

**Architecture: Temple, Rock cut edicts, Caves, Stupa, Buddhist, Jainism, Regional architecture ,Sculptures , Islamic architecture, Indo- gothic, Forts, Dams, Water conservation etc.**

**1) *Buddhism left an indelible imprint on ancient Indian art and architecture. Explain with adequate examples. (10 marks)***

In the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE , intellectual revolution started in the India. It gave birth to world religion – Buddhism which impacted all facets of life. It gave immense contribution to Art and Culture as given below:

**Art:**

- **Monolithic pillars** during Mauryan time, were inscribed with the Buddhist concepts of morality, humanity and piety through various symbols associated with Buddha.
- Buddhist art in the form of statues of Buddha and Boshisattvas were found at popular centres of **sculpture** such as Gandhara, Mathura etc.
- **Large statues** of Yakshas and Yakshinis are also found in many Buddhist monuments.
- **Ajanta caves** also consist of many caves dedicated to the life of Buddha, where impact of Buddhism can be seen in wall Paintings.
- Other forms of Buddhist art include **miniature paintings** of Pala rulers, music, prayer chanting, drama, poetry etc.
- **Pictorial representations** of the Jatakas are found in stupas at Bahrut and Sanchi

**Architecture:**

Three types of architectural structures, mainly associated with Buddhism are:

- **Viharas (monasteries):** Sites such as Ajanta Caves, Karla caves etc. contain several viharas. Other examples include Nalanda (also a learning centre), Namgyal monastery, etc.
- **Chaityas (prayer halls):** eg: rock-cut Barabar caves, the Great Chaitya at Karla caves etc.
- **Stupas:** Stupas were also erected over relics of Buddha, eg - Sanchi stupa, Amravati stupa etc. With change in religious practices, stupas were gradually incorporated in the chaiyta-grihas eg. Complexes of Ajanta and Ellora Caves.

**Conclusion:** In this way Buddhist art and architecture gave voices to local stories, dieties and local motifs and ideals simultaneously which really help to achieve syncretised society.

## 2) Elaborate the different style of Temple architecture in India. (10 marks)

The temple architecture in India reflects a synthesis of arts, the ideals of Dharma, beliefs, values and the way of life. The architectural principles of Indian temples are described in **Shilpa Shastras** and **Vastu Sastras**. It encouraged aesthetic independence to temple builders.

### Schools of Temple Architecture in India

There were three major schools of temple architecture in India i.e. Nagara, Dravidian and Vesara which are discussed below:

#### Nagara School of Temple Architecture

This school of temple architecture originated during the Gupta Period. The distinct features of this school are given below:

1. The temple belong to this school has **a square with a number of graduated projections** in the middle of each side giving a cruciform shape with a number of re-entrant angles on each side. .
2. **Shikhara** is the prominent structure of this school which exhibits a tower (shikhara) gradually inclining towards in a convex curve, using a concentric rotating squares and circles principle.
3. The projections in the plan are also carried upwards to the top of the Shikhara and thus, there is **strong emphasis on vertical lines in elevation**.
4. It is associated with the **land between the Himalayas and Vindhyas**.

#### Dravidian School of Temple Architecture

The temples of this school consist almost invariably of the four following parts, differing only according to the age in which they were executed.

1. The principal part, the temple itself, is called **the Vimana (or Vimanam)**. It is always square in plan and surmounted by **a pyramidal roof of one or more stories**; it contains the cell where the image of the God or his emblem is placed.
2. The **porches or Mandapas** which always cover and precede the door leading to the cell.
3. **Gopurams** are the principal features in the quadrangular enclosures that surround the more notable 44 temples.
4. **Pillared halls or Chaultris**—properly Chawadis used for various purposes and which are the invariable accompaniments of these temples.
5. It is associated with **the temples of southern India or Deccan region**.

#### **Vesara School of Temple Architecture**

- It was emerged during early medieval period and evolved from **the combination of both Nagara and Dravida styles of temple architecture**.
- Came into existence during the later **Chalukyas** of Kalyani and **Hoysalas dynasty**. This is also known as **Chalukya style or Karnataka style**.
- This school is prevalent in the Deccan and Central India, between the Vindhyas and the river Krishna. **Mahadeva Temple, Itagi** build under Chalukya Empire and **Chennakesava Temple, Belur** build under Hoyasala Empire is a classic example of this style.

