

Scribbles

Bringing colour to your lives

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Issue No. 5

From the Editor's desk...

Dear colleagues,

As a sequel to the previous issue of Scribbles on Indian Architecture in Southern India, this issue features the rest of the country.

We have traced the various styles over different time periods and presented stunning monuments from across the country.

One cannot fully capture India's architectural glory in a few pages. But these pages are meant to pique our curiosity on finding out more about our country. The rich culture and heritage of India offer a treasure trove of hidden gems for our learning and exploration.

Visit some of these places, when you can. Know about the monuments of significance around you. These man-made wonders are the gifts that have been passed on to us by our ancestors.

Let us appreciate the beauty that is India. Jai Hind.

Ananda Jagan

Indian Architecture

Part II



Indian Architecture through the ages

Architecture is perhaps India's greatest artistic glory. Indian architecture has a long rich history, dating back thousands of years. It encompasses the building traditions of the Indian subcontinent including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

The earliest Indian buildings were made of wood and then brick. Few such ancient structures, especially those of wood, have survived the severity of the Indian climate. By about the 6th century BC, stone architecture came into being in the subcontinent. Indian architects soon became highly skilled in carving and constructing stone buildings. By the 7th century AD, the use of stone became popular for buildings of great size. Numerous stone temples from the medieval period still stand tall in India.

Sculpture seems to have been the favoured form of artistic expression, and Indian architecture and sculpture have had a close relationship. Rock-cut, or cave, architecture—temples or other buildings carved into cliffs—is often little more than sculpture on a colossal scale. Free-standing stone buildings are also profusely adorned with sculpture. The sculpture is often inseparable from the architecture.

Indus valley civilisation



Mohenjo-daro: Great Bath

The earliest urban culture on the Indian subcontinent was that of the Indus valley civilisation, which



Mohenjo-daro

existed from about 2500 BC to 1700 BC. From ruins uncovered by archaeologists, it is clear that the Indus valley civilisation had a flourishing urban architecture. Its major cities—notably Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa, and Kalibangan—were laid out in a grid pattern and were well planned.

Mauryan period

This empire has left the earliest surviving examples of monumental Indian architecture. Among the most important are stupas, notably the magnificent stupa at Sanchi. The stupa is the most typical monument of the Buddhist faith. The gateways are adorned with elaborately carved relief sculptures showing important Buddhist scenes. The Great Stupa probably belonged to mid-3rd century BC, of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka.

Early Indian architecture



Bharhut sculpture

Between the end of the Mauryan dynasty and the rise of the Gupta dynasty, the stupas became progressively larger and more elaborate. The stone railings of the stupas are



Karli

often lavishly carved with relief sculpture, such as at Bharhut. Important schools of Buddhist sculpture thrived at Gandhara and Mathura during this period.

A number of cave temples and monasteries were cut out of cliffs in western India. Typically, they consist of a central rectangular nave separated from aisles at either side by two rows of pillars. The pillars support the roof. An outstanding example is at Karli from the late 1st century BC. The relief sculptures also depict the simple thatched-roofed huts that remained the basis of most Indian architectural forms.

Gupta period



Maha Bodhi Temple

During the rule of the Gupta dynasty, in the 4th to 6th centuries AD, a new style of Hindu temple emerged that was to become important to the future development of Indian temple architecture. This type



Ajanta Caves

of temple with a small square sanctuary, a chamber that contain the main image or emblem of the temple deity. This sanctuary called the *garbhagriha* (meaning “womb-room”) is topped by a pyramid-shaped tower or spire called the *shikhara*. This style of temple found its fullest expression in India’s medieval period (discussed below). The great Maha Bodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya where Buddha attained enlightenment is essentially a temple of the Gupta period.

Medieval period

Great stone temples were built in India in the medieval period, especially from the 9th to 11th centuries. An extremely large number of these temples have



Lakshmana temple

survived in almost every part of India, particularly in the south. Hindu temples were designed in two main styles: one found generally in northern India and the other in southern India. In each of these styles, the temple includes a small square sanctuary



Brihadeeswarar temple

(the *garbhagriha*) and one or more pillared porches or halls (*mandapas*). Rising above the sanctuary is a tower or spire.

Cave temples continued to be carved. The traditions of cave architecture are stronger in Maharashtra than in any other part of India. The most remarkable cave temples are at Elephanta Island and at Ellora.

Islamic period

The extension of Islam into India in the 11th and 12th centuries introduced typical Muslim architectural



Jama Masjid

elements into mosques, tombs, and other structures in the subcontinent. These elements included such

forms as the dome and the pointed arch as well as Islamic styles of decoration.

The Pashtun style of Islamic architecture developed in this period. Among the typical features of this style were red sandstone surfaces with white marble inlays and arches in the shape of a pointed horseshoe.



Agra Fort

Windows were fitted with perforated screens. The buildings featured intricate and abundant decoration. Notable early Pashtun architecture in Delhi includes



Qutb Minar

the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque, a tall tower called the Qutb Minar, the tomb of the sultan Iltutmish, and the Alai Gate. Later Pashtun styles include the tombs of the Sayyid and Lodi kings.

The new style began with the tomb of Humayun, a Mughal emperor, at Delhi. The first great period of Mughal building activity happened during emperor Akbar's rule at Agra and at the new capital city of Fatehpur Sikri. The Great Mosque (Jama Masjid) of Fatehpur Sikri is one of the finest mosques of the Mughal period.

Mughal architecture reached its peak during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan. Persian architectural features were emphasised. White marble was a favoured building material. Among the landmarks of the Shah Jahan period are several mosques at Agra and another great mosque and a huge fortress-palace complex called the Red Fort at Delhi. The crowning achievement, however, was the magnificent Taj Mahal, at Agra. The architectural monuments of Shah Jahan's successor, Aurangzeb, represent a distinct decline in Indian architecture.

European traditions and the modern period

Buildings imitating contemporary styles of European architecture were constructed in India from at least the 16th century. In these structures, European styles were often given a strong local Indian flavour. Some



Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

of this work was of considerable merit, particularly the Baroque architecture of the Portuguese colony of Goa, India. Splendid structures were built there in the second half of the 16th century. Among the most



Jawahar Kala Kendra arts center

famous of these buildings to survive is the church of Bom Jesus, which was completed in 1605.

The British tried, with varying degrees of success, to combine Western and Indian architectural traditions in styles known as Gothic revival and Indo-Saracenic (which includes both Islamic and Indian elements). A notable example of a British Gothic revival building in India is the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus. Buildings in the major Indian cities came under increasing European influence. The resulting mixed styles gradually found their way into cities in the interior.

The Swiss/French architect Le Corbusier directed the construction of a new capital, Chandigarh, for India's



Basilica of Bom Jesus

Punjab state in the early 1950s. His influence and that of other American and European masters helped bring about a modern architectural movement in India of great vitality. This movement is in the process of adapting itself to local requirements and traditions—for example, in the work of Indian architect Charles Correa.

Source: Britannica

Buildings of India

In the next few pages, we present various monuments and buildings of architectural significance. Each state has its unique style and legacy which is reflected in its buildings.



Arunachal Pradesh is a veritable treasure house of nature, tucked away in the north eastern tip of India.



Ita Fort: Built in the 14th and 15th centuries, Ita Fort, which literally means fort of bricks, is an important heritage site in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. It is in an irregular shape and is made from bricks from the same era. The fort has guarded the kingdom from enemies for years with its high walls and its relevance is such that the name of the city of Itanagar comes from it.

Tawang Monastery: The sacred Tawang Monastery is the second largest monastery in the world. The monastery is said to be around 400 years old and shelters over 300 monks. An archetype of traditional Buddhist architecture, Tawang Monastery contains several buildings within its premises, the most prominent one being a three-storied assembly hall called 'Dukhang'.



