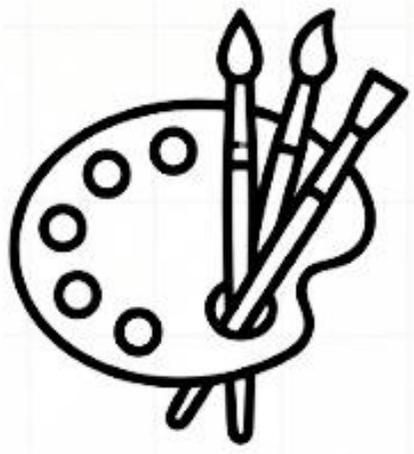




PAINTING (332)

CHAPTERWISE NOTES



PAINTING

Sl. No.	Module	Chapters (Public Examination)	Marks
1	Module 1: . Historical Appreciation of Painting and Sculpture	L-1: Prehistoric Painting of India L-2: Painting of Indus Valley Civilization L-3: Ajanta and Post Ajanta Painting	12
2	Module 4: Tribal and Folk Art in India	L-15: Folk and Tribal Art	6

Component	Details	Marks
Public Exam (Selected Modules 2,4)	Total Chapters : 4	18
Practical Exam	Practical	60
TMA	Tutor Marked Assignment	8
Final Possible Marks		86
		Marks

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1	Prehistoric Painting of India
2	Painting of Indus Valley Civilization
3	Ajanta and Post Ajanta Painting
4	Folk and Tribal Art

1

PREHISTORIC PAINTING OF INDIA

Introduction

Prehistoric painting of India shows the early creative expression of human beings. These rock paintings made on the walls of caves give us a glimpse of the life, hunting, nature and social activities of ancient humans. This painting is the oldest and most important heritage of Indian art history.

Prehistoric Painting of India

- **Prehistoric painting** : The painting that was made by early humans on the walls of caves.
- Early humans lived in caves and **hunted with stones**.
- Painting and drawing began approximately **40,000 years ago**.
- Various paintings of the Mesolithic period were found approximately **12,000 years ago**.
- In this chapter, different paintings of the Paleolithic period are studied.

Mirzapur Rock Painting Art

Basic Information

- Caves are located in the Kaimur hills about **20 km away** from Mirzapur city.
- Paintings were made by early humans on the walls and ceilings of caves.
- About **250 rock shelters** have been found.
- Animals such as **elephants, boars, tigers** etc. are shown in the paintings.
- Both wild and domestic animals are depicted.

Title : Primitive Hunters

- **Medium** : Earth and mineral colours
- **Style** : Prehistoric
- **Date** : Approximately 5000 BC

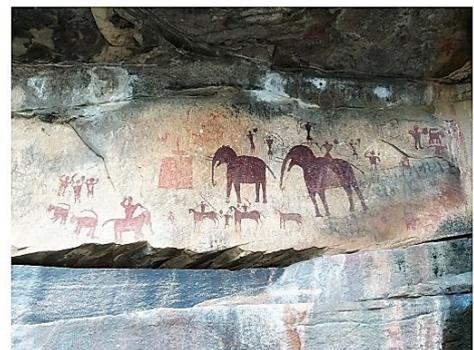


Fig. 1.1: "Primitive Hunters" Mirzapur



General Description

- In the painting, a horse rider carrying a spear is shown chasing a tiger.
- Hunting is the main subject.
- A scene of hunting in a group is shown.
- Use of colours is limited.
- **Main colours** : Red, black, yellow.
- Animal figures are clearer than human figures.

Panchmarhi Rock Painting

Basic Information

- Panchmarhi hills are located in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Many rock shelters are spread here.
- Different subjects are illustrated.
- Meaning of "Panch-Marhi" : A group of five caves.

Title : Rows of Cows

- **Medium** : Earth and mineral colours
- **Style** : Prehistoric
- **Date** : Approximately 5000 years BC

General Description

- In the painting, a cowherd is shown taking cows for grazing.
- The figures of cows are almost in **geometrical style**.
- **Ochre (red)** colour in the background.
- Use of **white colour** for the figures.
- Figures are arranged somewhat irregularly on the rock.