#### **The distinct features this school of temple architecture are given below:**

1. It has two principal components **Vimana and Mandap joined by Antrala**.
2. The temple belongs to this school has **reduced height of temple** as compare to Nagara and Dravida School of Architecture however it retains the tiers.
3. The temple are **articulated or ornamented on the outer walls of the shrine**.

**George Michell** describes a characteristic feature as "*the obscuring of the outer profile of the building by multiplying the projections of the walls and superstructure; these move restlessly from one plane to another, relying upon effects of light and shade to lend the building its solidity and shape.*"

The temple architecture has evolved over the period of thousand of years. It has different features with local culture and availability of resources. They become hub of all socio- cultural, politico- administrative and economic activities at local level.

**(HERE BEST POSSIBLE APPROACH TO DRAW DIAGRAMS OF EACH STYLE WITH DETAIL DESCRIPTION AND EXAMPLE)**

**3) THE STUPA IS AN IMPORTANT FORM OF BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE, THOUGH IT PREDATES BUDDHISM. DISCUSS THE RELIGIOUS, ARCHITECTURAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF VARIOUS BUDDHIST STUPAS. (10 marks)**

**A Stupa** is a hemispherical structure which symbolizes burial mound of Buddha. Although having its origins in Vedic period, Stupas rose to prominence after the advent of Buddhism and peaked during Ashoka's reign. Stupas evolved as chorten in Tibet and pagoda in East Asia.

**Significance:**

**1. Religious -**

a. **Relic repository:** The first stupas were built to venerate and safeguard relics and remains of Buddha.

b. **Sacred place:** Along with monasteries (viharas) and prayer halls (chaityas), stupas form the three types of religious structures in Buddhism. Later, stupas were included in chaityas.

c. **Benefits:** It is believed to leave positive imprints on mind and that one will be able to reach enlightenment faster.

d. **Pradakshina:** Devotees can perform pradakshina (circumambulation), an important buddhist ritual around the path surrounding it.

**2. Architectural -**

a. **Oldest stone structures:** The stupas at Sanchi and Bharhut are one of the oldest stone structures in India. The gateways (toranas) were carved of stone and decorated with narrative sculptures with Jataka themes. Stone was replaced with wood in later stupas.

b. **Evidence of aniconism:** Buddha was depicted only through symbols in earlier stupas.

- c. **Inclusion of text in narrative panels** – at Bharhut
- d. **Use of marble** – at Amravati stupa
- e. Taxila excavations reveal stupas with Bodhisattva images, Gandhara **influence and patronage** of Kanishka

### **3. Philosophical -**

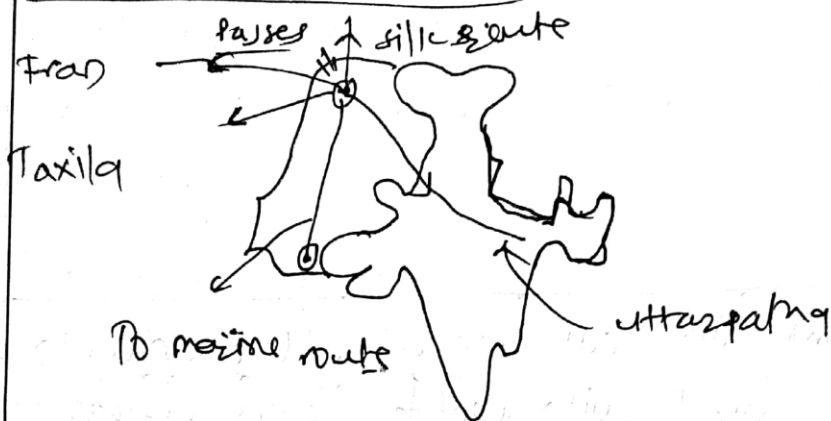
- a. **Meditation:** It is an important place for meditation.
- b. **Commemorative:** In the Tibetan tradition, stupas (chortens) were built to celebrate the life events of the Buddha.
- c. **Symbolic:** The stupas encapsulate the teachings and ideology of Buddha.
- d. **Origin of Eightfold Path:** Dhamek stupa at Sarnath marks the spot where the Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, revealing his Eightfold Path leading to nirvana.

Stupas have evolved into more than a reliquary monument. They reveal the path to enlightenment, the highest purpose of life. And so, there is need for their preservation.

