

Buddhism. These paintings are life-like and the brilliance of their colours has not faded even after 14 centuries.

The Kailashnatha Temple at Ellora carved out of a single rock is an outstanding work of art from ancient India.



Kailashnatha Temple at Ellora

In Mahabalipuram, the Pallavas made the Ratha temples by cutting and carving granite boulders. The Pallavas also made magnificent temples with stones and bricks like the Shore temple at Mahabalipuram and the temple at Kanchipuram.

Most of the Hindu temples made in ancient India had the central sanctum known as garbhagriha, where the images of deities such as Shiva, Vishnu or Durga, were placed. The priests performed religious rituals in the garbhagriha. The devotees also offered worship to the deity in the garbhagriha. Generally, a tower, known as shikhara, was made on top of the garbhagriha.

Key Question 2

What is unique about the Kailashnatha Temple?

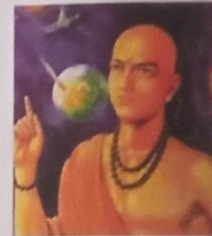
Building stupas and temples was an expensive affair, so the kings and queens spent money from their treasury to build these structures.

SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND MEDICINE

Astronomy, medicine and mathematics made great progress in ancient India. In the field of **mathematics**, the Indians made three special contributions – the **numeration system**, **decimal system** and the **use of zero**. The Arab traders learnt these concepts from India and spread them to the western world.

Aryabhatta, the famous mathematician and astronomer discovered the cause of **solar and lunar eclipses**.

The circumference of the earth that he measured is considered to be correct even now. He pointed out that the Sun is stationary and the earth revolves around it. He wrote a book called **Aryabhatiyam** in which he described his astronomical and mathematical theories.



Aryabhatta

In medicine, Indian physicians could diagnose diseases and prescribe medicines for their cure. The two famous physicians of ancient India were **Sushruta** and **Charaka**. Sushruta had written about **surgery**. Charaka in his book **Charaka Samhita** has described various kinds of diseases including **leprosy** and **tuberculosis**. His book contains the names of a large number of plants and herbs to be used as medicines.

CRAFTS AND TECHNOLOGY

The ancient Indians were craftsmen. The Indian dyers invented lasting colours. They also discovered the **blue colour**. It is unique that the colours used in Ajanta paintings still evoke our admiration.

Indians were great experts in the making of steel also. Indian steel was exported to many parts of the world. No other country in the world could manufacture steel swords

IMPORTANT TERMS

- Eclipse : astronomical phenomenon.
Astronomy : science of studying celestial bodies.
Secular : not religious in nature and content.
Surgery : to operate upon human body.
Diagnose : to find out the cause of illness and treat a sick person.

REVISION FLOW CHART

Ancient India: Contribution to Culture and Science

Government—Its organs

