

Heritage Quiz Study Material

Class: VI

Subject: Social Science

Topic:

1. Bhimbetka rock shelter
2. Nalanda university
3. Dholavira
4. Bodh gaya
5. Sitar-ravi shankar
6. Madhubani painting-bihar
7. Kuttiyattam dance form
8. Jim corbett national park
9. Captain ram singh thakur
10. The preamble

I. Bhimbetka rock shelter



Location and Discovery-

Bhimbetka rock shelters are located between Hoshangabad and Bhopal, in the foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau. The painted caves are more than 400 in number and spread over an area often square kilometers. Most credit to discover the caves goes to Shri V. S. Vakankar (Head of the dept. of Archaeological Museum and Excavations, Vikram University).

The Bhimbetka site includes-

- 400 painted rock shelters in five clusters;
- Palaeolithic evidence from excavations within shelters indicating antiquity of human settlement;
- Stone and Iron Age walls and floors within the rock shelters;
- Evidence of a very long cultural continuity within many of the painted rock shelters;
- Indications of strong cultural links between the Bhimbetka paintings and the culture of local villages in the buffer zone;
- Forest areas around the rock paintings.
- Most paintings are from Mesolithic era.

Features of Painting-

- Largely in white and red, the paintings are essentially a record of the varied animal life of the surrounding forest and of various facets - economic and social- of peoples' lives.
- Images include extinct fauna, mythical creatures; domesticated animals, carts and

- chariots; designs and patterns, inscriptions and also some symbols of the Historic period.
- Along with pictorial narratives of events such as large processions of men on caparisoned horses and elephants, and battle scenes.
 - Some paintings contain a few images, while others have several hundred.
 - Depictions vary from the realistic to the stylized, graphic, geometric or decorative.
 - Sizes of the paintings range from five centimeters to an immense impression on a ceiling of an animal nearly five metres in length and two metres across.
 - Stylistically, the paintings are closely linked to a distinctive, regional Central Indian style of rock paintings, which is well documented.

Many features are also typical of significant bodies of rock art around the world.

II. Nalanda University



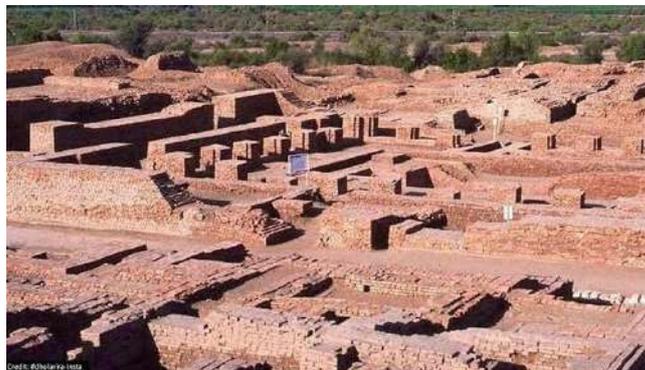
Nalanda was the oldest Buddhist learning center. Nalanda Mahavihara establishment with a huge campus, thousands of teachers and students, and many lecture halls with free lodging, and boarding. It has its own contribution to the development of Buddhist philosophy and logic and to the expansion of Buddhism.

- Nalanda, a large Buddhist monastery, now in ruins, was one of the most publicly acknowledged Mahaviharas of ancient India located in the ancient Magadha kingdom (modern Bihar).
- It remained a learning center from the 7th century BCE through c. 1200 CE and is many a time categorized as one of the early universities of India along with other institutions like 'Vikramashila' and 'Taxila'.
- The patronage of the Gupta Empire saw this Mahavihara prosper during the 5th and 6th centuries as also during the reign of emperor Harsha of Kannauj.
- Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Nalanda not only boasts of being one of the most revered Buddhist tourism sites in India but also continues to draw attention from scholars, historians, and archaeologists.
- The accounted history of Nalanda dates back to the Gupta Empire with a seal confirming the founder of the place as the 5th-century CE Gupta monarch Shakraditya who was identified as emperor Kumaragupta.

- Expansions and development including building new temples and monasteries took place during the reign of his successors namely Buddhagupta, Baladitya, Tathagatagupta, and Vajra.
- Among them the 12th Gupta emperor Narasimhagupta Baladitya was raised under the guidance of Vasubandhu, a very influential Buddhist monk, scholar, and Mahayanist philosopher from Gandhara.

Clay sealing of Baladitya was found in Nalanda. A 91 m high vihara encompassing a Buddha statue and a sangharama was built by him.

III. Dholavira



Location-

Dholavira is an archaeological site at Khadirbet in Bhachau Taluka of Kutch District, in the state of Gujarat in western India, which has taken its name from a modern-day village 1 kilometre south of it. This village is 165 km from Radhanpur. Also known locally as Kotadatimba, the site contains ruins of a city of the ancient Indus Valley civilization. Earthquakes have repeatedly affected Dholavira, including a particularly severe one around 2600 BC.

Water Conservation System-

One of the unique features of Dholavira is the sophisticated water conservation system of channels and reservoirs, the earliest found anywhere in the world, built completely of stone. The city had massive reservoirs, three of which are exposed. They were used for storing fresh water brought by rains or to store water diverted from two nearby rivulets. The reservoirs are cut through stone vertically, and are about 7 m deep and 79 m long. They skirt the city, while the citadel and bath are centrally located on raised ground. There is also a large well with a stone-cut through connecting it to a drain meant for conducting water to a storage tank. The bathing tank had steps descending inwards.

Seals-

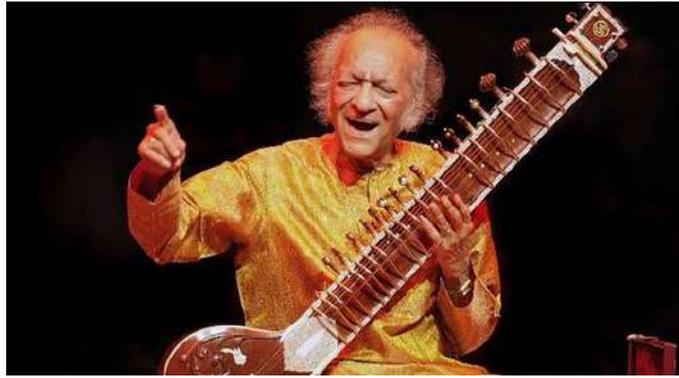
Painted Indus black-on-red-ware pottery, square stamp seals, seals without Indus script, a huge signboard measuring about 3 m in length, containing ten letters of Indus script. One poorly preserved seated male figure made of stone has also been found, comparable to high quality two stone sculptures found at Harappa.

