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An Institute for Civil Services

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AIR 95

CSE 2023

ART & CULTURE



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T-27

Art & Culture

Test 27

UPSC

57

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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इस हॉरिएट में
नहीं लिखना
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Sishu Mishra

Dholavira has recently been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the first from the Indus Valley Civilization.

Distinct features of Dholavira:-

- * It was an "industrial" city. There is evidence of beads factories, textile production in the region.
- * The houses were made of stone instead of burnt bricks as well as baked bricks.
- * There was a well developed drainage/sewage system in the city.
- * Whereas most sites had citadel and lower ground, Dholavira did not have that.

However, by the end of the 2nd Century B.C., the Indus Valley Civilization was undergoing a decline.

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Evidence of Rise & Fall of IVC :-

Rise

- ① Great architectural planning meant knowledge of mathematics.
- ② Universe trade and evidence of terracotta figurines (Mother Earth, the Priest, Dancing girl), steatite and seals, Roman/Greek figurines.
- ③ Cultural expansion & jewellery on both men & women, dance (tribhanga posture of dancing girl).
- ④ Great Bath - ritualistic purpose / traditions, etc.
- ⑤ Writing system - yet undeciphered IVC script, seen on seals.
- ⑥ Wary (hothal dockyard).

Fall

- ① Drying up of river Saraswati, Ghaggar cut off water supply to cities.
- ② Eastward migration (later civilization cities found in Nepal, Uttar Pradesh).

How it led to its rise?
Explain it.

① Invasion by foreigners - evidence of
horse and riders in western sites.

② Earthquake (which may have shifted
the river's course or caused flooding).

③ Political breakdown ~ the oligarchic
structure may have been dismantled.

The end of the IVC is still not
fully evidenced but evidence conveys
that there could have been multiple
causes for the same.

Nevertheless, the remains point
to a rich history and a golden age
in the past of the Indian subcontinent.

61
62

fair points

Concluding
remarks
are fine

How?
Elaborate it.

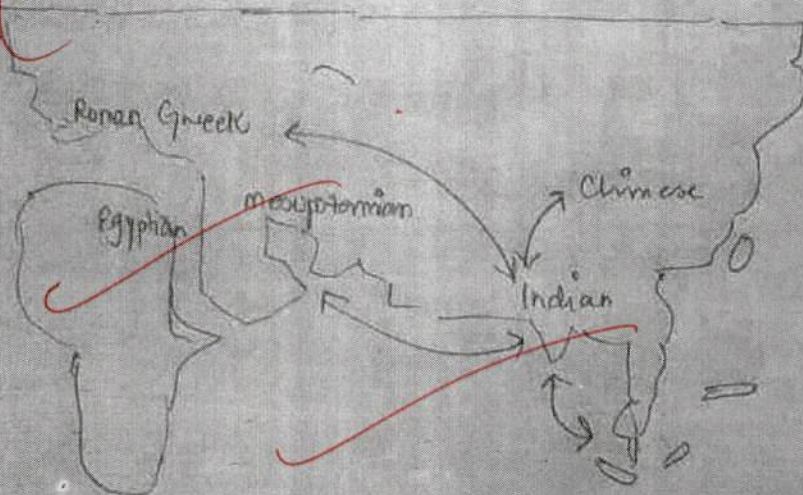
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Good writing
about trade & introducing in history

In ancient India, trade formed an essential part of various civilizations across the world. In India, the Sangam civilization as well as Mauryan, Post Mauryan and Gupta civilizations forged numerous trade routes and helped to disseminate Indian culture.



Trade & Cultural Spread

02

Draw the points
both their exchange.

- ① Trade was a peaceful means of cultural dissemination.
- ② Trade routes, eg, silk route, became the paths of cultural spread.
- ③ Travellers like Al Beruni (known as the link between cultures of Arabia and India) came along trade routes.

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① Spread of religion through trade.

eg: Theravada spread to South East Asian Nations like Cambodia.

Mahayana spread to China/Japan through trade of goods amongst different people.

