



QUICK REVISION MODULE (UPSC PRELIMS 2024) ART AND CULTURE

INDIAN PAINTINGS

Evolution of Indian paintings



Main sources and principles of Paintings



Principle Limb	Meaning
Rupabheda	Variety of form, looks and appearance.
Pramana	Proportion of the object or subject or measurement.
Bhava	Expressions, creation of lustre and gleam with the colours.
Lavanya Yojanam	Immersion of emotions or aesthetic composition.
Sadrisyam	Resemblance or Portrayal of likeliness of the subject.
Varnikabhanga	Use of brush and colours or Mixing of colours.

Brahmanical and Buddhist tradition

Lepya Chitra	Representation of the myths and lore on textiles.
Lekhya Chitra	Including line drawings and sketches.

Pre-historic paintings



Petroglyphs

Earliest in **Bhimbetka caves** in Madhya Pradesh.

Most common mineral **Ochre** or **Geru** mixed with lime and water.

Mineral based colours like red, white, yellow and green.

Animals like bison, elephant, rhino, tigers, etc.

For Human figures **Red** and for Dancers generally, **Green** was used.

Mesolithic Period Paintings



Bhimbetka rock painting (MP)



Lakhudiyar rock painting (Uttarakhand)

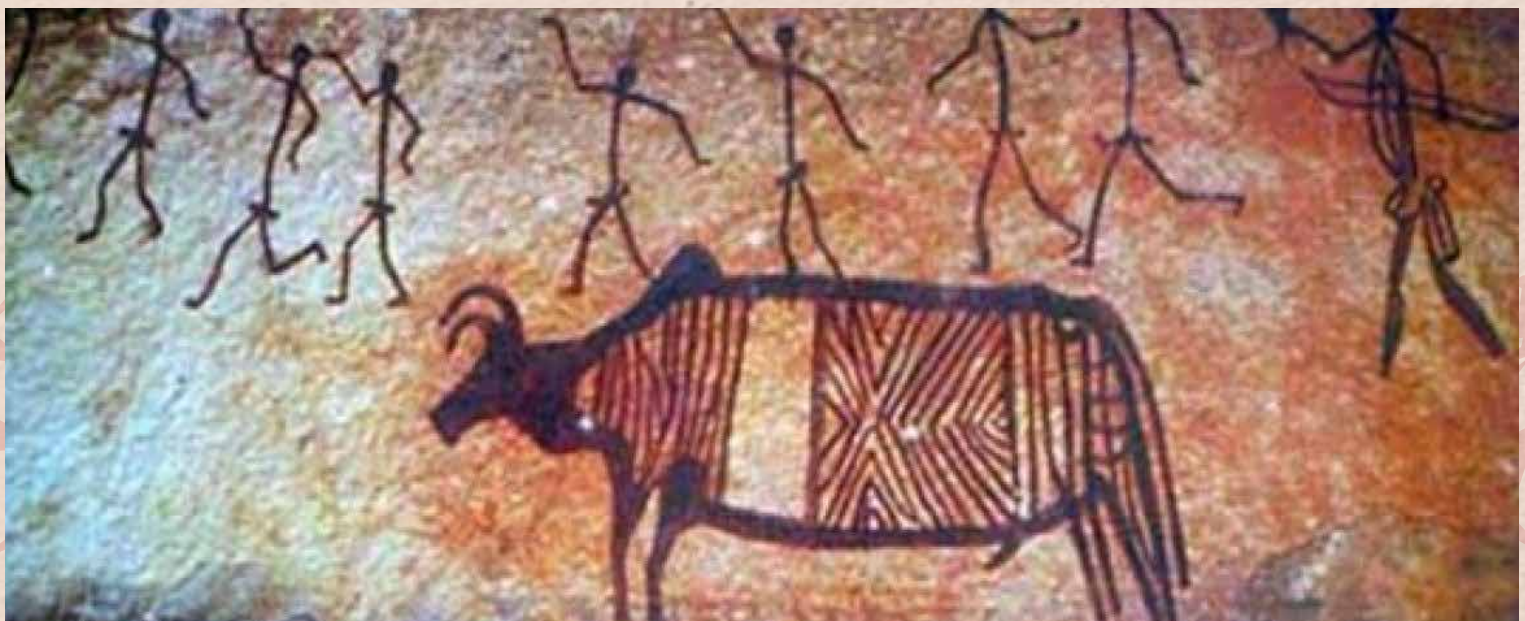
Size of paintings reduced.

