

3

Winds of Change

Summary

The chapter “Winds of Change” highlights the history and cultural significance of the traditional Indian pankha (hand fan). The word pankha comes from pankh, meaning a bird’s feather. In ancient times, small fans called pankhi were used, and their existence is seen in Ajanta cave paintings. Pankhas were used in temples to fan deities and in royal courts for kings, showing their importance in social and religious life.

Over time, pankhas became popular cultural items and were traded across regions. Different parts of India created their own unique designs using materials like bamboo, palm leaves, silk, leather, and brass. These fans were often decorated with embroidery, beads, and intricate patterns, reflecting regional traditions. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bengal, and other states developed distinctive styles of pankhas.

With the coming of modern technology such as electric fans, the use of traditional pankhas has reduced. Today, they are mainly decorative handicrafts. However, they still provide livelihood to many artisans. The chapter emphasizes the need to preserve this traditional craft by promoting awareness and supporting artisans, so that India’s rich cultural heritage continues to survive.

- **Message:** We should respect, preserve, and promote our traditional crafts and cultural heritage, as they represent our identity and support the livelihood of skilled artisans.

New Terms

- **Pankha** – A fan (especially a traditional hand fan).
- **Pankhi** – A small decorative hand fan used in ancient times.
- **Plumed** – Decorated with feathers.
- **Embroidery** – Decorative stitching on cloth.
- **Carvings** – Designs cut into wood, stone, or metal.
- **Exotic** – Unusual and attractive, often from another place.
- **Intricate** – Very detailed and complex.
- **Appliqué** – A design made by sewing pieces of fabric onto a larger cloth.
- **Zardozi** – A type of heavy gold and silver thread embroidery.
- **Ornate** – Highly decorated.
- **Indigenous** – Native to a particular place.
- **Embellished** – Decorated or made more attractive.
- **Dainty** – Small, delicate, and pretty.
- **Antiquity** – Ancient past or old times.
- **Perpetually** – Continuously; all the time.
- **Adorned** – Decorated or beautified.
- **Livelihood** – A means of earning a living.
- **Artisans** – Skilled workers who make things by hand.
- **Handicraft** – Items made by hand using traditional skills.
- **Geometrical patterns** – Designs using shapes like circles, triangles, etc.
- **Sustainable** – Able to continue for a long time without harm.
- **Contemporary** – Modern or present-day.
- **Exhibition** – A public display of art or crafts.
- **Cultural heritage** – Traditions, customs, and arts passed down through generations.

Reflect and Respond

I. Does anyone in your family use a hand fan? What do you call it in your language? What is it made of?

Ans. Yes, hand fans are still commonly used in many homes, especially in rural areas of our country. In Hindi, they are called “Pankha” or “Haath ka Pankha.” These fans are usually made from natural materials like palm leaves, bamboo, grass, or cloth.

II. Work in pairs. Study the pictures given below carefully and complete the information. Discuss your answers with your classmates and teacher.

Fans			
The State it is from	Assam	Kerala	Uttar Pradesh
Shape	_____	_____	_____
Made of	_____	Palm leaf	Moonj grass

Ans.

State	Shape	Made of
• Assam	- Round	- Bamboo / Cane
• Kerala	- Semi-circular	- Palm leaf
• Uttar Pradesh	- Rectangular/Square	- Moonj grass

III. Work in pairs. Match the underlined words in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2 given on the next page. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

- I visited the crafts fair yesterday. It was a wonderful experience. Each indigenous artefact was an innovative creation of industrious craftsmen with its intricate design. It invoked a sense of respect for the initiatives taken by the government to showcase them.

Column 1	Column 2
1. indigenous	(i) hardworking
2. innovative	(ii) actions to improve a situation
3. industrious	(iii) brought out
4. intricate	(iv) local — from where it originated
5. invoked	(v) new and original in approach
6. initiatives	(vi) elaborate/detailed

Ans.