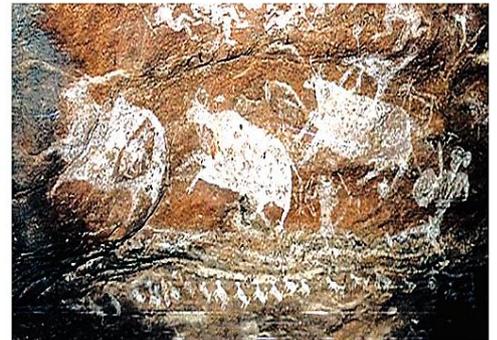


Fig. 1.2: "Rows of Cows", Panchmarhi



- Individual artistic quality, clarity and balance are visible.

Bhimbetka Rock Painting

Basic Information

- Bhimbetka is located **near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.**
- There are **more than 754 caves** here.
- Paintings are based on various subjects.
- Paintings were made by Mesolithic hunter-gatherer humans.
- The relationship between humans and animals is shown.
- Animals such as **bull, wild buffalo, wild boar, elephant** etc. are shown in the paintings.

Title : Fighters

- **Medium : Earth and mineral colours**
- **Style : Prehistoric**
- **Date : Approximately 5000 years BC**

General Description

- In the painting, many human figures are shown with animals.
- All human figures are holding **primitive weapons.**
- Men are shown going to catch or kill wild animals.
- Figures **show movement.**
- Four male figures are shown attacking different animals.
- The **depiction of the bow** in the painting is special.
- Paintings of this style are still made by **Warli tribal artists.**



Fig. 1.3: "Fighters" Bhimbetka



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. What is Prehistoric Painting of India?

Answer - Prehistoric painting is the painting that was made by early humans on caves and rocks. This painting shows human life, hunting and relationship with nature.

Q-2. Write the main features of Mirzapur rock paintings.

Answer - Main features of Mirzapur rock paintings are:

1. Paintings were made on the walls and ceilings of caves.
2. The main subject is hunting.
3. Main colours : **Red, black, yellow.**
4. Animal figures appear clearer.

Q-3 Describe briefly the Panchmarhi rock painting "Rows of Cows".

Answer - 1. In the painting, a cowherd is shown taking cows for grazing.

2. The figures of cows are almost in geometrical style.
3. Ochre (red) in the background and white colour is used in the figures.

Q-4. Write the features of Bhimbetka rock paintings.

Answer - Features of Bhimbetka rock paintings:

1. Located near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.
2. There are more than 754 caves.
3. The relationship between humans and animals is shown.
4. Movement and primitive weapons are visible in the paintings.
5. The **depiction of the bow** is special.



Q-5. Write the importance of earth and mineral colours in rock paintings.

Answer - Importance of earth and mineral colours in rock paintings:

- These are natural colours obtained from stones and soil.
- They provide durability and clarity of colours in prehistoric paintings.
- Figures were made clear using limited colours.



2

PREHISTORIC PAINTING OF INDIA

Introduction

The painting of the Indus Valley Civilization is an excellent example of the advanced technique, aesthetic sense and creativity of ancient Indian artists. Animal, bird and geometric motifs made on pottery depict the life, beliefs and artistic skill of that time. This painting is an important historical link of the Indian art tradition.

Animal forms on Indus pottery

Basic Information

- Figures of **tiger, bull, deer, snake, fish etc.** painted on pots.
- Scene of deer hunting also found.
- Pots well-baked, glossy and deep red in colour.
- Lower part generally painted with **black band**.
- Use of pots : **cooking, serving, storage, burial**.
- Painted pots mostly used for **storage**.

