



CHAPTER- 12

ARCHITECTURE AS SYMBOL OF POWER

NOTES:

- During the medieval period the rulers built huge structures like the Qutb Minar for emphasizing their moral right to be rulers and for the use and comfort of his subjects.
- Generally the structures were of two kinds-
 - 1 Forts, palaces, garden residences and tombs.
 - 2 Structures meant for the public activity including temples, mosques, tanks, wells, caravan sarais and bazaars etc.

A .SKILLS AND STYLES.

- The monuments can provide an insight into the skills and technologies involved in its construction. For example the Trabeate or corbelled style were used for construction of roofs.
- In the period between eighth and thirteen century, the Trabeate style was used in building of temples.
- From the thirteenth century, two distinct styles emerged-
 - (i) the superstructure above the rooms, windows and doors, the weights were carried by arches.
 - (ii) Limestone cement began to be used in construction.
- Before the Muslims came to India, temple architecture was of two styles – Nagara style and Dravida style.

NAGARA STYLE.

- This style was developed during the 5th century, which was characterized by a beehive- shaped and multi layered tower(Shikhara). Khajuraho temples in Madhya Pradesh is one example of such style.

KHAJURAHO TEMPLES.

- The Khajuraho temple complexes are different in plan and design, they also have some common features.
- Each one of them have been built on very high platforms, each one have an entrance hall(mandap) and a holy place (garbagriha).
- The temples have been built either in granite or combination of granite and light sandstone.

DRAVIDA STYLE.

- In the Dravida style of temples, the towers(vimana) of the temples are pyramidal in shape and is of a series of layers which diminish as they go up and it has an enclosure and a gateway (gopuram).
- The distinct feature of the Dravida style can be seen in the rock cut temples of Mahabalipuram. .

RAJARAJESHWARA TEMPLE:

- Under the Cholas, temple architecture in the south reach its zenith.
- The Rajarajeshwara temple at Thanjavur(Tanjore) have been named after name of the king.
- The Rajarajeshwara temple, especially its tower is the finest example of Dravida style of architecture, which is tower shaped like a pyramid in 13 successive storey.
- Under the Vijayanagara Empire, the temples had rectangular enclosure walls with towered gateways in the middle of each side.

VESSARA STYLE:

- A different style but having certain elements of the Nagara and Dravida styles developed in the central part of India.
- The Vessara style, also known as the Deccan architecture was started in Karnataka by the Chalukyas in Badami.

- The Rastrakutas also patronized architecture and one of the best specimens of their architecture is the rock-cut kailashnath temple, famous for its unique architecture in the world.
- The Sun temple in Konark is another famous specimen of Deccan style which was built by Raja Narsimhadeva and this temple is included in world heritage list.

ISLAMIC SCHOOL :

- The Persian architecture design and style was introduced by the Muslims in India.
- However the architecture got mixed with Hindu architecture as they were put into effect by the Hindu and it led to the introduction of Indo- Persian school of architecture.
- This school produced two types of structures Religious and secular.

UNDER DELHI SULTANATE:

- The Delhi Sultans built huge and imposing buildings with a mixture of the Turkish and local architecture which enriched the Islamic architecture.
- Quwat-ul-Islam , Alai Darwaza and Hauzkhas are some buildings of this style.

UNDER THE MUGHALS:

- The Mughal age was also known as second classical age due to the cultural developments and its architecture made the most remarkable contribution.
- Salient features of the Mughal architecture are the graceful domes, the small domes at the corners standing on pillars, a pillared palace hall and flaunted gateways.
- The Humayun Tomb and Agra Fort was built by Akbar .
- Some other important monuments like- khas Mahal, Diwan- I- Am ,MotiMasjid which were built in marble.

B SHAH JAHAN : A CASE STUDY

- Shah Jahan had built the Taj Mahal at Agra in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.
- He also constructed Moti Masjid at Agra and the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid in Delhi.
- His reign was marked by great cultural development and regarded as the Golden Age of Mughal architecture.

TAJ MAHAL.

- The Taj Mahal is the finest architecture built in pure white marble and it took about 22 years to build.
- Because of its exceptional beauty, it is one of the wonders of the world.
- It is constructed on an elevated platform on the bank of river Yamuna.

RED FORT.

- The Red Fort (Lal Qila) is another famous monument built by Shah Jahan, the construction began in 1639 and was completed in 1648.
- The Prime Minister of India speaks to the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August every year on India's Independence Day .
- It is built of red sandstone and marble and has strong fortified walls.
- An inscription in the Diwan -i- Khash as described the beauty and grandeur of the Red Fort in the following way – ‘ If there is a paradise on the face of earth,

It is this, it is this, it is this ’

JAMA MASJID.

- The Jama Masjid in Delhi is the biggest mosque in India, which was built by Shah Jahan in 1644 and completed in 1658.
- It is also built in red sandstone and inlaid in white marble.
- The Mughals have left a legacy of their architectural skills and even after their decline, their styles and architecture were used and adapted by other rulers.