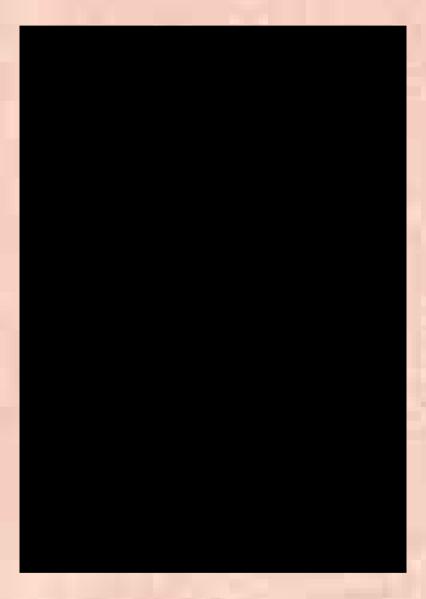
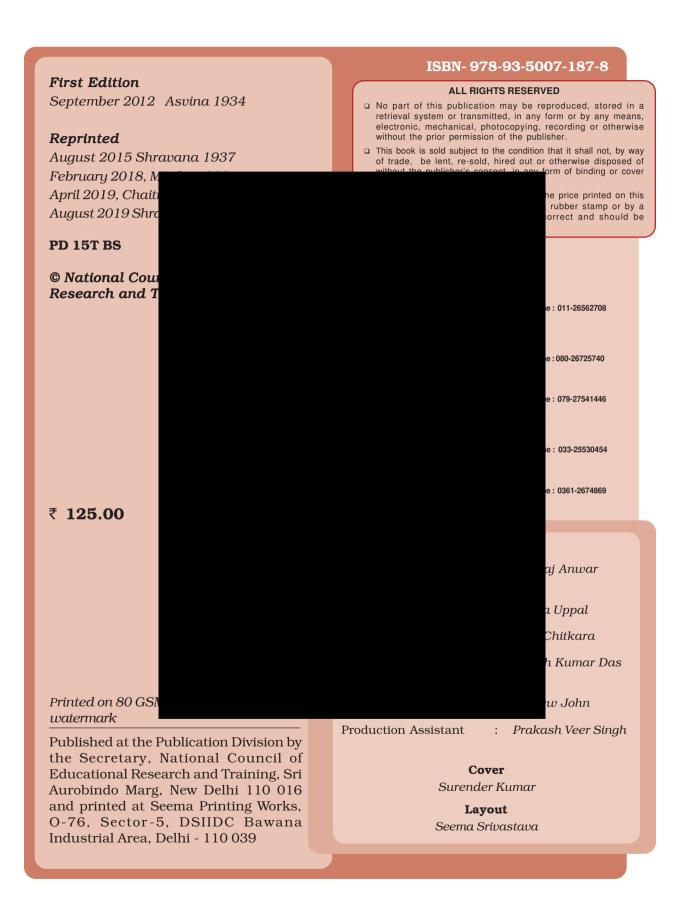


# An Introduction to Indian Art





राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद् NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING



#### **FOREWORD**

The National Co (NCERT) has a years to bring educational sys National Currica a significant slapresentation are of exercises, etchild friendly. At the school leaving to move further professional ed first time took and syllabi in

At this stage to a professional making it a distant knowledge classes. The sharpening of so of design and emphasis is on own style and develop a hist world as well a arts and in itse students learn

It was obser Fine Arts as a stage which in

commercial arts. These were reviewed and a new synapsis was formed. Since this course apart from the practical component include theory which introduces students to the art historical heritage of country's diverse art and architecture, the textbook 'An Introduction to Indian Art' has been developed for Classes XI and XII.

The textbook for Class XI extensively covers the tradition of cave paintings in the pre-historic era and their continuation in mural paintings of Buddhist era and later on in various parts of the country, Buddhist, Jain and Hindu sculptural and architectural developments. During the Indo-Islamic period and before the Mughal rule, another era dawned upon India, which saw massive constructions in the form of forts and palaces. Different aspects of all these styles have been discussed to introduce

atudanta with the febrie of India's culture

k done by the ble for making dvisor for this Retired Head, ty of Fine Arts, ne work of this art historians tudents at the vorthy. We are ons which have their resource grateful to the ittee, appointed her Education, ent under the and Professor d contribution. mic reform and f its products, ons which will nd refinement.

Director of Educational 1 and Training

## **PREFACE**

During the nin a few British c India's past in it is out of su architectural m in the Indian su was to docume very visible evi time with the a many art-histo of inscriptions role in our und the study of re and identificat initiated, whi scholarship. association wit now recognise mainly in Euro considerably whereas in Ind investigating m

As the stud documentation art objects as few significant at the concerns Subsequently, and Indian sch subject at grea of the Indian o

the architectural monuments, sculptures and paintings. We can claim a distinct Indian approach to the arts of the building edifices, the sculpture making and the language of painting in comparison with the European art on one hand and the far Eastern art on the other. Therefore, the Indian art historical studies have emerged as a prestigious academic discipline at a university level education.

The stylistic features of various monuments and sculptures have been attributed to the dynastic affiliations, like the Mauryan art, Satavahana art, Gupta art, etc. Alternatively, the periodisations of art follows religious denominations, such as the Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic periods. However, such deterministic nomenclatures are only partially useful for understanding the art traditions.

two important analysis and first category acteristics of as, the second intent analysis, ographic study,

mages through s or narrative e study of the istorical, social nethodological and issues in s to go beyond erved that the ogies are yet to cess. Religious oing the social a. Therefore, it ors that have has come from t there was no furines are the due to space not extensively s have tried to criptive writings ral monuments s well as, their

Cultural manifestations have diverse ideologies in the form of architecture, sculpture and paintings. They need to be studied with their religious and social viewpoints, hence, unilinear projection of the cultural tradition needs to be reconsidered as it is away from realities of the ancient past. Different categories of artisans existed in the actual working situation. A guild of artisans may have been employed by the religious and political authorities for making monuments and accordingly the artisans had to work and devise their execution techniques along with

necessary innovations, etc. In this textbook only an introductory outline has been attempted from pre- and proto-historic times till the times of the Islamic monuments during the late medieval period.

Considering the level of the young generation readers belonging to the higher secondary stage, the present book outlines a few examples to create an understanding of the

nature of devel discard such e all the contrib present convin book provide ar of the regions of

Human civi human beings the same time The idea is no available but a the visual tradiarts, it is necesthe past so as Understandin understanding enriching as is



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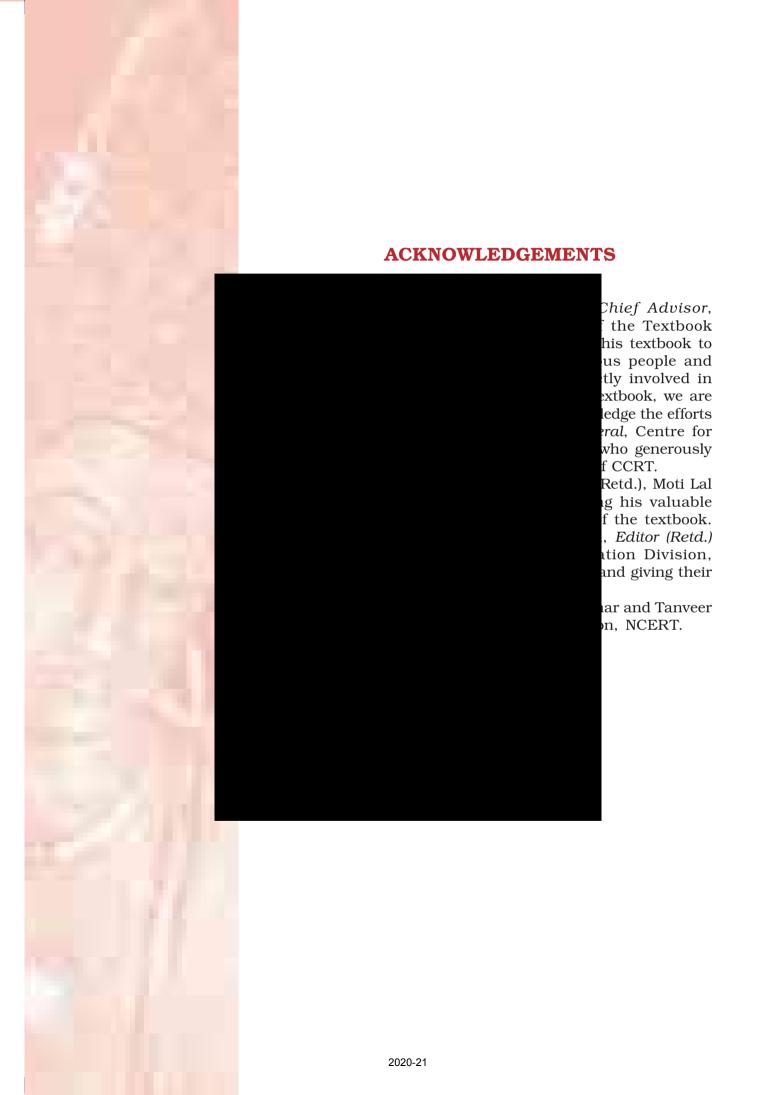
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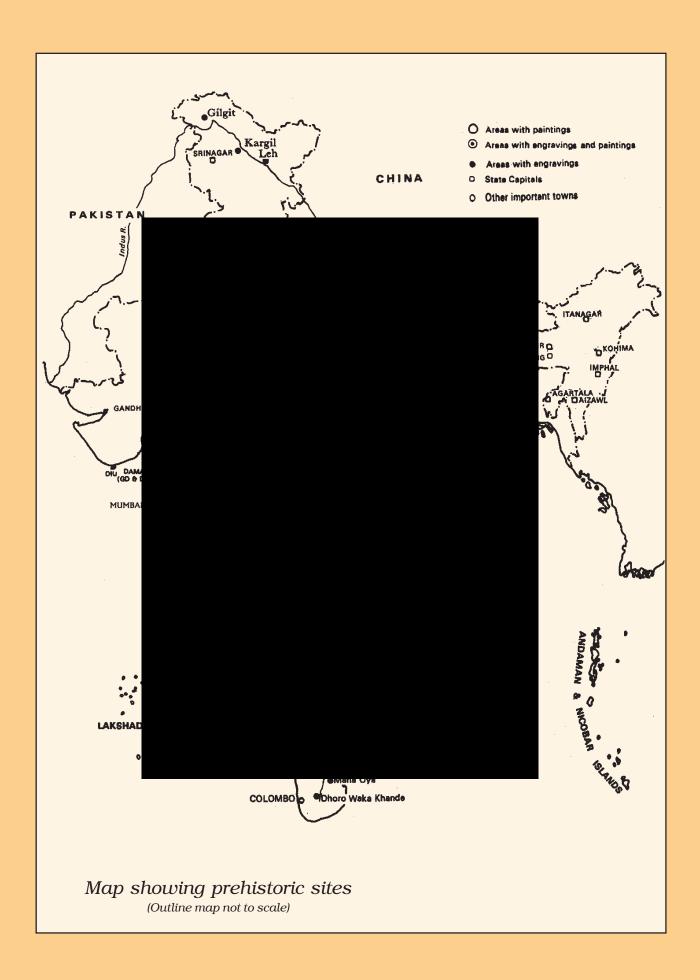
## **CONTENTS**

## FOREWORD

## PREFACE

- 1. Pr
- 2. Ar
- 3. Ar
- 4. Po
- 5. La
- 6. Te
- 7. In
- 8. So Ar

## GLOSSARY









**INTINGS** 

HE distant or the writte documents, is prehistoric time difficult to surr places where pr places brought of ancient hum cave walls. By from these obje constructed fa happened and h the basic needs fulfilled people fe and drawing wer beings to expres canvas.

Why did preh may have drawn colourful and be day-to-day life, 1

The prehis human bei Age or the

Prehistoric p
the world. We do not really know it Lower Palaeonthic people
ever produced any art objects. But by the Upper Palaeolithic
times we see a proliferation of artistic activities. Around
the world the walls of many caves of this time are full of
finely carved and painted pictures of animals which the
cave-dwellers hunted. The subjects of their drawings were
human figures, human activities, geometric designs and
animal symbols. In India the earliest paintings have been
reported from the Upper Palaeolithic times.



It is interesting to know that the first discovery of rock paintings was made in India in 1867–68 by an archaeologist, Archibold Carlleyle, twelve years before the discovery of Altamira in Spain. Cockburn, Anderson, Mitra and Ghosh were the early archaeologists who discovered a large number of sites in the Indian sub-continent.

Remnants of rock paintings have been found on the walls Iadhya Pradesh, and Bihar. Some umaon hills in nks of the River s on the Almora– ric paintings. s.The paintings nan, animal and ochre. Humans snouted animal, n animal motifs. gns, and groups teresting scenes human figures. The earliest are gs and the last shmir two slabs granite rocks of uitable canvases are several such ıpgallu, Piklihal ve been reported n red ochre over d ochre. These

Hand-linked dancing figures, Lakhudiyar, Uttarakhand

Wavy lines, Lakhudiyar, Uttarakhand

paintings belong to late historical, early historical and Neolithic periods. The subjects depicted are bulls, elephants, sambhars, gazelles, sheep, goats, horses, stylised humans, tridents, but rarely, vegetal motifs.

But the richest paintings are reported from the Vindhya ranges of Madhya Pradesh and

their Kaimure Pradesh. Thes Palaeolithic and are also full of streams and cre Stone Age peoplargest and moslocated in the V Madhya Pradesh five kilometres sten square kilohundred rock shear paintings.

The caves of in 1957–58 by Wakankar and discovered. Wak surveying these to study these p

The themes of ranging from musacred and royal music, horse ar collection, decorated

The rock ar various groups superimpositio catagorised into Palaeolithic; I Chalcolithic. A successive pe

ourselves here only to the first three phases.

#### **Upper Palaeolithic Period**

The paintings of the Upper Palaeolithic phase are linear representations, in green and dark red, of huge animal figures, such as bisons, elephants, tigers, rhinos and boars besides stick-like human figures. A few are wash paintings but mostly they are filled with



ntrance, Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh

u figure out what the is trying to depict in this painting?

geometric patterns. The green paintings are of dancers and the red ones of hunters.

#### **Mesolithic Period**

The largest number of paintings belong to Period II that covers the Mesolithic paintings. During this period the themes are multiple but the paintings are smaller in size.

g scenes depict barbed spears, paintings these snares probably wearing simple nen have been and sometimes tiger, boar, deer, sh, frog, lizard, depicted. The n some pictures, re being chased mal paintings, fear of animals. erness and love gs representing

aturalistic style, manner. Women The young and gs. Children are mmunity dances ntings of people women grinding of men, women ily life. In many nd hand prints, made by the

etka used many ous shades of

white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green and black. But white and red were their favourite colours. The paints were made by grinding various rocks and minerals. They got red from haematite (known as *geru* in India). The green came from a green variety of a stone called chalcedony. White might have been

One of the few image only one animal, Bhir

made out of limestone. The rock of mineral was first ground into a powder. This may then have been mixed with water and also with some thick or sticky substance such as animal fat or gum or resin from trees. Brushes were made of plant fibre. What is amazing is that these colours have survived

thousands of conditions. It is have remained chemical reaction surface of the remained control of the

The artists he ceilings of the reported from to others were madeliving spaces at a importance. Son high up on rock shelters. One me to paint on a rock paintings made be able to notice

The paintings pictorial quality, working condition is a charm of environment in them appear adanimals are shipperhaps they adapossess an intridepict, in a dramation the struggle for people have be some injured in ground. In anoth of death and the



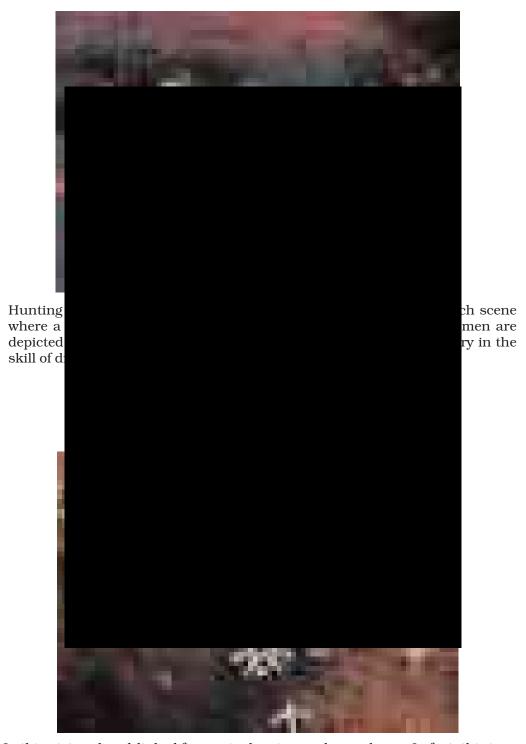
nting showing a man g hunted by a beast, Bhimbetka

has the animal been own so big and man so small?

of paintings might have given man a sense of power over the animals he would meet in the open.

This practice is common among primitive people of today also. They engrave or paint on rocks as part of the rituals they perform at birth, at death, at coming of age and at the time of marriage. They dance, masked, during hunting rites to help them kill animals difficult to find or kill.

## **HUNTING SCENE**



In this picture hand-linked figures in dancing mode are shown. In fact, this is a recurrent theme. It also recalls the dancing scene from the Lakhudiyar rock painting found in Uttarakhand.

The paintings of individual animals show the mastery of skill of the primitive artist in drawing these forms. Both, proportion and tonal effect, have been realistically maintained in them.