Bhalukpong fort: Bhalukpong Fort was built in tenth century and although now in ruins, it stands for the tradition and historical glory of the place. It was constructed by king Bhaluka on the banks of Bharali River. The remains of the fort have a few stone blocks and bricks on the slope of the hillock. A pond and a brick well are also found here. Historical remains of Bana, the grandson of King Bhaluka and the heroic character of Mahabharata are also found here.

Other important buildings: *Bomdila Monastery, Ruins of Copper temple, Gompa temple*

Termed as the land of “Blue Hills and Red River” Assam is the gateway to the north eastern states. Assam is surrounded by hills, major rivers such as Brahmaputra & Barak and its tributaries, thick forest and tea gardens which enhance the scenic beauty of Assam.

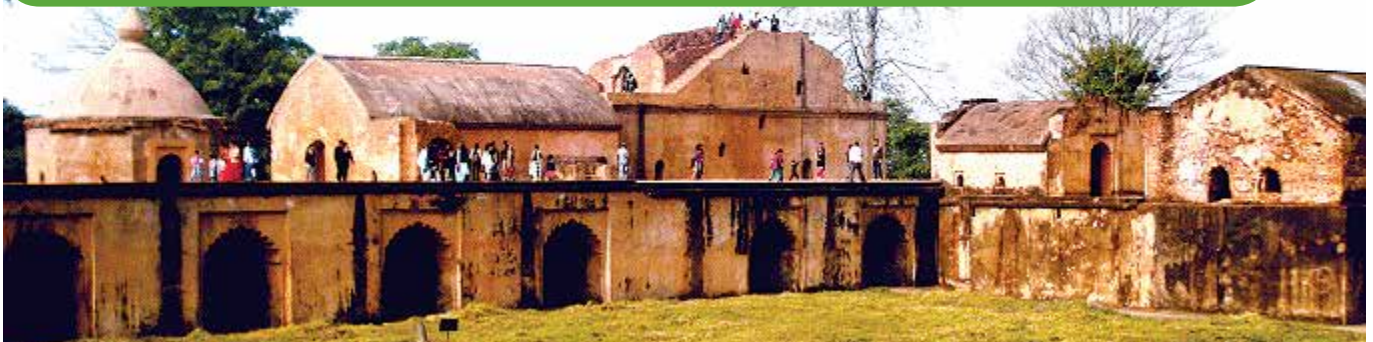


Kamakhya temple: The temple sits atop Nilachal Hill in Guwahati. It is one of the oldest of the 51 ‘Shakti Pithas’. The building is of the Nilachal style- a cruciform base is topped with a hemispherical dome and the building has four chambers flanked by seven spires.



Ahom Raja's Palace: Ahom king, Suklengmung established the capital at Gargaon and after that, developed a royal palace with some of the impermanent materials like wood and stones, after some time, a brick wall and masonry gateway were constructed. Surprisingly, around 12,000 workers completed the construction of the mansion within a year.

Talatal Ghar: Talatal Ghar is the largest monument of the ruins of Tai Ahom architecture. This underground structure contains two secret tunnels and three floors below ground level that were used as exit routes during the Ahom wars. An interesting discovery of the Ahoms was a form of cement made of crushed rice powder and swan eggshells and was used in this structure. The monument was inspired by Mughal architecture and imitated its signature arched doorways, large terraces, and octagonal structures.



Other important buildings: *Rangamati Mosque, Vishnudol, Houses of Sivasagar*



Bihar is a state in East India, bordering Nepal. It is divided by the River Ganges, which floods its fertile plains. Important Buddhist pilgrimage sites include the Bodhi Tree in Bodhgaya's Mahabodhi Temple, under which the Buddha allegedly meditated.



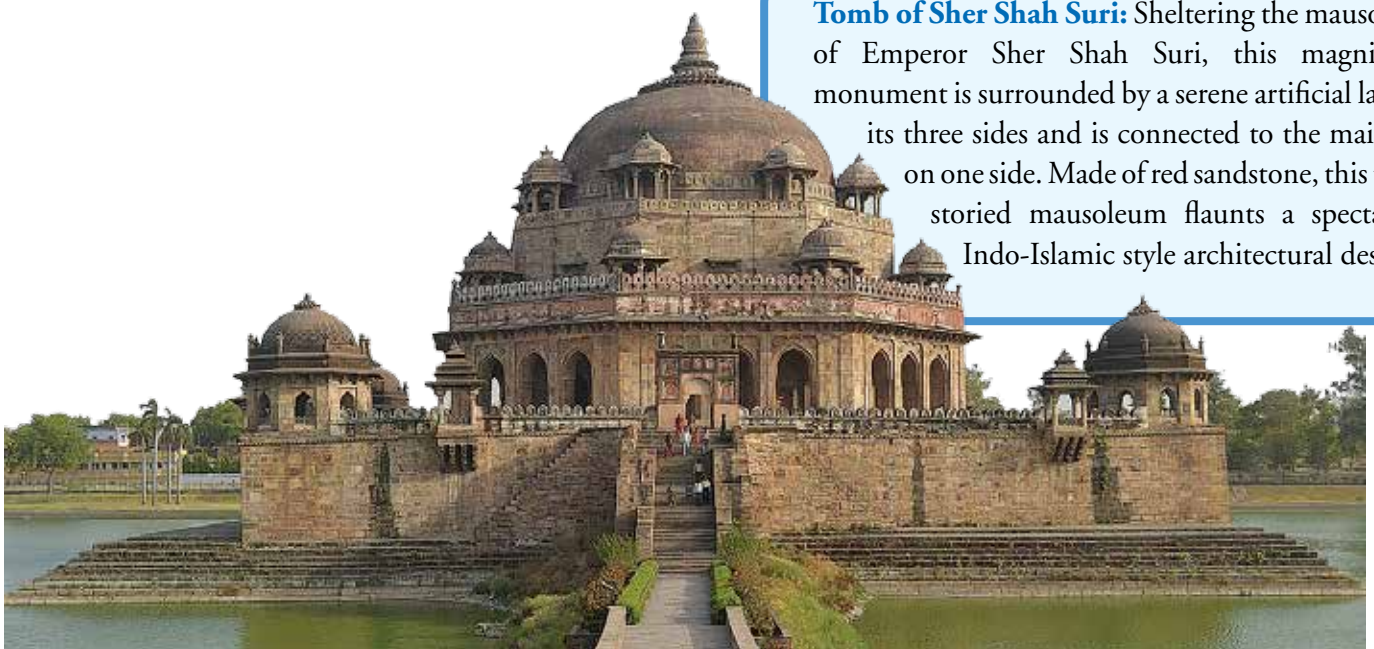
Bodh Gaya: It is a religious site and place of pilgrimage associated with the Mahabodhi Temple Complex in Gaya. The Great Buddha Statue here is about 25 metres in height and the first great Buddha ever built in the history of India. The statue is next to the Mahabodhi Temple, a World Heritage site.

Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara:

The site is in the State of Bihar. It comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BC to the 13th century AD. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas and important art works in stucco, stone and metal. Nalanda stands out as the most ancient university of the Indian subcontinent.



Tomb of Sher Shah Suri: Sheltering the mausoleum of Emperor Sher Shah Suri, this magnificent monument is surrounded by a serene artificial lake on its three sides and is connected to the mainland on one side. Made of red sandstone, this three-storied mausoleum flaunts a spectacular Indo-Islamic style architectural design.



Other important buildings: Mahabodhi Temple, Vishwa Shanti Stupa, Golghar, Agam Kuan, Old Opium Warehouse, Vishwa Shanti Stupa, Kesariya Stupa, Mausoleum of Sher Shah, Palyul Namdroling Temple, Kanch Mahal

Chattisgarh is home to caves, ancient monuments and exquisitely carved temples. The state boasts of the widest waterfall in India, Chitrakote. In monsoon when the Indravati river is in full flow, this waterfall in Bastar District becomes almost 980 ft wide.



