

# Emergence and Development of Temple Architecture: A Study of Gupta temple Architecture

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# GUPTA ART & ARCHITECTURE

1. The Gupta Empire was an ancient Indian empire, founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta, which existed from approximately 320 to 550 CE and covered much of the Indian Subcontinent.
2. The peace and prosperity created under the leadership of the Gupta's enabled the pursuit of scientific and artistic endeavors.
3. This period is called the **Golden Age of India** and was marked by extensive inventions and discoveries in science, technology, engineering, art, dialectic, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy that crystallized the elements of what is generally known as **Hindu culture**

# Gupta Period (320 AD – 480 AD)

- After the decline of Mauryans, Gupta rulers rose to power
- The Gupta period in Indian history is known as the Golden Age of India.
- Era of the most advanced civilization, flush with wealth, higher education, trade with foreign countries, and an overall happy life.
- Religious tolerance and freedom of worship
- Period of Hindu renaissance.
- Emperor Ashoka promoted Buddhism, but Gupta rulers showed a preference for Hindu religion
- Music, architecture, sculptures and painting were at its best.
- Various copper statues images of Buddha reflect the craftsmanship of the Gupta period.
- After the death of the last Gupta ruler in 570 AD, the Gupta empire declined and broke off.



Hiun Tsang at Nalanda University

## 1) Religious process in transition

- i) Emergence of New cultic trends and their distinctive ritualistic nature.
- ii) Reorganization and formulization of *Puranic* mythology.
- iii) Amalgamation of folk cults and traditions in main fold religion.
- iv) Widespread Popularity of Epic Hero's.

## 2) The process of Culturisation

### 3) New socio-economical trends

### 4) Emergence of new political trends

## 5) Realization of Importance of Monumental Activity

### 1) Technical Advancements

- i) Large scale use of bricks and masonry stones in building construction
- ii) Gradual transformation from rock-cut excavation to structural temples
- iii) Formulation of text for guiding a need and purpose of the temples

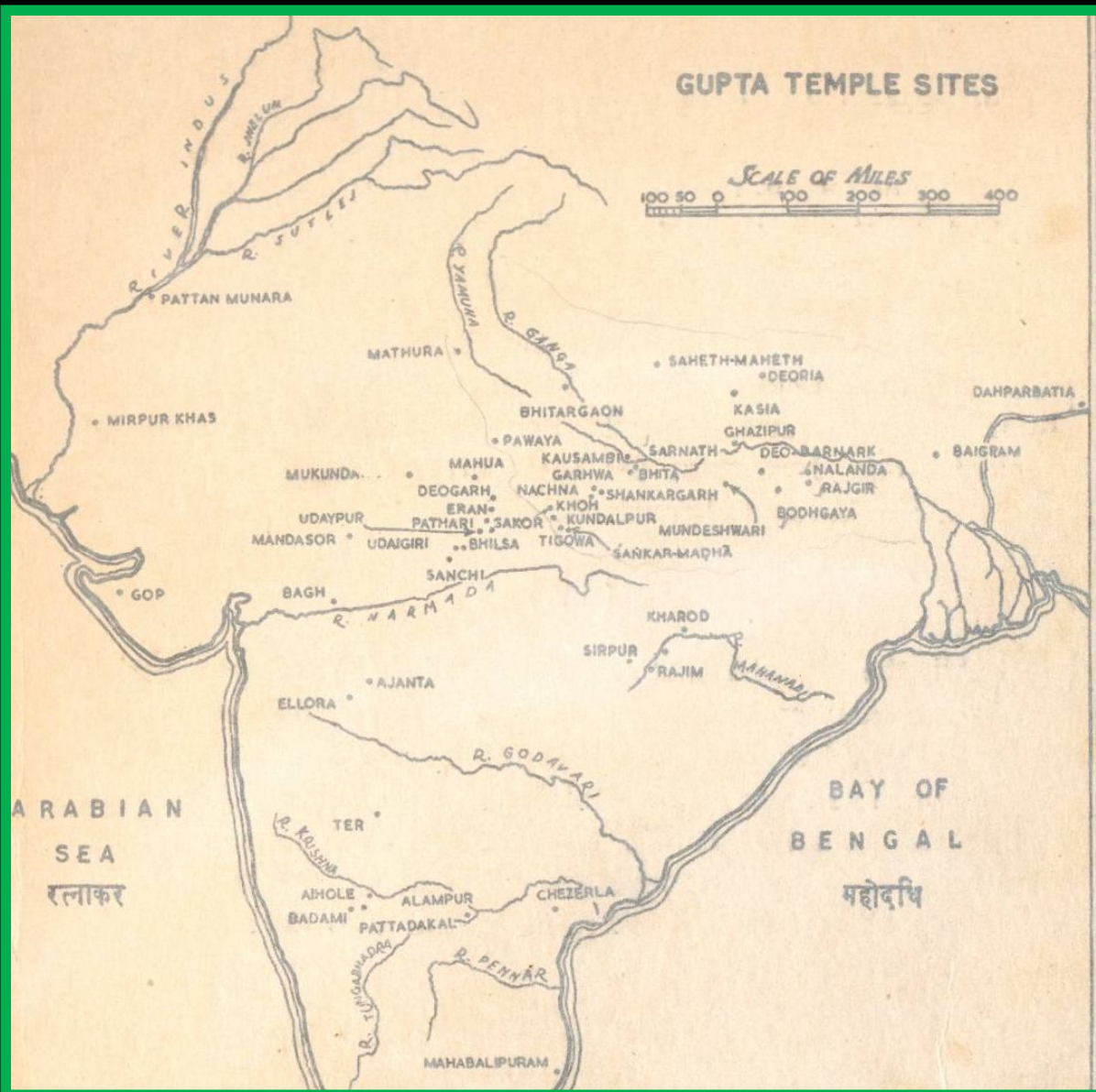
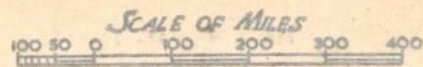
# Dated Temples of Gupta Period