② Trade lead to amalgamation of cultures.

③ Much of the ties between Indus Valley Civilization & Rome were based on trade.
→ mention of "Meluha" as rich society in Roman texts.

④ Post Maryan societies were absorbed into Indian culture through trade.

eg: Gandhara Art - Indo-Greek
Mathura Art - indigenous style.

⑤ Fa Hien and Hsien Tsang were travellers in Gupta period / Harshvardhan period that studied in Indian universities of Maganda and took back wealth of knowledge (a trade of knowledge).

⑥ Indian cuisine (spices) and Indian traditional medicine (Ayurveda) spread due to trade.

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न लिखें।

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Thus trade was the vehicle of
cultural dissemination. Even today,
as India heads the G20, it seeks
to abide by the theme:

"One Earth · One Family · One Future."

Today, we continue to trade not just
in goods but also in ideas, in
tradition, in perspectives, in knowledge
while remaining true to the teachings
of our culture.

Concluding
remarks
are fine

5 1/2

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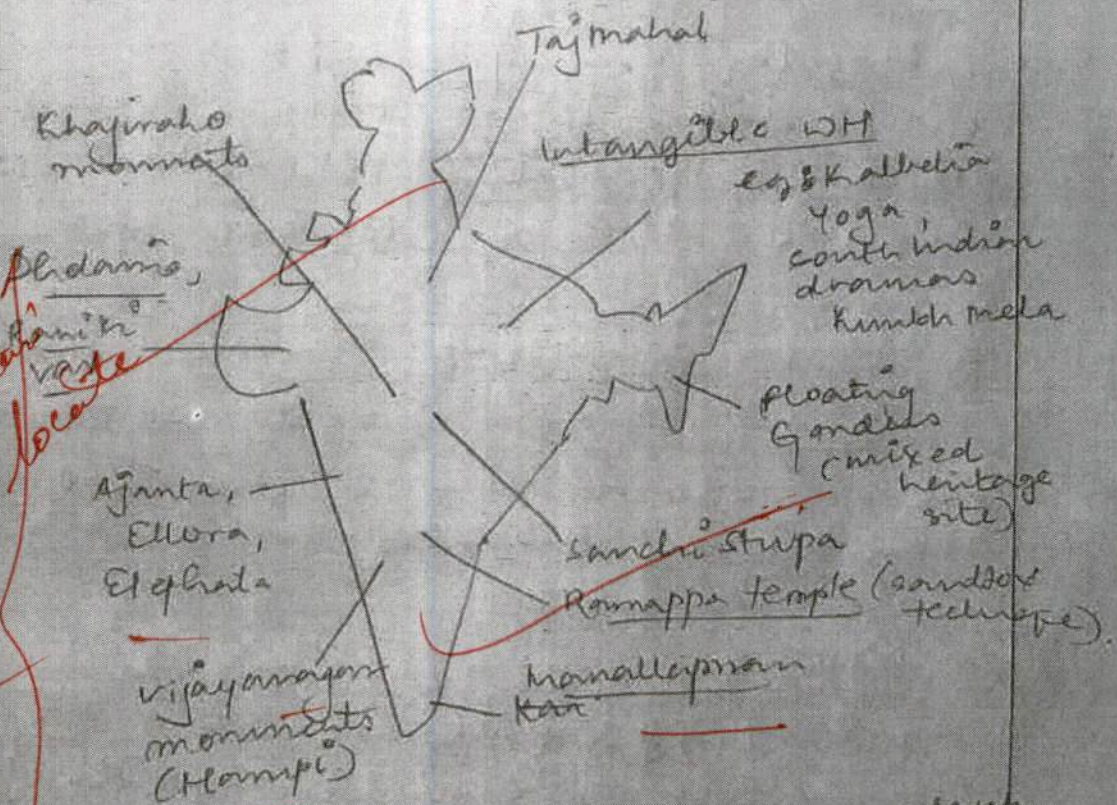
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इस कॉलम में
सही लिखना
चाहिए।
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Q3:-

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO] provides World Heritage status to various sites important to humanity as a measure of protection.

