



MODULE-5

INDIAN TRADITIONS, CULTURAL AND SOCIETY

Module 5- Cultural Heritage and Performing Arts

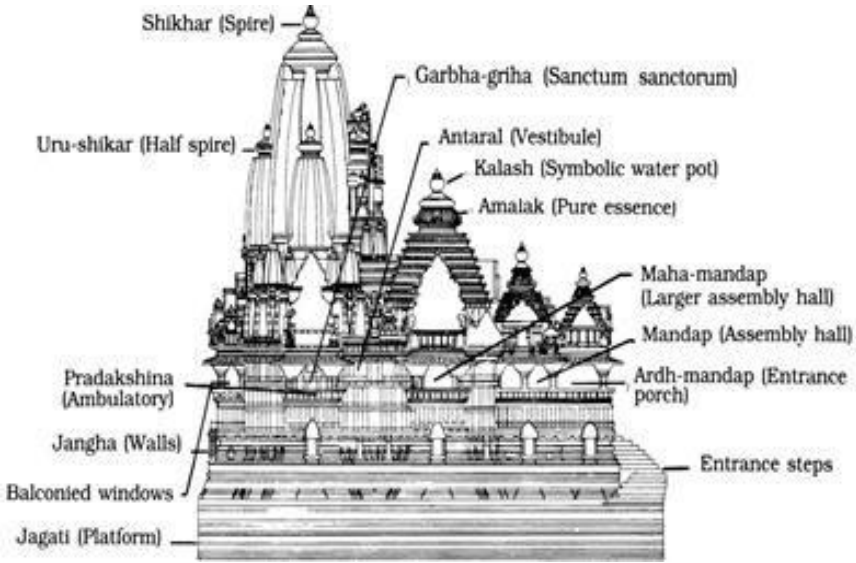
Indian Architect, Engineering and Architecture in Ancient India, Sculptures, Seals, coins, Pottery, Puppetry, Dance, Music, Theatre, drama, Painting, Martial Arts Traditions, Fairs and Festivals, Current developments in Arts and Cultural, Indian's Cultural Contribution to the World. Indian Cinema

Indian Traditional Architecture

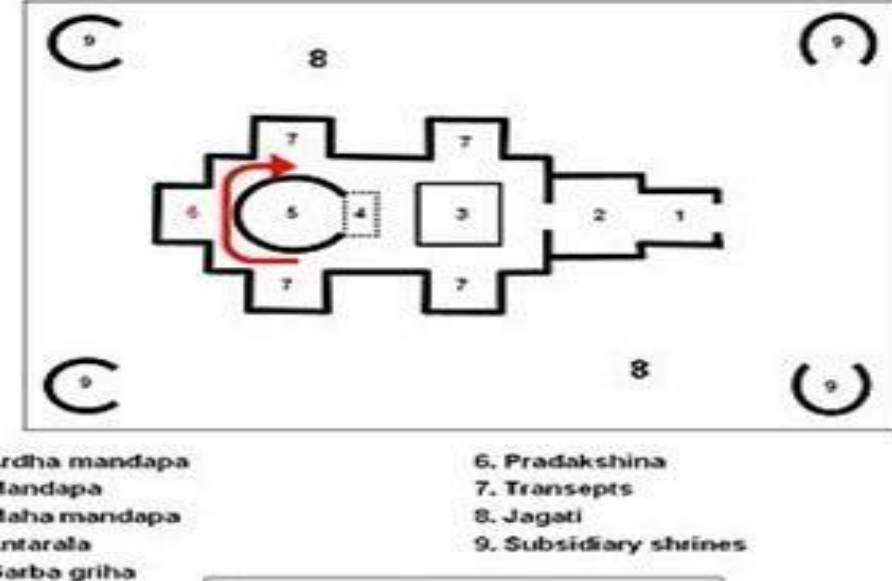
- A range of architectural varieties have developed in the parts of the country due to its diversified socio-cultural, traditional and religious background as well as most importantly climatic variations.
- Historical evidence says that several famous historic civilizations were flourished in India along with their diversified cultural, religious and traditional features.
- Thus, the emergence and decay of different dynasties influenced the evolution of Indian architecture.
- Additionally, India was invaded several times by the great leaders from different region of world. They brought their own culture, religion and tradition along with them. Thus, external influences have also shaped the nature of Indian architecture

Hinduism and Hindu architecture

- Mainly the religion followed in India is Hinduism which has contributed in the development of huge number of temples.
- A temple in Hinduism is the abode of God that means it is a structure allocated for religious activities such as prayer and sacrifice in front of deity.
- Here, some sort of offerings is made to the deity and other rituals are also performed.
- A typical temple has a main building and a larger precinct, sometimes containing many other buildings related with temple activity too.



