

3 Cultural Heritage of India : Sculpture and Architecture

India is world famous for its rich cultural heritage. The art of sculpture and architecture has brought a unique identity to India. Town planning of Indus culture of ancient India was greater than contemporary town planning of the world and it is very remarkable. Sculpture means to carve the feelings on stone, wood or on metal with hammer and chisel.

Sculpture

The art of shaping figures or design with facial expression in round or in relief professionally performed by a sculpture with the help of chisel and hammer is known as sculpture.

Architecture

Simple meaning of architecture means art of construction. The word 'vastu' is used for architecture in Sanskrit language and it is very much renowned. In this reference art of constructing buildings, houses, towns, wells, forts, minarets, temples, mosque and tombs is called architecture. Skill of architect is seen in the art of his architecture.

Ancient Indian Town Planning

India has acquired expertise in the field of town planning. Many such towns have been found out during archaeological excavation work. The towns were divided into three sections : (1) Fort of rulers (Citadel) (2) Houses of administrative officers situated on the upper part of town (3) Residences of common people situated on the lower part of town.



3.1 Town planning of Mohan-Jo-Daro

- Forts for rulers were constructed on the upper part of the town.
- Upper part of the town is safe and protected with houses having two to five rooms.
- Houses on the lower part of the town are mainly constructed with hand made bricks.

People of Indus valley civilization has developed many more beautiful and systematic towns than many other civilizations of the world from the architectural point of view. Among all of them Harappa and Mohan-Jo-Daro had the best town planning.

(1) Mohan-Jo-Daro : In 1922, archaeologists named Rakhal Das Banerji and Dayaram Sahni found out remains of huge town planning, during excavation work which was being carried out under the guidance of sir John Marshal and Colonel Meke, in Larkhan district, (Now in Pakistan) of Mohan-Jo-Daro. Mohan-Jo-Daro means 'the heap of the deads.'

(1) Construction of Town : (Municipal composition) From the point of view of town planning, Mohan-Jo-Daro is the best. Houses were built on high plinth to protect them from floods and dampness. The houses of the rich people were double storeyed having five to seven rooms, while those of poor people

were single storeyed having two to three rooms. The town was fortified. The main entrance of the houses opened on the side lanes and not on the main roads. Remains of store house, kitchen and bathroom were found in every house. There was proper arrangement of doors and windows to keep the houses airy and ventilated.

(2) Roads : Roads are the main features of this town planning. The roads were 9.75 metres wide. The small link roads crossed the major ones at right angles. The roads were wide enough for a number of vehicles to pass at a time. Pits on the road side suggest that there might have been lamp posts. Roads of town were straight main roads without any turns. This is considered to be a speciality of ancient time. There were two main roads. One was going from north to south and the other was going from East to West. Both crossed each other at right angle.

(3) Drainage System : Drainage system is a unique feature of this town planning. Such a drainage system was found nowhere except the in island of Crete in the Mediterranean sea. This system was built to drain dirty water out from the town. Each and every house had a cesspit. This planned, systematic and efficient drainage system clearly proves that they were very careful about their health and hygiene.

(4) Public Baths : A huge bath was excavated at Mohan-Jo-Daro. There was an arrangement to put fresh water in and dirty water out. There might have been facility for hot water and small rooms for changing the clothes. These public baths might have been used on festivals and religious ceremonies.

(5) Public Buildings : The ruins of two huge buildings have been found at Mohan-Jo-Daro. They might have been used as a town hall or as a theatre or an administrative office or a granary. The barrack of such buildings was also found out. This must have been used to accommodate soldiers.

(2) Harappa : In 1921, under the leadership of Sir John Marshal and Colonel Meke, Dayaram Sahni discovered very ancient remains of Indian civilization from Montegomary in Punjab district near Harappa. The remains of Indus valley civilization were found from Rapar in Himalayan region, Alamgirpur at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, Kalibangan in Rajasthan, Lothal at Dholka in Gujarat, Deshalpur - Shikarpur in Kutch, Dholavira, Rangpur near Limbdi in Saurashtra, Shrinathgad (Rozadi) near Gondal, Kuntasi near Morbi and Somnath etc.