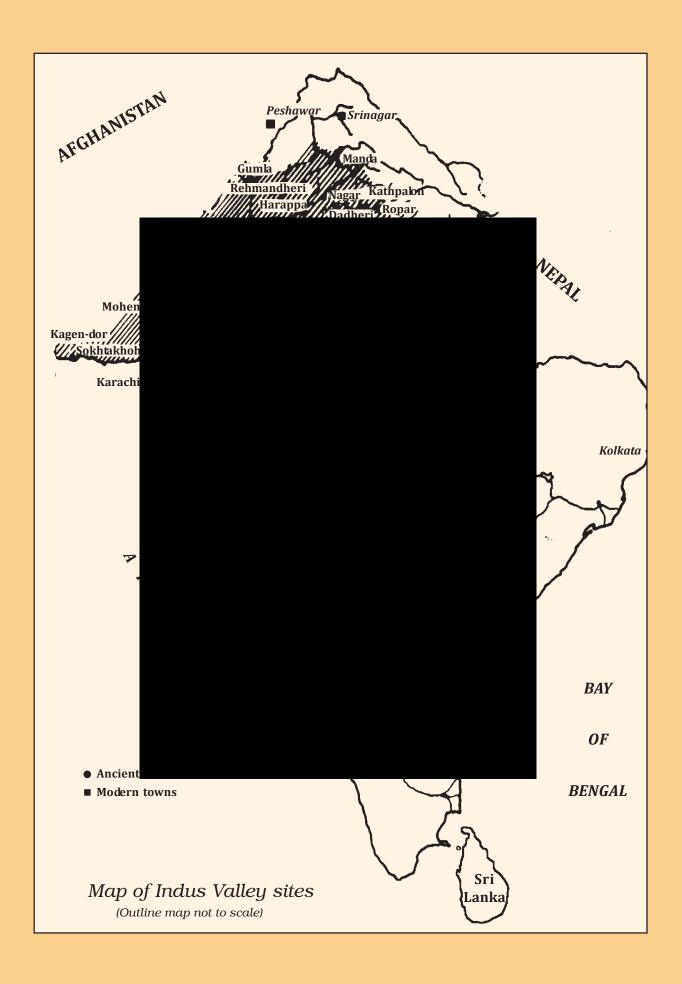
It is interesting to note that at many rock-art sites often a new painting is painted on top of an older painting. At Bhimbetka, in some places, there are as many as 20

layers of painting artists paint in this was because painted another the paintings and or this was bedifferent general

These prehist early human bed daily activities their mind—the remains are a scivilisation, three ceramics and bed paintings are their beings of this period of this period of the present the second of the second of

## **E**XERCISE

- 1. According prehistoric
- What could figures that
- 3. Many visua in this charmost and w
- 4. Other than where these a report on or line draw
- 5. In modern t make paintings, grapmes, etc?







2

ARTS OF VALLEY

THE arts of the the second has of art found from sculptures, seals. The artists of the and a vivid imacanimal figures anatomical details the case of terral was done in an

The two majo the Indus river-Mohenjodaro in t of civic plannin storage facilities grid-like pattern. system. While I Pakistan, the im and Dholavira i Ropar in Punjab

t of a bearded priest

### **Stone Statues**

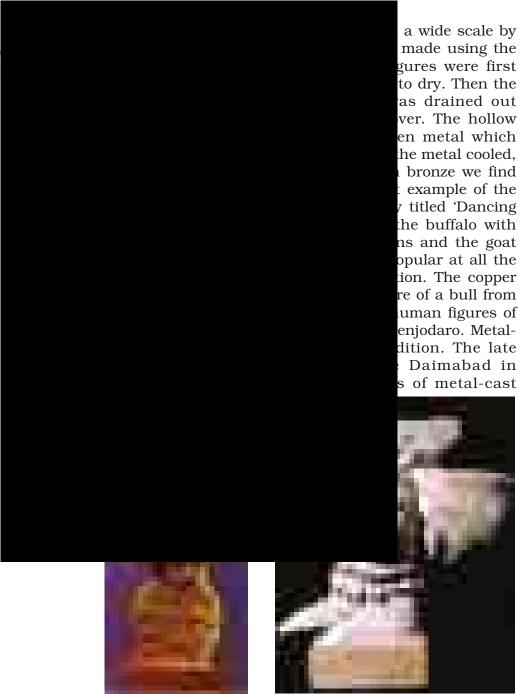
Statues whether in Harappan site stone statuaries are excellent exa volumes. In ston

in red sandstone and the other is a bust of a bearded man in soapstone—which are extensively discussed.

The figure of the bearded man, interpreted as a priest, is draped in a shawl coming under the right arm and covering the left shoulder. This shawl is decorated with trefoil patterns. The eyes are a little elongated, and half-closed as in meditative concentration. The nose is well formed and of medium

size; the mouth is of average size with close-cut moustache and a short beard and whiskers; the ears resemble double shells with a hole in the middle. The hair is parted in the middle, and a plain woven fillet is passed round the head. An armlet is worn on the right hand and holes around the neck suggest a necklace.

Bronze casting techniques of the same nature are practised even not in many parts of t country, having a continuous tradition.



Mother goddess, terracotta

A terracotta figurine

sculptures. They mainly consist of human and animal figures. It shows how the tradition of figure sculpture continued down the ages.

#### Terracotta

The Indus Valley people made terracotta images also but compared to the stone and bronze statues the terracotta

representations Valley. They a Kalibangan. The are those repressive also find a fhair, their postuthe arms paralle this figure in exhe was a deity, also been found birds and anima in terracotta.

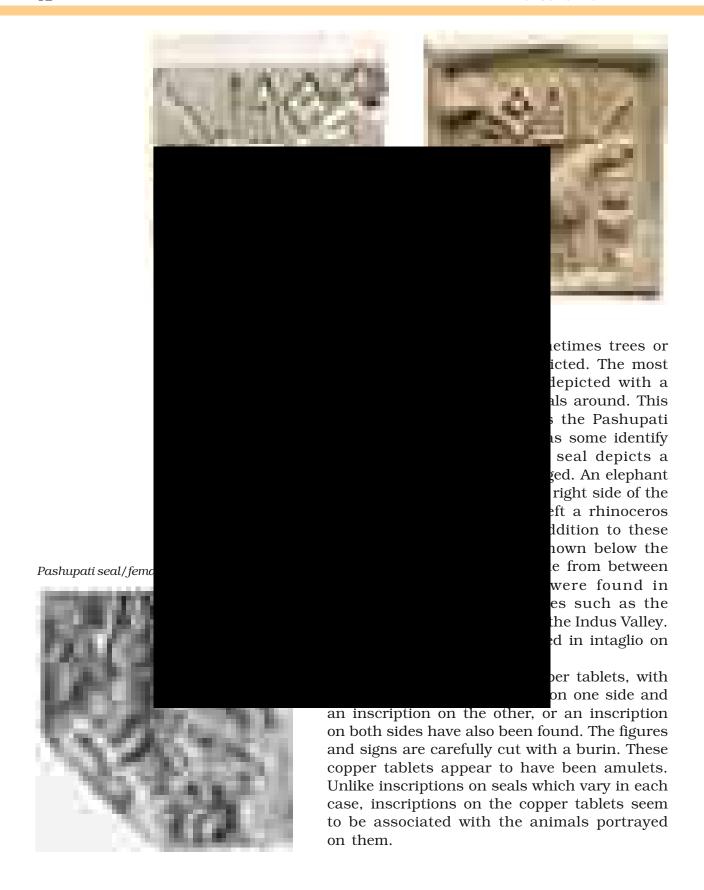


Terracotta

#### Seals

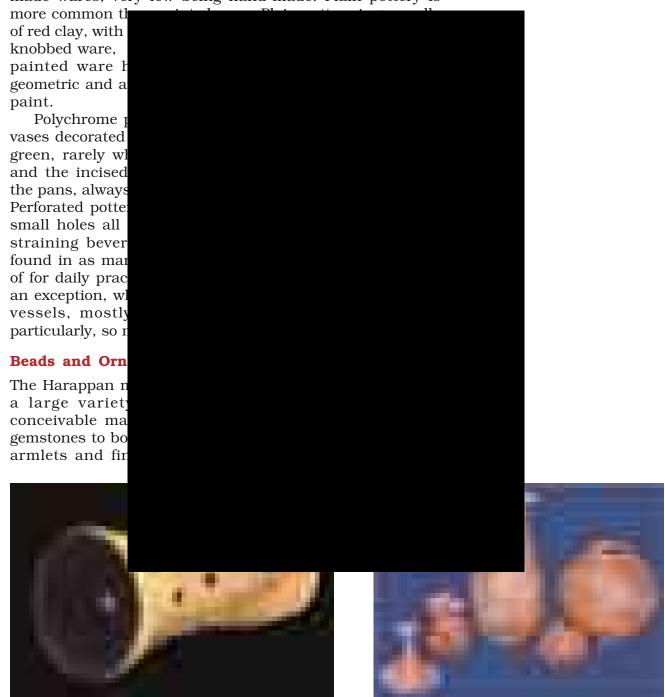
Archaeologists h made of steatite faience and ten such as unicorn goat, buffalo, et in various mood

seals was mainly commercial. It appears that the seals were also used as amulets, carried on the persons of their owners, perhaps as modern-day identity cards. The standard Harappan seal was a square plaque 2×2 square inches, made from steatite. Every seal is engraved in a pictographic script which is yet to be deciphered. Some seals have also been found in ivory. They all bear a great variety of motifs, most often of animals including those of the bull, with or without the hump, the elephant, tiger,



### **Pottery**

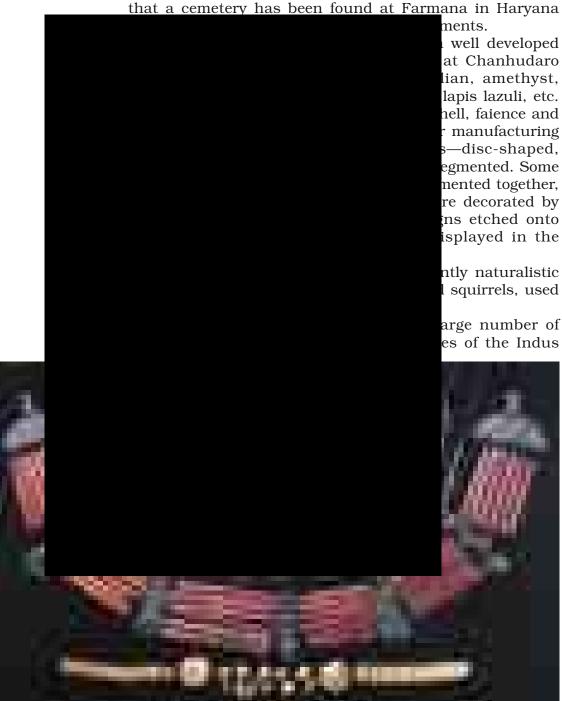
A large quantity of pottery excavated from the sites, enable us to understand the gradual evolution of various design motifs as employed in different shapes, and styles. The Indus Valley pottery consists chiefly of very fine wheelmade wares, very few being hand-made. Plain pottery is



Perforated pot

Pottery

sexes, women wore girdles, earrings and anklets. Hoards of jewellery found at Mohenjodaro and Lothal include necklaces of gold and semi-precious stones, copper bracelets and beads, gold earrings and head ornaments, faience pendants and buttons, and beads of steatite and gemstones. All ornaments are well crafted. It may be noted that a competery has been found at Farmana in Harvana



Beadwork and jewellery items

Arts of the Indus Valley

Valley that spinning of cotton and wool was very common. Spinning is indicated by finds of whorls made of the expensive faience as also of the cheap pottery and shell. Men and women wore two separate pieces of attire similar to the *dhoti* and shawl. The shawl covered the left shoulder passing below the right shoulder.

From archaeological finds it appears that the people of

the Indus Valle hairstyles were it among all. Cim paint, lipstick at them. Many sto Dholavira which stone in constru

The artists a extremely skilled carving, making images using sin



15

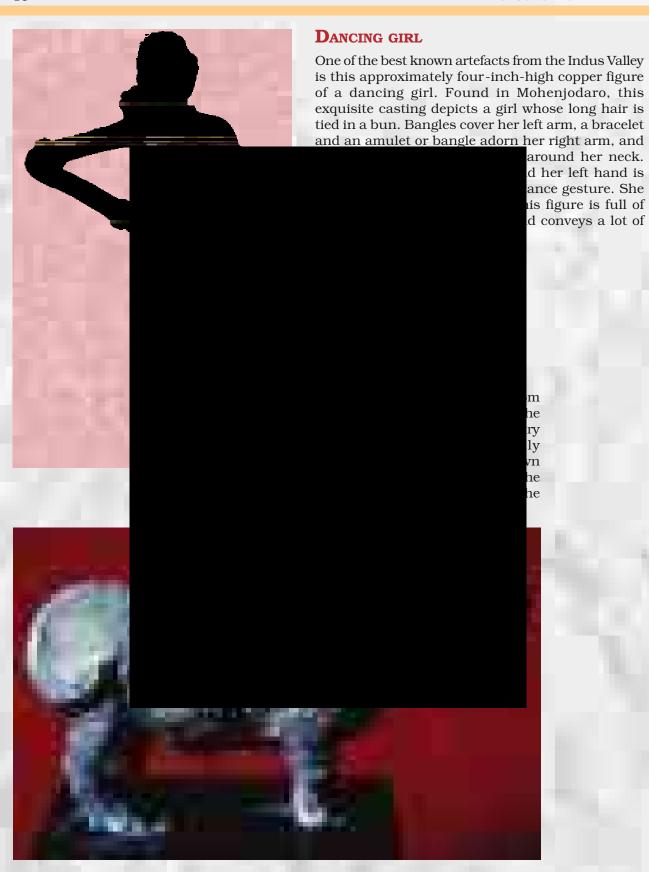


Cerracotta toys

## EXERCISE

- 1. Would you Civilisation answer.
- 2. What kind between proterracotta?
- 3. Seals were Valley seal different me like to carve
- 4. What do th the daily life
- 5. Imagine you have been g Indus art. C of stone, m

the Indus Valley Civilisation and create this exhibit.



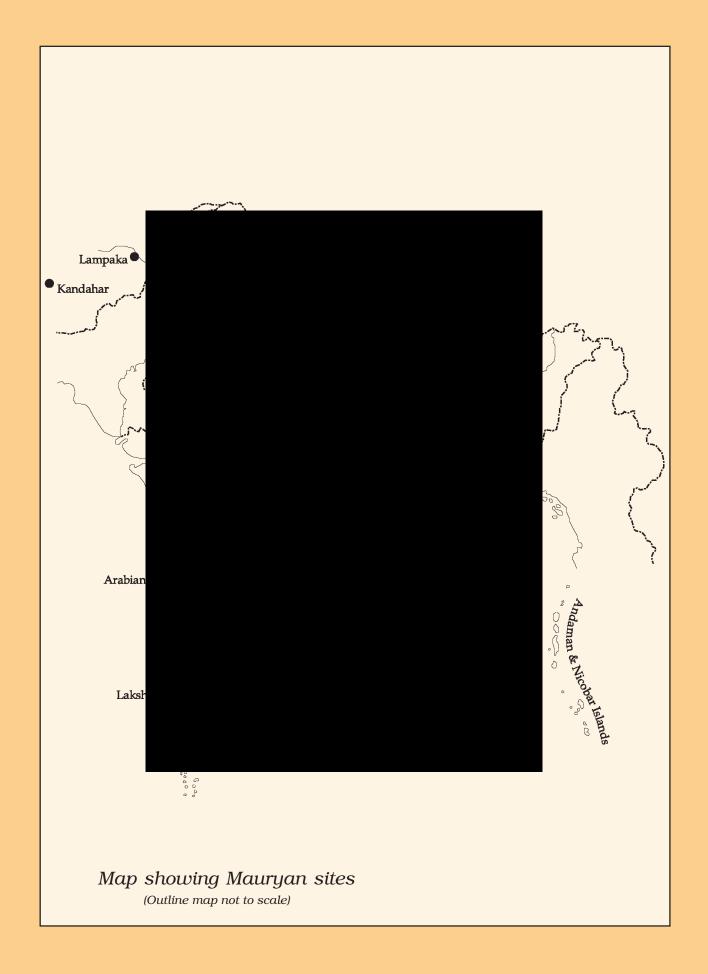
## MALE TORSO

In this red sandstone figure, there are socket holes in the neck and shoulders for the attachment of head and arms. The frontal posture of the torso has been consciously adopted. The shoulders are well baked and the abdomen slightly prominent.

de on a pe was e crafty he clay ur. High ch. The forms.

## MOTHER GODDESS

The mother goddess figures are usually crude standing female figures adorned with necklaces hanging over prominent breasts and wearing a loin cloth and a girdle. The fan-shaped head-dress with a cup-like projection on each side is a distinct decorative feature of the mother goddess figures of the Indus Valley. The pellet eyes and beaked nose of the figures are very crude, and the mouth is indicated by a slit.







## 3

## ARTS OF THE PERIOD

C IXTH centi **Preligious** and in the form of I the shraman tra they opposed t religion. Magad consolidated its century BCE th the third centu Mauryan contro king of the Mau shraman tradit practices had m just one particu and mother-goo So, multiple for Buddhism beca movement. Yak after the adven Buddhism and

## Pillars, Sculptu

Construction of establishments However, in thi stone pillars, a sculptures were constructing pi

that erection of pillars was prevalent in the Achamenian empire as well. But the Mauryan pillars are different from the Achamenian pillars. The Mauryan pillars are rock-cut pillars thus displaying the carver's skills, whereas the Achamenian pillars are constructed in pieces by a mason. Stone pillars were erected by Ashoka, which have been found in the north Indian part of the Mauryan Empire with inscriptions engraved on them. The top portion of the pillar was carved with capital figures like the bull, the lion, the elephant, etc. All the capital figures are vigorous

r capital and abacus with stylised lotus



and carved standing on a square or circular abacus. Abacuses are decorated with stylised lotuses. Some of the existing pillars with capital figures were found at Basarah-Bakhira, Lauriya-Nandangarh and Rampurva in Bihar, Sankisa and Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh.

The Mauryan pillar capital found at Sarnath popularly known as the Lion Capital is the finest example of Mauryan

al emblem. It is us roaring lion which is carved and an elephant cision, showing echniques. This pravartana (the standard symbol the Buddha.

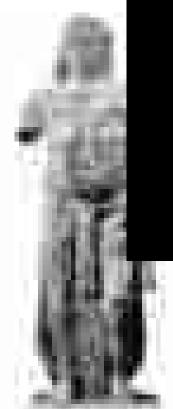
is and animals, caves belonging n different parts ha worship and on in Buddhist

e found at many se monumental ion. One of the is their polished with pronounced finest examples which is tall and eting the human

nt delineation of
Depiction of a
n Odisha shows
lso has Ashokan
rkable in their
-cut cave carved
m as the Lomus

Rishi cave. The lacade of the cave is decorated with the semicircular *chaitya* arch as the entrance. The elephant frieze carved in high relief on the *chaitya* arch shows considerable movement. The interior hall of this cave is rectangular with a circular chamber at the back. The entrance is located on the side wall of the hall. The cave was donated by Ashoka for the Ajivika sect. The Lomus Rishi cave is an example of this period. But many Buddhist caves of the subsequent periods were excavated in eastern and western India.