Title : Serving pot with painted snake motif

- **Artist** : Unknown
- **Medium** : Mineral colour on clay
- **Period** : Harappan period
- **Style** : Harappan style

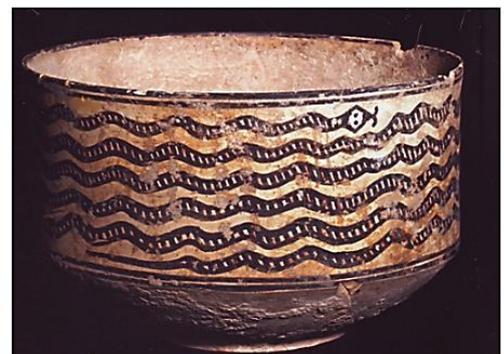


Fig. 2.1: Serving Pot with Painted Snake Pattern



General Introduction

- Wide mouth low height pot.
- Snake motif depicted on entire outer surface.
- Parallel black lines show the roundness of the pot.
- Pot made on wheel and fired in kiln.

Harappan pottery : Storage jar

Basic Information

- Influence of prehistoric tradition in style of animal figures.
- Possibly specialist painters appointed for decoration of pots.

Title : Pot painted with bull and deer

- **Artist** : Unknown
- **Medium** : Mineral colour on clay
- **Period** : Harappan period (2500 BCE)
- **Style** : Harappan style

General Description

- Jar shaped on wheel.
- Use : storing oil, grain, food.
- Animal figures between black bands on red jar.
- **Bull symbol** of power and strength.

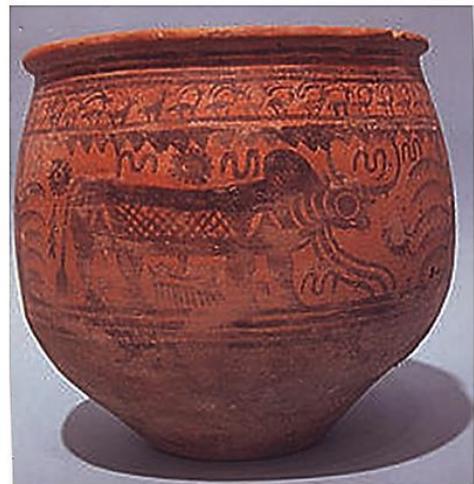


Fig. 2.2: Storage Jar with Bulls and Antilopes



Wide mouth vessel, Harappan pottery

Basic Information

- Pots of different shapes and sizes found.
- Use : as bowls/cups for serving food.

Title : Vessel painted with tiger

- **Artist** : Unknown
- **Medium** : Mineral colour on clay
- **Period** : Harappan period
- **Style** : Harappan style

General Description

- Tiger motif designed according to width of pot.
- Figure arranged between circular black bands.
- Decoration with slanting lines and dots.
- Planned design to fill empty space.

Geometric shapes on Indus Valley pottery

Basic Information

- **Geometric designs** on storage and burial pots.
- Early examples from third century BCE.
- Circular, square etc. forms used.
- Decoration with black lines.
- Geometric ornamentation attractive and effective.

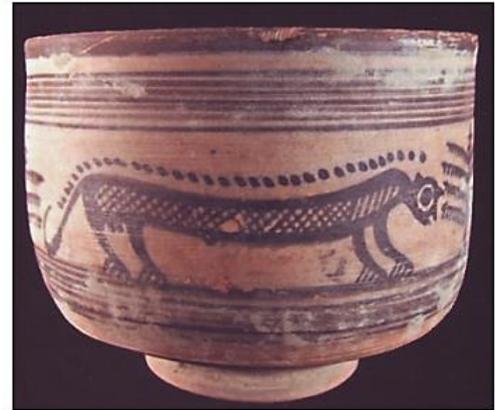


Fig. 2.3: Serving Pot with Painted Tiger Design



Title : Conical shaped / wide rim jar

- **Artist** : Unknown
- **Medium** : Mineral colour on clay
- **Period** : Harappan period (2500 BCE)
- **Style** : Harappan style

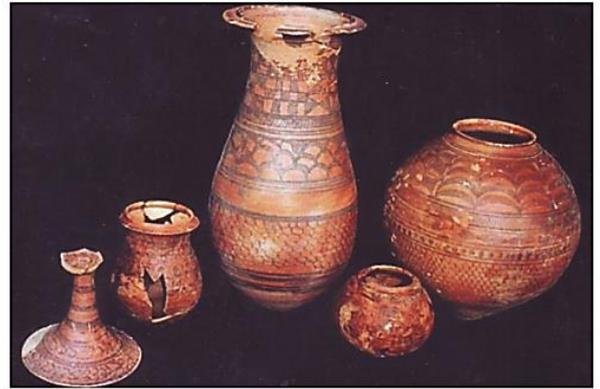


Fig. 2.4: Tall Burial Jar with Conical Neck and Flaringrim

General Introduction

- Geometric design systematically arranged.
- Fish scale like pattern in black colour.
- Artists had good understanding of **geometric principles**.

