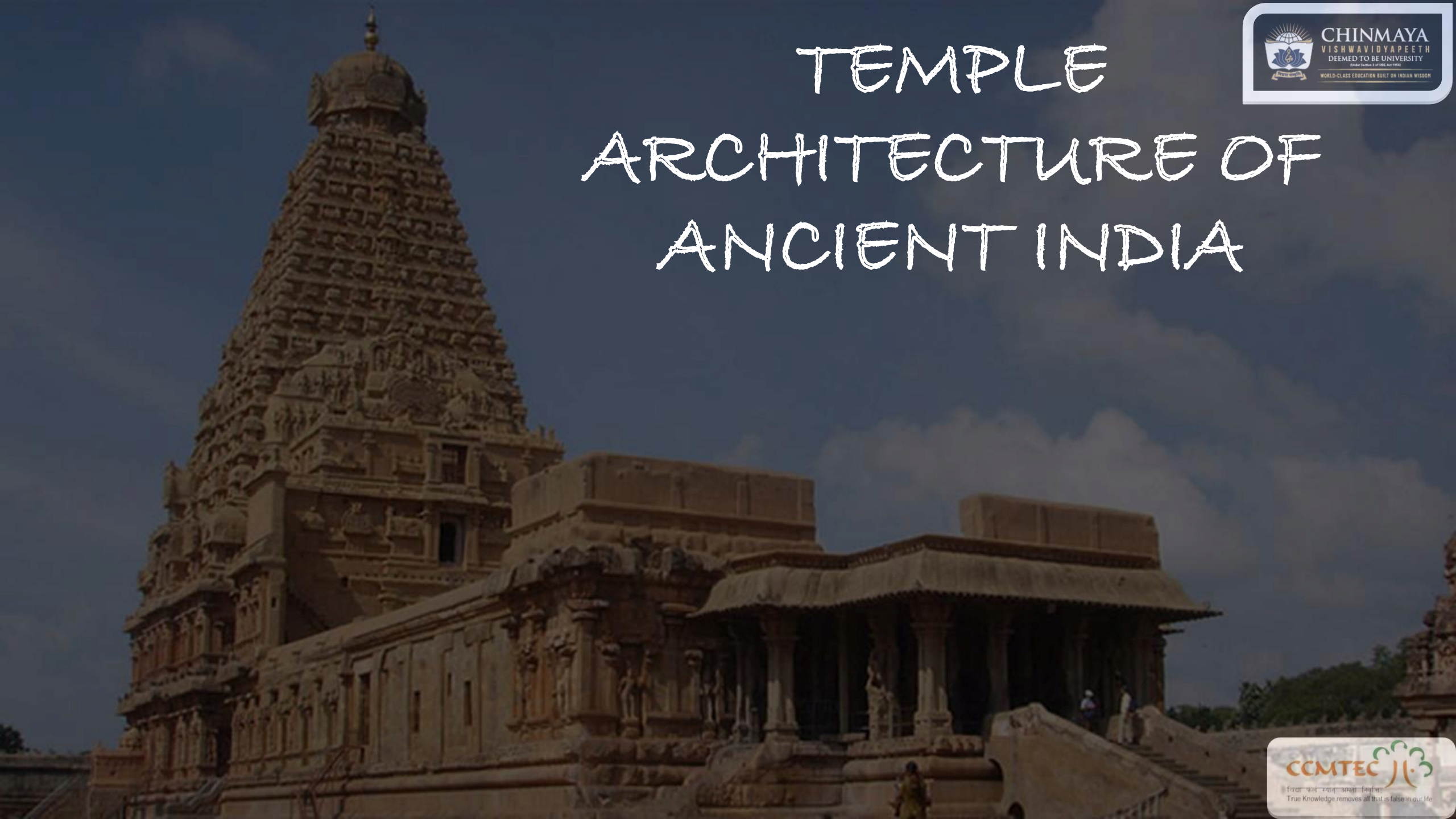


TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE OF ANCIENT INDIA



- Kelly explains the purposefulness of icons by saying: By pointing to the spiritual phenomena of the celestial world, which are beyond representation, the icon lifts the human mind and spirit to that world, uniting them with it and allowing them to share in the infinite delight of the spiritual creatures that surround the throne of the lord...



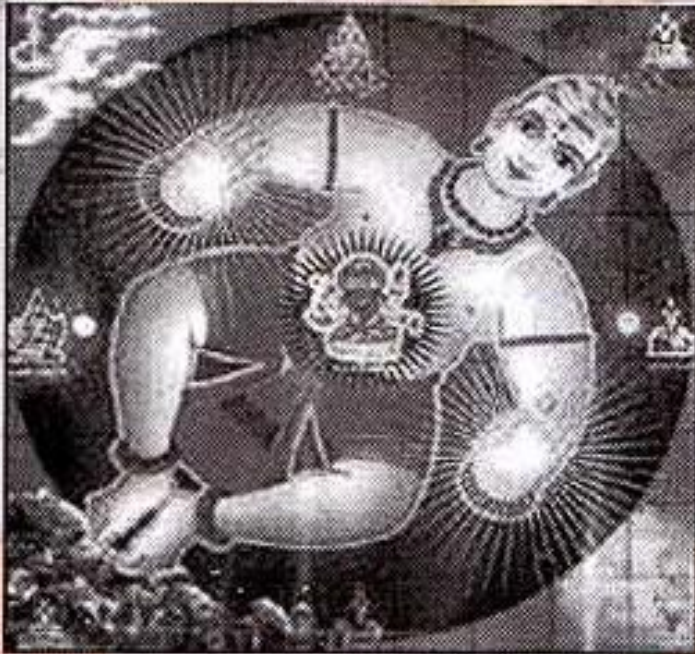
Vāstu-vidyā or Śilpaśāstra – the science of architecture – is one of the technical subjects studied in ancient India. Temple construction, town planning, public and private buildings and forts were included in the discipline in which the construction of a structure was regarded as a sacred act.

