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Khajuraho – Temples of Architectural Splendour

(Topic: Ancient History)

- Made in the tenth century; UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Temples are famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures
- The erotic expression is given equal importance in human experience as spiritual pursuit, and it is seen as part of a larger cosmic whole. Many Hindu temples therefore feature mithun (embracing couple) sculptures, considered auspicious. Usually, they are placed at the entrance of the temple or on an exterior wall or they may also be placed on the walls between the mandapa and the main shrine.
- **Socio-economic status of women:** Khajuraho complex of temples is yet another excellent example of sculptures representing women in different roles. For example on Kandariya laxmana temple we can see a women with a purse in hand purchasing stuff from market showcases economic independence and her ability to make choice. We can also see women are supremely confident when it comes to exploring their sexuality. Practice of polyandry is evident on temple walls

The other notable example at Khajuraho is Kandariya Mahadeo temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.