Bastar Palace: It is one of the most important heritage sites in Jagdalpur. This historical monument boasts of fascinating art and architecture, complemented by exquisite carvings and engravings on walls and ceilings. Another special feature of the palace is that it glitters in the sunlight and looks particularly charming.

Ratanpur Fort: This fort includes large walls to protect them from invaders and fencing around the fort. The architecture of the fort is simple and strategic. The fort has four grandeur entrances. The walls of the fort have several carvings of sculptures including gods and goddesses. It has a huge expanse of garden, several forts, and temple.



Bhoramdeo Temple: Bhoramdeo Temple, or the 'Khajuraho of Chhattisgarh', carved on the rocky stones in the Nagar style is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The Shiva Linga in the temple is wonderfully carved and the artistic appeal beckons the visitors. The Bhoramdeo temple has a resemblance with the Sun temple of Konark and the Khajuraho temple.



Other important buildings: *Kawardha palace, Khadia dam, Arjuna's Rath, Jod Gumbaz*



Delhi is one of the oldest cities in the world, and has been continuously inhabited since the 6th century BC, and hence has innumerable archeological wonders to its credit.



Akshardham temple: The temple is constructed from Rajasthan pink sandstone and

Italian Carrara marble. Based on traditional Hindu architectural guidelines on maximum temple life span, it was built with no use of ferrous metal. Thus, it has no support from steel or concrete. It consists of 234 ornately carved pillars, nine domes, and 20,000 murtis of swamis, devotees, and acharyas.

Qutb Minar complex: The Qutb Minar is inspired by the Minaret of Jam in Afghanistan. It is an important example of early Afghan architecture, which later evolved into Indo-Islamic Architecture. The Qutb Minar is the tallest minaret in the world built of bricks. It has 5 distinct storeys, each marked by a projecting balcony. It has a diameter 14.3 metres at the base to 2.7 metres at the top, which is 379 steps away. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site along with surrounding buildings and monuments.



Humayun's Tomb: The tomb was the first Indian building to use the Persian double dome on a high neck drum. The dome has its outer layer which supports the white marble exterior, while the inner part gives shape to the cavernous interior volume. As a contrast to the pure white exterior dome, rest of the building is made up of red sandstone, with white and black marble and yellow sandstone detailing, to relieve the monotony.

Other important buildings: Red Fort, Jama Masjid, India Gate, Lotus temple, Jantar Mantar, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Purana Qila, Shri Laxmi Narayan temple, Lodhi Garden, Safdarjung Tomb, Parliament of India

Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India. It is the fifth-largest Indian state by area and the ninth-largest state by population. The state traditionally has low unemployment and is widely considered one of the most industrially developed states of India and a manufacturing hub.



The Statue of Unity: It is a colossal statue of Indian statesman and independence activist Vallabhbhai Patel. It is the world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres (597 feet). It was designed by Indian sculptor Ram V. Sutar.



Rani ki vav: Rani ki vav is considered as the finest example of stepwell architecture. The stepwell is divided into seven levels of stairs which lead down to deep circular well. The walls, pillars, columns, brackets and beams are ornamented with carvings and scroll work. The niches in the side walls are ornamented with beautiful and delicate figures and sculptures. There are 212 pillars in the stepwell.

Lakshmi vilas palace, Vadodara: This palace was built in 1890 as the private residence of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. It is believed that this palace is four times the size of Buckingham Palace over the area of 700 acres.



Other important buildings: Mahabat Maqbara, Dholavira, Adalaj Stepwell, Lothal, Sidi Saiyyed Mosque, Modhera, Kirti Mandir, Nilambag Palace Mausoleum of Bahadurddnbhai



Haryana's capital Chandigarh is known for its modernist buildings and grid-like street plan designed by Swiss architect, Le Corbusier. The Zakir Hussain Rose Garden features 1,600 species, while its Rock Garden showcases sculptures made with recycled materials.

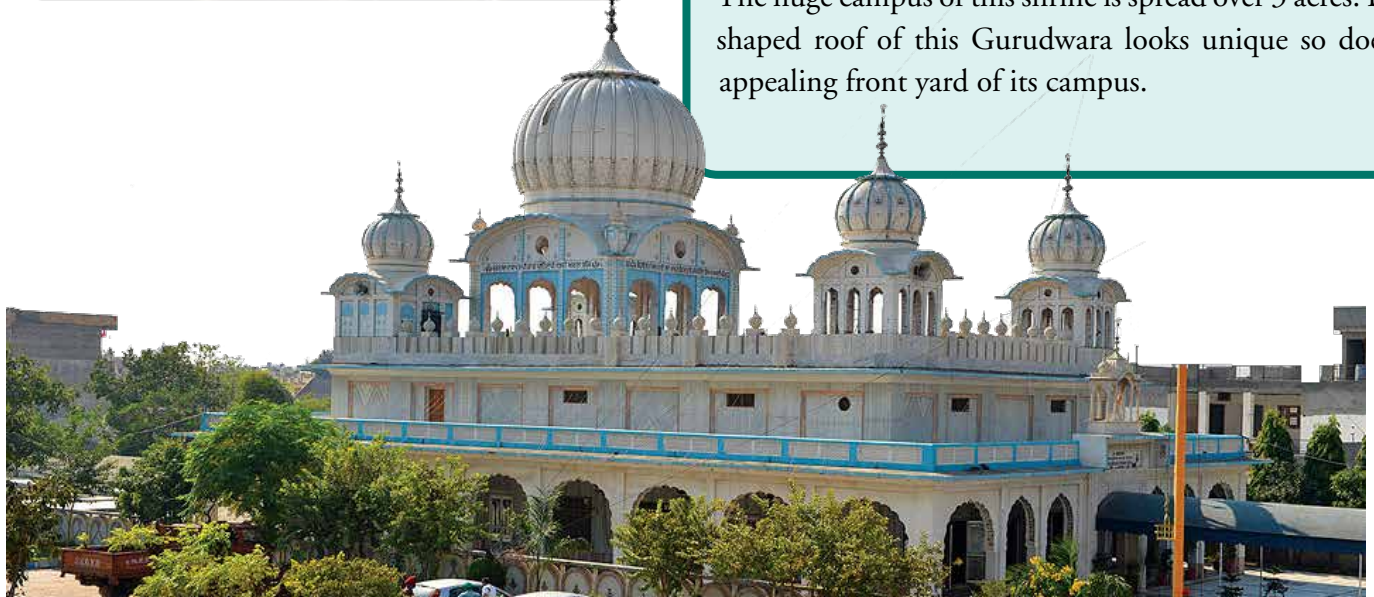
Star Monument: This hexagonal structure is constructed in star shape at the elevated height of 6 feet from ground. The monument is 88 feet tall erected without any pillars and columns. This is an amazing piece of architecture, that entire building does not have any support of concrete pillars.



Sheikh Chaheli's Tomb: The tomb, overlooking the madarasa and standing on an artificial terrace, is octagonal in shape with the entrance in the south. It is built of buff sandstone and is crowned with a pear-shaped dome of white marble standing on a high circular drum.



Gurudwara Badshahi Bagh: This important Sikh temple in Ambala is known for its unique architecture. This Gurudwara is dedicated to Sikh Guru-Guru Gobind Singh. The huge campus of this shrine is spread over 3 acres. Dome shaped roof of this Gurudwara looks unique so does the appealing front yard of its campus.