- 4) **Taxila university was one of oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as university in the modern sense. Discuss. (10 marks)**

Taxila university established nearly in 4-5th century BCE so it is one of the oldest. The renowned personalities like Arya Chanakya, Kautilya, Chandragupta Maurya - founded Maurya dynasty, medicinal scholars like Agnivesh & his disciples etc were associated with Taxila university. It was learning centre of philosophy, astronomy, political science, medicine etc.

## Strategic location & fame to Haridwar:



i) Due to close to central Asia, Silk route many scholars lived here

ii) It was near to Kushana, Sakas core area so it get early favour & fame

iii) The students from different areas (foreign students) learned here

iv) However, its free & modern education with pragmatic approach also provided the large bunch of scholars

v) On trade routes so centre of Buddhist monks, scholar's rest. So Haridwar not university like Nalanda...

vi) No entrance exam : Nalanda has Huan Tsang

mention it.

ii) The residential availability of <sup>royal</sup> patronage from Gupta to Nalanda but not Taxila.

iii) Curriculum in Nalanda but Taxila - admission to different courses according to student capacity & guru's decision.

iv) Exact pattern & timeframe to achieve degree/excellency in Nalanda but not in Taxila etc.



**5) Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine asthetic sense of comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. (10 marks)**

**Mesolithic rock paintings of India** found in Western Ghats, central mountains, Himalayas like Bhimbetka, near Mumbai recently etc. They showed cultural, social, economic life of people with their interest in art of paintings.

**Mesolithic rock out architecture -> cultural life of the times:-**

1. Most of **caves** were **natural** not artificial shows their habitat in natural caves (not in artificial structure )
2. The painting at Bhimbetka shows **dancing people**-> shows community bonding & enjoyment.
3. **Hunting activities, use of fire for** making food shows cultural practices.
4. Some **images** of children , mother, women with babies, pregnant women shows importance of this section.
5. **The cloths** on body shows use of cloths in that times.
6. Different animals shows **domestication** of Dog & Hunting & gathering economy.
7. Some animals like **snake absent** , some paintings of **astronomical activities**.

**Mesolithic rock cut architecture & fine asthetic sense comparable to modern painting:**

1. **Use of linear diagram and minute details** like pregnant women , dogs as domesticated , comparable to modern activities.
2. Use of **colors** shows equivalence to modern colors like Red, Green, Blue, Yellow.
3. **Sinuuous linear and use of detailing like** in dancing activities are somewhat comparable to modern arts.

However, they seems to **inferior to modern paintings** in following aspects:

1. Effect of depth
2. Proper depiction of faces, expressions, emotions on faces.
3. Multiple colors with shades etc.

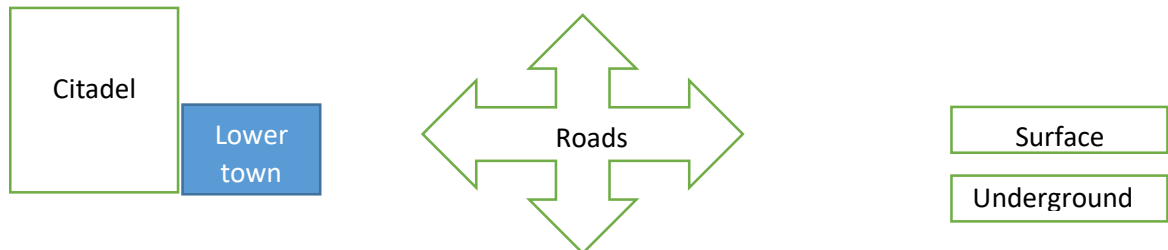
But , they are the most advance of their times.

While knowledge of cultural activities from paintings is limited because different interpretations by archaeologists.

**6) To what extent the urban planning and culture of the IVC provided inputs to present day urbanization ? Discuss. (15 marks)**

The urban planning and culture of IVC period was progressive, scientific, liberal. It may help to us now. IVC- urban planning is helpful to present day urbanization:

**1. Scientific urban planning:**



City were well planned, roads cuts perpendicular and underground drainage with soakpits can help in todays smart city mission

**2. Use of sanitation:** Focus on bath and use of toilets- ring flushed toilets from Mohenjadaro and Great bath etc. can solve problem of open defication.

**3. Resource management:** even survive in semi arid area of makran coast and afghanisthan – shortughai, Grainaries of Harappa -> to establish efficient cities

**4. Proper City administration** – city emerged trade centre and economic machines of IVC and our cities are now depressed by tax collection depends on funds now.

