



UPSC - IAS

Civil Services Examinations

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General Studies

Paper 1 – Volume 2

PRELIMS

Ancient and Medieval History of India



UPSC CSE - IAS

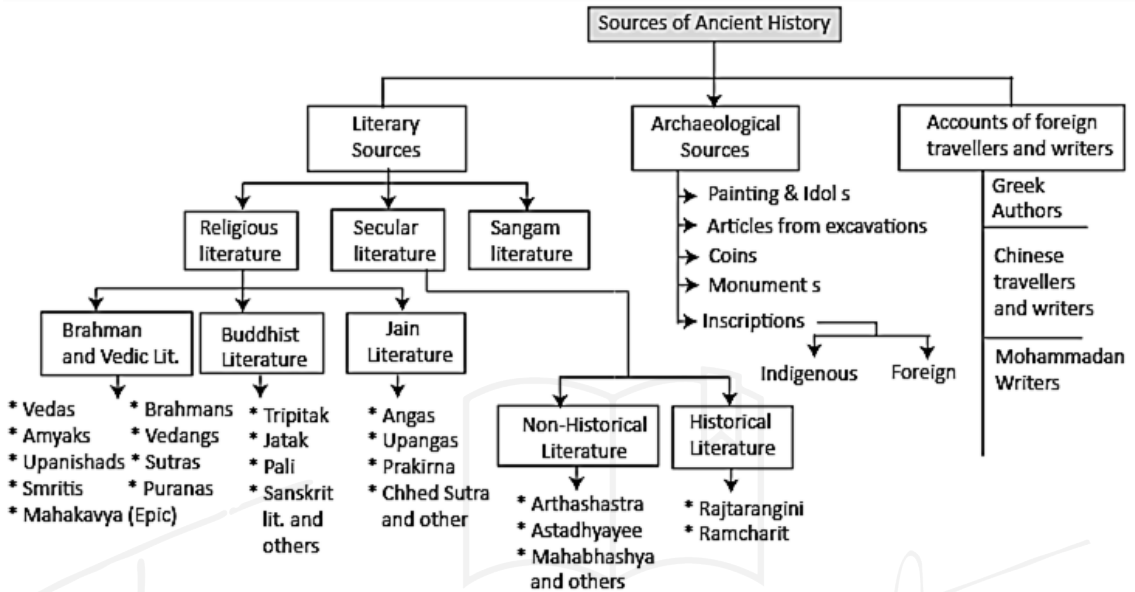
Ancient and Medieval History of India

Paper – 1 Volume 2

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1 CHAPTER

Sources of Ancient Indian History



Archeological Sources

- Numismatics- study of coins.
- Epigraphy- study of inscriptions.
- Archeology = 'Archaiois' + 'Logia' (archaios= ancient and logia = knowledge).

1. Inscriptions/ Epigraphs/ Edicts

- Oldest inscriptions - Emperor Ashoka- majorly in Brahmi script.
- Other inscriptions

Name	Found	About
Naganika's inscription	Naneghat, Maharashtra	Works of Satavahana King Satakarni I
Nasik inscription	Nasik caves, Maharashtra	Gautamiputra Satkarni
Prayag Prashasti/ Allahabad Pillar	Allahabad, UP	Samudragupta; written in Sanskrit by Harisena.

Aihole Inscription	Karnataka	By Ravikirti about Pulkeshin II, the Chalukya king of Badami.
Hathigumpha inscription	Udaygiri, Odisha	About King Kharvela.

2. Copper-Plates

- Engraved for 'land-grants' and issued to the grantee.
- 3 plates of copper, tied with each other through copper knot.
- Upper and last portions are left not engraved as these can be blurred with time.
- Inform about the socio-economic condition of that period.
- Eg. Sohgaora-copper plate informs us about severe drought and the measures undertaken by authorities to tackle the problem of food-shortage.

3. Coins

- Inform about the trade and commercial activities, and economic and technological development.

