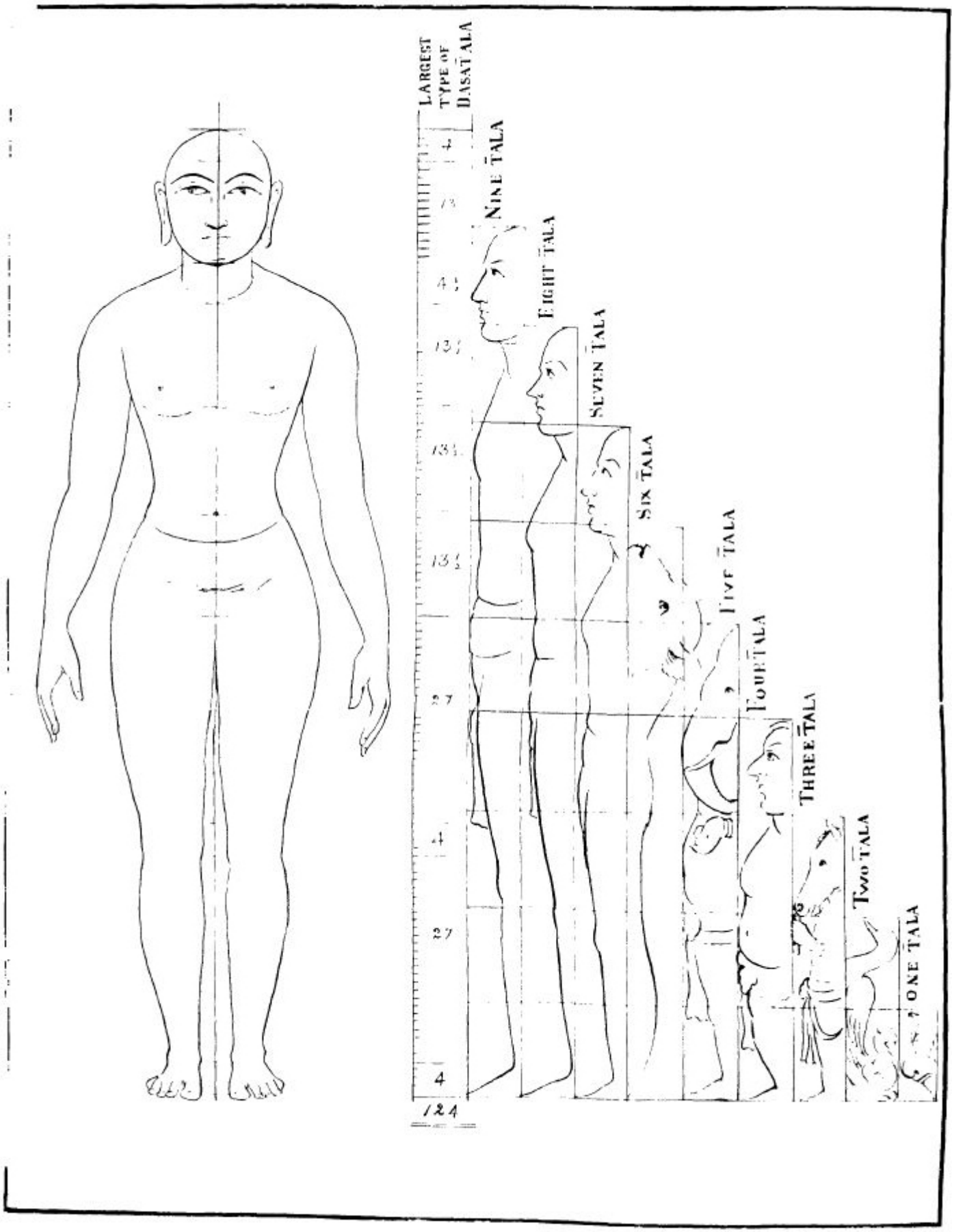
Twitter Thread by Ugra



Ugra
@_ugra_

THREAD on ancient Hindu system of measurement(■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■)

The Shilpa shastras give much insight into how dimensions such as length,width,height etc were measured. It is using this system that the smallest of murthis to the biggest of buildings were planned & constructed (1)



Before defining the different units of measurement, the Shilpa shastra makes a brief reference to the prerequisites of those who must be well versed in this subject in order to carry out the task of planning & construction. i.e the Architects. (2)

The Architects are classified into 4 different categories. They are:

1) Sthapati

2) Sutragrahin
3) Vardhaki
4) Takshaka

Each one of the above have a specific role in the process of planning & construction (3)

[illegible]

Shastras say Sthapati must be well versed in all Shastras, Sutragrahin holds the Sutra(measuring rope), Vardhaki is well versed in measuring & Takshaka is well versed in carpentry (4)

