



BPSC Mains

Smart Book Notes

Mains GS 1 - English

- Syllabus Wise
- Topic Wise
- Toppers strategy QA pattern Notes
- Every Topic covered with **as many QA pattern Notes possible**




mindplan.in[®]
smart study + **sooper-quick** revision

A Trademarked and Registered company.

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



Save trees. Save life.



PREFACE

Dear students,

I am delighted to present this book to Administrative Services students and am grateful for the tremendous efforts of the experts to make this book authentic, relevant and updated. My heartfelt of gratitude for the efforts of the technical team to make this book useful and easy.

In the end, I am open to the creative suggestions and ideas from all the hard-working students. If there is any scope of any kind of issue or mistake in this book or in its delivery, then I stand with the students.

Wishing all the students a bright future!

Publisher

Mindplan.in

support@mindplan.in

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



Topic: Mauryan Art / मौर्य काल की कला

Below is a screenshot of GS1 syllabus from the **Official BPSC Mains syllabus**

पत्र- 1 में आधुनिक भारत (तथा बिहार के विशेष सन्दर्भ में) के इतिहास और भारतीय संस्कृति के अन्तर्गत लगभग उन्नीसवीं शताब्दी के मध्य भाग से लेकर देश के इतिहास की रूप रेखा के साथ-साथ गाँधी, रवीन्द्र और नेहरू से संबंधित प्रश्न भी सम्मिलित होंगे। बिहार के आधुनिक इतिहास के संदर्भ में प्रश्न इस क्षेत्र में पाश्चात्य शिक्षा (प्रौद्योगिकी शिक्षा समेत) के आरम्भ और विकास से पूछे जाएंगे। इसमें भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में बिहार की भूमिका से संबंधित प्रश्न रहेंगे। ये प्रश्न मुख्यतः संथाल विद्रोह, बिहार में 1857 विरसा का आन्दोलन, चम्पारण सत्याग्रह तथा 1942 का भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन से पूछे जाएँगे। परीक्षार्थियों से आशा की जाती है कि वे **मौर्य काल** तथा पाल काल की कला और पटना कलम चित्रकला की मुख्य विशेषताओं से परिचित होंगे। सांख्यिकीय विश्लेषण आरेखन और

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus only.