Geometric fish (motif) painted pot

Basic Information

- Decoration of pots shows greatness of artists.
- Beautiful proportion and limited variety of forms.

Title : Geometric fish (motif) painted pot

- **Medium** : Mineral colour on clay
- **Period** : Harappan period (2500 BCE)
- **Style** : Harappan style

General Introduction

- Pot made on wheel.
- First drawing with black lines, later yellow, white, red colours.
- **Triangular lines** in fish body.

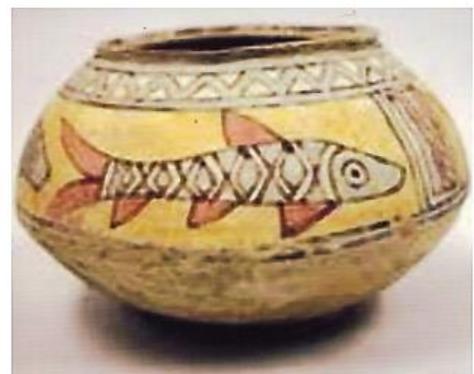


Fig. 2.5: Service Pot with Geometric Fish Motif



- Colour scheme balanced and harmonious.

Bird forms on Indus Valley pottery

Basic Information

- Bird forms painted with foliage and geometric patterns.
- Black lines on red/light yellow background.
- Bird forms also on storage jars.

Title : Storage jar painted with peacock motif

- **Medium** : Mineral colour on clay
- **Period** : Harappan period (2500 BCE)
- **Style** : Harappan style

General Introduction

- Beautiful peacock with spread wings.
- Arrangement between geometric decoration.
- Lines of equal thickness.
- Development of forms and ornamentation refined.

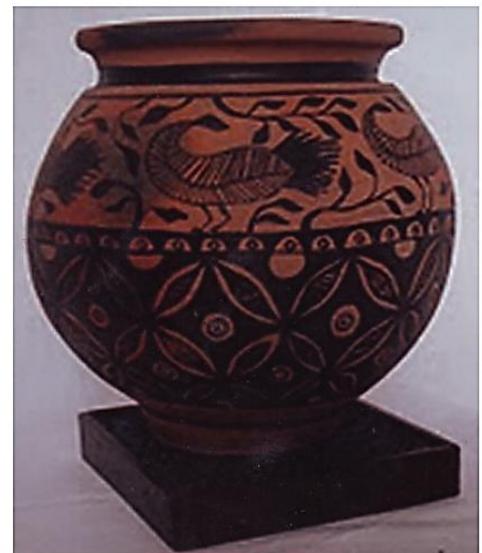


Fig. 2.6: Storage Jar with Peacock Motif



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. Write the main features of the painting of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Answer - The painting of the Indus Valley Civilization was mainly done on pottery. Animal, bird and geometric motifs are prominent in it. Decoration done with black lines on red background. Paintings are decorative, balanced and symbolic, which show the technical skill of artists.

Q-2. State the medium and style used in Harappan pottery.

Answer - Mineral colours on clay were used for painting in Harappan pottery. Pots were made on wheel and fired in kiln. The style of paintings is called Harappan style, in which decorative, geometric and symbolic motifs are prominent.

Q-3. Write the importance of geometric forms on Indus Valley pottery.

Answer - Geometric forms were the main basis of decoration of pots. They created attractive patterns and balance. Circular, square and linear designs show the technical understanding of artists. These motifs enhance beauty and also express symbolic meaning.

Q-4. Describe the geometric fish (motif) painted pot.

