

THEME - I

VISUAL ART FORMS IN INDIA

Chitrakathi Paintings

Chitrakathi Paintings (Maharashtra) These paintings which are around 300-



400 yrs old are called Chitra(picture)-Kathi or Katha(story)in which stories of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata are depicted on handmade paper using natural colours. Its an almost extinct art form practised by the Thakkar tribal community of Maharashtra.

Chitrakathi artists are a community of migrating story tellers found all over Maharashtra and some parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. They made a series of single sheets of paintings. All paintings belonging to one story were kept in a bundle called pothi.

Kalamkari



Kalamkari is an art that involves weaving and hand block printing apart from painting. The figures with rounded shapes and border designs are typical of kalamkari. Wall hangings, prayer mats, waist bands and dress materials like kurtas, and caps are popular kalamkari products. The Kalahasti tradition which developed in the temple region of

Andhra Pradesh mostly concentrated on themes form Hindu mythology (Ramayana, Mahabharatha), images of Gods and heroes The cloth and color are first decided. The cloth is first bleached with goat or cow dung and then

treated with milk solution to avoid the color spreading. Color dyes are all natural. Wax resist is used for dyeing the cloth in different colors. Since the whole process involves natural colors and chemicals, the art has fast gained a place for itself in the international markets.

Madhubani

Madhubani painting is a style of painting, practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar state. Themes revolve around Hindu Gods and mythology, along with scenes from the royal court and social events like weddings. Generally no



space is left empty; the gaps are filled by paintings of flowers, animals, birds, and even geometric designs. In this paintings artists uses leaf, Herbs, Flowers to make the colour which is used for paintings.

Phad Paintings

is a style religious scroll painting and folk painting, practiced in Rajasthan state of India This style of painting is traditionally done on a long piece of cloth or canvas, known as phad. The narratives of the folk deities of Rajasthan, mostly of Pabuji and Devnarayan are depicted on the phads. The Bhopas, the priest-singers traditionally carry



the painted phads along with them and use these as the mobile temples of the folk deities. The phads of Pabuji are normally about 15 feet in length, while the phads of Devnarayan are normally about 30 feet long. Traditionally the phads are painted with vegetable colors.

The Joshi families of Bhilwara, Shahpura in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan are widely known as the traditional artists of this folk art-form for the last two centuries.

, it can be explained as huge painting on cloth, depicting heroic deeds of brave men.

Phad paintings are renowned as the most celebrated folk paintings in sphere of art and culture. They have a great and unparalleled appeal.

Warli



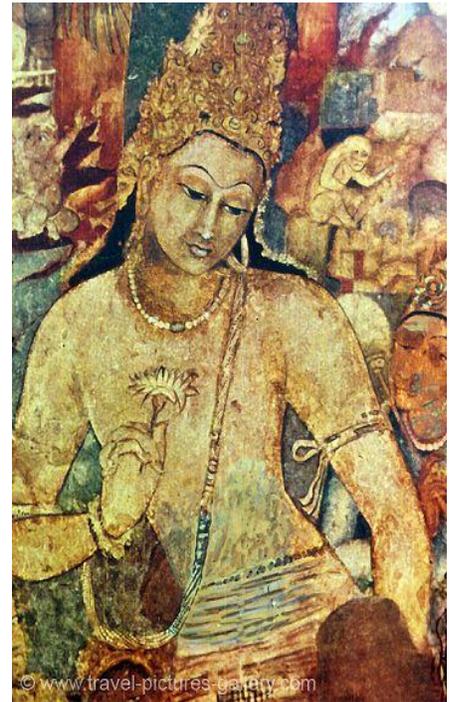
The Warlis or *Varlis* are an indigenous tribe or Adivasis, living in mountainous as well as coastal areas of Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas. They have their own animistic beliefs, life, customs and traditions, as a result of their culture that they have adopted. The Warlis speak an unwritten Varli language which belong to the southern zone of the Indo-

Aryan languages and the union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Cave Painting

Cave paintings are paintings found on cave walls and ceilings. The exact purpose of the cave paintings is not known. Evidence suggests that they were often located in areas that are not easily accessible. Some theories hold that cave paintings may have been a way of communicating with others, while other theories suggest a religious purpose to them.

AJANTA is world's greatest historical monument recognized by UNESCO located just 55kms from Jalgaon city and 105 kms from Aurangabad City of Maharashtra, India. There are 30 caves in Ajanta of which 9, 10, 19, 26 and 29 are chaitya-grihas and the rest are monasteries. The caves form the largest collection of early Indian wall-painting; The site is a protected monument in the care of the Archaeological Survey of India, and since **1983**, the Ajanta Caves have been a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.



Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

CLASS VIII – SOCIAL STUDIES

SA II - OTBA(10 MARKS)

Time: 30 min

THEME II

PERFORMING ART OF INDIA

Culture plays an important role in the development of any nation. It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices. Culture and creativity manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities. A country as diverse as India is symbolized by the plurality of its culture.

India has one of the world's largest collections of songs, music, dance, theatre, folk traditions, performing arts, rites and rituals, paintings and writings that are known, as the '**Intangible Cultural Heritage**' (ICH) of humanity. In order to preserve these elements, the **Ministry of Culture** implements a number of schemes and programmes aimed at providing financial support to individuals, groups and cultural organizations engaged in performing, visual and literary arts etc. Some very popular performing art forms in India are:

Ramlila

Ramlila is, based on the mythological story of a battle between Lord Rama and Demon Ravana. Its staging takes place at a number of places throughout India, once a year, and usually lasts for 10-12 days. Places like Ramnagar, Kumaoni, Varanasi and Chitrakoot are famous for their Ram Leela.

Puppetry

Puppetry, is an ancient form of entertainment, The early puppet shows staged in India were mostly based on stories of famous Indian kings and

heroes and at times, also on the social and political issues, religious themes, etc . Shadow puppetry is also very popular.

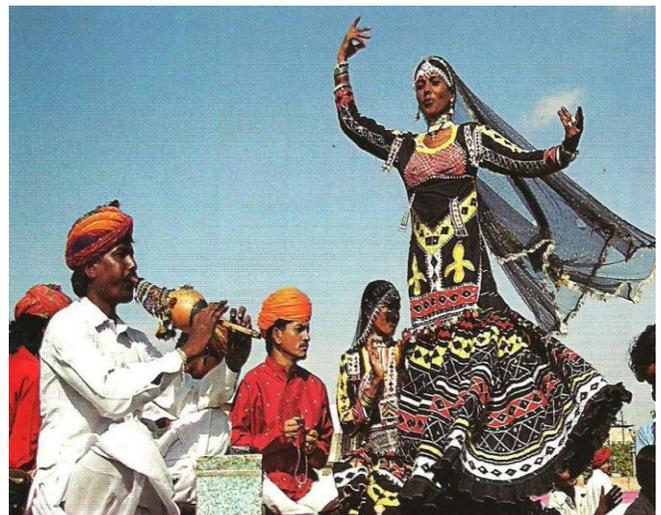
Therukoothu, folk drama of Tamil Nadu, literally means "street play". It is mostly performed at the time of annual temple festivals of (Rain goddess) to achieve rich harvest. The Therukoothu performance, gives the gist of the play to the audience and Komali entertains the audience with his buffoonery.

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

The UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) has listed three Indian performing-art forms in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. They are Kerala's Mudi yettu, Chhau of east India and Kalbelia of Rajasthan.

Kalbelia

Kalbeli tribes are a community of snake charmers from Rajasthan. They are known for their frequent movement from one place to another in ancient times. Their main occupation is catching snakes and trading snake venom. Hence, the dance movements and the costumes of their community bear a resemblance to that of the serpents.



Mudi yettu



Mudi yettu, the ritual dance drama annually performed after the harvest of summer crops in Kerala, is more than 250 years old. This art form involves elaborate drawings on floors, playing of drums and masks made of coconut shells.

Chhau

The Chhau dance is known for its crafted masks and mock combat movements. It is prevalent in the tribal parts of Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The economic backwardness of the area has had a negative impact on the artists of the Chhau and their art.



Reasons For The Disappearance Of Traditional Performing Art

- Traditional skills are normally handed down from elderly persons (having a lifetime of expertise) to the next generation. But the present generation has little respect for their expertise.
- In a society of modern times, where the role of youth is more important, the transmission of tradition is not taken forward properly.
- The changing role of women in the modern times has changed the outlook and lifestyle of people. This has also adversely affected the conservation process.
- The efforts taken by the local authorities and agencies are not significant and sufficient. This has not encouraged the local people to take part in the process of conservation.

These social changes therefore make it extremely difficult to preserve folklore.

The UNESCO through “living cultural treasures” programme, and the Government of India have drafted measures to promote the various regional art forms.

The Constitution of India prescribed under the fundamental duties that the protection of heritage is one of the important duties of each and every Citizen of India. Therefore every citizen is vested with individual responsibilities to preserve the rich cultural tradition which we have inherited from our ancestors.
