



DATE: 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Article 371 (Source: The Indian Express)

These Articles provide special administrative and legislative arrangements for several Indian States to address their unique historical, cultural, and socio-economic needs.

- **Articles 371 to 371J form Part XXI of the Indian Constitution – “Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions.”**

Key Articles

- **Article 371 (Maharashtra & Gujarat):** Governor to set up development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada, Saurashtra & Kutch; ensure equitable fund allocation & employment.
- **Article 371A (Nagaland):** Parliament cannot legislate on Naga religion, social practices, customary law, land rights without State Assembly consent.
- **Article 371B (Assam):** President may form a committee in the Assembly with members from tribal areas.
- **Article 371C (Manipur):** Formation of Hill Areas Committee; Governor has special responsibility and reports to the President annually.
- **Articles 371D & 371E (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana):** Ensure equal opportunities in public employment & education; provision for a Central University.
- **Article 371F (Sikkim):** Protects laws, customs, and rights of Sikkimese people; ensures smooth integration into India.
- **Article 371G (Mizoram):** Safeguards Mizo customary law, religion, land rights, and justice systems.
- **Article 371H (Arunachal Pradesh):** Gives the Governor special responsibility for law and order; special legislative powers.
- **Article 371I (Goa):** The Legislative Assembly must have at least 30 members.
- **Article 371J (Karnataka (Hyderabad-Karnataka / Kalyana Karnataka)):** Development board, local reservations in jobs & education, regional development focus.

2 Dravidian Style of Temple Architecture (Source: Indian Express)



Dravidian Style of Temple Architecture

Glory in Stone, Legacy for Eternity



About

- Dravidian style evolved in South India, mainly under the Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas, Vijayanagara and Nayakas.
- Characterised by monumental temples, pyramidal towers (vimanas), elaborate gopurams and extensive compound walls.
- Majorly associated with Hinduism, though influences from Jain and Buddhist architectures also exist.
- Represents a synthesis of religion, art, politics and urban planning.

Major Dynasties

- Pallavas** (6th–9th century) – early structural temples
- Cholas** (9th–13th century) – grand temples, refined style
- Pandyas** (13th–14th century) – expansion and ornamentation
- Vijayanagara** (14th–16th century) – large temple complexes
- Nayakas** (16th–18th century) – towering gopurams, ornate mandapas

Unique Features

- Pyramidal Vimana**
Tower over the sanctum, built in stepped tiers (unlike the curvilinear shikhara of Nagara style).
- Large Gopurams**
Monumental entrance towers, often taller than the main vimana in later periods.
- Enclosed Temple Complex**
Multiple concentric walls with several gateways.
- Mandapas**
Pillared halls for worship, dance and congregation.
- Dravidian Elements**
Nandi mandapa, temple tanks, sub-shrines, sculptural panels and ornate carvings.

Key Architectural Elements

- Garbhagriha** – sanctum housing the main deity.
- Vimana** – pyramidal tower above the sanctum.
- Gopuram** – monumental entrance tower.
- Mandapa** – pillared hall (e.g. ardha mandapa, maha mandapa, kalyana mandapa).
- Prakara** – enclosed walls.
- Temple Tank** – large water reservoir within the complex.



Notable Examples







Shore Temple (Mahabalipuram)
Pallava

Brihadeeswarar Temple (Thanjavur)
Chola

Meenakshi Amman Temple (Madurai)
Pandya-Nayaka

Virupaksha Temple (Hampi)
Vijayanagara

Ramanathaswamy Temple (Rameswaram)
Nayaka

Sculptural Themes

- Depictions from Hindu mythology (Shaiva, Vaishnava and Shakta traditions).
- Dwarapalaks, celestial beings, mythical creatures (yalis).
- Scenes from epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- Intricate carvings on pillars, walls and gopurams.



Significance

- Showcases advanced engineering, urban planning and artistic excellence.
- Centres of religion, culture, education, art and economy.
- Supported by royal patronage and contributions from merchants and common people.
- Continue to be active centres of faith and living heritage.

Comparison with Nagara Style

Dravidian Style	Nagara Style
Pyramidal vimana	Curvilinear shikhara
Large gopurams	Smaller entrances
Common in South India	Common in North India
More horizontal expansion	More vertical emphasis
Extensive enclosed complexes	Usually no large enclosure walls
Examples: Brihadeeswarar, Meenakshi, Shore Temple	Examples: Khajuraho, Konark, Lingaraja

Modern Relevance

- Major tourist and cultural attractions
- Symbol of India's rich heritage and continuity of tradition
- Inspiration for architecture, art and cultural identity
- Recognised as part of India's global heritage