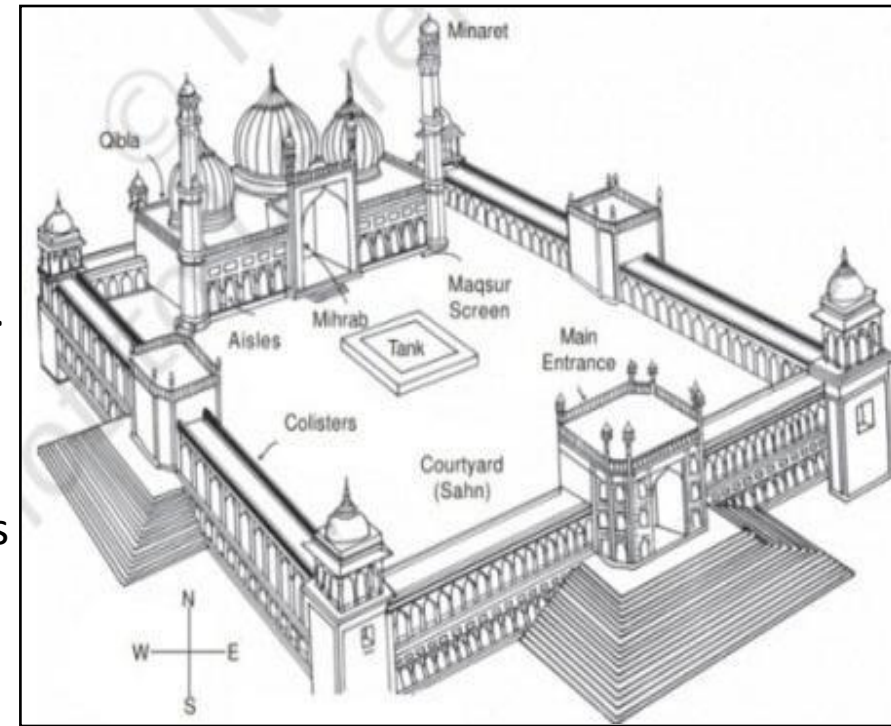
Temple Architecture



- The architecture of Hindu temples evolved since history with a great variety in it. Hindu temples are of different shapes and sizes— rectangular, octagonal and circular with different types of domes and gates.
- The steeple of the dome is called **Shikhara** that represents the mythological Meru or the highest mountain peak.
- The shape of the dome varies from region to region and the steeple is often in the form of the trident of Shiva.
- The inner chamber of the temple called **Garbhagriha** where the image or idol of the deity is kept.
- Most of the large temples have a hall for the audience to be gathered. This is called the **Nata-mandira** where previously women dancers or devadasis used to perform dance rituals. The hall is usually decorated with paintings of gods and goddesses.
- Most temples have a walkway around the walls of the inner chamber for circum-ambulation by devotees around the deity
- The temple complex consisting of the main shrine and other smaller shrines are enclosed by the outer wall called as the **prakara**. Along these outer walls are the intricate and marvelous gateways called as **gopurams**.

Islamic philosophy and Indo-Islamic architecture

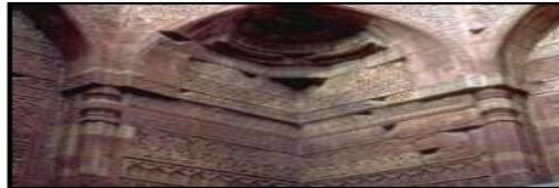
- Indo-Islamic architecture refers to the architecture developed in the land of Indian subcontinent by the Islamic persons to fulfill their purposes.
- Islamic tradition started to flourish when Mohammed Ghorī occupied India at the end of the 12 century A.D.
- The Islamic features and techniques were incorporated in the new building form combining with local building tradition. Thus, a new style of architecture was flourished; called the **Indo-Islamic architecture** which is amalgamation of Islamic and Hindu Style.
- Generally, as per Islamic philosophy, the worship is performed as congregational prayer in **mosques** and construction of **tomb** was also followed for burial purpose; while the fort and palaces were also part of this style of architecture.
- Indo-Islamic style of Architecture may be categorized in the different forms of buildings like Secular, Religious, Military, Recreational structures.
- Secular architecture was flourished for the need of the great Islamic rulers for their living purpose like palaces, harem, ministerial quarters, stables, etc.
- Most constructed Religious structures may be divided into three typologies; namely **Mosque, Tomb and Idgah.**
- Military architecture was developed mainly to fulfill the security of the rulers for example, forts and fortifications, watch towers, gateways etc.