Column 1
 1. indigenous
 2. innovative
 3. industrious
 4. intricate
 5. invoked
 6. initiatives

Column 2
 (iv) local— from where it originated
 (v) new and original in approach
 (i) hardworking
 (vi) elaborate/detailed
 (iii) brought out
 (ii) actions to improve a situation

Check Your Understanding

I. Work in pairs to complete the table on *pankha*. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

State	Type of Fan	Material Used
Rajasthan	appliqué hand fan	_____
	_____	gold thread
	temple hand fans	_____
Gujarat	mirror work hand fans	_____
	_____	beads
	_____	leather, decorated with thread and wool
West Bengal	<i>sola</i> hand fans	_____
Uttar Pradesh	_____	pure gold, silver zari, silk and satin frills
Bihar	_____	bamboo

Ans.

State	Type of Fan	Material Used
• Rajasthan	Appliqué hand fan	Cloth with decorative stitching
	Temple hand fans	Gold thread
• Gujarat	Mirror work hand fans	Cloth with mirrors and beads
	Leather hand fans	Leather, decorated with thread and wool
• West Bengal	Sola hand fans	Sola (pith plant)
• Uttar Pradesh	Decorative hand fans	Pure gold, silver zari, silk and satin frills
• Bihar	Bamboo hand fans	Bamboo

Critical Reflection

I. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

- Over time, *pankhas* became significant cultural goods distributed through trade routes. They were considered exotic and stylish. Although there was substantial commonality in their use across India, different villages and towns developed their own varieties of traditional *pankhas*. Each place developed *pankhas* with distinct materials or a variety of intricate designs, that set them apart from one another.

(i) State whether the following sentence is true or false.

- Pankhas* were one of the most popular items of commerce.

Ans. True

(ii) Why has the word 'traditional' been used to describe pankhas?

Ans. The word 'traditional' is used because pankhas have been used since ancient times and are part of cultural heritage.

(iii) Complete the following statement.

- The sentence 'They were considered exotic and stylish' is an opinion and not a fact because _____.

Ans. Because it expresses a personal view or feeling, not a proven fact.

(iv) Infer one reason for commonality in the use of pankhas across India.

Ans. One reason for the common use of pankhas across India is the hot and tropical climate of the country. Since most regions experience high temperatures, people traditionally used hand fans to keep cool, making pankhas a practical and widely accepted necessity across different parts of India.

(v) Select which one of the two statements is the correct assertion for the given reason.

- Reason: Pankhas were made of indigenous materials, unique to the region, with elaborate designs.

A. Each kind of pankha could be distinguished from the other.

B. Pankhas were used by many people.

Ans. A. Each kind of pankha could be distinguished from the other.

2. **With time and the advent of technology and innovative creations, the beautiful culture of pankhas runs the risk of slowly losing its presence among Indians. Once made for personal use, over time this handicraft has transformed into a commercial business and now provides some form of livelihood to India's artisans. The slight increase in popularity and demand is significantly factored by the different versions of the pankha being crafted.**

(i) Infer one negative impact of technological advancement on pankha.

Ans. One negative impact is that modern technology has reduced the use of traditional pankhas.

(ii) Complete the statement with an appropriate reason.

- The writer refers to 'pankhas' not just as an object but as a 'culture' because _____.

Ans. The writer calls it a 'culture' because it represents traditions, skills, and heritage of different regions.

(iii) Select a line from the extract which depicts how the role of the pankha has changed over the years.

Ans. Line: "Once made for personal use, over time this handicraft has transformed into a commercial business."

(iv) List one way in which the increase in demand of pankhas might benefit artisans.

Ans. One way the increased demand for pankhas benefits artisans is that it provides them with more employment and a stable source of income (livelihood), helping them sustain their craft and support their families.

(v) Select the factor that has contributed to the commercialisation of pankhas.

A. cultural preservation

B. economic demand

C. technological advancements

D. artisan initiative

Ans. B. economic demand

II. Answer the following questions.**1. How does the title 'Winds of Change' capture the essence of the chapter?**

Ans. The title "Winds of Change" is symbolic. It refers both to the breeze created by pankhas and the changes over time in their use and importance. Earlier, pankhas were essential for comfort and had cultural and religious significance. However, with modern technology like electric fans, their practical use has declined. Thus, the title reflects the shift from utility to decoration and the changing cultural role of pankhas.