INTRODUCTION - VASTU SHASTRA



Residential Architecture in Bhoja's Samarānganasūtradhāra

INTRODUCTION, TEXT, TRANSLATION & NOTES



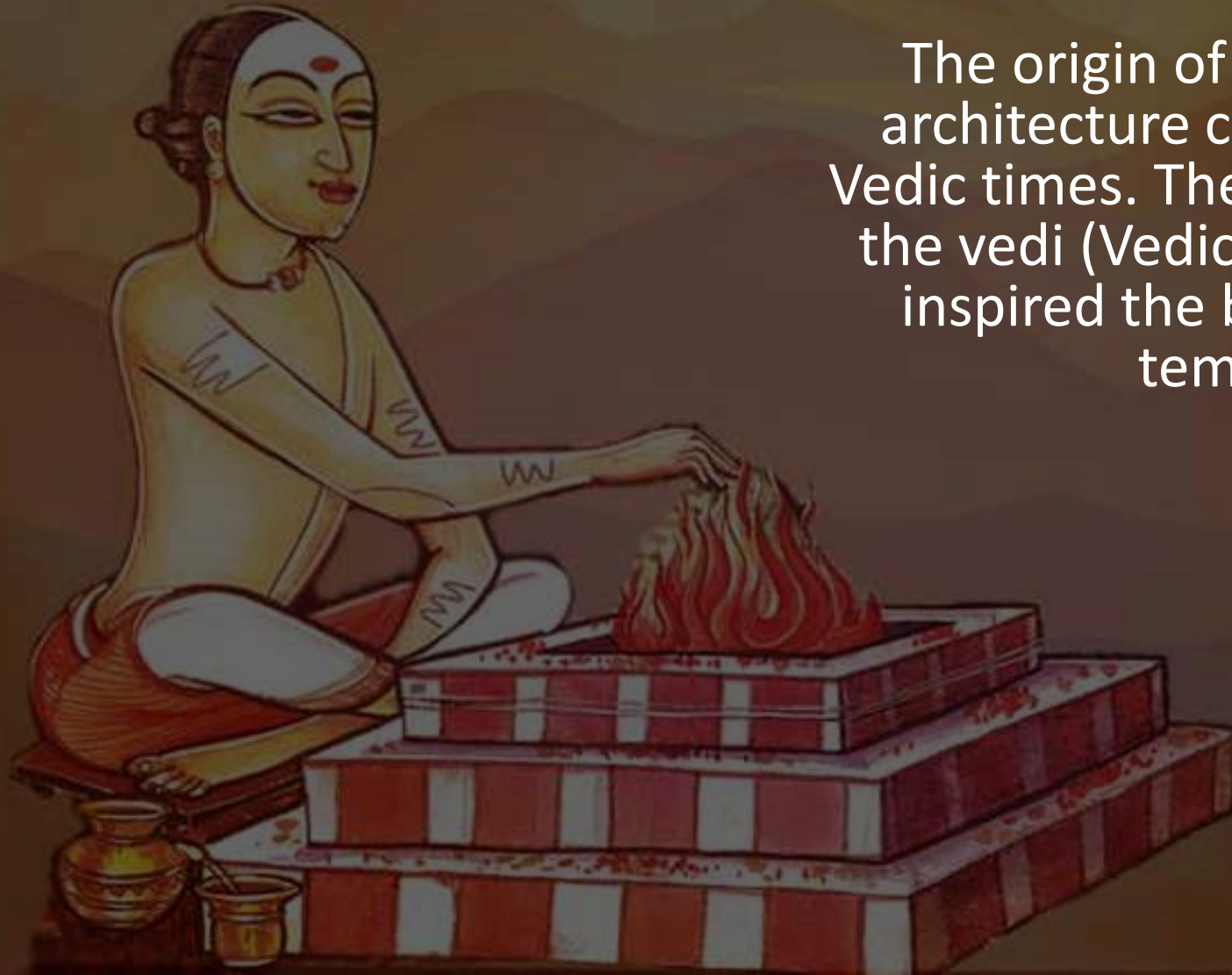
FELIX OTTER

Ancient Texts On Architecture

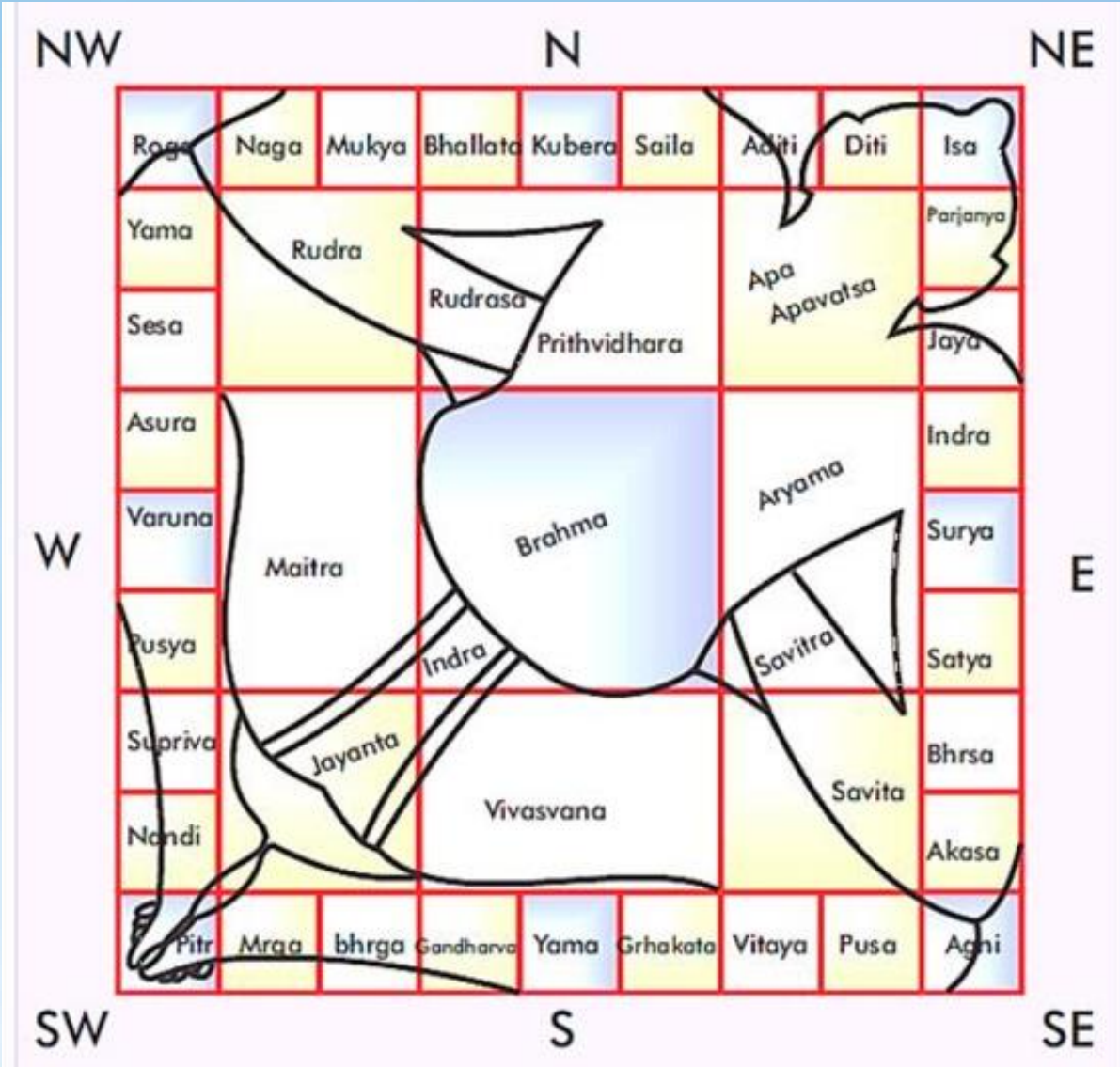
- Scriptural texts are required to systemize the knowledge.
- Ancient texts are purely based on 'design' and 'field application'. They come rooted from the understanding of nature.....breeze direction, nature of the soil, kind of growth in that region, flora and fauna etc.....
- Few texts are as follows,
 1. Saankhaayana Grhya Sutra – 500 BCE
 2. Arthashastra- 300 BCE. By Kautilya
 3. Samaraanganasutradaara – 1010-55CE by King Bhoja
 4. Mayamata – 1000 CE
 5. Manasara – 1300 CE

PRINCIPLES OF TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

The origin of Indian temple architecture can be traced to Vedic times. The square shape of the vedi (Vedic sacrificial altar) inspired the basic design of temples.



Vāstupuruṣa-maṇḍala



- Vāstu Śāstra visualizes the vāstupuruṣa-maṇḍala — the abstract representation of temple architecture — as a square in the form of a yantra (symbolic diagram).
- The philosophy behind this concept is based on an equivalence behind the macrocosm — the universe, represented by the various gods or powers in the maṇḍala — and the microcosm — the temple, often taken to be in the image of the human body.
- One central objective of Indian temple architecture is thus to connect the human being to the universe.

The Beginnings Of Temple Architecture

- Early humans lived in natural environment and wildlife.
- The easiest place where they found shelter were, the caves which were formed naturally.
- These caves were also used as places of worship. Thus emerged the cave temples of the ancient era.
- Temples were initially constructed of perishable material like wood, brick and mortar, reinforced by metal.
- Later, the need to have a permanent structure to house the dieties led to the creation of shrines in stone and this is how the 'CAVE TEMPLES' came into being.

ROCK CUT STRUCTURES

- In India, temples were initially constructed of perishable material like wood, brick and mortar, perhaps reinforced by metal.
- Later, the need to have a permanent structure to house the deities led to the creation of shrines in stone.
- This is how the artificial ‘cave temples’, scooped out of hard rock came into being in several places in India.
- Rock Cut Structures can be of two types:
 - 1. Cave Temples.
 - 2. Monolithic Temples.

CAVE TEMPLES

- The early rock-cut cave temples were Hindu, Jaina and Buddhist in nature. The most famous among all the cave temples in India were the Barabar caves located in Bihar. The most famous in those set of caves is the LOMAS RISHI CAVE (3rd century BCE).
- It is given to understand that these structures were made for the Ajivika sect, heterodox sect (very different from the traditionally social thinking sect).
- Ajivika sect: This sect was founded prior to the founding of Buddhism and thrived for a very long time before it disappeared completely. It was at its peak in the 6th century BCE.