More use of **Red Colour**.

Themes got increased.

Most common scenes are **group hunting**.

Other like grazing activity and riding scenes.



Chalcolithic Period Paintings

Rise in use of **green** and **yellow** colour.

Depiction of battle and battle preparedness.

Included men riding **horses** and **elephants**.

Paintings having complex geometrical shapes like the **spiral**, **rhomboid** and **circle**.

Evidences for **art of tanning skins**, etc.

Examples: **Narsingharh** in Madhya Pradesh, **Jogimara Caves**, **Ghodsar** and **Kohabaur rock art** Chhattisgarh, Chinese figure riding a donkey in **Chitwa Dongri**, **Gudahandi Rock Shelter** and **Yogimatha Rock Shelter** Odisha, etc.



Classification of Indian Paintings


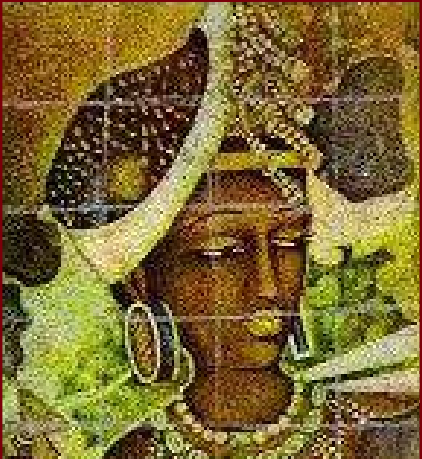

Mural Paintings










Miniature Paintings



Mural Paintings

Mural	Features	Paintings
<p>Ajanta Cave Paintings (Maharashtra)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the oldest surviving murals, 2nd century BC to 5-6th century AD. • Total of 29 caves, carved in a horse-shoe shape, belonging to Maurya, Gupta and Shunga period. • Both murals and fresco paintings. • Use of tempera style (use of pigments). • Each female figure has a unique hairstyle. • Major themes are related to Buddhism like Jataka stories, life of Buddha, etc. • The outline of the figures is in red ochre. • Important Paintings: • Padmapani (Avalokitesvara) • Vajrapani • Manjusri • Scenes from the Jataka stories. • Dying Princess in Cave No. 16. • Apsara. 	 <p>Bodhisattava Padmapani</p>  <p>Apsara - Cave 17</p>
<p>Ellora Cave Paintings (Maharashtra)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly found in 5 caves. • Fragments of painting on the ceiling of the different parts of Kailashnath temple. • Rectangular panels with thick borders. • Sharp twist of the head, painted angular bents of the arms, the concave curve of the close limbs, the sharp projected nose and the long drawn open eyes, etc. • Murals were done in two phases: During the carving of the caves and few centuries later. • All three religions (Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism). 	 <p>Cave Paintings of Ellora</p>

Mural	Features	Paintings
Bagh Cave Paintings (Madhya Pradesh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension to the Ajanta school in Madhya Pradesh. • Similar in terms of design, execution and decoration. • Major difference is figures are more tightly modelled, have stronger outline, etc. • Cave No. 4, known as Rang Mahal. • More secular in nature. 	 <p data-bbox="1134 499 1556 611">Bagh Cave Paintings</p>
Armamalai Cave Paintings (Tamil Nadu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural caves, later converted to Jain temples during 8th CE. • Stories of the Jain religion and tales of Astathik Palakas (deities protecting eight corners) through stunning paintings. • Cave paintings include both Northern Technique and Southern Technique. 	 <p data-bbox="1134 958 1556 1070">Armamalai Cave Paintings</p>
Sittanavasal Cave Paintings (Tamil Nadu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1st century BC to 10th century CE. • Intimately connected with Jain themes and symbology. • Resemblance with Bagh and Ajanta paintings. • Paintings on walls as well as ceilings. • Themes like a lotus pool with birds, elephants, buffaloes and a young man plucking flowers, etc. 	 <p data-bbox="1134 1451 1556 1563">Sittanavasal Cave Paintings</p>
Ravan Chhaya Rock Shelter (Odisha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock shelters are in the shape of half-opened umbrella. • The most noticeable painting is that of a royal procession that dates back to 7th century AD. • Remains of Chola Paintings as well. • Rough timeline around 5th CE to 9th CE. • Use of tempera technique. 	 <p data-bbox="1134 1910 1556 2018">Ravan Chhaya</p>