- Dates mentioned **help us to know about the chronology of kings.**
- **First coin of India - 'Punchmarked coins'** made by the method of punching.
- Possibly introduced **by the trading guilds** and not by any ruler.
- **Ratio of purity** in coins - interpret **about the economic condition of the**
- **Ruler** and his time.
- **First gold coin - by Indo-Greeks.**
- **Purest gold coins** issued by 'Kushanas'.
- **Maximum number** but **impure gold coins- Guptas.**

4. Monuments/ Memorials

- Study helps us to **interpret the technical skills, living standard, economic condition & architectural style** of the time.
- **Depict the prosperity of a ruler** or the dynasty.
- **3 major styles :**
 - Nagar style in the North.
 - Dravid style in the South.
 - Vesara style in Deccan.

5. Sculpture

- **Harappan Sculptures-** Made of stone, steatite, clay, terracotta, lime, bronze, ivory, wood etc-uses- idols, icons, toys, entertainment.
- **Bronze statues** (Harappan civilization) and **toys** (Diamabad).
- **Mauryan sculptures- Yakshi of Didarganj** - contemporary affluence and aesthetic sense of people.
- **Statue of Kanishka- foreign origin of the king** and costume of foreign style, like, high shoes, overcoats etc.

6. Paintings

- **Earliest instances of paintings-** Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh) - drawn **by Mesolithic cave-dwellers** by using colours and tools from surrounding nature.
- **Ajanta paintings-** information about **religious ideology, spiritual serenity, ornaments, costumes, foreign visitors** etc.
- **Chola Paintings-** display the **concept of 'divine kingship'** of Chola polity.

7. Archaeological Remains

A. Potteries:

- **Base equipment** from protohistory to Early Medieval period.
- **Composed of various items, like, bowls, plates, pots, etc.**

- **Differentiated** according to respective culture, shapes, fabrics, surface-treatment (fabric, colour, designs, painting), pottery-making technique etc.
- **Specific pottery-type** is assigned to **particular culture/period.**

B. Beads

- **Made of** various materials, like, **stone, semi-precious stones** (like Agate, Chalcedony, Crystal, Turquoise, Lapis-lazuli), **glass, metals like gold, copper; terra cotta, ivory, shell** etc.
- **Different shapes** like round, square, cylindrical, barrel-shaped etc.
- Can be **used as a source to know the technological development & esthetic sense** of a specific period.

C. Faunal Remains/Bones

- Excavations reveal large amounts of bones or faunal remains.
- **Shed light on the surrounding historical ecology or ecosystem** of that particular site.
- **Helps to understand the dietary habits of concerned people.**

D. Floral Remains

- Give **information on historical ecology and dietary habits** of concerned people.

Literary Sources

1. Religious sources

- Base source: **Brahmin texts** like Vedic texts, Sutras, Smriti, Puranas and Epics.

Vedic Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rig Veda- oldest - gives us an idea of Rig vedic society ● Sam Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda - information about the society of later Vedic period. ● History of 900 years (1500B.C-600B.C). ● Give information about the origin of Aryans, their political structure, society, economic activities, religious perspectives, culture, etc.
Sutras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Words or hymns placed beautifully like pearls in a thread. ● Gives information about the Vedic period. ● six parts: Shiksha, Vyakrana, Chhanda, Kalpa, Nirukta and Jyotish
Upveda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ayurveda- related to medical science - upveda of Rig Veda.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gandharva veda- related to music - upveda of Sam Veda. ● Dhanur veda- related to war skills, arms and ammunitions- upaveda of Yajur Veda. ● Shilpa veda- related to art sculpture and architecture - upveda of Atharva Veda.
Smriti Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manusmriti - oldest Smriti text (200B.C-200A.D). ● Yagyavalkaya Smriti - compiled between 100A.D to 300A.D. ● Narada smriti (300A.D-400A.D) and Parashara Smriti (300A.D-500A.D)- social and religious conditions of the Guptas.
Puranas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compiled after smritis; 18 in number. ● Markandeya Purana, Vayu Purana, Brahma Purana, Vishnu Purana, Bhagwat Puran and Matsya Purana - ancient Purana . ● Information of ancient Indian dynasties in Matsya, Vayu and Vishnu puranas. ● Only available source of the dynasties that ruled after the battle of Mahabharata. ● Provide chronology of different dynasties and their hierarchy
Epics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A part of Brahmanic texts ● Most important- Mahabharata and Ramayana. ● Ramayana - by Valmiki - Post Mauryan period. ● Mahabharata - by Ved Vyas - completed in Gupta period - initially, named as Jai Samhita /Bharata
Buddhist Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pitakas - oldest Buddhist texts. ● Compiled after Lord Buddha attained Nirvana. ● 3 types : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sutta Pitaka- consists of religious ideology & sayings of Buddha. ○ Vinaya Pitaka- consists of the laws of Buddhist Sangha. ○ Abhidhamma Pitaka- consists of Buddhist philosophies. ● Jataka kathas - anecdotes of previous births of Lord Buddha