- Lomas Rsi Cave
- Inside of the cave. Excellent example showing true imitations in stone of early wooden constructions. One of the famous caves in Indian state of Bihar, Lomas Rishi was created at Barabar Hills during Maurya period of 323 BC - 185 BC and is dedicated to Ajivaka Cult by King Ashoka (as the sources say.....)
- Credit- [journey fix.com](http://journeyfix.com)





A carved frieze of elephants is a stone imitation of similar work in wood along with a stone imitation of bamboo trellis.

- Lomas Rsi Cave

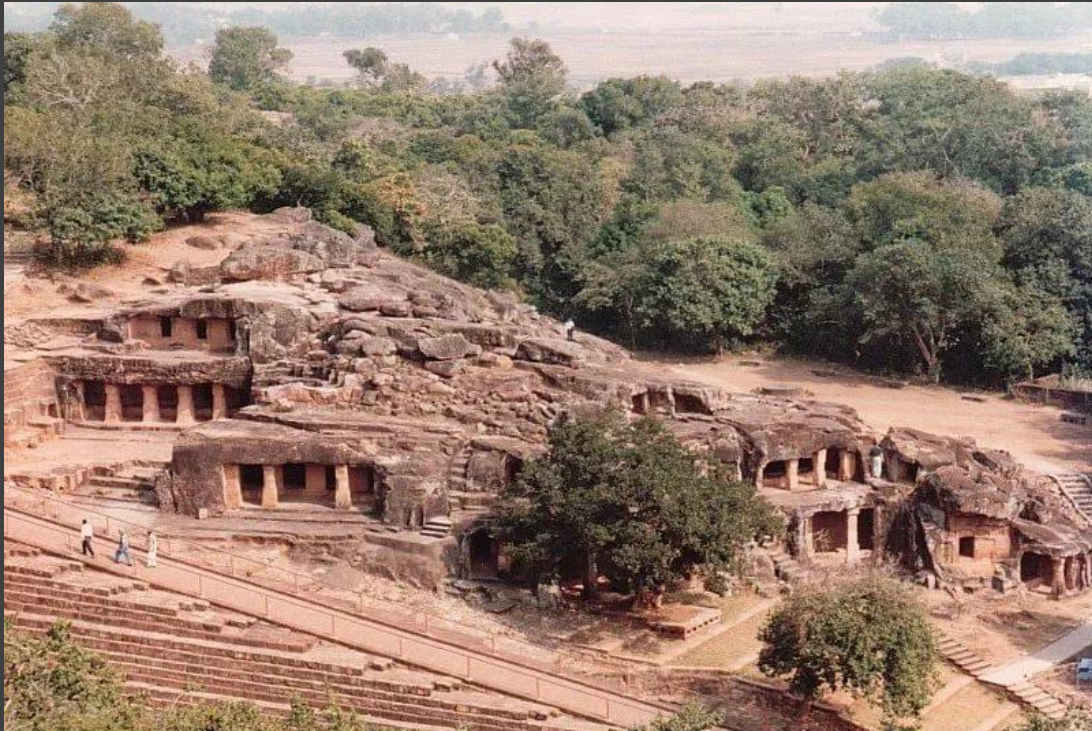


Remains of a circular
caitya shrine
belonging to the
time of Maurya -
Aśoka are seen at
BAIRAT IN
RAJASTHAN.



Buddhist rock-cut caves found in Maharashtra. Notably at Ajanta and Ellora, where sandstone is abundant.

Cave Temples Of



Udayagiri Madhya Pradesh



Badami, Karnataka

Monolithic Temples

The concept of creating cave temples slowly faded away as the architects graduated to making monolithic temples, i.e., shrines carved from top to bottom out of one piece of rock.

Examples Of Monolithic Temples

'Five Rathas' - Mamallapuram



The complex was carved during the reign of King Narasimhavarman I, a Pallava ruler (630–668 AD): the idea of realising monolithic buildings was an innovation in Indian architecture and is attributed to this ruler.

- 'Five Rathas' (chariots) of Mamallapuram belonging to the 7th century.
- These five monolithic monuments are each of a different shape and size.
- They are believed to replicate monuments made of perishable material that existed prior to their time.

'Five Rathas' - Mamallapuram

- The monoliths are named after the Pandavas – Arjuna, Bhima, Yudhishtira ("Dharmaraja"), Nakula and Sahadeva – and Draupadi.
- These names are considered to be a misrepresentation as the structures have no link to the iconic characters of the Mahabharata epic.
- They have no religious significance either.
- Why these were created is not clear.



Situated about 30 km from the city of Aurangabad in Maharashtra, the rock-cave temple of Ellora is the largest monolithic structure in the world.

Kailash Temple in Ellora

• Kailash Temple in Ellora

As per the historical records, it was built by the 8th century Rashtrakuta King Krishna I between the year 756 and 773 AD.

It is carved out from the Charanandri Hills of the Sahayadri Range.





Carved out of a single rock.

The rock temple was cut in U shape about 50 metres in the back, and about 2, 00,000 tonnes of rock was removed to give shape to it.

The archaeologists had calculated that it would have taken more than a hundred years to finish the temple construction.

However, in reality it took only 18 years to complete it.

Interestingly, modern age engineers find it impossible to finish the same temple using the modern technology in 18 years!

• Kailash Temple in Ellora

Constructed Temples

- **This type of architecture began with stūpas (relic mounds), caitya halls and mahāvihāras, which go back to the time of Buddha (6th century BCE).**
- **Originally the stūpas were made of bricks and surrounded by a wooden railing, then were enlarged and elaborated over centuries to magnificent complexes during the period of different empires and dynasties like**

Maurya empire,

Śuṅga dynasty,

Andhra period and

Kuṣāṇ period.

Mauryan Architecture



Stupa at Sanchi

Pillars of Bodhgaya



Monolithic rail at Sarnath





Sunga Architecture- Bharhut, Madhya Pradesh



Architecture during the
Kushana dynasty

Construction of brick and stone temples



- In the Gupta age, the tradition of excavating cave temples and monolithic shrines evolved into the construction of brick and stone temples.
- This was due to two reasons.
- One reason was that while the architects and sculptors could create a cave temple only where boulders or hills were available, a structural stone temple could be created at any chosen site by baking bricks or quarrying and transporting stones.
- Second reason was, there was more scope for architectural and sculptural innovation and experimentation while constructing a temple.

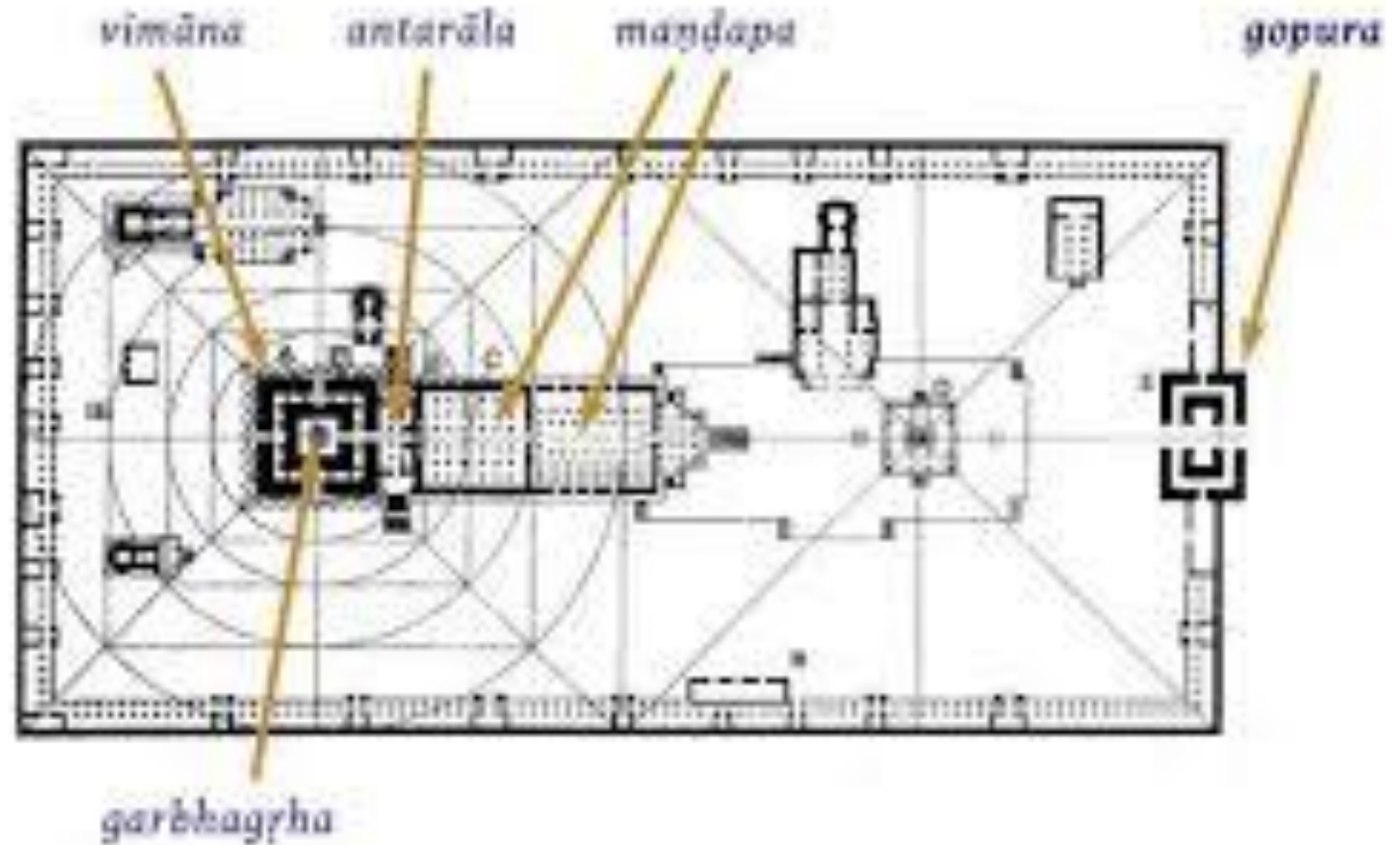
Gupta dynasty: empire in 4th century.
Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) was the Emperor.

