**Dharmachakra**

Dharmachakra or Wheel of the Dharma represents the Buddha's teaching of the path to Nirvana. It symbolizes the spread of Buddhism as it signifies the establishment of the religion in the area where it is present.

Dharmachakra has been present in Ancient India as early as the first century BCE, appearing with the pillar of King Ashoka and depicting on the carved gateway of Sanchi Stupa. In Thailand, Dharmachakra has been found in many sites associated with the Dvaravati culture such as U Thong, Nakhon Pathom, and Lop Buri. The carved stonewheel was originally placed atop pillars accompanied by crouching deer, symbolizing the Buddha’s first sermonat the Deer Park in Varanasi. Moreover, various parts of Dharmachakra such as pillars, bases, spokes, and wheels were often inscribed with Buddhist verses.

--------------------