

## *Examrace*

### Post Mauryan Trends in Indian Art and Architecture, Bharhut

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- From the second century BCE onwards, various rulers established their control over the vast Mauryan Empire:
- The Shungas, Kanvas, Kushanas and Guptas in the north and parts of central India; the Satvahanas, Ikshvakus, Abhiras, Vakataks in southern and western India.
- the prominent examples of the finest sculpture are found at Vidisha, Bharhut (Madhya Pradesh) ,
- Bodhgaya (Bihar) , Jaggayyapeta (Andhra Pradesh) , Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) , Khandagiri – Udaigiri.
- (Odisha) , Bhaja near Pune and Pavani near Nagpur (Maharashtra) .

### **Bharhut**

- Sculptures are tall like the images of Yakshaand Yakshini in the Mauryan period, modelling of the sculptural volume is in low relief maintaining linearity.
- Images stick to the picture plane.
- Narrative panels are shown with fewer characters but as the time progresses, apart from the main character in the story, others also start appearing in the picture space.
- At times more than one event at one geographical place is clubbed in the picture space or only a single main event is depicted in the pictorial space.
- Sculptures at Bharhut, Bodhgaya, Sanchi Stupa-2, and Jaggayyapeta are good examples.



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- In one such narrative, showing Queen Mayadevi's (mother of Siddhartha Gautam) dream, a descending elephant is shown.
- The queen is shown reclining on the bed whereas an elephant is shown on the top heading towards the womb of Queen Mayadevi.
- Ruru Jataka where the Bodhisattva deer is rescuing a man on his back.
- Interestingly, with the rise in the construction of stupas in various parts of the country, regional stylistic variations also began to emerge.
- One main characteristic in all the male images of first – second centuries BCE is the knotted headgear.
- Found at Bharhut are displayed in Indian Museum, Kolkata.

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