

Culture of India

Indian Culture

Indian culture is one of the oldest known cultures to humanity. Although it is very difficult to cater the unique and vast cultural heritage of India but still an attempt has been made to cover some of the most important relevant areas of Indian culture.

The important sections are as follows:

- A. Literature
- B. Dance
- C. Music
- D. Architecture
- A. Literature

The literature of India is one of the oldest literature in the world. Here is the collection of some of the famous works of Indian literature.

S.No.	Book	Author
1	<i>Ramayana</i>	Valmiki
2	<i>Mahabharata</i>	Ved Vyas
3	<i>Ramcharit Manas</i>	Tulsidas
4	<i>Ashtadhyayi</i>	Panini
5	<i>Abhigyan Shakuntalam</i>	Kalidas
6	<i>Meghdoot</i>	Kalidas
7	<i>Vikramorshiyam</i>	Kalidas
8	<i>Ritusamhar</i>	Kalidas
9	<i>Mrichchhkatika</i>	Shudraka
10	<i>Ratnavali</i>	Harsha Vardhan
11	<i>Geetgovinda</i>	Jayadeva
12	<i>Arthashastra</i>	Vishnugupt / Chanakya
13	<i>Kamasutra</i>	Vatsyayan
14	<i>Svapnavasavdattam</i>	Bhaasa
15	<i>Manusmriti</i>	Manu
16	<i>Ananda Math / Kapal Kundala</i>	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
17	<i>Devdas</i>	Sharat Chandra Chatterjee
18	<i>Gitanjali</i>	Rabindranath Tagore
19	<i>Gita Rahasya</i>	B. G. Tilak
20	<i>Harsha Charita</i>	Banabhatta
21	<i>Kadambari</i>	Banabhatta
22	<i>Kamayani</i>	Jai Shankar Prasad
23	<i>Mudra Rakshas</i>	Vishakhadutta
24	<i>Panchatantra</i>	Vishnu Sharma
25	<i>Satyartha Prakash</i>	Swami Dayananda Saraswati
26	<i>Mitakshara</i>	Vignaneshwara
27	<i>Godan</i>	Premchand
28	<i>Sooryakanthi</i>	G Sankara Kurup

B. Dance

Important and famous dances of India:

Broadly the dance forms can be classified into two types, viz. classical dance and folk dance.

(i) Important and famous classical dances of India:

1. **Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Chakiarkoothu, Ottum Thulal:** These are the famous dance forms that belongs to Kerala. Pallavi Krishnan and Bharti Shivaji are the famous exponents of Mohiniattam form of dance. Madavoor Vasudevan Nair is a famous exponent of Kathakali form of dance.
2. **Bharatnatyam:** This is a famous dance form that belongs to Tamil Nadu. The famous exponents of this dance form are Yamini Krishnamurty, Padma Subramanyam, Mallika Sarabhai.
3. **Kuchipudi:** This dance form belongs to Andhra Pradesh. The famous exponents of this dance form are Raja and Radha Reddy (duo), Yamini Krishnamurty, Mallika Sarabhai.
4. **Odissi:** This dance form belongs to Odisha. The famous exponents of this dance form are late Kelucharan Mahapatra, Sonal Mansingh.
5. **Kathak:** This is a dance form that belongs to Uttar Pradesh. The famous exponents of this dance form are Birju Maharaj, Uma Sharma.
6. **Manipuri:** This is a famous dance form of Manipur.
7. **Yakshagana:** This is a famous dance form of Karnataka.

(ii) Important Folk Dances of India:

1. **Chhou Nach and Ghambira:** Folk dances form of West Bengal.
2. **Kolattam:** Folk dance form that belongs to Kerala.
3. **Bhangara:** Folk dance form of Punjab.
4. **Nautanki:** Folk dance form of Uttar Pradesh.
5. **Dandia Ras and Garba:** Folk dances forms of Gujarat.
6. **Tamasha:** Folk dance form of Maharashtra.
7. **Fagun and Jata Jatin:** Folk dances forms of Bihar.
8. **Macha:** This is a folk dance form of Madhya Pradesh.
9. **Ankia Nat and Bihu:** Folk dances forms of Assam.