Indian Art with UNESCO WH status



Indian art heritage is thus made up of visual arts (paintings, sculptures, architecture), dance forms, music, drama and even traditional events (Kumbh Mela).

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इस-वर्क में
कोई लिखना
चाहिए
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Role of WH Status by UNESCO

① Protecting Role

With recognition from UNESCO, greater money and effort is put into restoration / maintenance / and care for the site - by ASI etc.

② Tourism Appeal

Recently, Ramappa temple was given UNESCO status, thereby raising tourist attraction & generating returns that can be invested into maintenance, etc.

③ Protection in case of war

Geneva Convention protects world heritage sites in case of physical clash between enemies.

④ Prestige

Around 40 WH UNESCO sites in India make it a diverse nation with recognized heritage - worldly status and international image is raised.

Good about mentioning following aspects of role.

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इस हार्गिफ में
नहीं लिखना
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Q. Yoga as ~~intangible~~ ^{despite} heritage has
been recognized by the UN through
21st June - International Yoga Day.

Q. Other intangible cultural heritage
get incentive to grow and proliferate
eg. Kumbh Mela, Kodiyattam, Kalbelia
etc.

Thus, UNESCO WH status gives new
life to Indian art heritage but
more must be done indigenously to
protect and promote the wisdom
of India's past.

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Q4:-

Give a short
introduction
on medieval
modern architecture
stating its origin

Valid points
& features of medieval
architecture
are mentioned

India is an amalgamation of cultures.
This unity in diversity. And the best
example of this trait is Indian architecture;
Medieval & modern.

Medieval Indian Architecture

- ① It is a mix of indigenous styles (Hindu) and foreign styles (Islamic) giving rise to Indo-Islamic architecture.
- ② Use of arches and domes in various medieval temples.
eg: Uttar Pradesh temples. mention some specific temples
- ③ Charbagh style of garden introduced in Indian architecture.
- ④ Use of calligraphy in architecture alongside engravings of floral designs.
- ⑤ Jaali (Indian style) used for adequate ventilation in Islamic buildings.
- ⑥ mixing building material like marble and sandstone.

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उस हॉल में
बैठना चाहिए
जहाँ लिखना
है।
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Modern Architecture

① Modern Architecture includes:

British Period

① Blending of Gothic elements with Indian styles

② eg: use of vaults, tall ceilings, painted glass windows.

③ Train stations
eg: (Mumbai) built in Gothic style.

Neo-modern

① new techniques and designs of creativity.

② more focus on purpose of building rather than grandeur.

③ eg: air ventilation in hospitals, adequate natural sunlight in schools, etc.

Indigenous elements & what?

① These continued to be used.

eg: specificity in direction/size of mandapas/temples, etc.

② Use of animal imagery/sculptures continued.

③ However, gopurams (temple style) and shikharas (temple) declined.

Points are
but also
mention
of context
examples.

White
property.

Explain
like -
- After
- Malwa
- Architecture

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में प्रश्न संख्या को
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Excluding
Remarks
are fine

Over time, Indian art has come to
be defined as a mix of all kinds of
architecture and a pleasant amalgamation.
Today, architecture like the Lotus
Temple, Taj Mahal, Parliament are
symbols of unity in cultural diversity.



Sufism was a sect of Islam that emerged alongside the Bhakti movement in Indian society.

Aims of Sufism :-

- ① "Cleanse" Islam
- ② Retrace meaning of devotion.
- ③ Establish morality in Islam.
- ④ Connect with the ordinary people.
- ⑤ Reduce "aristocratic" evils in the religion.

Tenets of Sufism :-

- ① There is One God.
- ② Devotion to God is supreme.
- ③ It can be expressed in dance & music (sama).
- ④ Fraternity, equality of all humans.
eg: Sufi woman: Rabi'a, Basma.
- ⑤ Rejected the excessive rules and rituals.
- ⑥ Various Silsilas: Chishti, Qalandar.