Mural	Features	Paintings
<p>Lepakshi Temple Paintings (Andhra Pradesh)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veerabhadra temple walls at Lepakshi in 16th century. • Vijayanagara period, during reign of king Achutaraya. • Themes like Ramayana, Mahabharata and incarnations of Vishnu. • Depicts in decline of quality, complete absence of primary colours. • Outlined with black colour. 	 <p>Lepakshi Painting</p>
<p>Jogimara Cave Paintings (Chattisgarh)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Buddha caves, dated around 1000-300 BC. • Use of Brahmi script. • Themes like dancing couples, animals like elephant and fish, etc. • White base plaster, red outline with colours like yellow, black, etc. • Rock-cut theatre of Sitabenga is situated nearby. 	 <p>Jogimara Cave Paintings</p>
<p>Badami Cave Temple (Karnataka)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the earliest surviving Hindu paintings. • 6th-7th century CE. • Famous for graceful and compassionate looks. • Cave no. 3, four-armed Brahma on his swan. • UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site. 	 <p>Badami Cave</p>

Miniature Paintings

- Name derived from word "Minium" means Red lead paint.
- Small and detailed paintings.

Painting should not be larger than 25 square inch.



Formula of 1/6th of actual object size.



Techniques of Miniature Paintings

1. Early Miniatures



Pala School of Painting

- 750 CE to the mid-twelfth century.
- Related to **Buddhism**, centers like Nalanda and Vikramsila.
- Use of palm leaves and mostly belong to the Vajrayana School.
- Astasahasrika Prajnaparamita ('Perfection of Wisdom')
- Characterised by sinuous line and subdued tones of colour.



Apabhramsa School of Art

- The region comprising Gujarat, Rajasthan and Malwa.
- Inspired by the ideals of **Jainism**.
- Mainly Patronized by Chalukya Dynasty.
- Early one on palm leaf and then on paper.
- Reduced dimension Murals.
- Kalpasutra and Kalakacharya-Katha are popular.

2. Transition Period Miniature



Development of new styles like Vijayanagara in close resemblance with Deccan style.



Islamic invasions and rise of cultural synthesis.

3. Miniature Art during Delhi Sultanate





Advent of Mohammed Ghori

- Fusion of **Indian and Persian style**.
- **Nimat-nama** (a book on cookery) during the reign of Nasir Shah.
- Bright colours with well defined dark outlines. Faces have sharp and pointed.

4. Mughal Era Miniature Painting

Mural	Important Personalities	Features	Paintings
Lepakshi Temple Paintings (Andhra Pradesh)	Bihzad by Babur, Mir Syed Ali and Khwaja Abdus Samad by Humayun.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timuraid style of Persian paintings continued. 	
Akbar's reign	Mir Syed Ali and Khwaja Abdus Samad . Indian painters like Basawan, Daswanth and Kesudasa .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire department of paintings. • Regular salaries and awards. • Recognition of Indian influence. • 3-D paintings and technique of foreshortening. • Popular art to court art. • Important arts: Tutinama, Hamzanama, Anvar-i-Suhaili, etc. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Court Art During Akbar</p>

Mural	Important Personalities	Features	Paintings
Jahangir	Ustad Mansoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden period. • Naturalist. • Brought decorated margins. • Private workshop. • Eg: Zebra, the turkey and the cock, etc. • Ayar-i-Danish (Touchstone of Knowledge). 	
Shah Jahan	Muhammad Nadir Samarqandi and Mir Hashim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced liveliness due to artificial elements. • More European influence. • Use of Pencil, gold, silver, etc. 	

5. Miniature Paintings in South India(Liberal use of gold)



Tanjore Paintings

1. Special decorative paintings.
2. Mostly created on glass and wooden planks.
3. Brilliant use of colour and liberal use of gold.
4. Maratha patronage and mainly under Maharaja Serfoji II.