- In case of Indo-Islamic Style of architecture, the construction technique was based mainly on **arches, vaults and domes**. Decoration and ornamentation were formed an essential part of Islamic architecture in India.
- Those were achieved through **arabesques** or geometrics, **calligraphies**, floral patterns as motifs and design, painting, glass-mosaic, glazed tiling, **inlay work** etc.
- **Dome** was a prominent part which was constructed over the mosque and a tomb to show the supremacy of the Almighty.
- The most prominent form of opening was **Arches** like, pointed, cusped, foliated & ogee.
- A **Squinch** is a wedge-shaped arch that fits on the top corners of a square space.
- **Muqarnas** design is a honeycomb motif, basically, it is a group of small arched cells one on the other.
- The domes of the building are crowned with **Finials** which is made of masonry, marble or metal showing Purna-kalasha, lotus etc.
- **Arabesque** is formed with interlacing stems, lines. Lines are curved, pointed, smooth, never isolated.



Dome and Arch



Squinch



Geometric Design



Arabesque



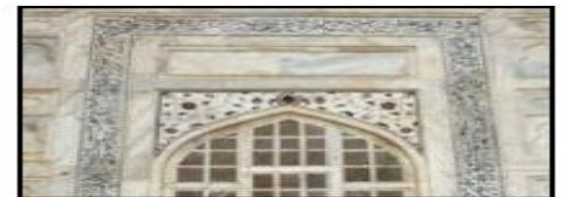
Muqarnas



Finial



Calligraphy

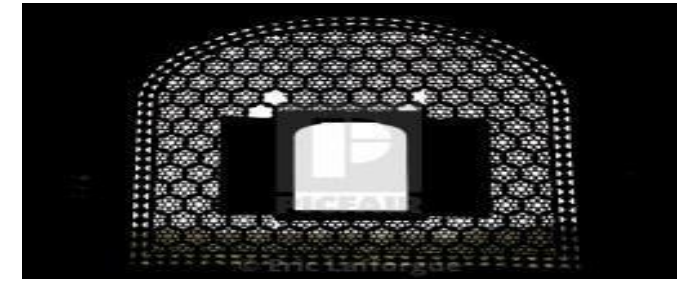


Calligraphy



Jharokha

Rajput style of architecture



Jali

The Rajput style of architecture mainly comprising a blend of Mughal and Hindu features showcases grand **havelis**, astonishing **forts** and exquisitely carved **temples**. The artists of Rajasthan established major architectural styles and elements like-

- **Jharokhas** (a type of overhanging balcony),
 - **Chhatris** (elevated and dome-shaped pavilions),
 - **Chajjas** (projecting eaves supported on large carved brackets),
 - **Jalis** (perforated stone or latticed screen used for ventilation as well as decoration),
 - **Baodis** (step wells).
- **Haveli** in Persia is 'hawli' which means an **enclosed place**. The nucleus of these havelis was the courtyard; some havelis had two such courtyards – the outer one for the males and the inner secluded one for the females of the family. The courtyard served as a light well and was very effective for ventilation in such hot and dry climates.
- **Durg** is the Indian term for 'fort', means 'difficult to trespass'; while signifying its importance of site strengthening with a strong wall and a moat to make it an impregnable bastion. The Rajputs were creative builders and erected some of the most grand and impressive forts and palaces. Some of them may be referred to Chittorgarh, Jaisalmer, Meharangarh, Amber, Jaigarh fort.



Chhatri

Sculptures in India

- **Cultural stonework in India** - in the form of primitive cupule art - dates back to the era of prehistoric art of the Lower Paleolithic, around 700,000 BCE
- By the time of the Bronze Age, sculpture was already the predominant form of artistic expression throughout the Indian subcontinent, even though mural painting was also popular. Sculpture was used mainly as a **form of religious art to illustrate the principles of Hinduism, Buddhism, or Jainism**
- Indian sculptors have focused not on **three-dimensional volume and fullness, but on linear character - that is to say, the figure is designed on the basis of its outline, and** is typically graceful and slender.
- The origin of **plastic art in India** dates back to the northwestern Indus valley civilization, which was noted primarily for its terracotta sculpture - mainly small figurines - but also for the pioneering bronze sculpture of the Harappan Culture.
- Other important milestones in the history of sculpture include: **the Buddhist Pillars of Ashoka of the Mauryan period**, with their wonderful carved capitals (3rd century BCE); the figurative Greco-Buddhist sculpture of the Gandhara and Mathura schools, and the Hindu art of the Gupta period (1st-6th century CE).
- Khajuraho Temples in Madhya Pradesh, which were erected in the 10th/11th century by the Chandela dynasty, and which were renowned for the erotic content of their stone sculpture, Indian sculpture had reached the end of its most creative stage.
- **From then on, sculpture was designed mostly as a form of architectural decoration, with huge quantities of small, mediocre figures being manufactured for this purpose.**