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus

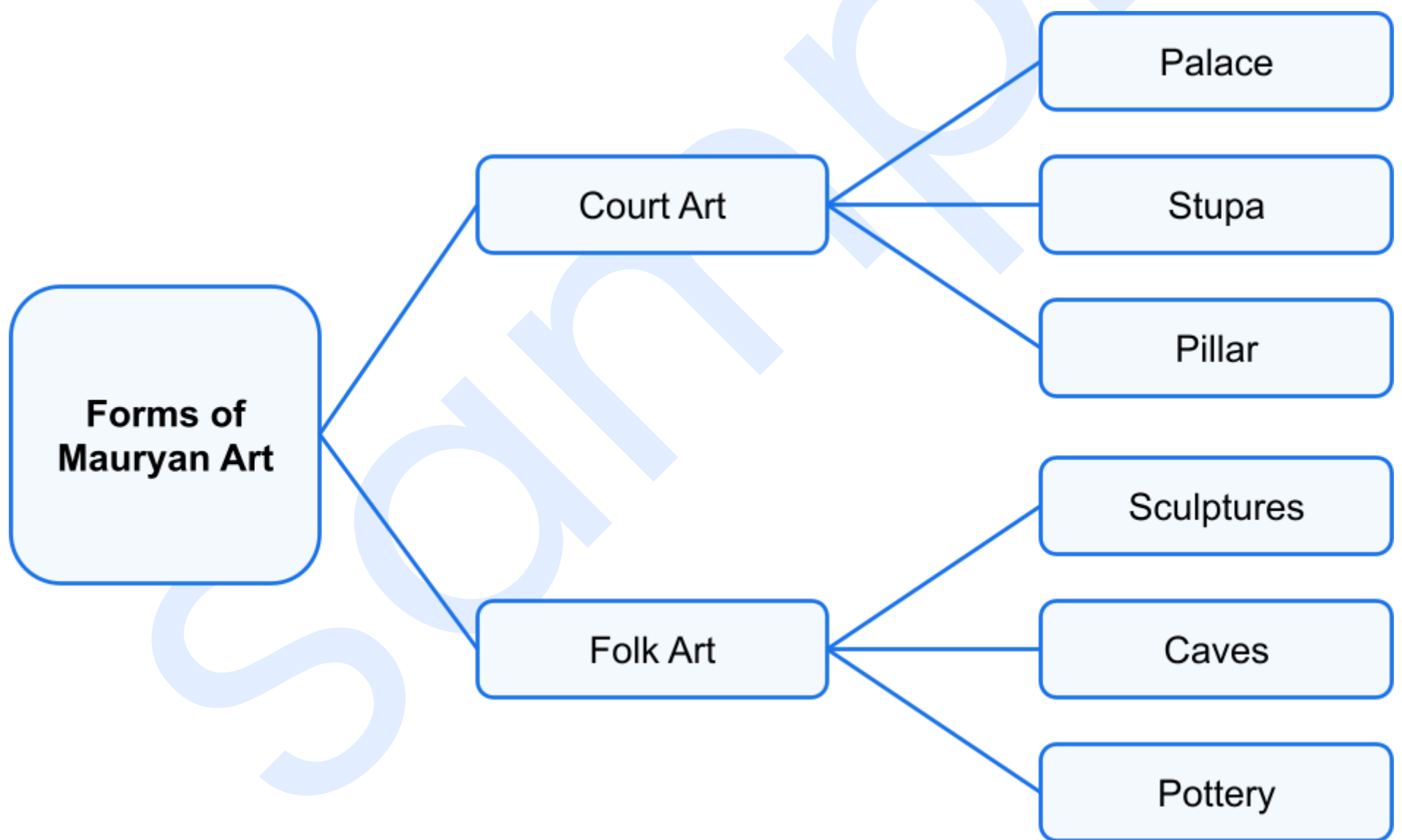


i. Explain the characteristics of the Mauryan Art.

The Mauryan Empire is marked for its great achievements in art, culture, architecture and literature. The period of king Ashoka led to the base of sculpturing art of India in later periods.

The rule of the Mauryan Empire for the period of promotion in the field of art and architecture.

Mauryan art can be divided into it :



Characteristics of the Mauryan sculpture

- Usage of rocks as building materials



- Concept of religious sculpture was always predominant during the Mauryan Empire.
- Use of cut stone in the Mauryan Era
- Mauryan sculpture dominated by Buddhist temples and caves
- Caves inspired by Indian Vedic sculpture
- Mauryan sculpture also influenced by Shaivism and Vaishnavism
- Mauryan sculptures include the Stupa, Chaitya, and Viharas.
- Influence of foreign countries on Mauryan sculpture.

The sculpture of Mauryan period

Mauryan sculpture includes both court and folk art. Mauryan sculptures are made of stone, metal and clay. Stone sculptures are found in three forms by cutting stone engraved or independently made on monolithic pillars and independently made sculptures.

Rock cut [stone] sculptures of elephant in Dhauli

This sculpture shows the excellence of stone sculpture. The elephant appears natural and ready to come out of stone.

On Kalsi [Dehradun] stone, an image of elephant is found engraved

Clay made sculptures are found largely in folk art. Folk art was developed by independent artisans without any royal patronage.

Famous sculptures of the Mauryan period include yaksha-yakshini.

- Yakshini holds a chauri [elywhisk] in the right hand.