- Eran (Narsimha Temple) 340-380 C.E.
- Udayagiri Cave no.6 & Tawa Cave--401-02 C.E.
- Cave no.20-----425-26 C.E
- Deogarh (Vishnu Temple) 400-440 C.E.
- Mandasor 471-72 C.E.
- Bilasar ruined temple 415 C.E.
- Gadhwa 417-418 C.E.
- Bhitari ruins 455-67
- Nachna Kuthara 470-490
- Bhumara Siva temple 475-510 C.E.
- Tigava

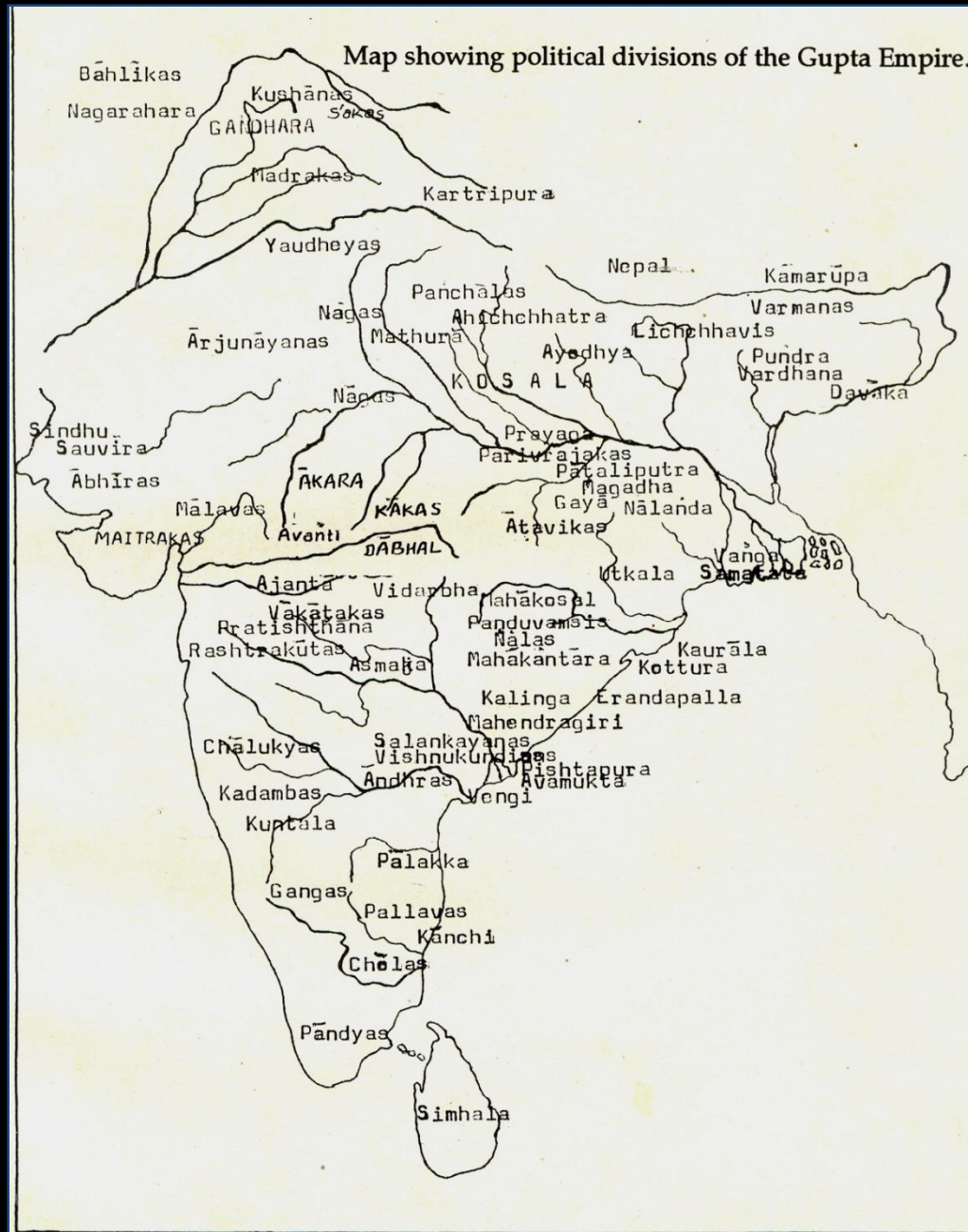
## Traces of the Temple Architecture Before the Gupta Period

