



# World's First Om Shaped Temple in Rajasthan

## Why in News?

In **Pali district** of Rajasthan, a beautiful temple shaped like the sacred symbol '**Om**' is currently under construction. This temple is **poised to become the world's first temple designed in this iconic form.**

## Key Points

- Known as the '**Om Aakar**' temple, this monumental structure spans across a vast expanse of 250 acres in **Nagara Style** in Jadan village of Pali district.
- According to the sources, the monumental task commenced with the laying of the **temple's foundation stone in 1995**, with expectations set for its completion by the years 2023-24.
  - It will be able to accommodate **1,008 idols of Lord Mahadev** and **12 Jyotirlingas within its sacred precincts.**
  - Towering at a height of 135 ft, the temple stands supported by **2,000 pillars**, with provisions made for **108 rooms** on its premises.
  - The central feature of the temple complex is the **tomb of Guru Madhavanand ji.**
  - The uppermost segment of the temple houses a sanctum adorned with a shivling crafted from a rhinestone sourced from the Bansi hill of Dholpur.
- The visionary behind this grand project is **Vishwa Guru Maha Mandleshwar Paramahansa Swami Maheswara Nanda Puriji Maharaj**, the founder of the Om Ashram.
- In Hinduism, the Om mantra holds profound significance as the Mahamantra, recited daily by adherents upon awakening.



## Nagara Style Temple

- In North India it is common for an entire temple to be built on a **stone platform with steps leading up to it.**
- Further, unlike in South India it **does not usually have elaborate boundary walls** or gateways.
- While the earliest temples had just one tower, or shikhara, later temples had several.
- The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.
- There are many subdivisions of nagara temples depending on the shape of the shikhara.
- There are different names for the various parts of the temple in different parts of India; however, the most common name for the simple shikhara which is square at the base and whose walls curve or slope inward to a point on top is called the '**latina**' or the rekha-prasada type of shikara.
- The second major type of architectural form in the nagara order is the **phamsana**, which tends to be broader and shorter than latina ones.
- Their roofs are composed of several slabs that gently rise to a single point over the centre of the building, unlike the latina ones which look like sharply rising tall towers.
- The third main sub-type of the nagara building is generally called the **valabhi type.**
- These are rectangular buildings with a roof that rises into a vaulted chamber.

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