Mysore Painting

1. Depiction of Hindu gods and goddesses.
2. One figure predominates all the others.
3. Use the 'gesso paste'.
4. Both Tanjore and Mysore paintings are GI tagged.





Regional Schools of Painting

1. Rajasthani School of Painting (aka Rajput school of paintings)

School	Paintings	Patronage/ Important Personalities	Features
Mewar School		Sahibdin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depiction of Ragamala, the Ramayana and the Bhagavata Purana. • Tamasha paintings • Later became secular and courtly.
Amber-Jaipur School		Mainly under Sawai Pratap Singh reign.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also known as 'Dhundar' school. • Palace walls and mausoleum of Amer Palace in Rajasthan. • Themes like Bhagwata Purana, Ramayana, Ragamala.
Marwar School		Under Man Singh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region of Jodhpur and Bikaner. • Colourful clothing. • Themes like Shiva Purana, Natacharitra, Durgacharitra, Panchtantra, etc. • Kishangarh School and Bundi School are its sub-school.
Kishangarh School		Sawant Singh, Nagari Das, and Nihal Chand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotional and amorous relations between Radha and Krishna. • Bani thani. • Features like long necks, arched eyebrows, thin lips and wide eyes, and adorned with jewellery.

School	Paintings	Patronage/ important personalities Sahibdin	Features
Bundi School			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krishna-bhakti plays. • Manuscript of the Bhagawata Purana. • Element of naturalism.
Kotah School			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quite similar to Bundi school. • Themes of tiger and bear hunt were very popular at Kotah. • Krishna Bhakti reflected. • Bundi and Kota are also referred to as Hadoti School.

2. Pahari School of Painting(17th to 19th century)

Basohli School	Guler School	Kangra School	Kulu-Mandi school
			
<p>Earliest centre of painting in the Pahari region.</p> <p>Patronage of Raja Kripal Pal.</p> <p>Devidasa executed miniatures in the form of the Rasamanjari.</p> <p>Vigorous and bold line and strong glowing colours.</p>	<p>Extension of Basohli style to Jammu.</p> <p>Portraits of Raja Balwant Singh of Jasrota.</p> <p>New naturalistic paintings with soft and cool colours</p>	<p>The third phase of the Pahari painting. Developed out of the Guler style.</p> <p>Possessed delicacy of drawing and quality of naturalism.</p> <p>Portraits of Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra.</p>	<p>Folk style of painting in the Kulu-Mandi area.</p> <p>Bold drawing and the use of dark and dull colours.</p>

Gita Govinda
painted by artist
Manaku.

Master-artist
Nainsukh.

Attributed mainly to
the **Nainsukh**
family.

Painting about
Bhagavata by Shri
Bhagwan.

Modern Indian Painting



Company Paintings

- European elements with Rajput, Mughal.
- Use of water colour.
- Originated in Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Patna, Varanasi and Thanjavur.
- Mazhar Ali Khan and Ghulam Ali Khan.



Bazaar Paintings


- European influence with Roman and Greek influence.
- Bengal and Bihar region.
- Indian bazaars with European background.
- Religious themes added sometimes.



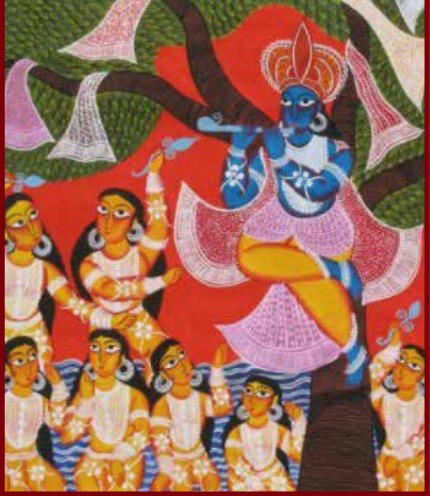



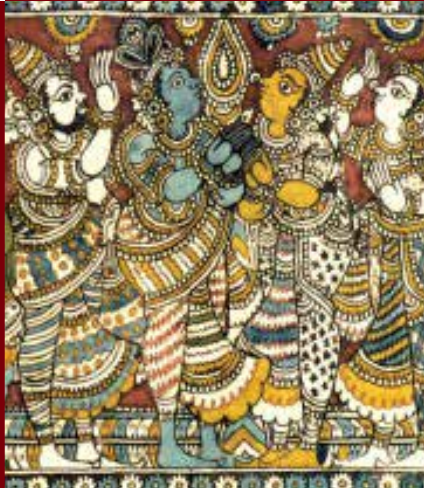



Bengal School

- Reactionary approach, use simple colours.
- Abanindranath Tagore and Nandalal Bose.
- Included Swadeshi values in Indian art.
- Painting of Bharat Mata.

