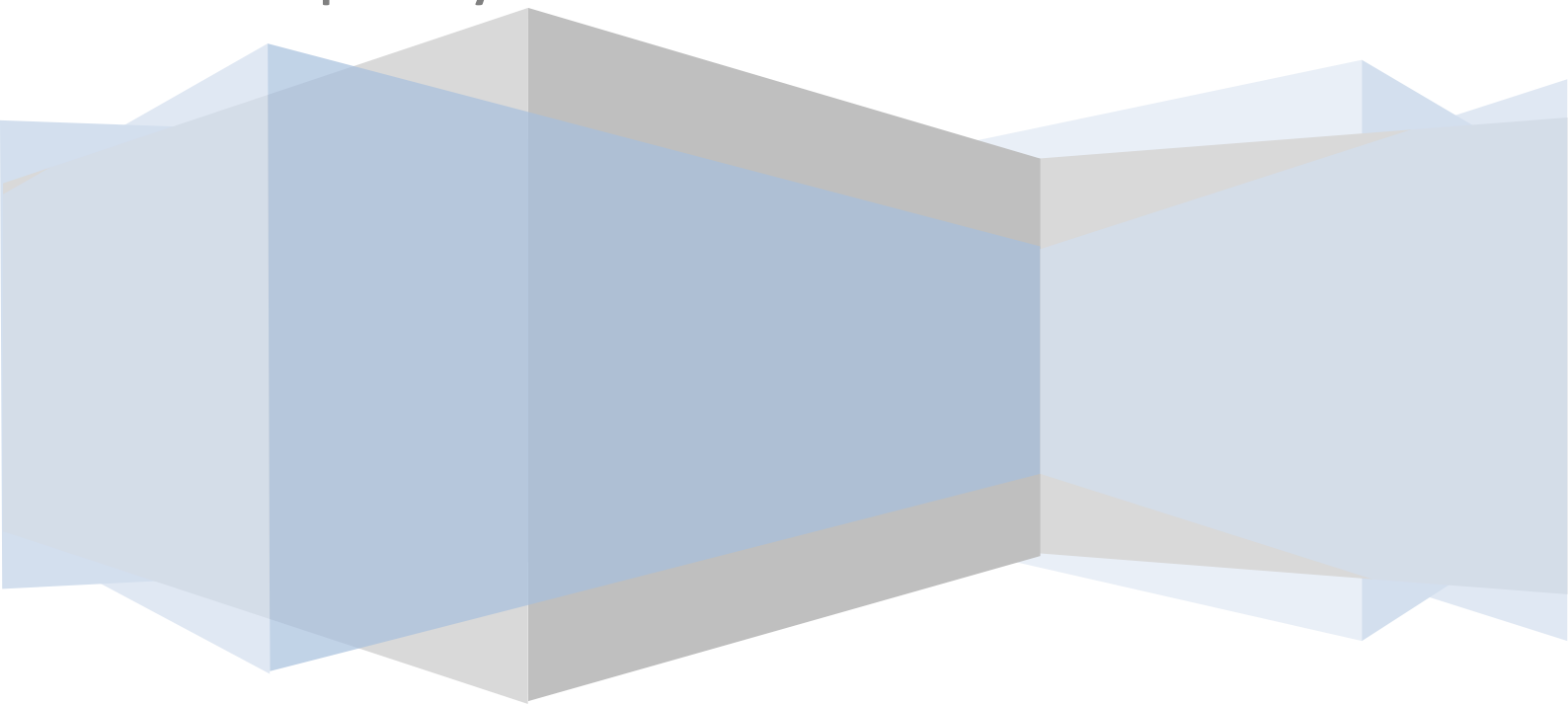


Chapter 1: Introduction to Art and Culture

CSM 02: History of India and Indian National Movement

Short Answers

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This chapter contains:

- Visual Arts
- Indian Architecture
- Indian Sculpture
- Indian Pottery
- Harappan Art and Architecture
- Architecture in Harappan Civilization
- Harappan Sculptures
- Art of Indus Valley Civilization

Contents

1. Visual Arts	1
1.1 What are Visual Arts?.....	1
1.2 Classification of Visual Arts	1
1.3 Significance	3
1.4 Conclusion.....	4
2. Indian Architecture	5
2.1 Architecture	5
2.2 Indian Architecture	5
2.3 Harappan Architecture	5
2.4 Mauryan and Post Mauryan Architecture	5
2.5 Temple Architecture	6
2.6 Indo-Islamic Architecture.....	6
2.7 British Indo-Saracenic Architecture	6
2.8 Shift from Ancient to Modern Architecture.....	6
2.9 Difference between Architecture and Sculpture	7
2.10 Conclusion.....	7
3. Indian Sculpture	8
3.1 Indian Sculpture	8
3.2 Bronze Age Sculpture.....	8
3.3 Pre-Mauryan Sculpture	8
3.4 Mauryan Period Sculpture	8
3.5 Satavahana Sculptures.....	9
3.6 Early South Indian Sculptures	9
3.7 Other Pre - Medieval Age Sculptures.....	10
3.8 Medieval Age Sculptures.....	10
3.9 British Colonial period Sculptures.....	10
3.10 Post-Independence Period Sculptures.....	10
3.11 Conclusion.....	11
4. Indian Pottery	12
4.1 Indian Pottery	12
4.2 Evolution of Pottery in India	12
4.3 Conclusion.....	13
5. Harappan Art and Architecture.....	14

