

Delhi Sultanate: Art and Architecture

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Delhi Sultanate: Art and Architecture history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Architecture of the Delhi Sultanate

1. Qutb Minar Complex (Delhi)

- **Location:** Delhi
- **Name Origin:** Named after the Sufi saint Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki.
- **Initial Construction:**
 - Started by Qutbuddin Aibak (first Muslim ruler of Delhi) in 1193.
 - He only completed the basement.
- **Subsequent Construction:**
 - Iltutmish (Aibak's successor) added three more stories.
 - Firuz Shah Tughluq added the fourth and fifth stories in 1368.
- **Key Structures within the Complex:**
 - **Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque:** The mosque for which the Qutb Minar serves as the victory tower.
 - **Alai Darwaza:**
 - Built by Alauddin Khalji in 1311 AD.
 - Serves as the main, domed entrance gateway to the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque.
 - One of the first buildings in India to employ a true Islamic architectural style.



- Notable for introducing the **horseshoe-shaped arch**.
- **Tomb of Iltutmish:** Located within the complex.
- **Tomb of Balban:**
 - Significant for featuring the **first true arch** constructed in India.
 - Recognized as **India's first tomb** built in the Indo-Islamic style (constructed in 1287 AD).

2. Other Important Monuments & Sites

- **Arhai Din Ka Jhonpra**
 - **Location:** Ajmer, Rajasthan
 - **Significance:** One of the oldest mosques in India.
- **Tughluqabad**
 - **Built by:** Ghiyasuddin Tughluq
 - **Time Period:** 1320-1325 AD.
- **Jahaz Mahal (Ship Palace)**
 - **Location:** Mandu, Madhya Pradesh
 - **Built by:** Sultan Ghiyasuddin Khalji
 - **Purpose:** Served as a harem for the Sultan.
 - **Design:** Built between two artificial lakes, making it resemble a ship.
- **Jama Masjid**
 - **Location:** Gulbarga
- **Atala Masjid**
 - **Location:** Jaunpur
 - **Associated Dynasty:** Sharqi dynasty.

3. Architectural Styles & Features

- **First True Arch:** Introduced in the **Tomb of Balban**.
- **Horseshoe Arch:** First introduced in the **Alai Darwaza**.
- **Dynastic Architectural Signatures:**
 - **Khaljis:** Used the '**Lotus bud**' fringe on the underside of arches.

- **Tughluqs:** Associated with the emergence of the **octagonal tomb** style.
- **Sharqis:** Known for building **massive entrance gates with inclined walls**.
- **Vijayanagara Style:** Used **Bodegoi (mythical lion)** figures in pillars.

4. Rajput Architecture (Mewar)

- **Kirti Stambha (Chittor)**
 - **Built by:** Rana Kumbha of Mewar.
 - **Purpose:** To commemorate his victory over Mahmud Khalji of Malwa.
 - **Inscription:** The 'Kirti-Stamba Prashasti' (eulogy) was composed by the poet Atri Kavi.
 - **Construction:** The monument itself was constructed by Jaita.

5. Chronological Order of Construction

The correct chronological order of building these sites is:

1. **Qutb Minar** (1206-1236 AD)
2. **Tughluqabad** (1320-1325 AD)
3. **Lodi Garden** (1451-1526 AD)
4. **Fatehpur Sikri** (1571-1585 AD)

Know More About Delhi Sultanate: Art and Architecture:

- [Delhi Sultanate: Art and Architecture– Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Delhi Sultanate: Art and Architecture One Liner Questions & Answers](#)