

# Ancient Buddhist Stupa from Sanchi

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**Abstract** Rise of Buddhism in India during the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. was a significant event in the history of India. Buddhists have greatly contributed to evolution of dome structures known as '*Stupa*'. The *Stupa* was a mound, commemorating the Buddha's death, originally a funeral tumulus. The term *Stupa* is applied to monuments over the relics of the Buddha and his disciples and other distinguished persons. The earliest stupas were built by the recipients over the divided ashes of Buddha. The stupas are of three kinds: the *Saririka stupas* raised over body relics; *Uddesika stupas* built as commemorative monuments; and *paribhogika Stupas* erected over the articles like the bowl, the sanghati etc. used by lord Buddha. The earliest and the grandest Stupa which survives till today, is the Great Sanchi which was initially built by Emperor Asoka. Sanchi is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Keywords** Ancient domes, Buddhist stupa, Sanchi shrine

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