IV. Bodh Gaya



1. Bodh Gaya is considered to be the holiest site in Buddhism. Known as Uruwela in the Buddha's time, it is situated by the bank of Lilajan River.
 2. The first temple at the site was built by King Ashoka.
 3. Traditionally, Buddha was born in 563 BC on the following auspicious Baisakhipurnima. As Siddhartha, he renounced his family at the age of 29 in 534 BC, and travelled and meditated in search of truth. After practicing self-mortification for six years at Urubela (Buddhagaya) in Gaya, he gave up that practice because it did not give him Vimukthi.
 4. Then he discovered Noble Eight-fold path without help from anyone and practiced it, then he attained Buddhata or enlightenment.
 5. Enlightenment is a state of being completely free from lust (raga), hatred (dosa) and delusion (moha).
 6. By gaining enlightenment, one enters Nirvana, in which the final stage is Parinirvana.
 7. The history of Bodh Gaya is documented by many inscriptions and pilgrimage accounts. Foremost among these are the accounts of the Chinese pilgrims Faxian in the 5th century and Xuanzang in the 7th century.
 8. The area was at the heart of a Buddhist civilization for centuries, until it was conquered by Turkic armies in the 13th century.
 9. The place-name, Bodh Gaya, did not come into use until the 18th century CE. Historically, it was known as Uruvela, Sambodhi, Vajrasana or Mahabodhi.
- The main monastery of Bodh Gaya used to be called the Bodhimanda-vihara (Pali). Now it is called the Mahabodhi Temple.

V.Sitar



1. The sitar is a plucked stringed instrument, originating from the Indian subcontinent, used in Hindustani classical music. The instrument was invented in medieval India, flourished in the 18th century, and arrived at its present form in 19th-century India.

2. Khusrau Khan, an 18th century figure of Mughal India has been identified by modern scholarship as the originator of Sitar. According to most historians he developed sitar from setar, an Iranian instrument of Abbasid or Safavid origin. Some Indians, however, claim that he developed it from Veena but this view is rejected by others for lacking evidence.

3. The veena in particular may have been a source for adding sympathetic strings to the sitar. This allowed the sitar to expand into different musical traditions, the "repertoire and the conventions of the long-established system of rāg".

4. The Indian origin theories haven't been examined and are questioned for representing obsolete 19th century ideas. The evidence for origin of sitar in chitraveena is too weak for any conclusion.

5. A sitar can have 18, 19, 20, or 21 strings; 6 or 7 of these run over curved, raised frets and are played strings; the remainder are sympathetic strings (*tarb*, also known as *taarif* or *tarafdaar*), running underneath the frets and resonating in sympathy with the played strings.

6. The frets, which are known as *pardā* or *thaat*,^[14] are movable, allowing fine tuning. The played strings run to tuning pegs on or near the head of the instrument, while the sympathetic strings, which have a variety of different lengths, pass through small holes in the fretboard to engage with the smaller tuning pegs that run down the instrument's neck.

7. The instrument has two bridges: the large bridge (*badaagoraa*) for the playing and drone strings and the small bridge (*chotagoraa*) for the sympathetic strings.

8. Materials used in construction include teak wood or *tun* wood (*Cedrelatoona*), which is a variation of mahogany, for the neck and faceplate (*tabli*), and calabash gourds for the resonating chambers. The instrument's bridges are made of deer horn, ebony, or very occasionally from camel bone. Synthetic material is now common as well.

9. There are two popular modern styles of sitar: the fully decorated "instrumental style" (sometimes called the "Ravi Shankar style") and the "gayaki" style (sometimes called the "Vilayat Khan" style).

10. Ravi Shankar born Robindro Shaunkor Chowdhury, sometimes spelled as Rabindra Shankar

Chowdhury; 7 April 1920 – 11 December 2012) was an Indian sitarist and composer Shankar was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1999.

11. Shankar was born to a Bengali Brahmin family in India, and spent his youth as a dancer touring India and Europe with the dance group of his brother Uday Shankar. He gave up dancing in 1938 to study sitar playing under court musician Allauddin Khan.

12. After finishing his studies in 1944, Shankar worked as a composer, creating the music for the *Apu Trilogy* by Satyajit Ray, and was music director of All India Radio, New Delhi, from 1949 to 1956.

Style and contribution

Shankar developed a style distinct from that of his contemporaries and incorporated influences from rhythm practices of Carnatic music.

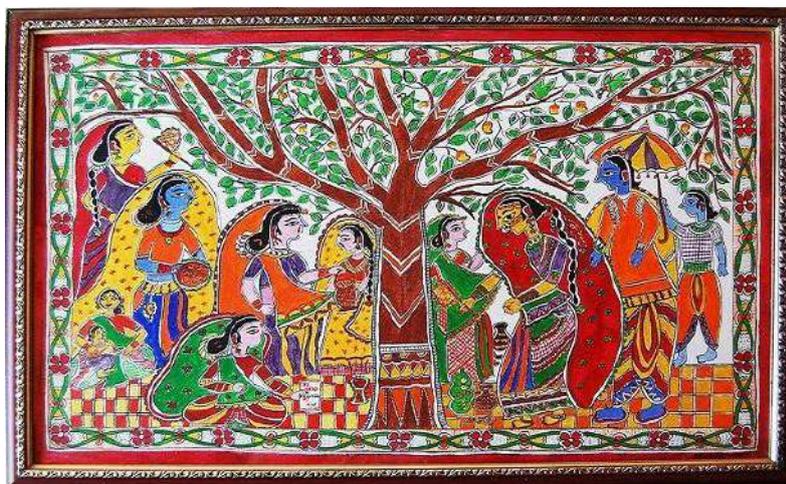
Shankar promoted the *jugalbandi* duet concert style. Shankar introduced at least 31 new ragas, including *Nat Bhairav*.

Awards

Indian Government honours [edit]

- Bharat Ratna (1999)
- Padma Vibhushan (1981)
- Padma Bhushan (1967)
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1962)
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (1975)
- Kalidas Samman from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for 1987–88

VI. Madhubani Painting



Madhubani painting is one of the many famous Indian art forms. As it is practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal, it is called Mithila or Madhubani art. Often characterized by complex geometrical patterns, these paintings are known for representing ritual content for

particular occasions, including festivals, religious rituals, etc.

History-

Madhubani paintings originated in the Mithila region of Bihar. Some of the initial references to the Madhubani painting can be found in the Hindu epic Ramayana when King Janaka, Sita's father, asks his painters to create Madhubani paintings for his daughter's wedding. Over time, Madhubani paintings became a part of festivities and special events like weddings. Slowly, this art attracted connoisseurs of art as many contemporary Indian artists took the art on global stage. The traditional base of plastered mud wall was soon replaced by handmade paper, cloth and canvas.

