

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapeeth

Class-6th, Sub.-Social Science (Hist.)

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Cch13-Ancient India: Contribution to Culture & Science

Key Aspects

- Contribution of Ancient Indian in the field of-
 - Art and Architecture.
 - Literature.
 - Science, Math
 - Craft and Techn
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Ancient India has made unique contribution to science, literature, art and culture. In this chapter, we will discuss about these achievements made by the Indians in the past.

LITERATURE

The Vedas and Upanishads

The first and one of the most important contributions of Ancient India in the field of literature were the four Vedas - Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda. The Vedas tell us about the religious beliefs and social environment of the Aryans.

Rigveda is the first Veda and is the heart of the entire Vedic knowledge. It contains 10,552 verses.

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Answer these questions

The Epics

The two epics, **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata** are another priceless literary contribution of Ancient India.

The Buddhist and Jain texts are also important religious literature of Ancient India.

The **Jataka Tales** and **Panchatantra** tell us about the people and the society and give us lessons about the nature of man and how he reacts to different situations and circumstances. These stories have a moral lesson which are relevant to us even today.

Secular Literature

Famous creative works of the writers like **Kalidasa**, **Shudraka**, **Banabhatta** and **Bhasa** etc., also belong to the ancient period.

Arthashastra and **Dharmasutras** by **Kautilya** give us clear idea about the rules and regulations, economy and social regulations of ancient India.

The Tamil texts called **Sangam literature**, give us a lot of information about the society and culture of the Tamil region.

Foreign accounts by travellers and scholars like **Fa Hien** and **Hiuen Tsang**, and accounts of the Greek ambassador **Megasthenes**, through '*Indika*', gives us a unique insight into Indian society and culture from the point of view of the foreigners.

Key Question 1

Who wrote *Indika*?

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

The highly polished pillars of the Mauryan period mounted with statues of animals, the **Gandhara** and **Mathura School of Art**, the Ajanta paintings, the temples built by **Pallavas** and **Chalukyas** are some of the

magnificent examples of art and architecture of ancient India. The **Stupas** and **Viharas** associated with Buddhism are also rich examples of the ancient Indian Art. There is a small box placed at the centre of the stupa, which contains precious stones, coins and bodily remains of the Buddha or his disciples. A path is laid around the stupa, called **pradakshina**, which was surrounded by railings that is an additional feature of the sanchi stupa.



Sanchi Stupa

The Ashokan pillars are famous for their shining polish. These pillars were mounted by statues of animals. One of them, the Lion Capital from his Ashokan Pillar of Sarnath has been adopted as the National Emblem of India.

Insight

A remarkable example of the skill of Indian craftsmanship is the iron pillar at Mehrauli in Delhi, which is 7.2 m high, and weighs over 3000 kg. It was made during the Gupta dynasty about 1500 years ago and still free from rust and corrosion.

The cave temples of Ajanta and the famous Ajanta paintings are magnificent examples of Indian art heritage. Their themes were based on stories and tales associated with

1.Name the four Vedas.

2.Name ten Upnishads.

3.What contain all 4 vedas? Write separately.

4.What tells Jatak tales & Panchtantra?

5.Who wrote Arthshastra & Dharmasutras?