

**WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com**

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

**ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com**

Q5(a)

## Prehistoric Rock Art of Central India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Anthropology GS 2 · 10 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

### Core demand of the question

- Write a note on Prehistoric Rock Art of Central India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

### Revision summary

**Bhimbetka** is the type site of Central Indian prehistoric painting.

Wakankar documented superimposed hunt-to-historic layers.

Sankalia set the art beside microlith floors in Indian prehistory.

Early scenes stress animals and hunt; later ones add cattle and horse.

The shelters remain in a living tribal landscape.

### Introduction

Central Indian prehistoric rock art is the painted sandstone of the Vindhya, with **Bhimbetka** as the type landscape. It records hunt, dance, and later cattle life on shelter walls.

### Body

#### Sites and sequence

- **Bhimbetka**, documented especially by **V. S. Wakankar**, holds superimposed paintings from late Pleistocene hunters to historic riders.
- Nearby clusters in Raisen, **Pachmarhi**, and other Vindhyan shelters repeat animals, humans, and geometric signs.
- **H. D. Sankalia** placed this art in the wider Indian prehistoric sequence beside microliths on the same floors.

#### What the walls show

- Early layers stress large animals and hunt scenes. Later layers add pastoral groups, horse, and script-like marks.
- The art is a Central Indian archive of economy and rite, not a copy of European caves.
- It also sits on a living tribal landscape, so interpretation must not steal the shelters from present Adivasi use.

### Flow diagram

Bhimbetka -> Wakankar  
Bhimbetka -> Hunt layers  
Bhimbetka -> Pastoral later layers

## Conclusion

Central Indian rock art, led by **Bhimbetka**, is a long painted sequence of hunt to herd. It is a primary document of prehistoric life in the Vindhya.

## Facts & figures

### Bhimbetka

UNESCO rock-shelter complex in Madhya Pradesh with a long painting sequence.

### V. S. Wakankar

Pioneer of systematic study and dating arguments for these paintings.

### Pachmarhi

Another Central Indian painted-shelter cluster.

### H. D. Sankalia

Integrated rock art with stone-age sequences in Indian archaeology.

---

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. ·

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-2/2015/prehistoric-rock-art-of-central-india/> ·

[ask@wrapexams.com](mailto:ask@wrapexams.com) · [wrapexams.com](https://wrapexams.com)