



Mains Practice Question

Q. How did the existing architecture in India evolve with the arrival of Islamic rule in India? (250 words)

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Approach:

- **Introduction:** Start your answer with introducing Indo-Islamic Architecture.
- **Body:** Mention briefly the features of existing Indian architecture and Features of architecture after arrival of Islamic rule.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the main points.

Introduction:

The arrival of Islamic rule in India (in **13th century**) had a profound impact on the existing architectural landscape. It brought forth a **fusion of indigenous Indian architectural traditions with new influences from the Islamic world**. This led to the development of a **distinct architectural style** that reflected the cultural and religious syncretism of the time in form of **Indo-Islamic Architecture**.

Body:

Existing Indian architecture:

- Majorly used **Trabeate structure** consisting of Columns and beams.
- **Material** used was **Stone**.
- Buildings contained **Shikhara/Vimanas as top structure**.
- Supporting structures like **Gopuram, Torana etc.**

After arrival of Islamic Rule in India:

- **Influence of Islamic Architecture:**
 - Introduction of New Construction Techniques:
 - Use of **arches, domes, and vaults** in architectural designs. For example, **grand arches of Buland Darwaza**.
 - Introduction of **Brick and lime mortar** as materials.
 - Incorporation of New Artistic Elements:
 - Intricate **calligraphy and geometric patterns**.
 - **Floral motifs** and **arabesque designs**.
 - Use of **Pietra dura** technique for inlay of precious metals and stones. For example, peitra dura in **Taj Mahal**.
 - Construction of Islamic Religious Structures:
 - **Development of mosques** with distinctive features like **minarets and mihrabs**. For example, **Quwwat ul Islam Mosque**.
 - Construction of **tombs and mausoleums** for Islamic rulers and saints.
- **Fusion with Indigenous Indian Architecture:**
 - Integration of Hindu and Islamic Elements:
 - **Utilization of local materials** and construction techniques.

- **Blending of Hindu and Islamic decorative elements** in architectural designs.
- Synthesis of Architectural Styles:
 - Creation of **hybrid structures like Indo-Islamic palaces** and forts.
 - Development of **Indo-Islamic gardens in Charbagh style** and water structures. For example. **Lodhi garden, Aram bagh** etc.
- **Impact on Urban Planning:**
 - Introduction of Islamic City Layouts:
 - **Establishment of planned cities** with central mosques and bazaars.
 - For example, Creation of cities like **Fatehpur Sikri** and **Tughlaqabad**.

Conclusion:

Islamic architecture **started to give existing Indian architecture, massiveness, spaciousness and breadth**. The advent of Islamic rule in India resulted in a significant evolution of architectural styles and urban planning.

The fusion of indigenous Indian traditions with Islamic influences led to the **emergence of a unique architectural identity** that showcased the cultural and religious diversity of the time. **The integration of Hindu and Islamic elements created a harmonious coexistence, evident in structures like the Qutub Minar and Jama Masjid**. This architectural evolution not only transformed the physical landscape but also played a crucial role in shaping the cultural and social fabric of India and gave rise to **Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb**.

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