Indus Valley Civilization Sculpture (c.3300-1300 BCE)

- The art of sculpture began in India during the Indus Valley civilization which encompassed parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan and north-west India as far south as Rajkot.
- Excavations at Indus valley sites at Mohenjo-daro and Harappa in modern-day Pakistan have uncovered a large quantity of terracotta sculpture and steatite seals, featuring images of female dancers, animals, foliage and deities.
- But Indus sculpture is most famous for its figurative bronze known as The Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-Daro (2500 BCE, National Museum, New Delhi), contemporary with masterpieces of Mesopotamian sculpture such as Ram in a Thicket (2500 BCE, British Museum).
- For a comparison with Chinese metalwork please see Sanxingdui Bronzes (1200-1000 BCE).

Mauryan Sculpture: Pillars of Ashoka (3rd Century BCE)

- The story of monumental stone sculpture begins with the Maurya Dynasty, when sculptors first started to carve illustrative scenes from India's three main religions - Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.
- One of the earliest Mauryan patrons of the arts was Emperor Ashoka (ruled 270-232 BCE) who decided to spread the Buddhist faith through the construction of 85,000 stupas or dome-shaped monuments, decorated with Buddhist writings and imagery engraved on rocks and pillars.
- The finest example is probably the Great Stupa at Sanchi, whose carved gateways depict a variety of Buddhist legends.
- The actual Pillars of Ashoka, typically erected at Buddhist monasteries or other pilgrimage sites, were hewn out of sandstone and topped with capitals decorated with carvings of animals, mainly lions. The lions are depicted in the round, either seated or standing.

Ajanta Caves (c.200 BCE - 650 CE)

- Located in a remote valley in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, Western India, the Ajanta Caves are world famous for their cave art - paintings and carvings illustrating the life of Buddha.
- There are some 29 rock-cut caves in total, five of which were used as temples or prayer halls, and twenty-four as monasteries.
- The earliest date from the 2nd and 1st century BCE; more caves were carved and decorated during the Gupta Empire (400–650 CE).
- The parietal art at Ajanta includes some of the finest masterpieces of Buddhist iconography in India.
- In addition to numerous serene statues of Buddha, the Ajanta sculptures include intricate images of animals, warriors, and deities while the paintings depict tales of ancient courtly life and Buddhist legend.
- Finally abandoned about 650 CE, in favour of the Ellora caves some 100 kilometres (62 miles) away, the Ajanta Caves were gradually forgotten until 1819, when they were accidentally rediscovered by a British officer during a tiger-hunt. Since 1983, the Ajanta Caves have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Hindu Sculpture of the Gupta Empire (flourished 320-550)

- Founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta, the Gupta Empire, is often referred to as the Classical or Golden Age of India, and was characterized by extensive inventions and enormous progress in technology, engineering, literature, mathematics, astronomy and philosophy, that laid the basis for what is generally termed Hindu culture.
- During this period Hinduism became the official religion of the Gupta Empire, which saw the emergence of countless images of popular Hindu deities such as Vishnu (see the colossal image of Vishnu in the Udaigiri caves in Madhya Pradesh), Shiva, Krishna and the goddess Durga.
- The Gupta style of sculpture remained relatively uniform across the empire. It incorporated the earlier figurative styles practiced in Gandhara and Mathura, but introduced new and more sophisticated forms and motifs.
- It is marked in particular by sensuous modelling of bodies and faces, harmonious proportions and more subtle expressions. The most innovative and influential artistic centres included Sarnath and Mathura.

Elephanta Caves (c.550-720)

- The famous rock-cut Elephanta Caves - created some time between the mid-5th and the 8th century - are a complex of rock-cut basalt caves located on Elephanta Island, in Mumbai Harbour, about 10 kilometres (6 miles) east of the city of Mumbai, in Maharashtra.
- The complex contains two groups of caves; the first is a group of five Hindu caves dedicated to the god Shiva; the second, a smaller group of two Buddhist caves. The last (Hindu) cave to be in active use was abandoned during the 16th century.
- The Elephanta Caves are known in particular for their Hindu rock art, featuring sculptures of many figures from the Hindu pantheon, such as Shiva, Vishnu, Parvati, Brahma, Ravana and Shiva's elephant-headed son Ganesha.
- The most important sculpture in the caves is the Trimurti (or Maheshmurti), set deep into a recess at the back of the cave opposite the entrance. Described by one scholar as a "masterpiece of Gupta-Chalukyan art", the 20-foot high Trimurti is a relief carving of a three-headed Shiva, whose three heads (Ardhanarishvara, Mahayogi and Aghori) symbolize the three fundamental aspects of Shiva: creation, protection, and destruction.