- Archaeological Remains
- Nagari
- Vidisha
- Paithan
- Sculptural Relief
- Bharhut
- Sanchi
- Amravati
- Numismatic Evidences
- Tribal Coins

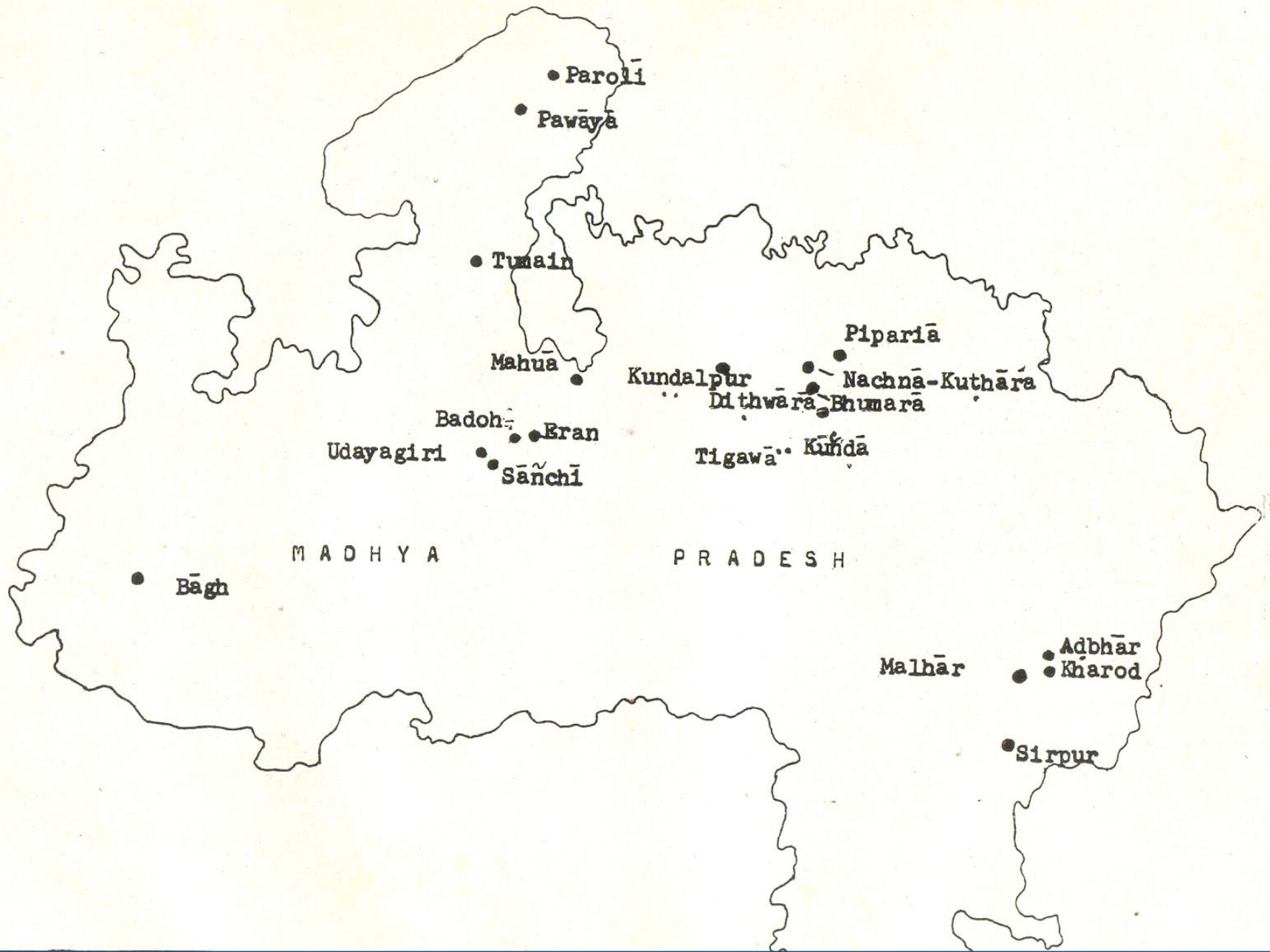
# GUPTA TEMPLE SITES



Map showing political divisions of the Gupta Empire.







- **Flat roofed temples**

- (400 to 450 C.E. Broadly)
- False cave no.1 Udayagiri
- Tigava
- Eran (Narsimha temple)
- Sanchi T.N.17
- Kunda
- Pawaya
- Paroli
- Tumain
- Kundalpur
- Mahua
- Bhumara
- Chhapara
- Marhia

- **Signs of the Beginning of Shikhara**

- (450 to 600 C.E. Broadly)
- Nachna
- Kuthara
- Eran (Vishnu Temple)
- Deogarh
- Bhitargaon
- Mundeshvari
- Shirpur
- Kharod

**Thank You**