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लिखित
उत्तर
लिखित
करना
है।
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Relevance of Sufism today :-

- ① The importance of true (inner) devotion to one's task as opposed to 'outer show' (rituals, etc).
- ② Fraternity & Equality - the understanding of 'one-ness' - is essential for peaceful growth.
- Eg. G20 theme is also:

"One Earth, One Family, One Future."

- ③ Pir and the importance of a 'guru' on a spiritual leader. The importance of searching for knowledge as a means to end suffering.

- ④ Song, dance are essential to opening up of the soul.

Influence of Indian Tradition on Sufism :-

- ① Blake's movement & Sufism had inter-related connections - both inspired one another.

- ② Expression of Sufism in Sema was built on 'Rakhs' and 'bhayans' of Meerabadi.

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③ Rejection of ritualistic religion was a common feature of Sufism + Bhakti.

④ Use of vernacular led to growth of lit. ghazals in Urdu.

Thus, Sufism remains relevant till date along with being a symbol of unity and plurality in Indian history & culture.

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नहीं लिखना
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Intro is good
Ashoka was the first ruler to use architecture as a means of delivering a message to his citizens. Pillars are one of these pieces of architecture.

Evolution of Pillar Architecture

③ Most architecture centred on

- stupas
- chaitya / viharas

③ Early residential architecture

- citadel / lower town in Indus Valley civilisation.
- wooden buildings during Mohenjo-daro period.

③ Pillar architecture was distinct to Ashoka for the purpose of spreading the message of "dhamma" and "peace" across his kingdom.

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Ashokan Pillar

- ① monolithic body



single block

- ② Ridged lines



Abacus consisted of animals and inverted lotus.

- ③ Inscriptions were included near the pillar.

- ④ Used for administrative purpose.

Persian Pillar

- ① Polylithic:



combined one by one.

- ② smooth blocks

- ③ Abacus was either bare or consisted of animals.

- ④ NO purpose/inscription

- ⑤ usually used for commercial/mundane purpose.

Thus, Ashokan pillar was derived from Persian pillar, but had its own distinct style.

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यहाँ लिखना
नाहिए
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Today, pillars continue to be seen
as symbols of power, steadfastness
and courage.

Even today, the pillar at
Mehrauli ignites curiosity as to
its chemical properties and is a
symbol of Indian metallurgic
expertise.

good

6 1/2

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इस दस्तावेज़ में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिए।
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Q7:-

Sangam means "coming together".

It was a meeting of great creators
at Madurai (1st & 3rd Sangam) and
Kapadapuram (2nd Sangam) and the
Sangam literature marks its richness.

Sangam literature

① 18 major works (Etthutthogai)

② 18 minor works (Potupothu)

③ Post-Sangam literature

④ Manimekalai

⑤ Silappadikaram

⑥ Tolkappiyam → 2nd Sangam

Source of Information

From these great works of art,
Sangam lifestyle can be gauged,
in all spheres of life.

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① Status of Women :-

- ① women were respected
- ② ~~but~~ caste continued
- ③ Purdah system came into being.
- ④ widow remarriage was ^{not} allowed.
- ⑤ women had the right to choose their own husband.

② Economic lifestyle

- ① marketplaces were places of great hustle.
- ② night markets were set up often.
- ③ ports were lively places of trade.
- ④ Tax collection was liberal.

③ Social hierarchy

- ① varna system had ^{not} taken root
- ② brahmins were gifted lands as brahmadeya
- ③ Sanskrit was major language

Discuss the features of the society mentioning texts about Sangam all there beauty. Paippatal - Pattinapalai - Chola etc. defining aspect of the religious life

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आयोग की ओर
से यह सूचित है
कि अभ्यर्थी
उम्मीदवार
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Overall, the Sangam age or the age
of the 'Muvendar' was a time
of peace & prosperity.

*Included
full*
People lived peacefully and
trade was lively. Sangam texts
give an idea of average lifestyle
during this age and are thus
treasure troves of knowledge.