5.1	Harappan Art and Architecture.....	14
5.2	Buildings	14
5.3	Pottery.....	14
5.4	Sculpture	14
5.5	Metal Works.....	15
5.6	Seals	15
5.7	Conclusion.....	15
6.	Architecture in Harappan Civilization	16
6.1	Features	16
6.2	Town planning in Harappan Civilization	16
6.3	Harappan Civilization's Urban Planning Lessons	19
6.4	Conclusion.....	19
7.	Harappan Sculptures.....	20
7.1	Sculptures of the Harappan Civilization.....	20
7.2	Stone Sculptures of Harappan Civilization.....	20
7.3	Bronze Sculptures of Harappan Civilization.....	20
7.4	Terracotta Sculptures of Harappan Civilization	21
7.5	Conclusion.....	22
8.	Art of Indus valley civilization	23
8.1	Art of Indus Valley Civilization	23
8.2	Stone Sculptures	23
8.3	Bronze Casting	24
8.4	Terracotta	24
8.5	Seals	25
8.6	Pottery	25
8.7	Beads, Ornaments, and Cosmetics	26
8.8	Conclusion.....	26

1. Visual Arts

Visual Art is an umbrella term used for various artistic disciplines that generate emotions through skills. Painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, pottery, photography, video, filmmaking, design, crafts, and architecture are examples of visual arts. Many creative fields, such as performing arts, conceptual art, and textile arts, include elements of visual and other genres of art. India has a rich heritage of visual arts including architecture, sculpture, painting, carvings, etc which date back to the dawn of human civilization.

1.1 What are Visual Arts?

- These are the arts that are visually appealing and elicit an emotional response through the use of talent and imagination.
- They encompass the oldest forms, such as painting and drawing, as well as the arts that arose as a result of technological advancements, such as sculpture, printing, photography, and installation art.

1.2 Classification of Visual Arts

Drawing

- Drawing is the process of creating an image, illustration, or graphic utilizing a number of online and offline tools and techniques.
- Line drawing, hatching, cross-hatching, random hatching, shading, scribbling, stippling, and blending are the most common drawing methods.
- Drawing and painting have been practiced for many thousands of years. Figured art from the Upper Paleolithic period dates from around 40,000 to 35,000 years ago.
- Even older are non-figurative cave paintings made out of hand stencils and basic geometric forms. Animal depictions in Paleolithic caves have been discovered in places including Lascaux, France, and Altamira, Spain in Europe, Maros, Sulawesi in Asia, and Gabarnmung, Australia.
- Ink drawings on papyrus, frequently portraying humans, were utilized as models for painting and sculpting in ancient Egypt. Drawings on Greek vases, which were initially geometric, evolved into the human form with the introduction of black-figure pottery in the 7th century BC.

Painting

- The technique of putting pigment suspended in a carrier (or medium) and a binding agent (a glue) to a surface (support) such as paper, canvas, or a wall is referred to as painting.
- When used in an artistic sense, however, it refers to the employment of this action in conjunction with the drawing, composition, or other aesthetic concerns to communicate the practitioner's expressive and conceptual aim.
- Painting may also be used to represent spiritual motifs and ideals, with examples ranging from legendary figures depicted on pottery to the human body itself.

- Prehistoric cave paintings may be seen in several of the Bhimbetka rock shelters, with the oldest dating back 10,000 years.
- Animals, early indications of dancing, and hunting are among the subjects shown in these cave paintings.

Printmaking

- Printmaking is the process of generating an image on a matrix for aesthetic purposes, which is subsequently transferred to a two-dimensional (flat) surface using ink (or another form of pigmentation).
- Unless it's a monotype, the same matrix can be used to make several copies of the print. Woodcut, line engraving, etching, lithography, and screen printing (serigraphy, silk screening) are the most common techniques (also known as media) used historically, although there are many others, including current digital processes.
- Typically, the print is produced on paper, although other mediums like cloth and vellum, as well as more contemporary materials, have been used.

Photography

- Photography is the art of capturing images via the use of light.
- A timed exposure records the light patterns reflected or emitted by objects on a sensitive media or storage chip.
- Mechanical shutters or electronically timed photon exposure into chemical processes or digitizing equipment called cameras are used in the process.

Architecture

- The process and result of planning, designing, and constructing buildings or other structures are known as architecture.
- Architectural works, in the form of structures, are frequently regarded as cultural emblems and works of art. The architectural achievements of historical civilizations are frequently associated with them.
- The Great Bath of Mohenjo-Daro is an example of Harappan Architecture architecture which dates back to several thousand years.

Filmmaking

- Filmmaking is the process of creating a motion picture, from initial conception and research to scriptwriting, shooting and recording, animation or other special effects, editing, sound, and music work, and finally distribution to an audience.
- It encompasses documentary, theatre, and literature in film, poetic or experimental practices, and is frequently used to refer to video-based processes as well.

Computer Art

- Traditional visual arts mediums are no longer the only medium available to visual artists. Since the 1960s, computers have been an increasingly frequent instrument in the visual arts.
- Capturing or producing pictures and shapes, altering those images and forms (including exploring different compositions), and final rendering or printing are all examples of uses (including 3D printing).
- Any work of art in which computers were used in the creation or exhibition is known as computer art.
- An image, music, animation, video, CD-ROM, DVD, video game, website, algorithm, performance, or gallery installation can all be examples of such art.

Sculpture

- The sculpture is a three-dimensional work of art made by shaping or mixing hard or plastic material, sound, or text, and or light, most typically stone (rock or marble), clay, metal, glass, or wood.
- Some sculptures are found or carved directly; others are welded, moulded, or cast after being constructed, erected, and fired. Paintings are frequently used on sculptures.
- The Dancing Girl from MohenJo-Daro dating back to 2500 BC and Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath dating back to the 3rd Century B.C. are famous sculptures from ancient India.

1.3 Significance

Cultural Preservation

- Visual works of art convey a narrative and represent the changing human experience, from prehistoric cave paintings to current street art. It captures a moment in time that the artist wants to remember.
- Visual artists provide a window into history and society that can't be conveyed any other way.
- For present and future generations, artists conserve the rich legacy, traditions, beliefs, norms, practices, and conventions of different civilizations.
- Art history gives a window into the growth and collapse of societies, as well as insight into what lessons may be gained from the past.

Inspiration and Expression

- Artistic expression, rather than language, can be a more powerful and global way of communication.
- When youngsters experience the thrill of using crayons, watercolors, finger paint, and clay at a young age, they realize the value of visual arts.