Features-

1. The colors used in Madhubani paintings are usually derived from plants and other natural sources.
2. These colors are often bright and pigments like lampblack and ochre are used to create black and brown respectively.
3. Instead of contemporary brushes, objects like twigs, matchsticks and even fingers are used to create the paintings.
4. Madhubani paintings were initially practiced by different sects of people and hence the paintings were categorized into five different styles, such as Tantrik, Kohbar, Bharni, Godna, Katchni.
5. But today, these five different styles have been merged by contemporary artists.
6. The themes used in these paintings often revolve around Hindu deities like Krishna, Rama, Lakshmi, Shiva, Durga and Saraswati.
7. Also, heavenly bodies like the Sun and the Moon often form the centerpiece of Madhubani paintings.

VII. Kutiyattam Dance Form



Description and Origin-

The ancient Sanskrit theatrical art form of the state, Kutiyattam is Kerala's distinctive stage interpretation of the very early Sanskrit drama as dance drama. Kutiyattam (Koodiyattam), which is around 2000 years old, has been accepted as one of the 'Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' by the UNESCO. It is usually performed only in temple

theatres known as Koothambalam by members of the Chakyar and Nambyar castes till the first half of the 20th century. Only through rigorous training lasting many years one can aspire to master the craft of Kutiyattam.

Types-

The word Kutiyattam literally means "acting together". There are four methods or types of acting has been mentioned in Sage Bharata's NatyaShastra -

- aangikam (expression using different parts of the body),
- vaachikam (expression through speech),
- sathvikam (expression of physical reactions to emotions) and
- aahaaryam (expression through costume, ornaments and props) are all woven into Koodiyattam performances.

Writers-

In the beginning the repertoire of kutiyattam consisted of Sanskrit dramas written by writers mainly from northern India, such as Bhasa, Kalidasa, and Harsha.

Influence in Society-

In a similar way to Sanskrit dramas, there is also a clear hierarchy of languages in kutiyattam plays. Priests and men of the ruling class speak Sanskrit, while women, children, and ordinary folk use the local vernacular, Malayalam. As in Sanskrit dramas, so also in kutiyattam, the clown character can break this social hierarchy by moving freely on every level of society and translate the Sanskrit verses of the heroes into local Malayalam.

VIII. Jim Corbett National Park



Introduction-

Located at the Himalayas' foothills, near the popular hill-station of Nainital, the beautiful Jim Corbett National Park, is famous for being home to a large number of tigers, the highest among any Indian national park. Spread over 1318.54 sq km, of which 520 sq km is the main area, and the remaining is buffer; the park is spread over the picturesque landscapes of PauriGarhwal, Almora, and Nainital. The jeep safari into the dense forest to see the wild animals in their natural habitat is a must-have experience.

History-

One of the oldest national parks in India, Corbett National Park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park. Prior to its formation, the park was the private property of TehriGarhwal

princely state. The Raja of Tehri ceded a part of the region to the East India Company in exchange for their assistance to remove Gurkhas. It was also the territory of Boksas, a tribe from the Terai who used to grow crops, but in 1860 they were ousted by the British. The park has gone through many name changes too, and so is its area. In 1954-55, its name was changed from Hailey National Park to Ramganga National Park and was again renamed in 1955-56 as Corbett National Park. The current name of the park - Corbett National Park was made in the honor of a well-known author and wildlife conservationist, Jim Corbett, who also played a key role in its establishment.

IX. Captain Ram Singh Thakuri



Ram Singh Thakuri (15 August 1914 - 15 April 2002) was an Indian freedom fighter, musician and composer. He composed a number of patriotic songs including **KadamKadamBadayeJa** and **SubhSukh Chain** whilst serving in the **Indian National Army**.

Early Life

1. Capt Ram Singh was born in BhagsuKhaniara village near Dharamsala, on August 15, 1914. His father Havaldar Delip Singh groomed Ram Singh to join the Army. After passing middle examination, he joined the **IndGorkha Rifles** in 1927 at Dharamsala cantonment as a recruit boy in the band. "I was inspired by my maternal grandfather Nathu Chand to learn music.

2. Later on, I got training from renowned British musician Hadson and Danish in brass band, string band and dance band in Army. I also learnt the violin from Capt Rose.

3. Rajan further said that on 21st October 1943 the INA came into power in Singapore under the leadership of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Seeing Bose's leadership, a large number of Indian prisoners joined the INA along with Singh with the sole intent to make India free from Britishers.

4. Subhash Chandra Bose recognised the talent of Captain Ram Singh Thakur as a committed musician. With passing time Singh composed tunes of almost 71 famous patriotic songs

including SaareJahan Se Achha.

5.Rajan said that for such notable achievement in the form of the set-up of INA, Azad Hind Government felt an urgent desire for a national anthem. In this vein, Captain Lakshmi Sahgal, an INA legend, forwarded the selection of Jana GanaMana. The song was based on a poem by Rabindranath Tagore and was translated into Hindi by Abid Ali.

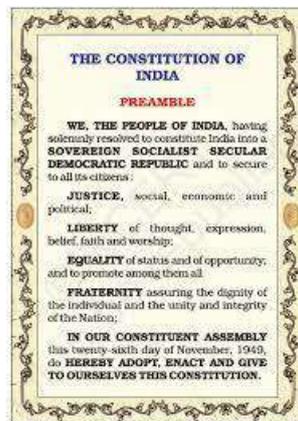
6.The present National Anthem's tune was composed by Capt. Ram Singh in the form of 'QaumiTarana' of the INA in Singapore.Post-independence, Constituent Assemble took almost 3 years and found 'QaumiTarana' of INA suitable and apt as the national anthem for Independent India instead of 'VandeMataram.

7.Later, Singh played the National Anthem of the INA in the presence of Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi. Also, on August 15th, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the Indian flag on Red Fort, and Capt Singh was specially invited to play the tune of 'QaumiTarana' of the INA there.

8.At the time of retirement from the Provincial Armed Constabulary band of Uttar Pradesh in 1974, Singh was conferred with the honorary rank of DSP and was conferred with many recognitions, awards from the centre, and the title of 'Emeritus Musician' and Life Advisor Music from Govt. of UP.

9.In the end, Rajan with disappointment said that it's a grim scenario that people don't even know such jewels who have rendered selfless service for our nation.

X. The Preamble



What is Preamble?

Preamble declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic. The objectives stated by the Preamble are to secure justice, liberty, equality to all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation.

Who wrote the Preamble of the constitution?

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly. It was moved by Nehru on December 13, 1946, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947.

Key Points:

1. The Preamble of Indian Constitution has 73 words. The 73-word Preamble to the Constitution of India outlines the ideals that must guide Indian democracy.
2. The Preamble of our constitution is the part of our constitution but is not enforceable by the court.
3. Preamble acts as an interpreter of the constitution.
4. The Preamble of Indian constitution was inspired by the preamble of the constitution of the USA.