Yaksha, Parkha



Due to the popularity of Buddhism and Jainism, *stupas* and *viharas* were constructed on a large scale. However, there are also examples of a few Brahmanical gods in the sculptural representations. It is important to note that the *stupas* were constructed over the relics of the Buddha at Rajagraha, Vaishali, Vethadipa and Pava in Bihar, Kapilavastu, <u>Allakappa</u> and Ramagrama in Nepal,

Kushinagar and tradition also me on the relics of Avanti and Gand Stupa, vihara monastic comple Buddhist religion a stupa in the th The great stupa was built with b it was covered made. Subsequently shows the popul BCE onwards, mentioning dor pattern of patro there are very range from lay of by the guilds ar there are very artisans such Balaka at Kon categories like s carpenters, etc.

Elephant, Dhauli

Lomus Rishi cave-entrance detail



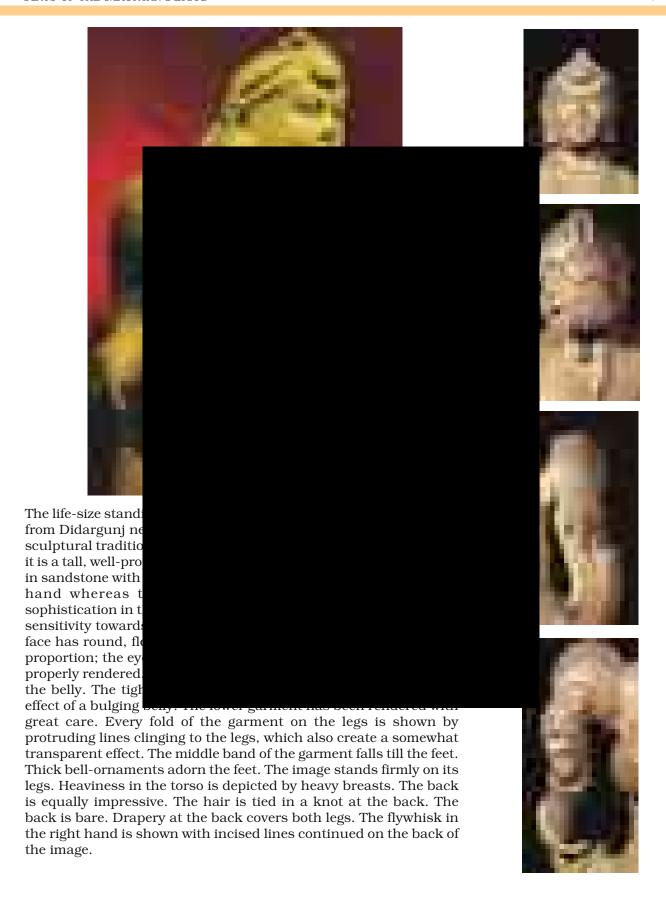


The Lion Capital discovered more than a hundred years ago at Sarnath, near Varanasi, is generally referred to as Sarnath Lion Capital. This is one of the finest examples of sculpture from the Mauryan period. Built in commemoration of the historical event of the first sermon or the Dhammachakrapravartana by the Buddha at Sarnath, the capital was built by Ashoka. The capital originally consisted of five component parts: (i) the shaft (which bell base, (iii) a o proceeding clockw lions, and (v) the wheel, was also a lying in a broken co at Sarnath. The c lotus base has b Independent India Now kept in tl capital has four lie abacus. The lion fi massive. The mon The facial muscula lines of the lips ar end of the lips sho depiction. The lior The lines of the n that were in prac sculpture is heavi Period. Their curly of the body of each of the feet. The ab having twenty-four a horse, an elepha carved. The moti representation of t Each animal figu voluminous, its p abacus. Despite h these animal figur depiction of mover is supported by a lotus is sculpted k has curved planes conceived to be viewed from all the side, thus there are no

boundations of fixed view points. A lion capital has also been found at Sanchi but is in a dilapidated condition. The motif of lion-capital-pillar continued even in the subsequent period.

## DIDARGUNJ YAKSHINI







Stupa worship, Bha

The method of working was collective in nature and at times only a specific portion of the monument is said to have been patronised by a particular patron. Traders recorded their donation along with their place of origin.

In the subsequent century, *stupas* were elaborately built with certain additions like the enclosing of the circumambulatory path with railings and sculptural

nstructed earlier le in the second ylindrical drum chhatra on the ut with minor Apart from the ded. Thus, with nere was ample lan elaborations

ddha is depicted , lotus throne, rship, or paying n of life events. the Buddhist ne Buddha, the gs and *torans* of nuous narrative ctorial tradition. lha became an ents, the Jataka for sculptural th the Buddha's vents related to dhammachakran from the cycle are frequently ta *Jataka*, Ruru Shama Jataka.

- 1. Do you think that the art of making sculptures in India began during the Mauryan period?
- 2. What was the significance of the *stupa* and how did *stupa* architecture develop?
- 3. Which were the four events in the life of the Buddha which have been depicted in different forms of Buddhist art? What did these events symbolise?
- 4. What are the *Jatakas*? How do the *Jatakas* relate to Buddhism? Find out.







## POST-MAURYAN TRENDS IN

TECTURE 1

ROM the secent established the Shungas, Kand parts of ce Abhiras, Vaka Incidentally, the marked the rise the Vaishnavas dating back to the prominent eat Vidisha, Bha Jaggayyapeta (AKhandagiri-Udat near Nagpur (Monthe Shungay)

#### **Bharhut**

Bharhut sculptu Yakhshini in t sculptural volu Images stick to depicting narra shown with tilt enhanced by se panels are show progresses, apa others also star more than one in the picture sp

in the pictorial space.

Availability of the space is utilised to the maximum by the sculptors. Folded hands in the narratives as well as single figures of the *Yakhshas* and *Yakshinis* are shown flat clinging to the chest. But in some cases, especially in later times, the hands are shown with the natural projection against the chest. Such examples show how artisans who were working at a collective level had to

Yakshini, Bharhut

understand the method of carving. Initially, dressing the surface of stone slabs appears as the main concern. Later the human body and other forms were sculpted. Due to shallow carving of the picture surface, projection of hands and feet was not possible, hence, the folded hands and awkward position of the feet. There is a general stiffness in the body and arms. But gradually such visual appearance

deep carvings, c representation es at Bharhut, petta are good

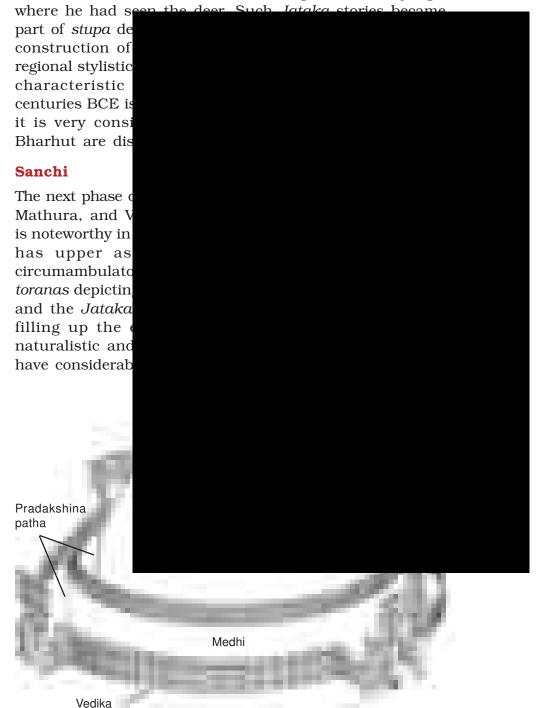
v artisans used nunicate stories. yadevi's (mother ling elephant is the bed whereas wards the womb te depiction of a bbing the events ne story like the hisattva deer is ent in the same th his army and the man who was



Jataka panel , Bharhut

Queen Maya's dream, Bharhut

rescued by the deer is also shown along with the king pointing a finger at the deer. According to the story, the man promised the deer after his rescue that he would not disclose his identity to anybody. But when the king makes a proclamation of reward for disclosing the identity of the deer, he turns hostile and takes the king to the same jungle



Torana

Plan of Stupa-1, Sanchi



Stone carving, St Sanchi



Part of railing, Sangol

in the contours gets reduced and images are given movement. Narration gets elaborated. Carving techniques appear more advanced than Bharhut. Symbols continue to be used representing the Buddha. At Sanchi Stupa-1, narratives get more elaborated; however, the depiction of the dream episode remains very simple showing the realining image of the gueen and the elephant at the top.

e of Kushinara, Ashoka to the rable details. In ame quality but omic details.

ow in Pakistan), Andhra Pradesh uction. Buddha in Mathura and indhara had the local Gandhara Mathura became parts of northern stupa sculptures iddha image at Yaksha images ures. Early Jain is, specially the athura.

and his various d mukhalingas) thist images are that the images their ayudhas he large images, t of the picture heaviness in the h. The garments of cover the left

shoulder. Images of the Buddha, Yakshas, Yakshinis, Shaivite and Vaishnavite deities and portrait statues are profusely sculpted. In the second century CE, images in Mathura get sensual, rotundity increases, they become fleshier. The trend continues in the fourth century CE but in the late fourth century CE, the massiveness and fleshiness is reduced further and the flesh becomes more tightened, the volume of the drapery also gets reduced and in the fifth and sixth centuries CE, the drapery is

integrated into the sculptural mass. Transparent quality in the robes of the Buddha images is evident. In this period, two important schools of sculptures in northern India are worth noting. The traditional centre, Mathura, remained the main art production site whereas Sarnath and Kosambi also emerged as important centres of art production. Many Buddha images in Sarnath have plain transparent drapery

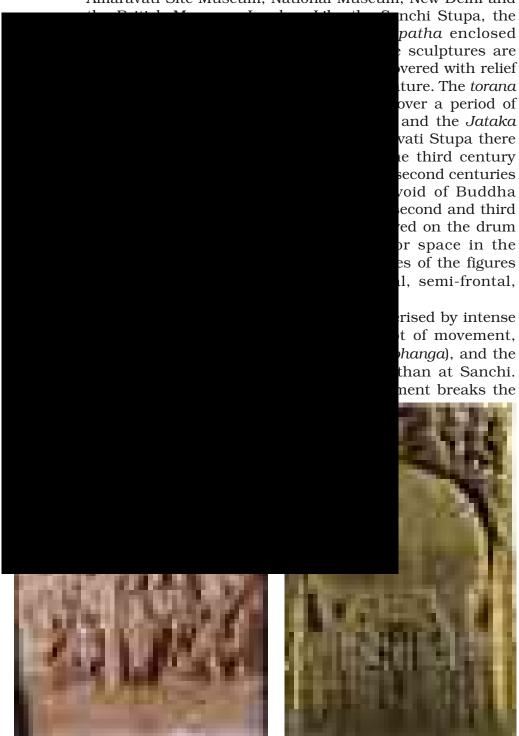
covering both s has very little or images continue images and the h One can visit n New Delhi, Cher of early sculptu Among the in valley is Devnim sculptures had transparent dr sensibility.

Meditating Buddha, Gandhar, third–fourth century CE

Bodhisattva, Gandhar, fifth-sixth century CE

#### **Buddhist Monuments of South India**

Vengi in Andhra Pradesh has many *stupa* sites like Jagayyapetta, Amaravati, Bhattiprolu, Nagarjunkonda, Goli, etc. Amaravati has a *mahachaitya* and had many sculptures which are now preserved in Chennai Museum, Amaravati Site Museum, National Museum, New Delhi and



Carving on outer wall of Stupa, Amaravati

Stupa drum slab, Amravati, second century CE

staticness of form. The idea of creating three-dimensional space in the relief sculpture is devised by using pronounced volume, angular bodies and complex overlapping. However, absolute attention has been paid to the clarity of form despite its size and role in the narrative. Narratives are profusely depicted which include events from the life of

the Buddha and the Jataka stories. There are a number of Jataka scenes tl the depiction of reclining on a be small-sized elep composition sh another relief, fo are shown. The narratives. The animated the sculptures century CE. Ev than in the Nagarjunkonda protruding surf nature and look are also foun Guntapalle in A cave site near I halls have been BCE. The other been excavated Karnataka, Sanr site excavated s Amaravati deco

Panel, Nagarjunkonda

Construction of a large number of stupas does not mean that there were no structured temples or *viharas* or *chaityas*. We do get evidences but no structured *chaitya* or *vihara* survived. Among the important structured *viharas*, mention may be made of the Sanchi apsidal *chaitya* structure, i.e., temple 18, which is a simple shrine temple having front pillars and a hall at the back. Similar

re also worth Buddha, other valokiteshvara, aitreya Buddha rise of *Vajrayana* added as a part rtain virtues or igious principles

dating back to been excavated. uted—(i) apsidal ta, Pitalkhora, hall (found at (iii) flat-roofed ber at the back he front of the a semi-circular a wooden facade ng chaitya arch all the chaitya

tions were made of variety where nta Cave No. 9



Unfinished chaitya cave, Kanheri

Chaitya hall, Karla

with a stone-screen wall as a facade. It is also found at Bedsa, Nashik, Karla and Kanheri. Many cave sites have the standard first type of *chaitya* halls in the subsequent period. In Karla, the biggest rock-cut *chaitya* hall was excavated. The cave consists of an open courtyard with

two pillars, a ste from rain, a vers as facade, an a hall with pillars, Karla *chaitya* human and ar heavy in their ex picture space. I the Karla *chaity* Kanheri Cave No finished, it show time. Subseque became the mos at many places.

The viharas plan of the viha around the walls caves are Ajanta Cave Nos. 3, 10 carved with inte and the vedica Facade design ir distinct achieve excavated with *ghata*-base and figures. One su excavated at J which is popula because an ima to a later period a stupa was add

of the *vihara* and it became a *chaitya-vihara*. The stupas in the fourth and fifth centuries CE have Buddha images attached. Junnar has the largest cave excavations— more than two hundred caves around the hills of the town—whereas Kanheri in Mumbai has a hundred and eight excavated caves. The



ave No. 3

ave No. 12, Bhaja

most important sites are Ajanta, Pitalkhora, Ellora, Nashik, Bhaja, Junnar, Karla, Kanheri. Ajanta, Ellora, and Kanheri continue to flourish.

#### **Ajanta**

The most famous cave site is Ajanta. It is located in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State. Ajanta has

> s datable to the st century BCE se, i.e., the fifth s large *chaitya*and paintings. painting of the E. The caves at general have no of known dated

View, Ajanta Cave

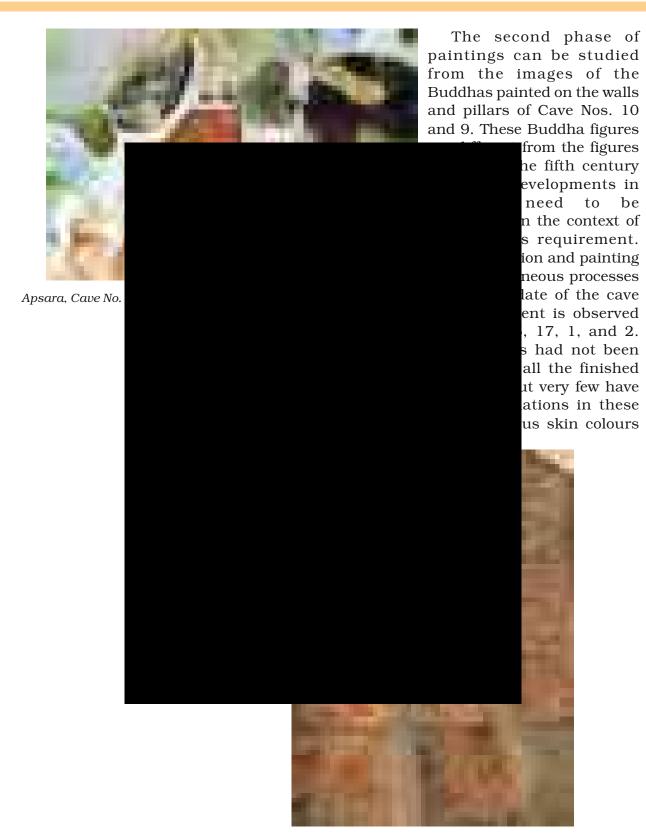


the early phase, and Cave No. 7 century CE. The es belong to late CE to early sixth he *chaitya* Cave 6 are elaborately eir facade is h Buddha and, a images. They sidal-vault-roof No. 26 is very itire interior hall th a variety of ges, the biggest Mahaparinibbana est of the caves oillared veranda, The back wall es at Ajanta are

grand in size. Some of the vinara caves are unfinished such as Cave Nos. 5, 14, 23 24, 28 and 29. Among the important patrons at Ajanta were Varahadeva (patron of Cave No. 16), the prime minister of the Vakataka king, Harishena; Upendragupta (patron of Cave Nos. 17-20) the local king of the region and feudatory of the Vakataka king, Harishena; Buddhabhadra (patron of Cave No. 26); and Mathuradasa (patron of Cave No. 4). Many paintings have

survived in Cave Nos. 1, 2, 16 and 17.