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Milindapanho - Buddhist text - gives us information about the philosophical dialogue between Greek ruler Minander and Buddhist saint Nagasena. ● Divyavadana - 4th century A.D - information about different rulers. ● Aryamanjushrimulkalpa - information about different rulers of Gupta Empire from the Buddhist perspective. ● Angutarnikaya - gives the names of Sixteen Mahajanapadas.
Sinhalese Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consisted of Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa - Buddhist texts. ● Dipavamsa - 4th century A.D ● Mahavamsa - 5th century A.D. ● Provide information about social and cultural life of that time ● Knowledge of cultural relation of India and foreign countries.
Jain Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Main texts- Agama texts (Total 12 in number) ● Acharangasutra -part of the Agamas - based on the teachings of Mahavira & talks about the conduct of Jain saints. ● Vyakhyaprajapati aka Bhagvati sutra - life of Mahavira. Nayadhammakaha- compilation of teaching of Lord Mahavira. ● Bhagavati Sutra - information about the 16 Mahajanapadas. ● Bhadrabahu Charit - throws light on the life of Jain Acharya Bhadrabahu and Chandragupta Maurya. ● Parishistaparvana - most important Jain text - written by ● Hemchandra in 12th century A.D.

2. Non-Religious Texts

- Throw light on almost all the aspects of the society.
- **Ashatadhayayi**- by **Panini** - **oldest grammar/literature of India** - information about the political, social and religious condition of **Pre-Mauryan period.**
- **Mudrarakshasa**- by **Vishkhadutta** - information about the **Mauryan period.**
- **Arthashastra** - **Kautilya/Vishnugupta/Chanakya** - divided into **15 parts** - information about **Indian political system, condition of Mauryan age.**

- **Mahabhashya** of **Patanjali** and **Malvikagnimitram** by **Kalidasa** - information about '**Shunga Dynasty**'.
- **Kamasutra** of **Vatsyana** - information on social life, physical relations, family life, etc.
- '**Mrichchakatikam**' by **Shudraka** and '**Dashkumaracharita**' by **Dandin** - information of the social life of that period.

3. Sangam literature

- **Earliest south Indian literature**
- **Information about** the social, economic and political life of the **people living in deltaic Tamil Nadu**.

Agattiyam	Agastya	A work on grammar of letters
Tolkappiyam (Tamil grammar)	Tolakpiyyar	A treatise on grammar & poetry
Ettutogai (8 anthologies)	- -	Melkannakku combined form.
Pattu pattu (10 idyls)	- -	Melkannakku combined form.
Patinenkilakanakku (18 minor work)	- -	A didactic work.
Kural (Muppai)	Tiruvalluvar	A treatise on polity, ethics, social norms.
Silappadikaram	Ilango Adigal	A love story of Kovalan Smadhavi
Manimekalai	Sittalai Sattanar	The adventures of Manimekalai
Sivaga Sindamani	Tirutakadevar	A Sanskrit treatise
Bharatam	Perudevanar	The last epic
Pannirupadalam (grammar)	12 disciples of Agastya	A grammatical work on puram literature
Kakkipadiniyam (Prosody)	- -	A work on prosody

4. Foreign Accounts

- Consist of writing of Greek, Roman, Chinese and Arab travelers.