Pallava and Pandya Sculpture from South India (600-900)

- Nearly all the sculpture created in southern India during the 7th, 8th and 9th centuries, is associated with the Pallavas or the Pandyas - the two most important Hindu dynasties of the time.
- Pallava rule was centered on the eastern coastline and included the city of Mamallapuram, in the Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu, which was famous for being the site of the carved-stone cliff created by Pallava kings in the 7th century.
- The Pallava era is significant for marking the transition from rock-cut architecture to stone temples. Its best-known achievements include the Kailasanatha temple in Kanchipuram (685-705) noted for its huge pillars ornamented with multi-directional carvings of lions, and the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram (7th century), overlooking the Bay of Bengal, which was decorated with copious stone statues and reliefs of Vishnu, Shiva, Krishna and other Hindu deities.

Chandela Stone Sculpture in Central India (10th-13th century)

- The Rajput clan of the Chandelas ruled the Bundelkhand region of central India between the 10th and the 13th centuries.
- Chandela culture is best-known for the nagara-style architecture and erotic stone sculpture at the temples of Khajuraho - now a UNESCO world heritage site.
- Mostly erected between 950 and 1050, the Khajuraho complex consists of 85 Hindu and Jain temples spread over 2.5 square miles, southeast of Jhansi, in Madhya Pradesh.
- Made from sandstone on a granite foundation, the Khajuraho temples were actively used by worshippers until the establishment of the Delhi Sultanates of the 13th century.

Mughal Relief Sculpture

- From 1526 until 1857, much of northern India was ruled by the Mughals, Islamic rulers from Central Asia.
- During this era, the principal artistic activity was painting, while metalwork, and ivory carving as well as marble sculpture also flourished.
- The quality of Mughal stonework is exemplified by a number of intricately carved sandstone screens.
- The Mughal Emperor Akbar was an enthusiastic patron of stone carving. He commissioned statues of Jai Mal and Fatha (Rajput heroes of Chittor) shown sitting on elephants, to guard the gate of the Agra Fort.
- In general, Mughal rulers were great admirers of relief sculpture (including abstract work as well as naturalist depictions of flowers, butterflies, insects and clouds) which was regarded as an essential element of Mughal architecture, and embellished their buildings with a wide variety of this type of decorative art: an example being the 50 varieties of marble carving on the walls of Akbar's tomb at Sikandra.

History of Coin and Currency

- The rupee in your pocket has a mysterious past. Behind Mahatma Gandhi's smiling face lies a long history of struggle, exploration, and wealth that can be traced back to the ancient India of the 6th century BC.
- Let's demystify this history by bringing you the interesting stories about how Indian currency has evolved over the ages into the rupee of today.
- Ancient Indians were the earliest issuers of coins in the world, along with the Chinese and Lydians (from the Middle East).
- The first Indian coins – punch marked coins called *Puranas, Karshapanas or Pana* – were minted in the 6th century BC by the Mahajanapadas (republic kingdoms) of ancient India. These included Gandhara, Kuntala, Kuru, Panchala, Shakya, Surasena, and Saurashtra.
- Made of silver of a standard weight but with irregular shapes, these coins had different markings – for example, Saurashtra had a humped bull, Dakshin Panchala had a Swastika, and Magadha had several symbols.

- Then came the Mauryas who punch marked their coins with a **royal standard**. Chanakya, prime minister to the first Mauryan emperor Chandragupta Maurya, mentions the minting of coins such as *rupyarupa* (silver), *suvarnarupa* (gold), *tamararupa* (copper) and *sisarupa* (lead) in his *Arthashastra* treatise.
- The Indo-Greek Kushan kings who came next introduced the Greek custom of engraving portrait heads on coins.
- The Gupta Empire produced large numbers of gold coins depicting the Gupta kings performing various rituals.
- By the 12th century AD, the Turkish Sultans of Delhi had replaced the royal designs of Indian kings with Islamic calligraphy. The currency – made in gold, silver and copper – was now referred to as *tanka*, with the lower valued coins being called *jittals*.
- The commencement of the Mughal Empire from 1526 AD brought forth a unified and consolidated monetary system for the entire empire.
- **But the defining moment in the evolution of the rupee occurred when, after defeating Humayun, Sher Shah Suri set up a new civic and military administration. He issued a coin of silver, weighing 178 grains, which was termed the *rupiya* and was divided into 40 copper pieces or *paisa*.**

