

FAQs

1. Name any two examples of Hoysala style of temple architecture

- The temples at Belur and Halebidu are classic examples of the Hoysala style of temple architecture.

2. What is Nagara style of architecture?

- The Indo-Aryan style or the Nagara style of architecture is the type of temple architecture that prevailed in the Northern part of India. It was very different from the temple architecture of Southern India, called the Dravidian style, in its form, planning , detailing , etc.

3. Explain in brief about the temple architecture in Orissa with an example

- Notable dynasties – Bhaumakaras & Somavamsis played a huge role in the cultural development of Orissa up to 11th century
- Gangas took over the Somavamsis and established their capital in Cuttack in the 12th century
- Separate architectural movement with defined characters. Main group of temples concentrated in the city of Bhuvaneshwar.

Salient features:

Plan:

- Rectangular , with row of compartments standing in an axis
- Two main compartments:
 - Mandapa / Jagamohan – a square assembly hall in the front called Pida deul
 - Garbagiraha or Deul on the rear side, which is the sanctuary called Rekha Deul.
- Deul denotes the shrine over Garbhagiraha.

Later additions:

- Nat mandir or Natya Mandir – Dancing hall or a festival hall
- Bhogmandir or Bhogmandapa – A hall of offerings

Salient features:

Exterior:

- Walls are projected & recessed as offsets continuing from ground to top in elevation as vertical segments.
- Walls are plain inside the hall. Each vertical segment is named as follows:
 - **Rahapaga** (main middle/central projection)
 - **Anardhapaga** (projection adjacent to Rahapaga)
 - **Konakapaga** (corner projection)

Divisions from top to bottom:

Jagamohan contains:

- **Pista** – lower portion/basement/plinth
- **Bada** – the cubical vertical portion above Pista
- **Pida** – the pyramidal portion or the roof above Bada
- Natya mandapa and Bhod mandapa also followed the same.
- In the same way, the Deul or Rekha Nagara also contains Pista and Bada and in addition, contains the following in its Shikara.
 - **Chhapra** – the middle paraboloidal portion
 - **Amla** – the flat fluted solid disc at the summit
 - **Kalasha** – the finial over Amla
- The sikhara is made of cluster of vertical bands that bend inward making a tapering curve.
- Vertical panels of recessed offsets decorated by horizontal moulds and deep grooves

- **Lingaraja temple** – largest temple in the city dedicated to Lord Siva.
- Built in 11th century by King Jagati, after shifting capital from Jaipur to Bhubaneswar, built near the Bindu sagar lake.
- Temple complex measures 160m long and 142m wide, surrounded by high walls 2.3m thick, the inner surface of which is a platform
- Main temple has four structures:
 - Bhog mandapa (hall of offerings)
 - Natya mandapa (dancing or festival hall)
 - Jagamohan (hall for assembly of people)
 - Deul or Srimandir – main shrine
- **Jagamohan** – oblong structure measuring 22m long and 17m wide
 - Four large piers are placed inside to carry the heavy load of the pyramidal roof
 - Four doors are located in the centre of four sides
 - Lower storey/bada is 10.4m high over which the stepped pyramidal roof is placed
 - Lower part of the pyramid is square and stepped, upper part round and fluted, at an overall height of 30.5m from the ground.
- **Srimandir** – most dominant and impressive part of the temple.
 - Measures 17m square at its base, rising to height of 55m
 - Contains the following parts:
 - Vertical portion/pista (plinth) and bada (cubical portion) which is approx $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the height of the tower
 - Inward curved cube chapra which differs in treatment from its lower cubical portion
 - Fluted amalasila
 - Crowned by vase shaped finial/kalasa

- Vertical bands with horizontal moulds and deep grooves
- The cella inside measures 5.8m square
- **Additional halls**– Bhog mandapa and Nat mandapa were added at a later date
 - Same style as Jagamohan, added in front of it, within the axis.
 - Group of four massive piers inside support the roof
 - Small window openings in the massive walls
 - Exterior – richly decorated, interiors – plain

4. What is a Jagamohan?

- Jagamohan is one of the two main components of the temple – a square assembly hall in the front called Pida deul.