- Creativity, originality, and imagination are crucial for innovation, societal advancements, and scientific breakthroughs, and they are all fostered by making art.
- Visual artists lead the way by creating new and intriguing art forms, techniques, and imagery that may please, shock, or offend the audience.

Social and Political Activism

- In our culture, an artist's responsibilities include speaking out against social injustice and fighting for long-term reform.

Historical Interpretation

- According to Cornell University, "the relevance of visual arts extends beyond comprehending, celebrating, and documenting history via the production of artworks such as the "Coronation of Napoleon."
- Paintings inspired by the Bible that represent real or metaphorical incidents are known as history paintings.

1.4 Conclusion

Visual art is an important part of the human experience since it reflects the world and the moment we live in. Art has the power to help us comprehend our history, culture, lives, and the experiences of others in ways that no other medium can.

2. Indian Architecture

Indian Architecture is deep-rooted in its history, culture, and religion. From the Indus Valley Civilization to the modern era, architecture, sculpture, and pottery have been subjected to changes. Here we will discuss in detail Indian Architecture, which will be useful for UPSC IAS Exam preparation.

2.1 Architecture

The word 'architecture' comes from the Latin word 'tekton,' which literally means "builder." The study of architecture originated when early man began to construct his shelter to dwell in.

2.2 Indian Architecture

- The evolution of Indian art and architecture is fascinating. The structures and sculptures have their own story to tell, from the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation through British authority.
- The growth of Indian architecture and art reflects the rise and fall of large empires, the invasion of foreign rulers who gradually became indigenous, the fusion of many cultures and styles, and so on.

2.3 Harappan Architecture

- The architecture of the Harappans is seen to be ahead of its time.
- **Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa** were well-planned grid towns with wide main roadways and smaller planes intersecting at right angles.

During the Indus Valley Civilization, brick grid patterns, a well-defined city plan, immaculate drainage systems, lofty city walls, and multi-story dwellings were all common architectural elements.

- Every piece of the building served a definite purpose, and the city as a whole was more useful than attractive.

2.4 Mauryan and Post Mauryan Architecture

- Structures, sculptures, and buildings that were carved out of a single solid natural rock, exactly where it stood, are known as rock-cut architecture.
- India is most recognized for its rock-cut architecture, which has over 1500 documented constructions of international significance. The Barabar Caves in Bihar, which were found in the 3rd century BC (Mauryan Period), are the earliest of them.
- The **Ellora Caves**, the **Ajanta Caves**, and numerous of the **Mahabalipuram sculptures** are also world-famous rock-cut sculptures.
- In the post-Mauryan period, temple architecture also flourished in different parts of India.

2.5 Temple Architecture

- One of the most essential components of Indian architecture is temple building. The Nagara, or Northern style, the Dravida, or Southern-style, and the Vesara, or mixed style, are the three main types of ancient Indian temple building.
- The ornamentation is a key aspect or motif that runs through all temple buildings. The complex intricacies of figurative sculptures and architectural components in ancient Indian temples were primarily focused on ornamentation.
- Even though all three genres were distinct in their way, they shared several characteristics.
- Every temple, for example, featured a garbha-griha or sanctum sanctorum that housed the temple's god. Each garbha-griha was surrounded by a circumambulation route. Gopuras, shikharas, and gates were among the other characteristics.

2.6 Indo-Islamic Architecture

- India's architecture saw numerous alterations during the medieval period. Many architectural ideas and methods were merged into existing buildings with the entrance of Muslims in India, giving rise to Indo-Islamic architecture.
- **Mughal architecture and Architecture of the Delhi Sultanate or Imperial Style** are two distinct styles that merged Hindu and Islamic architecture.
- The Mughal architecture combines Central Asian, Islamic, Persian, Arabic, and Turkish architectural traditions in a unique way. Huge bulbous shaped domes, enormous halls, gigantic entrances, and elegant minarets distinguish it.
- The Imperial Style, on the other hand, is distinguished by its ornately carved arches and domes. Floral designs were popular, as were Hindu themes such as lotuses and swastikas contrasted with Quran passages.

2.7 British Indo-Saracenic Architecture

- The British adopted Indo-Saracenic architecture in India in the second part of the nineteenth century.
- This architectural style can be seen in public and government buildings. It was inspired by Indo-Islamic architecture in India as well as worldwide influences such as gothic revival and neo-classical forms.
- This architecture may be seen at the Madras High Court in Chennai and the Victoria Terminus in Mumbai.

2.8 Shift from Ancient to Modern Architecture

- Massive housing requirements have arisen as a result of the rising economy and population.
- Indian architecture has changed as a result of globalization and exposure to the outside world. Glass and designer shapes and designs now make up the majority of constructions.

- With each new project, architects and designers push the boundaries of style in an attempt to express their originality.
- The luxury home sector in India is now one of the fastest expanding divisions of the Indian economy. Luxury, on the other hand, is subjective.
- Luxury living is more about how well you use your space and the quality of design than it is about size or substance.

2.9 Difference between Architecture and Sculpture

Point of Difference	Architecture	Sculpture
Size and Scope	The design and construction of a building are referred to as architecture.	Sculptures are three-dimensional works of art that are relatively tiny.
Materials Used	Materials used include stone, wood, glass, metal, sand, and a variety of other materials.	A single type of material is generally used to create a single piece of sculpture.
Principle	Engineering and engineering mathematics are studied. It needs precise and comprehensive measurements.	It requires creativity and imagination, and it may not be as reliant on precise measurements.
Example	Taj Mahal, Red Fort, etc.	Bearded Priest, Dancing Girl, etc.

2.10 Conclusion

Indian art dates back to the dawn of civilization. Several buildings have now become well-known tourist sites. India has long been known for its unique patterns and art. On the Indian subcontinent, several historical relics have been discovered. As a result, the environment is said to be ideal for conserving historical relics.

