

- Features - cream colored sandstone, use of metal, dressed sculptures, Decorated halo around the head of Buddha.
- **Example:** Sultanganj Buddha (Bihar) - It is a copper sculpture.
- The stone carving from the temples at **Deogarh** and those from the temples of **Udayagiri and Ajanta** are excellent specimens of figure sculpture in their decorative setting. Example- **Vishnu Anantasheshashayee, Vishnu Temple, Deogarh, Uttar Pradesh.**

SCULPTURE OF SOUTH INDIA:

- **Sculptures on the walls of temple** is the important feature of **Chola temples**.
- An artistic movement of great importance flourished under the aegis of the Pallava rulers of Kanchi and they are credited with having built the seven monolithic pagodas, the rathas, in Mahabalipuram.
- The Descent of the Ganges at Mahabalipuram, is "**the largest and most elaborate sculptural composition in India**".
- Some of the outstanding sculptures that are credited to their patronage are the Mahishasuramardini in relief, Girigovardhana panel, Arjuna's penance or the Descent of the Ganga, Trivikrama Vishnu, Gajalakshmi and Anatasayanam.
- In the middle of the 8th century the Rashtrakutas wrested power from the Chalukyas. They created the greatest wonder of medieval Indian art in their **Kailasa temple at Ellora**. The beautiful architectural rock sculpture from Cave No.29 at Ellora shows the marriage of Siva and Parvati.
- Magnificent **sculpture at Ellora** is a panel depicting Ravana shaking mount Kailasa.
- The **cave-shrine at Elephanta** is another great monument of the Rashtrakutas, which contains the famous Mahishamurti. The three heads emanating from one and the same body represent three different aspects of Lord Shiva
- Sculptures of **Brihadesvara temple at Tanjavur** which is the most mature and majestic of the Chola temples. **Sculpture of Nataraja in the Tandava dance posture is notable and famous.**
- A good example of Chola craftsmanship in the 11th century is the relief carving of Siva as Gajsurasamahara murti.
- Orissan temple has representations of young and charming creatures with a seductive smile, luxurious hair full of jewellery, they are, called Nayikas.
- The famous temple at **Konark**, was built by Narasimha Varman in the middle of the 12th century and dedicated to Surya or the sun-god. It has been conceived as a huge stone chariot on immense wheels, dragged by seven rearing horses.

A splendid example of the **Hoysala sculptural art** is portrayed in the carving showing Lord Krishna holding aloft the mountain Govardhana to save the inhabitants of Gokul from the wrath of Indra Vijaynagar empire, Krishnadevraya one of the Gopuras at Chidambaram.

FEATURES OF THE NATARAJA SCULPTURE:

- The upper right hand holds the drum - Signifies the sound of creation. All creations spring from the great sound of the **damru**.
- The upper left hand holds the eternal fire - Represents destruction.
- The lower right hand - Gesture of **abhaya mudra**
- The lower left hand - Points towards the upraised foot and indicates the **path of salvation**.
- **Ardhanarishwar** - one ear of Shiva has a male earring while the other has female which represents the fusion of male and female and is referred as ardhnanarishwar.
- A snake is twisted around the arm of Shiva symbolizes the **kundalini power**, which resides in the human spine in dormant stage.



MODERN INDIAN SCULPTURE:

- The basic characteristics and problems of contemporary Indian Sculpture are very similar to those of contemporary painting.