

Timeline of Blue Pottery in India

A concise history of Jaipur's world-famous blue pottery, from ancient origins to modern revival.

Harappan Pottery (c. 3300-1300 BCE)

Wheel-turned terracotta jars, bowls, and beakers painted in red and black with geometric and animal motifs, setting the base for Indian pottery traditions.

Mauryan & Gupta Pottery (c. 322 BCE - 550 CE)

Mauryan Northern Black Polished Ware for elites; Gupta pottery added carved floral and animal motifs, blending utility with decorative appeal.

Arrival of Glazed Pottery (c. 1206-1526 CE)

Persian artisans introduced mineral-glazed turquoise, green, and blue pottery under the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals, adorning mosques and palaces.

Birth of Jaipur Blue Pottery (c. 1727-1799 CE)

Rajasthan artisans used quartz instead of clay, creating translucent pottery with cobalt blue Persian-inspired floral, bird, and lattice motifs.

Royal Patronage & Flourishing (c. 1800-1900 CE)

Jaipur rulers funded workshops, producing grand vases, ornate tiles, and crockery with lotus, peacock, and elephant motifs for palaces and temples.

Decline & Near Extinction (c. 1900-1947 CE)

Loss of royal patronage and high pigment costs reduced production to small trinkets; only a few artisans kept the tradition alive.

Revival & Preservation (c. 1950-1975 CE)

NGOs, craft enthusiasts, and Jaipur royals revived the craft, training artisans in traditional quartz techniques and promoting it at exhibitions.

Modern Era (2000-Present)

GI-tagged Jaipur Blue Pottery is now a global craft, blending traditional cobalt blue with modern designs for domestic and export markets.