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CHAPTER 1- PREHISTORIC ROCK PAINTINGS**Introduction**

- Prehistoric period- **Old Stone Age or the Palaeolithic Age.**
- **Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Periods** have not shown any evidence of artworks so far. The Upper Palaeolithic Age shows a lot of artistic activities.
- Earliest paintings in India are from the **Upper Palaeolithic Age.**
- **First discovery of rock paintings** was made in Sohaghat, Mirzapur District, Uttar Pradesh, India (1867–68) by an archaeologist, Archibold Carlleyle, twelve years before the discovery of Altamira in Spain.
- Cockburn, Anderson, Mitra & Ghosh- **early archaeologists.**
- Districts of **MP, UP, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttarakhand (Kumaon hills) & Bihar**- rock paintings were found.
- Rock shelters- banks of **River Suyal at Lakhudiyar** (one lakh caves), about twenty kilometres on the Almora– Barechina road. **Paintings at Lakhudiyar** are of three types-
 - **Humans**- represented in stick-like forms.
 - **Animal motifs**- long-snouted animal, a fox and a multiple legged lizard
 - **Geometric designs**- wavy lines, rectangle-filled & groups of dots can also be seen here, hand-linked dancing human figures.
- **Superimposition of paintings**→earliest in black; over these- red ochre paintings & last group- white paintings. Two slabs found from Kashmir.
- **Kupgallu (Telangana), Piklihal & Tekkalkota** (both in Karnataka)→ three types of paintings found→in white, in red ochre over a white background & in red ochre; subjects are bulls, sambhars, elephants, sheep, gazelles, goats, horses, stylised humans & tridents.
- **Richest paintings**- Vindhya ranges of MP & their Kaimurean extensions into UP.
- **Largest & most spectacular rock-shelter**- Vindhya hills at Bhimbetka, MP.
- **Caves of Bhimbetka**- discovered in 1957–58 by eminent archaeologist V.S. Wakankar. Paintings Themes here- mundane events of daily life to sacred & royal images.
- Rock art of Bhimbetka classified into various groups on the bases of style, technique and superimposition.
- Two major sites of prehistoric rock/cave paintings in India: **Bhimbetka Caves** and **Jogimara Caves** (Amarnath, Madhya Pradesh).
- Bhimbetka- one of the oldest paintings in India and the world.
- The drawings and paintings can be catagorised into **seven historical periods.**

	<p>Period I, Upper Palaeolithic; Period II, Mesolithic; and Period III, Chalcolithic. After Period III there are four successive periods.</p>
Upper Palaeolithic Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paintings- linear representations, in green & dark red. • Huge animal figures, such as bisons, elephants, tigers, rhinos and boars besides stick-like human figures. • Green paintings are of dancers. • Red ones of hunters.
Mesolithic Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest number of paintings • Themes multiply but the paintings are smaller in size. • Hunting scenes predominate people hunting in groups with barbed spears, arrows and bows, and pointed sticks. Also show traps and snares to catch animals. • Hunters wear simple clothes; some men are shown with headdresses and masks. • Elephant, bison, tiger, boar, deer, antelope, leopard, panther, rhinoceros, fish, frog, lizard, squirrel & birds are painted. • Animals painted in a naturalistic style. • Women- painted both in nude & clothed.
Chalcolithic Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paintings- reveal association, contact, and mutual exchange of requirements of the cave dwellers of this area with settled agricultural communities of Malwa plains. • Pottery & metal tools are also shown. • Artists of Bhimbetka- used many colours, including various shades of white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green & black. • Colours used in Bhimbetka paintings – white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green and black. Most common colours – white and red. • White & red- favourite colours. • Red from haematite (known as <i>geru</i> in India). • Green- from green variety of a stone called chalcedony. • White- made out of limestone • These colours- remained intact because of chemical reaction of oxide present on the surface of the rocks. • Colours are mixed with water & also with some thick or sticky substance such as animal fat or gum or resin from trees. • Brushes were made of plant fibre. • Paintings of individual animals were made.