The region of Saptasindhu river is a region of our Indian culture. The culture which developed here is known as Indus valley civilization. Its remains were found first of all from Harappa that is why it is known as Harappan civilization. Copper and stone weapons and many other things were found from this region. That is why it is also known as copper stone age. Town planning of Harappa civilization was very systematic. Its granaries and forts were remarkable. People of that age were fond of wearing ornaments and such remains have been found.

(3) Dholaveera : A huge and systematic ancient town, contemporary to Harappan civilization has been found 2 km away from Dholaveera village at Khadirbet, in vast desert of Bhachau taluka which is about 140 km. away from Bhuj. Archaeological department of Gujarat surveyed this heap of ruins. After this officers of Archaeological survey of India had undertaken the research work in 1990 A. D. Special task of excavation was carried out under the guidance of Ravindra singh Bisht.

Remains at Dholaveera, palaces and main walls of town were painted with white colour. Such fortified walls encircling town suggest strong security. This wall is made up of clay, stone and



3.2 Dholaveera

bricks. potable water was available here as well as a proper system of water purification was set up here which is not made available to all even in modern age.

(4) Lothal : Lothal is situated in Dholka taluka of Ahmedabad district. Dholka is a place between two rivers. Bhogavo and Sabarmati. It is 18 km far from Bay of Khambhat, from where three layers of human habitat were found. A huge dockyard was constructed to facilitate ships in the time of high tides at the lower eastern part of the town. And this is a unique feature of Lothal. Such dockyard, storage shops etc. show the proof of exports and imports. This suggests that Lothal might be a rich and prosperous port of India. This is a matter of great pride not only for Gujarat but also for history of India.



3.3 Lothal

Mauryan Art :

Stupa : An oval shaped construction under which the remains of Lord Buddha's body were kept in a box is known as Stupa. There are five famous stupas of king Ashoka's time : (1) Stupa of Sanchi (2) Stupa of Sarnath (3) Stupa of Berat (4) Stupa of Nandangadh (5) Stupa of Devanimori in Gujarat. Besides, Chaityas, Viharas and Maths were constructed. The period of king Ashoka was the golden period of prosperity for buddhist religion and age of sculpture and architecture.

Buddhist religion has gifted caves, viharas, chaityas and stupas to the field of architecture.

Stupa of Sanchi : The Sanchi stupa was built during Mauryan Period. It is situated at Madhya Pradesh. The original stupa of Sanchi was made of bricks. It was half in size compared to the present stupa. This buddhist stupa is precious specimen of art of architecture.



3.4 Stupa of Sanchi

Linear Sketch of stupa

Harmika

The railing around the top of the oval shaped stupa is called Harmika.

Medhi

Elevated circular path around stupa is known as medhi, which is used for pradakshina.

Pradakshina Path

A slightly elevated circular path around the temple or place of worship is called pradakshina path. Pradakshina is done in such a way that place of worship is always to the right side.

Toran

Toran means a gate way that is built on two high pillars with artistic horizontal beam on it. The devotees use this toran as an entrance.

Pillar Inscription

Stone inscriptions were made from single rock. Stone inscriptions carved out by the religious order of emperor Ashoka are the best specimen of engraving on stone. They were polished so well that they gleamed (shined). Such pillars were erected in Ambala, Meerut, Allahabad, Sarnath, Loria near Nandangadh, Sanchi, Kashi, Patna and Bodhivruksha near Bodh-Gaya. They were carved in Brahmi Script.

Pillar at Sarnath

The stone inscription at Sarnath is the best specimen of sculpture. The pillar has four lions facing four directions. Sarnath preaching place of Lord Buddha, Dharmachakras are carved below the lion images. This chakra indicates triumph of religion. That is why it is called Dharmachakra. Apart from this, it has sculpture of elephant, horse and bullock. This chakra has been placed in the national flag of Republic India. Images of four lions have been placed as our national emblem. This is considered to be one of the best specimens of sculpture in the world.



3.5 Lion Image at Sarnath

Stone Inscription

Stone inscriptions carved by religious orders of emperor Ashoka are the best specimens of engraving on stone. Wooden art, stone sculpting show an excellent specimen of art of architecture. along with erections of pillars of wood and stone beautiful arches are engraved on the door, which stresses religious behaviour. Such stone inscriptions have been found from Peshawar, Dehradun, Thane, Mumbai, Dhauri, Jaugada (Odisha) and Chennai etc. Such type of stone inscription has been found from the foot hill of Girnar mountain on the way to Junagadh in Gujarat. Other than this, Palitana Jain temples on Shetrunjay mountain in Gujarat, Jain temple (1847 A.D.) of Hathisinh in Ahmedabad are such stone inscriptions which provide complete information in Sanskrit and Gujarati languages.