- By the time the British East India Company set itself up in India in the 1600s, Sher Shah's silver *rupiya* had already become the popular standard currency in the country
- Paper money was first issued in British India in the 18th century, with the Bank of Hindostan, General Bank in Bengal and the Bengal Bank becoming the first banks in India to issue paper currency.
- The oldest surviving banknote in India was issued by the Bank of Bengal – a *Two Hundred and Fifty Sicca Rupees* note dated September 3, 1812.
- The Reserve Bank of India was formally set up in 1935 and was empowered to issue Government of India notes. RBI also printed 10,000 rupee notes (the highest denomination RBI has ever printed in its history) that were later demonetised after independence.
- After India became independent in 1947, India's monetary system remained unchanged for a while, with 1 rupee consisting of 64 *pice*. The **first banknote printed by independent India was a 1 rupee note**

Indian Painting

The origin of Indian painting goes back to 8000 years and an account of its development is inextricably meshed with the development of Indian civilization.

- **Prehistoric painting:** Theme of painting were Hunting theme (group Hunting scenes); Figures of animals & birds; Battle Scenes; Dancing Scenes. Example; Bhimbetka Caves (MP).
- **Mural paintings:** made on walls of caves and palaces. The caves of Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta also on the Bagh caves and Sittanvasal are examples of it.
- **Tanjore Art:** Folk art is linked with the forgotten art of story telling. Paintings are used to depict the visual counterpoint in narration in every region of India. Art forms of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Bengal narrate the myths and legends of local heroes and deities and construct a kaleidoscopic image of our glorious past and rich cultural heritage.
- **Madhubani Painting:** also referred to as Mithila Art (as it flourishes in the Mithila region of Bihar), is characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns. This style of painting has been traditionally done by the women of the region, though today men are also involved to meet the demand.

- **Warli Folk Painting:** Warli is the name of the largest tribe found on **the northern outskirts of Mumbai**, in Western India. While there are no records of the exact origins of this art, its roots may be traced to as early as the 10th century A.D. Warli is the vivid expression of daily and social events of the Warli tribe used by them to embellish the walls of village houses.
- **Odisha Pattachitra Painting:** The name Pattachitra has evolved from the Sanskrit words patta, meaning canvas, and chitra, meaning picture. Pattachitra is thus a painting done on canvas, and is manifested by rich colourful application, creative motifs and designs, and portrayal of simple themes, mostly mythological in depiction.
- **Rajasthani Miniature Painting:** The art of Miniature painting was introduced to the land of India by the Mughals, who brought the much-revealed art form from Persian and the Indian artists produced paintings in a new distinctive style, inspired by the royal and romantic lives of the Mughals.
- **Kalamezhuthu:** Is part of the domestic **routine in Hindu households**, who consider it auspicious to draw certain patterns at the doorstep and courtyard to welcome a deity into the house. This art form is a harmonious blend of Aryan, Dravidian and Tribal traditions.

Pottery

- **The art of handling of clay called** Pottery was one of the earliest skills known to the Indians.
- Pottery is an art that has evolved since time immemorial. The origins of pottery date back to the Neolithic Era; however in India it began with the Indus Valley Civilization and was developed as a response to the needs of mankind.
- **Unglazed Pottery:** Use Thin paper and produced mainly in Kutch, Kanpur and Alwar
- **Glazed Pottery:** white background and blue and green patterns is developed in Delhi, Amritsar, Jaipur, Khurja, Chunar and Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, and Karigari in Tamilnadu
- **Ceramic pots of Jaipur:** covered with finely ground glass and fired
- **Terracotta:** The rural parts of India commonly display terracotta animal figures in places of worship or under the mango or pipal trees in the vicinity of temples.

Puppet

- The puppets are believed to be around since the time of Harappa and Mohenjodaro civilisation dating back to 2300 BC. Several dolls with strings are found in some of the harappan cities.
- The Mahabharata refers to popular entertainment in India including art of puppetry and shadow theatre. There is reference in Gita where the three qualities found in men (Satta, Rajah and Tamah)

Forms:

- **String Puppets (Rajasthan):** Puppets are tied with different strings
- **Shadow Puppets (South India):** Puppet's shadows are shown to public
- **Rod Puppets (Bihar Odisha, WB):** All puppets are joined by rods.
- **Glove Puppets (Kerala):** The glove puppets are worn on hands just like a glove.

Indian Music

- There are two main schools of Indian classical music: the Hindustani style of the North and the Karnatak (also spelled Karnatak and Karanatic) of the South.
- The Hindustani style features a number of Turko-Persian musical elements not found in the more varied and, in some ways, complex Karnatak style. Well-known Hindustani styles include Dhrupad, Dhamar, Khayal, Tappa and Thumri.
- A *gharana* (literally meaning "extended family") is a school of music. Certain ones have good reputations. Gharanas are more like philosophical schools than formal institutions.
- Some styles of Indian music are associated with a specific faith. *Bhajans* and *kirtis*, for example, are Hindu devotional songs; and *qawali* is a form rooted in Sufi Islam.