Herodotus	● Considered the first historian of the world .
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	● Mentioned Indian soldiers fighting along the side of Persians.
Megasthenes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ambassador of Seleucus Nicator, posted in the court of Chandragupta Maurya. ● Work - Indica - gives description of the layout of Pataliputra ● Mentions above social structure, caste-system, caste-relations etc. ● Original Indica is lost.
Periplus of Erythraean Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presumed to be written by a fisherman on Egypt coast. ● Gives impartial and objective information on the Indo-Roman trade during the Early Historic period. ● Informs about the ports on India's coast-line, trade-centres in India, the trade-routes-connecting trade centres and ports, distance between centres, items-of-trade, annual volume of trade, types of ships etc.
Fa-Hien (Fa Xian)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visited India during Gupta period. ● Buddhist monk; visited India to seek knowledge from Devbhumi (i.e. India) and visit Buddhist pilgrimage centres.
Hiuen-Tsiang (Xuan Zang)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visited India during Harshavardhana's reign. ● Visited Buddhist pilgrimage centres, stayed at Nalanda University. ● Studied Buddhism, read original Buddhist works, collected original manuscripts and mementos, made copies, attended Harsha's assembly. ● In China, he wrote 'Si-Yu-Ki' (Great Tang Records on the Western Regions) - gives vivid descriptions of what he witnessed in India. ● Gives information of kings especially Harsha and his generosity, people and customs of various regions in India, lifestyles etc.

2 CHAPTER

Stone Age

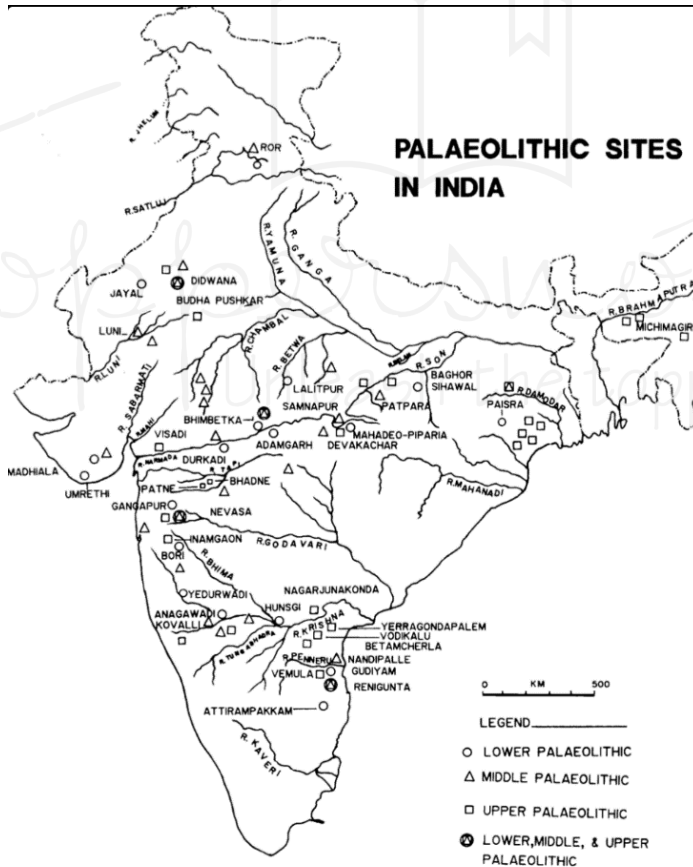


- Prehistoric period- no written evidence.
- Main source of information- archaeological excavations.
- Pallavaram handaxe - First Paleolithic tool in India - discovered by- Robert Bruce Foote (1863 AD)- also discovered a large number of pre-historic sites in South India
- Based on geological age, the type and technology of stone tools, and subsistence base, the Indian stone age is divided into-

- Palaeolithic age (Old Stone Age): Period – 500,000 – 10,000 BCE
- Mesolithic age (late Stone Age): Period – 10,000 – 6000 BCE
- Neolithic age (new Stone Age): Period – 6000 – 1000 BCE

Palaeolithic Age (Old Stone Age)

First archaeological period in prehistory



- Palaios (old) +lithos (stones) =Palaeolithic (old stone age)
- Developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age.

- The term "Paleolithic" was coined by John Lubbock in 1885 AD.
- Men were called 'Quartzite' men in India as the stone tools made of quartzite.

