

Art and Culture Class 03

18th February, 2024 at 9:00 AM

DISCUSSION OF LAST CLASS (09:12 AM)

MAURYAN POTTERY (09:13 AM)

- Mauryan pottery was the climax of pottery making. It was highly smooth and highly polished. The characteristic pottery of the Maurya age was the Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW).
- They used very fine particles of clay without coarse grains to create pottery. Clay was smoked to give it a black texture and carbon binding. With this method, they mainly created household utensils and pottery for the storage of grains.

MAURYAN SCULPTURE (09:21 AM)

- During the Mauryan age, images of folk gods and goddess Yaksha and Yakshini. Their worship was prevalent across the length and breadth of the country. Almost in all the religions, Yaksha and Yakshini worship was practiced.
- In Jainism, there was a conception of 24 Yakshinis who were worshipped along with 24 Tirthankars. Similarly, in Hinduism, Yaksha and Yakshini worship is mentioned in Mahabharata.
- In the Maurya age, one of the most popular rituals in Hinduism was Saptamatrika Puja in which seven Yakshinis were worshipped. In Buddhism, Yaksha and Yakshini were considered as highly auspicious, and generally, their sculptures were created on the gateways of stupas.
- E.g.- Salbhanjika Yakshini - Image of a Yakshini holding branch of a sal tree. It was mainly created in Sanchi stupa.
- Eg - Yaksha of Parkham (Gwalior)
- Eg - Didarganj Yakshini (Patna).

POST MAURYAN AGE (09:39 AM)

Cave Architecture

Different Types of Structures

1) Apsidal - Vault cave with Pillar

- Such caves may sometimes have a stupa located inside them called Votive Stupa. Such caves can be found in Ajanta, Bhaja, Karla, and Kanheri.

2) Apsidal - Vault cave without pillar

- These are also Apsidal caves but are without any pillars. Found in Ajanta, Bhaja, Thana-Nadrur etc. They are resting places and don't have any Stupas.

3) Quadrangular Hall flat roof cave

- Eg- Mahakali Kondivite Cave.

PURPOSE WISE CAVES (09:48 AM)

1) Chaitya

- Chaityas were prayer halls for the monks. Generally, Chaityas had a votive stupa inside and decorated columns on the sides.

2) Viharas

- These were the resting places for the monks. The stay in Vihara was only for monsoon season. In Buddhism, this monsoon stay is known as **Vassa**.
- During the stay, the Buddhist **upasaks** (lay followers) practiced purification of soul and character. They also confessed their guilt, sins, and crimes.

POST - MAURYAN SCULPTURE (09:55 AM)

Basis	Gandhara	Mathura	Amravati (Vengi)
Area	Northwest Frontier Province	Sonkh, Kankalitila, Mathura	Lower Krishna-Godavari basin in Andhra
Material	Grey Sandstone, Blue Schist	Red Sandstone,	White Marble
External Influence	Graeco-Bactrian, Roman, Central Asian Influence (Hellenistic Influence)	Completely Indigenous	Completely Indigenous
Religions Associated	Only Buddhism	Buddhism, Jainism & Hinduism	Only Buddhism
Patronization	Kushana	Kushana	Satvahanas and Ikshavakus
Features	a) Spiritual Buddha b) Wavy Hair c) Half-Closed Eyes d) Unshaven Face e) Fewer Ornaments f) Optimum clothing g) No Visceral Fat on the body, sometimes muscles, veins, and ribs are visible h) Plain halo behind the head of Buddha and depiction of protuberance in hair lock.	a) Delighted Buddha b) Combed Hair c) Open Eyes d) Shaven face e) More Ornaments f) Opulent clothing g) Round body (sometimes with body fat) h) Decorated halo behind the head of Buddha with protuberance in Indian style.	In Amravati, single dominating images were not created. Instead, they preferred sculpture panels based on <i>Jataka</i> Katha (stories). Jataka Kathas were previous life stories of Buddha. These folk narratives were didactic in nature (Moral-ethical lessons).
Specific Features	Graeco-Bactrian Features- a) Grace of Buddha's image inspired by Apollo and Zeus. b) Masculinity	Jainism Features - a) In Jainism, images of the 24 Tirthankars were created out of which the most	Queen Mayadevi's Dream is depicted on the panels in this school. The stories are depicted from -Ruru Jataka, Mahakapi Jataka, Chadanta Jataka, Virupandita Jataka & Buddha calming mad elephant.

of body repeated
 inspired by image was
 Greek of
 mythological Vardhaman
 figures like Mahavira.
 Atlas, b) He was
 Hercules, and often
 Aedes. depicted in a
 c) On the top standing
 part of the posture
 main completely
 sculpture, the nude body,
 creation of surrounded
 side images. by animals,
 snakes, and
 creepers.

Roman

Features-

a) Large on the body.

forehead, large

earlobes,

broad chest

and shoulders. Mathura

b) Tall Images style, mainly

and realistic the images

depictions. of Lord

Shiva and

Vishnu were

created but a

few images

of Goddess

Durga and

Goddess

Lakshmi

were also

found.

b) Lord

Shiva was

often

depicted in

Shivaling

and

Mukhalinga

forms.

c) Lord

Vishnu was

always

depicted

with his

Ayudh

(arms

holding

weapons).

Hinduism

Images -

a) In

Mathura

b) Tall Images style, mainly

the images

of Lord

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Central

Asian

Features -

a) Wavy Hair

b)

Ornamentation

in Hair

c) Images with

beards and

Moustaches

d) Long

overcoats

e) Sometimes,

Images are

depicted with

weapons.

POST MAURYAN STUPA (10:58 AM)

- The wooden Vedika of the Mauryan age was replaced by the stone Vedika.
- Inside the premise of the stupa, the image of Manusi Buddha (Buddha born as a human being who went on to become enlightened - his light can be emulated by anybody by taking inspiration from his life) was installed.
- One additional Pradakshina Path was added at the top level of Medhi. It indicated the Mahayana path of Buddhism while the lower Pradakshina path indicated the Hinayana path of Buddhism.
- The number of **Chattris** started to increase in odd numbers from this period. It is indicative of the growth of Buddhism, the arrival of many great teachers, and the auspiciousness associated with odd numbers.
- Examples - Bharhut Stupa in MP, Amravati Stupa in Andhra Pradesh, and Sanchi Stupa.
- Overall, there are three types of Stupas -
 - 1) The one which contains the original relics of Buddha - **Angika**.
 - 2) The one which contains the objects used by Buddha - **Vyavaharika**
 - 3) No relics, no object only Doctrines - **Updeshika**.

TOPIC FOR NEXT CLASS - CAVE AND TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE IN THE GUPTA AGE