

CC-3

Gandhara School

Presented by
Dr. Prabir Das, Dept. of History,
Jhargram Raj College

- Gandhara School - It flourished from about the middle of the first century BC to about the fifth century AD in the Gandhara region (north-western India) and hence known as the 'Gandhara School'.

- It owed its origin to the Indo-Greek rulers, but the real patrons of the school were the Sakas and the Kushanas, especially Kanishka. Owing to its intimate connection with Mahayana Buddhism, it is also called the 'Graeco- Buddhist School'.

- Gandhara School has the following main features.
- i. A tendency to mould the human body in a realistic manner with great attention to accuracy of physical details, especially the delineation of muscles, the addition of moustaches, curly hair, and the like.

- ii. The representation of thick drapery with large and bold fold lines.
- iii. Rich carving, elaborate ornamentation and complex symbolism.

- The Graeco-Roman architectural impact modified the structure of the stupa. The orthodox Indian design of the stupa was developed into an architectural composition of fine proportions and character.

- The height of the stupa was raised enormously by elevating it on a high platform and by elongating its main body upwards. Besides, plastic ornamentation was added to the structure of the stupa. All this provided the stupa effective and colourful appearance.

- The main theme of Gandhara school can be said to be the new form of Buddhism. viz. Mahayanism, and its most important contribution was the evolution of an image of the Buddha.