Different Forms

- **Hindustani Music:** Influenced by music from Persia and Central Asia, Music from the north can be divided into two types: 1) classical and 2) light classical (also referred to as semi-classical).
- **Karnatak:** Purandara Dasa is regarded as the Father of Karnatak music. it is freer and has a more positive and upbeat mood more close to its Hindu origins
- **Dhrupad:** *Dhrupad* is the most austere form of classical singing and playing. Closely connected to the famous Mughal singer Tansen
- **Khayal and Thumri:** *Khayal* (also spelled khyal, derived from a Persian word meaning "imagination") *Thumri* Created by Nawab Ali Shah, known for its graceful, lyrical melodies.
- **Ghazal:** meaning "to talk amorously to women" is known as light style of classical Persian love music adored by the Mughals
- **Sufi Devotional Music:** a kind of mystical Islam in followers sometimes go into trancelike states
- **Qawwali Music:** kind of Sufi devotional music with a high-pitched and fast-paced style of singing.

Traditional Dance Forms

- **Bharatnatyam, Tamil Nadu/South India:** known as the mother of all other classical dance styles, is considered as the oldest dance forms in the country India that originated from the temple dancers in Tamil Nadu. The dance is a pure amalgam of expressions, music, beat and rhythm.
- **Kathak, Uttar Pradesh/North India:** originated from Uttar Pradesh in north India and derived from the word *katha* meaning story, and during the dancers narrate stories through their eyes and expressions
- **Kathakali, Kerala/South India:** Dramatic and elaborate forms of classical Indian dance, originated during the 17th century. The artist performing the dance needs to have detailed make-up, wear heavy costumes and, most importantly, work on their gestures.
- **Kuchipudi, Andhra Pradesh/South India:** toughest forms and originated in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It requires a whole lot of rituals, from lighting the incense sticks to sprinkling holy water and praying to the lord.
- **Manipuri, Manipur/Northeast India:** Originated in the northeastern state of Manipur and is a pure spiritual experience. This is a theme based classical dance form that depicts Raaslila or the romantic act of the Hindu gods Radha and Krishna.
- **Odissi, Odisha/East India:** based on gestures and movements or mudras. The dance is performed to express the mythical stories of the Hindu gods, such as Lord Shiva and Surya.

Fairs and Festivals in India

Fairs and festivals in India are celebrated as a part of life. Known as the land of 13 festivals in 12 months, the Indian festive calendar is the longest in the world

Evolution

- Base is from Vedic times of Aryan
- Reference from Vedic Scripture
- Social and Cultural significance we had since long back
- In ancient times words used to express occasion like:
 - Utsava
 - Yatra
 - Samaja

The popular festivals in India include religious festivals, cultural festivals, and event festivals that symbolizes the culture, heritage, and natural resources of India

- **PUSHKAR FAIR (PUSHKAR):** World's largest camel fair, organized at the time of the "Kartik Purnima" full moon. One of the greatest traditional "mela" in the country, it witnesses a congregation of more than 11,000 camels, horses and cattle. This massive gathering attracts over 400,000 people over a period of fourteen days. Competitions such as 'matka phod', 'longest moustache' and 'bridal competition', draw a large number of people.
- **RANN UTSAV (KUTCH):** Rann Utsav, organized every year in Dhodro village in Kutch district, showcases the folk culture and colors of Gujarat. Held on the great white salt desert called Rann of Kutch, it is marked by several events that keep the visitors entertained. From stargazing to sightseeing, this festival is a unique combination of sightseeing, adventure and entertainment.
- **GOA CARNIVAL (GOA):** Goa Carnival, celebrated in Goa since the 18th century, is a time for feasting and merrymaking just before the 40 Days of Lent. A major parade is held, which consists of floats, entertainers and dancers. The festivities usually begin around 3pm and last for about 3hrs. The celebrations culminate with the famous Red and Black Ball which is usually held at the Club National in Panaji, on the evening of the last day. This carnival, which is exclusive to Goa, was introduced by the Portuguese who ruled Goa over five hundred years.
- **KONARK DANCE FESTIVAL (KONARK, ODISHA):** The energy of musical beats and rhythmic movements under the starlit sky proves to be a true cultural feast. A celebration of Bharatnatyam, Chau Dances, Manipuri, Kathak and Odissi; the festival truly comes as a memorable experience. The sound of Ghungroo bells, flute, musical instruments and the soft melody of the waves makes it just magical.

