Introduction

Art is a language to express our feelings and emotions. Under it a man or person presents his emotions and thoughts.

Croche said “Art is the expression of the outer impression”.

It means when a man get some impression from the outer world, then he wants to create something and his nature and quality of creation is art. “Art is infinite and every big and small action of daily life comes within the definition of art.

Plato said that “art is the imitation of the truth”.

Here in truth refers to the universal truth. The imitation of the same is visible to us all alive and material things of the world. When the artist paints them it becomes the true copy of some universal truth.

Art can be better conveyed through feelings, thoughts and imitation. Therefore artist through any medium conveys its art like singers, sculptors, painters etc; they express their talent and skill through different medium. Artists express their feelings, their emotions through art in many ways. Music, dance, painting, sculpture and architecture are the forms of fine arts and through these five fine arts, artist shows his creativity and he creates something new and extraordinary. Painters, musicians express their feelings in songs, dancers shows their inner thoughts through action in dance, sculptor and architect make designs so that every person or artist shows or express their inner feelings, thoughts and emotions through paintings, songs, dance, sculpture or designs. These are the finest forms of art. We can see all forms of art in India. Architectural art is one of them. It was basically started with the construction of Temples, Forts, Mosques and Monuments by Hindu & Mughal rulers. Looking at the historical monuments, mosques and Forts we can still see the culture and discipline during those times. Architecture continues to amaze us and influence our lives. Unlike other art forms, architecture
combines both a necessity as well as a flair for creativity. Architecture has influenced our lives for thousands of years and is still evolving. There are many researches still going on the cultures and discipline.

India is the country which is famous for huge and enchanting beautiful monuments, mosques and Forts. There is hardly anyone in this world that is not attracted towards the beauty of these paramount pieces of work. Architecture of these monuments is huge, enormous, attractive, charming and fascinating.

In India mainly three cities Delhi, Agra, Jaipur have incomparable, incredible, inimitable, impressive and inspiring monuments. Situation and locations of these three cities in India forms out the shape of a triangle which then come to be known as the **Golden triangle** and the combination of all the three cities presents the potpourri of India. Since centuries the golden triangle has beckoned travellers from different parts of the world to India.

![Plate no. 1 The northern Golden Triangle of India](image)

The sights, sounds, smell and savour besides the souvenirs from each holiday destination of the Golden Triangle is enchanting.

The three destination of the Golden Triangle are well connected amongst themselves. The journey to the various destination of the Golden Triangle is safe to travel. Clubbing together three of the most culturally thriving cities of India, Golden Triangle Tour is an ideal introduction to the incredible land of India. The national capital - Delhi, city of Taj Mahal- Agra and city of Mughal and Rajputana splendour - Jaipur are the three vertexes of this famed circuit to travel Northern region of the country. Ranging from
colourful bonhomie of diverse cultures, affluence of nature's bounty, splendour of historic buildings and legendary forts and palace structures, Golden Triangle Tour packages offer best of the experiences of India travel.

Delhi, the capital city of India is an essential tourist point and is an interesting amalgamation of the old and the new. The Red Fort, Jama Masjid and the Qutub Minar in Delhi, India are monumental reminders of the architectural expertise and luxurious living of those who lived in the olden days.

Agra in Uttar Pradesh, Northern India has quite a few monuments that reflect the charm of the peak period of the Mughal rule in India, though Agra is famous for the strikingly beautiful Taj Mahal that is perhaps the most written, televised, photographed and written about. A tribute to everlasting love and devotion, the Taj Mahal in Agra, India is a must visit. A world heritage site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal is one of the star attractions in the Northern Golden Triangle.

Jaipur is the crowning glory of royal Rajasthan, India and is an important part of the Northern Golden Triangle Tour packages offered by New Age Tours. The impressive Amber Fort and the awe-inspiring fortifications at the Jaigarh Fort and the Nahargarh Fort are bound to leave you spellbound.

The three destinations in their own way present just three different shades of the wide spectrum that India displays. Golden triangle covers all the rich monument of India. From ancient time many of the famous artists have visited Golden Triangle and attracted by the infatuating infrastructure of these monuments. These silent and quite monuments reveal the untold and unrolled mysteries of the past which affects the artists according to their own field and these artists convey their thought and feelings in their paintings.

Firstly Indian monuments were painted by British artist and Indian painters had no tradition of applying their talent for monumental painting.
Untill the arrival of British professional artist in the late 18th century there was no visual record of the Indian landscape and its magnificent historic monuments.\textsuperscript{1} The first British professional artist to paint the Indian scene was William Hodges in 1780s. He was dazzled by the grandeur of Indian monuments and brought out his ‘Selected views of India’ with 48 picture depicting for the first time many places and buildings in India that were later to become famous.\textsuperscript{2} Hodges were followed by the legendary uncle-nephew duo of Thomas and William Daniell who spent over seven years travelling all over the country and produced a colossal publication Oriental Scenery with 144 drawings providing the most comprehensive view of India. They reached Calcutta early in 1786, and for about seven years explored the country as no foreigner, and indeed very few Indian, had ever done before, covering almost the entire length and breadth of the country.