Interesting Facts about the Preamble:

5. It was enacted after the enactment of the entire Constitution of India
6. The term 'secular' was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
7. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship
8. Ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble are borrowed from the Soviet Union (Russia) Constitution
9. Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity are borrowed from the French Constitution
10. Preamble, in itself, has been first introduced through the American Constitution

CLASS NOTES

Class: VII

Subject: Heritage Quiz

Topic:

1. Mehrangarh Fort
2. Manas National Park
3. Virupaksha Temple
4. Brihadeshwara Temple
5. Jantar-Mantar Observatory
6. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan
7. Kumbh Mela
8. Mudiyettu Theatre
9. Bal Krishna Mahadev Bhonsle
10. The Preamble

Mehrangarh Fort



1. Built by Rao Jodha (the founder of Jodhpur) in 1459 overlooking the blue city, the fort is known for its beautiful architecture.
2. For the Rathore dynasty, Sun was the most superior of all Gods. Hence, they named the fort 'Mehrangarh', a name which was derived from two words: 'Mihir' that stands for Sun and 'Garh' implicating Fort. The locals gradually began to call Mehar-garh as Mehrangarh in their local accent, hence the name.
3. Mehrangarh Fort has seven gates to enter into the fort, some popular ones are:
 - (a) Jai Pol (Gate of Victory) which was built by Maharaja Man Singh in the year 1806 to celebrate his triumph in a war with Bikaner and Jaipur. You can still spot some craters of cannon balls during the battle near its walls.
 - (b) Fateh Pol (Victory Gate) was built in the year 1707 by Maharaja Ajit Singh to celebrate the triumph over the Mughals. This gate was defended with numerous spikes which are very robust and hard to beat by enemies.
 - (c) Amriti Pol - This was constructed in the year 1549 during the ruling session of

Maharaja Maldeo.

- (d) Gopal Pol and Bhairon Pol- Both these gates are small as compared to others and house several Guard rooms.
- (e) Dedh Kamgra Pol- Also known as Lakhan Pol was built in the 19th century, the walls around this gate still possess the marks of massive mortar balls in it.
- (f) Loha Pol is the sixth gate studded with sharper iron spikes. The left side of the gate, you find the 'Sati marks' the palm impressions of the royal widowed women who sacrificed their lives on the funeral pyres of their husbands and the most shocking and dreadful is that they would not scream or cry when they burned alive. The last immolation was held in 1843 by the queens of Maharaja Man Singh.
- (g) Suraj Pol - This is the last gate comes after entering through the Loha Pol.

Then, we come across the Shangar Chowk (Coronation Courtyard) where the kings of Jodhpur were crowned on a throne made up of marble.

Manas National Park



The name Manas comes from the River Manas that flows through the National Park and the Hindu deity 'Manasa', a snake goddess. River Manas is a tributary of Brahmaputra.

History:

- In 1907, it was declared a Reserve Forest.
- Further, it was declared a Game Sanctuary in 1928.
- In 2003, Manas was declared the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant.
- It is located at the foothills of the Himalayas, where fine alluvial soil supports one of the richest biodiversity spots of the world.
- The Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam have witnessed a sharp rise in the population of rhinos and tigers.
- Manas is famous for its population of the wild water buffalo.

In 1992, UNESCO declared it as a world heritage site in danger due to heavy poaching and terrorist activities.

Virupaksha Temple



The Virupaksha Temple in Hampi is in the Vijayanagara district of Karnataka, India. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Hampi is a temple town in South India and is acknowledged as one of the World Heritage Sites of UNESCO. Virupaksha Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

About its construction:

- a) This temple was constructed in Lakkana Dandesha's assistance who was a commander under King Deva Raya II. The temple has a shrine or the holy place of worship, a hall with a number of pillars and 3 antechambers.
- b) There are courtyards, a pillared monastery, few small shrines; and entrance ways surrounding the temple.
- c) Among all the gateways, the eastern gateway is the greatest. It is nine-tiered and 50 meters in length. It is well built and has some previous structures. The framework is of brick and includes a gravel base giving way to the court outside.
- d) A renowned Vijayanagara King, Krishnadevaraya was a contributor of the temple. It is believed that the main pillared hall which is the most adorned structure of this temple is his addition.

Who is God Virupaksha?

According to one mythology, Virupaksha is a god of kirat people and statue was built by kirati people of ancient Nepal. His statue is believed to be buried due to the earthquake in this version. In another story, Virupaksha is believed to be the chief of Nāgas, the gatekeepers of Lord Shiva.

Brihadeshwara Temple



- Brihadishwara Temple locally known as Thanjai Periya Kovil, and also called Rajarajeswaram, is a Hindu Dravidian styled temple dedicated to the god Shiva located in South bank of Cauvery river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India.
- Bruhadeshwara temple is so famous because it is the biggest and highest temple in India and it has been accorded the status of the world heritage site.
- The temple is dedicated to Shiva in the form of a huge linga, his abstract aniconic representation. It is 8.7 m (29 ft) high, occupying two storeys of the sanctum. It is one of the largest monolithic linga sculptures in India.

Why Brihadeshwar temple has no shadow?

Another interesting fact about its architecture is that the vimana (tower above the sanctum sanctorum) of the temple does not cast a shadow at noon. The temple is fully made of granite and has Chola frescoes on its walls, portraying various facets of Lord Shiva.

Its construction:

- Inside the temple, there is a temple tower famous as Vimana among the devotees and tourists. This temple tower has an elevation of 66 meters.
- Vimana is one of the tallest temple towers on the earth.
- A rounded apex structure is there in the Brihadeshwar Temple, which is believed to be constructed out of carving on a single stone only.
- There is also located a figurine of a consecrated bull or Nandi at the entry of this Brihadeshwar Temple.
- Brihadeshwarar Temple is also widely known by name of 'Big Temple'. This temple completed its 1000 years in the year 2010. This temple is swarmed by tourists throughout the year.

Jantar-Mantar Observatory



The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur is a collection of 19 astronomical instruments built by the Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur, Rajasthan. The monument was completed in 1734. It features the world's largest stone sundial, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is near City Palace and Hawa Mahal. The instruments allow the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye.

What is special about Jantar Mantar?

Jantar Mantar is an observatory constructed by Maharaja Jai Singh of Jaipur in 1724. The essential purpose of the Jantar Mantar was to accumulate astronomical tables which in turn would help predict the time and movement of the celestial bodies such as the sun, moon and other planets.

The Ram Yantra, the Samrat Yantra, the Jai Prakash Yantra and the Misra Yantra are the distinct instruments of Jantar Mantar.

Samrat Yantra: The Samrat Yantra, or Supreme Instrument, is a giant triangle that is basically an equal hour sundial.

Jaya Prakash Yantra: The Jaya Prakash consists of hollowed out hemispheres with markings on their concave surfaces.

Rama Yantra: Two large cylindrical structures with open top, used to measure the altitude of stars based on the latitude and the longitude on the earth.

Misra Yantra: The Misra Yantra (literally mixed instrument) is a composition of 5 instruments designed as a tool to determine the shortest and longest days of the year.

