



PAINTING IN ANCIENT  
INDIA



**Evidences of the earliest paintings**  
is a proof that painting evolved in India through  
a fusion of various cultures and traditions over  
centuries.





Evidences of the earliest paintings – Rock shelters of Bhimbhetka caves – Madhya Pradesh.



# Rock paintings

- Rock paintings of prehistoric times are the earliest paintings found in India Bhimbetka rock shelters in Madhya Pradesh whose almost 10,000-year-old rock paintings display the concerns of early man — food, survival in a difficult environment and struggle in subduing animals.
- The colours used are mostly of mineral origin and have survived because the paintings were deep inside the caves or on inner walls. Bhimbetka was declared a Unesco World Heritage Site in 2003.



## Classical texts

1. Vishnudharmottara puranam
2. Kālidāsa's Śakuntalā
3. Vātsyāyana's Kāmasūtra deals with  
“Shadanga-six limbs of painting”.



# ANCIENT TEXTS ON PAINTING

- Early literary compositions of India such as Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata, Kālidāsa's Śakuntalā and Daṇḍin's Daśakumārcarita make many references to art galleries or citraśālās.
- The Śilpa Śāstra texts of art and architecture deal with the art of mural and miniature painting and paintings executed on wood and cloth.
- The most comprehensive text is the **Viṣṇudharmottara Purāṇa**, which deals with the interdependence of dance, music and the visual arts. It is one of the eighteen Upapurāṇas.

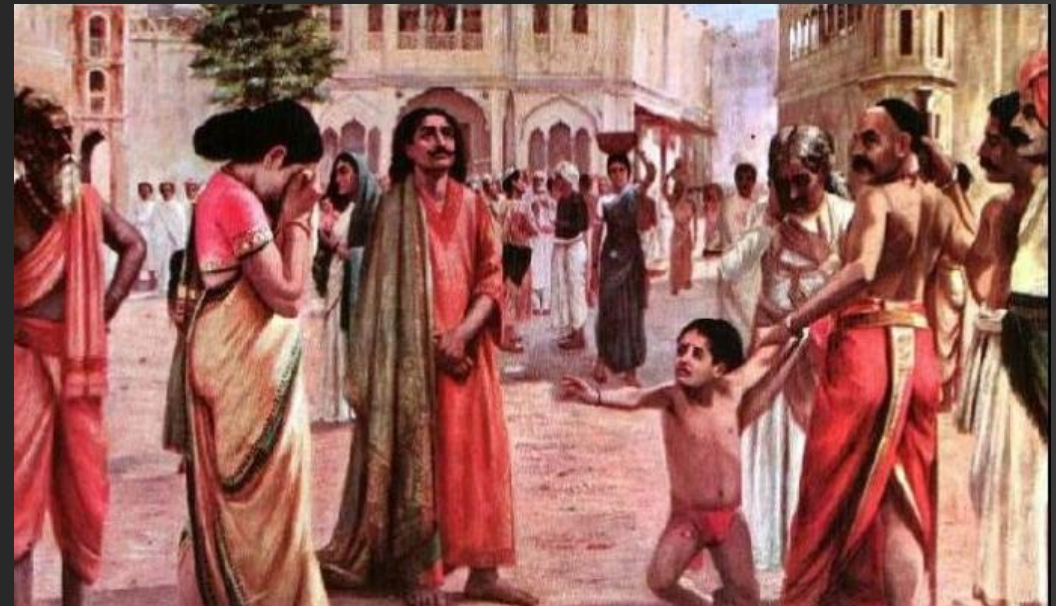


# Kālidāsa's Śhaakuntalā



# Vātsyāyana's Kāmasūtra speaks about Saḍaṅga or “six limbs” of painting

- Saḍaṅga or “six limbs” of painting.
- 1. rūpabheda, the perception of difference in appearance;
- 2. pramāṇa, valid perception, measure and structure;
- 3. bhāva, feelings expressed in forms;
- 4. lāvaṇya yojana, infusion of grace in artistic representation;
- 5. sādṛśya, similarities;
- 6. varṇikabhaṅga, identification and analysis of colour and hue.
- These “six limbs” were the basis of the Indian art of painting.





## 1. Mural Paintings

Murals are large works executed on walls of solid structures

Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra

Bagh in Madhya Pradesh

Panamalai and Sittanavāsai in Tamil Nadu

## 2. Miniature Painting

Miniature paintings are executed on books and albums, and on perishable material such as paper and cloth.

