

**12. Buddhism not only enriched Indian philosophy but also left an indelible imprint on ancient Indian art and architecture. Explain with adequate examples.**

**Approach:**

- State how Buddhism has enriched Indian philosophy.
- Further, state the contributions of Buddhism to Indian art through sculptures, paintings etc.
- Similarly, state how it enriched Indian architecture, thereby, depicting its multi-faceted contribution to Indian culture.

**Answer:**

Buddhist philosophy is one of the earliest schools of "Rationalism" in the Indian philosophy. It enriched ancient Indian philosophy in the following ways:

- It emphasized a **middle path**, avoiding excess luxury and austerity, at a time when stringent and ritualistic Brahmanistic practices were prevalent.
- Buddha rejected the concept of God and a permanent soul, altering the philosophical discourse of his time.
- Buddha taught **four noble truths** and prescribed the **ashtangika mārga** for elimination of human sorrow.
- He advocated **Pancha-sila**, which became cherished Indian philosophical principles of peaceful co-existence.
- He believed in individual effort rather than divine intervention to attain **Nirvana**. Further, his concept of **Karma** became an important part of Indian philosophy.
- He advocated **Pratityasamutpāda**, meaning everything has a cause, thereby, teaching people to question everything.
- Modern Indian philosophies such as democracy, social equity etc. are rooted in the Buddhist Sangha.

Buddhism also enriched Indian art and architecture, the remnants of which remain even today.

**Art:**

- Monolithic pillars during Mauryan time, were inscribed with the Buddhist concepts of morality, humanity and piety through various symbols associated with Buddha.
- Buddhist art in the form of statues of Buddha and Boshisattvas were found at popular centres of sculpture such as Gandhara, Mathura etc.
- Large statues of Yakshas and Yakshinis are also found in many Buddhist monuments.
- Ajanta caves also consist of many caves dedicated to the life of Buddha, where impact of Buddhism can be seen in wall Paintings.
- Other forms of Buddhist art include miniature paintings of Pala rulers, music, prayer chanting, drama, poetry etc.
- Pictorial representations of the Jatakas are found in stupas at Bahrut and Sanchi

**Architecture:** Three types of architectural structures, mainly associated with Buddhism are:

- **Viharas (monasteries):** Sites such as Ajanta Caves, Karla caves etc. contain several viharas. Other examples include Nalanda (also a learning centre), Namgyal monastery, etc.
- **Chaityas (prayer halls):** eg: rock-cut Barabar caves, the Great Chaitya at Karla caves etc.
- **Stupas:** Stupas were also erected over relics of Buddha, eg - Sanchi stupa, Amravati stupa etc. With change in religious practices, stupas were gradually incorporated in the chaitya-grihas eg. complexes of Ajanta and Ellora Caves.

**13. Write a brief note on the following:**

(a) Phad      (b) Pattachitra      (c) Yakshagana      (d) Chhau      (e) Sankirtana

**Approach:**

- Write a brief note on each of the paintings highlighting characteristics, place of origin etc.

**Answer:**

**(a) Phad Paintings**

- Phad is a type of scroll painting, approximately 700 years old, originated in Bhilwara, Rajasthan. It depicts the heroic deeds of a heroic figure, rural life, flora and fauna etc.