5

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नहीं लिखना
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Good writing
in starting
of introduction
Buddhist monasteries are treasures trove
of knowledge and culture found through
the Indian subcontinent in the form of
chaitya/viharas and stupas as well as
cave dwellings.

Buddhist Artwork in Caves

① Ajanta murals depict Buddha's
enlightenment, Panchtantra fables from
Buddha's life.

eg: mural of Avalokitesvara

② Ellora statues depicting Buddha
in various poses.

eg: Bhumisparsa mudra / anjali mudra,
etc.

Stupas

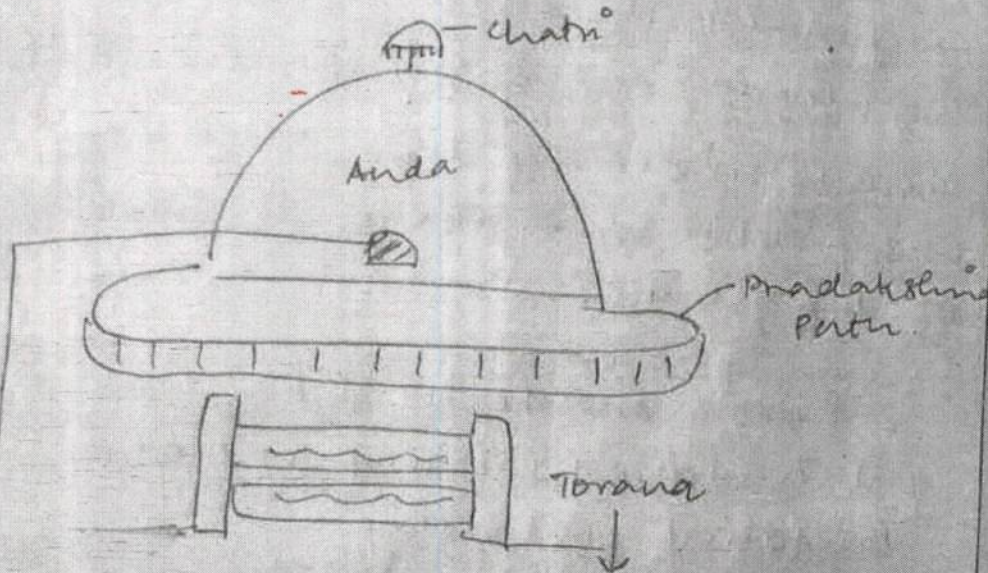
How? ① Architecture of stupa was source
of knowledge itself.

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① depiction of various stages of life of Buddha + Parichitanka

② ashes/relics of Buddha kept at centre of anda.

③ Pradakshina for worship but also signifying the circle of life and following the Noble Path.
eg: Amravati / Sarnath Stupa / Shamek

Buddhist philosophy was of peace and the end of grief/sorrow, following the 8-fold path & the 4 Noble Truths. Parichitanka and images of Bodhisattvas in various monasteries conveyed these messages.

Elaborate the range of visual symbols used in Buddha's life to communicate and in teaching the precepts of Buddhism.

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The vinaya pitaka speaks of the importance of austere meditation. The viharas of early Indian history are a reminder of this austerity where cold caves were the dwellings of the monks.

Thus, monasteries show us not just Buddhist worship but also Buddhist philosophy.

4 1/2
Discusses the practical and content aspects of the main demand to address the questions.

Q3.

Good but introduce in brief the Kakatiya's art and architecture

Recently, the Ramappa temple of the Kakatiya dynasty became one of India's World Heritage Sites as accorded by UNESCO.

About Kakatiya dynasty

few points

- ① Contemporaries of Hoysala dynasty
- ② 1st ruler: Rudradeva
- ③ Earliest female ruler: Rudramma Devi
- ④ Birth of Kohinoor diamond.

Major Architectural Features

① Ramappa temple:

Good point & contrast.