Shasthansa Yantra: Using a pinhole camera mechanism, it has been built within the towers that support the quadrant scales. It is used to measure specific measurements of the sun such as the zenith distance, declination, and diameter of the sun.

Kapala Yantra: Built on the same principle as the jai Prakash, the instrument is used more as a demonstration to indicate the transformation of one coordinate system to

another. Not used for active celestial observation.

Rasivalya Yantra: Twelve of these structure were built, each referring to the zodiacal constellations by measuring the latitude and longitude of a celestial object at the very moment the celestial object crosses the meridian.

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan



Amjad Ali Khan Bangash is an Indian classical sarod player, best known for his clear and fast ekhara taans.

He was awarded India's second highest civilian honour Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

He is popularly known as the “Sarod Samrat”.

He is the sixth generation sarod player in his family.

He learned from his father Haafiz Ali Khan, who was a court musician in Gwalior up until Independence in 1947.

He was awarded India's second-highest civilian honor Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

The name sarod comes from the Persian ‘sarod’ meaning ‘melody’, alluding to its more melodic tone.

CAREER AND RECOGNITION

Khan first performed in the United States in 1963 and continued into the 2000s, with his sons. In 2014, along with his two sons, Ayaan Ali Khan and Amaan Ali Khan, he performed “Raga for Peace” in 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Concert.

Khan was awarded 21st Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award.

Khan received Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 1991, and Padma Vibhushan in 2001, and was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 1989 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for 2011.

He was awarded the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2004. The U.S. state Massachusetts proclaimed 20th April as Amjad Ali Khan Day in 1984.

Kumbh Mela



What is Kumbh Mela?

Kumbh Mela or Kumbha Mela is a major pilgrimage and festival in Hinduism. The word Kumbh means Pitcher. It goes on for 45 days. It is celebrated in a cycle of approximately 12 years, to celebrate every revolution Brihaspati completes, at four river-bank pilgrimage sites: Allahabad, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain.

Where is the next Kumbh Mela?

The 2013 Kumbh mela was the largest religious gathering in the world with almost 120 million visitors. An Ardh Kumbh Mela was held in early 2019. The next full Kumbh mela is scheduled for 2025.

Why is Kumbh Mela celebrated every 3 years?

It is celebrated in a cycle of approximately 12 years, to celebrate every revolution Brihaspati (Jupiter) completes, at four river-bank pilgrimage sites: Allahabad (Ganges-Yamuna-Sarasvati rivers confluence), Haridwar (Ganges), Nashik (Godavari), and Ujjain (Shipra).

What is the difference between Kumbh and Mahakumbh?

Though the Purna Kumbh is held once in twelve years, the congregation was preponed due to the planetary positions. Hence, instead of 2022, the Purna Kumbh has taken place this year. The Maha Kumbh Mela is held once in 144 years (upon the completion of 12 Purna Kumbh). It is held only at the Sangam Ghat in Prayagraj.

Which city is famous for Kumbh Mela in India?

Haridwar is one of the holiest cities of India as river Ganga flows right through the land, increasing its importance. Here, Kumbh Mela is held during the Hindu month of Chaitra when Sun is in Aries and Jupiter is in Aquarius. The beautiful city hosts the Kumbh Mela on the banks of the river Ganges.

Mudiyettu Theatre



What is Mudi yettu Theatre?

Mudi yettu is a traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika. The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult.

How is the dance performed?

The dance is performed in Bhadrakali temples, the temples of the Mother Goddess, between February and May after the harvesting season.

Key Points:

Mudi yettu is performed annually in 'Bhagavati Kavus', the temples of the goddess, in different villages along the rivers Chalakkudy Puzha, Periyar and Moovattupuzha.

Mudi yettu performers purify themselves through fasting and prayer, then draw a huge image of goddess Kali, called as *kalam*, on the temple floor with coloured powders, wherein the spirit of the goddess is invoked.

Responsibility for its transmission lies with the elders and senior performers, who engage the younger generation as apprentices during the course of the performance.

Mudi yettu serves as an important cultural site for transmission of traditional values, ethics, moral codes and aesthetic norms of the community to the next generation, thereby ensuring its continuity and relevance in present times.

Bal Krishna Mahadev Bhonsle



Who was Balkrishna Bhonsle?

Balkrishna, son of Mahadev Bhonsle, was born at Pomburpa village of Bardez Taluka

of North Goa on 12 July 1926. He was educated in Marathi primary and English secondary levels.

Key Points:

For some time, he served in the British Army and voluntarily retired in 1945 after World War II ended.

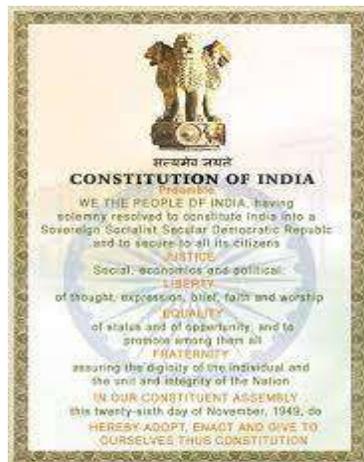
He joined the Azad Gomantak Dal (AZD) and participated in a number of daring attacks.

Thereafter, he joined Goa Liberation Army and participated in the attack on the Portuguese police at Chodan village on 5 February 1956.

He attacked Pomburpa police station along with his colleagues on 5 December 1956 and in the encounter, received the fatal bullets mistakenly from one of his associates and breathed his last.

Surprisingly, he was tried by the TMT(Tribunal Military Territorial or Portuguese Military Tribunal) after his death and on 29 December 1956, sentenced to 24 years RI, a fine of 25 Escudos per day for two years, and suspension of political rights for 20 years. He was honored by the Goa Government on 18 June 1983.

The Preamble



What is Preamble?

Preamble declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic. The objectives stated by the Preamble are to secure justice, liberty, equality to all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation.

Who wrote the Preamble of the constitution?

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly. It was moved by Nehru on December 13, 1946, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947.

Key Points:

1. The Preamble of Indian Constitution has 73 words. The 73-word Preamble to the Constitution of India outlines the ideals that must guide Indian democracy.

2. The Preamble of our constitution is the part of our constitution but is not enforceable by the court.
3. Preamble acts as an interpreter of the constitution.
4. The Preamble of Indian constitution was inspired by the preamble of the constitution of the USA.

Interesting Facts about the Preamble:

5. It was enacted after the enactment of the entire Constitution of India
6. The term 'secular' was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
7. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship
8. Ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble are borrowed from the Soviet Union (Russia) Constitution
9. Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity are borrowed from the French Constitution
10. Preamble, in itself, has been first introduced through the American Constitution
- 11.