Evolution of brick and stone temples

- Initially, temples were made as small shrines with possibly only the central sanctum sanctorum or the main cell enshrining the principal deity.
- Over time, they evolved into bigger temple complexes, with more sculptures and niches enshrining deities.
- Eventually, temples evolved into various styles, but those remained based on certain common concepts and features:

Some common concepts and features of temples of India belonging to any style.

- Gopura: an elaborate gateway, especially in south Indian temples, generally in the form of a tower.
- Jagatī (literally, 'earth'): the platform on which the temple is erected.
- Maṇḍapa: an open pillared hall for public events, including rituals, discourses or art performances.
- Antarāla: an antechamber between the maṇḍapa and the garbhagrha.
- Garbhagrha: the sanctum sanctorum, where the presiding deity is installed.
- Sikhara (for north Indian temples) or Vimāna (for south Indian temple): the tower over the garbhagrha.



The main parts of a classical Hindu temple (here the Brihadisvara temple of Tanjavur)

Indian Temple Architecture Is Divided Into Three Styles

- Nagara – Temples of North India are mostly of this style.
- Dravida – Most of the south Indian Temples are of this style.
- Vesara – It is a style of temple architecture which is a mix of both nagara and Dravida.



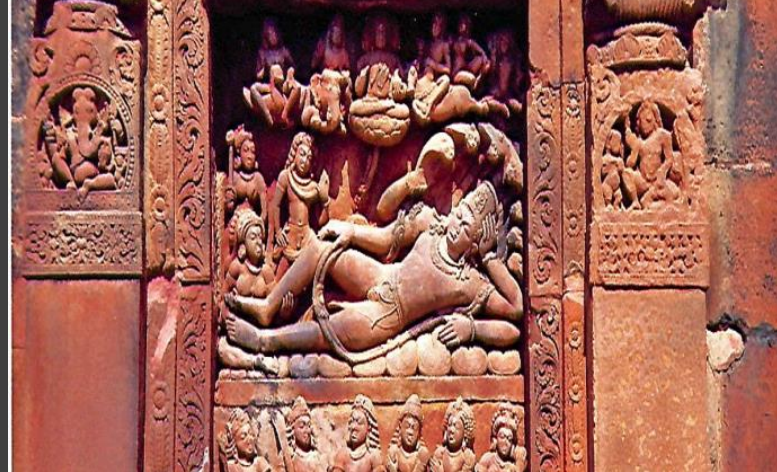
The Beginnings.....

Dashavatara Temple - Deogarh

1. The Dashavatara Temple is an early 6th century Vishnu Hindu temple located at Deogarh, Uttar Pradesh which is 125 kilometers from Jhansi.
2. It has a simple, one cell square plan and is one of the earliest Hindu stone temples still surviving today.

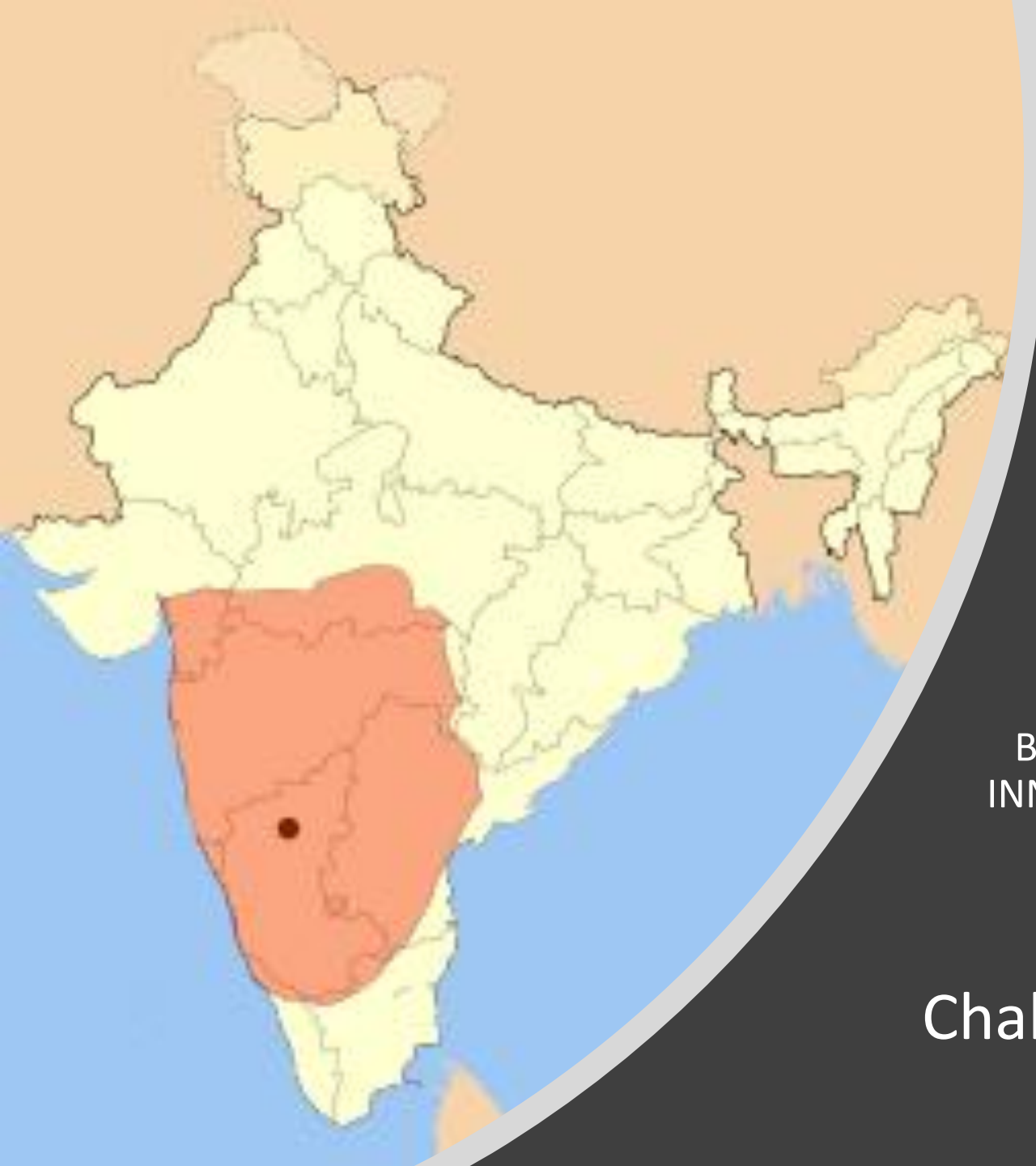


Dashavatara Temple – A Nagara Style



- Dashavatara temple Deogarh





The Chalukya dynasty was a Classical Indian royal dynasty that ruled large parts of southern and central India between the 6th and the 12th centuries. During this period, they ruled as three related yet individual dynasties.

