

Lesson No.	Title of Lesson	Module No.
2	History and Appreciation of Art (From 7th Century AD to 12th Century AD)	1

Brief Introduction

- The post-Gupta period in India is known for the progress in temple architecture.
- Major dynasties like **Pallavas, Cholas, Hoysalas** in south and **Palas, Senas and Gangas** in the east patronized this progress.
- While **Pallavas** and **Chalukyas** are remembered for their sculptural activities, **Cholas** and **Hoysalas** would always be remembered for their temple projects.

2.1

ARJUNA'S PENANCE OR GANGAVATARANA

Particulars

Title : Arjuna's
Penance or
Gangavatarana

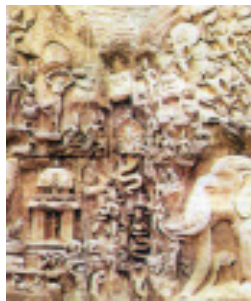
Artist : Unknown

Medium : Stone

Finding Site: Mamallapuram (Chennai)

Date : Pallava Period
(7th C.A.D)

Size : 91 ft × 152 ft (approximately)



Appreciation of the Sculpture

- This sculptural work is in relief made on two huge boulders.
- This relief depicts a crowd of life size human and animal figures mostly in flying positions.
- There is a cleft in the centre of the boulder.
- The animal figures show close observation of the artists. (e.g. The sleeping baby elephant, the monkey figures, deer scratching its nose).

Develop your understanding about the Sculpture

- The name of the relief according to some is **Arjunas's Penance** (Ascetic figure shown in meditating posture) and according to others is **Gangavatarana** where **Shiva** is shown receiving the flow of Ganges in his hair.
- The sculptures have enormous monumentality.

Evaluate Yourself

- 2.1.1 Find out the other name of **Arjuna's Penance**.
- 2.1.2 Indicate the dynasty under which **Arjuna's Penance** was built.
- 2.1.3 Identify the posture in which the ascetic figures in the crowd have been shown in **Arjuna's Penance**.

Answer

- 2.1.1 **Gangavatarana**
- 2.1.2 Pallava dynasty
- 2.1.3 Meditating posture

2.2

KRISHNA SUPPORTING MOUNT GOVARDHANA

Particulars

Title : *Krishna Supporting Mt. Govardhana*

Artist : *Unknown*

Medium : *Stone*

Finding Site : *Belur*

Date : *Hoysala period*

Size : *3ft*



Appreciation of the Sculpture

- This Krishna sculpture is one of the best examples of **Hoysala** period.
- The whole composition is shown in layers with Krishna as the central figure.
- Krishna has been shown in heroic form but his posture and rendering is very rhythmic and soft.
- Animal figures surrounding lord Krishna are lively.

Develop your understanding about the Sculpture

- Temple architecture was one of the most important activity during **Hoysala** period.
- Beautiful sculptures formed an integral part of **Hoysala** architecture.
- **Hoysala** style is named after one of the most famous dynasties of Deccan.
- Earliest major **Hoysala** temples are at Belur.

Evaluate Yourself

- 2.2.1 Identify the place where earliest major **Hoysala** temples are found.
 - 2.2.2 Determine the form in which Krishna has been shown.
 - 2.2.3 Cite an example of the delicate and intricate **Hoysala** carving.
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Answer

- 2.2.1 Belur
- 2.2.2 Heroic form
- 2.2.3 Krishna supporting mount **Govardhana**

2.3**SURASUNDARI****Particulars**

Title : *Surasundari*

Medium : *Stone*

Date : *Ganga
Dynasty
(12th CAD)*

Size : *Little more,
than life Size*

Artist : *Unknown*

Finding Site : *Konarka*

**Appreciation of the Sculpture**

- **Surasundari** is a robust yet delicately carved female figure from **Konarka** sun temple.
- She is shown playing a drum.
- In spite of her broadness, she is extremely graceful and wearing softly carved ornaments between the breasts.
- Posture is rhythmic.

Develop your understanding about the Sculpture

- Sun temple, one of the best Odishan architecture, was built by **King Narsimhadeva - I**.
- This temple is famous for its gigantic sculptures.
- **Surasundari** is a part of female musician group, carved on the temple niche.

Evaluate Yourself

- 2.3.1 Determine the dynasty and the king who built **Sun Temple of Konarka**.
- 2.3.2 Specify the size of sculptures in the **Sun Temple of Konarka**.
- 2.3.3 Identify the instrument **Surasundari** has been shown playing.

Answer

- 2.3.1 **Ganga** dynasty, **King Narsimhadeva - I**.
- 2.3.2 More than life size.
- 2.3.3 **Surasundari** is shown playing a drum.

Do You Know?

- **Pallavas** are famous for their sculptural works.
 - The main centers which flourished during this period were **Mamallapuram** (Mahabalipuram) and **Kanchipuram**.
 - **Pancharathas, Arjuna's Penance, Mandapas** and relief sculptures are seen at **Mahabalipuram**.
 - After **Pallavas**, the important southern dynasties were **Chalukya, Cholas** and **Hoysalas**.
 - **Hoysala** period is remembered for stone sculptures with intricate works.
 - **Ganga** dynasty became prominent in the east. The majestic **Sun Temple of Konarka** in Odisha is one of the best examples.
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