Other important buildings: *Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar, Bhadrakali Temple, Birla Mandir.*

Himachal Pradesh is a north Indian state in the Himalayas. Host to the Dalai Lama, Himachal Pradesh has a strong Tibetan presence. This is reflected in its Buddhist temples and monasteries, as well as in its vibrant Tibetan New Year celebrations. The region is also well known for its trekking, climbing and skiing areas.

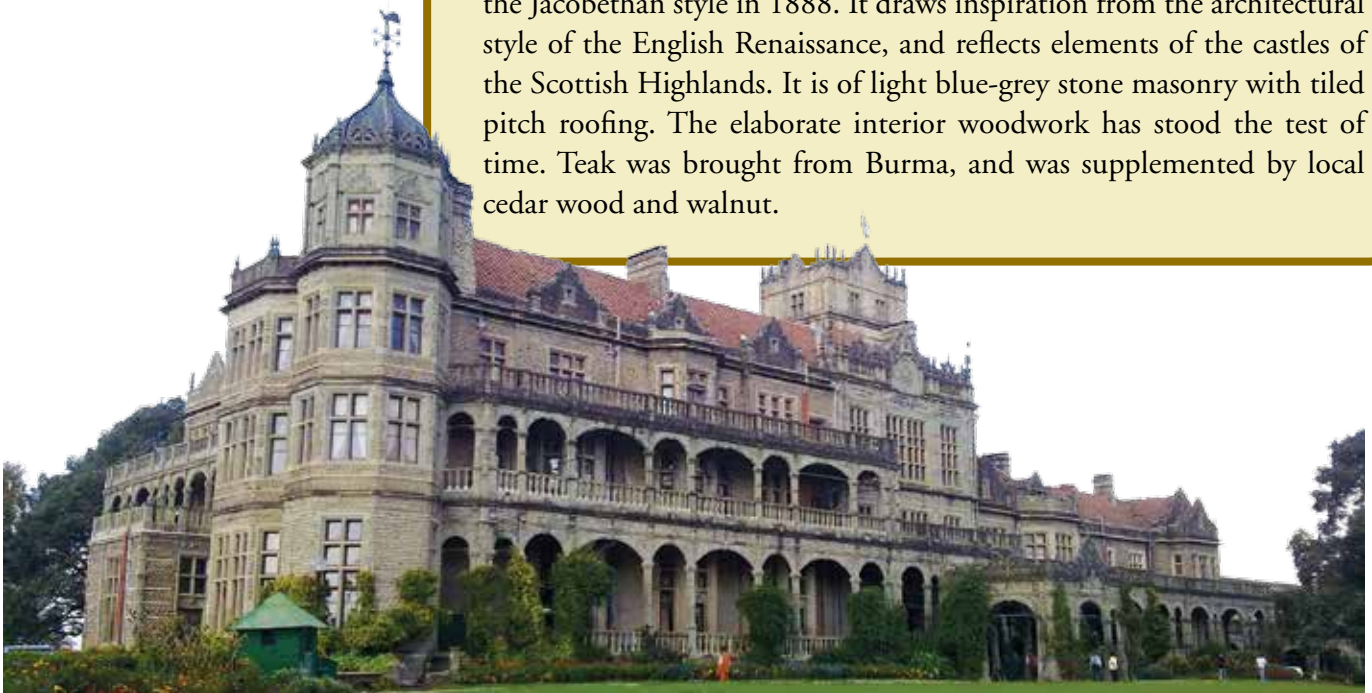


Masroor Temple: Popularly known as the Himalayan Pyramid, the temple complex is an important archaeological site dating back to the 8th and 9th centuries. Built in the *shikhara* (spire) style of architecture, the rock-cut temples are perched at a height of 2,500 ft above sea level.



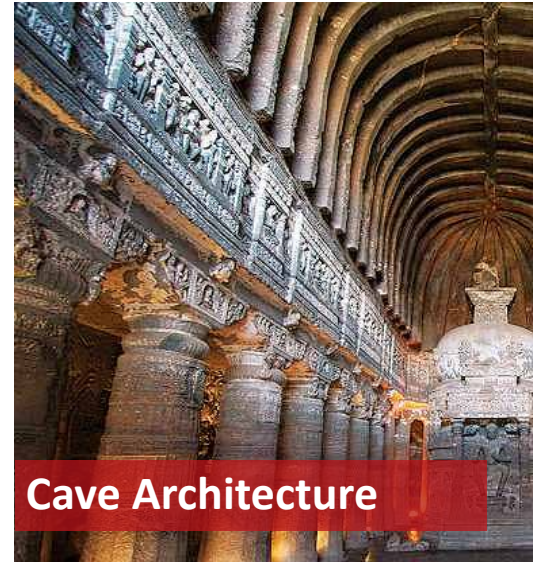
Hidimba Devi Temple: Located in Kulu, this temple has intricately carved wooden doors and a 24-metre-tall wooden “shikhar” or tower above the sanctuary. The tower consists of three square roofs covered with timber tiles and a fourth brass cone-shaped roof at the top. Goddess Durga forms the theme of the main door carvings.

Rashtrapati Niwas: Formerly known as Viceregal Lodge, it was built in the Jacobethan style in 1888. It draws inspiration from the architectural style of the English Renaissance, and reflects elements of the castles of the Scottish Highlands. It is of light blue-grey stone masonry with tiled pitch roofing. The elaborate interior woodwork has stood the test of time. Teak was brought from Burma, and was supplemented by local cedar wood and walnut.



Other important buildings: *Tabo Monastery, Kangra Fort, Champavati Temple, Rock Cut Temple, Prashar Rishi Temple, Key Monastery, Jaitak Fort, Baijnath Temple, Chokling Monastery, Naggur Castle, Kuthar Fort, Barselas, Lord Elgin’s Tomb, Nurpur Fort.*

Incredible Indian Architecture



India

1 Styles at a Glance



Dravidian Architecture



Indo-Saracenic Architecture



Sikh Architecture



Indian Vernacular Architecture

Guess Who?! Clue No. 7: *One of the pioneers of what is now regarded as modern architecture.*



Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory and consists of the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947 and between India and China since 1962.

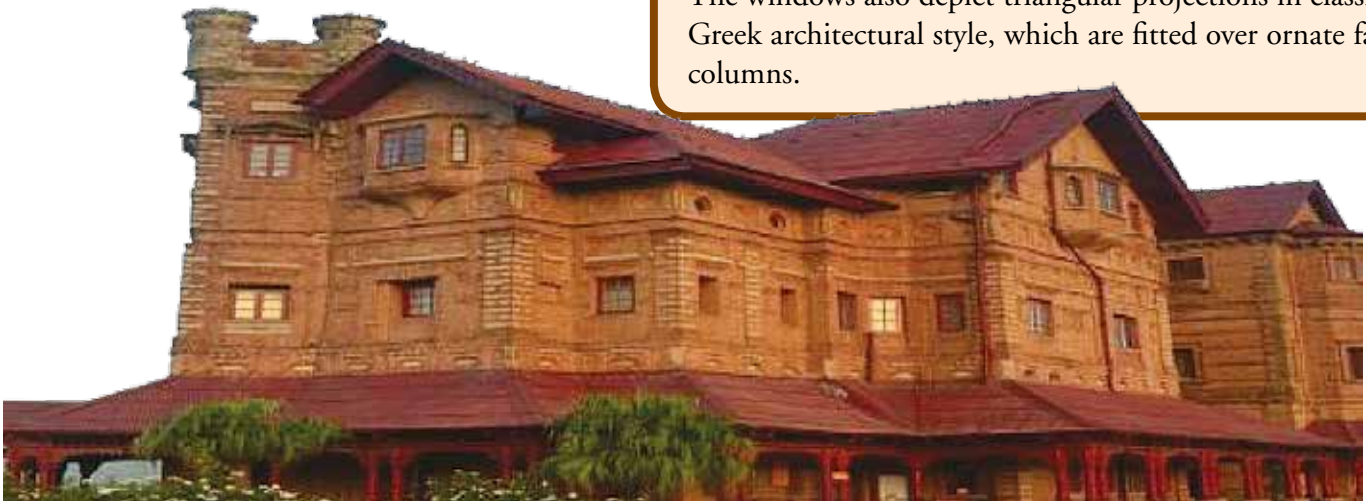


Mubarak Mandi: This palace in Jammu was the royal residence of the maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir from the Dogra dynasty. It has a rich collection containing miniature paintings of various styles of the region. The architecture is captivating and a blend of Rajasthani, Mughal and European styles. It also has a gold painted bow and arrow of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.