Pattadakal became, along with nearby Aihole and Badami, a major cultural center and religious SITE FOR INNOVATIONS IN ARCHITECTURE AND EXPERIMENTATION OF IDEAS.

Chalukyan Dynasty Temples

- Structural Temples Of Chalukyas Of Karnataka – 7th and 8th

1. Badami Temples



Bhootnath temple Badami

2. Aihole



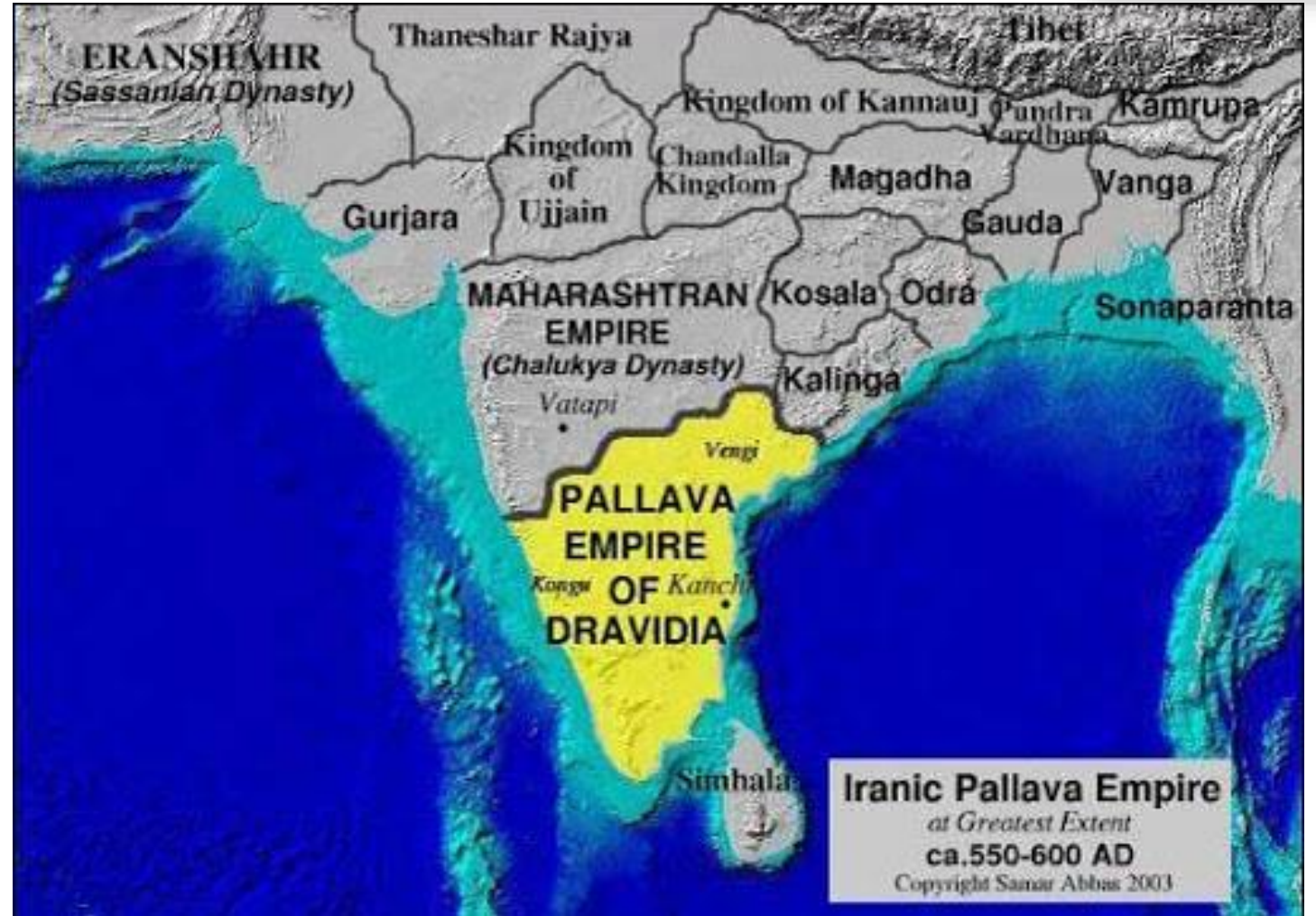
Chalukyan Architecture



3. Pattadakal - A blend of Nagara and Dravida

Pallava dynasty

- The Pallava dynasty was an Indian dynasty that existed from 275 CE to 897 CE, ruling a portion of southern India.
- They gained prominence after the eclipse of the Satavahana dynasty, whom the Pallavas served as feudatories.



DRAVIDA STYLE TEMPLES IN PALLAVA DYNASTY



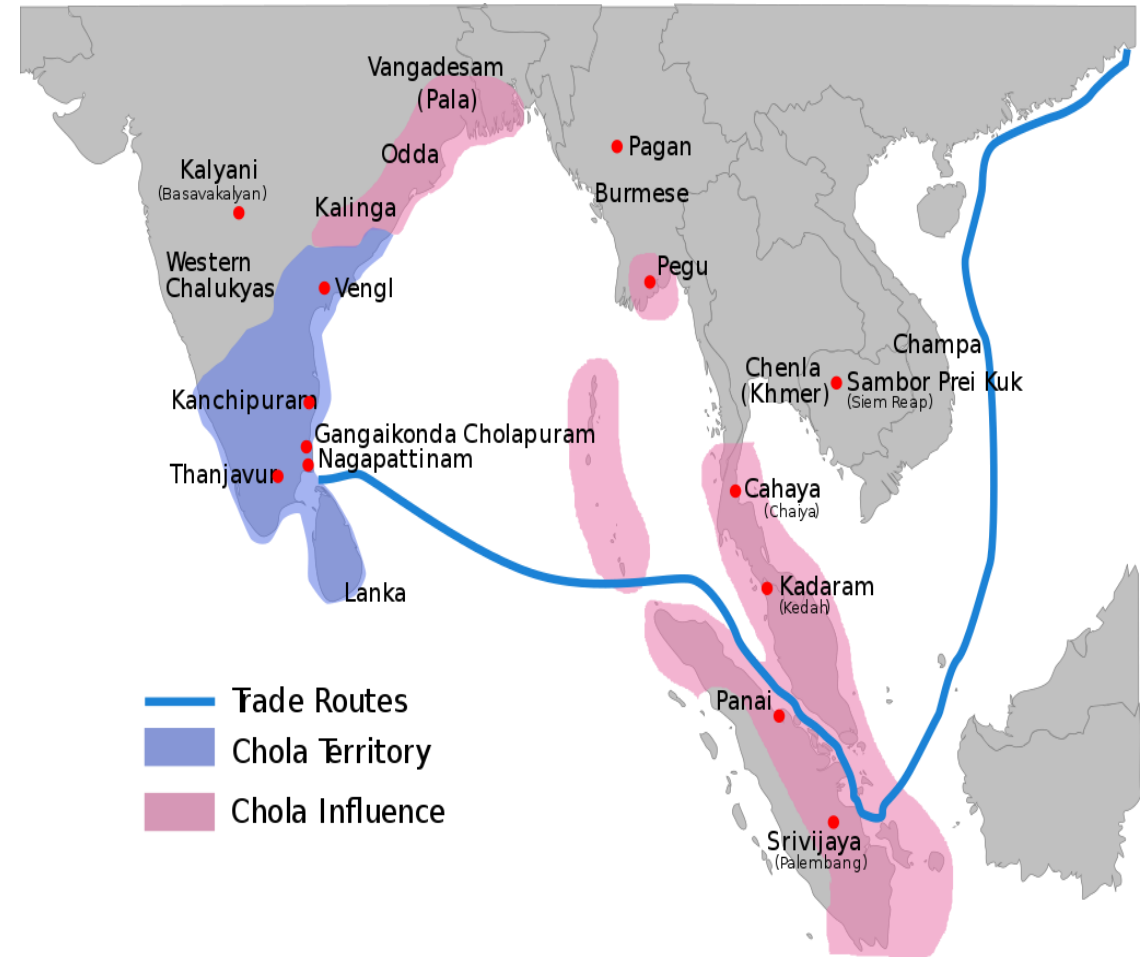
The Kanchi Kailasanathar temple is a sand stone made temple built from 685-705 AD by a Rajasimha (Narasimhavarman II) ruler of the Pallava Dynasty.