Dravid Style of Art in South India

Many buddhist Stupas were built in the regions near Krishna and Godavari river during the reign of Satvahan kings. They were of semi-circle, oval and bell shaped. Stupa in Nagarjuna-kaunda and Amravati are the best specimen of Dravid style of art. Chola kings adopted Dravid style of architecture up to the great extent..

Art of Gupta Period :

During the Gupta period, architecture, sculpture, painting, dancing and music flourished. Parvati temple at Jabalpur (Ninava), Bhumara (Nagoda) Shiva temple, Eran's (Madhya Pradesh) Narsinh temple, Gopmandir at Jamnagar, Stupas, Chaityas, Maths, Viharas, Flags and Pillars are the unique examples of Gupta art. Gupta period is known as the golden period of art. Buddha statue at Sarnath, statue of Lord Vishnu at Mathura, Statue of Mahavir Swami, caves of Udaya giri and statue of Vishnu in the form of Varah etc. are the best specimens of sculpture of Gupta period.

Cave Architecture

Cave architecture is considered as a manmade place of beauty. Caves of Ajanta and Ellora at Aurangabad, Elephanta caves near Mumbai, Udayagiri and Bagh near Gwalior, Bhuvneshwari near Odisha, Khandgiri and Nilgiri are the famous specimens of cave architecture of Gupta period. Khambhalida (Gondal) in Gujarat, Dhank (Rajkot), three Caves at Junagadh, Talaja, Sana etc. Caves are also found. The cave inscriptions of Ashoka have been carved on the walls of three caves of Berber moountain, 16 km. away from Gaya. This describes works of charity done by Ashoka. Caves of Assam and Darjiling, Sudama cave of Bihar and cave of Seeta are the well-known cave architecture.

Detail information of Ajanta - Ellora caves is given in chapter 6.

Caves of Gujarat :

(1) Caves at Janagadh : There are three groups of caves in Junagadh.

(1) Group of Bavapyara caves : This cave is situated near Bavapyara math. They are in three layers intersecting each other at right angles. There are total 16 caves, out of them four are in first line, seven in second line and five in third line. Possibly they were carved during first and second century A. D.

(2) They are double storyed. On seeing their remain say one can that they might have been carved during the end of second century and the beginning of fourth century.

(3) Caves of Khapra and Kediya : Caves of Kund : On seaing the remains, it can be said that they were floored caves. It might have been carved in the third century. There are twenty pillars and they are in ruins now.

(2) Khambhalida Cave : It is discovered in 1959 A. D. They are situated at Khambhalida near Gondal, 70 km. from Rajkot. Three of them are remarkable. Chaitya Gruh with stupa is situated in the middle cave. Figures of Boddhi sattvas and statues of devotees are standing on both the side of enterance path supported by trees. And they are of second or third century.

(3) Talaja Cave : Mountain of Talaja is situated near the mouth of Setrunji river in Bhavnagar district. It is famous as piligrim of Taaldhwajgiri. Thirty caves have been carved from stones with huge gates. Ebhal Mandap (Sabhakhand) and Chaitya Gruh are the best examples from sculpture and protection point of

view. Cave architecture of Buddhist religion belongs to the third century A. D.

(4) Sana Cave : This group of caves is situated on the top of Sana mountain in Vankiya village, Una taluka in Gir Somnath district. These caves are spread on Sana mountain like bee-hive.

(5) Dhank cave : Dhank giri is situated in Dhank village of Upleta taluka at Rajkot district. It is considered that they might have been built in the beginning of fourth century.

(6) Jhinhuri Jhar : There are many buddhist caves in the west of Dhank, about 7 km from Siddhsar, is the valley of Jhinharijhar. It is considered that they have been built in the second century.

(7) Khapra - Kodiya caves at Kachhh : These caves are situated on the top of mountain near old Paat gadh, in Lakhpat taluka of Kachhh. There are two caves, these are discovered by K. K. Shastri in 1967 A.D.