3. Indian Sculpture

Indian Sculptures were the favored medium of artistic expression in the country. The subject matter of Indian sculpture was almost invariably abstracted human forms that were used to instruct people in the truths of the Hindu, Buddhist, or Jain religions. Here we will discuss in detail the Indian Sculpture, which will be helpful for UPSC IAS Exam preparation.

3.1 Indian Sculpture

- Sculpture on the Indian subcontinent mostly consists of stone, metal, or terracotta sculpture, partially due to the Indian subcontinent's climate, which makes long-term survival of organic materials problematic.
- There was clearly a lot of painting and sculpting in wood and ivory throughout these times, but only a few pieces have survived.
- By the beginning of the Common Era, all of the major Indian faiths had evolved the use of religious sculpture, after a shaky start, and the use of stone was becoming more common.

3.2 Bronze Age Sculpture

- The Indus Valley civilization (3300–1700 BCE) produced the first documented sculpture in the Indian subcontinent. Among them is the well-known tiny bronze **Dancing Girl**.
- Bronze and stone figures, on the other hand, are uncommon, outnumbered by ceramic figurines and stone seals, which typically portray animals or deities in exquisite detail.

3.3 Pre-Mauryan Sculpture

- The art of the Indus Valley Civilisation appears to contain some very early portrayals of deities, but the millennium after that, overlapping with the Vedic period saw several Tirthankara artifacts.
- It has been hypothesized that early Vedic religion was only concerned with the worship of "elementary forces of nature" through complex sacrifices, which did not lend themselves well to anthropomorphological depictions.

3.4 Mauryan Period Sculpture

- Sculpture dominates the Mauryan Empire's surviving art, which reigned, at least in principle, over most of the Indian subcontinent from 322 and 185 BCE.
- There was imperial court-sponsored art that the emperors, particularly Ashoka, admired, and then there was a "popular" style made by everyone else.
- The remains of the royal palace and the city of Pataliputra, a monolithic rail at Sarnath, the Bodhimandala or the altar resting on four pillars at Bodhgaya, the rock-cut chaitya-halls in the **Barabar Caves near Gaya**, the non-edict bearing and edict bearing pillars, the animal sculptures crowning the pillars with animal and botanical reliefs decorating the abaci of the capitals.

3.5 Satavahana Sculptures

- Between the 2nd century BCE until the 2nd century CE, the Satavahana dynasty dominated much of the Deccan and occasionally adjacent provinces, notably Maharashtra.
- They were a Buddhist dynasty, and the Sanchi and Amaravati Stupas, as well as several rock-cut structures, are the most notable examples of their sculptural patronage.
- Several Buddhist cave temples arose along with Maharashtra's coastal areas between the 2nd century BCE and the 2nd century CE under the Satavahanas, and these cave temples were decorated with Satavahana era sculptures, providing not only some of the earliest art depictions but also evidence of ancient Indian architecture.
- The Amaravati school of Buddhist art thrived under the Satavahanas, and many limestone sculptures and tablets that were formerly plastered Buddhist stupas give a fascinating look into one of the three major Buddhist sculpture centers, along with Mathura and Gandhara.

3.6 Early South Indian Sculptures

The stone sculpture arrived far later in South India than in the north, and the oldest period is only represented by a **Lingam in Gudimallam**, in the southern point of Andhra Pradesh, with a standing image of Shiva.

Kushana Sculptures

- The advent of substantial Buddhist arts in the form of Mathura, Gandhara, and Amaravathi schools of art highlights Kushan art.
- **Mathura art** flourished in the ancient city of Mathura, with Buddhist and Jain sculptures primarily made of red sandstone.
- **Gandhara art** is an artistic manifestation of Greco-Buddhism, a cultural syncretism between Classical Greek culture and Buddhism that developed in Central Asia over nearly 1000 years, between Alexander the Great's conquests in the 4th century BCE and the Islamic conquests in the 7th century CE.

Gupta Sculptures

- Gupta art is a type of art that flourished under the Gupta Empire, which governed most of northern India from 300 to 480 CE, and which survived in a greatly diminished form until around 550 CE.
- For all major religious groups, the Gupta period is recognized as a classic pinnacle and golden age of North Indian art.
- Even though the painting was apparently ubiquitous, the majority of the surviving works are religious sculptures.
- During this time, Hindu art saw the birth of the iconic carved stone deity, while Buddha-figure and Jain tirthankara figure manufacturing continued to increase, the latter on a vast scale.

3.7 Other Pre - Medieval Age Sculptures

- The Chandela dynasty built the Khajuraho temples, a complex of Hindu and Jain temples, during the 9th and 11th centuries.
- They are regarded as one of India's finest examples of art and architecture. The temples have a large number of elaborately carved statues on exhibit. Despite its reputation for sensual sculptures, sexual themes account for less than a tenth of the temple's sculpture.
- The Pallava dynasty, which governed most of south-east India, was the first dynasty in southern India to leave stone sculpture on a vast scale after the Gudimallam lingam. A handful of important Hindu temples with great sculptural ornamentation have survived. Most of the **Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram** (7th and 8th centuries), possibly the best-known examples of Pallava art and architecture, are rock-cut at first.
- Many of them make use of natural rock outcroppings, which are cut away on all sides until just a structure remains. Others, like the **Shore Temple**, are built traditionally.
- The **Descent of the Ganges at Mahabalipuram** is "India's largest and most ornate sculptural composition," a relief carved on a near-vertical rock wall with hundreds of figures, including a life-size elephant (late 7th century).

3.8 Medieval Age Sculptures

- The time was ruled by Islamic monarchs, who not only did not make figurative sculptures themselves but also had their forces destroy enormous volumes of previous religious sculptures, particularly during the early conquests, discouraging the creation of new figures.
- Despite this, religious sculpture continued to flourish, particularly in the far south, where the bigger temples competed for space.
- Towering gopuram gates, a late medieval southern invention, were adorned with huge statues, mainly in vividly painted plaster in recent centuries.
- For the vast numbers of visitors to temples, very large halls were built, sometimes filled with amazing sculptures, such as the famed row of life-size rearing horses at **Srirangam's Ranganathaswamy Temple** from the 17th century.

