

3/6/24
Q.

What is Nagara style of architecture? How it's different from Southern style? (250 words).

Ans. Nagara style or Northern style of architecture is a type of temple architecture usually found in temples of Northern India. It is one of the architectural style of building temples other being Dravidian and Vesara style. It has following features:-

- * The temples made in Nagara style generally build on a raised platforms with steps leading to temple.
- * The chief deity is placed in inner sanctum called the garbhagriha.
- * It consists of pillared halls called Mandaps, used for which can vary in shape like Andhmandap, Mahamandap and Mandap.
- * These temples contain a curvilinear top called Shikara which sits atop of a disc called Amalaka.
- * On top of shikara is a decorative pot called Kailash.
- * There may be one or many shikaras and chief deity is mainly placed under tallest shikara.

Though both Nagara style i.e Northern style and Dravidian style i.e Southern style are forms of Hindu temple architecture there are some differences. These are explained as:-

Dravida style were promoted by Pallavas whereas Nagara style were used by Guptas, Chandels etc.

- * Both in Nagara style & Dravidian style chief deity is placed within the Prabhavali but unlike Nagara style the Prabhavali may not be mounted by the tallest Shikhara. ✓
- * Instead of having a curvilinear top called Shikhara, Dravidian temples have pyramidal Vimana and the decorative piece on top of vimana is usually called Shikhara. ✓
- * South-^{em} Temples are usually compounded by walls and have elaborate gateways called Gopurams. ✓
- * There is also a water reservoir or pond inside the compound of the temple. ✓
- * Both being styles of temple architecture are unique in their own way and still try to wonder people who see them. Their beauty together has what led to origin of Vesava or Mixed style adding beautiful features from both. ✓

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