Vaishno Devi Temple: A Hindu Temple dedicated to Goddess Durga, is situated in Katra at the Trikuta Mountains. The architecture of Maa Vaishno Devi temple is quite unique when compared to other Hindu temples in the country. Located at a height of 5200 feet above sea level, undertaking a pilgrimage to this cave temple is considered to be one of the holiest moments for Hindu pilgrims all over the world.

Amar Mahal museum: The palace built in red sandstone with red bricks is in a picturesque environment on a hillock overlooking the Tawi river valley. Built in 1890 in the European castle style, the palace has sloping roofs with turrets and tall towers. The first floor of the palace building has French windows with connected balcony. The windows also depict triangular projections in classical Greek architectural style, which are fitted over ornate false columns.



Other Important buildings: *Bahu Fort, Stok Palace, Dba Hanu, Dras war memorial, Pari Mahal.*

Madhya Pradesh is known as the “Heart of India” because of a lot many things that it has to offer. It has been home to cultural and spiritual heritage of almost all the religions. Innumerable monuments, intricately carved temples, stupas, forts and palaces are dotted all over the State.

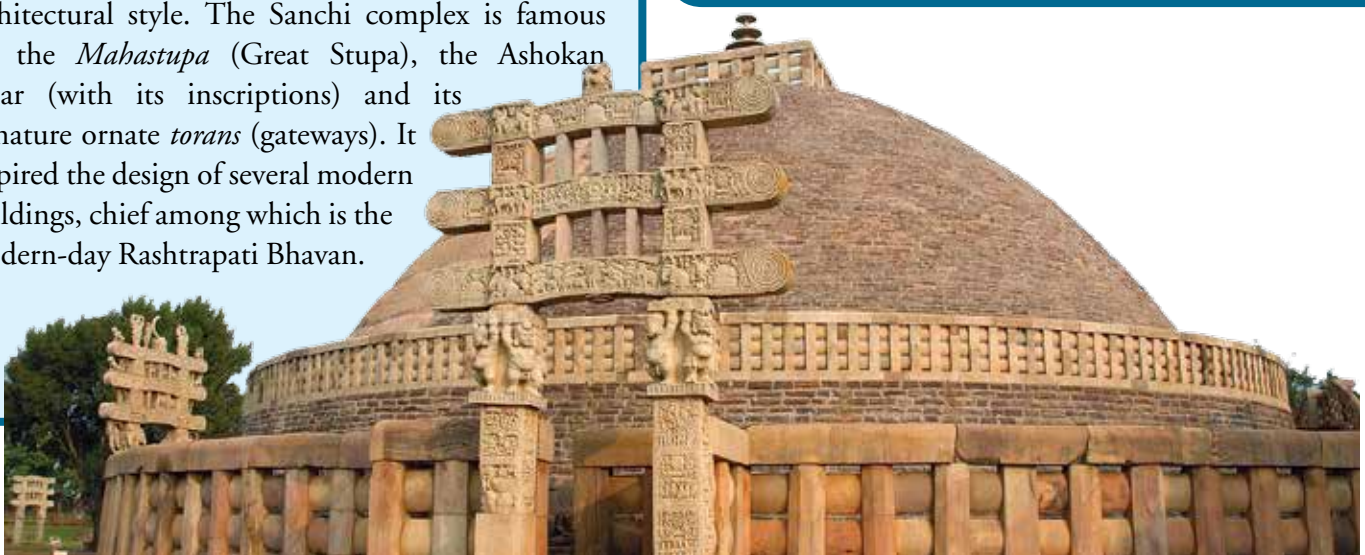


Khajuraho Monuments: Khajuraho group of monuments is popular for its elaborate carvings and striking sculptures. The temple architecture is an assemblage of porches and towers which terminates in a *shikhara* or spire, a feature which was common from the 10th century onwards in the temples of Central India. The exterior surfaces of the temples are entirely covered with sculptures in three vertical layers.



Jahangir Mahal, Orchha: The structure is primarily associated with the brave Bundela kings of the 10th and 16th century. This monument built in lime and mortar, unlike modern buildings, has a more porous surface. Therefore, the structure undergoes considerable changes as the season changes. As per records, King Bir Deo built the Jahangir Mahal to welcome Emperor Jahangir during his one-day stay in Orchha. It is a three-storied building that features a fountain in the centre.

Sanchi Stupa: It is a living proof of India’s artistic and architectural history, exhibiting the Buddhist architectural style. The Sanchi complex is famous for the *Mahastupa* (Great Stupa), the Ashokan pillar (with its inscriptions) and its signature ornate *torans* (gateways). It inspired the design of several modern buildings, chief among which is the modern-day Rashtrapati Bhavan.



Other important buildings: *Gwalior fort, Elephant palace, Jabaz Mahal.*



Meghalaya is richly endowed with natural beauty. Everywhere you go, you will never cease to be mystified by the spectacular charm the state offers; from cascading waterfalls, lush green forests, deep caves, amazing and mesmerising culture and tradition to hospitable and friendly people.



The Living Root Bridges: The Living Root Bridges are built by the intuitive Khasi tribe of Meghalaya. Through the practice of 'tree shaping', the locals train the roots of the native rubber trees to form ties and twists, resulting in 'natural bridges'. The roots are nurtured and cared for until they grow enough to reach the roots growing on the opposite side of the bank, where they are entwined to form this marvellous structure.

Narthing Monoliths: Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya is home to Narthing Monoliths - a collection of monoliths that are believed to be the tallest in the world. The monoliths in Jowai were erected approximately during 1500 AD and 1835 AD. Monoliths are upright structures carved from one single stone that serve as a monument or pillar.



Houses of Mawlynnong Village: Mawlynnong Village, the Cleanest Village in Asia boasts of houses with functional toilets, bamboo dustbins carefully scattered across the village and compost systems. The houses are built in the vernacular style, made up of bamboo, cane, reed, wood, and mud. Most houses are built on stilts, allowing the lower space to be used as storage while acting as a flood-preventing structure. They all have sloping roofs due to excessive rainfall there.

Other important buildings: *Megalithic Bridge on the Um-Kumbeh and Kiang Nangbah monument.*

Nagaland has lush and verdant sub-tropical rain forests which are also a treasure trove of a plethora of medicinal plants. The location of the region and its richness in biodiversity has become a place of attraction for tourism industry. Encompassing hills, mountains, plains and plateau, the region has many cultural groups and communities with varied cultural background.



Kachari Ruins: A series of mushroom domed pillars seem to sprout out of the archaeological site, otherwise covered in grass and weeds. While the original intention behind these structures remains a mystery, studies and speculations suggest that they were used as chess pawns with some being as large as 22-feet tall. The impressive architecture speaks volumes about the quality of engineering and the development of art in the ancient Kachari kingdom.



Dimapur Jain Temple: It was built in 1947. The temple is architecturally very well built and has an impressive structure. The temple has some intricate glass work. It is considered very auspicious by the people of Dimapur. The Moolnayak of the temple is Lord Mahavira.

