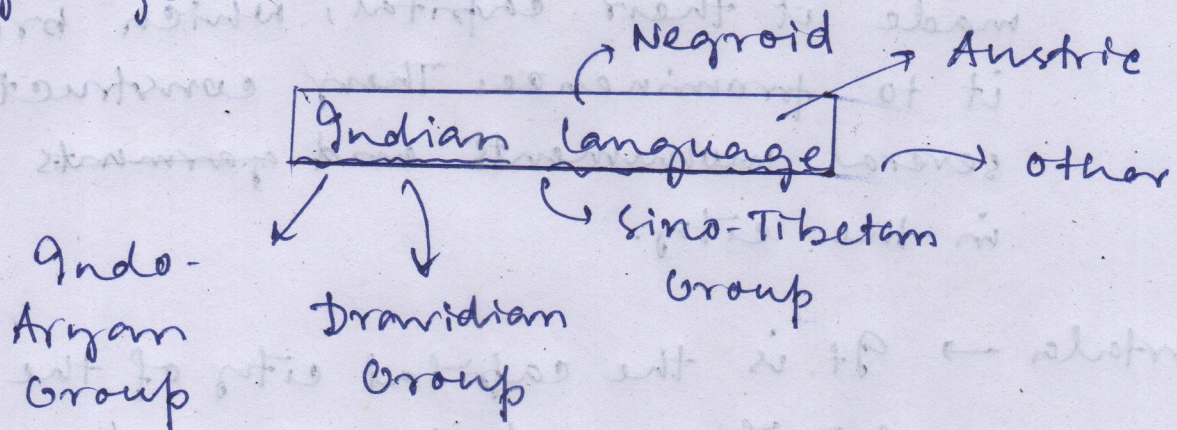


language in its literary meaning is a system of communication through speech, a collection of sounds that a group of people understand to have the same meaning.

A language family includes individual languages related through a common ancestor that existed before the recorded history.

Dialect is a form of language spoken in a local area. It should be noted that several dialects can be derived from a particular language.



Indus Valley sites

<u>site</u>	<u>River</u>	
Harappa	→ Ravi	Dholavira → Luni
Mohenjodaro	→ Indus	Banawali → Saraswati
Chanhudaro	→ Indus	
Lothal	→ Bhogava	
Kalibangan	→ Ghaggar	

UNESCO World Heritage sites in India

- Ajanta caves (Maharashtra)
- Ellora caves (Maharashtra)
- Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh)
- Agra Fort (Uttar Pradesh)
- Sun Temple, Konark (Odisha)
- Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (Karnataka)
- Humayun's Tomb (Delhi)

(Important ones)

List of several places of cultural interest

Agra → situated on the banks of the Yamuna, this city is a medieval marvel. The Mughals made it their capital, which brought it to prominence. They constructed several monuments and gardens in the city.

Agartala → It is the capital city of the state of Tripura and is situated on the banks of the Haora River, which provides the basic livelihood to them. The most important and old temple in the city is the Lakshmi Narayan Temple situated in the Ujjain Ujjayanta Palace compound.

Guwahati → It is one of the largest city in the state of Assam and the cultural capital of the North-East India. The city is also names as the 'Gateway of the North-east India'.

Goa → Goa has become the most famous place for westerners to come to India. It is surrounded by Maharashtra on the north and Karnataka from the east and south. It is bounded by the Arabian Sea on the west and this provides Goa with some of the best beaches in India.

Amritsar → Initially named Ramdaspur, the modern day city of Amritsar is a historically important city in the state of Punjab. The Sri Harmandir Sahib or the Golden Temple is the most sacred Gurudwaras of the Sikh community.

Bodh Gaya → It is situated in Bihar and it is one of the sacred places for those who believe in Buddhism. One of the most revered monuments in Bodh Gaya is the Mahabodhi Temple.

Hampi → All the monuments and sculptures at Hampi were declared to be world heritage (sites) by UNESCO in 1986. The most ~~no~~ iconic temple in complex in Hampi is the Vittala Temple complex, which has the iconic stone chariot.

Khajuraho → The Khajuraho group of monuments is situated in Madhya Pradesh. It is famous for the erotic temple structures. Most of the temples are constructed in the Nagara-style and were made by the Chandela dynasty that ruled over Bundelkhand.

Konark → The famous Konark Sun temple is situated in the town of Konark in Odisha. This ~~is~~ is one of the very few and famous Sun temples in India. It is also known as the 'Black Pagoda' because it is built out of black granite.

Rameshwaram → The city of Rameshwaram is one of the 'Char Dham' or four most important pilgrimages for Hindus. It is set on southernmost tip of the mainland of an island in the Gulf of Mannar.

Varanasi → It has been historically known as 'Benaras' and 'Kashi' as it lies on the banks of the holy river Ganga. It is also known as the 'spiritual capital' of India as it is home to many Hindu temples and Buddhist sanctuaries. India has a long tradition of artistic excellence and painting is one of the major mediums that have been used to express it.

* In the third century AD, Vatsyayana in his book Kamasutra mentioned about 6 main principles / limbs or shadanga of paintings.

Style of paintings

Cauka Pitaka

Dighala Pitaka

Yama Pitaka

Major features.

Isolated framed drawings.

long scrolls of paintings.

Isolated paintings.

