

### ▪ **Lomus Rishi Caves**

- The rock-cut cave carved at **Barabar hills** near Gaya in Bihar
- The **facade of the cave is decorated with the semi-circular 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 (Ajivikas were atheists)** and rejected the authority of the Vedas as well as Buddhist ideas.)
- An isolated example of this period.



Fig: Lomus Rishi cave entrance

### ▪ **Sculptures**

- Mainly for decoration of stupas.
- Famous sculpture of the period is **Yaksha and Yakshini**.

### **Yaksha and Yakshini**

- Worship of Yakshas and mother goddesses were prevalent
- **Yaksha (Pali yakkha)** are caretakers of the natural treasures hidden in the earth and tree roots.
- yaksha is the **male guard** and **Yakshini is the female guard** of lord **kubera** and his wealth.
- They safe guard the golds, diamonds, other precious stones that are hidden under the earth i.e. the core of the earth
- They appear in **Hindu, Jain and Buddhist texts**
- Large statues of Yakshas and Yakshini are found at many places like **Patna, Vidisha and Mathura**.
- One of the finest examples is a Yakshini figure from Didarganj, Patna

### **Yakshini at Didarganj**

- Life-size image
- Holding a **Chauri in right hand** and left hand is broken.
- **Tall, well proportioned, free-standing sculpture**
- Made of **sandstone** with a polished surface.
- Face – round, fleshy cheeks
- Neck- small; eyes, nose and lips are sharp.
- Tightening of garment around belly creates the effect of bulging belly.
- Lower garment – every fold is shown by protruding lines clinging to the legs which creates a transparent effect
- Thick bell ornaments adorn the feet
- Hair – tied in a knot at back. both the legs