The work of these British artists played an important part in creating a new vision of India as a country of ancient picturesque beauty and rich historical tradition and culture as revealed in the superb marvels of its architecture and sculpture. Their paintings were expensive, large and not easily available but the engravings had a ready market. The popularity of the Daniells’ Oriental Scenery prints of Mughal Monuments prompted Indian painters to compose theirs pictures in Western style.

The capture of Delhi and Agra in 1803 brought in its wake not only a number of company officials and soldiers but also turned the famous Mughal Imperial Capital of Delhi into a favourite tourist spot for European visitors. They came to explore the fabled city, its majestic monuments and the dilapidated ruins of past grandeur. This led to a great demand for the pictures of these historic cities. The Mughal painting was still alive and many artists carried on with their tradition of making pictures of the famous monuments of the two cities along with Mughal style miniature paintings of court scene of

\textsuperscript{1} Nevile, Prem “Marvels of Indian Painting”, Rise and demise of company school. 2007 page no. 127.
\textsuperscript{2} T. and W. Daniell, A picturesque voyage to India, Introduction, I, II
Akbar and Jahangir. The early British arrivals eagerly bought these pictures. But they evinced greater interest in the landscape and monuments. The local artists were skilful enough to meet their demand. The work of the Daniells had already familiarised the British with the historic monuments of Delhi and Agra, viz. the Qutub, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Panch Mahal, Agra Fort and above all, the Taj Mahal. Indian artist produced sets of pictures of these famous monuments, usually on papers in two sizes, the small 10” X 8” and the large 28” X 22”. Done in water colour, the edifices were painted with meticulous precision in pale brown, grey and fawn on a white ground with gold ornamentation. The striking features of Indian Architecture were recorded with exquisite skill and a deep regard for minute and intricate shapes.

By the early 19th century, large pictures were readily available showing the principal monuments of Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Delhi and their environs. These large-scale drawings were greatly prized by the British and sets of them bound in leather were taken back to England. The Taj Mahal at Agra with its domed chamber containing the screened cenotaphs of Shah Jahan and his queen was the most popular subject. The Agra Fort with the pearl Mosque as well as the mausoleum of Itmad Daulha were the other favourites. Akbar’s tomb at Sikandra was constantly drawn as also was Delhi with its forts and palace, the Qutub etc. All these drawings were made to suit the British taste while retaining some basic Indian elements. The native passion for meticulous detail is revealed in the artist’s depiction of pierced marble screens and inlay work and occasional usage of bright green and scarlet colours. As the years passed, Indian artists improved their style and there was an increasing demand for their paintings. They began to standardise their work and produced stock sets of pictured of monuments for sale to the new arrivals and travellers. Later, in the second half of the 19th century, a new medium of ivory became popular and the famous monuments were painted on oval or rectangular sheets of ivory in different sizes. These were also mounted in boxes, screens, as well as jewellery.
Indian artist rarely inscribed their names on their paintings. There were a couple of them who earned a reputation in their field of work. The best known and popular artist producing beautiful pictures of monuments was Latif who was an inlay worker and architect\textsuperscript{1}. Fanny Parks, the famous English travel writer bought some pictures from him in 1835 and used two of them in her book, ‘\textit{Wandering of pilgrim in search of the picturesque}’\textsuperscript{2}.

The other one was Mazar Ali Khan gained a great reputation for drawings of this type. A set by him acquired by Sir Thomas Metcalf, British Resident and Agent to the Governor –General and Member of the Supreme Council (1827-38), has become well known through its publication in the reminiscence of his daughter, Lady Clive Bayley, (Kaye, 1980).

Delhi and Agra were the only centres where Indian artists developed architectural drawings on a wide commercial scale. Beside, of all the Company School artists, those from Delhi were the most skilful and versatile having inherited the art through several generations. There were a few other places in India where standard sets of prominent local historical structures, palaces, temples mosques, etc. were made in Company style for the British. In present time also many contemporary artists are also taking these monuments as their subjects of their paintings.

Jaipur is one of the India’s loveliest cities. If we see the Forts, temples and Rajput palaces then we can feel the rajput culture. Mostly the Jaipur artist captured the beauty of Jaipur forts and palaces in their traditional miniature style. We don’t find any painting or picture accept one or two paintings which were painted by the British artist. In the City Palace there is a separate department for traditional artists and many pictures of forts, palaces and temples painted by them. Their style of making painting is approximately the

\textsuperscript{1} Neville, Prem "Marvels of Indian Painting" Rise and demise of company school 2007, page no. 135
\textsuperscript{2} Company painting. Indian Painting for the British Period.
same. They also painted the paintings of Jaipur Bazaars, procession scenes, Jaipur observatory and many more.

Paintings of these monuments of Golden Triangle (Delhi, Agra and Jaipur) play an important role in the world of art. Through the studies of these painting we come across many facts, incidents, stories and mysteries.

Thus I am putting forth my best efforts emphasising on the paintings relating to the monuments of the Golden Triangle.
Plate no. 2  Northern Golden Triangle in India