MAURYAN ARCHITECTURE

ORIGIN

In the age between 4th Century BCE and 1st Century BCE, Mauryan empire took shape. Chandragupta Maurya, the first emperor of Mauryan Empire, is famously known for his support to Buddhism. In his reign, the empire covered the entire subcontinent from Afghanistan to Laccadive Islands.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF MAURYAN ARCHITECTURE

- **Ornamentation**: The Mauryan architecture is known for its elaborate ornamentation, particularly in the form of sculptures and reliefs.
- **Landmarks**: The Mauryans were known for their ability to construct large public buildings, temples, and monuments.
- **Stability**: Mauryan structures were built with great attention to stability, which is evident in the construction of monolithic columns and robust bases.
- **Accessibility**: The Mauryan architecture was designed with accessibility in mind, ensuring easy access to important structures.

PROMINENT STRUCTURES

- **Hastinapur**: A city-state that was the capital of the Mauryan Empire during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Maha Sabha**: A grand assembly hall, often associated with the Mauryan Empire.
- **Stupa**: These were religious monuments that served as places of meditation and pilgrimage.
- **Vihara**: These were monastic establishments where Buddhist monks lived and practiced.

In conclusion, the Mauryan architecture played a significant role in shaping the cultural and architectural landscape of ancient India. The empire's influence extended far beyond its boundaries, leaving a lasting legacy on the architectural styles that followed.