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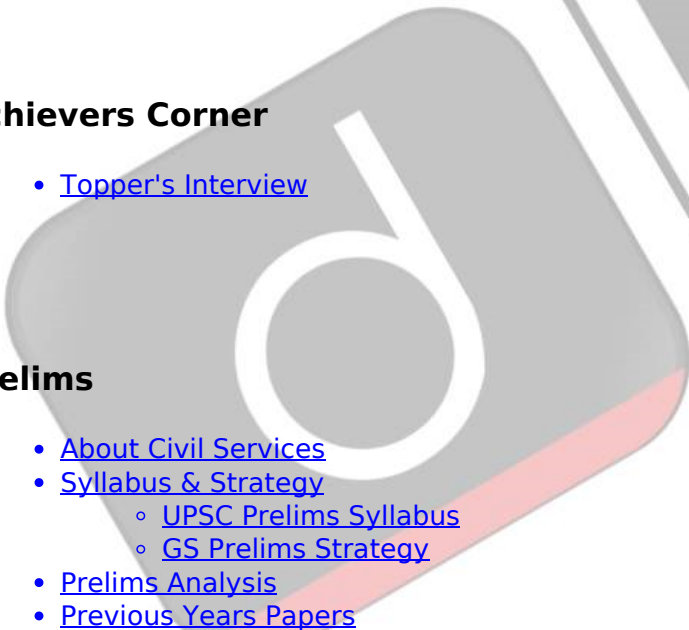
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**Examine the various architectural elements of the Mauryan empire and their significance. (250 words)**

### Approach

#### Approach

- Give introduction of Mauryan empire.
- Enlist major architectural elements of Mauryan empire.
- Give conclusion.

#### Introduction

- **Mauryan empire is an important phase in Indian arts history.** By the fourth century BCE the Mauryas established their power and by the third century BCE, a large part of India was under mauryan control. Stone masonry is the important feature of Mauryan architecture.



- Ashoka emerged as the most powerful king of the Mauryan dynasty who patronised the Buddhist shramana tradition in the third century BCE.

## Body

- Construction of stupas and viharas as part of monastic establishments became part of the Buddhist tradition. Further stone pillars, rock-cut caves and monumental figure sculptures were carved at several places.

## Ashoka Pillars

- Stone pillars can be seen all over the Mauryan Empire. The stone used in these pillars highly polished and well proportioned.
- The top portion of the pillar is called capital and it typically has animal figures like bull, lion, elephant, etc. These capital figures are carved standing on a square or circular abacus. The abacuses are on the base which could be a stylized inverted lotus.
- Example of pillars with capital figures: Sarnath, Basarah-Bakhira, Rampurva, Sankisa and Lauriya-Nandangarh. The Lion Capital at Sarnath is the most famous, It is also our national emblem.
- Pillars had proclamations inscribed on them and were used to spread the message of the Buddha by Emperor Ashoka.

## Rock-cut architecture

- Maurayans also patronised rock-cut architecture.
- The rock-cut cave carved at Barabar hills is a good example of Mauryan rock cut architecture.
- The cave entrance is decorated with a semicircle chaitya arch. An elephant is carved in high relief on the chaitya. The interior hall of the cave is rectangular; it also has a circular chamber at the back.
- The cave was donated by Ashoka for the Ajivika sect.
- Rock-cut elephant at **Dhauri**, Odisha – shows modelling in round with linear rhythm.

## Stupas, Chaityas and Viharas

- Due to the popularity of Buddhism and Jainism, stupas and viharas were constructed on a large scale.
- Stupas were constructed over the relics of the Buddha at Rajagraha, Vaishali, Vethadipa and Pava in Bihar, Kapilavastu, Allakappa and Ramagrama in Nepal, Kushinagar and Pippalvina in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Great Stupa at Sanchi was built with bricks during the time of Ashoka and later new additions were made with stone.
- Stupas were elaborately built with certain additions like the enclosing of the circumbulatory path with railings and sculptural decorations.
- During the early phase of Buddhism, Buddha is depicted symbolically through footprints, stupas, lotus throne, chakra, etc. This indicates either simple worship, or paying respect, or at times depicts historicization of life events.
- The events from the life of the Buddha, the Jataka stories, were depicted on the railings and torans of the stupas.