In the hierarchy of architects; the Sthapati holds the highest of positions. He is the master builder. He is the guide of the other 3. The Sutragrahin is required to be an expert in architectural drawing, the Vardhaki in the area of painting & Takshaka with wood work (5)

[illegible]

Shastra defines the smallest unit of measurement as a Paramanu (an atom). It is that unit which is perceptible to eyes of the Rishis. 8 Paramanu make what is called a Ratha-dhuli(molecule) (6)

[illegible]

8 such Ratha-dhuli combined together form a [illegible]/Valagra (hair end)

8 hair-ends joined together form what is known as a [illegible]/Liksha (a nit)

Nits are eggs of lice (insect)

(7)

[illegible]

8 Likshas (nits) combined together form a [illegible]/Yuka (one lice insect)

8 Yukas combined together give us a [illegible]/Yava (barleycorn)

Barleycorn is [illegible]1/3rd of an inch (around 8.47 mm)

(8)

[illegible]

8 Yavas (barleycorn) combined together give us an Angula (finger breadth). The Angula is the most important usable unit of measurement . It has been used & mentioned in the Rig Veda. Angula forms the basis for other bigger units. (9)

■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■(■■■■)■■■■■■■■■■■■■

To account for different finger breadths, the Angula has been further classified into 3 different types. The small (6 yavas), the intermediate (7 yavas) & the large (8 yavas).

(10)

12 Angulas together are called one ■■■■■■■■/Vitasti.

Vitasti is the distance between the tips of the stretched out thumb & ring finger.

(11)

अङ्गुलैर्द्वादशैर्युक्तं वितस्तिः परिकीर्तितम(ता) ।
वितस्तियुग्मं किष्कुः स्यात्प्राजापत्योऽङ्गुलाधिकम्[कः] ।।

2 Vitasti make a ■■■■■■■/Kishku (small cubit)

An Angula added to one Kishku is called ■■■■■■■■■■■/Prajapatya(cubit)

(A cubit is the distance between tip of the middle finger to elbow)

25 Angulas together give us 1 Prajapatya Hasta

(12)

वितस्तियुग्मं किष्कुः स्यात्प्राजापत्योऽङ्गुलाधिकम्[कः]

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■
A cubit of 26 Angulas is called a ■■■■■■■■■■■■/Dhanur-mushti (bowlength)

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■■[■■]
A cubit of 27 Angulas is called a ■■■■■■■■■■/ Dhanur-graha.

(13)

[redacted]

4 Dhanur mushtis make a [redacted]/Danda (churning stick)

8 such Dandas make what is known as a [redacted]/Rajju (measuring rope)

(14)



Each of the above units of measurement has a specific utility.

The Kishku measurement is recommended for the making of conveyances like chariots. It is also made use for the making of furniture.

Prajapatya measurement is used for planning & construction of mansions. (15)

Dhanurgraha measurement is used in the planning of villages, towns, cities.

There are bigger units of measurements like Gavyuti & Yojanas which are used for measuring geographical distances.

The scope of this thread is limited to measurements used in Architecture. (16)

To summarize how we arrived from the smallest unit of absolute measure (Paramanu) to Rajju (measuring rope)

It is using this system of measurement that all of the most intricate murthis to the biggest of Temples/Palaces/Cities of ancient Bharat were planned & constructed.

/end

The *paramāṇu* or atom is the smallest unit of measurement.

8 *paramāṇus*	=	1 *rathadhūli* (*lit.* car-dust).
8 *rathadhūlis*	=	1 *bālāgra* (*lit.* hair's end).
8 *bālāgras*	=	1 *likshā* (*lit.* a nit).
8 *likshās*	=	1 *yūkā* (*lit.* a louse).
8 *yūkās*	=	1 *yava* (*lit.* a barley corn).
8 *yavas*	=	1 *aṅgula* (*lit.* finger's breadth).

Three kinds of *aṅgulas* are distinguished, the largest of which is made of *yavas*, the intermediate one of 7 *yavas*, and the smallest one of 6 *yavas*.

12 *aṅgulas*	=	1 *vitasti* (span).
2 *vitastis* or 24 *aṅgulas*	=	1 *kishku-hastu* (small cubit).
25 *aṅgulas*	=	1 *prājāpatya-hasta*.
26 „	=	1 *dhanurmushṭi-hasta*.
27 „	=	1 *dhanurgraha-hasta*.
4 *hastas*	=	1 *dhanus* (bow) or *daṇḍa* (rod).
8 *daṇḍas*	=	1 *rajju* (string).

The above has to be read in conjunction with the below thread on why there is a dire need to revive Hindu Architectural methods if we are to plan & construct buildings/towns/cities that reflect the true glory of our Hindu civilization going forward.

https://t.co/qcgt1Y7kKU

> The need to revive ancient Hindu architectural methods.
>
> Do read. https://t.co/kKgwer9p3O
>
> — Ugra (@_ugra_) December 11, 2020