

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. Give India's achievements in metallurgy.

Ans. In the field of metallurgy, ancient India had made much progress. The specimens in this field worth seeing are the copper and bronze images and the Iron Pillar at Mehrauli which keeps its original finish even today after bearing the stress of weather for thousands of years. It does not show any signs of rust despite rain and thunder.

Q.2. How were bricks and stone important in Buddhist buildings?

Ans. The buildings display the skill and craftsmanship of our people. One such building is that of the stupa. Stupa means a mound. In the centre of the stupa, there is a small box containing bodily remnants (like ashes, bones or teeth) of Buddha and his disciples or followers and their precious items of stone or gold. This small box called 'relic casket' is covered with earth. A layer of baked brick or mud is attached to it on the top. Around the stupa there is a Pradakshina Patha. It is surrounded with railings which is linked with gateways. Devotees go around the stupa in a clockwise direction as a mark of devotion.

Q.3. How were temples and stupas built?

Ans. Building temples and stupas were a costly affair. It was normally made by kings and queens. These were built in several stages such as:

- Good quality stone was traced, quarried and carried to the place where the temple was to be built.
- At the given place, shaping of stone, carving of pillars and panels for walls, floors and ceilings were done.
- Kings and queens spent money from their treasury to hire skilled craftsmen who could build wonderful structures.