**5. Underground drainage and water conservation** techniques like soakpits etc.

**IVC Culture -> Helpful to present day urbanisation:-**

- 1. Cosmopolitan Culture :** Tolerance and assimilation of Austro-Mongoloids, Meditterian Peoples-> useful fir communal harmony in our large cities.
- 2. Adoption of New Practices** like lipstic, vanity coffin from mesopotomian.
- 3. Simple living rather than luxurious** -> helpful in sustainable use of resources now.
- 4. Migration for resources.**
- 5. Disaster management** -> Adopted to nature -> seven layer at Mohenjadaro-> preparation for disasters.
- 6. Failure of it->** conservative attitude and resource mismanagement has caused decline of her urban phase. -> learn from the mistakes.

In this way Harappan civilization was a very rich and successful civilization. The harappan civilization was one of the first urbanised civilizations of the world. The success of her over thousands years is helpful to present day urbanization.

**7) Indian ancient architecture is much more than what they are. What teachings can one draw from India's ancient inscriptions and temples in conserving water and fighting droughts today? Examine. (15 marks)**

Our ancient temple architecture act as a source of documentation of socio economic conditions of that period. Through this, we can also draw the inscription on water conservation and drought management procedures during that period.

Ancient inscriptions on Water conservation and drought management:

1. **Tamilnadu area irrigated** with Cauvery and Tamirabarani delta, as the Cauvery delta is much more fertile and larger with tributaries but the number of drought related inscriptions more can be found in Tamirabarani area.
2. **Temple inscriptions** were always documents connected with the sale, transfer and maintenance of irrigated lands.
3. The **local residents** were always duty bound to conserve and protect the water.
4. During the Pandyan empire, the **maintaince of irrigation** was completely by the locals.
5. **Maintainence of the tanks** through desilting, enlargement, building and maintaininf of **new canals** was a continuous and consistent process. **Maintainence cost** provided by giving fishing rights to that area, and also profits shifted to construct new canals and tanks.
6. In **sirvipulthur area inscription** states that every abled man should participate in the conservation process.
7. Inscriptions also states that, how the **land can be reclaimed after disasters and get concessions from land and water taxes.**

Finally, conserving water is emotionally connected to them, for the ancient people water is not a right it's the responsibility and community participation is high for these process, as the conservation of water is not the responsibility of king the primary responsibility is the local people.

## **8) COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE INDO-ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE WITH THAT OF TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE IN INDIA. (15 marks)**

In the India with advent of Islam with the help of local masons, sultans started building Islamic architecture. Due to this syncretic architecture generated over the years which is unique and rich, generally called as Indo-Islamic architecture. So there are a lot of similarities and differences in the temples and Indo-Islamic architecture.

### **Commons to Indo-Islamic and Temple architecture**

- 1 Ornamental designs and their use in mosque as well as temple
- 2 Row of colour surrounding the Open courts in Both
- 3 Both have the Architectural structure in front of which prayer are offered [However muslims arch have become mere structure while of temples have evolved ]

### **Contrast features**

- 1 Mosque open and spacious, temples were dark and closed
- 2 Construction with dome shaped, While temple with have shikharas and Vimaanas depending over Nagara or Dravidian style of temples
- 3 Prayers in front of deity, in Garbha griha. While in Mecca it is pointing towards the Mihrab. Imam presided to its right over proceeding of the prayers
- 4 Mosque were perfected by Arch shape, while temple may have known but ceiling were mostly flat
- 5 Lime was though known for stacking mud brick and stones However it was Islamic architecture which used cementing age t mortar perfecting the architecture with strength and stability.
- 6 Ornamental features of Muslims were flowers, arabic writing, decorating features while that of temples were Deities, human forms etc.

So both architecture has been important for the cultural aspects of that period but also reflecting the society, polity and economy. Both have help the king to establish authority and generation of the labour.

**9) DISCUSS THE EVOLUTION OF ROCK CUT ARCHITECTURE IN INDIA? EXAMINE WHY CAVE NO 16 OF ELLORA CAVES IS CONSIDERED AS THE EPITOME OF ROCK CUT ARCHITECTURE IN INDIA? (15 MARKS)**

The ancient Indian art is concocted by rock cut architecture. . They are religious of nature or at least made for religious purposes.

