

LESSON-17

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

NOTES:

LITERATURE

- Literary sources form one of the most important sources of history.
- ➤ Hand written records were found on dried palm leaves, birch barks, parchment etc.
- Literary sources of Ancient India were the Vedas, the Upanishads, Samhitas, the Epics, the Jain and Buddhist texts, the works of Kalidasa, Banabhatta, Kalhana, etc.
- ➤ In the south, the four Dravidian languages- Tamil, Telegu, Kannada and Malayam developed their own distinct scripts and literature.
- In Manipur the main literary sources of the early Manipur is the CheitharolKumbaba. Some other are Numit Kappa, KonthoujamLairembiNongarol, SandrembiCheishra, PanthoibiKhongul, etc.

ARCHITECTURE

- ➤ The earliest remains of recognizable buildings activity in India dates back to the Indus Valley cities.
- The most imposing of the building was the Great Bath of Mohenjodaro.
- The Mauryan period was a great landmark in the history of Indian art.
- The Ashokan rock-edict at Dhauli, near Bhubaneshwar, is considered to be the earliest rock-cut sculpture in India.
- ➤ The stupas are large halls, capped domes and bear symbols of the Buddha. Some important stupas are located at Bharhut, Bodhgaya, Sanchi, Amravati and Nagarjunakonda.
- ➤ During the Kushan period the Buddha was represented in human form instead of symbols.
- ➤ Kushans were the pioneers of the Gandhara School of Art.
- The Gupta Age heralded a new epoch on the history of temple architecture.
- The Gupta had initiated permanent materials like brick and stone instead of perishable materials like bamboo, wood etc.
- > The stone temple in Deogarh of Dasavatara is an extant remain of Gupta architecture.
- The Dravidian art and sculpture was primarily concentrated in south India.

SCULPTURE AND PAINTINGS.

- ➤ The Indus Valley sculpture includes terracotta seals and statues.
- The Mauryan sculpture was famous for its lofty pillars, lion thrones, the railings of the stupas and other colossal sculptures.
- ➤ The finest specimen of Mauryan sculpture was the pillars built by Ashoka. These monolithic pillars were carved out of single rocks.
- ➤ The sculptures and wall paintings at the Ajanta cave are the marvellous examples of the greatest and most powerful works of Gupta.

SCIENCE IN ANCIENT INDIA

- > Science in Ancient India prospered to a great extent. The most remarkable works of the period are perhaps those of Aryabhata.
- Aryabhata wrote Aryabhatiyam. It described mathematical, planetary and cosmic theories.
- ➤ He was reckoned for the use of Zero in Algebra.
- > Charaka and Shushruta were the two famous physicians of ancient India.
- Paintings found on the walls of Ajanta and Ellora which look fresh even after 1000 years, testify to the high level of chemical science achieved in ancient India.

)F EDUCATION (S)