Painted ceiling, Cave No. 10, Ajanta



The themes of the pannings are the events from the life of the Buddha, the *Jatakas* and the *Avadanas*. Some paintings such as *Simhala Avadana*, *Mahajanaka Jataka* and *Vidhurpundita Jataka* cover the entire wall of the cave. It is worth noting that *Chaddanta Jataka* has been painted in the early Cave No. 10 with many details and events grouped according to their geographical locations. Events that happened in the jungle and events that happened in the palace are separated by their locations. In Cave No. 10



Part of Mahajanaka panel, Cave No. 1,

Chaddanta faithfully follows the Pali text whereas the one painted in Cave No. 17 is very different. In one of the events, the Boddhisattva, Chaddanta, is shown removing his own tusk and giving it to the hunter, Sonuttar. The other important paintings are the famous Padmapani and Vajrapani in Cave No. 1. However, it may be observed that the images of Padmapani and Vajrapani are very common

are in Cave No. liation with the the influence of observed in the e subsequent been discussed

angabad District res from Ajanta and Jain caves. Juntry as it has ons dating from 11th century CE. clecticism, i.e., e caves of Ellora ces between the lical. There are ges belonging to uri, Akshobhya, Buddhist caves

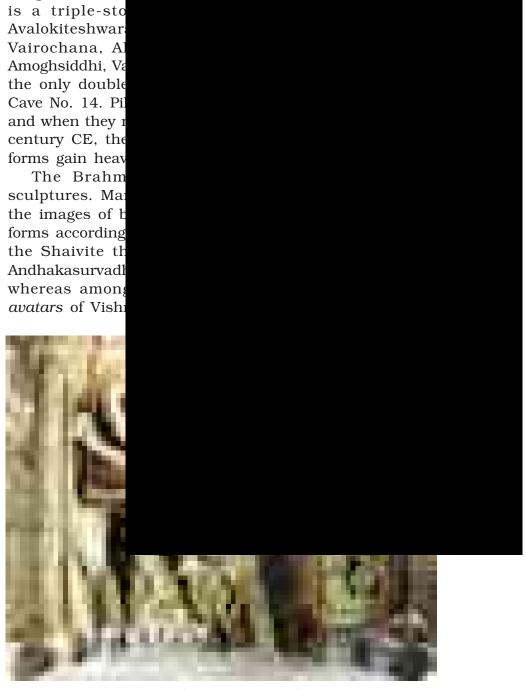


Courtyard, Kailash Temple, Cave No. 16, Ellora



Seated Buddha, Chaitya Hall, Cave No. 10, Ellora

are big in size and are of single, double and triple storeys. Their pillars are massive. Ajanta also has excavated double-storeyed caves but at Ellora, the triple storey is a unique achievement. All the caves were plastered and painted but nothing visible is left. The shrine Buddha images are big in size; they are generally guarded by the images of Padmanani and Vairanani Cave No. 12 which



Gajasur Shiva, Cave No. 15, Ellora

are monumental, and have protruding volume that create deep recession in the picture space. The images are heavy and show considerable sophistication in the handling of sculptural volume. Various guilds at Ellora came from different places like Vidarbha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and carved the sculptures. Thereby it is the most diverse site in India in terms of the sculptural styles. Cave No. 16

has been carved of the artisans, oter. Among the nd Cave No. 21. of the main cave ave Nos. 29, 21, lity and vigorous

mural paintings, Iadhya Pradesh. tural but carved ia mostly during those at Ajanta, perpendicular asonal stream of only five have sting places for small chamber, the prayer hall. Io. 4, commonly lace of Colours, are still visible. mural paintings ave Nos. 2, 3, 5 sh-brown gritty lls and ceilings. on which these autiful paintings prevent further

carefully removed in 1982 and today can be seen in the Archaeological Museum of Gwalior.

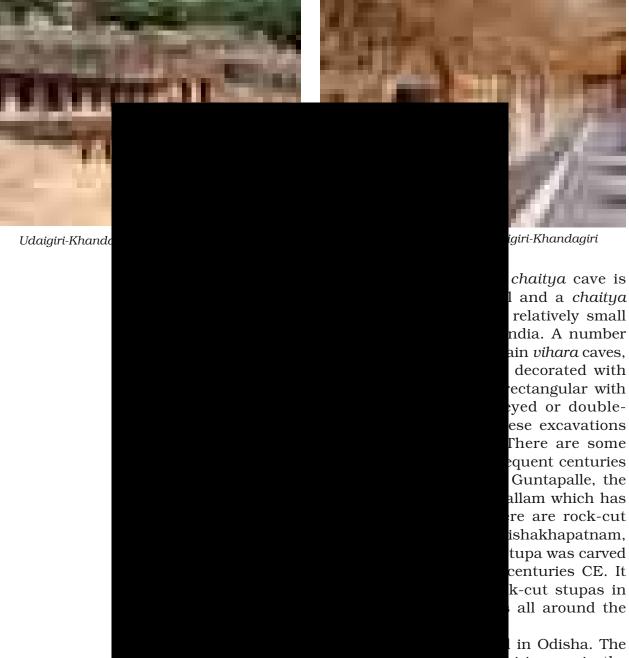
#### **Elephanta Caves and Other Sites**

The Elephanta Caves located near Mumbai are dominated by the Shaivite faith. It is contemporary with Ellora, and its sculptures show slenderness in the body, with stark light and dark effects.



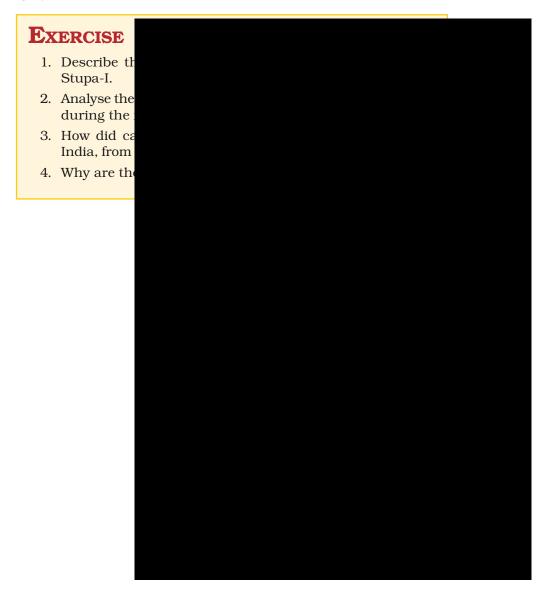
#### Cave Tradition in Eastern India

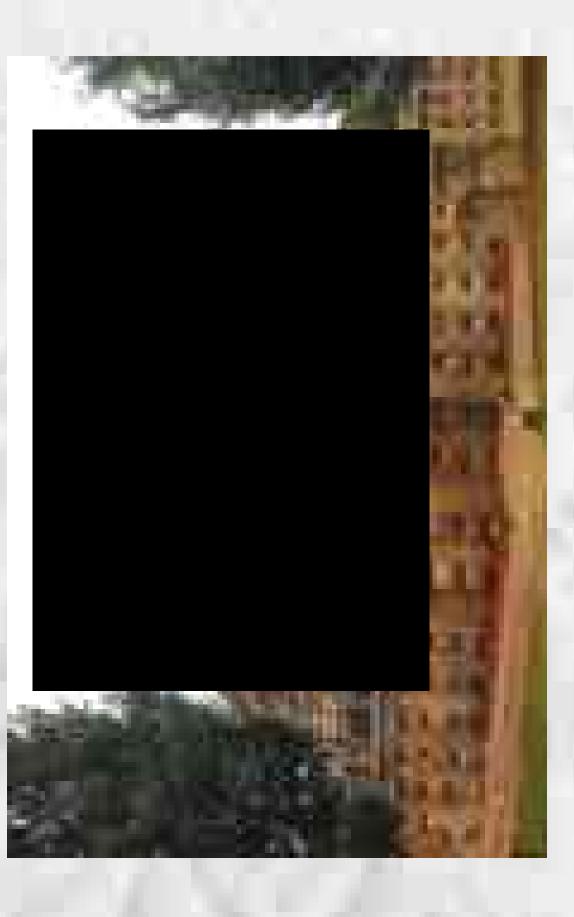
Like in western India, Buddhist caves have also been excavated in eastern India, mainly in the coastal region of Andhra Pradesh, and in Odisha. One of the main sites in Andhra Pradesh is Guntapalle in Eluru district. The caves have been excavated in the hills along with the structured monasteries. Perhaps it is among the very unique sites where the structured *stupas*, *viharas* and the caves are



vicinity of Bhubaneswar. These caves are scattered and have inscriptions of Kharavela Jain kings. According to the inscriptions, the caves were meant for Jain monks. There are numerous single-cell excavations. Some have been carved in huge independent boulders and given the shape of animals. The big caves include a cave with a pillared veranda with cells at the back. The upper part of the cells is decorated with a series of *chaitya* arches and

narratives that still continue in the folklores of the region. The figures in this cave are voluminous, move freely in the picture space, and are an excellent example of qualitative carving. Some caves in this complex were excavated later, some time in the eighth–ninth centuries CE.





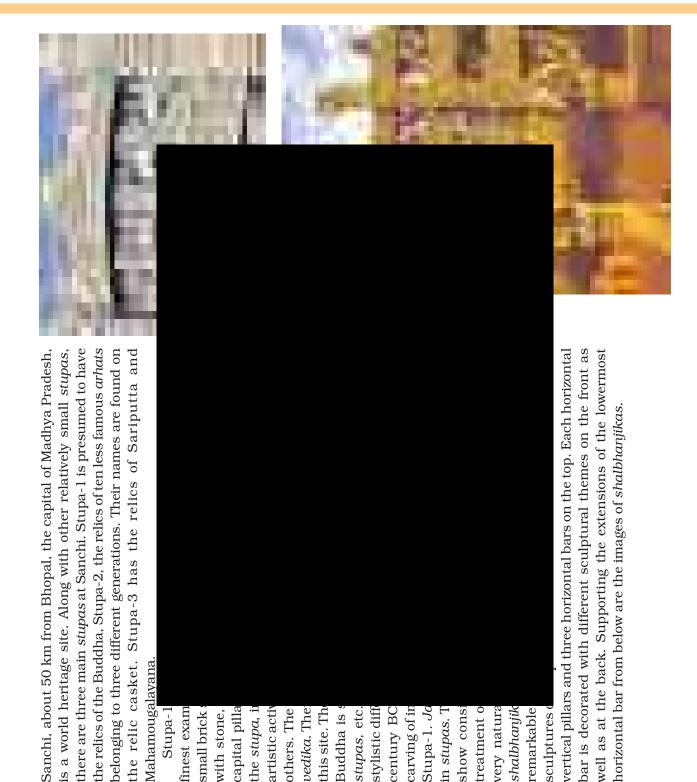
finest exam

small brick

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with stone,

Stupa-1



stylistic diff century BC carving of in

stupas, etc. Buddha is

show consi treatment o

Stupa-1. Ja in stupas. T

*vedika.* The

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artistic activ others. The

the *stupa*, i

sculptures

remarkable

very natura shalbhanjik

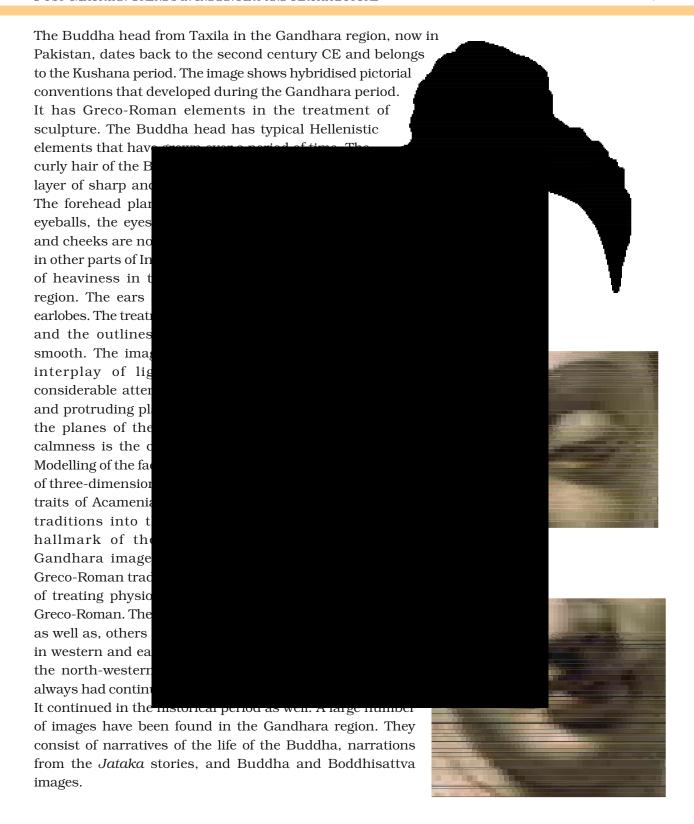
## SEATED BUDDHA, KATRA MOUND, MATHURA



Mathura was a great centre for making sculptures during the early historic period and many images have been found here. A large number of images dating back to the Kushana Period is from Mathura. A distinct way of sculpting practised at Mathura makes the images found here different from those at other centres in the country. The image of the Buddha from the Katra mound It represents the attendants. The (cross-folded legs abhayamudra, rai whereas the left ha ushanisha, i.e., ha raised projection. N are made with ligh shoulders are bro only one shoulder visible covering th the torso, the inde reduced to the bod lion throne. The a the images of t Boddhisattvas as vajra (thunderbol either side of the B is very large and i are two flying figur lot of movement in rigidity in the imag body are as delica image creates mo cheeks. The bul musculature. It m sculptures from th representative ar development of the

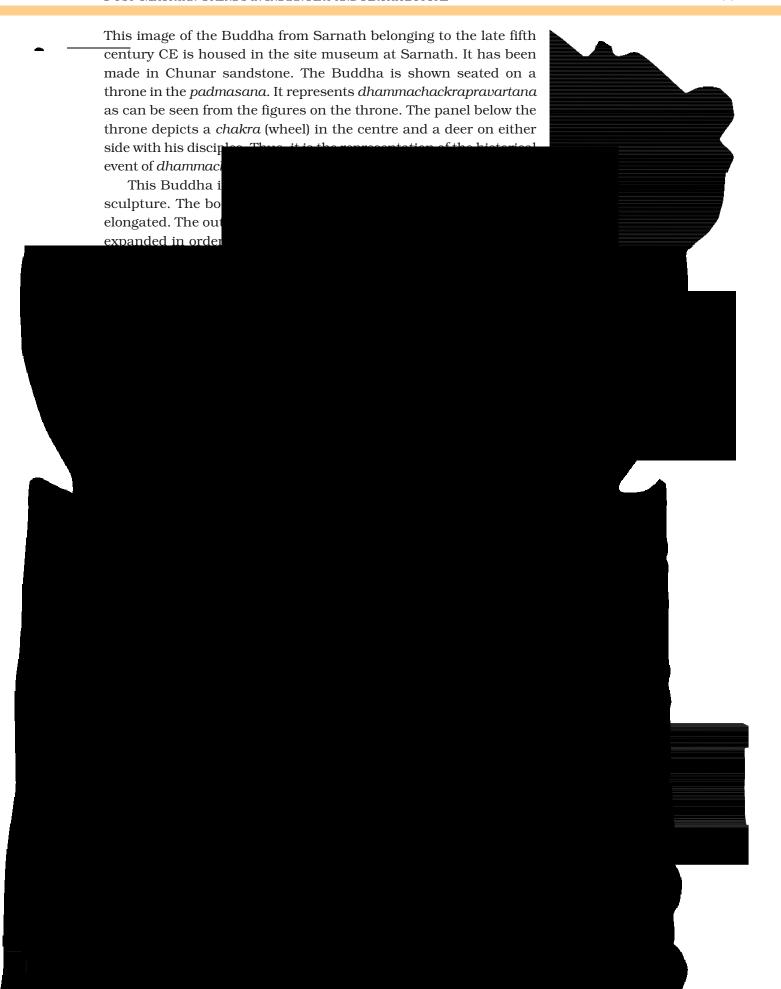
## BUDDHA HEAD, TAXILA





# SEATED BUDDHA, SARNATH





# PADMAPANI BODDHISATTVA AJANTA CAVE No. 1



Padmapani and Vajrapani in Cave No. 1 are among the best survived paintings of Ajanta.

This painting on the back wall of the interior hall before the shrine-antechamber in Cave No. 1 at Ajanta dates back to the late fifth century CE. The Boddhisattva is holding a padma (lotus), has large shoulders, and has three bents in the body creating a movement in the picture space. The modelling is soft. Outlines are merged with the body volume dimensionality. Th is wearing a big rendering is visible the left. The eyes a elongated. The nos colour all over the is aimed at cre dimensionality. The similar feature shoulders create torso is relatively rhythmic, and def Ajanta Cave No. 2 holding a lotus ar Boddhisattva is su hand of the Boddh dense. The thread indicating its dime equal attention. Li Nose projections, small chin contrib composition. The better preserved. variations in the artisans working o On the other s painted. He holds <sup>f</sup>Mahajanak Jataka, image also bears Ajanta Cave No. 1 Cave No. 1 has ma of Buddhist them Jataka, Umag Jat Jataka is painted of is the biggest narrative painting. It may be observed that the paintings of Padmapani and Vajrapani and the Bodhisattvas are painted as shrine guardians. Similar such iconographic arrangement is also observed in other caves of Ajanta. However

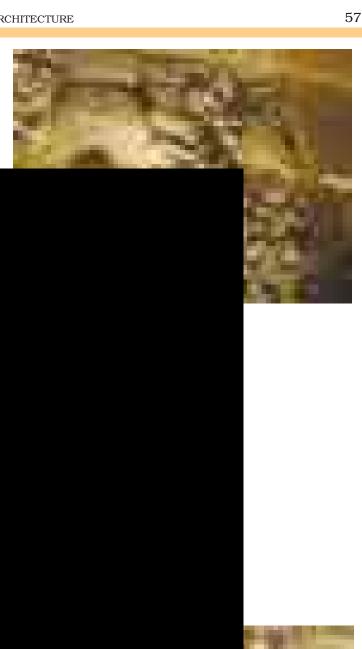
## Mara Vijaya, Ajanta Cave No. 26



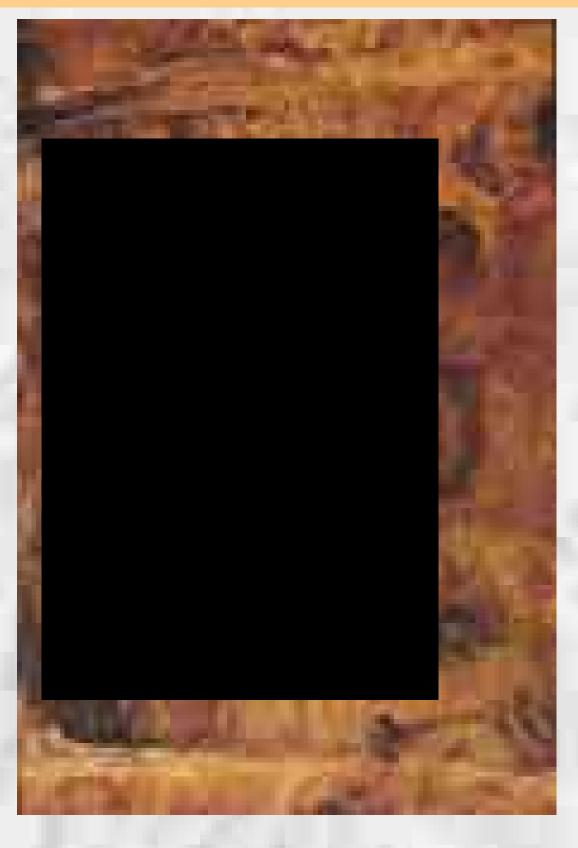
The theme of Mara Vijaya has been painted in the caves of Ajanta. This is the only sculptural representation sculpted on the right wall of Cave No. 26. It is sculpted near the colossal Buddha image of *Mahaparinibbana*. The panel shows the image of the Buddha in the centre

