

Current Affair (05 Aug 2019)

Pichwai Art

- ❖ Pichwai is a traditional style of painting from Rajasthan and usually depicts Lord Krishna and related stories. The paintings are made on cloth and are used as a backdrop to the idol in the temple. They show various moods of Krishna and are executed in the miniature style.
 - ❖ Other themes are also portrayed, such as the map of the Nathdwara temple, cows (as symbols of Lord Krishna) among others and not very often, are also created on paper. The stunning art form is a 400-year-old art, one which was created depicting the beautiful life of Lord Krishna.
 - ❖ This unique word Pichwai comes from the Sanskrit words, 'pitch' meaning back and 'wais' meaning hanging. It therefore means traditional paintings are hanging behind the idol of Shrinathji.
 - ❖ The wall art is created by depicting the story of Shrinathji, another form of Lord Krishna holding the hill Govardhan. The story contains a beautiful history which represents the power of one of the most significant incarnations of Lord Vishnu. When Lord Indra, showcased his control over the inhabitants of Vrindavan, with steady rains and thunderstorms, Lord Krishna lifted the hill named Govardhan on his little finger and the people of Vrindavan took refuge under the mountain. With this Indra realized failure to disturb the people and his ego was broken. Since then people are worshipping the Govardhan hill.
 - ❖ The contemporary paintings are used to embellish the walls of the temples located in Nathdwara district, specialising as a backdrop for the temples of Shrinathji. The making of a traditional painting takes a considerable amount of time, ranging from a couple of weeks to months. Great artists first sketch this conventional art on hand spun starched cloth, and then the beautiful image is created, painted and printed in brilliant colours or woven with hand blocks. The classic styles are generally made with natural colours and even natural brushes. The base is mostly red woven with yellow or any bright coloured embroidery. The focus is mainly on using intense and bright colours such as red, yellow, green, black along with a border beautified with a goat, dabka work or Swarovski. The most beautiful ones are mainly filled with pure gold.
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Orchha

- ❖ The architectural heritages of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body on April 15, 2019. According to the rules, to be a part of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, the heritage or any historical site first has to be on the tentative list. After it makes to the tentative list, another proposal is sent to the UNESCO.
- ❖ Orchha is situated on the banks of the Betwa river. It is located around 80 km away from Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh and 15 km from Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh. Orchha was built by King Rudra Pratap Singh of Bundela dynasty in the 16th century. The ancient town is famous for its Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha fort complex, Raja Mahal among others.
- ❖ The Bundela architecture has Mughal influence since the two dynasties were very close. The famous King of Bundela dynasty Veer Singh Dev was a close friend of Mughal emperor Jahangir and fought wars as Akbar's aid.
- ❖ Orchha is also famous for its two elevated minarets called Saavan and Bhadon and its four palaces— Jahangir Palace, Raj Mahal, Sheesh Mahal and Rai Praveen Mahal and for its concept of open bungalows, stone work windows, animal statues depicting the culture of Bundelkhand. It is the only place in India where Lord Ram is worshipped as a king with a dedicated temple in his name called Sri Ram Raja Mandir.