Answer - Pots with geometric fish motif were made on wheel. First fish motif was drawn with black lines, then red, yellow and white colours were applied. Triangular patterns were made in the fish body, which makes the pot decorative and balanced.

Q-5. Write the features of bird forms on Indus Valley pottery.

Answer - Bird forms on Indus Valley pottery are painted with foliage and geometric motifs. Drawing done with black lines on red or light yellow background. Peacock motif is prominent. Forms are decorative, balanced and show artistic beauty.



3

AJANTA AND POST AJANTA PAINTING

Introduction

Ajanta and Post-Ajanta painting is an excellent example of the Indian mural painting tradition. In these paintings, Buddhism, Jataka stories and beautiful depiction of human figures are found. This painting is considered an important achievement of the golden age of Gupta period art.

Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara

Basic Information

- This is a very famous painting of Ajanta.
- Bodhisattva is depicted in the form of **Avalokitesvara (Padmapani Bodhisattva)**.
- Avalokitesvara is a symbol of compassion.
- Three jewels of Buddhism : **Buddha, Dharma, Sangha**.

Title : Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara (Padmapani Bodhisattva)

- **Medium** : Fresco on wall, Tempera (painting technique)
- **Period** : Late fifth century A.D.
- **Cave No.** : One

General Description

- Crown, ornaments and decorated appearance
- Half open eyes and calm expression.
- Drawing with simple lines.



Fig.3.1: "Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara"



- Paintings made by **dry fresco (tempera)** method.
- **Five basic colours : Red ochre, yellow earth, black, blue, white.**

Apsara

Basic Information

- Many forms of **female beauty** depicted in Ajanta.
- Common women, royal women, dancers and **apsaras** depicted.

Title : Apsara

- **Medium :** Fresco on wall, Tempera
- **Period :** Late fifth century A.D.
- **Cave No. :** Seventeen

General Description

Six limbs of Ajanta painting :

- **Rupabheda**
- **Pramana**
- **Bhava**
- **Lavanya-yojana**
- **Sadrishya**
- **Varnikabhanga**

2. Dark brown colour of Apsara.
3. Decorated clothes and ornaments.
4. **Cymbals** in hand.



Fig. 3.2: "APSARA"



Decoration on the Ceiling

Basic Information

- Ajanta decorated with both **painting and sculpture**.
- Ceiling decoration given equal importance as walls.
- Use of human figures, animals, birds and **floral motifs**.

Title : Decoration on the Ceiling

- **Medium** : Fresco on wall, Tempera
- **Period** : Late sixth century A.D.
- **Cave No.** : Two

General Description

- Surface prepared before painting.
- Coating of clay, husk, cow dung and gum.
- Coating of lime above and polishing.
- Outer lines of figures with dark colour.
- Motifs like **swan, birds, Vidyadhara, conch, lotus etc.** used in decoration.



Fig. 3.3: "Decoration on the Ceiling"

Bagh Cave

Basic Information

- Bagh caves located in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Five caves — Buddhist Vihara.
- Fourth cave most important — **Rangmahal**.
- Style similar to Ajanta but figures more clear.



Title : Dancing Panel

- **Medium** : Fresco on wall
- **Period** : Seventh century A.D.
- **Cave No.** : Four

General Description

Group depiction of court dancers.

- Circular dance composition.
- Musical instruments and costumes noteworthy.
- Depiction of foreign women also.
- Painting shows art and court culture of that time.



Fig. 3.4: Dancing Panel



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. Write the main features of Ajanta painting.

Answer - Ajanta painting is based on mural painting. In it Buddhism, Jataka stories, human figures and decorative motifs are depicted. Excellence of expression, balance and drawing is seen in the paintings. Natural colours were used and paintings were made by tempera method.

Q-2. Describe briefly the Padmapani Bodhisattva painting.

Answer - Padmapani Bodhisattva is a famous painting of Ajanta. In it Bodhisattva is depicted in decorated form with calm expression. Half open eyes, ornaments and simple drawing are its features. This painting was made in fifth century by mural and tempera method.

Q-3. Write the six limbs of Ajanta painting.

