

being tried in the Lahore and other conspiracy cases as also the Communists being tried in the Meerut Conspiracy case.

- In 1928 the Public Safety Bill and Trade Disputes Bill, aimed at suppressing Trade unions, left wing and the Communists was vehemently opposed in the Central Legislative Assembly.

In opposition to Colonial ideology, Indian National movement, influenced deeply by liberal democratic thoughts and traditions, succeeded in making Democracy and Civil Liberties basic elements of Indian political ethos.

18. What are the salient features of the Ashokan Pillars spread across the Indian subcontinent? Also, mention the key message contained in the Ashokan edicts.

Approach:

- Highlight the salient features of the Ashokan Pillars in Indian subcontinent.
- Also mention the key message inscribed in Ashokan edicts.

Answer:

Ashokan pillars constituted an important form of court art in Mauryan period. Some prominent Ashokan pillars are LauriaNandangarh pillar in Champaran, Sarnath pillar near Varanasi etc. Its salient features include:

- **Monoliths:** They are made up of single piece of stone or monolith, unlike Archemianian pillars which used to be constructed in pieces.
- **Shaft:** The shafts are always plain and smooth, circular in cross-section and slightly tapering upwards
- **Capital:** On top of the long shaft which forms the base, there are bell-shaped or lotus-shaped capital.
- **Abacus and animal part:** On top of capital, there is a circular or rectangular base known as abacus on which an animal figure is placed. For e.g. – 4 lions in Sarnath pillar.
- **Dimensions:** They are made up of chunar sandstone with 40 to 50 feet average height and weighs up to 50 tons each.

These pillars as well as the caves made during Ashokan empire has edicts inscribed on them. These edicts are mainly concerned with his policy of Dhamma and Asoka's own commitment as a Buddhist. Through the policy of Dhamma, Ashoka tried to spread the message of social responsibility and tolerance amongst different members of the society. It stressed upon following values

- **Dual toleration**, that is, toleration of people themselves and also toleration of their various beliefs and ideas.
- **Non-violence:** It was to be practised by giving up war and conquests and also as a restraint on the killing of animals.
- **Welfare measures** such as planting of trees, digging of wells, etc.

Ashoka's goal was to inform the people of his reforms and encourage them to live a moral life. The edicts, through their strategic placement and couched in the Buddhist dharma, serve to underscore Ashoka's administrative role and as a tolerant leader.

19. Why is it argued that Non-Cooperation movement and Khilafat agitation represented a new stage in the growth of Indian national movement?

Approach:

- Trace the events leading to non-cooperation and Khilafat movement.
- Highlight the major events during these movements.
- Analyze the significance of these movements and clearly bring out how it was the beginning of a new phase in the national movement.