Law Courts,  
Chennai Central Station

This is the **MOST** tested colonial  
style — it combines elements

### LUTYENS' DELHI (1912-1931)

- **NEW DELHI:** designed by Edwin Lutyens + Herbert Baker
- Rashtrapati Bhavan: classical columns + Buddhist railing + Mughal dome + chhatra
- India Gate: War memorial, based on Arc de Triomphe
- Parliament House (now Sansad Bhavan): circular, columned



Lutyens blended Indian motifs **INTO** classical structure — a deliberate political statement: "We **INCLUDE** your tradition within **OUR** authority"

Officer, the exam tip: **Indo-Saracenic** = the fusion style. If UPSC asks about British-Indian architectural blending, the answer is **ALMOST** always Indo-Saracenic. Victoria Memorial, Gateway of India, Mysore Palace — all Indo-Saracenic.

## THE TRAPS UPSC SETS IN ARCHITECTURE — AND HOW TO SURVIVE THEM

Officer, after 14 PYQs, I see CLEAR patterns in how UPSC tries to confuse you. Here are the traps and your defense:

A  
♦ Ajanta = Hindu caves?



Ajanta = Hindu caves?

- ✗ Ajanta is ALL Buddhist.  
Not a single Hindu or Jain cave.
- ✓ ELLORA has all three religions.

Nagara has gopurams?

- ✗ Gopurams are DRAVIDIAN.  
Nagara has NO elaborate gateways.
- ✓ Nagara's tower = curvilinear shikhara.

3  
♠ Gandhara used red sandstone?



Gandhara used red sandstone?

- ✗ Gandhara = GREY schist.  
Red sandstone = MATHURA.
- ✓ Grey = Greek-influenced NW.  
Red = purely Indian central.

Kailasa Temple is at Ajanta?

- ✗ Kailasa Temple (Cave 16) is at ELLORA.  
Rashtrakuta dynasty.
- ✓ Ajanta is famous for PAINTINGS,  
Ellora for SCULPTURE.

5  
♠ Mughal architecture is purely Islamic?



Mughal architecture is purely Islamic?

- ✗ Mughal = INDO-ISLAMIC.  
Fusion of Persian + Indian elements.
- ✓ Fatehpur Sikri has Hindu brackets,  
Buddhist railings, Islamic arches.

6  
♦ Shore Temple is rock-cut?



Shore Temple is rock-cut?

- ✗ Shore Temple is STRUCTURAL —  
built block by block.
- ✓ Pancha Rathas (also at Mamallapuram)  
are monolithic/rock-cut.

↳ Both at Mamallapuram, both Pallava —  
but different techniques!

7  
♠ Hoysala temples are Dravidian?



Hoysala temples are Dravidian?

- ✗ Hoysala = VESARA (hybrid).  
Not pure Dravidian.
- ✓ Star-shaped plan, soapstone, lathe-  
turned pillars = VESARA identifiers.

Officer, memorize these 7 traps. They cover nearly every architecture question from 2013–2025.

## PYQ WALKTHROUGHS — HOW A TOPPER THINKS

Officer, let me show you how to **APPROACH** architecture questions, not just memorize answers.

**WALKTHROUGH 1:** [2017 Q75] — A question testing temple architecture features

Step 1: Read the features described. Are they talking about **TOWER** shape?



If curvilinear/curved  
→ **NAGARA**



If pyramidal/stepped  
→ **DRAVIDIAN**



If star-shaped/hybrid  
→ **VESARA**

Step 2: Check for **GATEWAYS**

Gopuram mentioned? → **DRAVIDIAN**  
No gateway emphasis? → **NAGARA**



Step 3: Check **REGION**



North India → **Nagara**.  
South → **Dravidian**.  
Deccan → **Vesara**.

**GREEN** box: All three anchors (tower + gateway + region) should **AGREE**. If they don't, re-read the question.

**WALKTHROUGH 2:** [2014 Q85] — Sculpture school identification

Step 1: What **MATERIAL** is mentioned?



Grey stone  
→ **GANDHARA**



Red sandstone  
→ **MATHURA**



White marble  
→ **AMARAVATI**

Step 2: What **STYLE** features?