C. Music

(i) Famous and Important music artists of India and their associated disciplines

1. **Pt. Bhimsen Joshi:** Hindustani Vocalist
2. **Pt. Jasraj:** Hindustani Vocalist
3. **Late M. S. Subbulakshmi:** Famous Carnatic Vocalist
4. **Allauddin Khan:** Hindustani Vocalist
5. **Bade Gulam Ali Khan:** Hindustani Vocalist
6. **Basavraj Rajguru:** Hindustani Vocalist
7. **Dr. M. Balmuralikrishna:** Carnatic Vocalist
8. **D. K. Pattamal:** Carnatic Vocalist
9. **K. J. Yesudas:** Carnatic Vocalist
10. **Late Gangubai Hangal:** Hindustani Vocalist
11. **Parveen Sultana:** Hindustani Vocalist
12. **Rajan and Sajan Mishra:** Hindustani Vocalist
13. **Kishori Amonkar:** Hindustani Vocalist

14. **Pt. Ravi Shankar:** Sitar
15. **Pt. Aajya Chakraborty:** Hindustani Vocalist
16. **Ustad Ali Akbar Khan:** Sarod
17. **Ustad Amjal Ali Khan:** Sarod
18. **Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasiya:** Flute

(ii) Famous and important musical instrumentalists of India

Musical Instrument	Artist
Sitar	Pandit Ravi Shankar, Debu Chaudhury, Annapurna Devi, Anoushka Shankar
Flute	Pt. Hari Prasad Chourasiya, Jayantha Bannerjee
Violin	N. Rajam, P. L. Pawar
Sarod	Amjad Ali Kihan, Ali Akbar Khan, Aman and Ayan Ali Bangish, Sharan Rani.
Shehnai	Bismillah Khan, Shailesh Bhagat, Anant Lal
Tabla	Shafat Ahmed Khan, Kishan Maharaj, Late Allah Rakha, Ustad Zakir Hussain
Santoor	Bhajan Sopori, Shiv Kumar Sharma
Others	
(a) Mohan Veena	Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
(b) Sarangi	Ram Narayan

D. Architecture

India has a very rich architectural legacy as a result of which we have so many marvellous architectural monuments in India. Mughal architecture and Dravidian architecture are to name a few.

Given below is the list of the architectural monuments.

Important and famous architectural marvels of India

1. **Bhimbetka Caves:** Located in Madhya Pradesh at the edge of Vindhya hills, rock shelters of Bhimbetka are believed to be the place where earliest known traces of human life have been found in India. The interesting features of Bhimbetka include rock shelters, caves and the rock paintings of Bhimbetka.
2. **Taj Mahal:** Built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, this is a marvellous piece of Islamic architecture in India and is one of the finest buildings of the world. Taj Mahal is located in Agra, a town in Uttar Pradesh on the banks of the river Yamuna.
3. **Konark Temple:** Built in the 13th century by King Narsimhadeva, this temple is dedicated to the Lord Sun. This temple is located in Odisha and is the epitome of the Oriya temple architecture.
4. **Mahabodhi Temple:** This is a famous Bodhi temple located at Bodhi Gaya in Bihar. This is the place where the founder of Buddhism, Gautam Buddha, attained enlightenment.
5. **Fatehpur Sikri:** This city of historical importance was built by the great Mughal emperor Akbar in 1569 in the honour of Muslim saint Sheikh Salim Chishti at a place near Agra in Uttar Pradesh.
6. **Khajuraho Temples:** This temple is situated in Madhya Pradesh. Built by the Chandela dynasty rulers, these temples are the wonderful work of medieval temple architecture.
7. **Mahabalipuram:** The temple is located in Tamil Nadu. These group of monuments including the temples were built by the Pallava Dynasty rulers and is considered as an exceptional work of Dravidian architecture. The monuments are mostly rock cut and monolithic.

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8. **Qutub Minar:** Situated in New Delhi, this minaret is a wonder of Islamic architecture. Started by Qutub-ud-din-Aibak, this minaret was completed by Firoz Shah Tughlaq. The height of the tower is 72.5 metres.
9. **Humayun's Tomb:** This tomb of Humayun was built by Humayun's wife, Haji Begham. The Humayun's tomb also encompasses the tomb of Babur. The tomb located in New Delhi is an excellent piece of work of Mughal architecture.
10. **Ellora Caves:** The Ellora caves was built between 6th to 10th century. It is known for magnificent work of rock cut architecture, comprising of Jain, Buddhist, Hindu temples and monasteries. These caves are located in Maharashtra.
11. **Ajanta Caves:** Situated in Maharashtra, these caves have lot of dwelling halls, also known as Viharas.
12. **Brihadeshwara Temple:** Located in Tamil Nadu, this temple was built by Rajaraja – I of Chola dynasty, around 10th century. The main god of this temple is Lord Shiva. This temple is a very good example of Dravidian architecture.