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**EVOLUTION OF ROCK CUT ARCHITECTURE :**

Rock Cut architecture differs from '**structural architecture**' in many ways.The evolution can be discussed in following manner :

**Early Caves :**

- (1) The Bhimbetka Rock shelter in **Mesolithic period** first illustrates the settlement of human life.
- (2) The oldest surviving rock cut is in Barabar caves. These caves from **the time of Ashoka** echoed the policy of religious tolerance.

**Buddhist Caves:**

- (1) The Kanheri caves were excavated which were occupied by the Buddhist monks.
- (2) There are around 1,200 cave temples still in existence, most of which are Buddhist. The residence of monks were called '**viharās**', and the congregational prayer-halls or shrines as '**chaityas**'.
- (3) The Ajanta caves are 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave-temples carved into the sheer vertical side of a gorge near a waterfall-fed pool.

**Monolithic Rock Architecture By Pallavas.**

The town of **Mahabalipuram** is home to a curious experiment, to determine which form of temple is the best. This led to the sculpting out of monolithic rock, scalded down replicas of actual temples, which are now known as the 'Five Rathas of Mahabalipuram' or the 'Seven Pagodas'.

**Why cave no 16 of Ellora cave is Considered as epitome of Rock cut architecture?**

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- 1) A rock-cut temple is carved from **a large rock, and excavated and cut to imitate a wooden or masonry temple, with wall decorations, and works of art.**

- 2) The finest example of this type is **the Kailashanath Temple at Ellora**. The Kailashanath Temple, or Cave 16 as it is known at Ellora Caves, is located at Maharashtra on the Deccan Plateau
- 3) **a huge monolithic temple** dedicated to Lord Siva.
- 4) **excavated from the top down**, rather than by the usual practice of carving into the scarp of a hillside.
- 5) The Temple was created **through a single, huge top-down excavation** 100 feet down into volcanic basaltic cliff rock.
- 6) **Tolerance**: There are a total of 34 caves built at Ellora, but the other 33 caves, Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain were carved into the side of the plateau rock.
- 7) The effect of Kailashanath Temple is that of **a freestanding temple surrounded by smaller cave-shrines carved out of the same black rock**.
- 8) The Temple is carved with **figures of gods and goddesses** from Puranas, along with mystical beings such as heavenly nymphs and musicians and figures of good fortune and fertility (mithuna).  
The caves in our country contain artworks of global importance. Most are adorned with exquisite stone carvings. These ancient and medieval structures are amazing achievements of structural engineering and craftsmanship.

**10) Gupta period is often called the Golden Age of ancient India. Examine( 15 marks)**

**Answer:**

Prosperity in the Gupta Empire initiated a period known as the Golden Age of India, marked by extensive inventions and discoveries in science, technology, engineering, art, dialectic, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion, and philosophy.

1. Chandragupta II promoted the synthesis of science, art, philosophy, and religion because his court contained the **Navartna**, or the Nine Jewels who produced advancements in many academic fields.

2. **Astronomy: Aryabhata** envisioned the concept of zero, as well as working on the approximation for the long-form number Pi. Aryabhata is also believed to be the first

of the Indian mathematician-astronomers who postulated the theory that the Earth moves round the Sun and is not flat, but instead is round and rotates on its own axis.

3. **Math: Varahamihira** was an astronomer, astrologer, and mathematician, whose main work is a treatise on mathematical astronomy.

4. **Medicine: Sushruta** wrote the Samhita, a Sanskrit text on all of the major concepts of ayurvedic medicine, with innovative chapters on surgery.

5. **Literature: Kalidasa**, considered the greatest poet and dramatist of the Sanskrit language, also belonged primarily to this period. He wrote plays, such as Shakuntala

6. **Sex education: Vatsyayana**, authored the Kama Sutra, which became a standard work on human sexual behavior,

7. **Moral education:** while Vishnu Sharma is author of the **Panchatantra** fables, one of the most widely-translated, non-religious books in history

8. This time also produced **magnificent architecture, including palaces and temples, as well as sculptures and paintings**. The walls of Buddhist shrines and monasteries were decorated with colorful frescoes, a type of wall paintings.

### **Nagara style evolved**

9. **Educational Institutions:** Nalanda etc

10. Gupta Empire became **an important cultural center and influenced nearby kingdoms and regions** in Burma, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia. Classical forms of Indian music and dance, created under the Guptas, are still practiced all over Asia today.

11. **Economic prosperity:** large number of gold coins and prosperity of secondary activities

12. **Unified India under single umbrella** after Mauryas.

Due all this factor The Gupta age is called as golden age. **However there was some limitations:**

