

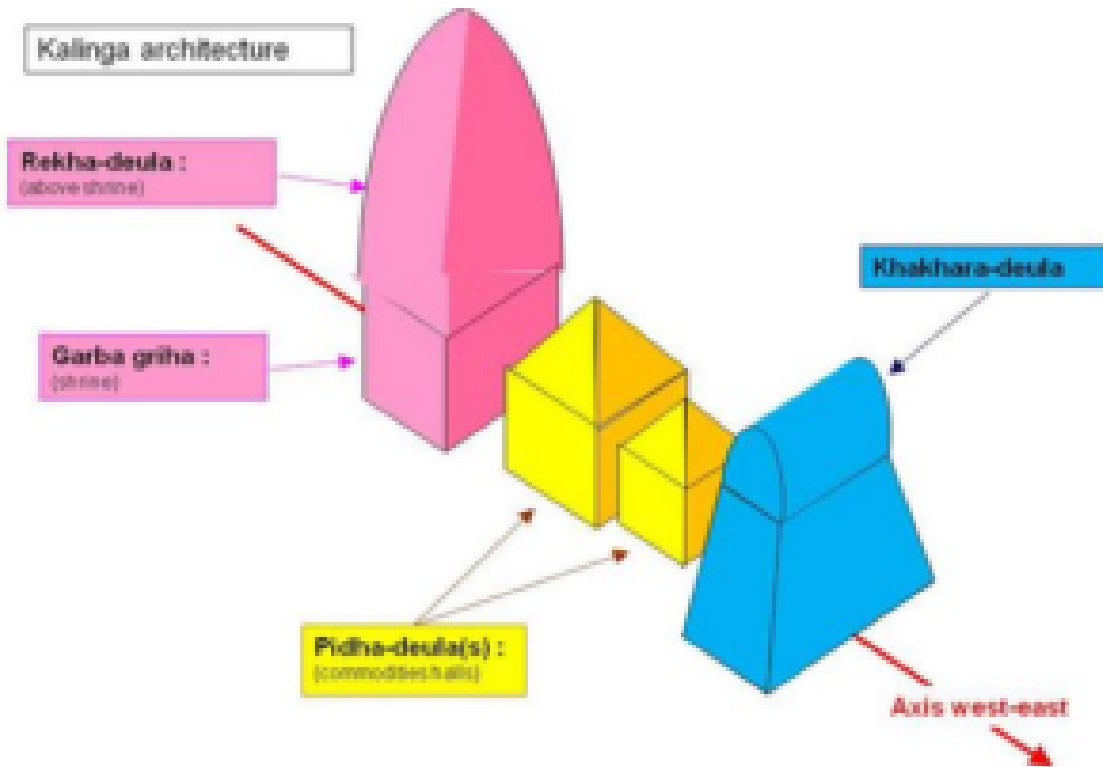
Lingaraj Temple

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- The Odisha government has chalked out a plan for peripheral development of the 11th century Shree Lingaraj Temple to attract more tourists to the state capital during the post pandemic period.

Lingaraj Temple

- Lingaraja Temple is a temple dedicated to Shiva and is one of the oldest temples in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- It represents the quintessence of the Kalinga Architecture and culminating the medieval stages of the architectural tradition at Bhubaneswar.
- The temple is believed to be built by the kings from the Somavamsi dynasty, with later additions from the Ganga rulers.
- It is built in the Deula style that has four components namely, vimana (structure containing the sanctum), jagamohana (assembly hall), nata mandira (festival hall) and bhoga-mandapa (hall of offerings), each increasing in the height to its predecessor.
- Bhubaneswar is called the Ekamra Kshetra as the deity of Lingaraja was originally under a mango tree (Ekamra) as noted in Ekamra Purana, a 13th-century Sanskrit treatise.
- The temple has images of Vishnu, possibly because of the rising prominence of Jagannath sect emanating from the Ganga rulers who built the Jagannath Temple in Puri in the 12th century.



Kalinga School of Temple Architecture

- An inscription in the Amrtesvara Temple at Holal in Karnataka refers to four styles of Hindu temple architecture i.e. Nagara, Kalinga, Dravida and Vesara.
- The inscription mentions one sutradhari, architect, named Bammoja, said to be the master of chaturjati (four classes) of temples namely Nagara, Kalinga, Dravida and Vesara.
- Kalinga style is identified as a subclass under the Nagara category.
- Bhuvanapradipa primarily defines three kinds of Kalinga temple styles i.e. Rekha, Khakhara and Bhadra.
 - Rekha-deul (temple) is distinguished with its square plan topped with a curvilinear tower.
 - A Pidha-deul, also referred as Bhadra deul, also has a square plan topped with a pyramidal tower composed of horizontal tiers arranged in receding manner.
 - A Khakhara deul is surmounted with a barrel-shaped (vault-shape) tower over a rectangular plan.

- Silpaprakasha is the most famous text describing the Odishan temple architecture which was authored by Ramachandra Kaulachara who belonged to the reign of king Viravarman.
- A typical Kalinga (Odishan) temple consists two parts, a sanctuary where an idol or linga is placed and a hall where pilgrims can view the lord installed in the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary is referred as deul while the hall is known as jagamohana. The other components under Kalinga style temple are:
 - Pitha is the platform over which the entire structure of the temple stands.
 - Bada is the vertical wall over which tower is supported.
 - Gandi is the lower part of the tower while mastaka is the upper part of the tower.