(8) Caves at Kaliya Dungar : There are three caves in Kaliya Dungar at Jhagadiya taluka in Bharuch district. These are the best old architected specimens of buddhist religion. Architecture of these caves is marvelous. An eleven feet high statue of a lion with two bodies and one mouth in the form of pillar has been carved which in a single rock.

Chariot Temple

A unique feature of Pallava age can be seen in the famous chariot temple of South India, which is carved out from a single rock. Kailashnath temple of Kanchi and temple of Vaikuntha Perumal are the best examples of architectural art. Apart from above, Mandapas at Mahabalipuram and chariot temple of Mahabalipuram are world famous. Each one of them is rock cut temple. These chariots are named after the names of Pandavas. Chariot temple of Dharmaraja is the biggest one where as the chariot temple of Dhraupadi is the smallest.

Temple Architecture :

Many famous temple architecture are seen with high pedestal and pinnacle with ladder. But some are flat with pradakshina path encircling the 'Garbha Gruha' (inner most part of the temple). The Bhoomara shiva temple near Jabalpur and temples of Larkhan in Bijapur district, copper statue of Lord Buddha in Nalanda (Sultangunj) and Jain temples of Mathura are unique specimens of archite-

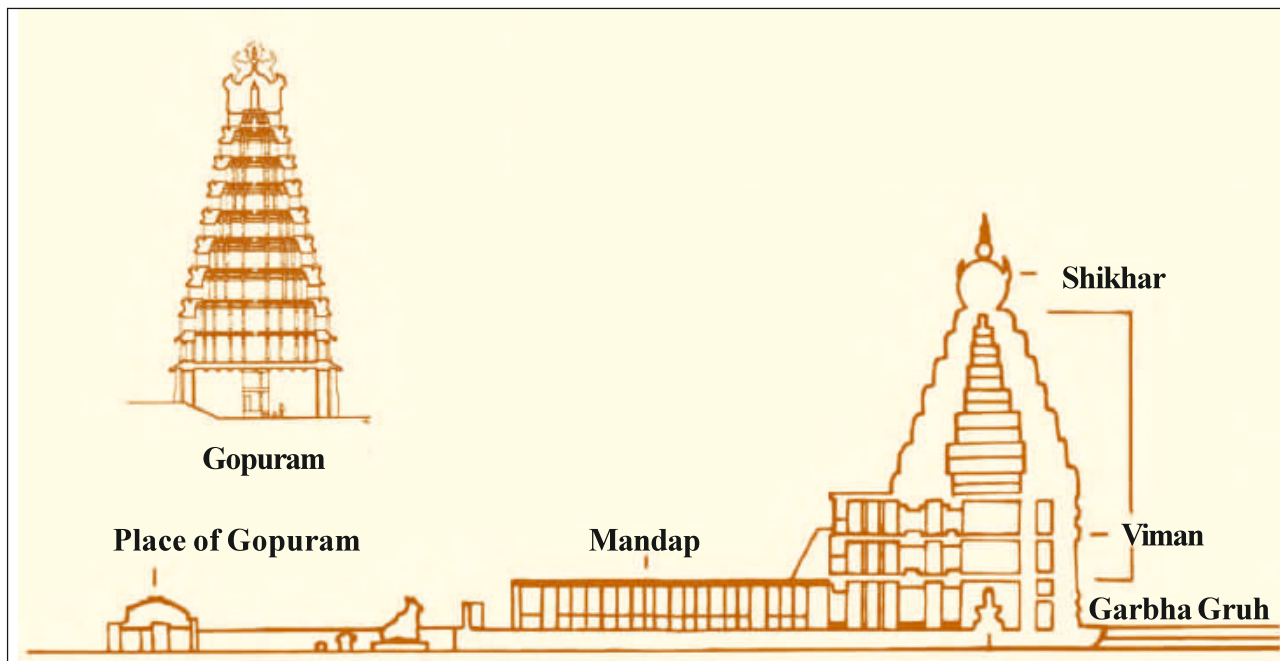


3.6 Chariot Temple

ecture and sculpture. There is a greater contribution of Pallava kings. Temples constructed in Kanchi, the capital city of Pallavas are very famous. Tanjavar was the capital of the Chola Dynasty. The great Brahadeshwar temple was the first temple constructed by Rajraja of Chola dynasty. It is about 200 metres high. It is an extra-ordinary temple of ancient India.

