

Unity and Diversity in the Art of India

Buddhism Vocabulary

bodhisattva	a being seeking enlightenment who postpones nirvana to help all other living creatures
circumambulate	to walk around (something) in a complete circle, as a ritual of respect
dharmachakra	the teachings of the Buddha, or the “Wheel of the Law”
indie	term used to describe the culture of ancient India including the regions of modern Pakistan and Bangladesh
Maitreya	the Buddha of the future
nirvana	the ultimate goal of Buddhists: final extinction of the self with no further incarnations; oblivion
stupa	dome-like mound containing Buddhist relics
urna	the spot (a tuft of hair) on the Buddha’s brow between his eyes; indicating his special insight
ushnisha	the lump or topknot on the top of the Buddha’s head; a mark of wisdom
yoga	physical and meditative practice designed to attain control over desire