



Issues Surrounding the National Emblem

Context:

- The National Emblem which has come up over the new Parliament house has become a matter of conflict, many have opposed it claiming that there is deviation from the original emblem.

Background:

- The national emblem which consists of the Four Asiatic lions and with three visible to the viewer depicts courage, power and pride.
- It is known that the National Emblem is inspired from the Sarnath Lion Capital of the Mauryan emperor Asoka.
- This was built in 250 BC to commemorate the first sermon of Gautama Buddha.
- It is known from history that Buddha revealed the four Noble Truths of life in this first sermon at Sarnath.
- This seven-foot structure is made of polished sandstone.
- It is mounted on a circular abacus which has tiny sculptures in it including a horse, a lion, a bull and an elephant which are moving in a clockwise direction.
- These animal figures are separated by a wheel, which is believed to be the dharmachakra of Buddhism.
- This abacus was mounted on an inverted lotus which is a symbol of Buddhism.

Reason behind its adoption:

- The Constituent Assembly deliberately chose the Sarnath Lion Capital as the National Emblem because it epitomises power, courage and confidence of a just born free nation.
- The quote – “Satyameva Jayate” (Truth alone triumphs) is chosen from the Mundaka Upanishad.
- The persons who created this were the students of the well known artist Nandalal Bose, among them were Jagdish Mittal, Kripal Singh Shekhawat, Gauri Bhanja and Dinanath Bhargava.

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