

Miscellaneous

1. POTTERY OF DIFFERENT CULTURES

Culture	Period	Pottery Types
Mehrgarh Culture	7000-2600 BCE	Red Ware, Black-on-Red Ware
Indus Valley Civilization	2600-1900 BCE	Painted Grey Ware, Black Polished Ware
Ochre Coloured Pottery Culture	2000-1500 BCE	Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP)
Early Iron Age Cultures	1200-600 BCE	Northern Black Polished Ware, Painted Grey Ware (PGW)

Megalithic Cultures	1000-300 BCE	Black and Red Ware, Red Ware
Mesolithic Cultures	10000- 2000 BCE	Microlithic tools, No specific pottery tradition
Jorwe Culture	1400-700 BCE	Jorwe Ware (Reddish-brown pottery)
Malwa Culture	1500-500 BCE	Malwa Ware (Red and black pottery)
Ahar-Banas Culture	2500-1500 BCE	Ahar-Banas Ware (Red and black pottery)
Hakra Ware Culture	3800-3200 BCE	Hakra Ware (Plain and painted pottery)

Bagor Culture		9000-4800 BCE	Bagor Ware (Red and black pottery)
Sothi-Siswal Culture	4600- 3500 BCE	Sothi-Siswal Ware (Red and black pottery)	

❖ GUPTA ART & ARCHITECTURE

1. Temple Architecture:

- Gupta temple architecture laid the foundation for the **Nagara style**, which became dominant in later periods.
- **Temples** were generally constructed using **stone, and brick** was used for smaller shrines.
- The temples were **square or rectangular** in plan, with a sanctum at the centre and an entrance **porch (mandapa)** leading to the sanctum.
- Elaborate doorways and intricately carved pillars were common features.

2. Sculpture:

- Gupta sculptures were characterised by their **grace, naturalism, and idealisation of human forms**.
- The **art** of stone carving reached its zenith during this period, with highly skilled craftsmen producing exquisite sculptures.
- **Buddha and Bodhisattva** figures were prevalent, often depicted in various postures like the seated **Buddha**, standing **Buddha**, and reclining **Buddha**.

3. Buddha Images:

- The **Gupta period** saw a shift from **aniconic** representations of **Buddha** to anthropomorphic images of the **Buddha**.

- **Buddha** statues were made of **stone or bronze**, showcasing the Buddha in a calm and meditative state with elongated earlobes and a serene smile.

4. Wall Paintings:

- Wall paintings adorned the walls of temples and caves.
- Fresco paintings showcased scenes from the **Jataka** tales (stories of Buddha's previous lives) and mythological narratives.

5. Cave Architecture:

- The Gupta period witnessed the continuation of rock-cut architecture, which began in earlier centuries.
- The **Udayagiri and Khandagiri** caves in Odisha are prime examples of Gupta cave architecture, featuring intricately carved facades and pillared halls.

6. Ajanta Caves:

- The **Ajanta Caves**, dating back to the Gupta period, are one of the most remarkable achievements of **Indian art**.
- These caves are renowned for their exceptional rock-cut **Buddhist monuments**, including monastic complexes and prayer halls.
- The caves also house exquisite mural paintings depicting the life and teachings of Buddha.

7. Coinage Art:

- **Gupta coins** were minted with **high-quality artwork**, showcasing **portraits of kings, deities, and various symbols**.
- The use of **gold coins** during the Gupta period exemplified the empire's economic prosperity.

8. Metalwork:

- Gupta artisans excelled in metalworking, crafting intricate bronze figurines and statues.
- The famous **Nataraja statue**, depicting Shiva as the **cosmic dancer**, is an iconic example of **Gupta metalwork**.