

Art and Culture Class 05

2nd March, 2024 at 9:00 AM

A BRIEF REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS CLASS (09:09 AM):

SUB-STYLES OF NAGARA (09:11 AM):

- **Odisha style of temple:**
- **Odisha style** of the temple started to develop under the patronage of **Ganga and Gajapati dynasty** rulers.
- Generally, boundary walls are created in the **Odisha temple (OT)**.
- The characteristic feature of the OT is its tower, known as **Deul Shikhara**.
- It goes almost vertical till the top when it suddenly starts to curve near the top.
- The prayer wall in Odisha style is called **Jagamohan**.
- The exterior walls of the temple are lavishly decorated with intricate carving and the interior walls are kept plain.
- Inside the premise of the temple dedicated mandaps are created for **Bhoga** and musical performances.
- **Eg: Sun Temple, Konark** (It is also known for Tantric practices); **Jagannath Temple, Puri** (The idols of deities in Puri are made from neem wood, and every **12th** year during **Nabkalevar festival**, old images are replaced by the new, the images of the deity are unfinished); **Lingaraj Temple, Bhuvneshwar**.
- **Chandela style/Khajuraho temple (09:40 am):**
- It developed under the patronage of **Chandela ruler** of Bundelkhand.
- **Features:**
- It is considered as the climax of the Nagara style.
- These temples are created on a relatively very high platform.
- Both exterior and interior walls were lavishly decorated with intricate carvings.
- One of the characteristic features is the **multiplicity of Shikharas** of varying sizes which gives an impression of mountain range.
- The walls of the temple were also decorated with erotic sexual images.
- Not only Hindu but also Jain temples were created in this style.
- **(Note:**
- **Circular temple style** also developed in the Bundelkhand area under the patronage of the **Kacchapaghata dynasty**.
- These circular temples were created at **Morena, Jabalpur, and Khajuraho**.
- It is believed that these temples were the inspiration behind the **old parliament building**.
- These temples are known as **Chaunsath Yogini Temple**).
- **Eg: Kandariya Mahadev Temple, Lakshmana Temple, Parsvanath Temple**
- **Solanki Style of Temple (09:54 am):**
- It started to develop under the patronage of **Chalukya Solanki** rulers of Gujarat.
- **Features:**
- The exterior walls of the temple were optimally decorated and the interior walls had lavished decoration with intricate carvings.
- Stone tracery work is one of the highlighting features of Solanki Temple.
- The majority of the temples in this style were created facing the east direction so that on the day of an equinox, sun rays directly enter into **Garbhagriha**.
- In some of the temples, stepped water tanks were also created.
- Moreover, on the steps of the tank, small replicas of the temple were also created.
- Not only Hindu but Jain temples are also created in this style.
- **Eg: Somnath Temple; Sun Temple, Modhera; Ambaji Temple, Ambaji; Bhadrashwar Jain Temple, and Dilwara Jain Temple of Mount Abu.**

- **Note:**
- In this tradition, highly adorned step-wells were also created.
- On the walls of the step-wells, beautiful sculptures were created based on Hindu mythology.

- **Eg:** Rani Ki Vav.

SOUTH INDIAN ARCHITECTURE (10:30 AM):

- Temple art in South India started to develop under the patronage of **Pallava rulers**.
- Their initial creations were rock-cut cave architecture which further went on to develop into a **Dravida style** of temple.
- **Evolution of Dravida Temple:**
- **Mahendravarman Stage:**
- In this very first stage, **rock-cut cave architecture** was created.
- Big rocks were cut to create chambers inside which idols/images of deities were placed.
- The initial structure was called as **Mantap** and it was created at **Mammandur** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **2nd stage - Narsimhavarman stage:**
- In this stage, rocks were not only cut from the inside but also from the outside to give proper shape to the rock from the outside.
- The newly developed structure came to be known as Rath.
- It was created mainly at **Mahabalipuram** and the example is **Pandava Rath**, the biggest is **Dharmaraj Rath** dedicated to **Yudhishtira** and the smallest is **Draupadi Rath**.
- **3rd Stage - Rajsimhavarman stage:**
- In this stage, the **real structural temples** were created.
- The characteristic feature of this stage was the creation of a pyramidal inclining tower known as **Vimana**.
- It is believed that this stage gave rise to the Dravida style of temple.
- **Eg: Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram; Kailashnath Temple, Kanchipuram.**
- **4th stage - Nandivarman stage:**
- In this stage, big temples were not created but the Dravida style was popularized in many parts of South India.
- One of the notable examples from this style is the **Vaikunth Perumal Temple** of **Kanchipuram**.

- **Dravida style of temple (11:08 am):**
- Generally, higher enclosure walls are created in Dravida Temples.
- They also create a large number of **Gateways** or **Gopuram** from all sides.
- Big Vimanas are also created on Gopurams and in general small Vimanas are created on **Garbhagriha**.
- Vimana is the characteristic feature of **Dravida temples**.
- It is an inclining pyramidal tower.
- **Vimanas** also depicts a large number of sculptural banners based on Hindu mythology.
- **Ardhamandapa** of the temple is an entrance to the prayer hall and generally images of **Nandi** are created in this part so a flag of the temple is also installed in this part.
- Inside the premise of the temple, dedicated mandaps for musical performances and a **Bhoga** for Prasad are also created.
- Antarala is a narrow passage which connects the inner sanctum with the prayer hall.
- At the entrance of **Garbhagriha**, generally, sculptures of **Dwarpala**/guards of the temple were created.
- (On the other hand, in **Nagara temple**, at the entrance of **Garbhagriha** images of river goddess **Ganga** or **Yamuna** were created.
- In some temples, an image of **Mithun** or an embracing couple was created).
- Generally in Southern temples, a **stepped water tank** is created.
- Like the Nagara style, a crucified ground plan was preferred in a good number of Dravida temples.
- Similarly, many of the temples in the south follow the **Panchayatana style**.
- **Eg: Brihadishwara Temple of Tanjore:**
- **The** construction of this temple was initiated by Raha Raha Chola i 1011 AD.
- It is considered as one of the architectural wonders of India.
- It was the climax of the Dravida style of the temple and once its construction was complete, it was the largest temple in India and its tower was the tallest in India (68 m high).
- In the temple construction, a puzzled technique or interlocking pattern of the stones was used.
- **Substyles of Dravida Temple (11:44 am):**
- **Vijaynagar Style:**
- Very high enclosure walls were created in this style.
- On the walls of the temple, a large number of images of supernatural horses, lions, and bull was created.
- **Gopurams** were now become huge in this style.
- The characteristic feature of this style was the creation of the Amman Shrine dedicated to the Chief wife of the main god.
- They also introduced Kalayanmandapam inside the premises of the temple to celebrate the marriages of gods and goddesses.
- **Eg: Virupaksha Temple, Hampi; Virbhadra Temple, Lepakshi; Hazar Ramaswamy Temple, Lepakshi.**

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS:Continuation of Dravida Style.