Folk Paintings

Painting	Region	Features	Paintings
Madhubani or Mithila Paintings	Bihzad by Babur, Mithila region (Bihar) Mir Syed Ali and Khwaja Abdus Samad by Humayun.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometric patterns and use two-dimensional imagery. • Depicts scenes from Hindu epics. • Symbolic figures like fish for good luck and fertility, etc. • Natural objects like sun, moon and sacred plants are common. 	

Painting	Region	Features	Paintings
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space is entirely filled with designs of flowers, birds, animals and geometric shapes. • Paint is made from a powdered rice paste and coloured with natural dyes and pigments. • GI status. • Jagdamba Devi, Baua Devi, Bharti Dayal, Ganga Devi, etc. are associated. 	
Pattachitra Painting	Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspired from Jagannath and Vaishnava cult. • Painters are known as chitrakar. • Mix of classical and folk elements. • Base is treated cloth and natural colours used. • Pattachitra on palm leaf is known as talapattachitra. 	
Patua Art	Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangal Kavyas tradition. • Pats or scrolls for paintings. • Story telling through paintings. • Present day usage for political and social issues. • Huge inclusion of Muslim community. 	
Paitkar Painting	Jharkhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scroll paintings by Tribal. • Cultural association with Ma Mansa. • Common theme is 'human life post death'. 	

Painting	Region	Features	Paintings
Kalamkari Paintings	Srikalahasti and Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pen (Kalam) and craftsmanship (Kari). • Sharp pointed bamboo used. • Base is cotton fabric. • Vegetable dyes colours. • Existed from Vijayanagara Empire. • GI status 	
Warli Painting	Gujarat-Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient tribal art 2500-3000 BC. • Ritualistic paintings. • Scenes portraying fishing, hunting, farming, dances, animals, trees and festivals. • Traditionally done on walls, with Geometric symbols like triangle, a circle and a square. • Base made up from mud, cow dung, etc. • Painted by white pigment, made of a mixture of gum and rice powder. 	
Thangka Painting	Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh region and Arunachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related to Buddhism. • Base of cotton canvas. • Significance of colours like Red for intensity of passion, white for serenity, black depicts anger, green represents consciousness. 	
Manjusha Painting or Angika art	Bhagalpur, Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snake painting. • Executed on boxes of jute and paper. • Related to Anga Mahajanpada. 	

Some other folk Paintings



Phad Painting (Rajasthan)
Scroll-type art.



Cherial Scroll Paintings (Telangana)
Nakashi art, by balladeer community
known as Kaki Padagollu.






Pithora Paintings (Gujarat and
Madhya Pradesh)
Depiction of animals mainly Horses.



Saura Paintings (Odisha)
Saura Tribe of Odisha, wall mural
painting, similar to Warli paintings.

The Modern Indian Art

Personality/ School	Important themes/Features	Paintings
Raja Ravi Varma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father of Modern paintings in India. • Themes like Lady in the Moonlight, Shakuntala, Damayanti and Swan, etc. • Blend of Indian with Western techniques of colour and style. 	 <p>Court Art During Akbar</p>

Personality/ School	Important themes/Features	Paintings
Amrita Sher-Gil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Followed tradition of Ravi Verma, Abanindranath Tagore. Impressionism, expressionism or post-expressionism. Cubism, abstraction and a variety of expressionistic trends. 	 <p>'Three Women'</p>
The Progressive Artist's Group of Bombay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of progressive and bold themes. Abstract themes. F.N. Souza, S.H. Raza, M.F. Hussain, K.H. Ara, H.A. Gade and S.K. Bakre, etc. 	 <p>By: F.N. Souza</p>
Cubist Style of Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brought different views of subjects together. Objects were broken into pieces, analysed and then reassembled. M.F Hussain, etc. 	



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