Shore Temple is a granite made temple at Mahabalipuram built during the rein of Pallava ruler Narsimhavarman in 7th Century.

Chola Dynasty - 300s BCE–1279 CE

- The Chola dynasty was a Tamil dynasty of southern India, one of the longest-ruling dynasties in the world's history.
- During the period 1010–1153, the Chola territories stretched from the islands of the Maldives in the south to as far north as the banks of the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh.
- Rajaraja Chola conquered peninsular South India, annexed parts of which is now Sri Lanka and occupied the islands of the Maldives.
- Rajendra Chola sent a victorious expedition to North India that touched the river Ganges and defeated the Pala ruler of Pataliputra, Mahipala.
- He also successfully invaded cities of Srivijaya of Malaysia and Indonesia.
- The Chola dynasty went into decline at the beginning of the 13th century with the rise of the Pandyan dynasty, which ultimately caused their downfall.



Temples Of Chola Dynasty



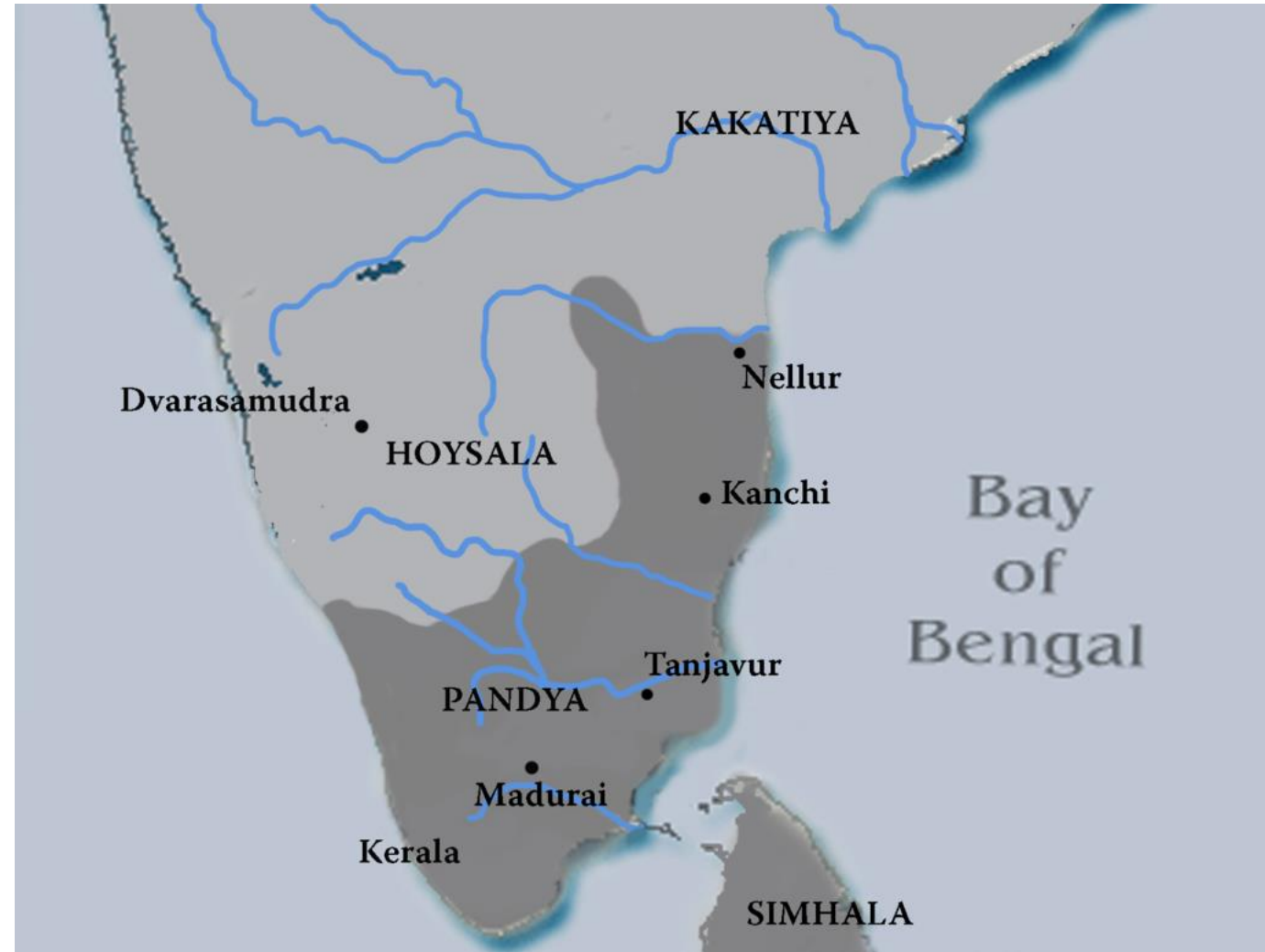
Brihadeeswara Temple Tanjavur Built by Tamil king Raja Raja Chola between 1003 and 1010 AD
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3yBuyu_FOA – A MUST WATCH VIDEO.



Darasuram Airavatesvara Temple

PANDYA DYNASTY – 12TH TO 14TH CENTURY CE

- Early Pandyas (3rd century BCE –3rd century CE)
- The age and antiquity of the dynasty is difficult to establish. The early Pandya chieftains ruled their country (the Pandya nadu) from time immemorial, which included the inland city of Madurai and the southern port of Korkai (Thoothukudi district).
- The country of the Pandyas finds mention in a number of Graeco-Roman sources (as early as 4th century BCE).
- The Pandyas entered their "golden age" in the period of (1216–1345).



PANDYA DYNASTY – DRAVIDA TEMPLES



Meenakshi Sundareshwarar
Temple Madurai Meenakshi
Sundareshwarar temple was built
by King Kulasekara Pandya.