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



- Stone made gigantic figurine of yaksha-yakshini
- Standing position
- They are object of worship related to 3 [Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism]

Found at many places

- Yaksh idol found at Parkham village of Mathura district also called Manibhadra.
- Yaksha image found from Baroda village of Mathura district
- Yaksh idol found from Mathura.
- Didarganj [patna] yakshini idol which is exhibited at patna museum
- Yakshi idol found from [Vidisha] Basenagar.
- Tri-mouth yaksh idol found from Rajghat[Varanasi]
- Yaksha images found from Shishupal Garh[Odisha]
- Yaksh idol found from Armin [Kurukshetra]
- Yakshini images found from Mehrauli
- Two naked images of male found from Lohanipur [Patna]

Thus Mauryan sculptures not only revived the art and culture in India but also laid a solid foundation for it to flourish in the days to come.



Pillars:

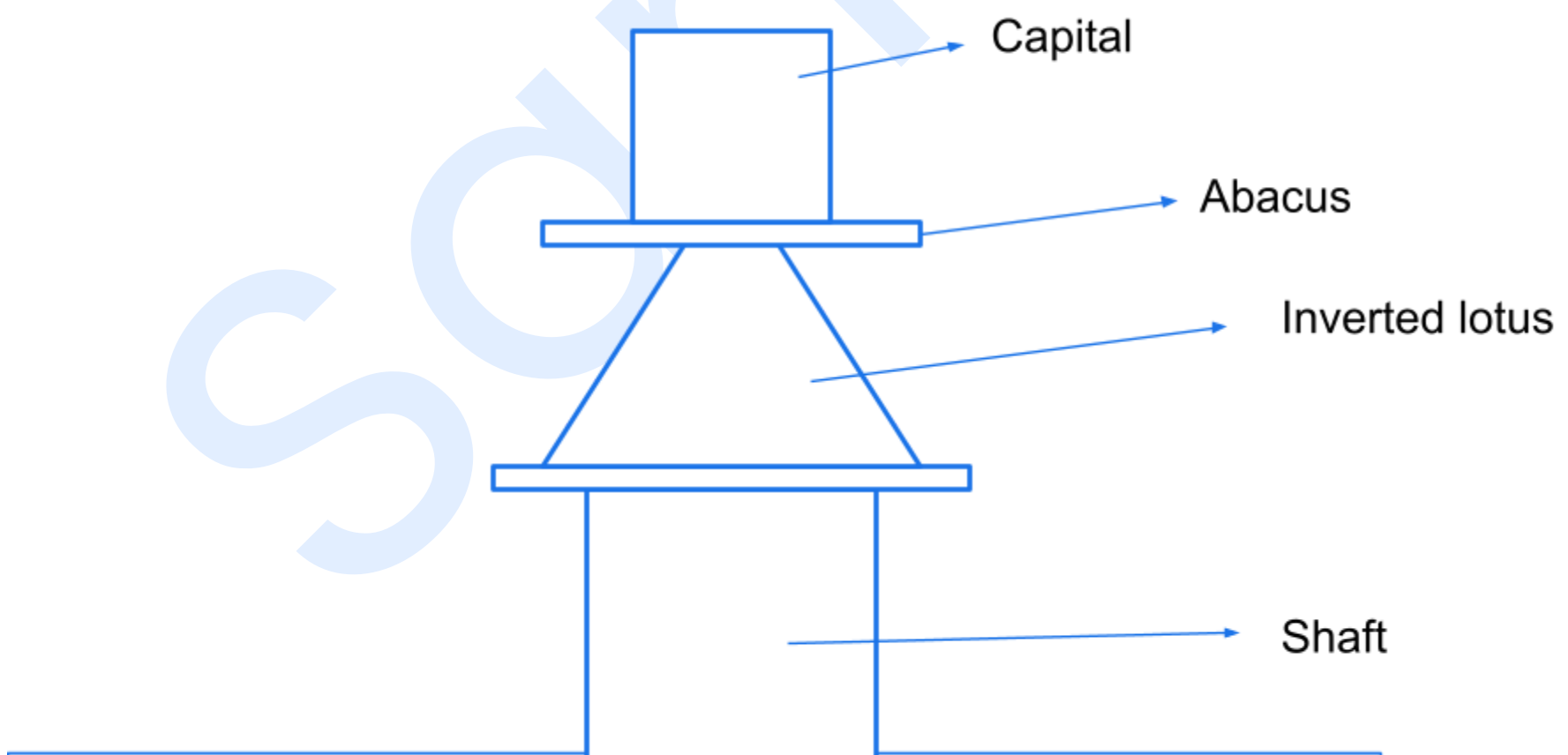
Mauryan pillars are different from the pillars in the other parts of the world [like Achaemenid Pillars] as they are rock-cut pillars thus displaying the carver's skills.