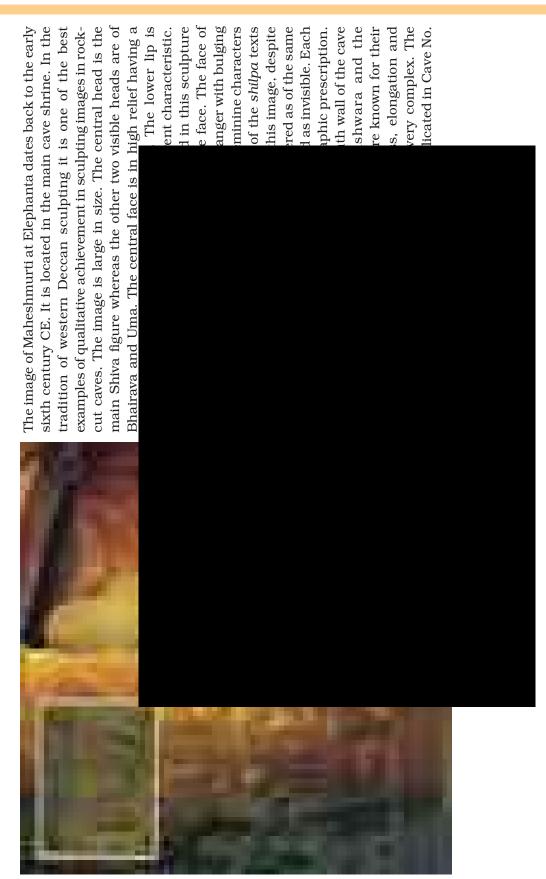
surrounded by Ma daughter. The enlightenment. It is commotion of mi went through enlightenment. M According to the dialogue between and the Buddha i earth as a witness highly animated Ajanta. The comp images. Their com dynamic and gene right shows Mara of people including figures at the lowe waist, and one of the dancing postu end, the image of Siddhartha, the n army of Mara is sl half of the panel departing army of Buddha is in padr leaves. Some of t characters of t Vidarbha. The art in guilds and their be traced by ide features. This is panel at Ajanta. T

big images in the caves of Ajanta and especially located in the shrine-antechamber as well as facade walls, such a complex arrangement of figures is unique. On the other hand, painted panels exhibit such complexities in their arrangement. A similar kind of arrangement of dancing figures in a panel is also observed at the Aurangabad caves.









### MURAL TRADITIONS OF INDIA







# 5

## LATER MURAL DITIONS

Even after A survived we reconstruct the that the sculpturadition of cave places where simultaneously.

#### **Badami**

One such site is was the capital of the region from decline of the V established thei Chalukya king, excavation of th younger son of I, and the bro inscription in C 578-579 CE, des and includes th Vishnu. Thus it cave was excava patron records Therefore, the the Vishnu Car painting has su the front mandapa.

Paintings in this cave depict palace scenes. One shows Kirtivarman, the son of Pulakesi I and the elder brother of Mangalesha, seated inside the palace with his wife and feudatories watching a dance scene. Towards the corner of the panel are figures of Indra and his retinue. Stylistically speaking, the painting represents an

Queen and attendants, Badami



extension of the tradition of mural painting from Ajanta to Badami in South India. The sinuously drawn lines, fluid forms and compact composition exemplify the proficiency and maturity the artists had achieved in the sixth century CE. The gracefully drawn faces of the king and the queen remind us of the style of modelling in Ajanta. Their eyesockets are large, eyes are half-closed, and lips are

at the contours iding structures reatment artists down south in with regional ndya and Chola ed the Chalukya patrons of arts. th century was at Panamalai, inscription at arman I with urious-minded),

Sittanvasal — early Pandya period, ninth century CE

Later Mural Traditions 63

Chitrakarapuli (tiger among artists), Chaityakari (temple builder), which show his interest in art activities. The paintings in these temples too were done at his initiative, though only fragments remain. The Panamalai figure of a female divinity is drawn gracefully. Paintings at the Kanchipuram temple were patronised by the Pallava king, Rajsimha. Only traces of paintings remain now which

depict Somaska rhythmic with i with the paintin still remains lil elongated. When the Pa art. Tirumalaipu are some of the layers of painti Sittanavasal, th shrines, in vera On the pillar of celestial nyn drawn and pa background. Th modelling. Supp rhythm in their skill in creative

Devi — seventh century CE, Panamalai

the architectural context. Their eyes are slightly elongated and at times protrude off the face. This feature is observed in many subsequent paintings in the Deccan and South India.

The tradition of building temples and embellishing them with carvings and paintings continued during the reign of the Chola kings who ruled over the region from the ninth

n the eleventh zenith of power, chitecture began at Thanjavur, in Tamil Nadu Chola, his son, spectively.

Nartamalai, the tra temple. The narrow passage ings were found yer was painted century. Thanks examples of the ola period were as and aspects ash, Shiva as it of the patron g figures, etc.

exemplify the years. Sinuous elling of figures,



Dakshinamurty, Vijayanagar, Lepakshi

Later Mural Traditions 65

elongation of the physiognomic features of human figures—all these represent the perfection the Chola artist had achieved during the period on the one hand and the phase of transition on the other. With the decline of power of the Chola dynasty in the thirteenth century, the Vijayanagara Dynasty (fourteenth-sixteenth centuries) captured and brought under its control the region from Hampi to Trichy

with Hampi servin a number of the near Trichy, done arly phase of Virupaksha tenmandapa narra episodes from the important pathe spiritual team a palanquin Vishnu. The face large frontal eye

In Lepakshi, there are gloriou the walls of the

In keeping we evolved a pictor in profile and fig become still but compartments. The centuries were south India as of Period.

Paintings of teigtheenth cer



Ladies attending Parvati, Virbhadra Temple, Lepakshi

Sreerangam and Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu. In Thiruparakunram, paintings are found of two different periods—of the fourteenth and the seventeenth century. Early paintings depict scenes from the life of Vardhaman Mahavira.

The Nayaka paintings depict episodes from the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* and also scenes from

el narrating the ere are panels of a and Vishnu hini, etc. in Arcot District the Ramayana paintings. layaka paintings ayanagara style orporations. The flat background. with less heavy gara. The artist, traditions, has space dynamic. a good example. the sixteenth to al language and ately adopting nd Vijayanagara aking cues from l kalam ezhuthu

Venugopal, Sri Rama Temple, Triprayar

Later Mural Traditions 67

(ritual floor painting of Kerala), using vibrant and luminous colours, representing human figures in three-dimensionality. Most of the paintings are seen on the walls of shrines and cloister walls of temples and some inside palaces. Thematically too, paintings from Kerala stand apart. Most of the narrations

are based on t mythology which artist seems to oral traditions Ramayana and narration.

More than s with mural pair palaces—Dutc Krishnapuram padmanabhapur where one can Kerala's mura Pundareekapu Panayanarkavu, Sri Rama Vadakkunathan

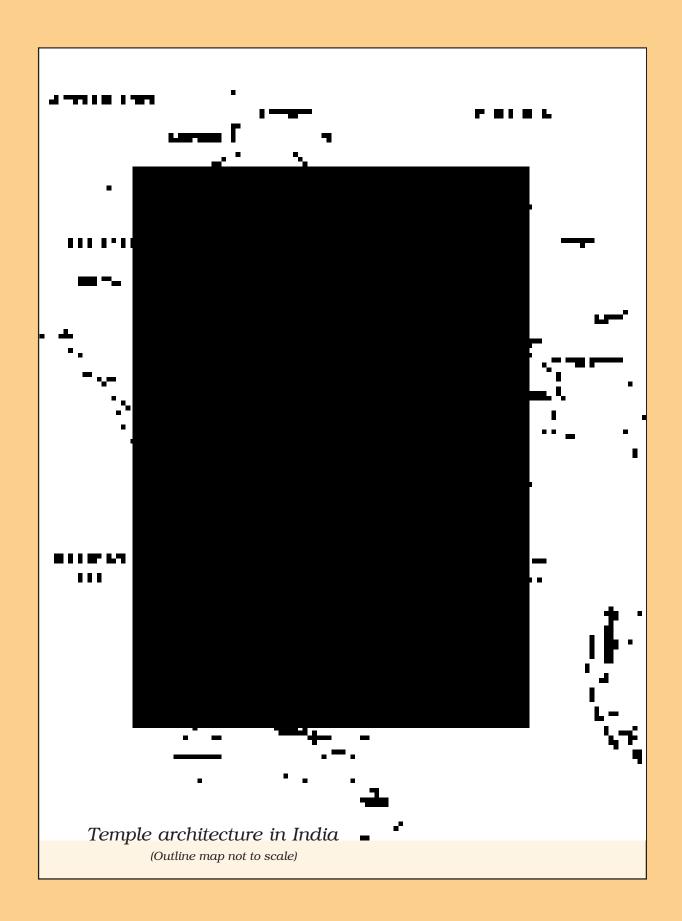
Even today painting on interor havelis is properties time of ceremonand decorate the murals are pith Mithila painting paintings in Mowalls, be it in Pradesh or Chh



Krishna playing flute, ıpanied by Gopikas, Krishna temple, Pundareekapuram

#### **E**XERCISE

- 1. What are the main leatures of Dauann cave paintings.
- 2. Write an essay on Vijayanagara paintings.
- 3. Describe the mural traditions of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.







## 6

### TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE LPTURE

MOST of the from Ancinature. That does their homes at the things in the wood and clay we us to many type focussed mostly you will find son temples too. How that religious shin villages and the ancient or a vanished.

Early Temples

While construction continued, Brah and images of getting constant temples were desimages of gods. It in the *Puranas* narrative representative representation and temple had a presentation of the shrip and The shrip.

a god. The shrines of the temples were of three kinds—(i) sandhara type (without pradikshinapatha), (ii) nirandhara type (with pradakshinapatha), and (iii) sarvatobhadra (which can be accessed from all sides). Some of the important temple sites of this period are Deogarh in Uttar

en we say 'temple'
glish we generally
devalaya, devkula
mandir, kovil, deol,
thanam or prasada
g on which part of
India we are in.

Chatur Mukhlinga, Nachna- Kuthara (Inset)



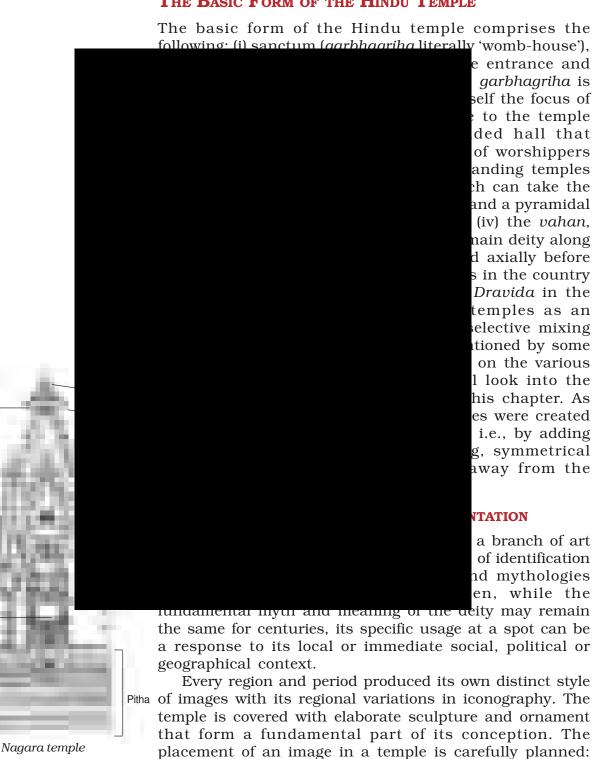
Shiva temple, Nachna-Kuthara, Madhya Pradesh, fifth century CE

Shikhara

Garbhagriha

Pradesh, Eran, Nachna-Kuthara and Udaygiri near Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh. These temples are simple structures consisting of a veranda, a hall and a shrine at the rear.

#### THE BASIC FORM OF THE HINDU TEMPLE



for instance, river goddesses (Ganga and Yamuna) are usually found at the entrance of a *garbhagriha* in a *Nagara* temple, *dvarapalas* (doorkeepers) are usually found on the gateways or *gopurams* of *Dravida* temples, similarly, *mithunas* (erotic images), *navagrahas* (the nine auspicious planets) and *yakshas* are also placed at entrances to guard them. Various forms or aspects of the main divinity are to

be found on the directions, i.e. directions on th the outer walls main temple are the main deity. such as gavaksh etc. are used in THE NAGARA OF The style of ten northern India common for an e with steps leadi it does not us gateways. While shikhara, later always located There are depending on th names for the va

Sun temple, Konark

of India; however, the most common name for the simple *shikhara* which is square at the base and whose walls curve or slope inward to a point on top is called the 'latina' or the *rekha-prasada* type of shikara.

The second major type of architectural form in the *nagara* order is the *phamsana*. *Phamsana* buildings tend to be broader and shorter than latina ones. Their roofs are

to a single point atina ones which ana roofs do not ls on a straight will notice that dapas while the ilding. Later on, ead of appearing o support many ether like rising g in the centre, ays above the

building is what are rectangular aulted chamber. unded, like the e been drawn by y called 'wagonthe form of the forms that were CE. The valabhince, if you study

Dashavtara Vishnu temple, Deogarh, fifth century CE



Sheshashayana Vishnu, Dashavatara temple, Deogarh

the ground-plan of many of the Buddhist rock-cut *chaitya* caves, you will notice that they are shaped as long halls which end in a curved back. From the inside, the roof of this portion also looks like a wagon-vaulted roof.

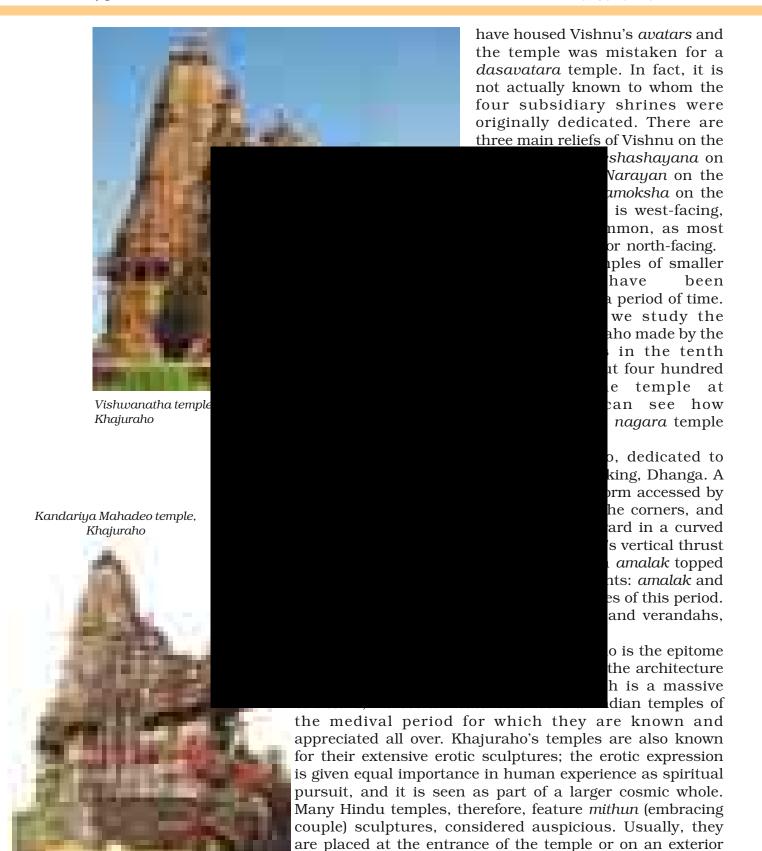
#### Central India

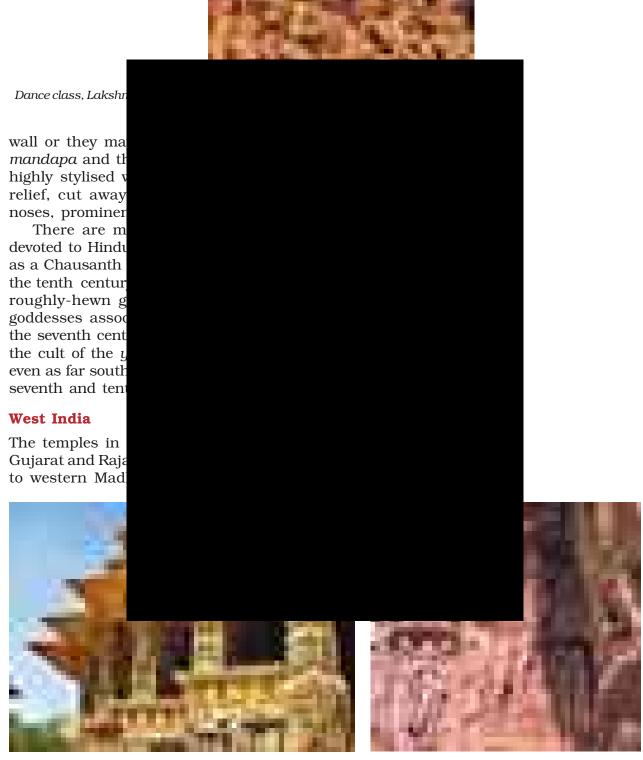
Ancient temples Rajasthan share are made of sa structural temp Pradesh. These having four pill looks like a sim equally small Importantly, of at Udaigiri, whi part of a larger other one is at temple having developments w of temples of bo Deogarh (in in the early six years or so after Sanchi and Uda late Gupta Peri panchayatana s is built on a rect shrines at the t five shrines, her curvilinear shikl of this curving la makes it clear nagara style of Sheshash shown recl Nara-Nara

This west-facing temple has a grand doorway with standing sculptures of female figures representing the Ganga on the left side and the Yamuna on the right side. The temple depicts Vishnu in various forms, due to which it was assumed that the four subsidiary shrines must also

is the story of achieving *moksha*, symbolically communicated by Vishnu's suppression of an *asura* 

who had taken the form of an elephant.