2. Support the following statement with any two relevant examples from the chapter. 'The structure and design of pankhas are testimony to the cultural identity of the region.'

Ans. 'The structure and design of pankhas are testimony to the cultural identity of the region.'

- In Rajasthan, pankhas like appliqué and zardozi fans are richly decorated with fabric patterns and gold threadwork, reflecting royal and artistic traditions.
- In Gujarat, pankhas are made with mirror work and colourful beads, showcasing the region's vibrant handicraft culture.

3. The chapter mentions pankhas running the risk of slowly losing their presence among Indians. Evaluate how the balance between preserving traditional craftsmanship and incorporating innovative designs in the creation of pankhas will help in this regard.

Ans. Striking a balance between traditional craftsmanship and innovative designs is essential for keeping the culture of pankhas alive in modern India. Traditional craftsmanship ensures that the rich heritage, stories, regional techniques, and cultural authenticity of the craft are not forgotten. At the same time, incorporating innovative designs and creating multiple newer versions of the pankha increases their modern aesthetic appeal and utility. According to the text, it is precisely these different, newly crafted versions of the pankha that drive the contemporary increase in popularity and commercial demand, preventing the art form from going extinct.

4. How might initiatives such as pankha-making workshops contribute to the preservation of this traditional craft?

Ans. Initiatives such as hosting pankha-making workshops—both within and outside of handicraft exhibitions—act as vital educational tools. They contribute to the preservation of the craft by actively spreading awareness among the public regarding the distinct beauty, historic rarity, and deep significance of the hand fan within India's culture. By educating people on how these items are crafted, workshops spark newfound public interest and respect for the traditional art form.

5. The writer mentions celebrating pankhas in the concluding part of the chapter. Assess how this could be beneficial to artisans and the craft.

Ans. Celebrating pankhas benefits both the craft and its creators in several key ways:

- For the Craft: It allows people to appreciate the heritage, stories, and unique artistry that the handicraft invokes, keeping the essence of the tradition relevant in the modern era.
- For Contemporary Artisans: It gives them a public platform to demonstrate their intricate skills, helps them regain regional popularity, and provides a viable commercial market to secure a sustainable livelihood.

6. How does the restriction of the use of pankha for decorative purposes reflect the changing cultural role of these traditional fans in modern India?

Ans. The transition of the pankha from a practical household item used for physical cooling to an object restricted primarily to decorative purposes (such as wall decorations or offerings to deities) reflects a massive shift from functional utility to artistic preservation. It shows that while technology has made the manual hand fan obsolete for daily survival, modern Indian society has reframed the pankha as a cherished cultural artifact, treating it as an expression of heritage, traditional artistry, and domestic aesthetic beauty rather than a simple home utility.

Vocabulary and Structures in Context

I. Read the following pairs of words from the text.

exotic and stylish	villages and towns
thread and wool	silk and brass
ornate and encrusted	within and outside

1. Classify the pairs of words given above in the following categories. One example has been done for you.

Appearance	Place	Material
	within and outside	

Now, find more such word pairs from the text and share them with your classmates and teacher.

Ans.

Appearance	Place	Material
exotic and stylish	villages and towns	thread and wool
ornate and encrusted	within and outside	silk and brass

- II. Find the word pairs for the following fixed expressions. Write the meanings of these expressions by selecting them from the box given below. One example has been done for you.

Some common expressions with 'and' have a fixed order which cannot be changed. The shortest expression comes first. For example, bread and butter (*not butter and bread)

Word 1	Word 2	Fixed Expression	Meaning of the Expression
1. high	tear		
2. cut	fast		
3. fact	sundry		
4. all	thin	all and sundry	(v) everyone, not just a few special people
5. wear	figures		
6. time	run		
7. thick	again		
8. hard	dry		

Now, match the following meanings with the correct word pairs created above.

