

## **Art & Culture Class 07**

8th March, 2024 at 1:00 PM

### **PROVINCIAL ARCHITECTURE DURING THE DELHI SULTANATE PERIOD (1:10 PM)**

#### ***Gujarat Architecture***

- Gujarat architecture was mainly developed under Ahmed Shah of Gujarat.
- It incorporated many of the Hindu architectural traditions in old Ahmedabad city.
- For example, columns similar to Hindu temple art, stepped water tanks, and many of the buildings with lintel roofs.
- The Arch and dome method was incorporated from the Islamic tradition.
- The notable feature of Gujarat architecture is the development of intricate jali works, in fact, they are regarded as one of the best in India.
- For example, old Ahmedabad city, Tin Darwaza, Sidi Sayyidi Mosque

#### ***Bijapur Architecture***

- It developed under the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur.
- It is noted for the creation of cornices in the buildings and almost spherical or bulbous domes.
- They created three facet arches in their buildings out of which two were blind and only one was functional.
- For example, Gol Gumbaz of Bijapur, Adil Shah Mausoleum, and Jama Masjid of Bijapur.

### **MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE (1:21 PM)**

- Babur had very little time in India to create any landmark architecture though he created two mosques one at Panipat and the other at Shambal.
- The entire tenure of Humayun went into confronting the challenges thrown by his own brothers Bahadur Shah of Gujarat and Sher Shah Suri of Bihar and Bengal.
- Humayun led the foundation of one of the precursor cities of Delhi Din Panah but he was not able to complete it.
- Later, Sher Shah Suri completed the city and renamed it Shergarh.
- After the death of Humayun, his wives Hamida Begum and Begha Begum constructed the first landmark buildings of the Mughals i.e. Humayun's tomb.
- This building is a unique combination of red sandstone and white marble.
- Tudor arches were created in this building and there was a perfect symmetry with all the arches.
- This building is also believed to be earthquake resilient because of the method followed in construction.
- Another important feature was the planting of Chahar Bagh around this building (four similar identical gardens).

### ***Akbar's period architecture***

- Akbar's period is noted for the development of synthesis or fusion architecture.
- In the beginning, he constructed the Red Fort in Agra, but later in reverence of Sufi Saint Saleem Chisti, he decided to shift his capital complex to the nearby town Fatehpur Sikri.
- A large number of buildings were created inside Fatehpur Sikri town which are as follows:
- Panch Mahal
- It was a five-storey building and each storey had receding space.
- It was completely created in Rajput style.
- It had a large number of carved columns and hanging balconies like the Rajput style.
- Jodha Palace
- essentially it was created in Rajput style but from Mughal tradition, the dome structure was incorporated into it.
- Salim Chisti's tomb
- It was created in pearl white marble and it is noted as one of the finest jali works.
- Buland Darwaza
- It was created to celebrate the Gujarat victory of Akbar.
- In this gateway, Tudor arches were created and it marked the beginning of Tudor Gateways in Mughal House.
- Ibadat Khana
- It was a hall where Akbar organized discussion and deliberation with the representatives of all the religions.
- Diwan-e-Khas and Diwan-e-Aam
- Diwan-e-Khas was the meeting place with important officers and Diwan-e-Aam was a meeting place with the general public to address their grievances.
- Some other important buildings include Birbal Mahal, Jahangiri Mahal, and Jodha's kitchen.
- Akbar often gave considerate charity to many of the Hindu temples for example, Gobind Dev Temple of Vrindhavan and Keshav Rai Temple in Mathura.

### ***Jahangir's Period architecture***

- Jahangir created Akbar's tomb at Sikandra and Moti Masjid at Lahore.
- The majority of the architectural initiatives of this time were taken by Empress Noor Jahan.
- After the death of her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg, she constructed his tomb named as Itmad-ud-Daula's tomb at Agra.
- It was the first building of the Mughal house created in pure white marble.
- another important feature is the wide usage of the Pitradura technique of decoration.
- It is believed by many that the ground plan of this tomb inspired the ground plan of the Taj Mahal.
- Noor Jahan was also instrumental in the planting of Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh in Srinagar.