3.9 British Colonial period Sculptures

- European-style sculptures were constructed in city squares as memorials to the British Empire's strength during this time.
- There were **statues of Queen Victoria, George V**, and numerous Indian Governor-Generals constructed.
- Following independence, many sculptures were taken from public spaces and placed in museums. Some, such as the Bangalore Statue of Queen Victoria, remain in their original locations.

3.10 Post-Independence Period Sculptures

- **D.P Roy Choudhury, Ramkinkar Baij, Sankho Chaudhuri, and Chintamani Kar** are contemporary Indian sculptors.
- A substantial collection of modern Indian sculptures may be seen at the National Gallery of Modern Art.

3.11 Conclusion

One of the numerous functions of art was to disseminate information about the king and laud his accomplishments. In ancient India, good art was a sign of affluence for many empires. The majority of the artwork was created in order to encourage religious activity.

4. Indian Pottery

Pottery has a long history on the Indian subcontinent and is one of the most palpable and iconic parts of Indian art. Pottery has been discovered in early Lahuradewa towns and later in the Indus Valley Civilization. It is a cultural art form that is still widely practised in the Indian subcontinent today. In India, pottery is still a popular art form. Here we will discuss the Indian Pottery in detail, which will be helpful for UPSC IAS Exam preparation.

4.1 Indian Pottery

- Pottery has been discovered in the early villages of **Mehrgarh** dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization (3300 BCE- 1500 BCE).
- It is a cultural art form that is still widely practiced in India today. Pottery is significant in the study of culture and the reconstruction of the past.
- The style of pottery has evolved over time in response to different cultures. It represents the social, economic, and environmental conditions in which civilizations flourished, aiding archaeologists and historians in comprehending our history.
- It is useful for deciphering cultures where there's no script or where the script hasn't been decoded.

4.2 Evolution of Pottery in India

Neolithic Age (10000 BCE)

It is the first reference of pottery in this period. It is **hand-made pottery**, but later periods also utilized a foot-wheel.

Chalcolithic Age (4500- 2000 BCE)

- The prevalence of various ceramic cultures distinguishes it.
- **Black and red-ware pottery, black-on-red ware, and ochre-colored pottery** are other examples.

Indus Valley Civilization (3300 BCE- 1500 BCE)

- **Polished Ware** was one of the pottery traditions that existed during the period.
- Pottery with a rough surface, **Harappa Burial Pottery, Ochre colored pottery (OCP), Black-grey burnished ware, Black-on-red ware, Grey-ware, and Painted grey-ware** are all examples of pottery with a rough surface.

Vedic Age (1500- 500 BCE)

Painted Grey-ware (PGW), Northern Black Polished ware (NBPW), and megalithic pottery unearthed in Kerala are examples of pottery traditions that existed during the period.

Mauryan Period (321 BCE- 185 BCE)

- The **pottery wheel** became widely used.
- There are numerous different types of ceramics linked with the Mauryan period. However, the most advanced technique may be observed in a form of pottery called
- **Northern Black Polished Ware (NBP)** was popular during the previous and early Mauryan eras.

Kushana Period (1st to 4th Century AD)

- In Bengal and North India, the Kushan cultural phase ushered in a new age in ceramics.
- A distinctive **red polished ware** with stamped design, as well as a significant number of dull or strong redware, characterizes this phase's pottery.

Period of the Guptas (4th and 5th Century AD)

- Gupta pottery remnants discovered in Ahichchhatra, Rajgarh, Hastinapur, and Bashar provide exceptional evidence of ceramic expertise.
- **Redware** is the most characteristic type of pottery from this time period.

Turko-Mughal and Rajput Period (12th Century AD onwards)

- In the 13th century AD, Turkish kings encouraged potters from Persia, Central Asia, and other parts of the world to settle in what is now Northern India.
- Gujarat and Maharashtra have glazed ceramics with Persian models and Indian motifs originating from the Sultanate period.
- **Jaipur's modern-day Blue Pottery** is commonly regarded as a classic Jaipur skill.

4.3 Conclusion

Pottery is significant in the study of culture and the reconstruction of the past. The style of pottery has evolved over time in response to different cultures. It represents the social, economic, and environmental conditions in which civilization flourished, aiding archaeologists and historians in comprehending our history.

5. Harappan Art and Architecture

Harappan civilization (**3300 BCE-1500 BCE**) flourished as ancient India's first urban civilization. In terms of creative inventiveness, each of its features was distinct. Harappan Art and Architecture includes everything from the fort and structures to the ceramics and metal objects. Also in Harappan civilization, there is an established sculptural standard of exquisite beauty. Here we will discuss the Harappan Art, Art and Culture, which will be useful for UPSC IAS Exam preparation.

5.1 Harappan Art and Architecture

The Harappan art and architecture can be understood by the buildings, pottery, metal works, sculptures, etc.

5.2 Buildings

- Magnificent was the architectural style of the fort and buildings of the Harappan culture. The fort was high and looked majestic and the groupings of buildings and their decorated interiors were marvelous.
- Artistically laid out where the drawing and retiring rooms, the kitchen, and the bath. **Burnt bricks** were used in all constructions.
- Covered drains are another specialty of Harappan architecture. The Great Bath of **Mohenjo-Daro** and the **port at Lothal** still pay rich tributes to the architectural expertise of Harappan culture.
- Harappan civilization has a rich column of large pillars supporting buildings. This is another of its distinct legacies that have been passed down to future generations. The Harappan granary bears quiet witness to this.

5.3 Pottery

- Harappan clay pots and ornamental pieces were one of its main attractions, even back then, all over the world.
- The craftsmanship of the Harappan pottery is evident in trays of various sizes, cups, cooking pots, and other ceramics.