Pālas of Bengal were the pioneers of miniature painting in India

Rajsthani Schools of painting

Rāgamāla paintings

**Indian paintings can be broadly classified as.....**



# MURAL PAINTING – HUGE PAINTINGS ON WALL



# Ajanta cave Paintings

- The Ajanta caves consist of 30 rock-cut Buddhist caityas and vihāras.
- It is described as “the finest surviving examples of Indian art, particularly painting”, with depictions of the Buddha and the Jātaka tales.
- The Ajanta Caves are a Unesco World Heritage Site.



# PALLAVA PAINTINGS

- The Pallavas were great patrons of art. Mahendravarman I, who lived in the 7th century CE, was known as “Citrakāra puli”, or “tiger among painters”. The Talagiriśvara temple at Panamalai in the Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu is one of two shrines that bear testimony to Pallava painting.





# Vijayanagara Paintings

- *There is a wealth of Vijayanagara paintings all over South India, but the best examples are to be seen in the*
- *Vīrabhadra temple at*
- *Lepakshi, on the ceilings of the Virupākṣa temple at*
- *Hampi and*
- *Ranganathaswamy temple of Srirangam, and on the walls of the*
- *Varadarāja temple at Kanchipuram.*



# MINIATURE PAINTINGS –

*Executed on books and albums, and on perishable material such as paper and cloth.*





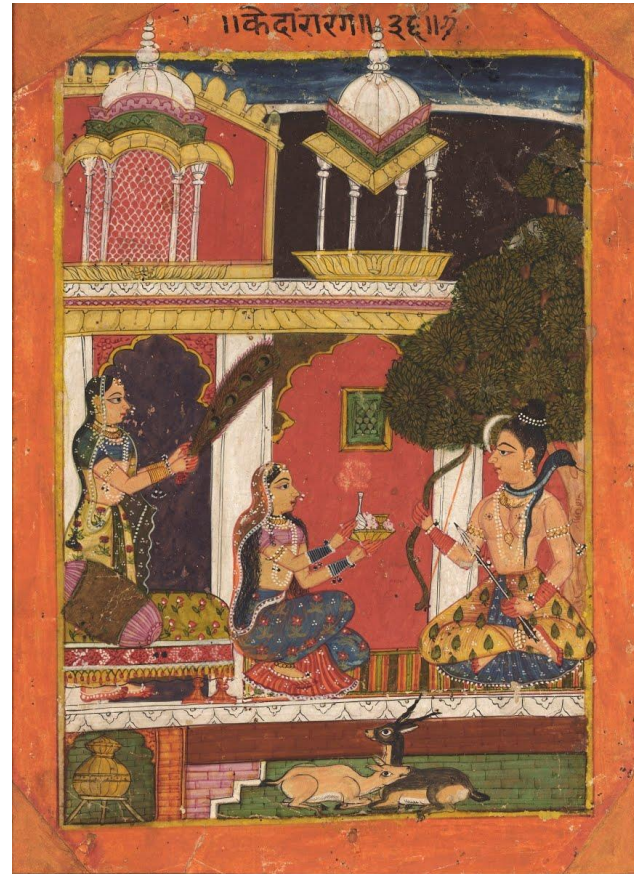
# Miniature Painting

- The Pālas of Bengal were the pioneers of miniature painting in India.
- Rajasthani Schools of painting, like Bundi, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Marwar and Mewar.
- The Rāgamāla paintings also belong to this school, as do the Company paintings produced during the British Raj.



# BLEND OF MUSIC AND ART

Ragamala Paintings – Different Raagas are depicted by Paintings.



