

11. The colonial period brought the influence of Western architectural forms to India. In this context, giving examples, highlight the contribution of Europeans to Indian architecture.

(250 words) 15

Approach:

- Discuss the contribution of European powers to Indian architecture.
- Substantiate with examples.
- Conclude on the basis of aforementioned points.

Answer:

As architecture became an emblem of power, colonisation of India by the Europeans had a great impact on architecture as well. They introduced Western architectural forms to India and enriched Indian architecture. The Portuguese and French mostly constructed buildings and places of worship in colonial architectural styles. The British followed this when they initially ruled India, however, they eventually synthesized colonial style with indigenous styles.

The contributions of European powers to Indian architecture include:

- **Portuguese:** Their architectural influences can be seen in Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli etc.
 - Portuguese colonisers constructed several churches, cathedrals and basilicas, inspired by the Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo architectural styles. Examples include 'Churches and Convents of Old Goa', 'Basilica of Bom Jesus' in Goa, 'St. Paul's Cathedral' in Diu etc.
 - The features of Portuguese-style houses found in areas colonised by them include distinctly large and decorated windows, covered verandas and porches, false wooden interior ceilings, vividly coloured interior walls etc.
- **French:** French architecture is discernable even today in former French colonies, especially in Puducherry.
 - French grid patterns, clear sectors, perpendicular streets, large compounds are the distinct features of the 'Ville Blanche' or 'White Town' in Puducherry.
 - French style of architecture can be distinguished in various places including 'Statue of Joan of Arc at Dumas street in Pondicherry', 'Our Lady of Angels Church, built in Neo-Gothic style in Karaikal', 'Sacred Heart Church of Chandannagar' etc.
 - Most French-style homes showcase an elevation of carved archways and colonnades adorned with French shutter windows. They have high walls and multiple courtyards.
- **British:** The British had the most lasting impact on Indian architecture. Their legacy remains through buildings and infrastructure in cities such as Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi etc. Various architectural styles witnessed under their rule are:
 - **Neo-Classical architecture:** Initially, the British attempted at creating authority through Classical and Neo-Classical prototypes regardless of local climate and traditions. Eg. Raj Bhawan in Kolkata, Bangalore Town Hall etc.
 - **Palladian Style architecture:** British officers introduced the style in the 18th century, which featured a great central tower rising from a succession of terraced roofs. Eg. La Martiniere in Lucknow.
 - **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco:** It includes 19th century Victorian Neo-Gothic buildings and 20th century Art Deco buildings. Eg. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus of Mumbai that represents Victorian Gothic revival style, Mumbai's Victoria and Art Deco ensemble including Oval Maidan, the New India Assurance Building etc.
 - **Indo-Saracenic architecture:** In the 19th century during the later part of the British rule, colonial architecture culminated into the Indo-Saracenic architecture. It was a revival style, which combined Indo-Islamic architecture especially Mughal architecture with European styles and Hindu elements. It is reflected in public and government buildings, palaces of princely state rulers etc. Some of its characteristics are bulbous domes, pointed arches, vaulted roofs, towers, minarets etc. Examples include the Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi, Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, Gateway of India in Mumbai etc.

People like Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker played a prominent role in the construction of New Delhi and monuments around, such as the India Gate and the Parliament building, thus leaving a lasting reminder of the contribution of the Europeans to Indian Architecture.