Architecture of Gopuram :

Gopuram means entrance of the temple. The construction of temples gained momentum due to the encouragement of Pandya rulers of South India. They built high outer walls and beautifully decorated gates outside the temple. The gates of this temple are known as 'Gopuram'. The artistic glory of Gopuram has become more popular than its temples. Gopuram of Kanchi and Madurai gives us aesthetic pleasure even today when viewed from distance.



3.7 Architecture of Gopuram

Linear Sketch of Temple

Garbha Gruh :

Garbha Gruh means a small and dark rectangular room in which idol is kept. In Gujarat, it is known as 'Gabharo'.

Gopuram

Gopuram means a gateway of a Southern Indian temple. Two lower storeys of temples are convex shaped and the other two storeys are aloft to make a pyramidal structure that makes the Gopuram strong.

Mandap :

It is a big hall constructed on the pillar or is a huge area lying in the front of the main gate.

Pinnacle (Shikhar) :

The pointed exterior part of Garbh Gruh at the top is known as pinnacle. It is plated either with gold or brass.

Viman :

Viman is a part of temple. It is semi-circle or in sloping shape. It has many storeys and looks like pyramid.

The Sun temple of Konark is in Odisha, which is one of the forms of chariot temple. Brahadeshwar temple of Tanjavur has thirteen storeyed ‘Gopuram’. Metallic and stone idols of this age have special characteristic features. Bronze statue of Natraj is the best example of idol sculpting of that time. Chola temples have their own splendor in age in the field of art and architecture.



3.8 Sun Temple of Konark

Jain Temples : (Derasar)

Jain temples are found at various places of India. Vaibhar at Rajgruha, Vipulachal, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri and Shramgiri are five Jain temples. There is a Siddhakshetra Pilgrim in Samet Shikharji, Bihar and it is known as Madhuvan. Aadinath Bhagwan and other 20 Tirthankars attained Nirvana. There are temples of Abhinandan Nathji and Parshwa Nathji. Bhagwan Mahavir reached here and many sages attained salvation (Moksha). There is a Jain temple at Palitana and Shankheshwar temple at Panchasara in Gujarat. Jain temple at Delwara (Mount Abu) and Ranakpur in Rajasthan are excellent and wonderful form of construction carving, artistic skill and sculpture point of view. Especially Delwara temples of Abu which have been constructed by minister Vimal shah are ‘Vimal vasahi’ and other minister Vastupal constructed ‘Luna Vasahi’ are excellent example of sculpture. These are constructed with white marble. They are famous in India as well as abroad because of their attractive minute and artistic work of sculpture. These temples are wonderful and memorable gifts of Jain religion to the Indian culture. Jain temples are worldwide famous due to their art of sculpture and architecture.

Sun Temple of Modhera : Modhera temple in Gujarat (Mahesana District) was built in 1026 A.D. during the reign of Solanki King Bhimdev-1. In this temple, a gem was studded in the middle of the crown of Sun God. The entrance gate on the Eastern side of this temple is constructed in such a way that the first ray of Sun falls directly on the gem and because of it, the entire sanctum is lit up, creating a divine atmosphere. Twelve different images of Sun God and erotic sculptures are seen in this temple. The carving of this temple is done in Iranian school of Art. There are 108 small temples surrounding the outside tank which creates a pleasant sight at dusk and dawn.

Medieval Architecture

(1) The architecture of mosques, minarets, royal palaces, bridges and inns etc. are seen in medieval age. Qutub-ud-din Aibak built Qutubminar and Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. Similar mosque named

Meenakshi, one of the huge temples of India is in Madurai spread in vast area. It has four main ‘Gopurams’ from the architectural point of view. It is a wonderful temple. In the medieval period, Khajuraho was the capital city of Chandela ruler of Bundelkhand. Chandela rulers built a beautiful temple at Khajuraho. The style of pinnacle varies from others. Khajuraho temples are the finest temples.



3.9 Palitana

Adhai-Din-ka Jhopara was built by Qutub-ud-din Aibak, in Ajmer.