XXXXX

CLASS NOTES

Class: VIII

Subject: Heritage Quiz Round -1

Topic: Study material

1. Brihadeshwara temple(gangaicondacholapuram)
2. Group of monuments at mahabalipuram-rathas,mandapas and relief
3. Golconda fort
4. Meenakshi amma temple
5. Sehnaï-maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan
6. Thangka painting-Sikkim
7. Koodiyaattam theatre
8. Khangchendzonga biosphere reserve
9. Ras Bihari Bose
10. 8th schedule of Indian Constitution

BRIHEDESHWAR TEMPLE (GONGAICONDA CHOLAPURAM, Tamil Nadu)



Location and importance:

1. The **Brihadisvara Temple** is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva in Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Jayankondam, in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
2. It was Completed in 1035 AD by Rajendra Chola I as a part of his new capital, this Chola dynasty era temple is similar in design, and has a similar name, as the older 11th century, Brihadeeswarar Temple about 70 kilometers (43 m) to the southwest in Thanjavur.
3. The Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple is smaller yet more refined than the Thanjavur Temple. Both are among the largest Shiva temples in South India and examples of Dravidian style temples.
4. The temple is also referred to in texts as Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple or Gangaikondacholeeswaram Temple Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple remains an active temple. Four daily rituals and many yearly festivals are held there, of which the Shivarathri during the Tamil month of Masi (February–March), Aipassi Pournami during Aipassi (October– November)
5. Thiruvadiraï during Margazhi (December–January) are the most prominent. It is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Tamil Nadu.
6. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) administers the temple as a protected heritage monument.
7. UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site in 2004, along with the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur and Airavatesvara temple at Darasuram. These are referred to collectively as the Great Living Chola Temples.

GROUP OF MONUMENTS AT MAHABALIPURAM, RATHAS, MANDAPAS AND RELIEFS



1. The **Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram** is a collection of 7th- and 8th-century CE religious monuments in the coastal resort town of Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal, about 60 kilometers, south of Chennai.
2. The site has 40 ancient monuments and Hindu temples. It was known as the Seven Pagodas in many colonial-era publications
3. The site, restored after 1960, has been managed by the Archaeological Survey of India.
4. The Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram occupies a distinct position in classical Indian architecture. These majestic buildings mark the high quality of craftsmanship in the region during 6th century CE. The natural landscape was utilized in carving out these structures, thereby making the ability of the Pallava craftsmen universally known. The monuments may be subdivided into five categories:
 - i. **The Mandapas (rock-cut caves):** During the time of Narasimhavarman-I Mamalla, new innovations were introduced in the rock medium in the form of cave temples. Notable examples of the cave temple are Konerimandapa, Mahishamardhini cave, and Varahamandapa. These rock-cut caves are richly embellished with sculptural representations known for their natural grace and suppleness. Noteworthy among them are Mahishamardhini, Bhuvanaraha, Gajalakshmi, Tiruvikrama, and Durga.
 - ii. **The Rathas (monolithic temples):** The monolithic temples are locally called “ratha” (chariot), as they resemble the processional chariots of a temple. These five monolithic temples are each cut out of a huge rock. They display the full form and features of the contemporary temple form and show variations both in ground plan and elevation. They are richly carved with artistic motifs and wall panels depicting many Hindu divinities and royal portraits.
 - iii. **The rock reliefs:** The sculptural bas-reliefs are another very important class of masterly creations created during Mamalla’s reign. There are four such reliefs at Mamallapuram, the most noteworthy among them being the Arjuna’s Penance and Govardhanadhari.
 - iv. **The temples:** King Rajasimha introduced structural architecture on a grand scale. The earliest and most modest is the Mukundanayanar temple, followed by the Olakkanesvara temple, perched on a rock near the lighthouse. The temple depicts with narratives from the Mahabharata and Shaivite, Shakti and Vaishnava inscriptions in a number of Indian languages and scripts.
 - v. **The excavated remains:** Sustained removal of the sand over a period of time has brought to light several buried structures around the Shore temple. Unique among them is a stepped structure, a miniature shrine, a Bhuvanaraha image, a

reclining image of Vishnu, and a well from Pallava King Narasimhavarman Rajasimha's reign (638-660 CE), all of which are carved in the live bedrock. Remains of additional temples have recently been excavated, including one to the south of the Shore temple.

GOLCUNDA FORT



Location and historical background

1. This fort is located near Hyderabad, the capital city of Telangana.
2. This fort was built by the Qutb shahi dynasty near 1143. The historic Golconda Fort derives its name from a Telugu word 'Golla Konda' which means Shepherd's.
3. Golkonda was originally known as Mankal. Golconda Fort was first built by the Kakatiya dynasty as part of their western defenses along the lines of the Kondapalli Fort.
4. Over a period of 62 years, the mud fort was expanded by the first three Qutb Shahi sultans into the present structure, a massive fortification of granite extending around 5 km in circumference. It was among the biggest fortress in the Deccan plateau, built on a 400 ft. high hill.
5. It comprises of four distinct forts, with a seven km long outer wall that has 87 semi circular bastions, eight gateways, and four drawbridges. It has three lines of massive fortification walls one within the other and rise to a height of over 12 m.
6. It is believed that there is a secret underground tunnel in Golconda Fort, which passes from the 'Durbar Hall' to foot of the hill.
7. It was the place of most powerful Muslim sultanates in the region and the centre of flourishing diamond trade. There are total 38 diamond mines in India. And out of these 23 are located near Golconda fort.
8. Many famed diamonds are believed to have been excavated from the mines of Golconda, such as: Daria-i-Noor, Noor-ul-Ain , Koh-i-Noor, Hope Diamond, Prince Diamond, Regent Diamond, Wittelsbach-Graff Diamond
9. The fort encompassed an entire city within itself, the ruins of which can be seen today as well. Golconda Fort is listed as an archaeological treasure on the official "List of Monuments" prepared by the Archaeological Survey of India under The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act.
10. The fort comprises the other buildings inside it are; Ashlah Khana, Habshi Kamans (Abyssian arches), camel stable, Taramati mosque, private chambers (kilwat), Nagina bagh, Ramasasa's kotha, Mortuary bath, Ambar khana and Durbar hall etc.

11. The fort has an ingeniously evolved water supply system. Water collected by the Persian wheels was stored in overhead tanks at different locations and later on distributed to various mahals, apartments, roof gardens and fountains.