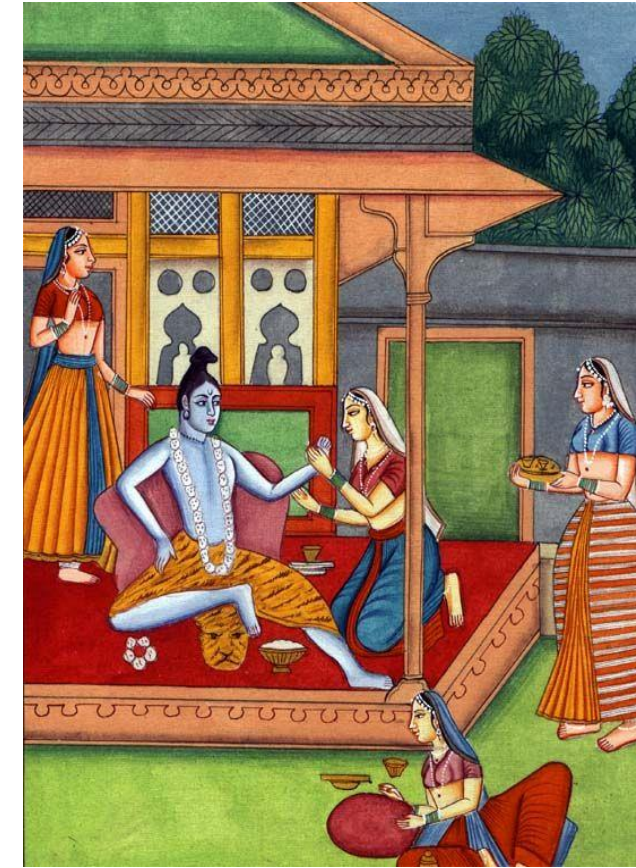
Raag Kedar



Raag Hindola

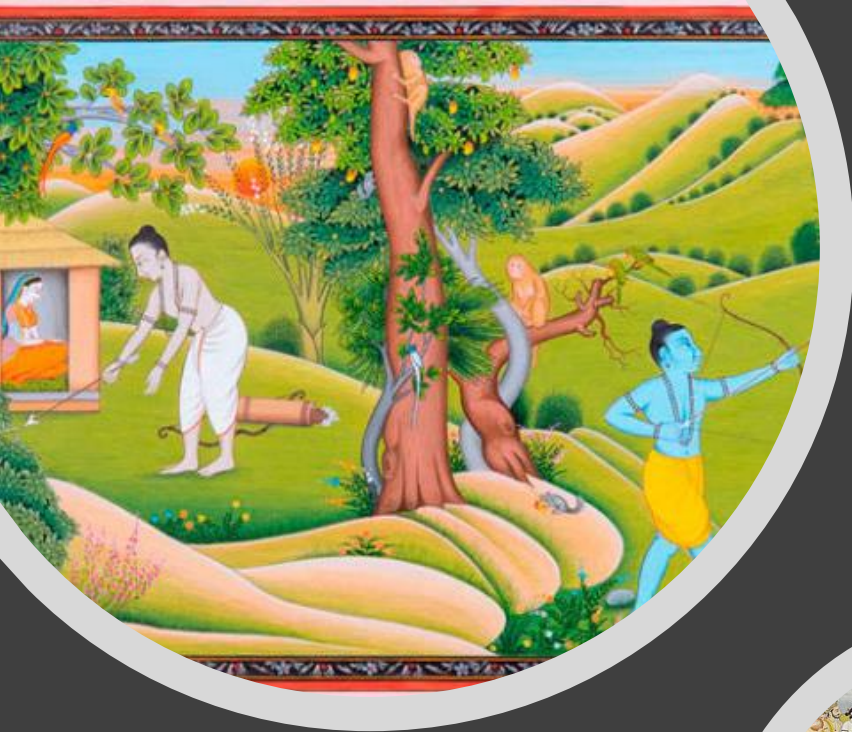


Raag Malhar



Raag Bhairav





# The Pahari School

- The important centres of the Pahāri School were at Basholi, Jammu, Guler and Kangra. The Pahāri School was lively and romantic, technically superior with soft tonal shading, exquisitely created backgrounds that merged with the theme, and attitudes and postures highly evocative of the moods they were to convey.







# Tanjore and Mysore Painting

- The artists of Vijayanagara turned up in two great courts of late medieval India and created a new genre of painting, inspired by the great Vijayanagara traditions. Tanjore paintings are of popular Hindu deities and scenes from Hindu epics.



# FOLK PAINTING

MADHUBANI, PATTACITRA, KALAMKARI, GOND ART  
AND WARLI ART.



# Madhubani

Madhubani painting is practised in the Mithila region of Bihar. Themes revolve around Hindu deities and epic tales, especially tales of Lord Kṛṣṇa, and scenes of social events like weddings. No space is left empty: gaps are filled in with paintings of flowers, animals, birds and geometric designs. Artists use natural dyes and pigment extracted from leaves, herbs and flowers.







# Paṭṭacitra

- Paṭṭacitra (meaning “cloth painting”) is a folk style of Odisha closely linked with the worship of Lord Jagannath of Puri. While there is evidence of painting in the Khaṇḍagiri and Udayagiri caves, the earliest indigenous paintings from Odisha are the Paṭṭacitra done by the Chitrakars.