- (2) **Bengal** : Adina Mosque at Pandua region of Bengal, Tomb of Jalal-ud-Muhammad shah and Tanti para mosque were constructed. This region developed its own special style in the field of architecture.
- (3) **Jaunpur** : Sultans of Turkey built Atala Mosque. There is an artistic grill around the dome. The walls and ceilings are decorated with many Indian designs including lotus.
- (4) **Malwa** : Peculiar style of Mandu buildings is seen under the protection of Sultans. Many such tombs have been created over there. The huge and impressive domes and carving of balcony in this structure are attractive. Tomb of Hoshang shah is completely made of marble in Indian style.
- (5) **Other Provinces** : Besides this, the rulers of Kashmir and Bahmani built dome of Bijapur, buildings at Bidar and Gulbargani and 'Madrasa' of Mahmud Gava, temples of Hampi Vithala Swami and Hazar Rama, Gopurams and artistic Pillars are well-known art of Vijaynagar Empire.

Architecture of Gujarat

Sculpture and architecture of Gujarat include temples of various religions, mosques, viharas of Buddha religion, Maths, Stupas, Chaityas, Cave-temples, Jain temples. Besides this, different types of building construction useful for the society like - Royal palaces, forts, domes, gates, kirtistambh (tower of fame) inns (sanctuary), upashrya, visamas, varandas, skylight (Jharookho) watch tower, arches, wells, step wells, lakes and ponds, figures of animal and birds are the most beautiful and magnificent structures.



3.11 Somnath Temple



3.10 Kirti Toran of Vadnagar

(1) **Temple** : In the religious field, temples of different religions have been built in Gujarat. They are temple of Bhadrakali, Geeta Mandir, Veda temple, Jagannath temple (Jamalpur), Ranchhodrai ji temple (Dakor), Sun temple (Modhera), Hatkeshwar Mahadev temple (Vadnagar), Ambaji temple, Shamlaji temple, Somnath temple, Jagat temple

(Dwarka), Bahucharaji temple, Mahakali temple (Pavagadh), Swaminarayan temples, Brahmaji temple (Khed Brahma), Khodiyar Mataji temple (Bhavnagar), Madh of Ashapurama (Kachchh) etc.

(2) **Mosques** : Jama Masjid near Teen Darwaja is in Ahmedabad. Sultan Ahmad Shah - I built this

mosque in 1424 A.D. It has 260 pillars and 15 domes. Other structures include Sidi Saiyyad grill with minute carving, Roza of Sarkhej, Shaking towers (Ahmedabad), Mosque of queen Sipri, which is also known as ‘Mosque of Nageena’ and Jama Masjid at Champaner. There are many such mosques in big cities of Gujarat.

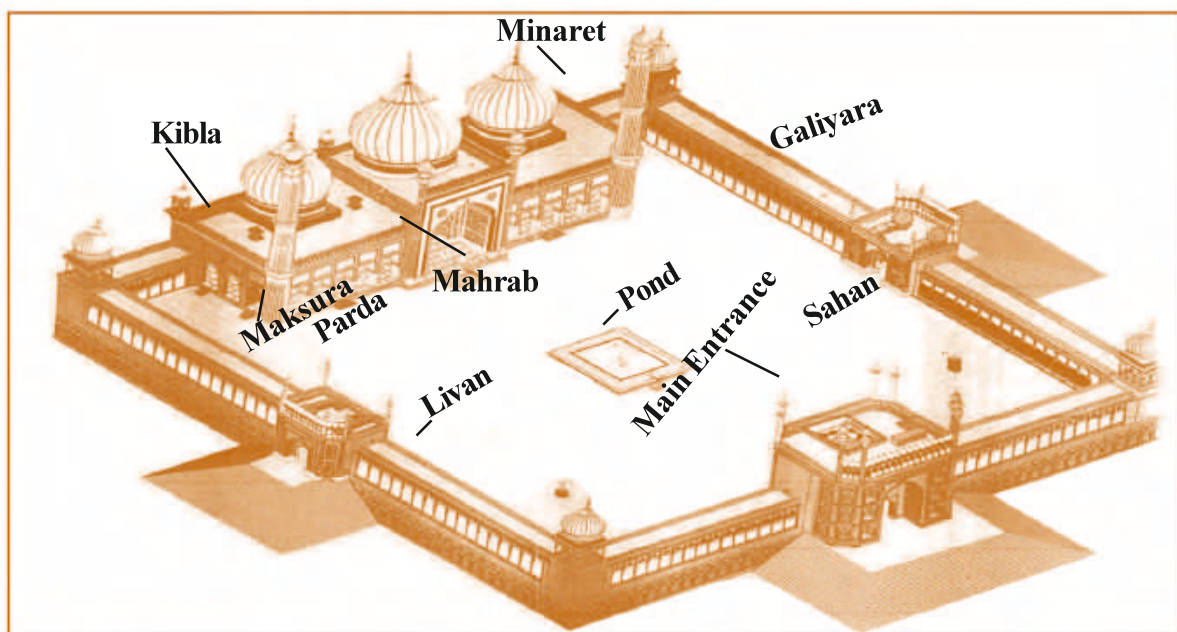
(3) Jain Temple : Jain temple of Hathi sinh, Kumbhariyaji, Shankheshwar, Siddhgiri, Shetrunjya giri, Palitana etc. are quite well-known from sculpture, architecture and carving point of view.