Stone pillars were erected all over the Mauryan Empire .The uppermost element of a pillar column is known as a capital.

The top portion of the pillar was carved with figures like a bull, lion, elephant etc.

All the capital figures [usually animals] are vigorous and carved standing on a square or circular abacus.

Abacuses are decorated with stylized lotus.



All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



Sarnath pillar:

The pillar is discounted at sarnath near varanasi, it is one of the finest examples of sculpture from mauryan period and was built by ashoka in commemoration of 'Dharmachakra Pravartana' or the first sermon of Buddha.

Originally it consists of five components.

1. The pillar shaft
2. The lotus bell or base
3. A drum on the bell base with four animals proceeding clockwise [abacus]
4. Figure of four majestic addressed lions.
5. The crowning element.'Dharmachakra'.

Dharmachakra, a large wheel - first sermon of Buddha.

The capital has four asiatic lions seated back to back and their facial muscularity is very strong .They symbolise power, courage, pride and confidence. The surface of the sculpture is heavily polished.

Four lions - Kshatriyahood of buddha and four lions represent his messages spreading in all directions.

Abacus [drawn on the bell base] has the depiction of a chakra [wheel] in all four directions and a bull, a horse, an elephant and a lion between every chakra.

Horse - Mahabhinishkraman

Bull - sun sign of Buddha [Taurus]

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



Elephant - conceiving Buddha

Each chakra has 24 spokes in it .This is adopted to the national flag of india.

The circular abacus is supported by an inverted lotus capital

The capital without the shaft, the lotus bell and crowning wheel has been adopted as the national emblem of independent india.

Thus, Mauryan art and architecture survived due to the use of stones. Mauryan art represents the peace, prosperity which allowed the different art forms to flourish.

The Maurya rulers contributed significantly to the progress of architecture. It is said on the basis of excavation that for the first time after 1500 years of Harappan culture, architecture and sculpture were encouraged on a large scale during the Mauryan period.

Sarnath pillar is a magnificent sculpture built during the Mauryan Period. It has four lions, which are situated at the top of the pillar. Extraordinary precision and beauty associated with these idols is a great example of the artisan expertise of that period. It will not be an exaggeration to say that Ashoka Pillar is the best among the idols created during the Mauryan period. It is known as our national symbol and its beauty is pertinent till date. Some of the key things that make it special are following:

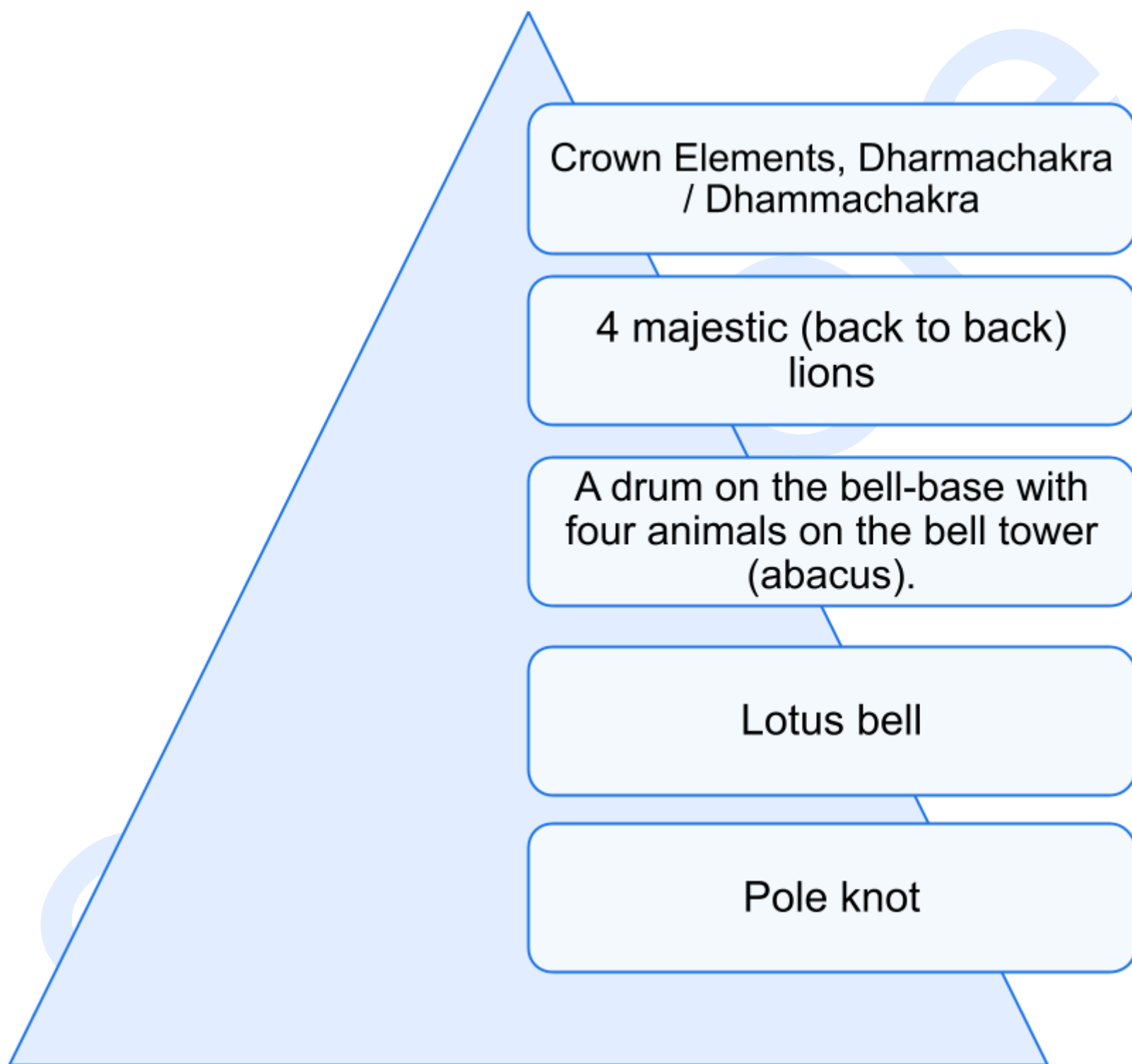
- Lion Capital, which was discovered more than hundred years ago in Sarnath near Varanasi, is usually called Sarnath Lion Capital.

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



- It is the best example of sculpture since the Mauryan period and was created by **Ashoka in remembrance of 'Dharmachakra Pravartan'** or **Buddha's first preaching.**

Basically it has 5 components:



- Dharmachakra (above called the fifth component), a big wheel was also a part of this pillar. However, this wheel is lying in broken condition and is displayed in the Sarnath Museum.

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



- There are four Asiatic lions, sitting on their back and the musculature of their face is very strong.
- The lions are symbols of strength, courage, pride and self confidence.
- The surface of the sculpture is very polished, which was a speciality of the Mauryan period.
- Abacus (drum on the base) depicts a chakra (wheel) in four directions and between each chakra there is an ox, a horse, an elephant and a lion.
- There are 24 spokes in every chakra.
- This 24 spoked chakra has been adopted in the National Flag of India.
- Circular abacus is supported by a reverse lotus.
- In the symbol adopted by Madhav Sawai, only three lions appear, the fourth is hidden from view. Abacus is set in such a way that only one chakra can be seen in the middle, in which there is a bull on the right and a horse on the left.
- There is also a **Lion Capital of Ashoka** statue found in **Sanchi**, but it is in a shabby condition.
- A pillar found in Vaishali is facing towards north, which is the direction of Buddha's last journey.

