

Vakataka Architecture

5.1 Do you know

Description	Image	Source
The Vakatakas first find mention in the inscriptions of Amravati dated around 2 nd century CE. The Vakatakas are thus a migrant dynasty from the Krishna Valley. Early Vakataka bronzes clearly show Amravati influence. There is an alternate theory that the Amravati influence is the result of invasion of Amravati by Pravarasena I (270 CE – 330 CE)		
Vakatakas had matrimonial alliances with both the Bharasivas and the Guptas		
The marriage of Princess Prabhavati Gupta, daughter of King Chandragupta II with Vakataka Prince Rudrasena II resulted in a confluence of ideas and patronage of art and architecture in the region. As a result, Deccani art of that period is known as Gupta-Vakataka art, bronzes being one of them. A hoard containing seven bronze images had been discovered in 1964 from the village of Phophnar near Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. One of these is exhibited in the National Museum, Delhi. The Phophnar bronzes are singularly unique as they represent the transition of depiction of ‘Sangathi’, the monastic robes from being wrapped around both the shoulders to being wrapped around a single shoulder.		
The Vakataka period was marked by the prominence and evolution of Buddhist architecture especially rock cut, stepped ponds and walled enclosures. Mansar near Nagpur was one of the Vakataka capitals (of Pravarasena). Excavations conducted here have revealed a series of brick structures of various shapes consisting of temples and palaces.		
The Shiva statue found at the site popularly known as the Mansar Shiva is an important discovery in the field of Shaiva iconography. Variously described as Shiva, Gana, Nidhi and Kuber, this 84 cms tall sandstone statue is now housed in the National Museum at Delhi.		
The Mahayana Viharas of Ajanta are actually cave temples. This was a revolutionary idea and had a considerable impact on Ajanta’s large caves making them more impressive and ritually significant.		
The mode of painting used in the Ajanta is known as Tempera		

The eight Buddhas are Vipasyi, Sikhi, Visvabhu, Krakuchchanda, Kanakamuni, Kasyapa, Sakyamuni and Maitreya		
--	--	--

5.2 Web links

Web links
http://chitrolekha.com/mansar-brick-architecture-of-vakatakas/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vakataka_dynasty
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajanta_Caves
https://blogvirasatehind.com/2017/05/10/ajanta-indias-first-renaissance/

5.3 Bibliography

Bibliography
Benoy K Behl, Ajanta – Ancient Paintings of Buddhist India, 2005
Jamkhedkar. A.P , Ajanta – Monumental Legacy, 2008
Kalpa Srivats, Ajanta: A Monk's Mission and a Maiden's Mystery, 2016
Rajesh Kumar Singh, An Introduction to the Ajanta Caves, 2012
Walter Smith , Ajanta – History and Development (4 Volumes), 2005