KOODIYAATTAM THEATER:



Historical background and importance

1. Kutiyattam is one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of Kerala and is based on Sanskrit theatre traditions.
2. The word “kuti” in Malayalam language primarily means “combined” or “together”, and “attam” means “acting”: therefore, the word “kutiyattam” means “combined acting”.
3. In its stylized and codified theatrical language, netra abhinaya (eye expression) and hasta abhinaya (the language of gestures) are prominent. They focus on the thoughts and feelings of the main character.
4. It is traditionally performed in theatres called Kuttampalams, which are located in the Hindu temples. Kutiyattam is performed by a community of male actors called Chakyars and female performers called Nangiars, assisted by drummers called Nambiars.
5. Pakarnattam is an aspect of Kutiyattam that involves embodying and emoting male and female roles. Switching between the masculine and feminine and interpreting multiple roles at the same time is considered a challenging skill within the repertoire.
6. Nangiar Koothu is the solo section of female performance in Kutiyattam.
7. Kutiyattam includes the plays of almost all the major playwrights in Sanskrit, including Bhasa, Harsha, Saktibhadra, Kulasekhara, Neelakantha, Bodhayana and Mahendravikramavarman. However, notable exceptions are Kalidasa and Bhavabhuti, whose plays are not traditionally part of its repertoire.
8. Kutiyattam has been declared as among the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.
9. It is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu, a Tamil/ Malayalam performing art which is as old as Sangam era. It is the only surviving art form that uses drama from ancient Sanskrit theatre.
10. The main musical instruments used in Koodiyattam are mizhavu, kuzhitalam, edakka, kurumkuzhal, and sankhu.
11. Mizhavu, the most prominent of these is a percussion instrument that is played by a person of the Ambalavas Nambiar caste, accompanied by Nangyamma playing the kuzhithalam.

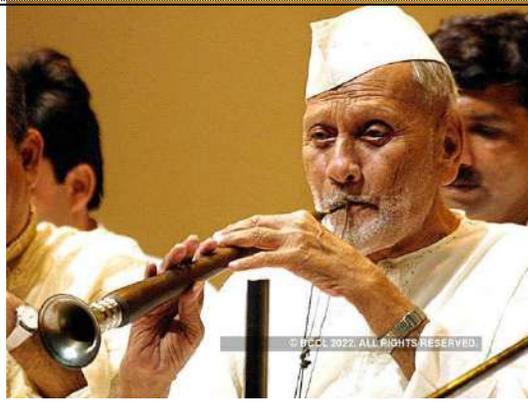
SRI MEENAKSHI SUNDARESWARAR TEMPLE



History and architecture

1. It is historic Hindu temple located on southern bank of Vaigai River in temple city of Madurai, Tamil Nadu. It is dedicated to Meenakshi, a form of Parvati, and her consort, Sundareswar, a form of Shiva. It was built during reign of Pandyas.
2. It houses 14 gopurams (gateway towers), ranging from 45–50m in height and tallest is southern tower, 51.9 metres high. It also has two golden sculptured vimanas, shrines over garbhagrihas (sanctums) of main deities.
3. The divine couple made their home in Madurai, where they ruled as queen and king. Even today, the wedding ceremony is celebrated every year as ‘Chithirai Thiruvizha’ which is also known as ‘Tirukalyanam’ (the grand wedding).
4. According to researchers, while rebuilding the temple, the rulers of Nayaka dynasty followed the architectural style of ‘Silpa Shastras’ (a set of architectural laws found in the ancient texts).
5. Madurai Meenakshi Temple is noted for its unmatched Dravidian style architecture that features 12 sky-scraping gateway towers (gopurams) studded with colourful and exquisite sculptures, a thousand pillar hall, musical pillars, and the ‘Porthamarai Kulam’ (temple pond with golden lotus).
6. The history of Meenakshi Temple dates back to the 1st century C.E. It is said that Kulashekarar Pandyan, a king who ruled over the Pandyan dynasty, built the temple as per the instructions given in his dream by Lord Shiva. The temple was rebuilt throughout the 16th century as it was destroyed by the Muslim invaders. During the 14th century C.E, Malik Kafur, a commander of Delhi Sultanate, looted the temple.
7. A mandala is a structure built according to the laws of symmetry and loci. There are various shrines built within the temple complex. The two main shrines at the centre of the temple are dedicated to Sundareswarar or “Beautiful Lord” (a form of the god Shiva) and Meenakshi (who is considered a manifestation of the goddess Parvati), the temple also has shrines dedicated to various other deities like Ganesha and Murugan. The temple also houses goddesses Lakshmi, Rukmini, and Saraswati.
8. The temple has four main towering gateways (gopurams) that look identical to each other. The word gopura may be derived from the Tamil words ko meaning “king,” and puram meaning “exterior or gateway”; or from the Sanskrit go meaning “cow” and puram meaning “town.” Gopuras are actually entry gates to a number of shrines, marked on the plan above as black rectangles.
9. At the south end of the temple also has a consecrated pond named ‘Porthamarai Kulam.’ The term ‘Potramarai Kulam’ is a literal translation of ‘pond with a golden lotus.’ The structure of a golden lotus is placed at the center of the pond. It is said that Lord Shiva blessed this pond and declared that no marine life would grow in it. This is used by believers for ritual bathing before they enter the sanctuaries of Meenakshi and Sundareshwara.

SHEHNAI- USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN



1. Shehnai, double-reed conical oboe of North India. The *shehnai* is made of wood, except for a flaring metal bell attached to the bottom of the instrument, and measures about 12–20 inches (30–50 cm) in length, with six to eight keyless finger holes along its body. Possessing a two-octave range, the *shehnai* is a difficult instrument to play, as the musician must master a wide range of finely nuanced embouchure and fingering techniques.

2. Ustad Bismillah Khan, original name **Qamruddin Khan**, (born March 21, 1916, Dumraon, Bihar and Orissa province, British India—died August 21, 2006, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India), Indian musician who played the shehnai, a ceremonial oboelike North Indian horn, with such expressive virtuosity that he became a leading Indian classical music artist. His name was indelibly linked with the woodwind instrument.

3. The shehnai is a descendent of the Persian surna and is played on auspicious occasions, such as weddings and temple festivities. Bismillah Khan, who introduced the shehnai to the concert stage, is one of the best-known performers on this instrument.

4. Khan was a devout Muslim but performed at both Hindu and Muslim ceremonies and was considered a symbol of religious harmony. His fame was such that he was selected to perform for the ceremony at Delhi's historic Red Fort as the Indian flag unfurled at the hour of India's independence on August 15, 1947; his music was played on television every Independence Day. He turned down invitations to perform in other countries before 1966, when the Indian government insisted that he play at the Edinburgh International Festival. This gained him a following in the West, and he continued to appear in Europe and North America thereafter. In 2001 Khan was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, and the country observed a national day of mourning following his death in 2006

6. About:

- Khan's contributions in taking Shehnai to a global stage is unparalleled.
- Bismillah Khan's first big break came with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938.
- It was Ustad 'Bismillah' Khan Who also played the Shehnai at the first Republic Day celebration in 1950.
- Bismillah Khan was the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America.
- He was conferred upon national awards like the Padmashri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan for his immense contribution to the field of music. In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna.