5.4 Sculpture

- Harappan culture's craftsmen and sculptors were equally skilled. Precious stones were carved into beads and strung on a necklace.
- They could create human-like images in stone as well.
- A partially damaged depiction of a **bearded human figure** unearthed at Mohenjo-Daro also has the uncommon trait of no moustache on the upper lip, which seems to be quite smooth.
- The symmetry of the leaves carved on the top garment on the image's left shoulder is stunning.
- Because of the sculpted image's dance-posture, another damaged piece of stone sculpture from the Harappan area resembles **Natraj Shiva**.

- The Harappan sculptors were clearly brilliant and inventive, as seen by these specimens.

5.5 Metal Works

- Harappan civilization achieved remarkable heights in metalwork as well.
- They knew how to produce copper and bronze pots, flower vases, and pictures of people, animals, and birds.
- The polish and delicacy of their metal works are shown by a bronze figure of a female dancer discovered at Mohenjo-Daro.

5.6 Seals

- The seals and sealing method also hint at their creative abilities. **Images of cows, deer, rhino,** and other animals have been discovered on seals unearthed in Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Lothal, and other sites.
- These exhibits not only an aesthetic sensibility but also an understanding of the animal kingdom.
- The Harappan civilization mirrored every aspect of urban life in its art and architecture. Every artist demonstrated credit, expertise, and innovation in his work.
- They continue to inspire amazement and reverence in the minds of future generations.

5.7 Conclusion

Architecture, art, and utilitarian items were all rigidly uniform in the Harappan Civilization. It traded across an even greater area, obtaining raw materials and exporting completed products, traders, and some of its practices to places where its standardization regulations did not apply. It predated Mesopotamian major cultures and was contemporary with Sumerian cultures. However, it acquired a lot of ideas from Central Asia as well, and it gathered the best of ideas and technology in many ways. It is relevant and significant in that regard.

6. Architecture in Harappan Civilization

Architecture in the Harappan civilization (**3300 BCE- 1500 BCE**) was unique when compared to other contemporary civilizations. It shows the early elements of Indian architecture. Here we will discuss in detail the Architecture in the Harappan Civilization, which will be helpful for UPSC IAS Exam preparation.

6.1 Features

- The style was entirely unique, with no obvious foreign influences.
- The structures were built only for functional purposes, not for aesthetic reasons.
- The evolution of architecture and sculpture seldom occurs in isolation. The architecture of the Indus Valley, however, is an exception to this rule.
- Local cultures influenced architectural traditions, which date back thousands of years to the first farming and pastoral settlements. For example, they built their homes on massive mud-brick platforms.
- The elegance achieved with its urban planning is the crowning pearl of IV architecture. No other modern culture can match this level of complexity.

6.2 Town planning in Harappan Civilization

Utilitarian perspective: The Harappans were the first to introduce the concept of worker welfare by creating separate worker's quarters, which has since become a requirement in a welfare state.

Harappan city planning: Harappan cities did not all have the same town design. However, most cities followed the same path. Harappan city designs included the defensive wall, citadel, and lower town, as well as roadways and alleys, drainage systems, and water management systems.

- The city plan was created with the use of geometrical tools by the architects.
- In most Harappan towns, a certain pattern was followed in which the citadel was located to the west of the lower town, although in some cities it was located to the south.
- The cardinal directions of streets and lanes were also used to partition certain rural villages into blocks and sub-blocks. The residences were lined up on both sides of the streets.

Fortification wall: The fortification wall defended certain Early Harappan towns, as well as numerous Harappan cities. The fortress wall defended Kot Diji, Rehman Dehri, Tarakai Qila, Kohtras, Buthi, Mehrgarh, Dhalewan, Bhirrana, Balu, Kalibangan, and others.

Gateways: Some Harappan cities had only one doorway, such as Lothal and Balu, while others, such as Kalibangan and Surkotada, had two or more. There were two sorts of gateways: one was a plain entry for vehicle activity, while the other had some unique significance.

Bastions: During the Harappan period, defensive walls were used to build bastions. They were used as lookout towers.

Material Used: Bricks, baked bricks, mud, stones, and other mud-based materials were employed.

Intercommunication passage: Some Harappan sites have intercommunication routes that were utilized for the kings', priests', and common people's mobility.

Citadel and Lower Town: Harappan cities were divided into walled sectors in separate portions of the settlement, which were known as citadels and lower-towns.

- The citadel was constructed on a raised platform shape, while the lower town was constructed on a lower level.
- The citadel was smaller than the lower town. While the citadel included public structures like the **Great Bath**, the lower town mainly solely had private buildings.
- Some cities, such as Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan, Banawali, Rakhigarhi, Lothal, Dholavira, and others, had citadel and lower town settlements, but most cities did not.

Grid Pattern: By 2600 BC, the principal towns of the Indus Valley Civilization, Mohenjodaro, and Harappa, were built with blocks split by a grid of straight streets running north-south and east-west.

Disaster-proof: Harappans built their dwellings on platforms to avoid flooding. Drainage system:

Reservoirs: The Harappans were hydraulic engineering masters. They devised an effective technique.

- The drains were built with drips at regular intervals for self-cleaning.
- Small drains emptied into private drains, and big drains drained into huge drains. The enormous sewers carried the city's wastewater outdoors, where it was disposed of in open areas or in ponds of various types.
- Stones or huge bricks were used to conceal certain drains. Soakage jars, man-hole cesspools, and other drainage system components were vital.

Granaries: The granary was Mohenjodaro's greatest structure, while Harappa had roughly six granaries or storehouses. These were grain storage bins.

- **The Great Bath in Mohenjodaro** is located to the east of the granary. It is the oldest water tank ever discovered in the ancient world. The bath's floor was made up of five levels. It was so waterproof that it still holds water today. There were locker rooms. It was most likely utilized at religious events and festivities.

Houses: The houses were of various sizes. It's possible that some of them had two levels.

