

## Art and Culture Class 02

12th February, 2024 at 1:00 PM

### DISCUSSION OF LAST CLASS (01:10 PM)

#### ORNAMENTS, JEWELLERY AND COSMETICS OF INDUS VALLEY PEOPLE (01:11 PM)

- *The Indus Valley people used necklaces, pendants, rings, earrings, waistbands, bangles, etc.*
- Chanudaro was famous for the bead-making industry and Kalibangan was famous for bangle-making.
- They mainly used semi-precious stones like Amethyst, jade, jasper, carnelian, lapis lazuli, and colored marbles for the creation of jewelry.
- There were also instances of jewelry made from gold, silver, copper, and bronze but gold and silver were rare.
- Indus Valley people had a very good fashion sense and they used a variety of cosmetics which included soap, lipstick, sindoor, kajal, etc.
- They also knew tinctures which were used to clean and heal wounds.

#### TOWN PLANNING OF IVC (01:21 PM)

- Generally, Indus towns were divided into two parts - **Lower town and Upper town**. Upper town was created on an upraised platform and it is referred to as a citadel or acropolis.

##### Citadel

- In this part of the town, administrative buildings were created. Moreover, it also had the provision of granary and common baths. Granaries were created in a scientific pattern and they had vents at strategic places for the exchange of moisture and gases.
- The common bath was a stepped water tank meant for ritual bathing. The best example is the **Great Bath of Mohenjodaro** in which stairs were created in north-south direction and stairs were made from burnt brick. Gypsum was used as a cementing agent and the floor of the water tank was plastered with charcoal to make it leakproof.

##### Lower Town

- The lower town was meant for the habitation of the commoners. It was divided into many sectors and there was a very good network of roads. Roads used to cut each other at right angles.
- On both sides of the roads, drains were created which were covered with stone slabs or brick slabs. Inside the drains, at regular intervals, cesspits were created for the removal of solid waste.
- Cesspits were coated with gypsum for the filtration of wastewater. Inside the sectors, there were instances of single-storey double-storey, and even triple-storey houses. Generally, people did not create the main gates of their houses facing the main road.
- Inside the houses, a courtyard was created in the center. Around the courtyard, bedrooms, a kitchen, and a washroom were created. In some of the houses, private wells were also there but it was also accessible to the other people.
- All the houses were created with burnt bricks of the same shape and size in a ratio of 4:2:1.
- **Q. To what extent do the urban planning and the culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provide inputs to present-day urbanization? Discuss (150 Words/ 10 Marks).**