### ***Shah Jahan's Period Architecture***

- Shah Jahan's period is considered the climax of Indo-Islamic architecture or the golden age of medieval architecture.
- Almost all the features of the Indo-Islamic architecture reached its climax in this period.
- Shah Jahan added white marble buildings in Red Fort in Agra.
- He also constructed a Moti Masjid in Agra.
- After the death of his beloved wife Anjuman Bano Begum popularly known as Mumtaz Mahal, Shah Jahan constructed the Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved wife.
- This building is regarded as the marvel of the medieval period created in pure white marble.
- One of the important features of the Taj Mahal is the foreshortening effect.
- It is the creation of the illusion of the varying size of the Taj Mahal from a particular distance and height.
- Another ambitious project of Shah Jahan was the construction of the last precursor city of Delhi, Shahjahanabad which included structures like Red Fort Delhi, Chandani Chowk, Fatehpuri Masjid, Jama Masjid, and Meena Bazar.

### ***Aurangzeb's Period***

- It was the period of decline and disintegration of the Mughal Art.
- Aurangzeb stopped patronage of memorial architecture, but he continued his patronage of religious architecture.
- He constructed the Moti Masjid inside Red Fort Delhi and the Badshahi Mosque at Lahore (it was the biggest mosque in the world for about 150 years).
- During the tenure of Aurangzeb, one of his sons initiated the construction of Rabia-ud-Daurani Makbara or Bib ka Makbara at Aurangabad.
- It is a poor imitation of the Taj Mahal.

## **PROVINCIAL ARCHITECTURE DURING THE MUGHAL PERIOD (2:35 PM)**

### ***Sikh Architecture***

- Sikh Gurudwara mainly developed during the Mughal Period and some of the Mughal elements inspired the Gurudwara Architecture.
- For example, dome structure and arched gateways.
- They created a unique style of dome known as a fluted dome with a finial on top.
- Gurudwaras are also noted for the multiplicity of the Kiosks (Chatri) meant for different social services including langar.
- A stepped water tank is an essential feature of Sikh Gurudwaras.
- They are meant for purification, healing, ritual bathing, and symbol of equality.
- For example, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Nanded Shahib, Sheeshganj Gurudwara, Patna Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib, Nankana Sahib, etc.

### ***Rajput Architecture***

- Rajputs were one of the finest fort makers in the world.
- They created some of the strongest forts of the medieval time.
- They took arch and double dome structures from the Mughal style.
- They created beautifully carved cornices in half-bow shapes.
- Another notable feature was the construction of hanging balconies in various shapes and sizes.
- Rajputs used a wide variety of stones but they mainly preferred pink sandstone, buff color stone, and marble.
- Their buildings are also known for being one of the best types of Mosaic flooring.
- Rajput ruler Jai Singh II constructed the pink city of Jaipur on the principles of Vastu Shastra.
- He also constructed astronomical observatories Jantar Mantar at Jaipur, Delhi, Varanasi, Mathura, and Ujjain.
- One of the initial level labyrinths was created by the Rajput rulers.
- Some important forts constructed are at Amer, Kumbhalgarh, Mehrangarh, Chittorgarh, Ranthambore, Jaisalmer, etc.
- A few examples of other buildings are Hawa Mahal, Umed Bhawan, Rambaggh Palace, Udai Vilas Palace, etc.

## **MODERN BRITISH ARCHITECTURE (3:20 PM)**

### ***Indo-Gothic Architecture***

- Indo-Gothic art was mainly practised in the 19th century.
- It was the replication of the Western style in India with the incorporation of the Indian elements.
- Features
- It led to the introduction of advanced mechanical engineering tools in India which included the use of steel and iron rods in construction.
- Now they created thinner walls but the strength of the walls remained intact.
- They created large windows and also ensured cross-ventilation.
- Pointed arches were created.
- Victorian Decco Art was used for decorating the buildings which included the incorporation of clock towers and designs created from plaster of Paris (the Victorinac deco ensemble of CST and Fort area Mumbai has been included in UNESCO Heritage Place)
- Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras are considered as Indo-Gothic cities.
- St. Paul Cathredal, Writer's Building, Victoria Memorial in Calcutta; Rippon building in Chennai; and Churchgate, Gateway of India, CST, Bombay High Court building in Mumbai are a few examples of Indo-Gothic Art.

**Topic for the next class: Neo-Roman Style and Religion and Philosophy**