



Lingaraja Temple

Why in News

Recently, the Odisha Government has restricted public entry into the **Lingaraj Temple** after four sevayats (priests) tested positive for the [novel coronavirus](#).

- In **August 2020**, the government had decided to give a [facelift to the temple, akin to its pre-350-year structural status](#).

Key Points //



- Lingaraj Temple, **built in 11th century AD**, is **dedicated to Lord Shiva** and is considered as the **largest temple of the city Bhubaneswar (Odisha)**.
- It is believed to have been **built by the Somvanshi King Yayati I**.
- It is **built in red stone** and is a classic example of [Kalinga style of architecture](#).
 - The temple is **divided into four sections** - **Garbha Griha** (sanctum sanctorum), **Yajna Shala** (the hall for prayers), **Bhoga Mandap** (the hall of offering) and **Natya Shala** (hall of dance).
- The sprawling temple complex has **one hundred and fifty subsidiary shrines**.
- Lingaraj is referred to as **'Swayambhu'** - self-originated Shivling.
- Another important aspect of the temple is that **it signifies the syncretisation of Shaivism and Vaishnavism sects in Odisha**.
 - Perhaps the rising cult of Lord Jagannath (considered an incarnation of Lord Vishnu) which coincided with the completion of the Lingaraja Temple had a role to play.
 - The **presiding deity in the Temple is known as Hari-Hara**; Hari denotes Lord Vishnu and Hara meaning Lord Shiva.

- The temple is **out of bounds for non-Hindus**.
- The other attraction of the temple is the **Bindusagar Lake**, located in the north side of the temple.
- On the western banks of Bindusagar, lies the **garden of Ekamra Van** named after the Hindu mythological texts where Bhubaneswar the capital city of Odisha was referred as **Ekamra Van or a forest of a single mango tree**.
- **Other Important Monuments in Odisha:**
 - [Konark Sun Temple \(UNESCO World Heritage Site\)](#)
 - [Jagannath Temple](#)
 - [Tara Tarini Temple](#)
 - [Udaygiri and Khandagiri Caves](#)

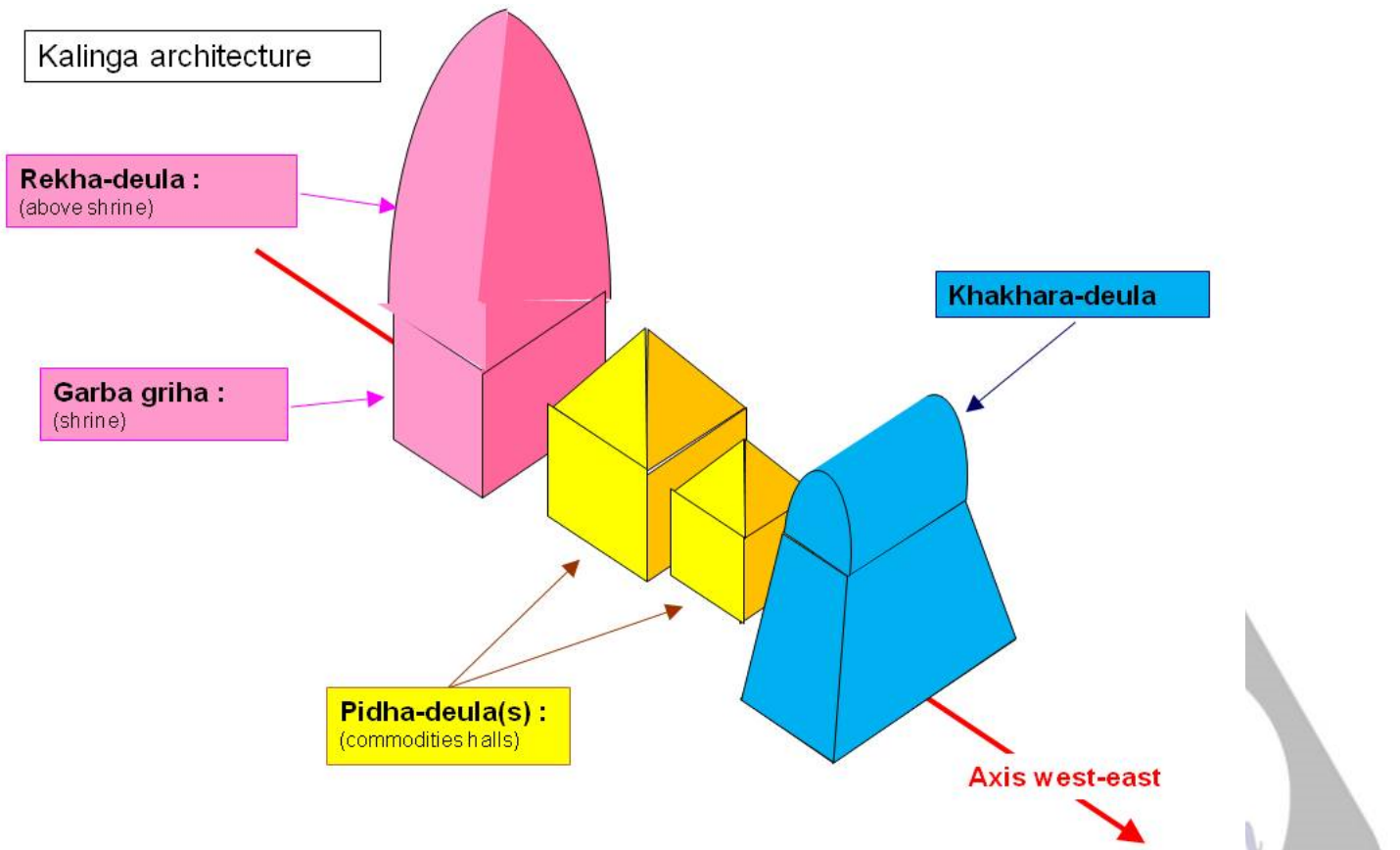
Kalinga Architecture

▪ About:

- The Indian temples are broadly divided into [Nagara](#), **Vesara**, **Dravida** and **Gadag styles of architecture**.
- However, the **temple architecture of Odisha corresponds to altogether a different category** for their unique representations called **Kalinga style of temple architecture**.
- This style **broadly comes under the Nagara style**.

▪ The Architecture:

- In Kalinga Architecture, basically a **temple is made in two parts**, a tower and a hall. The **tower is called deula** and the **hall is called jagmohan**.
- The **walls** of both the deula and the jagmohan **are lavishly sculpted** with architectural motifs and a profusion of figures.
- The most repeated form is the **horseshoe shape**, which has come from the earliest times, starting with the large windows of the chaitya-grihas.
- It is the **deula which makes three distinct types** of temples in Kalinga Architecture:
 - **Rekha Deula.**
 - **Pidha Deula.**
 - **Khakhara Deula.**
- The former two are associated with Vishnu, Surya and Shiva temples while the third is mainly with Chamunda and Durga temples.
- The Rekha Deula and Khakhara Deula houses the sanctum sanctorum while the Pidha Deula constitutes outer dancing and offering halls.



[Source:TH](#)

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