Answer - The six limbs of Ajanta painting are — Rupabheda, Pramana, Bhava, Lavanya-yojana, Sadrishya and Varnikabhangam. These limbs control form, proportion, expression, beauty, likeness and colour combination in painting. By these the painting becomes balanced, effective and artistic.

Q-4. Write the method of ceiling decoration.

Answer - Before ceiling decoration, the surface was prepared. Coating of clay, husk, cow dung and gum was applied, then polished with lime. Outer lines were drawn with dark colour and later colours were filled. Motifs like lotus, birds and floral patterns were made in decoration.

Q-5. Write the features of Bagh cave painting.

Answer - Bagh cave painting is found in Buddhist monasteries located in Madhya Pradesh. Its style is similar to Ajanta but figures are clearer. In Dancing Panel group of court dancers is depicted. Paintings show court life, dance, musical instruments and costumes.



4

FOLK AND TRIBAL ART

Introduction

Folk and tribal art is the traditional art of India which reflects tribal life, culture and beliefs. This art is made with natural colours and local materials on walls, ground and objects and has continued to develop from generation to generation

Warli Painting

Basic Information

- Made by Warli tribals of **Maharashtra (Thane district)**.
- Made on the occasion of marriage and new harvest.
- Simple, easy and geometric forms.
- Depiction of human, animals, birds and daily life.
- Traditionally made on walls.

Title : Palghat Devi Chauk

- **Medium** : Water colours, mineral colours
- **Time** : Contemporary
- **Artist** : Jeevya Soma Mashe

General Description

- Made on the main wall for marriage ritual.
- Scenes of sun-moon, bride-groom, dance, farming etc.

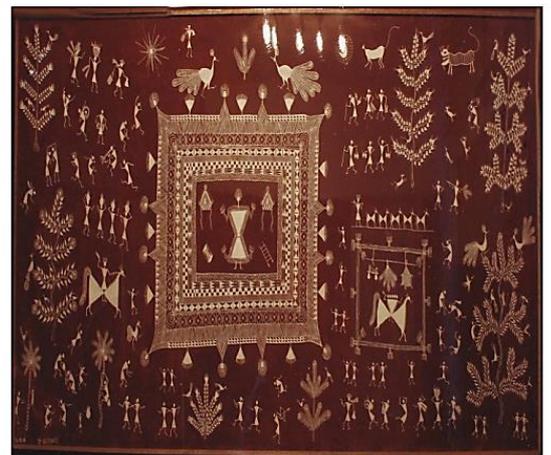


Fig. 15.1: Palghat Devi Chauk



- **White painting** on red mud background.
- Colour prepared from rice paste.
- Brush made from grass/twig.

Pithora Painting

Basic Information

- **Madhya Pradesh (Jhabua)** and **Gujarat (Rathwa)** tribals.
- Painting dedicated to **Pithora Dev**.
- Made on the main wall of house after ritual completion.
- Madhya Pradesh style simple, Gujarat style more decorative.

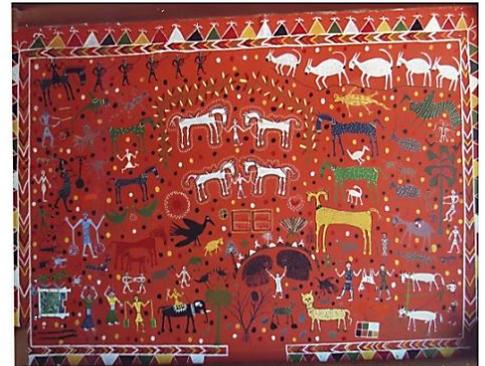


Fig. 15.2: Pithora Painting

Title : Pithora Painting

- **Medium** : Water colours, mineral colours
- **Time** : Contemporary
- **Artist** : Unknown

General Description

- Wall plastered with cow dung and mud.
- Rectangular area — **house of Pithora**.
- Horses — symbol of Pithora Dev.
- Gods, animals, birds, daily life scenes.
- Traditional painter — **Lakhindra**.