Mary Help of Christians Cathedral: This church is noted for its architecture which incorporates many elements of traditional Naga houses, including its facade. The architecture of the cathedral blends into the hill on which it is situated. The 16 feet high carved wood crucifix is one of Asia's largest crosses.



Other important buildings: *Kohima war cemetery and Naga Heritage village.*



Odisha an eastern Indian state on the Bay of Bengal is known for its tribal cultures and its many ancient Hindu temples. The capital, Bhubaneswar, is home to hundreds of temples, notably the intricately-carved Mukteshvara.

Puri Jagannath Temple: The huge temple complex covers an area of over 400,000 square feet and is surrounded by a high fortified wall. The main temple is curvilinear and crowning the top is the 'srichakra' (an eight spoked wheel) of Vishnu. Also known as the "Nilachakra", it is made out of *Ashtadhatu* and is considered sacrosanct.



Konark Sun temple: Dedicated to the Hindu Sun God Surya, what remains of the temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot high chariot carved from stone. Once over 200 feet high, much of the temple is now in ruins. It has 24 carved stone wheels which are nearly 12 feet in diameter and are pulled by a set of seven horses. When viewed from inland during dawn and sunrise, the chariot-shaped temple appears to emerge from the depths of the blue sea carrying the sun.

Lingaraja Temple: It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva and is one of the oldest temples in Bhubaneswar. The central tower of the temple is 180 ft (55 m) tall. The temple represents the quintessence of the Kalinga architecture culminating in the medieval stages of the architectural tradition at Bhubaneswar.



Other important buildings: *Dhuli, Barabati Fort, Khandagiri Caves, Chausath Yogini Temple, Brahmeswara Temple, Ananta Vasudeva Temple.*

Punjab, a state bordering Pakistan, is the heart of India's Sikh community. The city of Amritsar, founded in the 1570s by Sikh Guru Ram Das, is the site of Harmandir Sahib, the holiest gurdwara.



Khairuddin Masjid: Also known as Jama Masjid, it is a beautiful mosque built by Muhammad Khairuddin. The mosque holds great importance in India's freedom struggle. Renowned for its architectural beauty, the Jama Masjid reflects traditional Islamic architecture with beautiful calligraphy adorning its walls. The mosque is built of white marble and is decorated with miniature green colour paintings.



Chandigarh Capitol Complex: Chandigarh Capitol Complex is a government compound designed by the architect Le Corbusier and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It comprises three buildings: the Palace of Assembly or Legislative Assembly, Secretariat Building and the High Court plus four monuments (Open Hand Monument, Geometric Hill, Tower of Shadows and the Martyrs Monument) and a lake.



Golden temple: The Golden Temple's architecture reflects different architectural practices prevalent in the Indian subcontinent; it is described as a mixture of the Indo-Islamic Mughal and the Hindu Rajput architecture. It has a square plan with four entrances, and a circumambulation path around the pool. The complex is a collection of buildings around the sanctum and the pool.



Other important buildings: *Maharaja Ranjit Singh Museum, Khair-ud-din Masjid, Gurudwara Mata Kaulan Guru Ke Mahal, Lodhi Fort, Sheesh Mahal.*



Rajasthan literally means “The Land of Kings”. It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population. Rajasthan is located on the northwestern side of India and is known for its forts and princely palaces.



City Palace: It has a maze of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens. Encircled by fortifications, this stately palace is built in granite and marble. On passing the main gate (Bara Pol), one comes across a triple arched gate, known as Tripolia. Between these two gates, one can see eight marble arches or ‘toranas’, where it is said kings used to weigh themselves with gold and silver.

Hill Forts of Rajasthan: The Hill Forts of Rajasthan are mainly in the Aravalli Range and consist of Chittor Fort at Chittorgarh, the Amer Fort in Jaipur, Jaisalmer Fort, Gagron Fort in Jhalawar, Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ranthambore Fort in Sawai Madhopur, built between the 5th and 18th centuries by several Rajput kings.



Hawa Mahal: Made of red and pink sandstone, Jaipur’s signature palace of unusual architecture is a stunning example of local artistry. The top of the Hawa Mahal offers an excellent view over the city.



Other important buildings: Amer Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Nahargarh Fort, Monsoon Palace, Chittorgarh Fort, Junagarh Fort, Jaisalmer Fort, Mehrangarh Fort, Umaid Bhawan Palace, Ranthambore Fort, Gadsisar Lake, Karni Mata Temple, Kumbhalgarh Fort.

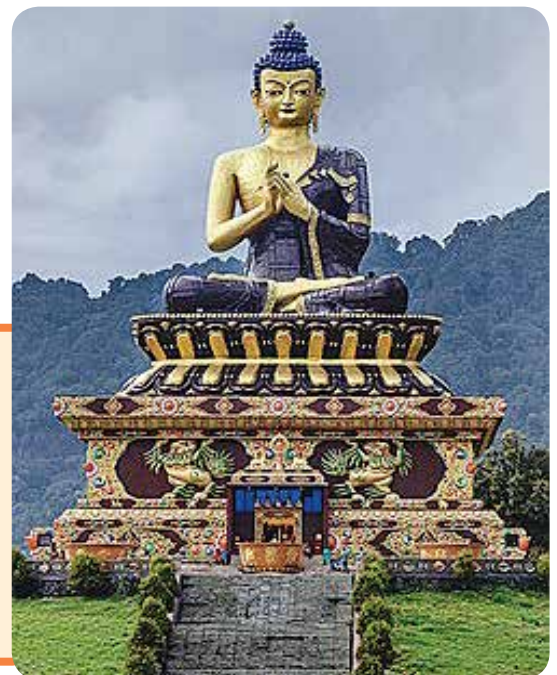
Sikkim situated in the Eastern Himalayan is a wonderland blessed with natural abundance from icy cold deserts, flowering alpine meadows, to lush green forests and emerald mountain lakes. The crowning glory of this wonderland is undoubtedly the magnificent Mt. Kangchenjunga, the third highest mountain of the world.



Pemayangtse Monastery: Pemayangtse meaning ‘Perfect Sublime Lotus’ is an ancient premier monastery, built in Tibetan style representing one of the four plexus of the human body, built for ‘pure monks’. The triple storied structure is enriched with typical Tibetan roofs and patterns of marbles, flanked by immaculate gardens. Intricate sculptures immortalise the legendary saints, the seven-tiered painted wooden statue portraying Guru Rimpoche’s Heavenly Palace ‘Santopalri’ being the most notable.



Rabdentse Ruins: All that remains of the second capital of the Kingdom of Sikkim, Rabdente, are ruins that hint at a stately empire. An ornamental yellow gate grants entry to the site, holding the decimated fortification amongst the vibrant and manicured lawns. The ruins of the palace are composed of the northern wing which had the palace along with an open quadrangle for prayer, and the southern wing where common people were addressed by the king in his austere brick throne.



Buddha park of Ravangla: The Buddha Park of Ravangla is a serene landscaped eco-garden built by the Sikkim government to promote religious tourism. The garden is flower-laden throughout spring while offering views of Mt. Kangchenjunga and the Greater Himalayan Range. The park reveres a 130-foot tall statue of Lord Gautama Buddha which was built to commemorate his 2550th birthday in 2006.

Other important buildings: *Siddheshwar Dham and Kirateshwar Mahadev Mandir.*



Bordering Bangladesh and the rest of the North East, Tripura is peaceful and beautiful. The diversity of cultural streams and faiths, ancient temples, an epic history, spellbinding archaeology, handicrafts, traditional arts and music, bountiful biodiversity, and flushing meadows are but a few of the experiences of Tripura.

Neermahal: ‘The Lake Palace of Tripura’ or the Neermahal is the largest palace of its kind, carried on a marshy island in the middle of Rudrasagar Lake. The striking white palace with a red base was the summer abode of Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman. Inspired by the Mughal style of architecture, the marble and stone material palette, projecting balconies, bridges, and pavilions render the palace an architectural splendour.