Ans. Correct word pairs and Meanings:

Expression	Meaning
1. high and dry	- in a difficult situation, without help or money
2. wear and tear	- damage due to normal use
3. facts and figures	- accurate and detailed information
4. through thick and thin	- even when there are problems or difficulties
5. all and sundry	- everyone, not just a few special people
6. time and again	- often; on many occasions
7. cut and run	- to make a quick escape

III. Read the following word combinations from the text.

- sustainable livelihood
- aesthetically pleasing
- appreciating the culture

The given phrases are conventional combinations just like fixed expressions. Such combinations are called **collocations**.

1. Choose the appropriate word collocations for the following sentences.

(i) The students **have to (take/give)** the English exam tomorrow.

Ans. The students have to take the English exam tomorrow.

(ii) The interviewer **asked the candidate to (take/have)** a seat.

Ans. The interviewer asked the candidate to have a seat.

(iii) My scooter **(dashed against/ran into)** a car.

Ans. My scooter ran into a car a car.

(iv) I **must (take/own)** responsibility for my success.

Ans. I must take responsibility for my success.

(v) I **would like to (tone up/improve)** my grammar.

Ans. I would like to improve my grammar.

IV. Read the following sentences. Underline the verbs.

The underlined verbs refer to the past, but have relevance to the current or present time. This form of tense is called the **present perfect tense**. Recently completed actions also take the present perfect form of tense.

1. In modern times, pankhas **have become** traditional craft items in India.

Ans. have become

2. Gujarat's industrious home-based women workers **have worked** tirelessly in the handicraft of pankha-making.

Ans. have worked

3. Many tribes in India **have adopted** this handicraft.

Ans. have adopted

4. Once made for personal use, this handicraft **has transformed** into a commercial business.

Ans. has transformed

Now, fill in the blanks with the present perfect form of verbs in the following paragraph. One example has been done for you.

- Puppets **have long fascinated** (fascinate) audiences worldwide. Puppeteers (i) _____ (create) intricate characters and captivating stories with their skillful artistry. They (ii) _____ (master) the delicate movements that bring these lifeless figures to life, entertaining both children and adults. Over the years, puppetry (iii) _____ (evolve), using modern technology while preserving traditional techniques. Many puppeteers (iv) _____ (pass) down their craft through generations, ensuring its continuity. They (v) _____ (perform) in theatres, on television, and at festivals, conveying important cultural narratives.

Ans.

- Puppets have long fascinated (fascinate) audiences worldwide. Puppeteers have created intricate characters and captivating stories with their skillful artistry. They have mastered the delicate movements that bring these lifeless figures to life, entertaining both children and adults. Over the years, puppetry has evolved, using modern technology while preserving traditional techniques. Many puppeteers have passed down their craft through generations, ensuring its continuity. They have performed in theatres, on television, and at festivals, conveying important cultural narratives.

Listen and Respond

I. You will listen to a dialogue between a boy and a girl discussing which type of pankha they should choose as a gift. As you listen, choose four statements out of seven that are true from 1–7 given below. (Transcript for teacher on page 263)

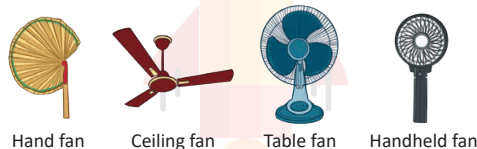
1. Rohan thinks Grandma prefers heavier items because they feel more substantial.
2. Priya suggests getting a pankha that can be easily moved around.
3. Rohan believes Grandma enjoys sitting in the verandah during the evenings.
4. Priya knows Grandma likes to keep special items close to her.
5. Rohan thinks a pankha with intricate designs would be too delicate for Grandma's liking.
6. Priya suggests choosing between a bamboo pankha with beadwork or an embroidered pankha with mirror work.
7. Rohan decides they should buy the pankha without consulting their mom.

Ans. Here are the four correct statements:

2. Priya suggests getting a pankha that can be easily moved around.
3. Rohan believes Grandma enjoys sitting in the verandah during the evenings.
4. Priya knows Grandma likes to keep special items close to her.
6. Priya suggests choosing between a bamboo pankha with beadwork or an embroidered pankha with mirror work.