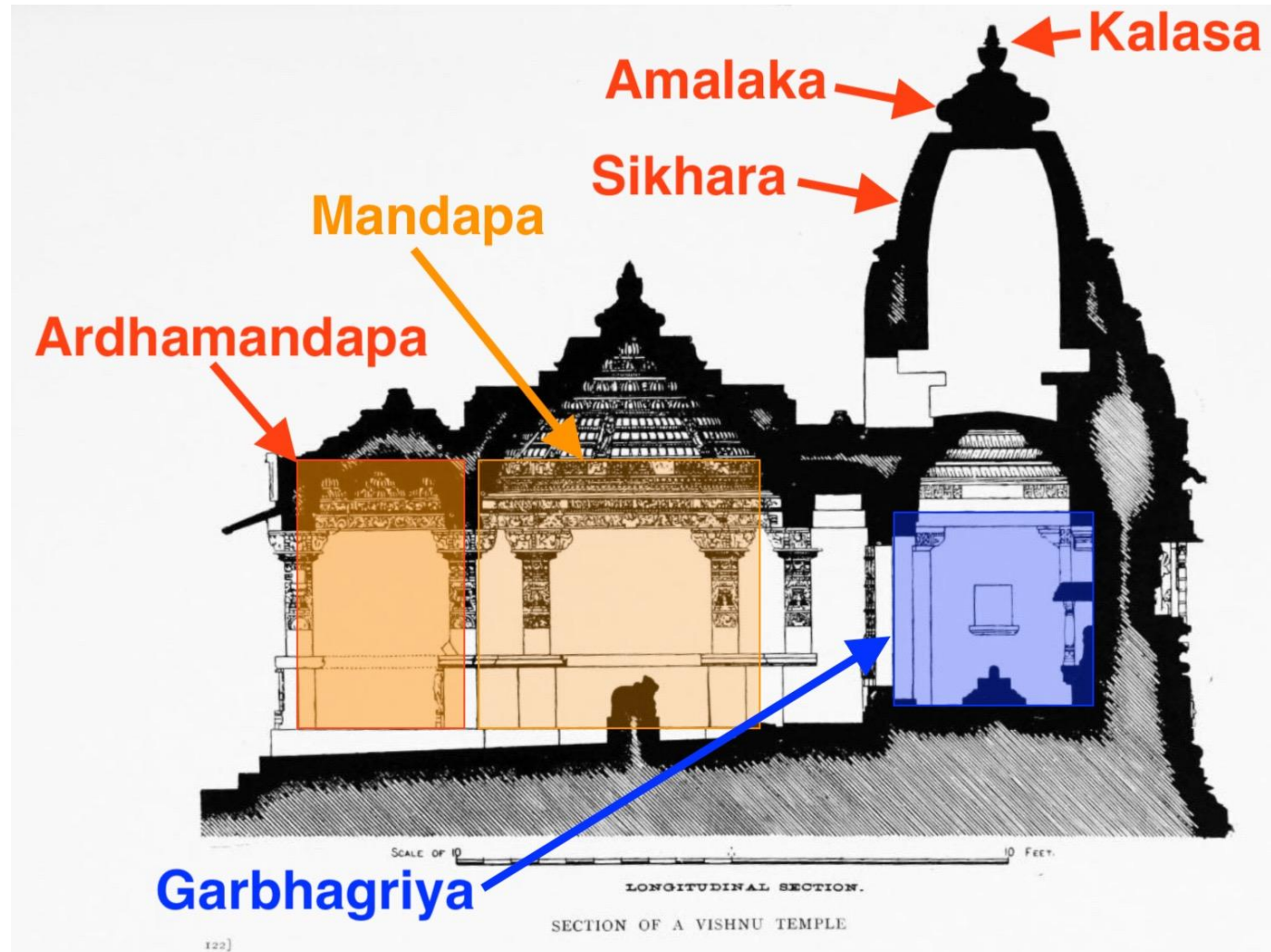


Ranganatha Swamy Temple
Srirangam



Srivilliputhur Andal temple –
Official symbol of
TamilNadu.

Nagara Style Of Temple – Its different parts



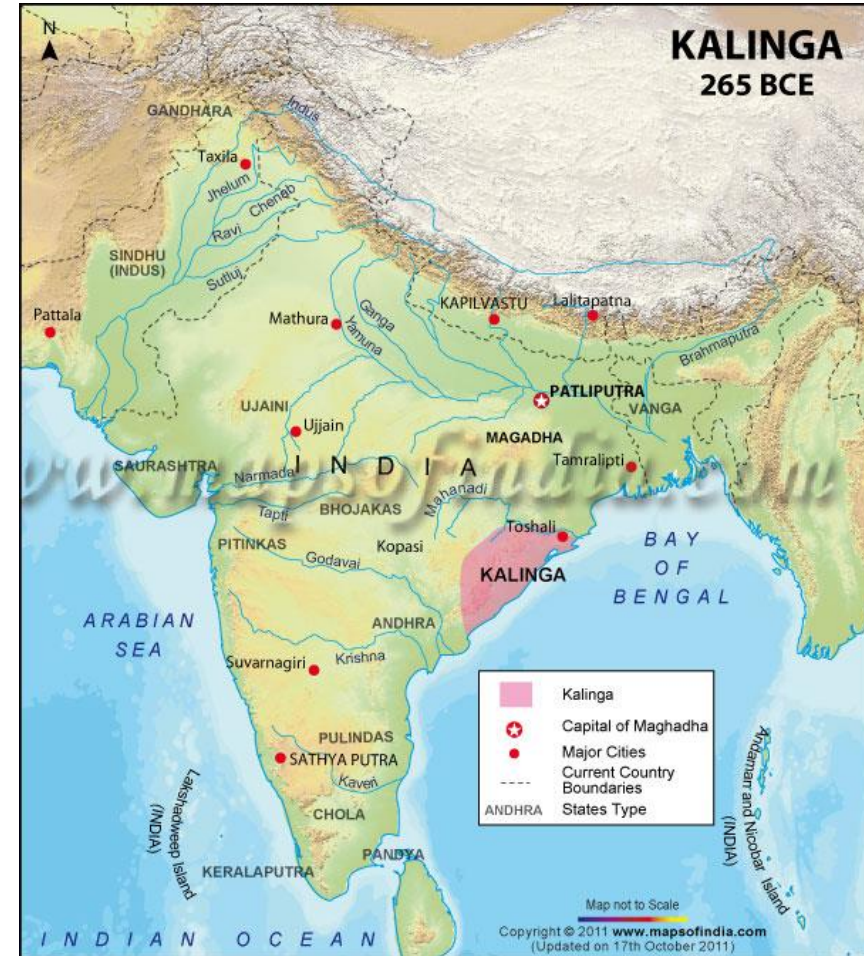
Nagara temples during Odisha/Kalinga Dynasty

- In Orissa, from the 7th century up to the 13th century temples of the Nāgara order were built.
- The curvilinear śikhara over the sanctum sanctorum is the most



eye-catching feature as also the hall(Mandapa) called the jagmohana.

- The walls are profusely decorated with sculptures.



Nagara
temples in
Odisha/Kalinga
style



Parashurameshwara temple



Mukteshvar temple, Bhubaneshwar -



Rajarani temple -



Lingaraja Temple -



Sun temple at Konark a 13th-century CE period is near Puri – Odisha.

Nagara style still improvised during Candela Dynasty

- The Chandelas whose capital was Khajuraho, were a royal dynasty in Central India from 9th to 13th century CE.....
- The origin of the Chandelas is obscured by mythical legends.
- Some contemporary texts suggest that the Chandelas belonged to the legendary Lunar dynasty (Chandravansha).



Nagara-style temples of Khajuraho



The Kandariya Mahadeva Temple is the largest and most ornate Hindu temple found at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. It was built by thhhe year 1030 CE during the reign of Vidyadhara a Candela king.



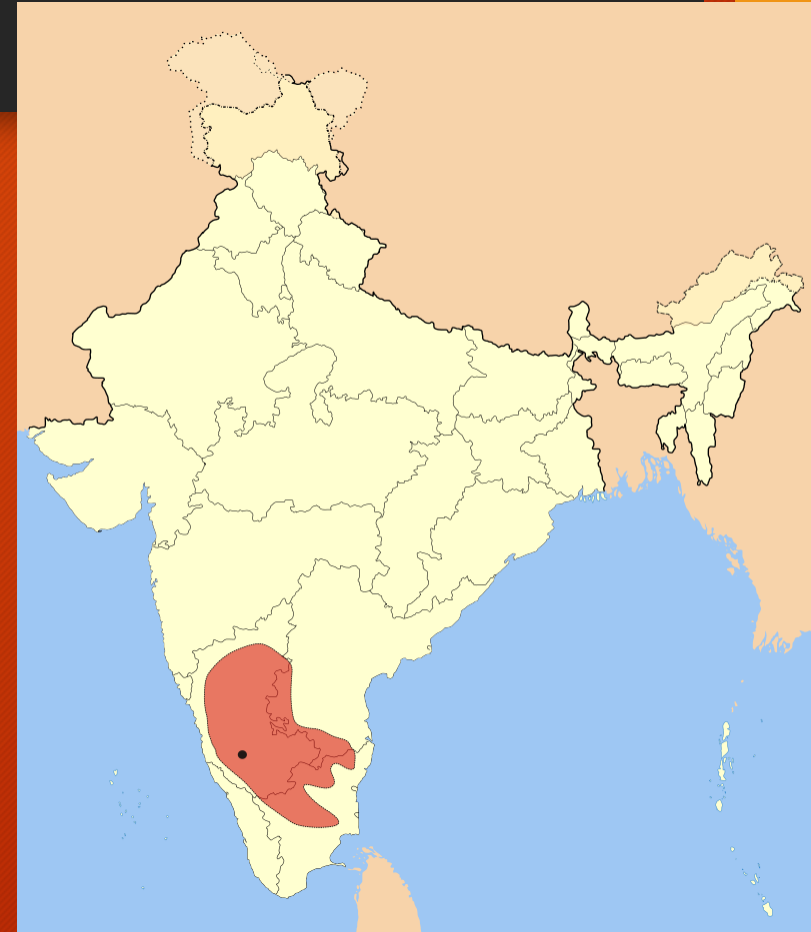
Laxmana temple built by Yashhovarman in the year 950 CE. Main image is of tri-headed & four-armed sculpture of Vishnu. Central human, two sides Varaha and Narasimha.

