

Q. Describe the impact of Yavans on Indian Art & Culture. (500 words)

Ans. Yavans is the collective term used for the foreigners who invaded India in ancient times. Yavans include Greeks, Shakas, Parthians & Kushanas.

As they were outsiders, so they introduced a no. of new art forms & ideologies which were quite impactful at that time. Some of the major works done by Yavans during their time is discussed below :-

① Greeks :-

- They introduced bilingual, gold & silver coins in India.
- Also Hellenistic art in coins were also introduced by them.
- Theatrical art works were also influenced by them like sutradhar (stage manager), lavanika (Curtain).

② Shakas :-

- During their reign, Vikram Samvat calendar was started by king of Ujjain Vikramaditya.
- King Rudradaman constructed Lake Sudarshan in Girnar & erected Girnar inscription which was written in Chaste Sanskrit.

③ Parthians :-

During their reign, we don't find much evidences of art & culture. But from here onwards Anglicization of Indian society began as first ever baptism in India was observed.

④ Kushanas :-

Kanishka was the most important ruler of Kushana dynasty & they made a no. of contributions to art & culture :-

① They minted coins in copper & believed to have imitated the Roman 'aurei' type coins to facilitate trade.

② They also had great scholars in their court which includes :-

Charaka - ~~was~~ known as Father of Ayurveda. He wrote Charakasamhita.

Ashvagosh - a buddhist scholar who wrote Buddhacharita & composed Saundarananda.

③ Kanishka also patronised Gandhara school of Art which was later on quite helpful & in constructing Mathura school of Art.

Salient features of Gandhara School of Art:-

This was the first time in India when any god was sculptured & statue making

was started. It was a fusion of Grecko Roman & Indian style. Mostly the sculptures were of Lord Buddha. Sculptures were made initially on stone & later on Stucco. Features of body were beautifully carved & stress ~~is~~ was more given on minute details.

Therefore, Yavans laid down the foundation of art, literature & culture.

They gave us ideologies & philosophies too which ~~was quite helpful~~ is still prevalent in modern times.