- KHAJURAHO DANCE FESTIVAL (KHAJURAHO, MADHYA PRADESH): Performances of classical dance forms- Bharatanatyam (Tamil Nadu), Kathak (North, West and Central India), Kathakali (Kerala), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Odissi (Odisha), Manipuri (Manipur), Mohiniyattam (Kerala), and Sattriya (Assam). Watch artists perform dressed in beautiful attires with elegant expressions and intricate hand gestures to melodious beats of classical musical instruments. The dance performances narrate extracts from ancient mythological texts.
- MARWAR FESTIVAL (JODHPUR): This two day festival held every year in the month of Ashwin, honors the gallant spirit of Rajasthan's heroes and warriors. Also known as the Maand Festival, it celebrates the romantic lifestyle of Rajasthan's rulers through folk music.
- MEWAR FESTIVAL (UDAIPUR): Celebrated to welcome the onset of spring season in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The womenfolk of Rajasthan participate in this festival with great enthusiasm, as they play a primary role in it. During the main ceremony, the women assemble to dress the main image of Isar (Lord Shiva) and Gangaur (Goddess Parvati). After dressing them fondly, they carry the image in a traditional procession through various parts of the city.
- NAGAUER FAIR (NAGAUER, JODHPUR): Nagaur Fair, also known popularly as the Cattle Fair of Nagaur, is the second biggest fair in India. Approximately 70,000 bullocks, camels and horses are traded every year by the cattle owners here. The animals are decorated in every imaginative way, while their owners flaunt their long moustaches and colorful turbans. Some of the other attractions here include the "Mirchi Bazaar (the largest red chilli market of India)," sale of wooden items, iron-crafts and other camel leather accessories. Several sports, ranging from tug-of-war, camel races to bullock races, attract a large number of participants.

- GANGAUR FESTIVAL (JAIPUR) Celebrated in honor of Gauri – the goddess of abundance, and the consort of Lord Shiva. Women have a central role to play in the festival. While the married ladies pray for the well-being and longevity of their husbands, young girls pray for a spouse of their choice.
- ELEPHANT FESTIVAL (JAIPUR): Elephant Festival of Jaipur is a "colossal" festival which is held every year on the full moon day of "Phalgun Purnima." For this festival, elephants are pampered and decorated generously. Clothed with embroidered velvet rugs and parasols, they are an amazing site to watch.
- SUMMER FESTIVAL (MOUNT ABU): two day summer festival. Starting on the day of Buddha Poornima, this festival celebrates the vibrancy of Rajasthan's culture over a period of three days. Soulful ballads, which honor the chivalrous and romantic spirit of the people, are sung, followed by some dynamic folk dances like Gair, Ghoomar and Daph. However, the main attraction is the Sham-e-Qawwali, where the audiences are treated to some incredible performances by folk singers.
- TEEJ (JAIPUR): "Teej" is a generic term for all the monsoon festivals celebrated in the western and northern states of India. When the first rains of the monsoon hit the ground, it sends smiles through people's faces. Birds, plants and animals - everyone joins in the celebrations. Women dance, sing, apply henna on their hands and feet, wear brightly colored saris, and welcome the season in the company of friends and relatives. One of the most common images symbolizing this festival is "women playing under the trees and swinging merrily." An elaborate procession is taken out in honor of Teej Mata or Goddess Parvati, which begins from the City Palace and is witnessed by a large number of spectators.

Indian Cinema

- The Indian cinema industry has changed significantly since 1947. It has made a name for itself and is famed for its technique. Indian films are now competing on the world stage with western productions.
- Indian productions are winning prestigious international awards and thanks to the success of Indian cinema across the world, the rich cultural traditions of Indian dance and music now also have a global audience.
- Culture is the underlying current of a society and cinema in particular mirrors society. It reflects many of the trends, current virtues, social struggles and living patterns. Indian cinema portrays the essence of Indian society.
- The ethnic and traditional values of the Indian society, its cultural diversity and above all, the unity among the varied cultural and religious sects, is highlighted by Indian cinema.
- At first, Indian cinema focused on mythological stories and great epics such as the country's first feature "Raja Harishchandra" directed by Dadasaheb Phalke in 1913.
- During the freedom struggle, cinema was used as a medium to show anger and voice the opinion of nationalist leaders and parties demanding independence from British colonial rule.
- After Independence, cinema became a vehicle for addressing social ills. Bollywood portrayed a society which was both desired and achievable.
- In the golden era of Bollywood films, from the 1950s to the late 1970s, an India which was rural but had rich and vibrant traditions was portrayed. Films showcased the relationships, customs, norms and ethics of Indian society.

THANK YOU