Mithila or Madhubani Painting

Basic Information

- Famous folk painting of **Bihar (Mithila)**.
- Origin from mural tradition of Kohbar house.
- Related to marriage and auspicious occasions.
- Now also made on paper, cloth, plywood.

Title : Kohbar Painting

- **Medium** : Kohbar painting
- **Time** : Contemporary
- **Artist** : Ganga Devi

General Description

- Base prepared on wall with rice paste.
- First drawing — charcoal/bamboo.
- Natural colours — turmeric, soot, flowers etc.
- No empty space left in whole painting.
- Fertility and auspicious symbols prominent.

Kalighat Painting Style

Kalighat Painting Style

- Origin — **Kolkata (Kalighat)**.
- Made for pilgrims visiting Kali temple.
- Paintings in **water colour** on paper.



Fig. 15.3: Kohbar Ghar



- Simplification of forms and bold drawing.
- Later depiction of social themes.

Title : Sita and Luv-Kush

- **Medium :** Water colour
- **Time :** Contemporary
- **Artist :** Unknown

General Description

- Scene from Ramayana.
- Simple composition and clear figures.
- Drawing prominent.
- Volume effect with light and shade.
- Large eyes - feature of style.

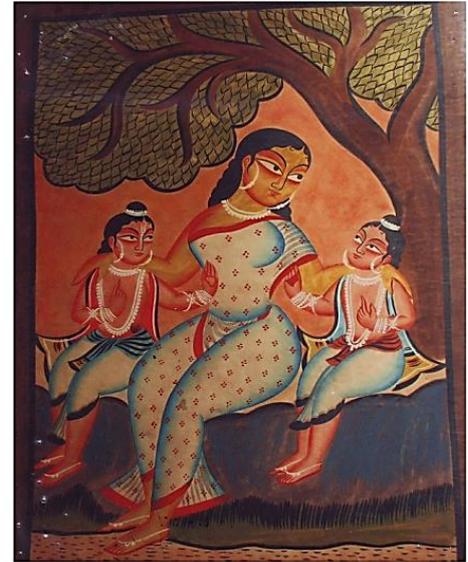


Fig. 15.4: Sita with Luv Kush

Kalamkari

Basic Information

- Painting on **cloth with pen** and colour.
- Both block printing and hand drawing.
- Word — **Kalam + Kari.**
- Developed under Mughal patronage.
- Trade reached Asia and Europe.

Styles

- **Srikalahasti style** — only pen drawing, religious theme.



- **Machilipatnam style** — block printing + pen.

Title : Sita-Swayamvar

- **Medium** : Kalamkari
- **Medium** : Kalamkari
- **Artist** : Unknown

General Description

- Painting based on religious narrative.
- Clear drawing with black lines.
- Natural colours — **black, red, blue, yellow.**
- Process stepwise — washing, drawing, colouring, drying.



Fig. 15.5: Sita Swayamvar



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. What is folk and tribal art?

Answer- Folk and tribal art is the traditional art of common people and tribal communities. It is made with local materials and natural colours. It depicts daily life, nature, religious beliefs and rituals. This tradition continues to be transferred from generation to generation.

Q-2. Write the main features of Warli painting.

Answer- Warli painting is made by Warli tribals of Maharashtra. In it human, animals and daily life are depicted through geometric forms. White colour is used on red mud background. Paintings are related to marriage, festivals and agriculture.

Q-3. Describe Pithora painting briefly.

Answer- Pithora painting is made by tribals of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. It is a ritual mural dedicated to Pithora Dev. It is made on the main wall of the house. It depicts horses, gods, animals and daily life scenes.

Q-4. Write the features of Madhubani painting.

Answer- Madhubani painting is a folk art of the Mithila region of Bihar. It is related to Kohbar tradition and made on marriage and auspicious occasions. Natural colours are used. No empty space is left in paintings and decorative motifs are prominent.

Q-5. What is Kalamkari? State its main styles.

Answer- Kalamkari is the art of painting on cloth with pen and natural colours. Religious narratives and decorative motifs are made in it. Its two main styles are - Srikalahasti style, in which painting is done by hand, and Machilipatnam style, in which block printing is also done.