THANKA PAINTING



History and importance

1. Thankas are religious scrolls found hanging in monasteries and in Sikkimese homes. They normally depict life sketches of gods and goddesses in different forms. They may depict life sketches of gods and goddesses in different forms.
2. They may depict the life of Lord Buddha, goddess Drolma (Tara), a wheel of life or any other deity. The central figure in a thanka is always a Buddha or any other deity or bodhisattva of Mahayana Buddhism. Other figures depicted around the main deity have their mystical significance.
3. Thankas in Sikkim have a religious and spiritual significance and is regarded as a sacred object. They occupy a predominant place in monasteries and home. The materials used are stone colors and vegetable dyes together with gold dust and gold thread used for the tapestry. The paintings are bordered with rich silk and brocade with heavily engraved silver knobs at either ends at the lower half of the thanka.
4. Historically, thankas were used as teaching aids. A lama or teacher would travel giving talks on Buddha's life and teachings. He would carry with him painted scrolls to convey spiritually significant events, aspects of different deities, or Buddhist concepts. Made strictly according to the scriptures, thankas are considered a visual representation of a spiritual reality.
5. The making of a thanka is a long and painstaking process. It starts with the preparation of the canvas, which must be well stretched and smoothened. The outline of the deity and composition are made, according to set guidelines, first in pencil and then with a fine brush; colours are later painted in.
6. The canvas is strung on a bamboo frame, which is then stretched onto a frame made of wood. acrylic paints have largely replaced traditional natural pigments and real gold dust that were used earlier in thanka painting. The painting of a thanka is done with fine brushes.

RASH BEHARI BOSE



About :

1. Rash Behari Bose was an Indian revolutionary leader against the British Raj. He was one of the key organisers of the Ghadar Mutiny, and later the Indian National Army. Rash Behari Bose handed over Indian National Army to Subhas Chandra Bose. [?]

2. He was born in Village Subaldaha, Purba Bardhaman district of West Bengal. He studied at Duplex College where his principal Charu Chandra Roy inspired them into revolutionary politics. Bose later earned degrees in the medical sciences as well as in Engineering from France and Germany.

3. Revolutionary activities.

He was interested in revolutionary activities from early on in his life, he left Bengal to avoid the Alipore bomb case trials of (1908). He went to Dehradun where he worked as a head clerk at the Forest Research Institute. There, through Amarendra Chatterjee of the Jugantar, he secretly got involved with the revolutionaries of Bengal. Following the attempt to assassinate Lord Hardinge, Rash Behari was forced to go into hiding.

In 1913, he came in contact with Jatin Mukherjee in whom he “discovered a real leader of men,” who who inspired him in so many ways. Thus during World War I he became extensively involved as one of the leading figures of the Gadar Revolution that attempted to trigger a mutiny in India in February 1915.

4. Indian National Army

Bose fled to Japan in 1915 where he got married and became Japanese citizen in 1923 living as a journalist and writer.

Bose arranged conference in Tokyo on 28–30 March 1942, which decided to establish the Indian Independence League. At the conference, he moved a motion to raise an army for Indian independence.

He arranged the second conference of the League at Bangkok on 22 June 1942. It was at this conference that a resolution was adopted to invite Subhas Chandra Bose to join the League and take its command as its president.

He also selected the flag for the Azad Hind movement and handed over the flag to Subhas Chandra Bose. Rash Behari Bose built the Indian National Army (also called ‘Azad Hind Fauj’). Prior to his death caused by tuberculosis, the Japanese Government honoured him with the Order of the Rising Sun (2nd grade).

KANCHENDZONGA BIOSPHERE RESERVE



Location

- Located in the state of Sikkim, bordering Nepal to the west and Tibet (China) to the north-west, this biosphere reserve is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1,220 to 8,586 metres above sea level.
- The site is one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots. It includes vast natural forests that support high species diversity with high levels of endemism. The main economic activities are agricultural and horticultural crops, animal husbandry, fish, dairy and poultry farming.

Ecological Characteristics

- These are mostly found in the lower part of the mountains. At the high reaches, the hill slopes are moulded into gentler alpine meadows. Several lakes of different sizes are also found at this belt. Further up the important topographic features are rocky outcrops at the base of Himalayas, with glacial moraines, scarps, talons, etc.
- There are 73 important lakes which embedded in seven watersheds. The glaciers, mountains and peaks take up permanent position at the highest points of the reserve.
- The epiphytes and lianas are abundant here. Besides, there are about 30 species of rhododendrons recorded and out of over 42 confirmed mammal species belonging to 16 families in the area.

Socio-economic characteristics

- The biosphere reserve has high religious significance and cultural values. Many of the mountains and peaks, lakes, caves, rocks, stupas (shrines) and hot springs are the sacred and pilgrimage sites.
- The rural economy of the area mostly depends on traditional farming, horticulture and animal husbandry, apart from a few openings through tourism. However, all these activities are low-key enterprises with ephemeral incomes.

8TH SCHEDULE OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Languages in Eighth Schedule					
1-অসমীয়া (Assamese)	2-বঙ্গালি (Bengali)	3-ગુજરાતી (Gujarathi)	12-ଓଡ଼ିଆ (Oriya)	13-ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)	14-संस्कृतम् (Sanskrit)
4-हिन्दी (Hindi)	5-ಕನ್ನಡ (Kannada)	6-کشمیر (Kashmiri)	15-سنڌي (Sindhi)	16-தமிழ் (Tamil)	17-తెలుగు (Telugu)
7-कोंकणी (Konkani)	8-മലയാളം (Malayalam)		18-اردو (Urdu)	19-बड़ो (Bodo)	20-সাঁওতালি (Santali)
9-মৈথিলী (Manipuri)	10-मराठी (Marathi)	11-नेपाली (Nepali)	21-मैथिली, खिथी (Maithili)	22-डोगری (Dogri)	

The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India. At the time when the Constitution was enacted, inclusion in this list meant that the language was entitled to representation on the Official Languages Commission, and that the language would be one of the bases that would be drawn upon to enrich Hindi and English, the official languages of the Union. The list has since, however, acquired further significance. The Government of India is now under an obligation to take measures for the development of these languages, such that "they grow rapidly in richness and become effective means of communicating modern knowledge." In addition, a candidate appearing in an examination conducted for public service is entitled to use any of these languages as the medium in which he or she answers the paper.

Schedule languages

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. Assamese | 12.Malyalam |
| 2. Bengali | 13.Meiti(Manipuri) |
| 3. Bodo | 14. Marathi |
| 4. Dogri | 15.Nepali |
| 5. Gujarati | 16.Odia |
| 6. Hindi | 17.Punjabi |
| 7. Kannada | 18.Sanskrit |
| 8. Kashmiri | 19.Santhali |
| 9. Konkani | 20.Sindhi |
| 10.Maithili | 21.Tamil |
| 11.Telugu | 22.Urdu |

Chronology

- 1950: 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- 1967: Sindhi was added by 21st Constitutional Amendment Act
- 1992: Konkani, Manipuri (Meitei) and Nepali were added by 71st Constitutional Amendment Act
- 2003: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali were added by 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act.
- 2011: The spelling Oriya was replaced by Odia by 96th Constitutional Amendment Act