Sun temple, Modhera, Gujarat



into this central shrine.

#### **East India**

Eastern Indian temples include those found in the North-East, Bengal and Odisha. Each of these three areas produced distinct types of temples. The history of architecture in the North-East and Bengal is hard to study because a number of ancient buildings in those regions



**Bengal:** The style of the sculptures during the period between the ninth and eleventh centuries in Bengal (including Bangladesh) and Bihar is known as the Pala style, named after the ruling dynasty at the time, while the style of those of the mid-eleventh to mid-thirteenth centuries is named after the Sena kings. While the Palas are celebrated as patrons of many Buddhist monastic sites, the temples from that region are known to express the local Vanga style. The ninth century Siddheshvara



mula as the Bangia root. In the Mughar period and later, scores of terracotta brick temples were built across Bengal and Bangladesh in a unique style that had elements of local building techniques seen in bamboo huts which were combined with older forms reminiscent of the Pala period and with the forms of arches and domes that were taken from Islamic architecture. These can be widely found in and around Vishnupur, Bankura, Burdwan and Birbhum and are dated mostly to the seventeenth century.

Sun temple, Konark



are classified in khakra. Most of Kalinga-modern ancient Tribhuva Odisha constitu order. In general is vertical almo sharply inwards. called jagamoha temple is almost of its superstru mastaka. This appearance in generally square carved, their int usually have bo

At Konark, o majestic ruins o around 1240. It

have reached 70m, which, proving too heavy for its site, fell in the nineteenth century. The vast complex is within a quadrilateral precinct of which the *jagamohana* or the dance-pavillion (*mandapa*) has survived, which though no longer accessible is said to be the largest enclosed space in Hindu architecture.

The Sun temple is set on a high base, its walls covered in extensive, detailed ornamental carving. These include twelve pairs of enormous wheels sculpted with spokes and



strong Gandhara influence by the fifth century CE. This began to mix with the Gupta and post-Gupta traditions that were brought to it from Sarnath, Mathura and even centres in Gujarat and Bengal. Brahmin *pundits* and Buddhist monks frequently travelled between Kashmir, Garhwal, Kumaon and religious centres in the plains like Banaras, Nalanda and even as far south as Kanchipuram. As a result both Buddhist and Hindu traditions began to intermingle and spread in the hills. The hills also had



omplexes in Hills

their own traditi At several place while the main rekha-prasada of form of wooden takes on a pago

The Karkota in terms of archi is Pandrethan, be In keeping with the shrine, this middle of a tan Hindu and Buda a Hindu one, po of this temple tradition of wood in Kashmir, the The temple is not the post-Gupta elephants at the only embellishme.

Like the find

also show an analogumation of local traditions with a post-Gupta style. The images of *Mahishasuramardini* and *Narasimha* at the *Laksna-Devi Mandir* are evidences of the influence of the post-Gupta tradition. Both the images show the influence of the metal sculpture tradition of Kashmir. The yellow colour of the images is possibly due to an alloy of zinc and copper which were popularly used to make images in Kashmir. This temple bears an inscription that states that it was built during the reign of Meruvarman who lived in the seventh century.



Meenakshi temple, Madu



Gangaikondacholapuram

Gopuram

Of the temples in Kumaon, the ones at Jageshwar near Almora, and Champavat near Pithoragarh, are classic examples of nagara architecture in the region.

#### THE DRAVIDA OR SOUTH INDIAN TEMPLE STYLE

Unlike the nagara temple, the dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall. The front wall has an entrance

> vimana in Tamil up geometrically h India. In the is used only for emple which is agonal cupola of North Indian e North Indian ind images such ga and Yamuna, ptures of fierce the temple. It is a temple tank, rines are either r, or located as e main temple. s rising together dia. At some of he main temple in fact, one of sually the oldest , the population t temple would ne necessary to

a temple

Shikhara

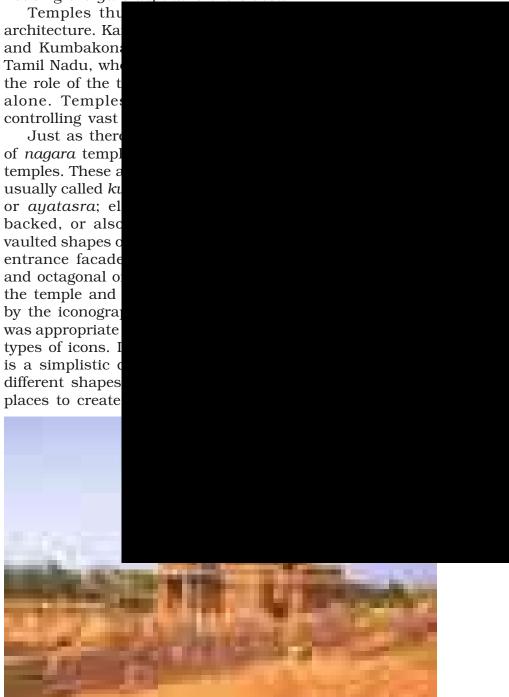
a gopuram. The



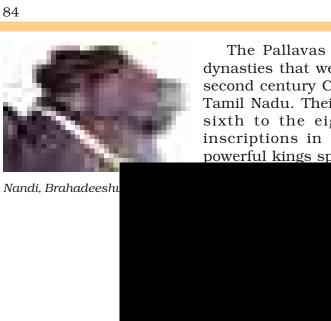
Garbhagriha

make a new boundary wall around the temple. This would have been taller that the last one, and its gopurams would have been even loftier. So, for instance, the Srirangam temple in Tiruchirapally has as many as seven 'concentric' rectangular enclosure walls, each with gopurams. The outermost is the newest, while the tower right in the centre

housing the garbhagriha is the oldest.



Shore temple, Mahabalipuram



The Pallavas were one of the ancient South Indian dynasties that were active in the Andhra region from the second century CE onwards and moved south to settle in Tamil Nadu. Their history is better documented from the sixth to the eighth century, when they left many inscriptions in stone and several monuments. Their powerful kings spread their empire to various parts of the

> ders of Odisha, ere also strong. eral Vaishnava and there is no long Buddhist

> med, were rock-However, there lings were well excavated. The to the reign of Chalukyan king, an I, also known one around 640 mpire, avenging nds of Pulakesin ding works at after him as

> vas built later, ı II, also known 8 CE. Now it is if you study it s three shrines,



Brahadeeshwarar, Thanjavur



the temple's low due to erosion by The magnificon Rajarajeswara of around 1009 by tallest of all Indiat this time, and Chola period are more are still act built by their prandyas, this of wimana rises and topped by a more due to erosion.

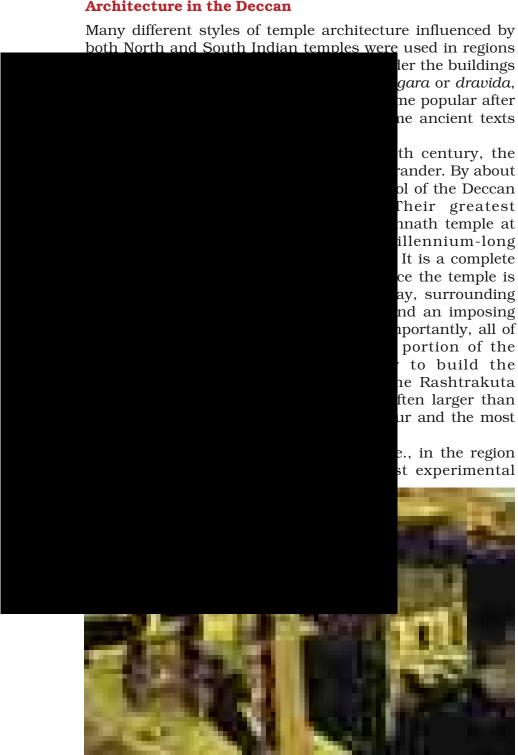
dome-shaped statement of the first time

other images. So

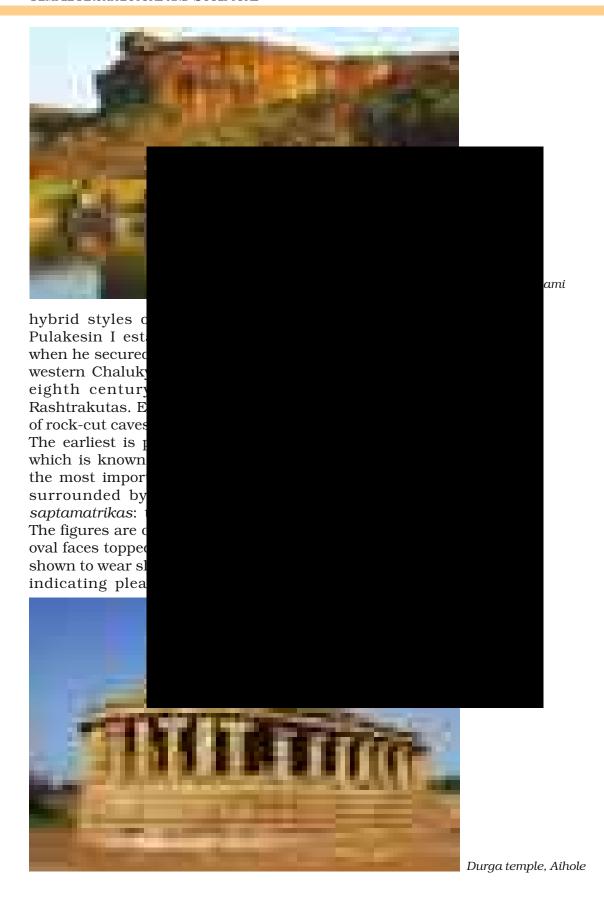
an elaborate scuptural programme which was conceived along with the temple. Huge Nandi-figures dot the corners of the *shikhara*, and the *kalasha* on top by itself is about three metres and eight centimetres in height. Hundreds of stucco figures decorate the *vimana*, although it is possible that some of these may have been added on during the Maratha Period and did not always belong to the Chola Period. The main deity of the temple is Shiva, who is shown as a huge *lingam* set in a two-storeyed

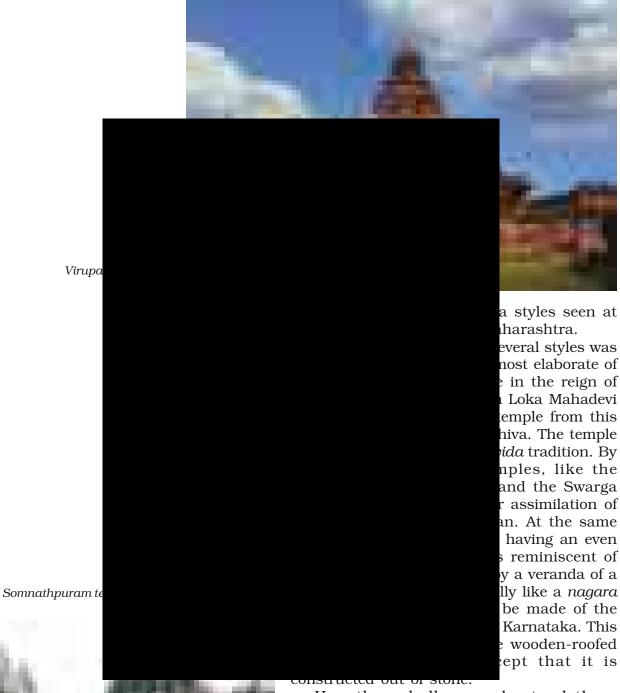
sanctum. The walls surrounding the sanctum have extended mythological narratives which are depicted through painted murals and sculptures.

#### **Architecture in the Deccan**



Kailashnath temple, Ellora





How then shall we understand these different styles at one place? As curiosities or as innovations? Undoubtedly, they are dynamic expressions of a creative set of architects who were competing with their peers in the rest of India. Whatever one's explanation is, these buildings remain of great art-historical interest.

With the waning of Chola and Pandya power, the Hoysalas of Karnataka grew to prominence in South India and became the most important patrons centred at Mysore. The remains of around hundred temples have been found in southern Deccan, though it is only three of them that are most frequently discussed: the temples at Belur, Halebid and Somnathnuram Perhaps the most characteristic

and Somnathpuram. Perhaps the most characteristic feature of these with so many pro straightforward temples starts le stellate-plan. Sin is a relatively s their sculptures in the jewellery The Hoysale Halebid in Karr the Hoysala kin called hybrid or completely dravi They are easily d by their highly profusion of dec



Nataraja, Halebid

Dedicated to Shiva as Nataraja, the Halebid temple is a double building with a large hall for the *mandapa* to facilitate music and dance. A Nandi pavilion precedes each building. The tower of the temple here and at nearby Belur fell long ago, and an idea of the temples' appearance can now only be gleaned from their detailed miniature versions flanking the entrances. From the central square plan cut-out angular

d with the most o intricate is the he bottom-most of hundreds of hants are in the

r 'city of victory', ers such as the Domingo Paes, the Afghan Abd of the city. In as document the Architecturally, dravida temple strated by the e too, although usly seeking to the presence of the fifteenth and finating time in cultural fusion.

#### **VELOPMENTS**

the nature of om the fifth to be kept in mind ddhist and Jain ften went handas Ellora have owever, Badami,

Knajurano and Kannauj nave the remains of any two of the religions right next to each other.

When the Gupta empire crumbled in the sixth century CE, this eastern region of Bihar and Bengal, historically known as Magadha, appears to have remained unified whilst numerous small Rajput principalities sprang up to the west. In the eighth century, the Palas came to power in the region. The second Pala ruler, Dharmapala, became immensely powerful and established an empire by defeating

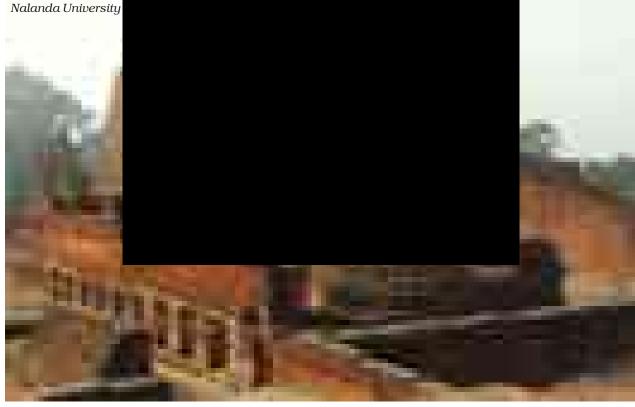
the powerful Rajput Pratiharas. Dharmapala consolidated an empire whose wealth lay in a combination of agriculture along the fertile Ganges plain and international trade.

The pre-eminent Buddhist site is, of course, Bodhgaya. Bodhgaya is a pilgrimage site since Siddhartha achieved enlightenment here and





Mahabodhi temple, Bodhgaya



The monastic university of Nalanda is a *mahavihara* as it is a complex of several monastries of various sizes. Till date, only a small portion of this ancient learning centre has been excavated as most of it lies buried under contemporary civilisation, making further excavations almost impossible.

Most of the information about Nalanda is based on the

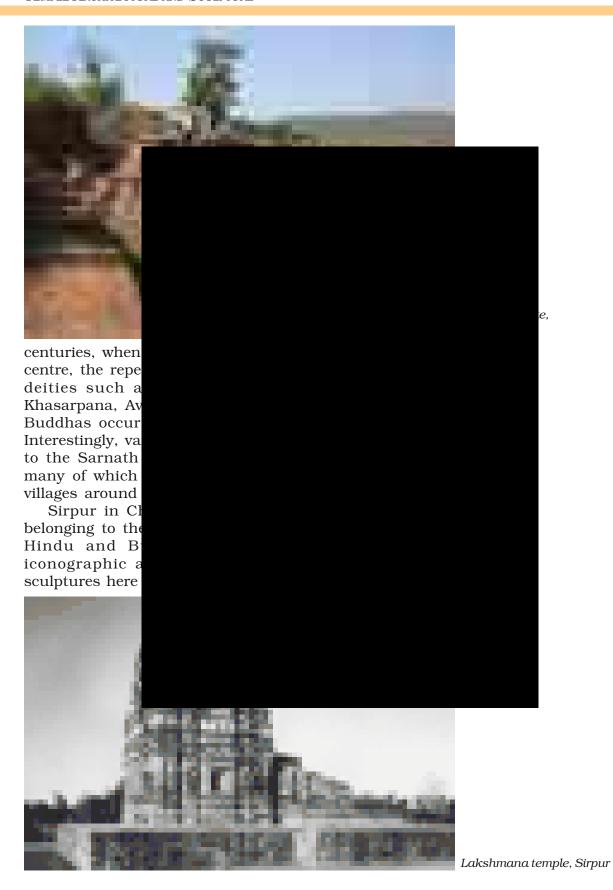
'Hsuan-tsang'—nastery was laid 2; and this was who built up a se that all three lahayana and made their way Bodhgaya and sia in the north, various other Asia. Monks and and illustrated atries. Buddhist olific centres of t on the arts of

icco, stone and ndence on the ninth century a upta idiom, the ndia, leading to l of sculpture body forms and e characteristic its consistently t the precisely rance with little ually not flat in nal forms. The ailed and the pronzes, dating o approximately

the twelfth century outnumber the discovery of metal images from all other sites of eastern India and constitute a large body of Pala Period metal sculptures. Like their stone counterparts, the bronzes initially relied heavily on Sarnath and Mathura Gupta traditions. The Nalanda sculptures initially depict Buddhist deities of the Mahayana pantheon such as standing Buddhas, bodhisattvas such as Manjusri Kumara, Avalokiteshvara seated on a lotus and Naga-Nagarjuna. During the late eleventh and twelveth



Sculptural details, Nalanda



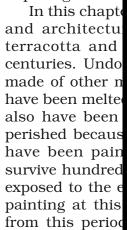
2020-21



Jains were prolific temple builders like the Hindus, and their sacred shrines and pilgrimage spots are to be found across the length and breadth of India except in the hills. The oldest Jain pilgrimage sites are to be found in Bihar. Many of these sites are famous for early Buddhist shrines. In the Deccan, some of the most architecturally important Jain sites can be found in Ellora and Aihole. In central India, Deogarh, Khajuraho, Chanderi and Gwalior have some excellent examples of Jain temples. Karnataka

has a rich heritage of Jain shrines and at Sravana Belagola the famous statue of Gomateshwara, the granite statue of Lord Bahubali which stands eighteen metres or fifty-seven feet high, is the world's tallest monolithic free-standing structure. It was commissioned by Camundaraya, the General-in-Chief and Prime Minister of the Ganga Kings of Mysore.