Speaking Activity

I. Work in groups of four. Look at the pictures of the four different kinds of fans given below.



- Each of you in the group will pick one kind of fan.
- Imagine yourself to be that fan.
- Use the points given in the box below.

- Introduce yourself as the fan which you have chosen.
- Describe yourself, for example, your features, etc.
- What do you like about yourself?
- What do you feel is your weakness?
- What makes you unique?

Ans. Here are sample answers for each type of fan. You can choose any one and speak as that fan:

1. The Traditional Hand Fan (Pankha)

- **Introduction:** Hello everyone! I am the traditional Indian hand fan, affectionately known as the pankha.
- **Description:** I am a simple, elegant creation crafted from natural palm leaves, woven bamboo, and beautifully patterned fabrics. I don't need wires or batteries; I just rely on a gentle flick of your wrist.
- **What I like about myself:** I am special because I am connected to history and culture, bringing comfort and cherished memories, especially during peaceful summer afternoons.
- **My weakness:** Sadly, I can tire your arms out if you use me for too long, and I cannot cool an entire room on my own.
- **What makes me unique:** I am unique because I am eco-friendly, need no electricity, and can also serve as a beautiful decorative art piece.

2. The Mighty Ceiling Fan

- **Introduction:** Greetings, classmates! I am the steady and reliable Ceiling Fan.
- **Description:** I have three or four long, sturdy metallic blades, and I hang right in the center of the room from a downrod, spinning rapidly under the command of a wall switch or regulator.
- **What I like about myself:** I love that I am the heart of any room. Whether it's a classroom, a living room, or an office, I work tirelessly day and night to keep everyone underneath me cool and comfortable.
- **My weakness:** I am completely helpless when there is a power cut! Also, because I hang so high up, dust gathers on my blades, and cleaning me is quite a chore.
- **What makes me unique:** I have the highest reach of all fans. I don't take up any floor space, and I create a soothing, rhythmic hum that helps people fall asleep.

3. The Versatile Table Fan

- **Introduction:** Hi there! I am the energetic and flexible Table Fan.
- **Description:** I am compact, sit firmly on a heavy base, and have plastic or metal blades protected safely inside a mesh cage.
- **What I like about myself:** I love my oscillation feature! I can turn my head smoothly from left to right, generously sharing my refreshing breeze with multiple people in a room.
- **My weakness:** Because I stay close to the ground or sit on desks, people can easily trip over my electrical cord if they aren't careful.
- **What makes me unique:** I deliver a powerful, direct, and concentrated blast of air exactly where you need it. If you move from the study table to the bed, you can easily pick me up by my handle and take me along!

4. The Modern Handheld Fan

- **Introduction:** Hey guys! I am the trendy and sleek Handheld Portable Fan.
- **Description:** I am a miniature, lightweight electronic fan equipped with small high-speed blades and powered by a rechargeable USB battery.
- **What I like about myself:** I love being the ultimate travel companion. I fit perfectly inside school bags, pockets, and purses, making me the ultimate savior on a scorching hot day outside.
- **My weakness:** My battery runs out eventually, and when it does, I need a charger and a power source to wake back up.
- **What makes me unique:** I am the youngest and most technologically advanced fan here. I represent modern convenience—allowing you to carry a personal, automated breeze with you wherever you step out in the world!

Writing Task

I. Describe an artefact you have made in your craft class or learnt from someone.

Begin with collection and organisation of the facts with the help of the pointers given above. Do not include your opinion in the factual description.

Ans. Here is a factual description example:

I made a paper basket in my craft class. For this, coloured paper sheets, glue, scissors, and a ruler were used. First, the paper sheets were cut into equal strips. These strips were then arranged in a criss-cross pattern to form the base. After that, more strips were woven vertically around the base to build the sides of the basket. Glue was applied at the ends to hold the structure firmly. The edges were folded neatly to give a proper shape. Finally, a handle was attached using additional paper strips. The basket was then left to dry so that it could become strong and stable.