Unakoti Hill Temples: Spectacular rock-cut sculptures and temples are found scattered around the Unakoti region of Tripura. Most of the bas-relief works are 30-40 feet high and have a rawness that is more akin to a tribal style than to the classical Indian style and is nothing short of brilliance. The rock-cut images of Hindu pantheons are said to date back to the 7th and 9th centuries.

Ujjayanta Palace: Once the palace of the Tripura Maharajas, it is now a museum. It is placed amidst Mughal-style gardens on the lakefront capital city, Agartala. The gleaming white palace is capped with the large domes and includes public halls, the throne room, the Durbar Hall, the Chinese Room, and the reception hall. The distinctive features of the Indo-Saracenic architecture involve stunning tile floors, carved wooden ceilings, and crafted doors.



Other important buildings: *Bhubaneswari Temple, Gunavati Group of Temples, Ancient Remains, Baxanagar.*

Uttar Pradesh is a state that aesthetically defines India and its rich history. The architecture of Uttar Pradesh demonstrates a diverse and eclectic combination of Buddhist, Hindu, Indo-Islamic and Indo-European architectural styles.

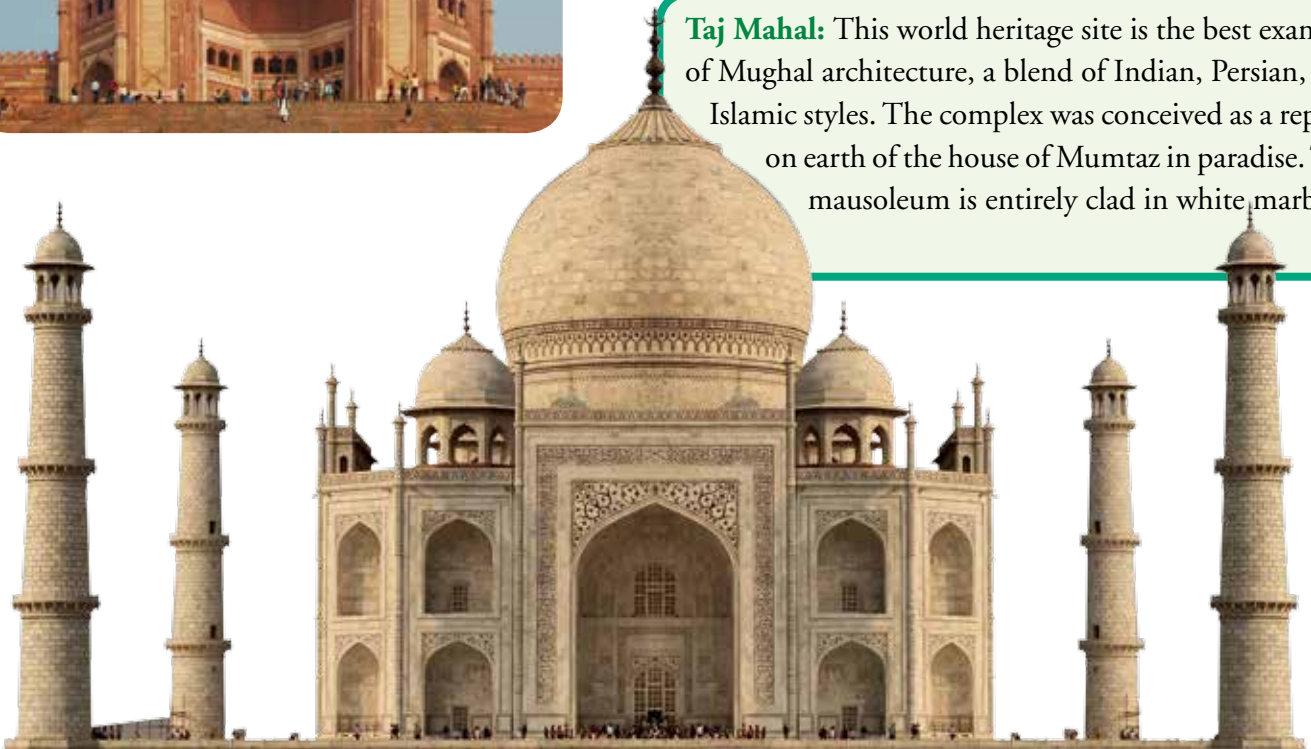


Fatehpur Sikri: An abandoned city predominantly in red sand-stone, situated at a distance of 37 kms from Agra, was built by Akbar. The buildings are a charismatic blend of Islamic and Hindu elements in their style and design. The most important buildings in this city are Buland Darwaza, Jama Masjid, Tomb of Salim Chishti and Panch Mahal.



Deogarh Monuments: Deogarh village is located on the right bank of Betwa River and known for many ancient monuments from Gupta Empire. The Deogarh monuments are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India, such as Shantinath Temple, Dashavatara temple, Deogarh fort and Varaha temple.

Taj Mahal: This world heritage site is the best example of Mughal architecture, a blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles. The complex was conceived as a replica on earth of the house of Mumtaz in paradise. The mausoleum is entirely clad in white marble.



Other important buildings: *Bara Imambara, Chota Imambara, Agra Fort, Sri Kashi Vishwanath temple, Jhansi fort.*



West Bengal is a state in eastern India, between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal. Its capital, Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), retains architectural and cultural remnants of its past as an East India Company trading post and capital of the British Raj.

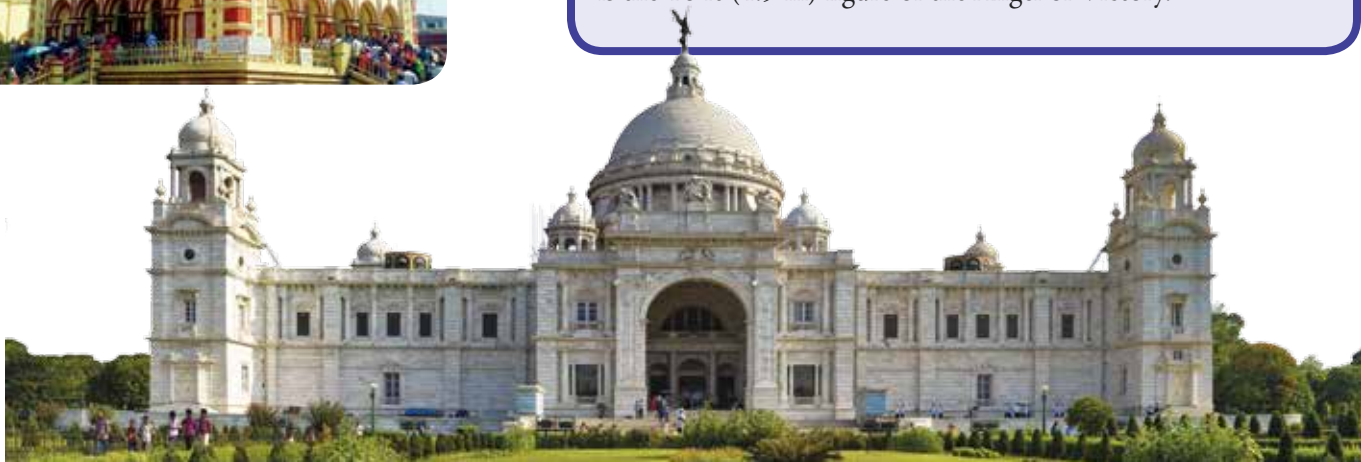
Dakshineswar Kali Temple: The three-storeyed south-facing temple has nine spires distributed in the upper two storeys, and stands on a high platform with a flight of stairs, overall it measures 46 feet square and rises over 100 feet high. Close to the main temple are the row of twelve identical Shiva temples built facing east. To the north east of the temple complex is the Vishnu temple or the Radha Kanta temple. A flight of steps lead to the columned verandah and into the temple where a silver throne rests with a 21.5 inch idol of Lord Krishna and a 16 inch idol of Radha.



