

- **Carved Spiritual Buddha** → represents calmness, Bearded, Moustache, wearing ornaments, Wavy hair (Greek).

Buddha was depicted in Gandhara Art, through four types of hand gestures called Mudras:

1. **Abahaya mudra:** Indicates fearlessness
2. **Dhyana mudra:** Indicates meditative position
3. **Dharma chakra mudra:** Means turning the wheel of law.
4. **Bhumi sparsha mudra:** Touching the earth with right hand and calling it to witness truth.



2. MATHURA SCHOOL OF ART (50 B.C. – 500 A.D.)

- **Mathura:** The sculptures of the Mathura school were influenced by all the three religions Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism.
- **Initial Development:** Developed in and around Mathura.
- **Patronage:** This school was patronized by Kushan rulers.
- **Major Centres:** Mathura, Sonkh and Kankalitila.

Key Feature:

- Symbolism in the images was one of the key features of the Mathura school of art like Shiva was represented using linga and mukhalinga.
- Halo around the head of Buddha was decorated geometrical patterns and Buddha is shown to be surrounded by two Bodhisattvas
- Padmapani (holding a lotus) and Vajrapani (holding a thunderbolt).

3. AMRAVATI SCHOOL OF ART (200 B.C. – 200 A.D.)

- **Amravati:** Unlike Gandhara and Mathura schools which focused on single images, Amravati School laid more emphasis on the use of dynamic images or narrative art (like jataka tales).
- **Initial Development:** Amravati School was developed on the banks of the Krishna river.
- **Major Centres:** Amravati and Nagarjunakonda.
- **Patronage:** This school was patronized by Satvahana rulers.
- Tribhanga posture, i.e. the body with three bends was used excessively by Amravati school in its sculptures.

COMPARISON BETWEEN MATHURA AND SARNATH SCHOOL OF ART

- In north India, Mathura, remained the main art production site whereas Sarnath and Kosambi also emerged as important centres of art production.
- Many Buddha images in Sarnath have plain transparent drapery covering both shoulders, and the halo around the head has very little ornamentation whereas the Mathura images continue to depict folds of the drapery in the Buddha images and the halo around the head is profusely decorated.