The Maurya rulers contributed significantly to the progress of architecture. It is said on the basis of excavation that for the first

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



time after 1500 years of Harappan culture, architecture and sculpture were encouraged on a large scale during the Mauryan period.

Characteristics of Mauryan Sculpture

- i. During the Mauryan period, there was an influence of Greek and Iranian contacts on the exceptional development of state architecture and sculpture.
- ii. Rocks were used as a construction material of the Maurya idol.
- iii. The concept of religious sculpture was also prominent during the Mauryan Empire. In fact the cut stone used in religious sculpture was first used in the Mauryan era.
- iv. Mauryan idols have dominated the Buddhist temples and caves. Caves are clearly inspired by Indian Vedic sculpture.
- v. The characteristics of the Mauryan sculpture were also influenced by Shaivism and Vaishnavism.

Examples of Mauryan idol art

- i. There are pillars in places such as **Lumbini Park, Sanchi** and **Sarnath**, which are a part of Mauryan architecture. During the Mauryan period, another magnificent sculpture is the Sarnath pillar, which has four lions back to back at the top of the pillar. Extraordinary precision and beauty associated with these statues is a great example of the artisan expertise of that period.
- ii. Talking about the characteristics of the Mauryan sculpture, we definitely have to mention monasteries. These units are an integral

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



part of Buddhist religious architecture. In the Jetavana monastery, Shravasti was reconstructed by Ashoka with solid materials such as brick and stone so that it could escape the influence of time. Thus Chaitya Hall, Stupa and Pillars came into being. Columns located in Chunar near Varanasi are important examples of Mauryan idols.

iii. Due to the idols carved on the pillars made by Ashoka, they are appropriate examples of idols. Two types of stones have been utilised in the creation of Ashokan pillars. One type includes hard sandstone stones, which were of buffalo colour, and the other type included white and red sandstone from the Mathura region. There are black spots on these stones. The similarity in the pillars displayed in the capital shows that these masterpieces of sculpture were made by sculptors of the same region.

iv. Mauryan sculptures highlight a unique, clay appeal. Such terracotta items have been discovered in the area extending from Pataliputra to Taxila. Such beautiful sculptures have a formless moulded shape and a stylish look.

v. Large statues of Yaksha and Yakshini are found in many places such as Patna, Vidisha and Mathura.

vi. The idol of a person, holding a chari from Didarganj near Patna is another good example of the sculptural tradition of the Mauryan period.

vii. Carved rock-cut cave on the Barabar hills is a good example of the Mauryan Rock Cut architecture.

Conclusion:

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus



The tradition of rock cut sculpture, which was prominent from the end of second century BC to the second century AD, has its roots in the Mauryan period. In the latter stage these sculptures became the distinctive feature of Indian architecture. We can say that the beauty of the idol emerged in the Mauryan period.

NOTE:

- You can elaborate on every bullet point in your answer. Answer, as much as possible, in your own words. Your answer should be in sequence and in proportion.
- Mindplan's "Mains notes" aim is to help students write HIGH-SCORING topper standard answers that are:
 - 🏆 To-the-point + strategized + diagrammatic
 - 🏆 Not an iota more than required
 - 🏆 Not an iota less than required
- This is for sample purposes only. More details are available in Mindplan.in BPSC Mains Notes on this topic.

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus




BPSC Mains Smart Notes [Hindi / English]

UPDATED TILL EXAM*

BPSC Mains Smart Notes

eBook + *Updates provided in App [android]

 **70%+** Qs match [Evidence available]


 **GS1 + GS2** full syllabus notes


 **150+** Diagrammatic representations

 **Sharp & detailed** previous year analysis

 **Revision boosters:** Time, effort, money saving



 **70%+ Questions Match** in past 5 exams.

 Watch Question Match **Evidence Blog & Video** on www.mindplan.in.

 **No marketing.** Direct Evidence.

[Click here for details](#)

Honest + Transparent Questions Match Evidence

All topics in notes are as per the Official BPSC Mains Syllabus