Greek/Roman influence, heavy robes  
→ **GANDHARA**



Indian features, transparent robes  
→ **MATHURA**



Dynamic narrative panels, elongated figures  
→ **AMARAVATI**

Step 3: **LOCATION** check



NW India (Taxila, Peshawar) → **GANDHARA**  
Central India (UP) → **MATHURA**  
South India (AP, Krishna River) → **AMARAVATI**

Officer, notice: material + style + location = **THREE** independent checks. If all three agree, you're confident. If one disagrees, re-examine — that's where the trap is hiding.

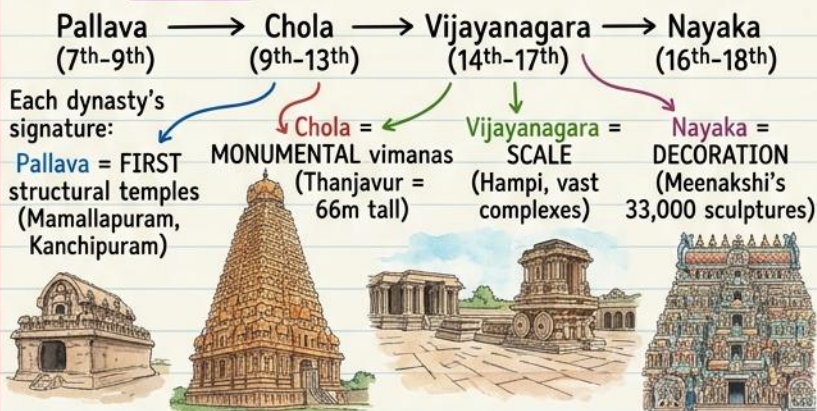
MORE PYQ WALKTHROUGHS — BUILDING YOUR MUSCLE MEMORY

**WALKTHROUGH 3 [2021 Q49] – South Indian temple architecture**

This question tests Dravidian temple knowledge.

**ANCHOR CHECK:**

1. Pyramidal vimana → Dravidian confirmed
2. Gopuram gateways → Dravidian confirmed
3. Which DYNASTY?



If the question mentions the **TALLEST** vimana → Chola (Brihadeeshwara)

If it mentions musical pillars → Vijayanagara (Vittala Temple)

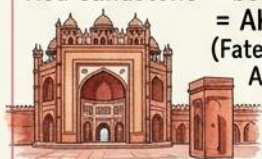
If it mentions multiple gopurams → Nayaka (Meenakshi, Madurai)

**WALKTHROUGH 4: [2024 Q65] – Mughal architecture**

**ANCHOR:** Which emperor?

emperor-style chart

Red sandstone + bold fusion = **AKBAR**  
(Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort)



White marble + pietra dura = **SHAH JAHAN**  
(Taj Mahal, Red Fort Delhi)

Austere, minimal decoration = **AURANGZEB**  
(Bibi-ka-Maqbara)



Double dome + char bagh = **HUMAYUN'S TOMB**  
(first major Mughal)



**The TRAP:** UPSC might describe features of one emperor and attribute them to another.

Your defense: Match **MATERIAL** to **EMPEROR**. **Red** = Akbar.

**White** = Shah Jahan. **Plain** = Aurangzeb.

ARCHITECTURE & SCULPTURE — THE COMPLETE MIND MAP



**ROCK-CUT**

Barabar (Mauryan, Ajivika) → Ajanta (Ajanta (Buddhist) → Ellora (all three) → Ellora (all three) → Elephanta (Hindu)

↳ Chaitya halls + Viharas

Transition: rock-cut → monolithic (Mamallapuram) → structural



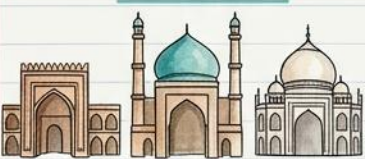
**COLONIAL**

Neo-Classical  
→ Gothic Revival  
→ Indo-Saracenic  
→ Lutyens



**INDIAN ARCHITECTURE**

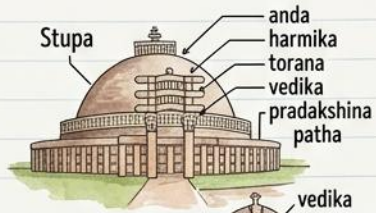
**INDO-ISLAMIC**



Sultanate: Slave → Khalji → Tughlaq → Lodi

Mughal: Babur → Humayun → Akbar → Jahangir → Shah Jahan → Aurangzeb

Regional: Gujarat, Bengal, Bijapur, Mandu



**STUPAS**

Sanchi (Ashoka/Satavahana) → Bharhut (Sunga) → Amaravati (Satavahana)