(4) Step-wells of Gujarat : Step well of Adalaj, Step well of Dada Hari (Hari ni vav, Ahmedabad) Rani ni step-well of Patan, Hira Bhagol of Dabhoi etc. are very splendid examples of step-well (vav) construction.

Apart from this, there are many best specimens in the field of architecture e.g. Fort of Bhadra, Teen Darwaza, Nageenawadi, Kankariya Lake (Ahmedabad), Rudra Mahalaya (Siddhpur), Shahstralinga Lake (Patan), Chori of Shamlaji, Samadhi of Tana-Riri, Kirti Toran (Vadnagar), Munsar Lake (Viramgam), Malav Lake (Dholka) etc. This art adds to the dignity and glory of Gujarat. Today Gujarat shines like star in the world map because of its art of sculpture, architecture and carving.



3.12 Step-Well of Adalaj



3.13 Linear Sketch of Mosque Architecture

Information about linear sketch of Mosque

Galiyara

The way to enter and exit from the mosque.

Kibla

This part of architecture is a part of mosque or a hall or hall wall where namaz is performed. It is always in the direction of Kaba.

Livan

The room in a mosque with pillars.

Maksura

End of the mosque wall is known as Maksura which is separated by a railing.

Mahrab

The interior part of mosque wall, which is of Human height, indicates correct direction to Mecca is known as Maharab. (In India, Mahrab is, generally kept in west.)

Sahan

The campus of mosque where the followers of Islam get together for prayer is known as sahan.

Excercise**1. Answer the following questions in detail :**

- (1) Explain town planning of ancient India.
- (2) Give detailed information about road ways and drainage system of town planning of Mohan-Jo-Daro.
- (3) Give information about the caves of Gujarat.

2. Answer the following questions pointwise :

- (1) Give information about Dholaveera.
- (2) Lothal was an important port of Gujarat. Explain.
- (3) Write about the art of pillar inscriptions.
- (4) Write a note on Sun temple of Konark.

3. Answer the following questions in short :

- (1) What is sculpture ?
- (2) What is architecture ?
- (3) Explain the meaning of Mohan-Jo-Daro and write about its road ways.
- (4) Write the meaning of Stupa.

4. Choose the correct option from those given below :

- (1) What is another word used for architecture in Sanskrit language ?
(A) Vastu (B) Carving (C) Temple (D) Ruins
- (2) What was built in Lothal to facilitate the ships ?
(A) Hail (B) Pillar (C) Dockyard (D) Grill
- (3) In which language are stone inscriptions engraved ?
(A) Hindi (B) Brahami (C) Urdu (D) Udia
- (4) Sun temple of Gujarat is situated at
(A) Modhera (B) Vadnagar (C) Kheralu (D) Vijapur
- (5) Which mosque is situated near Teen Darwaza in Ahmedabad ?
(A) Jama Masjid (B) Jumma Masjid (C) Masjid of Sipri (D) Masjid-e-Nageena

Activity

- Prepare a list of historical places of India.
- Prepare album of architectural monuments of India collecting historical pictures.
- Arrange a visit to Lothal, Dholaveera and Sun temple of Modhera.
- Visit the historical places of your area and discuss them in your class-room