- The dwellings were constructed of smoldering bricks. A central courtyard, a well, a bathing place, and a kitchen were all included in most of the dwellings.
- Each home was immediately connected to an effective drainage system, indicating a well-developed municipal infrastructure.

No temples: Despite the fact that there is no evidence of temple construction or other religious sites, the people followed religion. Some religious practices have been related to the Great Bath.

No monuments to armament or battle: Military troops or weaponry for battle have not been discovered in this culture's excavations. While other civilizations' art has numerous depictions of prisoners, monuments to military triumphs, and other warfare-related activities, the Indus Valley's art does not contain a single such portrayal.

- The early river valley civilization in India was notable for having a cooperative culture without the reign of rulers, according to archaeological evidence. The focus appears to have been on peaceful trade rather than military power expansion.

Lothal's Town Planning

- Historians have discovered a distinct type of urban design at Lothal, Gujarat, on India's western coast.
- This city was split into six sectors, each with its own mud-brick platform.
- In terms of town layout, Lothal differs from other Indus Valley Civilization sites in that it has admission to the homes on the main street, whereas other sites have lateral entry.

Dockyard of Lothal

- A massive facility on the island of Lothal has been recognized as a tidal port for seagoing ships.
- There is a lot of evidence that the towns of the Indus Valley traded extensively with other civilizations throughout that time period.
- Trade with towns in this region is mentioned in Mesopotamian records, and items from the Indus region have been discovered in West Asian cities.
- When the surrounding Kutch desert was a part of the Arabian Sea, Lothal's dock—the world's oldest known—connected the city to an ancient stream of the Sabarmati river on the trade route between Harappan settlements in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra.
- In ancient times, it was a significant and bustling trading center, with its commerce of beads, diamonds, and expensive decorations stretching far into West Asia and Africa.

6.3 Harappan Civilization's Urban Planning Lessons

- The Indus Valley Civilization had an exceptional urban design, particularly in the areas of sanitation and drainage.
- It can, to a large extent, give input to current urbanization. Dealing with the haphazard construction of structures has been one of the key issues of urban planning in India.
- The streets of the Harappan Civilization were laid out in **grid-like layouts**, allowing for deliberate and planned expansion.
- In contemporary times, Le Corbusier's ideas for Chandigarh included a rectangular form with a gridiron pattern, allowing for faster traffic flow and a smaller footprint.
- The town was likewise firmly divided into residential and common/public sectors in the Civilization.
- The Harappan Civilization granaries, with their strategically positioned air ducts and platforms separated into sections, are likewise an example of clever design.
- The houses were built in such a way that they didn't interfere with the road layout in any way. Instead of opening out onto the roadways, the residences had doors that opened into the lanes.
- The warehouse at Lothal is an excellent example of precise design.
- The civilization's **drains connected each and every home**, allowing residents to deposit their trash immediately.
- The drains were covered and linked to the bigger sewage outputs immediately. For maintenance purposes, there were inspection holes in the sewers and manholes in the streets.
- As a result, the Harappan Civilization's urban planning has greatly aided us in learning from it.

6.4 Conclusion

The Harappan civilization is a significant milestone in the Indian subcontinent's past. In many aspects, civilization serves as a wonderful model for the modern world. Their knowledge of urban design, water management and harvesting systems, and drainage systems are unrivaled.

7. Harappan Sculptures

Sculptures of the Harappan Civilization hold a significant role in understanding the lifestyle of the Harappan people. It also helps historians to understand the civilization further. Here, we will discuss the Sculptures of Harappan Civilization which will be helpful for UPSC Civil Service Exam preparation.

7.1 Sculptures of the Harappan Civilization

- During the second millennium, the arts of the Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's first civilizations, arose. Sculptures, seals, ceramics, gold jewelry, terracotta figurines, and other types of art have been discovered at many civilization sites.
- Their renderings of human and animal forms were extremely lifelike and the modeling of figures was done with utmost caution.
- The major materials used for sculptors were: Stone, Bronze, Terracotta, Clay, etc.

7.2 Stone Sculptures of Harappan Civilization

The handling of the 3-Dimensional volume may be seen in stone figures found in Indus valley sites. There are two major stone statues:

1. **In Mohenjo-Daro, a Bearded Man (Priest Man, Priest-King) was discovered. The main features of the figure were:**
 - Steatite figurine of a bearded guy.
 - The figure is covered in a shawl that comes under the right arm and covers the left shoulder, indicating that it is a priest. The shawl has a trefoil design on it.
 - As in contemplative concentration, the eyes are extended and partially closed.
 - The nose is well-formed and of average size.
 - Short beard and whiskers, as well as a short moustache.
 - A basic woven fillet is carried around the head once the hair is separated in the center.
 - A right-hand armlet and holes around the neck imply a necklace.
 - Overall, there is a hint of the Greek style in the statues.
2. **Male Torso**
 - Red sandstone was used to create it.
 - The head and arms are attached to the neck and shoulders through socket openings. Legs have been broken.
 - The shoulders are nicely browned, and the belly is a little protruding.
 - It is one of the more expertly cut and polished pieces.

7.3 Bronze Sculptures of Harappan Civilization

- Bronze casting was conducted on a large scale in practically all of the civilization's main sites.

- Bronze casting was done using the Lost Wax Technique.

Lost Wax Technique

- At first, the required figure is formed of wax and coated with clay. After allowing the clay to dry, the entire assembly is heated to melt the wax within the clay. The melted wax was then drained out of the clay section through a small hole.
- The molten metal was then poured into the hollow clay mold. The clay coating was fully removed once it had cooled.
- The Bronze casting includes both human and animal representations.
- The buffalo, with its raised head, back, and sweeping horns, and the goat, among animal representations, are aesthetic assets.
- Bronze casting was popular at all locations of Indus valley culture, as evidenced by the copper dog and bird of Lothal and the Bronze figure of a bull from Kalibangan.
- Metal casting persisted until the late Harappan, Chalcolithic, and other peoples following the Indus valley civilization.

