

UPSC Q.C.A

Aditya Tiwari

Question :- Gandhara School of art was a mixture of Indian-Themes and Greco-Roman art.

Comment.

Answer :- WPHs - The Central Asian Invasions during 3rd century BCE one of the main effects occurred in India was the fusion of art forms of India and Central Asian art forms. This great fusion can be easily identified in the statues of Buddha sculpted in that era and it was flourished the most during the reign of Kanishka who was a great patron of art and architecture.

The Gandhara school of art is said to be the mixture of Indian and Greco-Roman art forms because of the following main reasons:-

- The topics or the themes were Indian and.
- The art form and designs used were Greco-Roman.

If we talk about the topics then mostly we can find the statues of Buddha in 'famous four mudras' which are, Abhaya, Dharmachakra, Dhyan and Dharmachakra, and also the depiction of various buddhist tales.

The main difference in the statues of Gandhara art and all other art forms is the mixture of Greco-Roman style. For example - In this art form Buddha statues were depicted more sturdy and having a healthy body which was a sign of Greco-Roman style because in other Indian art forms the Buddha was depicted quite leaner. The main focus in Gandhara art is

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is given to the physique rather than facial expressions.

One other main feature of this fusion is the thick drapery of Buddha which was a feature of Central Asian art form which may perhaps symbolizes the weather condition of that area because in Indian Subcontinent the use of thick drapery was hardly used those days. Instead of thick drapery the bodily features were depicted with detailed features.

The other similarity of Gandhar school of art with Greco-Roman art forms is the use of Stone and Stucco which were both grey in colour and this colour was most prominent in many Central Asian art forms.

Some other minute features of similarity can be noticed as the wavy hairs of Buddha and the depiction of Buddha face like Greek god Apollo.

In general we can say that this similarity or fusion of arts were the results of fusion of civilisation but also it was most prominent in that area because of the geographical proximity to the central Asia because the area Gandhar makes, Herat falls in the route of Central Asia to India.

V. Good