



**SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
(An Autonomous Institution)  
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**DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**



**Architecture in Ancient India**

Architecture in ancient India is characterized by a rich and diverse heritage that reflects the country's cultural, religious, and regional variations. It encompasses a wide range of structures, from simple dwellings to elaborate temples and grand palaces. Indian architecture has been influenced by various dynasties, religions, and cultural exchanges over thousands of years. Here are some notable architectural styles and structures from ancient India:

- 1. Indus Valley Civilization (2600-1900 BCE):** The Indus Valley Civilization, one of the world's oldest urban cultures, displayed advanced planning in its cities. The architectural remains include well-planned streets, houses, drainage systems, and public baths.
- 2. Buddhist Architecture (3rd century BCE onwards):** Buddhist architecture is characterized by stupas, viharas (monasteries), and chaityas (prayer halls). The most famous example is the Great Stupa at Sanchi, which features a hemispherical dome and intricate carvings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha.
- 3. Hindu Temple Architecture (4th to 13th century CE):** Hindu temple architecture evolved over centuries and varies by region. Key features include a sanctum sanctorum (garbhagriha) housing the deity, a towering superstructure (shikhara), and elaborate sculptures and carvings depicting deities and mythological stories. Examples include the temples at Khajuraho, Konark Sun Temple, and the temples of Tamil Nadu.
- 4. Dravidian Architecture (7th to 17th century CE):** Prominent in South India, Dravidian architecture is characterized by its towering gopurams (entrance towers) with intricate sculptures, ornate pillars, and spacious courtyards. The Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur is a prime example.
- 5. Nagara Architecture (5th to 12th century CE):** Associated with North India, Nagara architecture features curvilinear spires and a sanctum with a square plan. The Kandariya Mahadeva Temple at Khajuraho is a notable example.
- 6. Mughal Architecture (16th to 19th century CE):** The Mughal period brought a fusion of Persian, Islamic, and Indian architectural styles. Examples include the Taj Mahal, known for its white marble dome and symmetrical gardens, and the Red Fort, featuring grand gates and palaces.
- 7. Chola Architecture (9th to 13th century CE):** The Chola dynasty in South India is known for its unique architecture, including intricate sculptures, massive stone pillars, and the construction of major temples like the Brihadeeswarar Temple.

**8. Jain Architecture:** Jain architecture is known for its elaborate and ornate marble structures. The Dilwara Temples in Mount Abu are prime examples of exquisite Jain architecture.

These are just a few highlights of the diverse architectural heritage of ancient India. The architecture of this period reflects the social, religious, and cultural values of different eras and continues to be a source of inspiration and study today.