

### **Day 7 Art and Culture**

Q 1. Explain the role of painting in spreading religion across the Indian subcontinent .  
(10)

Q 2. Why Buddhism still flourishing in the region but not Jainism.(10)

Q 3. Kingdoms which practiced the policy of peace not war survived longer than other kingdoms . Elucidate with examples .(15)

Day 7  
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Qns. 1

Indian subcontinent is known for the birth of various religions, the creative art and architecture and the various paintings. Every now and then, we come across different paintings and the GI Tags associated with them.

From time immemorial, these paintings have acted as the catalysts in the spread of religion across the Indian subcontinent. Some were secular in nature while some were religious.

- 1) The Prehistoric Paintings of Bhimbetka have projected stick figures and were religion-neutral.
- 2) In the medieval time period, the Paintings were used in propagation of Islam especially

when Humayun brought two Islamic  
Painters.

o) However, Akbar promoted Indian as  
well as Islamic Paintings. Some of  
the famous were: Hamzanama, Tutinama.

o) Jahangir and Shah Jahan's paintings  
were naturalistic and sketch  
oriented respectively.

o) Ajanta Paintings → In the form of  
Mural paintings spread the religion  
of Buddhism.

o) Ellora Mural Paintings were famous  
for multi-religion i.e. Hinduism,  
Buddhism and Jainism.

o) Sittanavasal paintings were strictly  
for the Jains.

o) Thanjavur Paintings were famous  
for GI Tags and gold plating.

o) The Rajasthani and Rajput  
paintings depicted Krishna and his  
acts, hence spreading Hinduism.

There have been many more paintings  
though many were secular in nature  
as well, however thus helped in  
the spread of religion across India.

Ans. 2

Jainism and Buddhism, the two famous religions ~~are~~ have taken birth on the soil of India. The two religions were contemporary to each other as they originated in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. as they reacted to the Brahmanical supremacy.

Though both of them flourished around the same time, however ~~there~~ it has been observed that today Buddhism is still flourishing and not Jainism. Although both of them are considered to be the religious minorities in India, still Jainism is not flourishing regions.

Reasons Why Buddhism is flourishing:-

• Religious ideology  
Buddhism is not considered as ~~an~~ ~~or~~ a religion of extreme ideologies rather it follows madhyamika ideology



\*) Historical reason :- The Buddhist religion has been patronised by many great rulers especially Ashoka who has propagated the religion to the South Asia, East Asia and other parts.

\*) Cultural reason :- There have been many temples, architectures, caves, paintings depicting prominently Buddhism. Eg: Ajanta caves, Ellora caves.

\*) Education : The foundation of Vikramaditya, Nalanda, Taxila University

Why Jainism not flourishing?

\*) Religious Ideologies : The extreme forms of ideology like extreme penances, following extreme monastic rules, belief of souls in inanimate objects, practice of Sallekhana.

\*) Historical reason : Jainism patronised by Chandragupta Maurya, it was not much spread to other parts and remained confined to few parts of India only.

\*) Cultural reason : The art and culture of Jainism have been there but very limited. Hence this did not flourish.

\*) Changing dynamics and strict rules within Svetambara and Digambaras might have been the other reasons.

Ans. 3

India has witnessed several kingdoms - big or small from time immemorial. There were some who indulged in expanding their territory through wars and violence while some who followed the policy of Peace.

It has been observed, as we revisit our history, that there have been successful kingdoms who could maintain their legacy for long and these were those who followed the policy of peace and negotiations.

(1) Mauryan empire 323 BC - 183 BC

One of the ancient kingdom, known by its great rulers - Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka.

The change of mind of Ashoka after the Kalinga war was to follow Dhammaghosh and the policy of peace → let the Mauryan empire to flourish for longer.

Had Ashoka indulged in his earlier policy of war and conquest, I doubt if the Mauryan kingdom could flourish this long.

## (2) Gupta Kingdom

One of the finest kingdom of Ancient history is Gupta empire.

They followed policy of expansion of territory through Policies of peace, marriage, conciliation. They ruled for some 200 years.

## (3) Khilji dynasty | 1290-1320 AD

They ruled for a short period of time. This is because they followed policy of  Ruthless capture of territories.



violent annexations of states. Therefore,  
over ambitious and policy of war and  
conquest resulted in their shorter  
survival - 1

#### (4) Mughal Kingdom

The rulers like Akbar and  
Shah Jahan were known for  
their peaceful efforts during  
their rule which led to the  
survival of Mughals.

However, with Aurangzeb's  
orthodox and violent/oppressive  
policies, the Mughal Kingdom  
started declining.

#### (5) The Europeans

However Britishers ruled for  
many years but eventually their  
oppressive policies led to their  
removal.

The Dutch who were following  
peaceful co-existence survived for the  
longest.

Hence, even in the international sphere  
eg: Soviet Union and its disintegration,  
Communism, Nazism, have all declined  
because of their policy of war. Therefore,  
to survive longer, peaceful policy is necessary.