

Magadh Mahila College

Patna University

Department of History

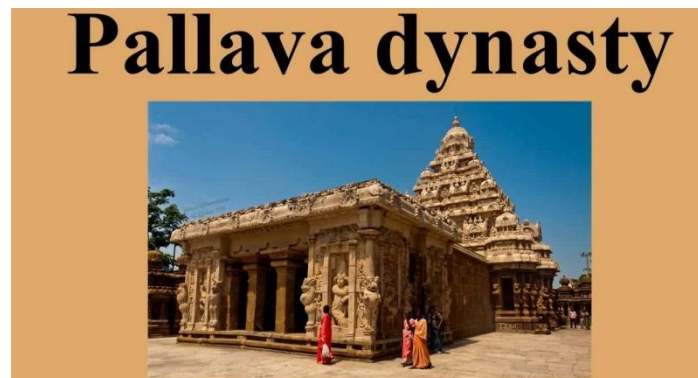
Bhawana Singh(Guest Faculty)

Email id- singhbhawana47@gmail.com

B.A- 2nd year

Paper-III, Unit-02

Different Styles of Temple Architecture of Pallavas



The Pallavas were the pioneer of the Dravida style of architecture. During the rule of Pallavas the cave architecture saw a new turn, monolithic temples and statues were built during their time. At this time the three new styles of architecture such as Anga, Mandapa, Rathas began to be built. The architecture of the Pallavas can be divided into four categories such as:

Mahendravarman style of Architecture(610-640A.D):

The Pallava architecture basically began from the time of Mahendravarman I. During his time a new style of building temples without making the use of bricks, iron, lime, wood, etc began to take place. Fine examples of rock cut temples can be seen at Mahabalipuram. These rock cut temples were termed as ‘Mandapas’. These Mandapas were the pillared Varamdas which consisted of Garbhagirha at the end.

The Shaiva Garbhagrihas consisted of the statues of Lord Shiva and the Vaishnava Garbhagriha consisted of the statues of Lord Vaishnava. Few famous Mandapas of Mahendravarman style of architecture are as follows:

- Trimurti Mandapa of Mandaggapattu.
- Panchapandava Mandapa of Pallvaram.
- Mahendravishnu Mandapa of Mahendravadi.
- Lalitankur Pallavaveshwar Griha Mandapa of Trichinapalli.



Mahendravadi Mandapa

Mamalla style of Architecture(640-674A.D):

Mahabalipuram or also known as Mamallapuram was the centre of architecture during the time of Narsimhavarman I. Mahabalipuram was established by Narsimhavarman. On sea shores of Mahabalipuram numerous monolithic rock cut cave temples and statues were constructed. In Mamalla style of architecture two styles of temples can be seen they are- a) Mandapas and b) Rathas.

The Mandapas of Mamalla style are more ornamental as compared to Mahendravarman style of Mandapas. The main features of these Mandapas are their pillars which are built on the heads of lions. Famous Mandapas of Mamalla style are- Varaha Mandapa, Mahisasur Mandapa and Pancha Pandava Mandapa, etc.

the second component of Mamalla style of architecture was the free-standing monolithic shrines called 'Rathas' (chariots) which were constructed alongside pillared halls. They were generally built of granite stones. The western architects calls these rathas as 'Seven Pagodas' or 'Seven Rathas' as they are seven in number.

Draupadi ratha was the smallest ratha among all sized like a small bracket. It was designed like a hindu temple while other rathas were designed like Viharas or Chaityas. Dharmaraja ratha is one of the best example of ratha designed like Vihara. It is the biggest ratha among all the rathas of Mamalla style. The Bhim ratha and the Ganesha ratha are the best examples of the rathas built in the shape of Chaitya.



Draupadi Ratha



Dharmaraj Ratha



Bhima Ratha



Ganesha ratha

Rajasimha style of Architecture:

This style of Architecture was begun by Narsimhavarman II Rajasimha. In this style of architecture the temples were now built by making the use of bricks, woods, stones, etc. a few examples of the Rajasimha style of architecture are- Shore temple, Ishwariya temple, Mukunda temple, etc. The Shore temple of Mahabalipuram is considered to be the best art of this style of architecture. It is also included in the UNESCO world heritage.

The Kailasha temple of Kanchi can also be considered as one of the finest art of Rajasimha style of architecture. The construction of this temple was begun by Rajasimha but was completed by Mahendravarman II. It consists of almost all the elements of Dravida style such as Gopuram, Pillars, Mandapas, Vimana, etc. Another famous temple of this style is Vaikunthaperumal temple which was built

by Parmeshwarvarman II. It was dedicated to Bhagwat religion. The internal walls of this temple consists of the paintings of scenes of war, coronation, ashwamedha yajana, etc.



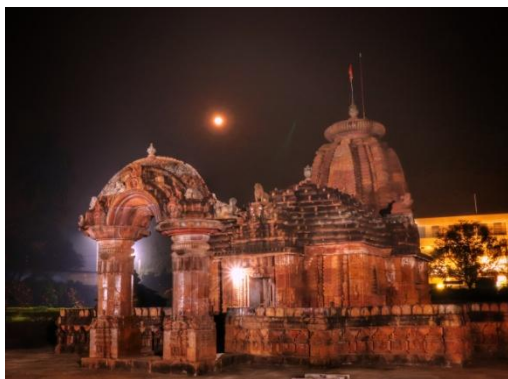
Shore Temple



Kailasha Temple

Nandivarman style of Architecture/ Aparajitvarman style(800-900A.D):

After the decline of the Rajasimha style of architecture the Pallava architecture began to decline. The weak Pallava rulers were no more capable of building huge temples and monuments. The temples of this style were comparatively smaller in size less ornamented and also lacked innovation. The famous temples of this style of architecture are- Mukteshwara temple and Matangeshwara temple of Kanchi.



Mukteshwara Temple



Matangeshwara Temple