Cooch Behar Rajbari: It was modeled after the Buckingham Palace in London in 1887, during the reign of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan of Koch dynasty. This elegant palace was idealised from the concept of classical European style of Italian Renaissance. The building contains more than fifty rooms/halls of varied dimensions.



Victoria Memorial: The Victoria Memorial is a large marble building in Kolkata. The design is in the Indo-Saracenic revivalist style which uses a mixture of British and Mughal elements with Venetian, Egyptian, Deccani architectural influences. It is constructed of white Makrana marble. In design it echoes the Taj Mahal with its dome, four subsidiaries, octagonal-domed chattris, high portals, terrace, and domed corner towers. Atop the central dome of the Victoria Memorial is the 16 ft (4.9 m) figure of the Angel of Victory.



Other important buildings: *Rasmancha, Radhabinode Temple, Clive's House, Jor Bangla Temple, Lukochuri Gateway, Hazarduari Palace*

Pride of India

The architecture of India is rooted in its history, culture and religion. Among a number of architectural styles and traditions, the contrasting Hindu temple architecture and Indo-Islamic architecture are the best known historical styles. Both of these, but especially the former, have a number of regional styles within them. An early example of town planning was the Harappan architecture of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Here is the pride of our Indian Architecture, the Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament House.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan

It is not only the residence of the nominative head of the government in the world's biggest democracy but also, the biggest presidential residence in the world. Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyen was the architect of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The building has 4 floors and 340 rooms. It was built by using 700 million bricks and three million cubic ft of stone. No steel has gone into the construction of the building. The residence is a unique fusion of the European, Mughal, Hindu and Buddhist architectural styles. Situated at the eastern edge of Rajpath facing the iconic India Gate, the Rashtrapati Bhavan, once the Viceregal Palace, has nine tennis courts, a polo ground, a 14-hole golf course and a cricket ground along with the Mughal Gardens.



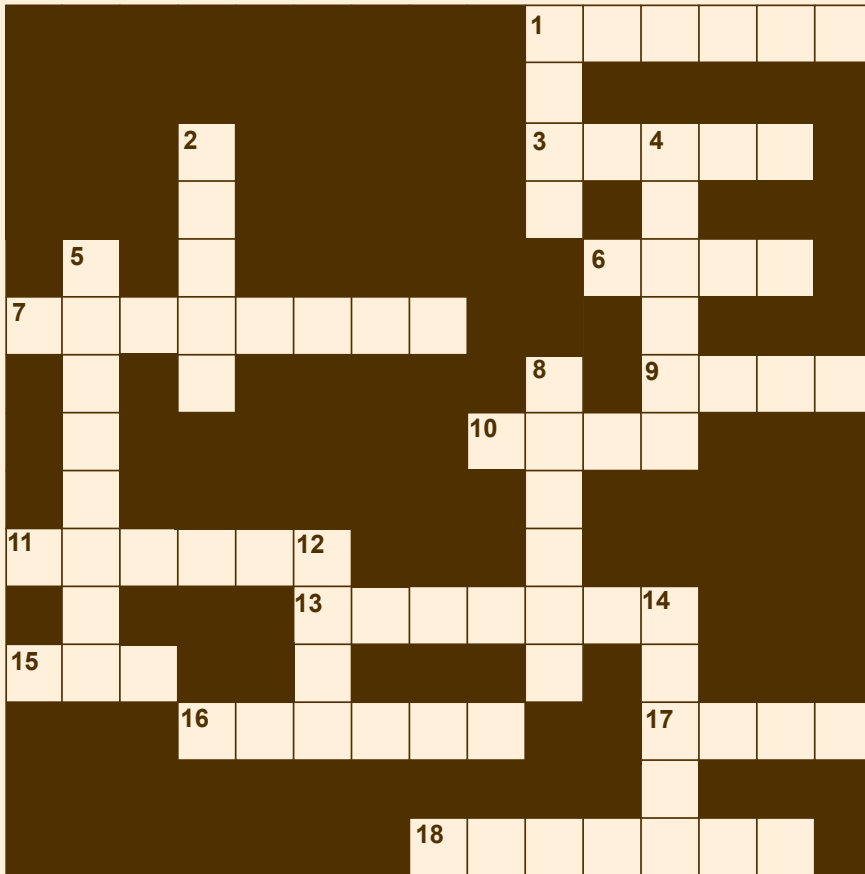
Parliament House

The building was designed by the British architects Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyen and Sir Herbert Baker and was constructed between 1921 and 1927. It was opened in January 1927 as the seat of the Imperial Legislative Council. The perimeter of the building is circular, with 144 columns on the outside. At the centre of the building is the circular Central Chamber, and surrounding this Chamber are three semicircular halls that were constructed for the sessions of the Chamber of Princes (now used as the Library Hall), the State

Council (now used for the Rajya Sabha), and the Central Legislative Assembly (now used for the Lok Sabha). The building is surrounded by large gardens and the perimeter is fenced off by sandstone railings (jali). Some sources speculate that the design of the building was inspired by the Chausath Yogini temple in Morena.



Crossword



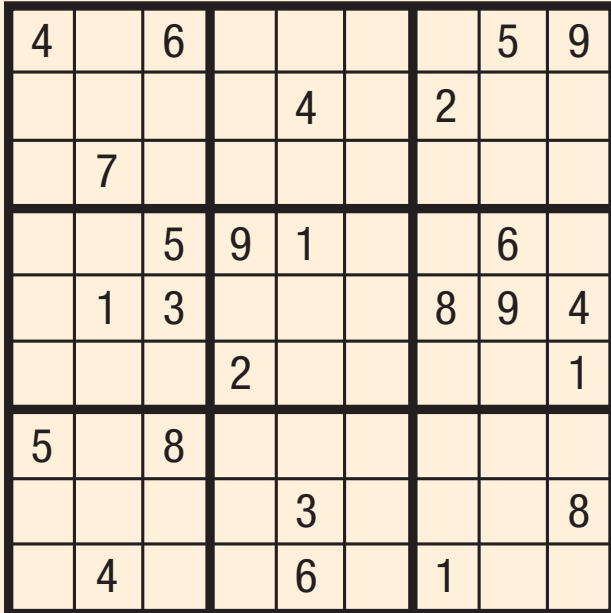
Across

1. The grand _____
3. _____ mountain in South Africa
6. The pyramids of _____
7. The empire state _____
9. Brandenburg _____ in Berlin
10. _____ of Good Hope
11. The tower of _____
13. Mount _____
15. Big _____
16. Al Agha _____ in Jerusalem
17. The Great Chinese _____
18. The statue of _____

Down

1. Forbidden _____ in Beijing
2. Niagara _____
4. Tower _____
5. Mount _____
8. _____ 101 in Taiwan
12. Loch _____
14. The Eiffel _____

Sudoku



Guess who?!



Charles-Édouard Jeanneret popularly known as Le Corbusier was an internationally influential Swiss/ French architect and city planner whose designs combined the functionalism of the modern movement with a bold sculptural expressionism.

He belonged to the first generation of the so-called International School of Architecture and was their most able propagandist in his numerous writings. In his architecture he joined the functionalist aspirations of his generation with a strong sense of expressionism. He was the first architect to make a studied use of rough-cast concrete, a technique that satisfied his taste for asceticism and for sculptural forms. In 2016, 17 of his architectural works were named World Heritage sites by UNESCO.

Designed by Kalamkriya,

9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086. Ph: + 91 44 2812 8051

