



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO NATIONAL MUSEUM, JANPATH

Bal Bharati Public School Noida in an endeavour to promote holistic learning and knowledge of our varied cultural heritage conducted a visit to the National Museum in New Delhi, one of the largest museums in India, on 21 May 2019. Established in 1949, it holds variety of articles ranging from pre-historic era to modern works of art. 33 students from XII standard accompanied by two teachers took a guided tour round the museum.



Extracting every bit of knowledge about the Historical civilisations

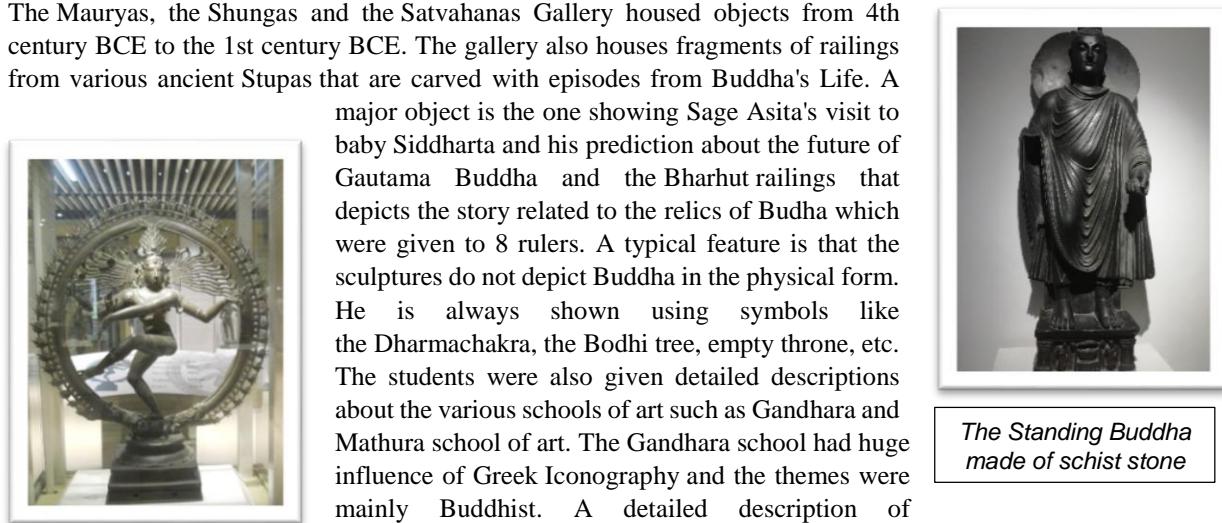


Sculptures and seals from the Harappan Civilization

A five-tier wooden temple chariot built in South India in the 19th century welcomes the visitors at the entry gate of the museum. The first gallery houses finds from the Harappan Civilisation. Most famous among the finds are the Priest Head, the Dancing Girl made in Bronze, Skeleton excavated from Rakhigarhi in Haryana, Terracotta images of Mother Goddess and Clay Pottery. Vivid descriptions of the Harappan pictographic script served as a great source of understanding the civilisation.



The finds of the Mother Goddess



A Bronze Sculpture of Nataraja

The Mauryas, the Shungas and the Satavahanas Gallery housed objects from 4th century BCE to the 1st century BCE. The gallery also houses fragments of railings from various ancient Stupas that are carved with episodes from Buddha's Life. A major object is the one showing Sage Asita's visit to baby Siddharta and his prediction about the future of Gautama Buddha and the Bharhut railings that depicts the story related to the relics of Budha which were given to 8 rulers. A typical feature is that the sculptures do not depict Buddha in the physical form. He is always shown using symbols like the Dharmachakra, the Bodhi tree, empty throne, etc. The students were also given detailed descriptions about the various schools of art such as Gandhara and Mathura school of art. The Gandhara school had huge influence of Greek Iconography and the themes were mainly Buddhist. A detailed description of the Standing Buddha, made in Grey schist stone was given to the students. The bronze gallery contained bronze sculptures of various gods and goddesses. The most intricate amongst them all is the Bronze sculpture of Nataraja, a form of Shiva



The Standing Buddha made of schist stone



An exquisite work of art

The Buddhist Art Section housed the Sacred Relics of Buddha excavated from Piprahwa in Uttar Pradesh. These relics along with the other objects stimulate a sense of Devotion, Dedication and Love for Humanity.

The last gallery was the Miniature Painting Gallery, housing over 17,000 miniature paintings. The paintings show the rich heritage of Indian art through the centuries. These paintings belong to major styles such as Mughal, Deccani, Central India, Rajasthani, Pahari and made on palm leaves, Cloth, Wood, Leather, Painted Manuscripts, Covers on Wood and Hardboard & Thankas on Canvas.



The Sacred Relics of Buddha

All in all, the visit was a fruitful one as the students got an opportunity to visualise the knowledge they gained from books and understand the importance of our historical civilisations and their culture, parts of which we have imbibed even in our present cultures. The rich holdings of various creative traditions and disciplines which represents a unity amidst diversity, an unmatched blend of the past with the present and strong perspective for the future, brings history to life.



Students at the National Museum

-Vanshika Gur

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(Heritage Club)