The Jain ten Vimal Shah. No with the exuber decoration with appearance. The on every ceiling, domed ceilings Shatrunjay hills imposing with s





oture, Mount Abu



Dilwara temple, Mount Abu



Mahabalipuram is an important coastal town from the period of the Pallavas. It is dotted with several important rock-cut and free-standing structural temples mostly made in the seventh and eighth centuries. This large sculptural panel, one of the largest and oldest known in the world, is nearly thirty metres long and fifteen metres high. There is a natural cleft in the rock which has been cleverly used by its sculptors as a channel for water to flow down. This water collects in a massive tank in front of the sculpted wall.

Scholars have interpre

heaven to earth, others be

While some believe that i

Arjuna's penance, a poeti

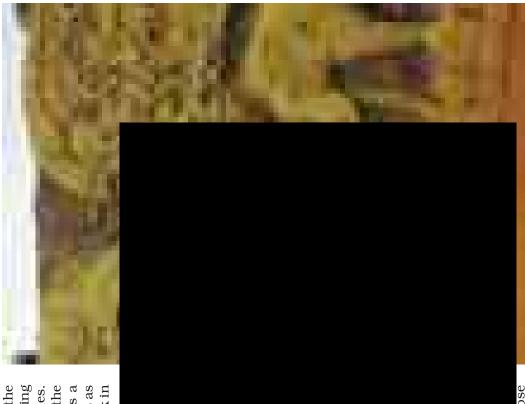
popular in the Pallava

symbolism behind the sc

they say, would have s

extraordinary backdrop.

created to be a *prashasti*,



Particularly noteworthy a like elephants, and the pa

there are several natura

All the figures are shanimated state of movem

humorous, however, is a legs, with his hands raised, imitating Bhagirath or Arjuna. Close examination, however, reveals that this cat is, in fact, a symbolic device.

He is surrounded by rats, which are unable to disturb him from his penance. Perhaps this is a metaphor used by the artist to show how strong Arjuna's or Bhagirath's penance was, who is also standing still, undisturbed by his surroundings.

identified by some as Bhag

was to obtain the *pashu*, prayed to have Ganga bro small gana or dwarf who s of the powerful pashupata

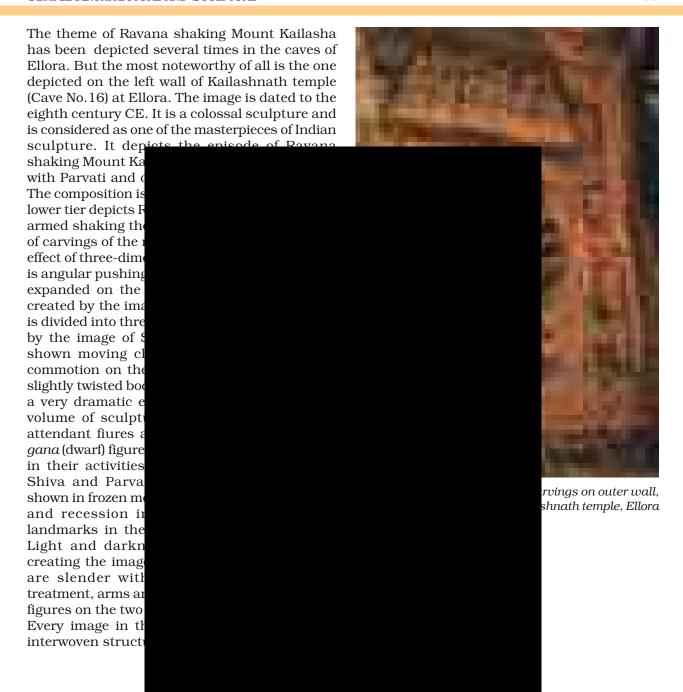
who has one hand in the

A temple has been g

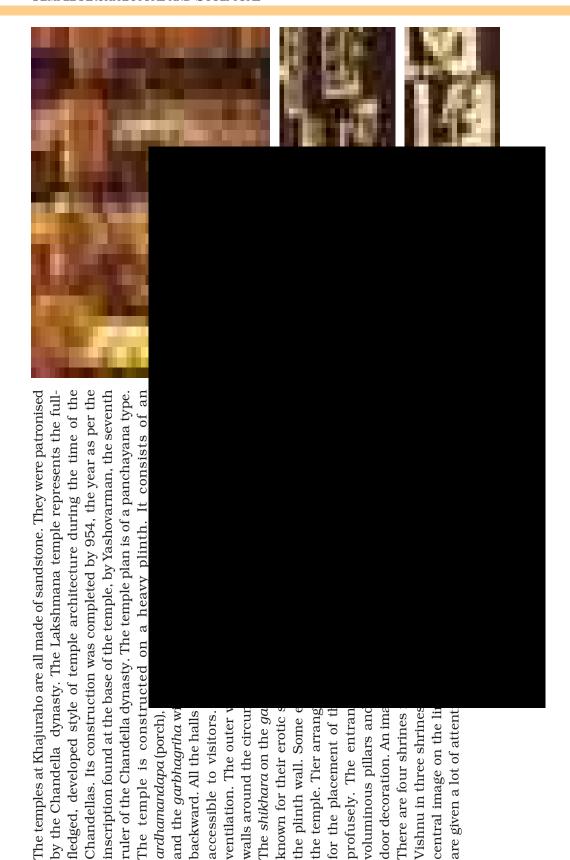
worshippers sit before it. A

in penance on one leg,









A large number of bronze scupltures have been found in the country which shall be discussed in the next chapter.

We have focussed on the dominant art styles and some of the most famous monuments from different parts of India in the medieval period. It is important to realise that the enormous artistic achievements that we have studied here would never have been possible if artists worked alone.

ght architects,

we are able to hat made these their buildings e and above all at the history of seen were many uism, Buddhism and goddesses, d tantra — two les also became nusic and dance les became large e them land for d performed an

your town and as different lentification of

hapter on a map

es between North ke a diagram to

two sculptural

traditions (such as Pala, Chola, Pallava, Chandella, etc.) using either drawing, painting or clay-modelling. Supplement your project with a written assignment that explains the salient features of the two styles you have chosen.

- 4. Compare any two temple styles in India; supplement with a line drawing.
- 5. Trace the development in Buddhist art.







# INDIAN BRONZE LPTURE

The casting p terracotta sculp or 'lost-wax' pro the Indus Valley process of maki and tin which is

Bronze sculp and Jain icons l India dating fro century. Most o are characterised At the same tin be utilised for m use, such as u Present-day trib process for their

Perhaps the earliest bronze and torso of thi form. A similar discovered from (Maharashtra) 'Chariot', the w circular shapes elongated, and sturdy forms.

Interesting discovered from

Period during second century CD. These profiles show now the Indian sculptors had mastered the modelling of masculine human physique and simplified muscles. Remarkable is the depiction of Adinath or Vrishabhnath, who is identified with long hairlocks dropping to his shoulders. Otherwise the *tirthankaras* are noted by their short curly hair.

Gujarat and Rajasthan have been strongholds of Jainism since early times. A famous hoard of Jain bronzes was found at Akota, on the outskirts of Baroda, dated between



Kaliyadaman, Chola bronze, Tamil Nadu

the end of the fifth and the end of the seventh century CE. Finely cast through the lost-wax process, these bronzes were often subsequently inlaid with silver and copper to bring out the eyes, crowns and details of the textiles on which the figures were seated. Many famous Jain bronzes from Chausa in Bihar are now kept in the Patna Museum.

Many Jain bronzes from Hansi in Haryana and from aka are kept in a near Vadodara ised in Gujarat ninth centuries. rthankaras like ew format was d on a throne; of three or in a mages were also adevis of some were influenced Vakataka period of Adinath and right hand in articularly Uttar nd Post-Gupta venth centuries. ed to cover the while the other

Shiva Family, tenth century CE, Bihar

Ganesh, seventh century CE, Kashmir

Indian Bronze Sculpture 105

end of the drapery is wrapped over the left arm. Eventually the pleats are held by the extended hand of the same arm. The drapery falls and spreads into a wide curve at the level of the ankles. The Buddha's figure is modelled in a subtle manner suggesting, at the same time, the thin quality of the cloth. The whole figure is treated with refinement; there is a certain delicacy in the treatment of

the torso. The f in comparison w from Dhanesar drapery are trea of drooping do foldless drapery Buddha image monumental br these bronzes is

Vakataka bro Maharashtra, a bronzes. They sl

#### The Lost-wax

The lost-wax prometal, especially Pradesh and We technique is use

The lost-wax wax model of the has first been means a fine cloth intimmediately. It which squeezes are then wound

The image is r of equal parts of one side, a clay p weight of the me is weighed befor largely scrap me molten metal is

model is exposed to firing. As the wax inside melts, the metal flows down the channel and takes on the shape of the wax image. The firing process is carried out almost like a religious ritual and all the steps take place in dead silence. The image is later chiselled with files to smoothen it and give it a finish. Casting a bronze image is a painstaking task and demands a high degree of skill. Sometimes an alloy of five metals — gold, silver, copper, brass and lead — is used to cast bronze images.



amil Nadu



the other two faces are that of Narasimha and Varaha. The Narasimha *avatar* and Mahishasuramardini Durga images of Himachal Pradesh are among the very dynamic bronzes from that region.

In Buddhist centres like Nalanda, a school of bronzecasting emerged around the ninth century during the rule of the Pala Dynasty in Bihar and Bengal regions. In the gap

of a few centurion were able to reviremarkable brome is a good examposture. Worshippart of the grow Images of Tara she is accompated and her right has

The bronze images of trad development in Although bronz the Pallava Period of the most bear during the Chol the twelfth cent bronze images in particularly in



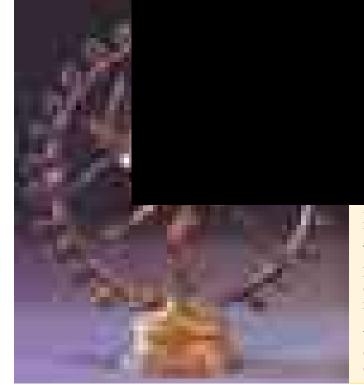
chola period, twelfth entury CE

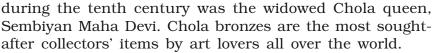
## ja

he end of the cosmic dancing position is

bronze sculpture he g himself on his right pasmara, the demon less, with the foot of le time he raises his sita stance, which t is kicking away the m the devotee's mind.

His four arms are outstretched and the main right hand is posed in *abhaya hasta* or the gesture suggesting. The upper right holds the *damaru* his favourite musical instrument to keep on the beat *tala*. The upper left hand carries a flame while the main left hand is held in *dola hasta* and connects with the *abhaya hasta* of the right hand. His hair locks fly on both the sides touching the circular *jvala mala* or the garland of flames which surrounds the entire dancing figuration.





Among the Pallava Period bronzes of the eighth century is the icon of Shiva seated in *ardhaparyanka asana* (one leg kept dangling). The right hand is in the *achamana mudra* gesture, suggesting that he is about to drink poison.

iva as Nataraja ne Chola Period complex bronze

s evolved in the he ninth century for the manner e) is represented s extended right t hand, who is I taking a step very ingeniously a single image. have also been osture.

the Vijayanagar perimented with nowledge of the fe-size standing nze, depicting rumalamba and e likeness of the dealisation. The ner the physical well as graceful. cted in praying maskara mudra.

nze casting has olve over a period



- 2. In India sculpturing in stone and metal happened simultaneously. In your opinion what were the similarities and differences between both technically, stylistically and functionally?
- 3. Why are Chola bronze sculptures considered as the most refined?
- 4. Search for visuals of bronze sculptures of the Buddha belonging to periods other than the Chola Period from Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, etc.









8

ECTURE

In the seventh Spain and Ind merchants, trad six hundred yea had begun to coearly thirteenth under the Delhi of northern India

By the twel monumental c techniques and as trabeation (br a small shallow stone, these wer Now, however, t gradually in whi Such arches ne interlocking bloc on pendatives a leaving the inter

A noteworthy that Muslims a traditions and practices. Thus structural techn came about th rejection or m architectural er

are known as Indo-Saracenic or Indo-Islamic architecture.

Hindus conceived manifestations of god everywhere in multiple forms as part of their religious faith, whereas, Muslims thought of only one with Muhammad as their Prophet. Hence, Hindus adorned all surfaces with sculptures and paintings. Muslims, forbidden to replicate living forms on any surface, developed their religious art and architecture consisting of the arts of arabesque, geometrical patterns and calligraphy on plaster and stone.

Qutub Minar, Delhi



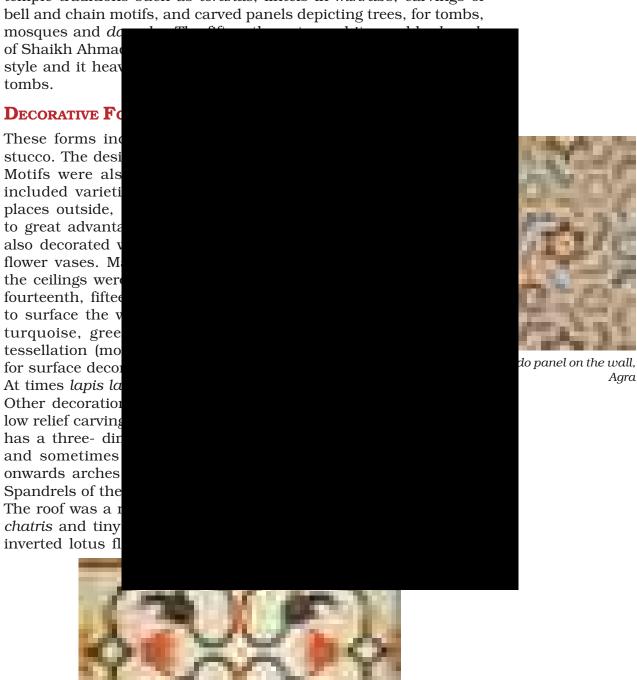
#### Typologies of Structures

Keeping in mind religious and secular necessities, architectural building like mosques for daily prayers, the Jama Masjids, tombs, dargahs, minars, hammams, formally laid out gardens, madrasas, sarais or caravansarais, Kos minars, etc., were constructed over a period of time. These were thus additions in the existing types



#### ARCHITECTURAL INFLUENCES

Amongst provincial styles, the architecture of Bengal and Jaunpur is regarded as distinct. Gujarat was said to have a markedly regional character for patrons borrowed elements from regional temple traditions such as *toranas*, lintels in *mihrabs*, carvings of bell and chain motifs, and carved panels depicting trees, for tombs,



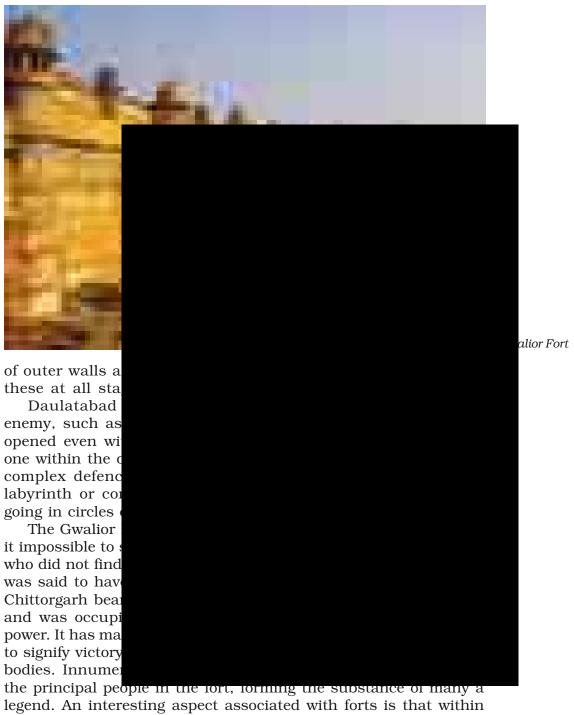
Pietra dura work, Agra

Aerial view,

#### MATERIALS FOR CONSTRUCTION

The walls in all buildings were extremely thick and were largely constructed of rubble masonary, which was easily available. These walls were then cased over with chunam or limestone plaster or dressed stone. An amazing range of stones were utilised for construction such as quartzite, sandstone, buff, marble, etc.

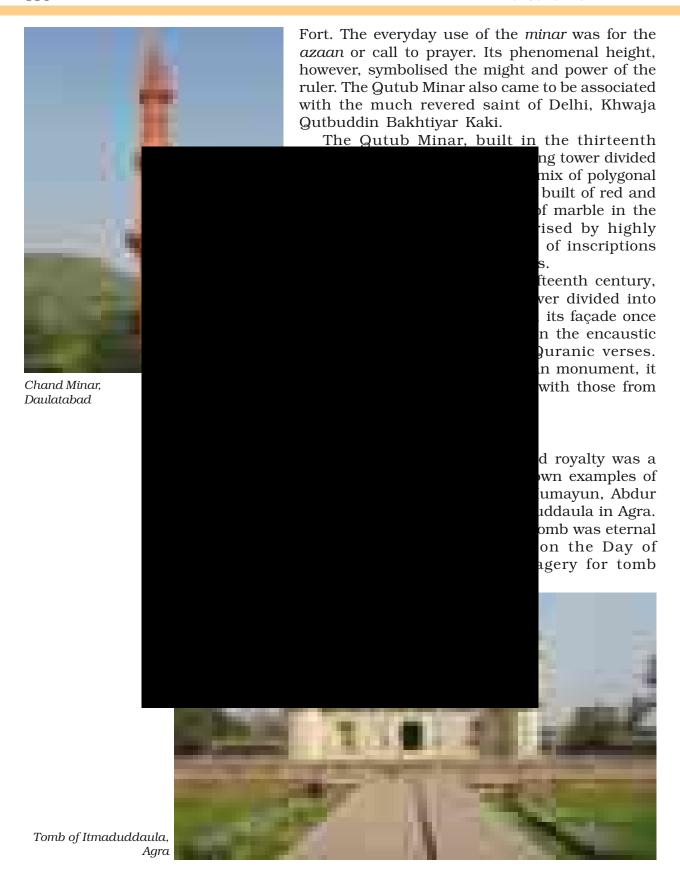




the palace complexes stylistic and decorative influences were absorbed most liberally.

