



Daily Mains Answer Writing (Day - 51)

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Write a note on the evolution of architecture of Delhi Sultanate.

Sultanate era marked the evolution and development of a new-type of Hindu-Muslim architecture in which decorative exuberance of the Hindu architecture was toned down and its place was taken by new elements such as use of geometrical shapes, calligraphy, inscriptional art etc.

Thus, the elements of Hindu architecture still formed the basis of new architectural style. This was mainly because -

- The Muslim rulers had to employ Indian architects and masons.
- Nearly all mosques were built by demolition of temples and the Muslim rulers used the same material of Hindu temples in making their mosques and tombs.

Each successive dynasty made evolution to the existing pattern and designs of Architecture of Delhi Sultanate in ways such as -

Mamluk Dynasty

- **Qutub Complex** can be considered as the foundation of Delhi Sultanate architecture.
 - ✓ Constructed from material collected from Hindu buildings and temples. For its decoration the Hindu craftsmen were used and they applied the same style of inlaying which they had been using in building temples. The floral designs, bells and chains were made to decorate the minar from existing material remains of temples. In this the structural technique of true arch and dome was not used.
- **Sultan Ghari built by Iltutmish - First monumental tomb** in India. It has a square chamber and octagonal flat roof with round towers at 4 corners.
- **Balban's Tomb**, situated in Mehrauli, Delhi represents the first true arch built in India.

The Khalji Period

- **Alai Darwaza** - The first example of the true arch and true dome, constructed with a dome-shaped gate made of red sandstone and decorated with stunning Turkic features made of white marble inlay and inscriptions engraved in the ancient Naskh Script and screens made with Lattice stones depicting unique Turkic craftsmanship.
- **Jamatkhana Masjid** is the earliest example of a Mosque built on wholly muslim ideas using scientific arches and dome.

The Tughlaq Period

- The buildings of the Tughlaq period were constructed by combining arch and dome. They also used the cheaper and easily available grey colour stones.
- Tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq built in red sandstone, is an irregular pentagon in its exterior plan & is crowned by a finial resembling kalasa of a Hindu temple.

The Lodhi Period

- An independent and elegant style emerged under the Lodis.
 - ✓ Introduced the concept of double dome, built one upon the other, leaving some space in Enameled tiles were used for decoration showing Persian influence.
 - ✓ The Lodi garden in Delhi is the finest example of the synthesis of dome, arch, slam and beam.