

Welcome students.

The title of the paper is Heritage Tourism Theory and practice. I'll be doing the unit, understanding, built heritage and the module name is Stupas, Chaityas and Temple Architecture Module number 04. My name is Jenika Dias, Assistant Professor in the Department of History from Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Quepem Goa.

The outline of this module is Buddhist architecture, where we will be studying about what is a stupa, Chaitya and also followed by the temple architecture.

The learning outcomes- after completion of this E module, the students will be able to recognize the contribution of Buddhism to the development of Indian Architecture. Also to identify the various styles of temple architecture.

Beginning of Buddhist architecture in India

Developed in the Indian Subcontinent in the 3rd century BCE. Three types of structures :

1. monasteries (Viharas),
2. places to venerate relics (stupas),
3. and shrines or prayer halls (chaityas also called chaitya grihas).

Stupas

Definition of a stupa: Dome-shaped structures used to house the sacred relics. Also known as "Relic-shrines". The construction materials used: Earth materials covered with stones or bricks.

Some of the important structural features of stupa are the chattra, that is, the threetiered stone, which is also called as the wooden umbrella. Then the second important feature is the Hamrika, that is square balcony on the top of the Dome. Next, Anda- the hemispherical Dome. Torana- ceremonial gateways. Medhi- for devotees to wave in homage and the last important structural feature is the enclosure wall, which is mostly made up of wooden or stone railing.

Some of the important stupas we are going to discuss, and the first one is the Sanchi Stupa.

Sanchi Stupa is located 40 km north east of Bhopal, and 10 km from Besnagar and Vidisha in the central part of the state of Madhya Pradesh. It was built by Ashoka (273-236 B.C.) and is located on the top of the Sanchi hill, which rises about 100m high above the plain. The 'Great Stupa' at Sanchi is the oldest stone structure in India.

The Amravati Stupa is a famous specimen of the Buddhist art and architecture of ancient India. It is located at Amravati in Andhra Pradesh, which is around 65 kms from the city of Vijayawada. Amravati Stupa is visited by hundreds of tourists and pilgrims. The Great Stupa at Amravati was a large Buddhist

monument built in south- eastern India between the second century B.C. And the third century A.D. It was a centre for religious activity and worship for hundreds of years.

Bharhut is a village located in the satna district of madhya pradesh, central India. It consists of a hemispherical dome of brick surrounded with a shaft and umbrella which represents spiritual sovereignty of Buddhism. It is surrounded by a railing made of red stone. The sculpture relief on the gateways, pillars, upright and cross bars on the railings gives a beautiful pictorial representations of nature. The style of the carving reveals crude workmanship.

### Chaitya

A Buddhist shrine or prayer hall with stupa at one end. It is made for large gatherings of devotees, made in rock cut due to permanency of structure. Chaityas were influenced by ascetic lifestyles of Vedic period and tendency of hermits to retire in solitude.

### **What Is A Chaitya Hall?**

It is the Buddhist Prayer Hall. Large vaulted hall with apsidal end and divided longitudinally by two colonnades into a broad nave and two aisles. Stupa in the apse. Aisles and apsidal end for circumambulation and nave for congregational service.

The Stupa evolved from being a funerary mound carrying ashes to an object of worship. Carried the ashes of the Buddha so gained a sacral value. A building was needed to accommodate copies of the Stupa and provide shelter for devotees. Initially religious rites were conducted in the open, so no need for a structural house of prayer. As Idol worship evolved, temples to house deities were required. In order to house a hemispherical Stupa and to provide for a circumambulation building which was circular in plan and had a domed roof was made.

Some of the important chaitya halls are at Bhaja, Kondane and 9th cave at Ajanta.

Moving on to the next topic, that is Temple architecture, As we see there was development of temples and it had different styles. Each temple had different or various features, mostly dependent on geographical areas, climate, racial, historical and also linguistic diversity. Ancient Indian temples are classified in three broad types.

Decoration was an important part. The garbhagriha was provided with a circumambulation passage. Some of the basic important features of Indian temples.

First one garbhagriha that is the Womb House, second mandapa, the entrance next shikara that is the Mountain like spire on top. Amalaka: Stone-like disc. Kalasha: Topmost part of the temple. Antarala: Vestibule between the Garbhagriha and the Mandapa. Jagati: Raised platform where devotees can sit and pray. Vahana: Vehicle of the main deity along with the standard pillar. So these are some of the important and the basic features of Indian Temple.

Indian temples can be classified into 3 broad orders.

The first one is the Nagara or what we call as the Nagara style in North India. Then we have what is called as Dravida style in South India and the third one is the Vesara style.

The North Indian temple architecture. This type of architecture or this type of temple is entirely on stone platforms. It doesn't usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.

The three main distinctive features of North Indian temples or the Nagara style is that shikhara which is a tower, Garbhagriha -sanctum and mandapa that is the entrance Hall.

Some of the earliest temples had only one tower which was called as shikhara, but in the later period there were multiple shikhar's built. Garbhagriha is always located under the tallest tower.

There are different types of shikhar's.

First one is the Latina/ Rekha Prasada: It is square at the base and the walls curve or slope inwards to a point on top.

Second one Phamsana type shikhara: They are broader and shorter and the third type is Valabhi types shikhara: These are rectangular buildings with a roof that rises into a vaulted chamber.

The next type of temple architecture is the Dravida or the South Indian temple architecture. It is mostly enclosed with a compound wall and the front wall has an entrance gateway which is called as Gopura or Gopuram.

Tower is also known as Vimana (Shikara in Nagara style). The vimana is a stepped pyramid. A large water reservoir or a temple tank is enclosed. It has five different shapes: Square, rectangular, elliptic, circular and octagonal.

.The Vesara or the Deccan Temple Architecture

Contains both elements from nagara and Dravida architectural styles. Vesara is a distinct stylistic tradition which is used in the Deccan and Central India. The vesara style became popular after the mid 7<sup>th</sup> century.

.

Thank you.