- In **India**, people surviving this age belonged to the **'Negrito' race** and lived in the open air, river valleys, caves, and rock shelters.
- They were **food gatherers and hunters**.
- **No knowledge of houses, pottery, agriculture.**
- In later stages, they **discovered fire**.
- In the upper paleolithic age, there is **evidence of art** in the form of **paintings**.
- Humans used **unpolished, rough stones** like hand axes, choppers, blades, bruins, and scrapers.
- **Basic social structure**- based on a **band society** (<100 people formed a small community).
- **Nomadic people**, bound by customs, social etiquettes, and norms
- According to the nature of the stone tools used by the people and the nature of the change of climate, the **paleolithic age in India is divided into three phases**:
 - **Lower/ Early Palaeolithic Age**: up to 100,000 BC
 - **Middle Palaeolithic Age**: 100,000 BC – 40,000 BC
 - **Upper Palaeolithic Age**: 40,000 BC – 10,000 BC

Lower Palaeolithic Age (Early Palaeolithic Age)

- **Characteristics:**
 - **Maximum time span** (covering whole Lower Pleistocene and bulk of the Middle Pleistocene epoch).
 - **River valleys and terraces were formed.**
 - Early men preferred to live near the water supply, as the stone tools are found mainly in or adjacent to the river valleys.
 - Mainly spread in Western Europe and Africa.
 - **Evidence of the earliest stone tools** - Western Europe - deposits of first Inter-glacial phase in the Lower Pleistocene.
 - Lived a **nomadic lifestyle**.
 - **Hunters and food gatherers**
 - **Contribution of Neanderthal-like Palaethropic men** (3rd stage of hominid evolution)
 - One of the **earliest lower Palaeolithic sites is Bori in Maharashtra**.
- **Tools:**
 - **Tools**- made of **limestone** - hand axes, choppers, and cleavers - **rough and heavy**.
 - **First stone tool fabrication** started; k/a **Oldowan tradition**.
 - Splintered stones k/a **eoiliths - earliest tools**.
- **Major sites:**
 - Soan valley (in present Pakistan)

- Thar Desert
- Kashmir
- Mewar plains
- Saurashtra
- Gujarat
- Central India
- Deccan Plateau
- Chotanagpur plateau
- North of the Cauvery River
- Belan valley in UP

Two important cultures -

1. Sohanian culture:

- Name derived from the Sohan River, a tributary of Indus.
- **Sites - Siwalik Hills in North-west India and Pakistan.**
- **Lower Palaeolithic stone tools** found.
- **Animal remains** - horse, buffalo, straight-tusked elephant and hippopotamus.
- Deposits of **pebble tools and choppers** found.

2. Acheulian culture/ Madrasi Culture:

- Named after the French site of St. Acheul.
- **First effective colonization of the Indian subcontinent.**
- **Synonymous with the lower Palaeolithic settlements** in India.
- Deposits of **hand-axes and cleavers**

Middle Palaeolithic age

- **Characteristics:**
 - Mainly **associated with** the early form of man- Neanderthals.
 - Evidence of the **use of fire**.
 - Middle Paleolithic man was a **scavenger** but little evidence of **hunting and gathering were traced**.
 - **Dead were painted** before burial.
 - **Slow transformation of Acheulian culture** by shedding some of the tool types and by incorporating new forms and new techniques of making them.
- **Tools:**
 - Became **smaller, thinner and lighter**.
 - Majorly **dependent on flakes** used to make bores, points, and scrapers etc.
 - A **crude pebble industry** is also noticed in this period.
 - **Stones** found were very small k/a **microliths**.

- Quartzite, quartz and basalt replaced by **fine-grained siliceous rocks like chert and jasper**
- **Tool Factory sites** at chert outcrops occur in **central India and Rajasthan**.

- **Important sites**

- Belan valley in UP
- Luni valley (Rajasthan)
- Son and Narmada rivers
- Bhimbetka
- Tungabhadra river valleys
- Potwar Plateau (between Indus & Jhelum)
- Sanghao cave (near Peshawar, Pakistan)

Upper Palaeolithic age

- **Characteristics:**

- Appearance of **Homo Sapiens**.
- **Widespread appearance of figurines and other artifacts** reflecting art and rituals.
- **Discovery of ostrich egg shells** at over 40 sites in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
- **Extremely cold and arid climate in the high altitude** and northern latitudes.
- **Extensive formation of deserts** in North west India
- **Drainage patterns of western India became almost defunct** and river courses shifted "westwards".
- **Decreasing vegetation cover**.
- Human population faced **rusticated food resources**- that is why Upper Palaeolithic sites are very limited in the arid and semi-arid regions.