Examples of Bronze Casting are:

Dancing Girl

- Founded in Mohenjo-Daro, is one of the best-known artifacts from Indus valley.
- It depicts a girl whose long hair is tied in a bun and bangles cover her left arm.
- Cowry shell necklace is seen around her neck with her right hand on her hip and her left hand clasped in a traditional Indian dance gesture.

Bull from Mohenjo-Daro

- Mohenjo-Daro has a bronze statue of a bull.
- The bull's massiveness and the charge's wrath are vividly depicted.
- The animal is seen standing to the right with his head cocked.
- A cord is wrapped around the neck.

7.4 Terracotta Sculptures of Harappan Civilization

- In Gujarat and Kalibangan, terracotta statues are more lifelike.
- A few figures of bearded males with coiled hairs are found in terracotta, their stance firmly erect, legs slightly apart, and arms parallel to the sides of the torso. The fact that this figure appears in the same posture over and over again suggests that he was a divinity.
- There was also a clay mask of a horned god discovered.
- Terracotta was also used to create toy carts with wheels, whistles, rattles, birds and animals, gamesmen, and discs.
- Mother Goddess figurines are the most important clay figures.

The main example of a terracotta figure is:

Mother Goddess

- Mohenjo-Daro is where it was found.
- These are mainly crude standing figurines.
- Wearing a loin robe and a grid, she is adorned with jewelry dangling from her large breast.
- The mother goddess's distinctive ornamental element is her fan-shaped headpiece with a cup-like protrusion on either side.
- The figure's pellet eyes and beaked snout are exceedingly primitive (constructed in a rudimentary way).
- A tiny hole indicates the mouth.

7.5 Conclusion

The artists and craftsmen of the Indus Valley were extremely skilled in a variety of crafts—metal casting, stone carving, making and painting pottery, and making terracotta images using simplified motifs of animals, plants, and birds, making the civilization a rich one.

8. Art of Indus valley civilization

Indus Valley Civilization holds a key role in the History of India. The arts of the Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's first civilizations, evolved throughout the second millennium. Many civilization sites have yielded sculptures, seals, ceramics, gold jewellery, terracotta figurines, and other works of art. The Arts of Indus valley Civilization gives immense details about the life of people of that time. This article explains the Arts of Indus Valley Civilization, which will be helpful for UPSC IAS Exam preparation.

8.1 Art of Indus Valley Civilization

- During the second millennium, the arts of the Indus Valley civilization, one of the world's first civilizations, arose. Sculptures, seals, ceramics, gold jewelry, terracotta figurines, and other types of art have been discovered at many civilization sites.
- Their renderings of human and animal forms were extremely lifelike and the modeling of figures was done with utmost caution.
- Along the Indus River, there are two significant Indus Valley civilization sites: Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro in the north and Mohenjo-Daro in the south.
- While Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro are in Pakistan, notable sites discovered in India include Lothal, Surkotada, Dholavira in Gujarat, Rakhigarh, and Banwali in Haryana, and Ropar in Punjab.
- The major materials used for artistic works were: Stone, Bronze, Terracotta, Clay, etc.

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- The figure's pellet eyes and beaked snout are exceedingly primitive (constructed in a rudimentary way).
- A tiny hole indicates the mouth.

8.5 Seals

- Thousands of seals, mostly made of steatite but also agate, chert, copper, faience, and terracotta, were discovered at the sites, with exquisite representations of animals such as unicorn bulls, rhinoceros, tiger, elephant, bison, goat, buffalo, and others.
- The major purpose was to create wealth.
- They were also carried on the person of their owners as amulets, maybe like modern-day identity cards.
- Harappan seals were 2 x 2 square inches in size.
- Every seal has a pictographic script on it that has yet to be understood.
- Seals have also been discovered in Gold and Ivory.

Pashupati Seal

- A cross-legged human figure shown on the seal is found at Mohenjo Daro.
- A tiger and an elephant are represented on the right side of the image, while a rhinoceros and a buffalo are depicted on the left.
- Below the seat are two antelopes (deer) (near his feet). The figure's head bears three horns.

8.6 Pottery

- The pottery of the Indus Valley is mostly manufactured on the wheel, with only a few exceptions.
- Painted ceramics are much less prevalent than plain pottery. The most common type of plain pottery is red clay with or without a fine red or grey slip.

- The geometric and animal images are painted in glossy black paint on the black painted ware, which has a fine covering of red slip.

Painted Earthen Jar

It is made on Potter's wheel, found at Mohenjo Daro.

8.7 Beads, Ornaments, and Cosmetics

- Harappan men and women adorned themselves with a wide range of jewelry made from a wide range of materials, including precious metals, jewels, bone, and baked clay.
- Both men and women wore white necklaces, fillets, armlets, and finger rings.
- Necklaces made of gold and semi-precious metal stones, copper bracelets and beads, gold earrings, and head decorations have all been discovered in Mohenjo-Daro and Lothal.
- At Farmana in Harappa, a cemetery was discovered where deceased people were buried with jewelry.
- Chanhudaro and Lothal both have well-developed bead factories.
- Some beads were produced by cementing two or more stones together.
- Animal figures, particularly monkeys and squirrels, were also created and utilized as pinheads and beads.
- Cotton and wool spinning were quite popular (both rich and poor practiced spinning).
- Men and women wore different outfits that looked like a dhoti and shawl.
- Shawl went below right arm and covered left shoulder.
- They were fashion-conscious. Various hairstyles were fashionable, and beards were popular.
- Cinnabar was used as a cosmetic, and they were familiar with face paint, lipstick, and collyrium (eyeliner).

8.8 Conclusion

The artists and craftsmen of the Indus Valley were extremely skilled in a variety of crafts—metal casting, stone carving, making and painting pottery, and making terracotta images using simplified motifs of animals, plants, and birds, making the civilization a rich one.
