Puranas
Inspiration for Mythic Tales Carved on Ancient Hindu Monuments

Gupta Period: 4th-6th Centuries CE (Northern India)
Candragupta I (c. 319-335)
Samudragupta (c. 335-376)
Ramagupta (c. 376-380)
Candragupta II (c. 380-415)

Udayagiri, Madhya Pradesh
Cave 6, c. 401 CE: Ganesha, Mahisasuramardini
Cave 5, c. 401 CE: Vishnu Varaha (Boar avatar)

Deogarh
Dasavatara Temple, c. late 5th century CE
Ganesha
Vishnu Anantasayin
Nara and Narayana
Gajendramoksha

Pallava Period: 6th-8th century CE (Southern India)
Mahendravarman I (r. 600-630 CE)
Narasimhavarman I took the title of ‘Mamalla’ (r. 630-670).
Narasimhavarman II Rajasimha (r. 700-728)

Mahamallapuram
Mahisasuramardini Cave (Durga Cave)
Great Relief, at least two interpretations:
• Descent of the Ganges
• Penance of Arjuna (Pandava hero of the epic Mahabharata)

References