## Statues and Sculptures

- Statues of Yakshas and Yakhinis are found at many places like Patna, Vidisha and Mathura. These monumental images are mostly in the standing position.
- One of the finest examples is a Yakshi figure from Didarganj, Patna, which is tall and well-built.
- In stupa architecture, there was ample space for the architects and sculptors to plan elaborations and to carve out images.

## Conclusion

- Mauryan architecture is significant for its messages of non-violence and as a means to spread the moral and spiritual messages in the subcontinent.

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setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-wp" ).show("slow"); },10); var width = (window.innerWidth > 0) ?
window.innerWidth : screen.width; if(width >= 700){ setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tg" ).show("slow");
},10); } setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-cross" ).show("slow"); },10); $(".float-fb").animate({ top:
"+=8%", }, 500 ); $(".float-tw").animate({ top: "+=16%", }, 600 ); $(".float-rs").animate({ top: "+=24%",
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}, 700 ); $(".float-ig").animate({ top: "+=32%", }, 800 ); $(".float-pn").animate({ top: "+=40%", }, 900 );
$(".float-wp").animate({ top: "+=48%", }, 1000 ); if(width >= 700){ $(".float-tg").animate({ top:
"+=56%", }, 1000 ); } sessionStorage.setItem("remove_social_icons", "0"); }
$(document).ready(function(){ var value = sessionStorage.getItem("remove_social_icons"); if(value ==
'1'){ remove_social_float_icons(); } }); // function to close the popup function closePopup() { var modal =
document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display = "none"; } // function to open the popup
function openPopup() { var modal = document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display =
"block"; } // Added the code - If user click on anywhere outside the popup $('body').click(function(e) {
$('#myModal').hide(); }); $('#popclose').on('click',function(e) { $('#myModal').css('display','none'); }); //
automatically open the popup on page load window.onload = openPopup; $(document).ready(function(){
if(screen.width { button.addEventListener('click', btnEvent => { // console.log(button.id); $.ajax({
method: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/search/", data:{ 'id': button.id, 'search': search },
headers: { 'X-CSRF-TOKEN': $('[name = "_csrfToken"]').val() }, success: function(result){
$('body').html(result); }, error: function(error){ console.log(error) } }) }) $(document).ready(function(){
//alert(getCookie('isLogin')); if(getCookie('isLogin')==1) { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','inline-block');
$('#loginLink').css('display','none'); $('#registerLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','inline-block'); } else { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','none');
$('#loginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#registerLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','none'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','none'); } }); function getCookie(name) { var match =
document.cookie.match(RegExp("(?:^|;)\s*" + name + "=(?:[^\s]*)")); return match ? match[1] : null; } var
regex = /^[a-zA-Z0-9_+]+\@((([a-zA-Z0-9-])+\.)+([a-zA-Z0-9]{2,4})+)$/; var phonex = /^[0-9 ]+$/;
$('#newsletterfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true; var txtname=$('#txtname').val(); var
txtname=$('#txtname').val(); $('#nmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove(); if(txtname.trim()==){
$('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); }
if(txtname.trim()==){ $('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!regex.test(txtname)){ $('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#newsletterfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({
type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/pages/newsletterfrm", data: form, success: function(data){
if(data=='already'){ $('#nmsg').html('Email address already in use'); }else if(data=='add'){
$('#nmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. '); $('#txtname').val("");
$('#txtname').val(""); }else{ $('#nmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
//$('#nloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errorType,errorStatus){ alert(errorType);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#smsalertfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true;
var txtmobile=$('#txtmobile').val(); $('#nmmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtmobile.trim()==){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(txtmobile.trim().length!=10){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!phonex.test(txtmobile)){ $('#txtmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtmobile').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#smsalertfrm').serialize();
//$('#nmloader').show(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/pages/smsalertfrm", data:
form, success: function(data){ if(data=='already'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Phone number already in use');
}else if(data=='add'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our SMS Alerts. ');
$('#txtmobile').val(""); }else{ $('#nmmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
//$('#nmloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errorType,errorStatus){ alert(errorType);
//$('#nmloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#subscriptionfrm').submit(function(e){ var
msg=true; var txtname=$('#name').val(); var txtname=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
txtmobile=$('#phone').val(); $('#contactmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtname.trim()==){ $('#name').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#name').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtname.trim()==){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtname)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error'); msg=false;
}else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtmobile.trim()==){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtmobile.trim().length!=10){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtmobile)){
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#phone').removeClass('input-error'); }