CHAPTER 2- ARTS OF THE INDUS VALLEY

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indus Valley Civilisation- emerged during second half of third millennium BCE. • Forms of art found from various sites of the civilisation include sculptures, seals, pottery, gold jewellery, terracotta figures, etc. • Delineation of human and animal figures. • Two major sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation, along the Indus river—the cities of Harappa (north) & Mohenjodaro (south).
Stone Statues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found at Harappa & Mohenjodaro • Excellent examples of handling three dimensional stone are two male figures—one is a torso in red sandstone and the other is a bust of a bearded man in steatite. • Figure of the bearded man interpreted as a priest, is draped in a shawl coming under the right arm and covering the left shoulder. Shawl is decorated with trefoil patterns. The eyes are a little elongated, and half-closed as in meditative concentration. • Hair- parted in the middle, and a plain woven fillet is passed round the head. • An armlet is worn on the right hand and holes around neck suggest a necklace.
Bronze Casting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practised on a wide scale by Harappans • Bronze statues were made using the 'lost wax' technique. • Human as well as animal figures • Dancing Girl- animal figures in bronze the buffalo with its uplifted head, back and sweeping horns and the goat are of artistic merit. • Also found are copper dog and bird of Lothal and the bronze figure of a bull from Kalibangan. • Late Harappan and Chalcolithic sites- Daimabad in Maharashtra yielded excellent examples of metal-cast.
Terracotta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terracotta images are crude. • More realistic in Gujarat sites and Kalibangan. • Important among them- mother goddess. • Few figurines of bearded males with coiled hair, their posture rigidly upright, legs slightly apart, and arms parallel to the sides of the body; terracotta mask of a horned deity. • Toy carts with wheels, whistles, rattles, birds and animals, gamesmen and discs

Seals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually made of steatite, & occasionally of agate, chert, copper, faience and terracotta. • Had beautiful figures of animals, such as unicorn bull, rhinoceros, tiger, elephant, bison, goat, buffalo, etc were also used as amulets, • Harappan seal- square plaque 2×2 square inches, usually made from soft river stone, steatite. • Most remarkable- Pashupati Seal- a human figure seated cross-legged. • Elephant and a tiger are depicted to the right side of the seated figure, while on the left a rhinoceros and a buffalo
Pottery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain pottery- red clay, with or without a fine red or grey slips & includes knobbed ware, ornamented with rows of knobs. • The black painted ware has a fine coating of red slip on which geometric and animal designs are executed in glossy black paint. • Polychrome pottery is rare and mainly comprises small vases decorated with geometric patterns in red, black, and green, rarely white and yellow • Incised ware is also rare and the incised decoration was confined to the bases of the pans. • Perforated pottery includes a large hole at the bottom and small holes all over the wall, and was probably used for straining liquor.
Beads and Ornaments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harappan men and women- conceivable material ranging from precious metals and gemstones to bone and baked clay. • Necklaces, fillets, armlets and finger-rings were commonly by both sexes, women wore girdles, earrings and anklets. • Hoards of jewellery found at Mohenjodaro and Lothal include necklaces of gold and semi-precious stones, copper bracelets and beads, gold earrings and head ornaments, faience pendants and buttons, and beads of steatite and gemstones. • Bead industry- well developed • Varying shapes of beads—disc-shaped, cylindrical, spherical, barrel-shaped, and segmented. • Metals like copper, bronze and gold, and shell, faience and terracotta or burnt clay were used to make beads.

DISTINCTIVE ART DURING INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

Dancing Girl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best known artefacts from the Indus Valley • Four-inch-high copper figure of a dancing girl. • Found in Mohenjodaro. • Bangles cover her left arm, a bracelet and an amulet or bangle adorns her right arm, and a cowry shell necklace is seen around her neck. Her right hand is on her hip and her left hand is clasped in a traditional Indian dance gesture.
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