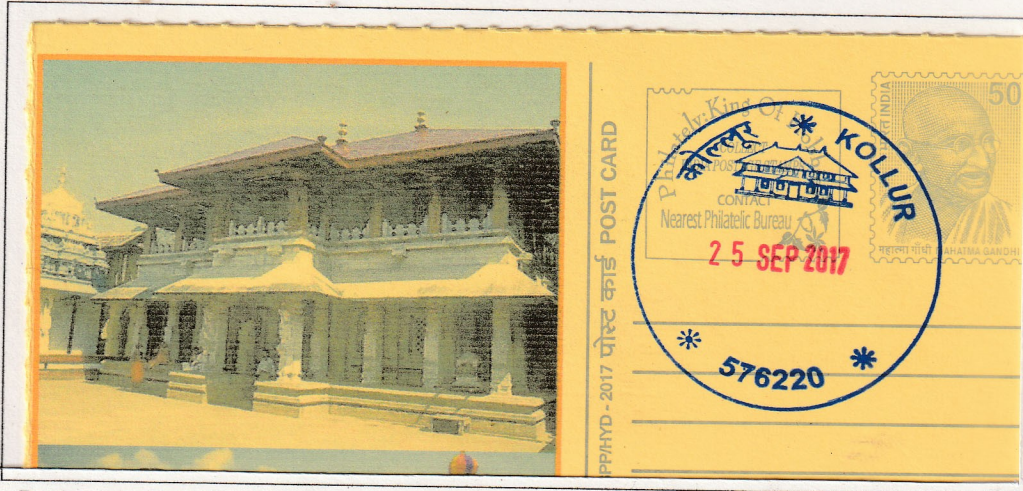




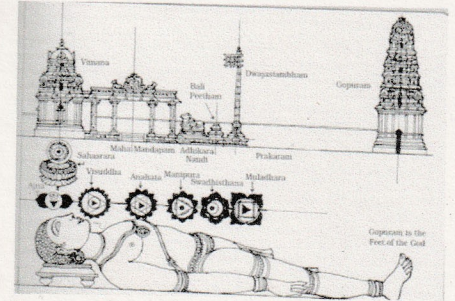
Hindu Temple Architecture & Human Body - Symbolism

Temples are an integral part of Hindu way of life

Typically a Hindu temple will have the following structures. Sreekovil or Garbhagriha, Shikhara or vimanam, Balipeetham, Dwajasthambam or flag post, Turtle Lamp located inside the gopuram but before the main entrance. Gopurams are the elaborate gateway-towers of south Indian temples. And outer wall.



Post card with pictorial cancellation of Famous south Indian Temple of Mookambika - Kollur



Temples and Human Body - Symbolism

In Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says that "idam sariram kaunteya ksetram ity abhidhiyate". This body is a temple.

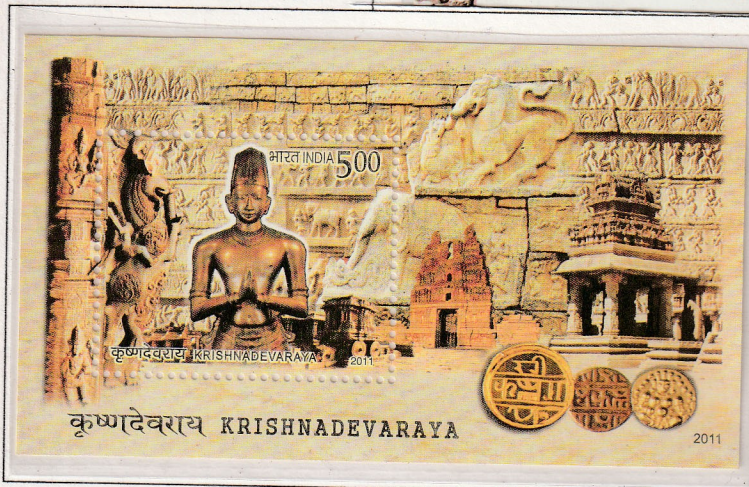
Garbhagriha is Head, Inner parikrama is face, Wall outside parikrama is chest, Namaskara Mantapa is neck, Balimantapa is waist, and main entrance with Gopuram is the feet.



Famous Kedarnath Temple 2001 issue on char Dham



2003 indian stamps on temple architecture 4 famous temples



Miniature sheet on Krishnadevaraya -Vijayanagara 2011



Famous Konark Sun Temple - 2001 issue

The human body is the temple for the indwelling Spirit of God (Antaryamin). Various parts of the temple structure correspond to various parts of the human body. The temple is the physical body (sthoola sarira) which houses the presence of Divine. So the actual building of the temple itself is a symbol of the presence of the Divine in the world.

The whole of the temple starting with the main entrance and the outermost prakaram is the body of the Lord. Hence you do not enter the temple with your foot wear on.