

PAINTING STUDY MATERIAL FOR CLASS 12TH BASED ON NCERT

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The Art during Mauryan, Shunga, Kushana and Gupta Periods

Introduction

During the Mauryan period the forms of art reached at its apex. Most of the depictions were made on walls of the rock-cut caves that were engraved or painted with different colours. We got some masterpieces of art from the Mauryan period as **Chauri Bearer** or **Yakshini** of Didarganj, Patna, Bihar and a **Lion Capital** (an apex of the pillar or monolith) found in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, both are well polished and finest sculptures of this period. Some of the sculptures have been found which belong to Shungadynasty, but those are not so popular.

The most popular form of art we got from Kushan period and later in Gupta's period.

In **Kushan** dynasty, two schools of art had been developed, one in Gandhar near Peshawar (Purushpur) the first capital city of Kushan that is called '**Gandhar School of Arts**'. In this school, the sculptures of Buddha and Bodhisattvas were made on granite in '**Roman Style of Art**' on the basis of Indian themes. But, surrounding Mathura, the second capital city of Kushanas, the sculptures were engraved on easily available red sandstone. The Hindu deities, Jain Tirthankaras and Buddha sculptures were made here in great numbers on the basis of local traditions. It is known as '**Mathura School of Arts**' or '**Indian Style of Arts**'.



Bodhisattva, Gandhara style



Bodhisattva, Mathura style



Bodhisattva, Gandhara style

Study of the Sculptures

1. Lion Capital



Used as National Emblem of India

Name	: Lion Capital	Artist	: Unknown
Place	: Sarnath (Mauryan Period), Near Varanasi, U.P.	Collection	: Sarnath Museum, U.P.
Medium	: Polished sandstone		
Circa	: 3rd Century B.C.		

DESCRIPTION

The Lion capital discovered from Sarnath near Varanasi is called **Sarnath Lion Capital**. It was built in commemoration of the historical event of the first sermon of the first **Dharma Chakra Pravartana** by the **Buddhas** at **Sarnath**. This capital was built by **Mauryan king, Ashoka**.

This capital originally consisted of **five components**—

- (i) the **shaft** made of rock but broken in many parts now,
- (ii) a **lotus bell base**,
- (iii) a **drum** on the bell base with four animals proceeding clockwise,
- (iv) the figures of four majestic adorsed **lions** which are sticking their backs and facing four different directions—**East, West, North, and South**—have been shown as the guards of the country, standing ever in alert position on their front legs, and
- (v) the crowning element, **Dharam Chakra**, a large wheel is lying in a broken condition in the site museum of Sarnath and now this symbol is used in the middle of the Indian National Flag with darkblue colour. The capital without the crowning wheel and the lotus base has been adopted as the **National Emblem** of Independent India.