

Q1. What is Nagara style of architecture? How is it different from southern style?

Ans. Nagara style of architecture was developed during the Gupta era. It was the first for construction of temples. In the Nagara or Northern style of architecture, temples constructed with its 'Garbh Grah' in which the image of God was placed. Following are some important features of Nagara architectures:-

- ① It was mainly used for construction of temples.
- ② Temples were constructed square in shape with number of graduated projections.
14.5 CM
- ③ The elevation called 'shikhara' being the top of the temple inclines gradually towards forming a convex curve shape.
26.5 CM
- ④ There were 'Mandapas' also constructed in front of 'Garbh Griha' where people used to stay for worship.

Southern style of architecture or Dravidian style was mainly used in the southern part of India. Main differences between Nagara and southern style of architecture are as follows:-

① Shikhara is constructed in pyramidal shape in southern style while in nagar style it is in the shape of convex curve.

② Mandapas are constructed with a larger size in southern style while in nagar style mandapas were comparatively smaller.

③ Pillered halls called Chowadis were constructed next to Mandapa in southern style while it is missing in nagar style.

④ Elevated Gate called Guruparn is also constructed at the entrance of the temple in southern style while the gate are not much emphasised in nagar style of architecture.

Comparitively both styles were having Gants grab, with some difference in size and emphasis on the entrance and structural differences in shikhara.

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