## **MAURYA AGE ART (02:12 PM)**

### **Shramana Tradition/Movement**

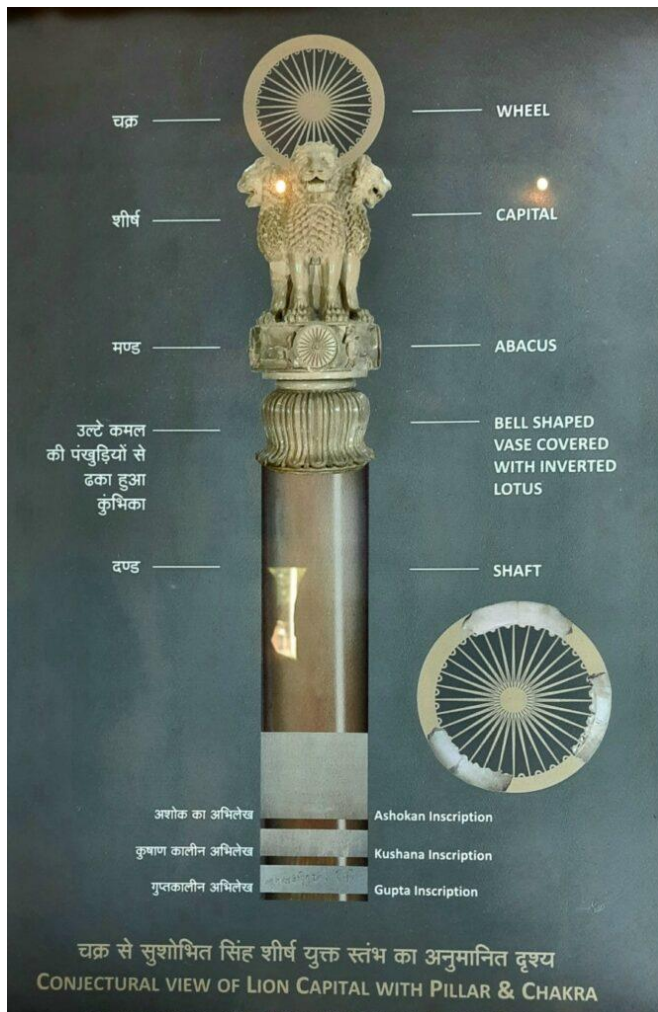
- Shramana is a Sanskrit word that means striving for enlightenment. It started in the rear end of the later Vedic period and it was initiated by the progressive section of society.
- They were against the discriminatory practices of the Vedic age. For eg- The dominance of the priestly class, complex Vedic rituals, the emergence of the *varna* system, deterioration in the position of women, the emergence of untouchability and indiscriminate animal sacrifice, etc.
- It is believed that the sramana tradition led to the religious reform movements Jainism, Buddhism, and Ajivika.
- Mauryas were perhaps the first rulers who patronized all three branches of Shramana.
- Mauryan rulers also took architectural initiatives to patronize the branches of sramana.

### **Mauryan Caves (02:21 PM)**

- Mauryan caves were perhaps the first man-made caves of the Indian subcontinent. These caves were mainly created by Ashoka and his grandson Dasratha. These caves were meant for the shelter of the Ajivika monks.
- The caves were decorated from the outside and highly polished from the inside. On the entrance, a beautiful semi-circular facade was created. Reticular panels with elephant sculptures were also created.
- For eg - 1) Lomas Rishi cave - Barabar hills in Jehanabad district of Bihar
- 2) Sudama cave & Karana Chopar in Nagarjuni Hills in Jehanabad in Bihar.
- 3) Dhauli cave of Odhisha.
- **Note** - At the site of Dhauli, half an image of a rock-cut elephant was created during Ashoka's time.

### **Mauryan Pillars (02:30 PM)**

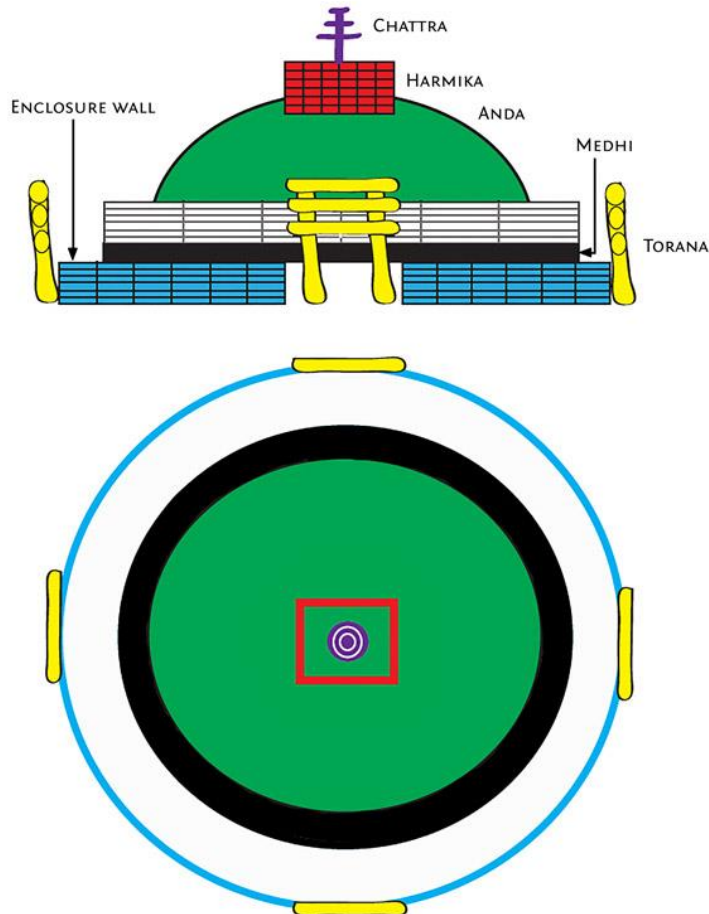
- Mauryan pillars were monolithic in nature. Their average height was around 50 to 55 ft and they were known for high polishing and excellent carver skills. Mauryan pillars were always installed in the open.
- Similar to the Mauryas, in the Achaemenian kingdom of Iran, pillars were created. However, they were highly inferior as compared to Mauryan pillars. Their average height was around 20 to 25 ft. Very ordinary carving skills but highly polished. Achaemenian pillars were used inside buildings.