# Kalamkari

- Kalamkāri or “pen craft” of Srikalahasti, is executed with a kalam or pen, used for free hand drawing of the subject and filling in the colours, entirely by hand. Paintings are usually hand-painted or block-printed on cotton textile. This style grew around temples and had a distinctly religious identity —

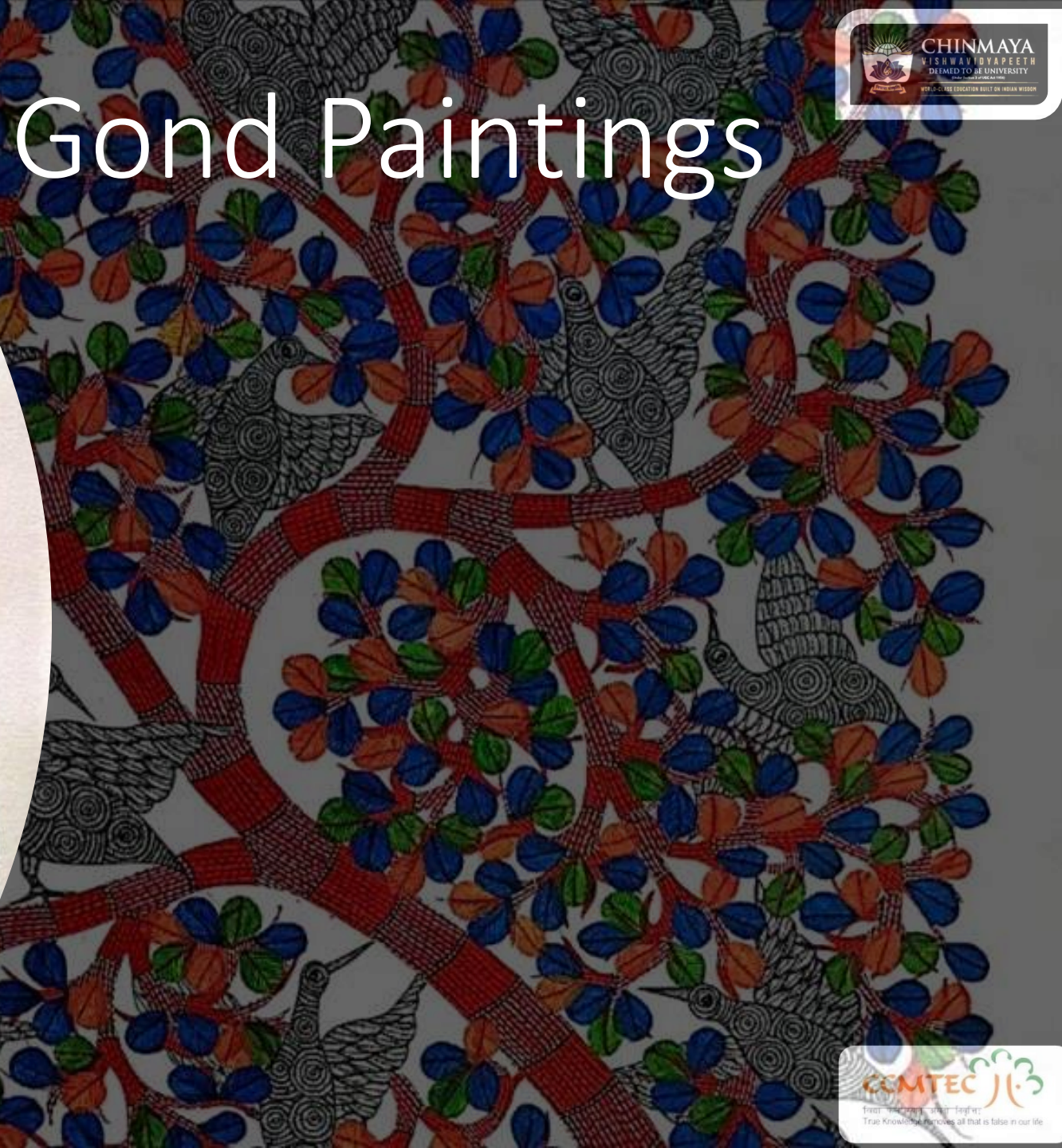


# WARLI PAINTING





# Gond Paintings





# THANK YOU