

Art and Culture Class 01

11th February, 2024 at 9:30 AM

TOPICS TO BE COVERED (9:40 AM)

- Architecture and Sculpture
- Religion and Philosophy
- Classical dance
- Classical music
- Language and Literature
- Painting
- Bhakti and Sufi movement
- Topics to cover under architecture and sculpture:
 - **1) Ancient India**
 - Indus Valley Civilisation
 - Maurya age art
 - Post Maurya art
 - Gupta Age art
 - South Indian architecture

- **2) Medieval India**
- **2.1) Delhi Sultanate**
- **2.1.1) Imperial Art**
- a) Slave period
- b) Khilji period
- c) Tughlaq period
- d) Sayyid period
- e) Lodi period
- **2.1.2) Provincial art**
- a) Bengal
- b) Jaunpur
- c) Malwa
- d) Gujrat
- e) Bijapur
- **2.2) Mughal Period**
- **2.2.1) Mughal Art**
- a) Akbar's period
- b) Jahangir's period
- c) Shah Jahan period
- d) Aurangzeb period
- **2.2.2) Provincial Art**
- a) Sikh Architecture
- b) Rajput Architecture
- **3) Modern British Period**
- **3.1) British**
- a) Indo-Gothic Style
- b) Neo-Roman Style
- **3.2) Provincial**
- a) Awadh Architecture

INDUS VALLEY ARCHITECTURE (10:44 AM)

- **Seals**
- They are regarded as one of the most important artefacts found in Indus town.
- To this date, more than 6000 seals have been discovered.
- It is a geometrical-shaped object mainly created from **soft river stone steatite**.
- There were also instances of seals created from **metals like gold, silver, bronze and terracotta**.
- Seals are **pictographic** in nature which means it has pictures and symbols. The pattern of creating pictures and symbols is known as Sarpleshna
- **Examples:**
- **Pashupati seals**
- It is believed to be an image of Proto-Shiva or Aadi-shiva.
- In this image, a person is depicted sitting in a yogic posture and surrounded by many animals like bull, elephant, tiger, Rhino and Deer.
- It can be inferred from this image that meditational practices were known to the Indus Valley people.
- **Unicorn seal**
- It is a presentation of a mythical one-horned animal.
- **Sea with Pipal tree leaf**
- It is indicative of nature worship.
- **Usage of the seal**
- Perhaps, there were the earliest types of **coinage** used in the Indian subcontinent.
- It was also used as a stamp of Indus Valley Civilisation which **facilitated trade**.
- In some of the seals **mathematical symbols like Pi, Phi, and Si** were created on the basis of it, it is said that they were used as educational tools.
- Seals were also used as **Shamanic objects** like amulets to ward off evil.

POTTERY (11:23 AM)

- **General ware pottery**
- It was mainly red in colour and was used for storage of grains, water and utensils.
- **Miniature pottery**
- It was a small pottery but with an elongated narrow neck.
- Beautiful designs were created on this pottery and it was mainly meant for decoration.
- **Polychrome pottery**
- It was multicoloured pottery.
- **Faience vessel**
- Faience is a bony white colour material mainly found in Dholavira and Lothal.
- It was used for creating household utensils.
- **Perforated pottery**
- It was smokey grey in colour and not completely baked.
- It was meant for straining liquor.

REFERENCE MATERIAL (11:32 AM)

- NCERTS- Part 1, Fine arts (one reading only)
- Class notes

SCULPTURE (11:44 AM)

- **Stone sculpture**
- **Examples:**
- **Bearded Priest**
- It was created from soft river stone, steatite.
- The person is depicted with an armband, a headband and a trefoil pattern shawl.
- **Terracotta sculpture**
- A large number of figures and figurines were created from terracotta which includes small birds, animals etc.
- The most important terracotta figurine was the **mother goddess**. It was the most abundant image found in the Indus towns.
- She is often regarded as the **goddess of fertility**.
- In some of the images, a plant is depicted emerging from the naval point of the goddess.
- **Bronze sculpture**
- The bronze sculpture was created from the lost wax technique.
- In the very initial step, a wax figure was created which was coated with clay and baked on fire.
- The molten wax was replaced by molten bronze and after cooling, clay was removed and the sculpture was polished from outside.
- **E.g. The dancing girl of Mohen-jo-daro**

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS- MAURYAN ARCHITECTURE