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- **Examples** - 1) Lauriya Nandangarh Pillar, Bihar - Crowning Animal - Lion
- 2) Rampurva Pillar, Bihar - Crowning Animal - Bull.
- 3) Sankissa Pillar - UP. Crowning Animal - Elephant.
- 4) Sarnath Pillar. Crowning Animal - 4 back-to-back lions.
- The abacus part and crowning animal of Sarnath was adopted by the Government of India as the national emblem with the tagline 'Satyamev Jayate' taken from 'Mundaka Upanishad.' In the abacus part, there are 4 Dharmachakras with 24 spokes and in a clockwise direction, four animals were created i.e. Bull, Horse, Elephant & Lion (BHEL).
- **Purpose of the Pillars** - Initially, the purpose of pillars was to celebrate victory and also to serve imperial sermons. Later, after the Kalinga war, the purpose became the propagation of Dhamma (moral ethical code of conduct). They were also meant to celebrate the important life events of Buddha.

### Stupa (03:10 PM)

- Meaning of Stupa - Heap of sand or mound.
- The origin of Stupa can be traced to Vedic times. The divine Rishis of those times were cremated in the stupa formations. After the death of Buddha, his followers also created a stupa but of a bigger size on the relics of Buddha.
- When Asoka accepted Buddhism, he decided to create nine early stupas on the relics of Buddha. These stupas were created at Alakappa, Ramagrama, Vethadipa, Vaishali, Rajgir, Pava, Pippalviva, Kapilavastu & Kushinagara.



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- Ashoka initiated a new policy "Calm & Glad" whereby he created thousands of stupas spanned across the Indian subcontinent. With the stupa construction, he wanted to popularise the moral and ethical life of Buddha which people can inculcate.

### **Description of Stupa (03:33 PM)**

- Vedika is the outer boundary wall of the stupa. It was engraved with *Jataka katha* or folk narratives depicting the previous life stories of Buddha.
- The 4 gateways in Stupa i.e. Toranas indicate four important life events of Buddha. 1) East Torana symbolizes his birth at Lumbini. 2) South Torana symbolizes nirvana at Bodh Gaya. 3) West Torana indicates Dharmachakra Parivartan at Sarnath. & 4) North Torana indicates Buddha's Mahaparinirvana or death at Kushinagar.
- Medhi is a closed structure inside which the relics of Buddha are kept. Harmika represents the most sacred space of Stupa. Yasti is regarded as the axis of the earth and the three Chhatris are the tri-ratna (three jewels) of Buddhism i.e. Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha.
- Overall, Stupa is regarded as a presentation of the body of Buddha. Medhi represents his meditating legs, Anda his middle body, and Harmika, Yasti, and Chattri together represent the neck and head of Buddha.
- Moreover, a stupa is also regarded as a microcosm of the universe.

### **TOPIC FOR NEXT CLASS - POST-MAURYAN SCULPTURES**