if($('#dailyupdates').prop("checked") == false && $('#examnewsletter').prop("checked") == false &&
$('#fullnewsletter').prop("checked") == false && $('#sms').prop("checked") == false) {
$('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); $('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('No
option selected, please select at least one option. '); msg=false; } if(msg){ $('#loader').css('display','block');
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var form=$('#subscriptionfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishtiiias.com/subscription", data: form, success: function(data){
$('.loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our
subscription. You will hear from us soon. '); $('#name').val(""); $('#emailaddress').val(""); $('#phone').val("");
}else{ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); $('#contactmsg').addClass('error');
$('#contactmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#testseriesfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true;
var txtnname=$('#firstname').val(); var txtnemail=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
txtnmobile=$('#phonenumber').val(); $('#contactmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove();
if(txtnname.trim()==""){ $('#firstname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#firstname').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnemail.trim()==""){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtnemail)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error'); msg=false;
}else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnmobile.trim()==""){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtnmobile.trim().length!=10){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtnmobile)){
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#phonenumber').removeClass('input-
error'); } if(msg){ $('.loader').css('display','block'); var form=$('#testseriesfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type:
"POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/test-series-registration", data: form, success: function(data){
$('.loader').css('display','none'); //alert(data); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for choosing our test series. You
will get an email and message soon. '); $('#firstname').val(""); $('#lastname').val("");
$('#emailaddress').val(""); $('#phonenumber').val(""); }else{ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
$('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html(data); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#allnotes').click(function(){
$('.fixbtn.notes').removeClass('open'); $('.fixbtn.mynotes').toggleClass('open'); });
$('.mynotes,.notelist').on('click','readmore',function(){ var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid');
$('#note_id').val(noteid); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/articles/setnote", data:
'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){ if(data){ tinymce.get("mynote").setContent(data);
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went
wrong, Please try again'); } }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });
$('#notelink').click(function(){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/articles/removenote",
success: function(data){ if(data=='removed'){ $('#note_id').val(""); tinymce.get("mynote").setContent("");
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); $('.fixbtn.mynotes').removeClass('open');
}else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });
$('.mynotes,.notelist').on('click','removenote',function(e){ if(confirm('Are you sure want to remove
note?')) { $('.loader').css('display','block'); var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid'); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishtiiias.com/articles/deletenote", data: 'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){
$('.loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='removed'){ $('#note-list #' +noteid+' ,.notelist
#' +noteid).css('display','none'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype); } }); }
e.preventDefault(); }); $("#commentfile").change(function(){ $("#file-name").text(this.files[0].name); });
$(document).ready(function(){ $('.list-toggle').click(function(){ $('.list-category').toggleClass('active');
$(this).toggleClass('active'); $('.value').text(function(i, text){ return text === "Hide Menu" ? "Show Menu"
: "Hide Menu"; }); }); $('#aside button.close').click(function(){ $('.list-category').toggleClass('active');
$('.list-toggle').toggleClass('active'); }); $('.fixbtn .btn').click(function(){ $('.fixbtn
.btn').not(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); $(this).parents('.fixbtn').toggleClass('open'); });
$('.fixbtn a.close').click(function(){ $(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); }); $('.note-
btn').click(function(){ $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }); $('.viewmore a').click(function(){
$('.hide').slideToggle('active'); $(this).text(function(i, text){ return text === "View More" ? "View Less" :
"View More"; }); }); }); $('#learning-program .subheading').click(function(){ $(this).next().slideToggle();
$(this).toggleClass('open'); }); $(document).ready(function(){ $('#a.register-btn').colorbox(); });
$('#interview-slider').slick({ autoplay: true, arrows: false, dots: true });
$('#bookSession').on('click',function(e){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", data: { 'course':
$('#bookSession').data('course') }, url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/book-online-session", success:
function(json){ var obj = JSON.parse(json); if (obj.status==200) { alert(obj.message); } else {
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alert(obj.message); window.location.reload(); } }, error: function(error, errorType, errorStatus){
alert(errorType); } }); e.preventDefault(); }); $(".popup").colorbox({iframe: true, innerWidth: 790,
innerHeight: 530}); if(screen.width = 500) { $("#scroll-top").addClass("show"); } else { $("#scroll-
top").removeClass("show"); } }); function showarchive(year,month,day=null) { // alert('be-mains-ready-
daily-answer-writing-practice-question'); return; var
url='https://www.drishtias.com/archives/'+year+'-'+month+'-'+day; location=url;
//alert(url+'/archives/'+year+'-'+month+'-'+day); }
```

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