



NAGARA STYLE OF TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE



ORIGIN

- Originated in the northern part of India during the 7th century.
- A style of Hindu temple architecture that was prevalent in India during the 7th to 13th centuries.
- Developed as an evolution of the earlier styles of temple architecture, such as the rock-cut cave temples and the brick temples of the Gupta period.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NAGARA TEMPLES

- Built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it
- Lack of elaborate boundary walls or gateways
- Garbhagriha located under the tallest tower (shikhara)



MANDAPA

- The entrance to the temple is often marked by a large porch or mandapa, which is supported by pillars and has a flat roof.



PLACEMENT OF DEITIES AND SUBSIDIARY SHRINES

- Nagara style temples have subsidiary shrines, for example, the Panchayatana style features five temples arranged around a central temple dedicated to the main deity.
- The main deity of the temple is usually placed in the innermost sanctum, called the garbhagriha.



SHIKHARA

- The shikharas are often adorned with miniature towers, ribbed moldings, and sculptural decorations, such as amalaka, kalasha, and gavaksa.
- Nagara temples have various subdivisions based on the shape of the shikhara such as Rekha-Prasad (Latina), Phamsana and Valabhi.

REKHA - PRASAD (LATINA)

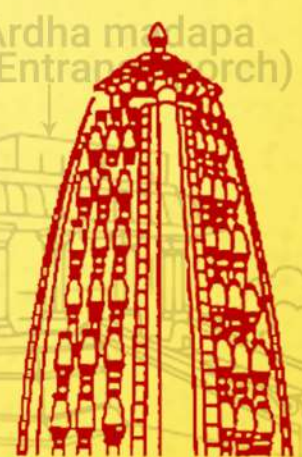
- Originally a single tall tower design
- Later grew complex with multiple smaller towers clustered together like rising mountain-peaks
- Tallest tower always above the garbhagriha



LATINA



SHEKHARI



BHUMIJA

Maha mandapa (Great hall)

Mandapa (Hall)

Ardha mandapa (Entrance porch)

Shikhara (Tower)

Urushringa (Subsidiary shikhara)



PHAMSANA

- Broader and shorter compared to Latina type
- Roof composed of several slabs that rise to a single point
- Slopes upwards on a straight incline, not inward like Latina type
- Often used for mandapas while garbhagriha is housed in a Latina building

VALABHI (WAGON – VAULTED BUILDINGS)

- Rectangular buildings with roof that rises into a vaulted chamber
- Edge of vaulted chamber is rounded, resembling bamboo or wooden wagons
- Similar to the Buddhist rock-cut chaitya caves in shape and roof design



DECORATIONS IN NAGARA STYLE TEMPLES

- Nagara style temples are adorned with rich sculptures and carvings both inside and outside.
- The decoration depicts scenes from Hindu mythology and serves a religious and cultural purpose.
- The walls, pillars and shikhara are covered with elaborate carvings and sculptures of gods, goddesses, heroes, and motifs.

SOME FAMOUS EXAMPLES OF NAGARA STYLE TEMPLES



**KANDARIYA MAHADEVA TEMPLE
IN MADHYA PRADESH**



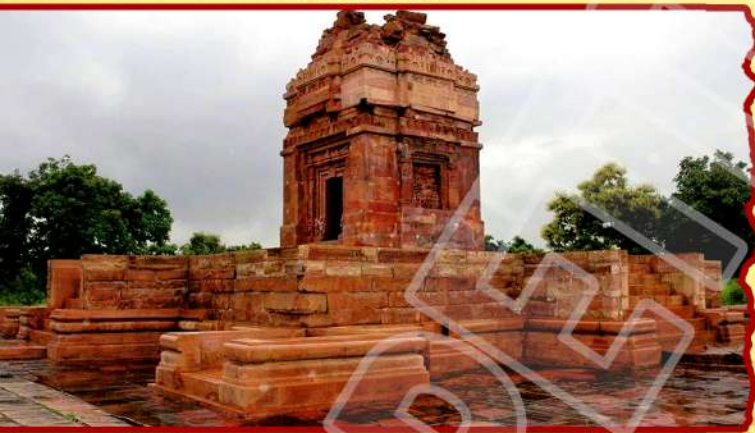
**SUN TEMPLE AT
MODHERA, GUJARAT**



**OSSIAN TEMPLE IN
GUJARAT**



**UDAYESHWAR TEMPLE IN
MADHYA PRADESH**



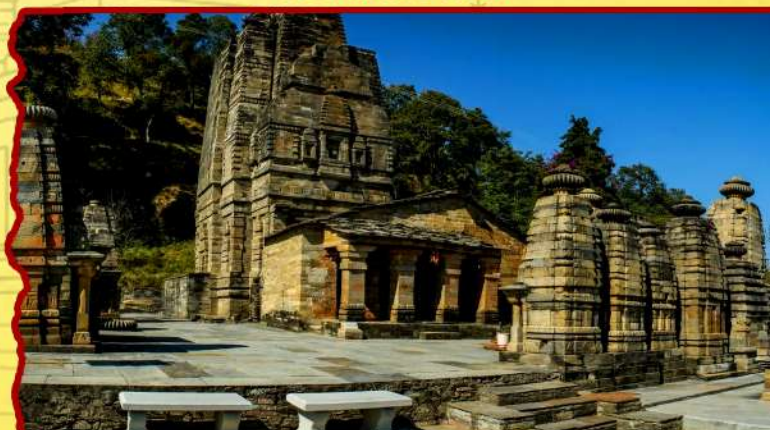
**DASHAVATARA TEMPLE,
DEOGARH UTTAR PRADESH**



**LAKSHMANA TEMPLE,
KHAJURAHU**



**KAMAKHYA TEMPLE,
GUWAHATI IN ASSAM**



**KATARMAL SUN TEMPLE,
ALMORA**