- Makar Sankranti - It is a festival dedicated to the sun god, who is also considered to be the king of all ~~Gods~~ all planets. Makar Sankranti celebrates the movement of the Sun to the northern hemisphere.
- Jammasthami - It is the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna and is celebrated across the nation by the Hindu community.
- Dussehra → Dussehra is also known as 'Vijay-dashami' and is celebrated all over India in honour of Lord Rama's victory over Ravana.
- Eid-ul-Fitr → This is one of the festivals celebrated by the Muslim community world wide. The festival falls on the last day of the holy month of the Islamic calendar.
- Muharram - The festival of Muharram is a sad one, and it is associated with the death of Hussain, son of Ali.
- Christmas - This day is celebrated all across the world as the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ. It falls on the 25th December every year.

Gurupurabs - The Sikh community all over the world celebrates it. Although Gurupurabs are celebrated for the birth anniversaries of all the 10 Sikh gurus but the most important are the Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh.

Temples -

- * Venkateswara Temple: Tirumala at Tirupati in Chittoor District, Andhrapradesh.
- * Sri Ranganathaswami Temple: Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.
- * Umananda Devaloi: Guwahati, Assam
- * Mundeshwari Devi Temple: Bihar
- * Somnath Temple: Gujrat.
- * Nageshwara Jyotirlinga: Gujarat.
- * Virupaksha Temple: Hampi, Karnataka
- * Padmanabhaswamy Temple: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Harappan Art and Architecture:

A marked feature of this ancient civilisation was the vivid imagination. Bhairava form Shiva is most prominent in the Brihadesvara Temple built by the Chola dynasty. The temple is one of the oldest and famous temples in India. It is situated in Thanjavur (Tanjore) in Tamil Nadu in India. Bhairava is the wandering form of Lord Shiva and it guards the cardinal points.

There are 64 Bhairavas. These 64 Bhairavas are grouped under 8 categories and each category is headed by one major Bhairava. The major eight Bhairavas are called Astanga Bhairavas and artistic sensibilities exuded by the numerous sculptures, seals, potteries, jeweleries found at the excavation sites. The towns were laid out in a rectangular grid pattern.

Mauryan Art and Architecture

Mauryan art can be classified into court Art & Popular Art.

Post Mauryan Art

After the decline of the Mauryan Empire in 2nd century BC, small dynasties sprang up in various parts of India.

Inscriptions

- Major Rock Inscriptions: Minor Rock Edicts, the Queen's Edict, Barabar cave inscriptions and the Kandahar bilingual inscription. These inscriptions show Ashoka's devotion towards the Buddhists philosophy.
- Prayag - Prashasti: Prayag Prashasti is the name given to the Allahabad Pillar. Prashasti means "in praise of someone" and is a eulogy. The Allahabad Prashasti was originally engraved on the Ashokan Pillar in Kausambi near Allahabad. Later it was removed to the Allahabad Fort.

• Mehrauli Inscription : The Mehrauli Iron Pillar is the located in Delhi in the Qutub Minar complex. This pillar was established by Chandragupta-II of Gupta dynasty as Vishnupada in the honor of Lord Vishnu. A script is also known as writing system or orthography. The two ancient scripts in India comprise Brahmi script and Kharosthi script.

✓ Most of the ancient and modern scripts in India are developed from Brahmi script. be it Devanagari, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Odia, Assamese / Bengali, etc. Hence, it can be very much be ~~and~~ contended that Brahmi is the mother of scripts. Music is the soul of any culture and India has a long tradition of musical ~~and~~ ingenuity. It is said that Narada Muni (sage) introduced the art of music to earth. There are three main pillars of Indian classical music :

- Raga,
- Tala
- Swara.

D- 19/03/2026

Hindustani music → practiced in the northern parts of India.

Carnatic music → practiced in the southern parts of India.

Gharana system

- Gwalior Gharana - It is one of the oldest and the most elaborate Khyal Gharana.
- Kirana Gharana - This gharana is named after the town named Kirana in Uttar Pradesh.
- Agra Gharana - Historians argue that Khuda Baksh established this Gharana in the 19th century but the musicologists argue that Haji Sujan Khan founded it.
- Patiala Gharana - Bade Fateh Ali Khan and Ali Baksh Khan started the Gharana in the 19th century.

Jainism

- Vardhamana Mahavira was the 24th Tirthate Tirthankara of Jain tradition.
- He was born at Kundagrama near Vaishali to Kshatriya's parents Siddhanta and Trisala.
- At the age of 30 years, he became ascetic and wandered for 12 years.
- Jainism is divided into two sects Svetambaras (white clad) by sthulababhu and Digambaras (sky-clad or naked) by Bhadrababhu.
- First Jain council held at Pataliputra in 3rd century BCE and was presided by Sthulbadhra.
- Second Jain council held at Vallabhi is 512 CE and was presided by Devardhi Kshmasramana.

Buddhism:

Gautam or Siddhartha, the founder of Buddhism was born in 567 BCE in Lumbini Garden near Kapilavastu.

- He left of home at the age of 29 in search of truth.
- Under a bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, he got enlightenment or nirvana, at the age of 35.
- He delivered his first sermon at Sarnath near Benaras.
- He died at the age of 80 at Kushinagar.
- First Buddhism council was held at Rajagriha under the chairmanship of Mahakasyapa immediately after the death of Buddha.
- Second Buddhism council was convened at Vaishali around 383 BCE.
- Third Buddhist council held at Patliputra under the patronage of Ashoka.
- Fourth Buddhist council was convened in Kashmir by Kanishka under the chairmanship of Vasumitra. Asvaghosa participated in council.