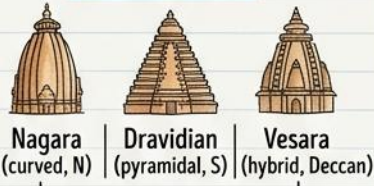


**SCULPTURE SCHOOLS**



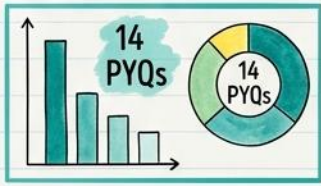
Gandhara (grey, Greek, NW)	Mathura (red, Indian, UP)	Amaravati (white, elegant, AP)
----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------------

**TEMPLE STYLES**



**Key dynasties:**

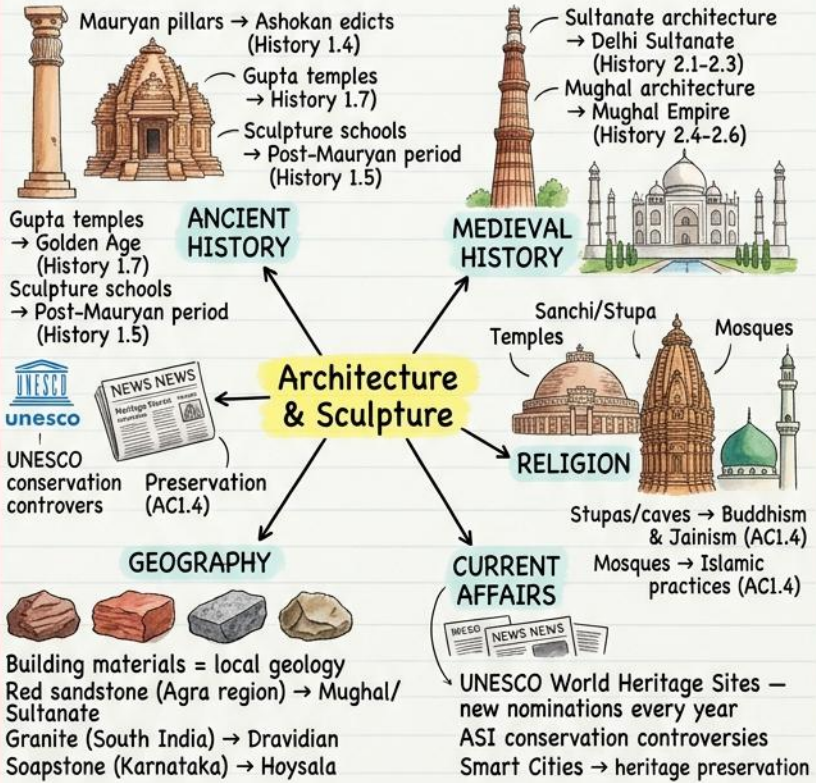
Chandela, Solanki, Pallava, Chola, Chalukya, Hoysala



**Most tested:**  
Temple styles (5)  
Sculpture schools (4)  
Caves (3)  
Indo-Islamic (2)

# WHAT ARCHITECTURE CONNECTS TO

Officer, architecture doesn't exist in a vacuum. Every building you've studied connects to HISTORY, POLITY, ECONOMY, and SOCIETY. Here's how:



## YOUR NEXT CHAPTERS:



AC1.2 Painting & Visual Arts – Ajanta murals connect directly to cave architecture



AC1.3 Performing Arts – Temple dance traditions connect to Dravidian temple architecture



AC1.4 Religion & Philosophy – Every religious tradition built its own architectural form



Officer, you've just conquered the HIGHEST-tested topic in Art & Culture. 14 PYQs worth of ammunition. Next: Painting – where we learn what was ON those cave walls.