



Chapter 14

New Developments In Arts, Painting, Literature and Architecture

NOTES:

Apart from the changes in handicraft industry, changes were also witnessed in the fields of arts, painting, literature and architecture during the British rule in India.

Impact of Art Schools

- The paintings executed by British artists in India falls into three categories – oil paintings, miniature paintings and water-colour paintings.
- Indian artists received some training in western techniques and styles of work under the Company's Commissions from the second quarter of the 19th century.
- Indian painter Ravi Verma employed the medium of oil colour in painting Indian mythological themes.
- In Bengal E.B. Havell started a movement urging the necessity of revising the past traditions of the country.
- The best exponent of neo- art movement was Abanindranath Tagore, in Government College of Art in Kolkata.

Ningthoujam Badhra Singh (1861-1927 A.D.)

Ningthoujam Badhra Singh was a celebrated artist of Manipur in the late 19th and 20th centuries. He was born at Thiyam Konjin. He learnt the art of painting from Mangaidam Angangmacha Singh, the royal court artist of Chandrakirti. Badhra Singh became the royal court artist during the reign of Churachand.

Development and Growth of Printing Press in India

- The first printing press in India was set up at the College of St. Paul in Goa in 1556.
- In Mumbai, the first printing press was imported as early as 1670 by the Parsi businessman Bhimjee Parikh.

- The English East India Company brought a printer to Surat in 1675.
- The first literature ever printed in India was released on November 6, 1556.
- The real growth of the printing press started with the arrival of William Carey in India on November 11, 1793 as he set up the first paper making factory and the first foundry in India.

Fardunjee Marzban

- Fardunjee Marzban was one of the prominent Indian who took a prominent role in establishment of printing press in India.
- In 1808, he opened a book bindery and in 1812 set up a press.
- In 1814, he printed an Almanac for the Hindi Samvat Year.
- In 1815, he printed a Gujarati translation of the Persian book Dabistan-I Mazahibm.
- The introduction of printing and the consequent development of the language of India had a tremendous socio-political impact, leading to enlightenment and empowerment.

Changes in Performing Arts

- In 1901, Pandit Vishnu Digambar Palushkar established at Lahore a school for music and in 1908, he laid the foundation of another institution of the same type at Mumbai named Gandharva Mahavidyalaya.
- In 1921, the Morris College of Hindustani Music was established at Lucknow.
- In 1928, a Music Academy was founded at Chennai.

Theater in India

- The English established their theater in Kolkata in the mid 18th century, though Indians were not admitted to the theater.
- Indians led by Dwarkanath Tagore, grandfather of Rabindranath Tagore, established their own theater.
- In 1872, Girish Chandra Ghose established a National Theater in 1872.
- The Parsis were the pioneer in establishing commercial Gujarati and Urdu theaters.
- In Manipur, this form of theater is known as Shumang Leela.

Shumang Leela

- Shumang Leela is a traditional form of Courtyard Theater in Manipur.
- Shumang Leela means “a play in the open courtyard”.
- The origin of Shumang Leela goes back to the reign of King Chandrakirti in the nineteenth century.
- In Shumang Leela, the women characters are actually played by male artistes.
- The Shumang Leela reflects the dynamics of culture and tradition of Manipuri society.

New forms of writing

- The nineteenth century was a formative epoch in the history of Indian literature.
- Throughout the nineteenth century, the spread of Western education helped the growth of modern Indian languages.
- The Indian awakening took a literary step as more and more of India’s history, culture and heritage came to light through the tireless work of British and Indian scholars.

New forms of Architecture

- A change in the traditional style of architecture in India was initiated by the Europeans who came to India for trade and established their settlement at various places by building European style houses.
- The Portuguese at Goa established impressive churches in the style of Iberian architecture and the English built churches resembling the English village churches.



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