VESARA STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE

1. Vesara (vEsara) is the name given to a particular architectural style which was prevalent in Karnataka for a number of centuries during the medieval era.
2. It is essentially a combination of the 'nAgara' and 'drAviDa' styles which are typical of North India and the far South respectively.
3. The geographical position of Karnataka, the wide spread activities of the important royal dynasties and an attitude which is not unduly stubborn might have prompted this amalgamation of styles.
4. The era of Hoysala dynasty was an important period in the development of Vesara style of temple architecture.

The Hoysala Empire

The Hoysala Empire was a Kannadiga power, that ruled most of what is now Karnataka, between the 10th and the 14th centuries. The capital of the Hoysalas was initially located at Belur but was later moved to Halebidu.



VESARA STYLE TEMPLES



Keshava temple was consecrated in 1258 CE in Somanathapura,



The Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu is the most exemplary architectural ensemble built in 1121 CE during the reign of the Hoysala King.

VESARA STYLE TEMPLES

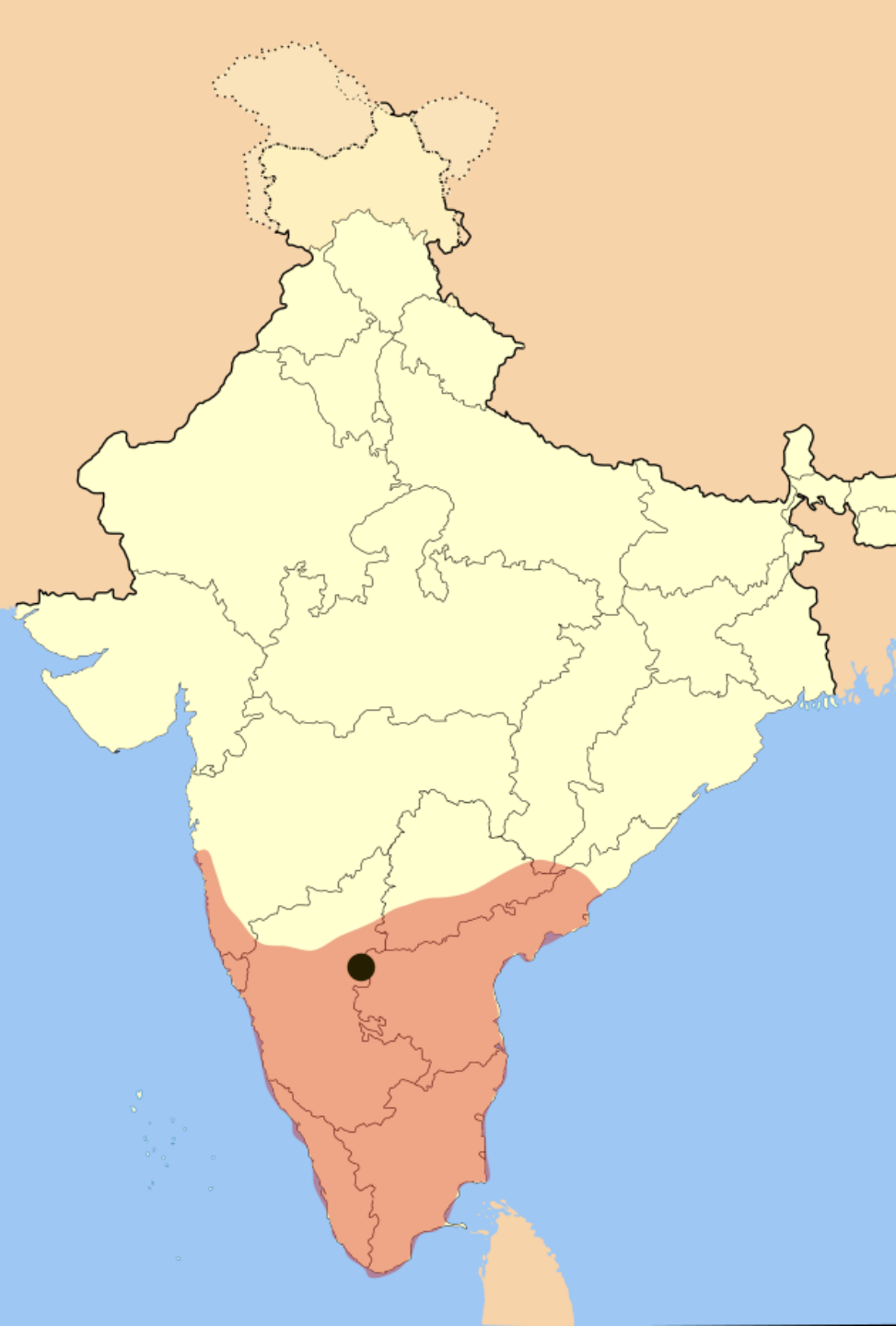


The Kedareshvara temple in Balligavi in Karnataka around 1152 CE



Doddabasappa Temple is a 12th-century Western Chalukyan architectural innovation in Dambal, Karnataka

The Vijayanagara Empire – 1336 to 1646 CE



- The **Vijayanagara Empire** (also called **Karnataka Empire** in South India. It was established in 1336 by the brothers Harihara I and Bukka Raya I of Sangama Dynasty, members of a cowherd community that claimed Yadava lineage.
- The empire ruled South India, from their regal capital at Vijayanagara, on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in modern Karnataka.
- The empire's legacy includes many monuments spread over South India, the best known of which is the group at Hampi. Different temple building traditions in South and Central India came together in the **Vijayanagara Architecture style**.
- Vijayanagara style is a combination of the Chalukya, Hoysala, Pandya and Chola styles which evolved earlier in the centuries when these empires ruled and is characterised by a return to the simplistic and serene art of the past.

Vijayanagara style temples - Hampi



Achyutaraya temple Hampi



Virupaksha Temple – completed
by 14th century

Vittalaraya Temple Hampi (Vijayanagara style)



The Musical Pillars of the Ranga Mantapa: The Ranga Mantapa is one of the main attractions of the Vittala Temple. The large mantapa is renowned for its 56 musical pillars. These musical pillars are also known as SAREGAMA pillars, indicating the musical notes emitted by them. The musical notes emanated when the pillars are tapped gently.



The Vittala Temple is presumed to be the grandest of all temples and monuments in Hampi. The temple exemplifies the immense creativity and architectural excellence possessed by the sculptors and artisans of the Vijayanagara era.



Veerabhadra Temple,
Lepakshi – Ananthapur,
Andhra Pradesh.



The temple was built in 1530bc. under the Vijayanagar Empire during the reign of King Achutaraya.

According to the Valmiki Ramayana, Ram accompanied by Laxmana, met the dying Jatayu here, and helped him to attain moksha by uttering the words "Le Pakshi" which means "Rise bird" in Telugu. - hence the name, Lepakshi.



The hanging pillar is an attraction in the temple. There is a gap between the base of the pillar and ground through which cloth and paper can be passed, indicating the pillar is not supported by the ground.

Kerala Temple - Architecture

- The architecture of temples in Kerala is different from the other areas in India. The architectural style of Kerala temples has an inherent simplicity.
- Kerala temples have a distinct style of their own by the lavish use of wood, stone and metals. Temples in Tamil Nadu are famous for their marvellous stone works.
- In Kerala wood is used for making Temples because of rich forest cover.



- There are five classes of temples in Kerala.
 1. A village temple ("Graama Kshethram") in every village;
 2. A "Desa Kshethram" in every "Desam", within a village;
 3. Private family temples, where their "Paradevatha" (family deity) is worshipped. (Not every family has one.);
 4. Sacred groves ("Kaavu"); and
 5. Transplanted deity temples ("Kudiyiruthukal").

Kerala Temples' striking features



Kootambalam – Temple theatre



Vilakkumaadam: Lighting of thousands of lamps



SIKH TEMPLE - GURUDWARA

JAIN TEMPLES

THANK YOU