## **M**INARS

Another form of stambha or tower was the minar, a common feature in the sub-continent. Two most striking minars of medieval times are the Qutub Minar in Delhi and the Chand Minar at Daulatabad



construction. Beginning with the introduction of Quranic verses on the walls, the tomb was, subsequently, placed within paradisiacal elements such as a garden or near a body of water or both, as is in the case of the Humayun's tomb and the Taj Mahal, which follows the *charbagh* style. Surely though, such vast expanses of structured and stylised spaces could not have been intended only to signify peace and happiness in the next world

but to also sho person buried the

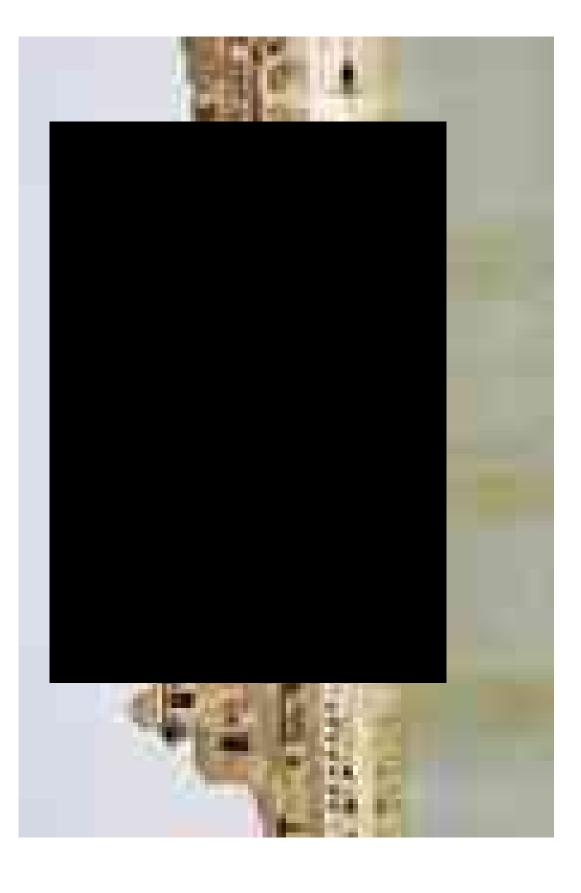
#### SARAIS

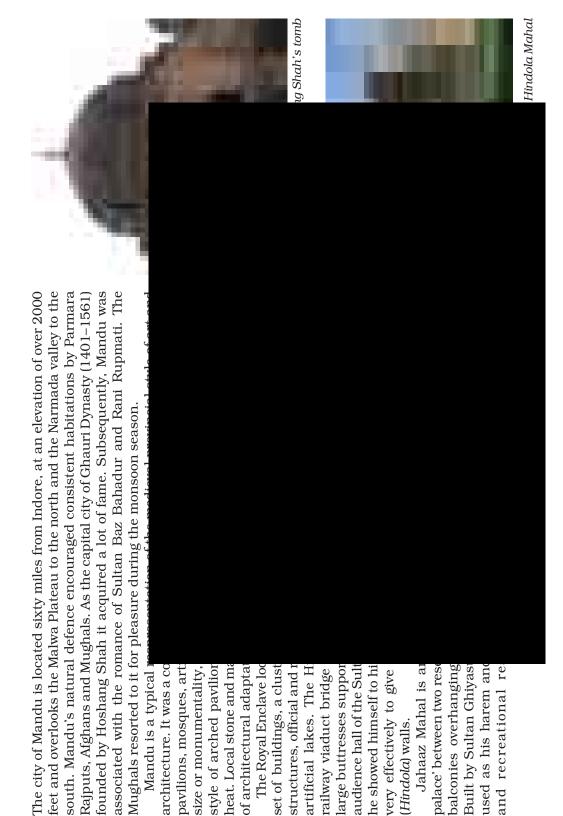
A hugely interestinged cities a continent. Sar rectangular placeommodation merchants, traction which thronged led to cross-cutendencies in the people.

#### STRUCTURES FO

One of the arch coming together and private spa included build khanqahs (herm gateways, pavili

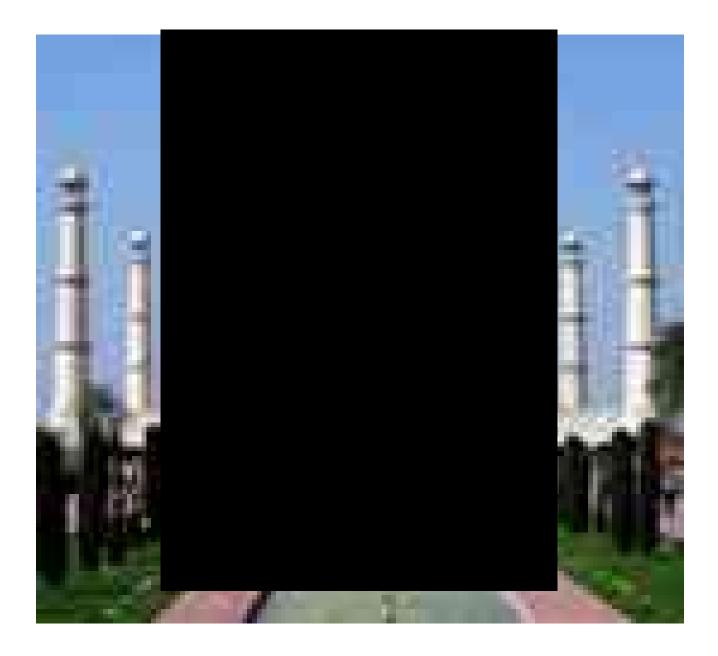




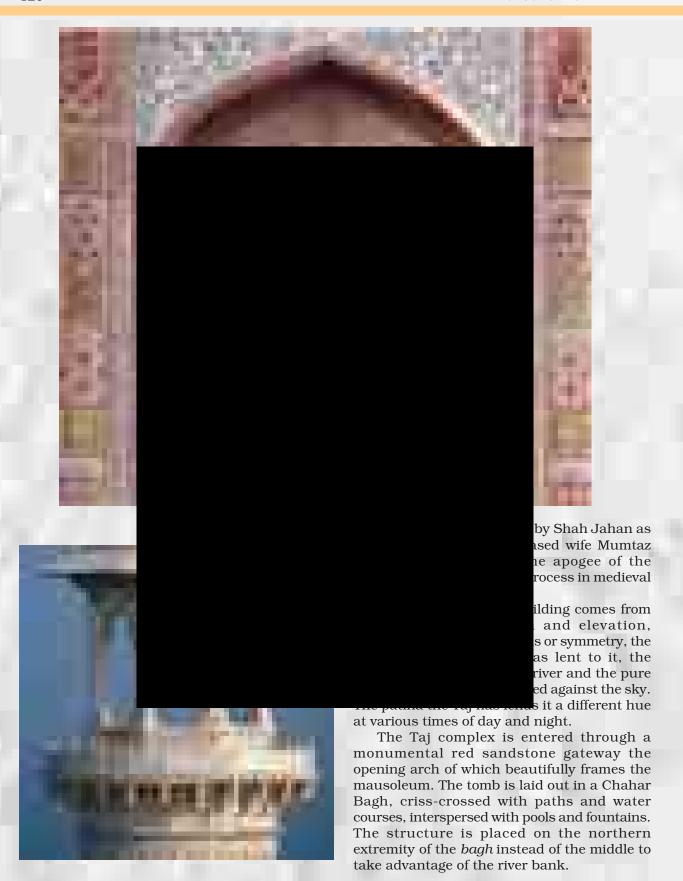




# TAJ MAHAL



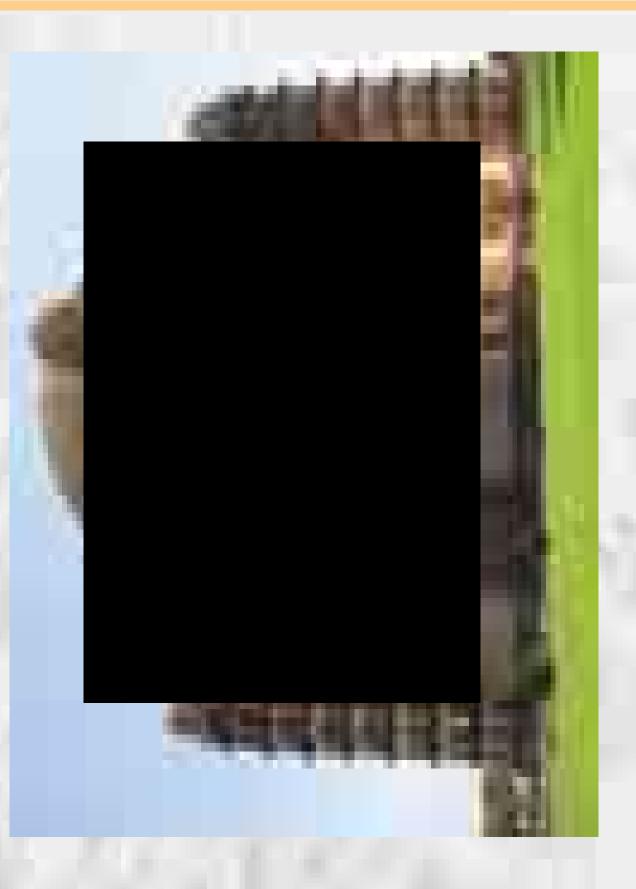
From 1632 onwards it took nearly twenty years and 20,000 specialised workers to complete this monument.

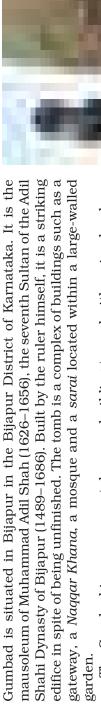


marble to write Quranic verses. Calligraphy provided a decorative element on the walls and a continuous connection with

the Almighty.

A straight path through the bagh reaches the plinth of the tomb from where is accessed the floor terrace of the edifice. At the corners of the terrace stand four tall, tapering minarets, one hundred and thirtytwo feet high. The main body of the building is topped with a drum and dome and four cupolas forming a heautiful skyline Th plinth, the walls drum-dome are in another. Towards marble-faced ton mosque and a sin east to maintain building was qua mines in Rajastha is contrasted with surrounding struc The tomb stru chamfers forming deep arches. Thi produces in the el variety of contrasti solids and voids building, the twin and roof to pinnac of the dome, meas The interior mausoleum consis vaulted, octagonal a room at each a corridors. Light to is obtained by perforated jalis, se of the interior. The façade creating a double dome. Four types of er used with great ef exterior surfaces are stone carving on the walls, the d into jalis and gr ornament on the pillar), and the creation of arabesques with pietra dura (yellow marble, jade and jasper) on walls and tombstones and geometric designs with tessellation. Lastly, the art of calligraphy is used with the inlay of jasper in white





The Gumbad is a monumental square building topped with a circular drum over which rests a majerie demonstrate by the building its personals time. It is built

and thirty-five feet long

With the drum and the feet. The tomb has only

of dark gray basalt and d

hundred and twenty-fiv

square feet, the second
The tomb chamber
other relatives, while the
by stairs. The hemisphe
not only lent shape to th
stellate forms in squinc
The building has an
dome there is a whisper

Dome
These pendentives ing of arch-nets or

many times over.

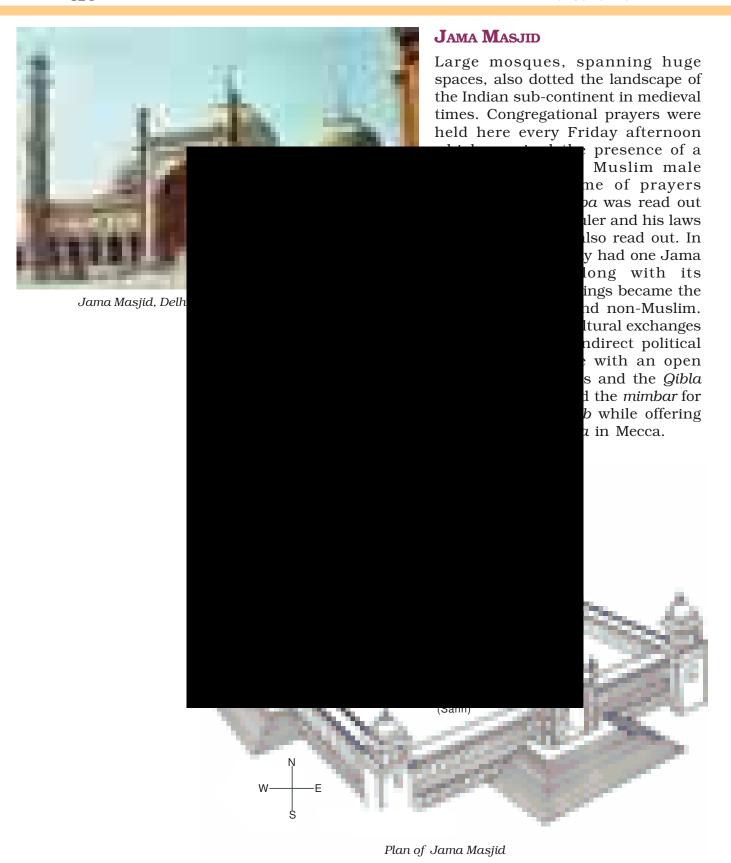
At the four corners or minaret-like towers.

dome. The drum of the cornice resting on corb

dome. The drum of the c cornice resting on corb Gol Gumbad is a fii India. Monumentality, architectural experienc While its structural par and load bearing techni of local material and is

the Deccan. Four towers at the corners are reminiscent of turrets attached to mosques such as Qila-i Kuhna Masjid and the Purana Qila in Delhi.

Whisper Gallery



# **E**XERCISE

- 1. What do you understand by the term 'Indo-Islamic' or 'Indo-Saracenic' architecture? Can you think of another nomenclature? How did this architecture evolve in India?
- 2. What types of buildings were added in India in the thirteenth century?
- 3. Name four
- 4. What was to the strategic or defeat th
- 5. Which forn times? What cultural live
- 6. How does N environmer
- 7. In spite of b grandeur a
- 8. Which are differ from
- 9. Why is the

## **P**ROJECT

- H. The present location and status of the structure.
- G. Is it conserved? Should it be conserved?
- F. Materials used for construction of the structure
- E. Decorative forms on the structure
- D. Architectural forms located in the structure



## GLOSSARY

Agate A fine-grained variegated chalcedony, its colours arranged in stripes, blended in clouds, or showing moss like forms Ribbed, lenticular or globoid part resembling the Amalaka t) crowning the top khara pically used for ting of intertwined wers, a feature of griha of the temple tions fers to the previous ıs, usually in stone d on either side of drels sixteenth century Buddha e with a transverse one or more flakes. er and ivory, and, or Anno Domini ive handwriting op of the *stupa* rs with a dome or vided into four by intersecting water channels Semi-circular arch with pointed tip in the centre Chaitya Arch towards the top Chaitya Place of congregation and worship Chakra Wheel, a symbol used for Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath Chamfer To cut off the edge or corner, thereby, increasing the number of sides

GLOSSARY 127

Chert A flint-like material, usually black or dark brown in colour. Although it has a conchoidal fracture like flint it is not so fine-textured Chevron Patterning V-shaped patterns Corbel The stone or wooden bracket laid horizontally to support a cornice or an arch Cornice Crystal Dado panel Dargah Dhammachakrapro Dravid Dressed stone Encaustic tile wor Faience Gahapati Garbhgriha Gopuram Harmika **Imam** The process of cutting a design into the surface Intaglio of a small hard stone or gem Jagmohan Rectangular or square hall in front of a sanctuary or main temple — a term used for temple architecture of Odisha Jainism One of the most ancient religions, it is a path of victory (jina) over life's stream of rebirths through ethical and spiritual practices.



Jali Ornamental, perforated lattice screens with arabesques, star motifs and other geometric designs such as pentagons, hexagons, octagons and circles A variety of quartz that may be red, yellow or Jasper brown; long used for jewellery and ornamentation s of Buddha ental pot-design temple it of an arch e in the shape and stone. The main vas the mountains fghanistan, from ely. Lapis lazuli ments, jewellery, ord Shiva is being perating him from ndrels of arches igraphy direction of Mecca Masjid or Friday tba was read of caves, buildings or temples in Fresco or any other style Nagara North Indian style temple architecture Naggar khana Drum house from where ceremonial music was played which was usually situated over the gate. It was a popular feature in Mughal palacecomplexes Natyamandapa Dancing hall in front part of the temple or Rangmandapa Panchayatana Main temple surrounded by four sub-shrines in each corner

GLOSSARY 129

Pendentive A triangular bracket in the angle of two walls,

connecting the base of the dome to its

supporting arches

Phamsana A buildings/ temple which tends to be broader

and shorter than Latina type

Pietra-dura Pictorial mosaic work using semi-precious

stones. Found on walls, cenotaphs and marble

Polychrome

Pradakshina Qibla Liwan

Qila-i Kuhna Masj

Quartz

*Rekhaprasad* or Latina

Rupkar/Shilpi Sabha Mandapa Saracenic

Sarai

Shala ayatasara

Shikhar

Shilpa texts

Shraman

Sovereignty The authority of a ruler/state to govern himself/

itself absolutely independently

Spandrels The almost triangular space between two sides

of the outer curves of an arch and a rectangular

enclosure

Squinch An arch spanning the corners of a square

chamber and acting as support for a dome

Steatite A greyish or greenish stone, which is generally

soft and can easily be worked to make figurines,

vessels, seals and other objects



Arch nets arranged in a radiating pattern like Stellate that of a star Sthapati Architect A mound-like structure containing relics of Stupa Buddha or Buddhist monks worshipped by placter used for coating wall surfaces ome control over hat is internally rate panel, or a ften bearing an ly used to refer to that, when fired. from dull ochre rs with mosaic ped ceremonial blue to pale green ts use in jewellery region society based on shatriya, Vaishya, ident style of the the Chalukyas of ombination of the ern (*dravida*) styles st monk ar building with a chamber bhagriha of shrine in the south Indian temples Volute A scroll or spiral ornament on a pillar A wedge-shaped or tapered stone used to Voussoir construct an arch Vritta Circular Yakshas/Yakshanis Demi-gods and demi-goddesses — protectors of nature and resources

# Notes



# Notes