- a) One of the very few temples known by the name of the architect Ramappa and not the ruler.
- b) Use of sandbox technique → for laying the base of the temple.

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समस्त प्रश्नों
के उत्तर
उम्मीदवार
नहीं लिखें।
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- c) intricate carvings (both inner and outer walls)
d) meticulously detailed work, sculptures at entrance of temples.

② 1000 pillared temple

a) a sub style of Nagara architecture.

b) Sometimes tanks also included in temple premises (Dravidian technique).

The Kakatiya dynasty's temple architecture's uniqueness has earned it the distinct world heritage mark as it is great not just in art but also in the science of construction.

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80.

The Gupta age sees the beginnings
of temple architecture flowing
through 5 stages of increasingly
complex architectural forms within
Nagara architecture

Transition of Temple Architecture

① Early Phases & Features

a) stone temples

b) simple plan



square base

c) single building

d) made of various materials

e) stone base
wooden interior

f) very few designs / depictions
sculptures

Starting of
into details
fine

Note the following
features with these
comparing way to
earlier
definit

transition from
earlier
architecture to
Gauri

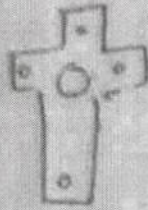
UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Candidates must not write on this margin

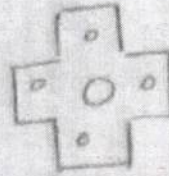
② Inter (middle) Phase Features

a) development of various plans



Cross Plan

↳ small temple as entrance with central major temple.



Stellate Plan

↳ major shrine at centre, surrounded by equidistant miniature temples.

b) several garbhagrihas with major deities, connected by Mandapa from audience hall.

c) Grander size of temples, enhanced embellishments.

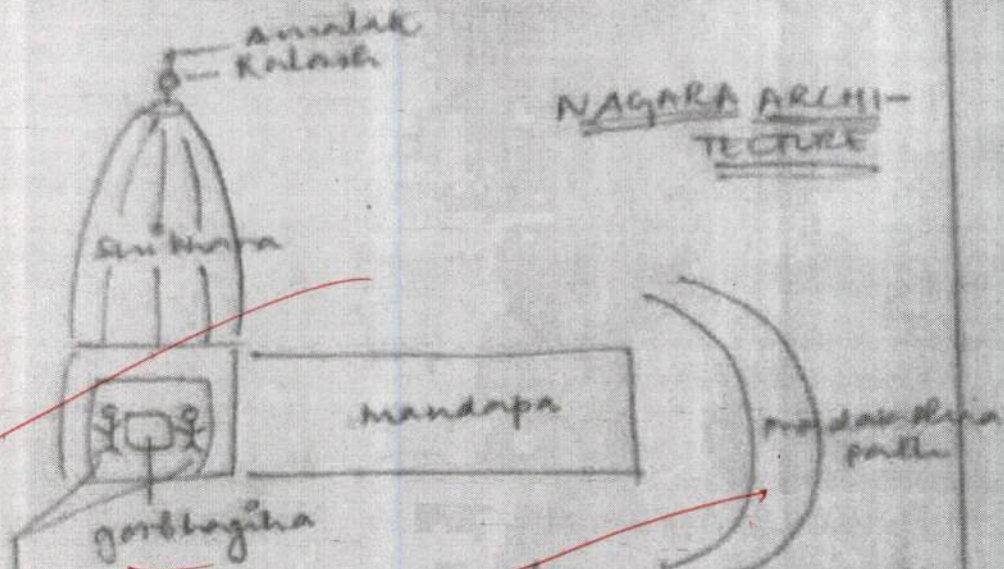
③ Mature Stage Features - Nagara style of architecture with various substyles / regional forms / extrapolations.

Points are fine but discuss the features with the contextual examples for better impression & presentation

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NAGARA ARCHI- TECTURE



eg: Deogarh, Vishnuteswara.

Thus, the Gupta period spanning from 300 CE to \approx 600 CE saw the rise of temple architecture in Northern India.

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