- **Tools:**

- **Bone tools** - needles, fishing tools, harpoons, blades and burin tools.
- Show a marked regional diversity with respect to the **refinement of techniques and standardization of finished tool forms**.
- **Bored stones and grinding stabs have also been found** - advancements in the technology of tool production.

- **Major sites:**

- Bhimbetka (South of Bhopal) – hand axes and cleavers, blades, scrapers, and a few bruins have been found here.
- Belan
- Son
- Chota Nagpur plateau (Bihar)
- Maharashtra
- Orissa and

- Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh
- Bone tools have been found only at cave sites of Kurnool and Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi in Andhra Pradesh.

Mesolithic Period (Middle Stone Age)

- Derived from Greek words – 'meso' and 'lithic'. aka 'Middle Stone Age'
- Belonged to the **Holocene era**.



Transitional period between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods - aka **Late Stone age**.

Characteristics

- **Warm climate with heavy rainfall in summer and moderate rain in winters.**
- Initially hunters and gatherers, but **later domesticated animals and cultivated plants**.
- **Primitive cultivation**, and horticulture began.
- **The first animal to be domesticated - wild ancestor of the dog.**
- **Sheep and goats- most common domesticated animals.**
- **Lived in semi-permanent settlements** along with occupying **caves and open grounds**.
- **Believed in the afterlife** and hence buried dead with food items and other goods.
- People started to **wear clothes made of animal skin**.
- **First human colonization of the Ganga Plains** during this period.
- Last phase - **beginning of plant cultivation**.

Tools - Microliths

- Made of **crypto-crystalline silica, chalcedony or chert**, in geometrical and non-geometrical shapes.
- **Used to make composite tools, spearheads, arrowheads, and sickles.**
- **Enabled to hunt smaller animals and birds.**

Paintings

- Art lovers and initiated rock art in **Prehistory**.
- **First Rock painting in India-** found at **Sohagighat (UP) in 1867**.
- **Themes-** wild animals and hunting scenes, dancing, and food collection.
- Paintings **mostly in red ochre** but sometimes bluish-green, yellow, or white colors have been used

Characteristics

- Belongs to the **Holocene geological age**.
- aka '**Neolithic revolution**' (by **V. Gordon Childe**) as it introduced a lot of important changes in man's social and economic life.
- The **man transformed from food gatherer to food producer**.
- **Division of labor** based on sex and age
- **Tools and Weapons**
 - **Polished, pecked, and ground stone tools.**
 - **North-western**- Rectangular axes with curved cutting edge
 - **North-eastern** - polished stone axes with rectangular butt and occasional shouldered hoes.
 - **Southern**- axes with oval sides and pointed butt
- **Agriculture**
 - **Grew fruits and corn** like ragi and horse gram (kulati).
 - Also **domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats**.
- **Pottery**
 - Witnessed **first hand-made pottery** and then used foot's wheel.
 - Included **grey ware, black-burnished ware, and mat impressed ware**.
- **Housing and Settled Life**
 - People lived in **rectangular or circular houses made of mud and reeds**.
 - Also **knew how to make boats** and could **spin cotton, wool, and weave cloth**.
 - **Inhabited mainly the hilly river valleys, rock shelters, and the hills slopes**.

Two phases of Neolithic Culture-

- **Aceramic**- no evidence of ceramic
- **Ceramic**- evidence of pottery, mud houses, copper-arrowheads, blackware pottery, painted pottery.

Important Neolithic Sites

- **Koldihwa (lying south of Allahabad)**: Provides evidence of **circular huts** along with crude hand-made pottery.
- **Mahagara**: The earliest evidence of **rice cultivation** in the world
- **Mehargarh (Balochistan, Pakistan)**: **earliest Neolithic site**, where people lived in houses built of sun-dried bricks and cultivated crops like cotton and wheat.
- **Burzahom (Kashmir)**: **domestic dogs were buried along with their masters** in their graves, people lived in pits and used tools made of polished stones and bones.
- **Gufkral (Kashmir)**: Literal meaning "cave of the potter". This neolithic site is famous for **pit dwelling, stone tools, and graveyards within households**.
- **Chirand (Bihar)**: **bone tools** made of antlers
- **Nevasa**: Evidence of **cotton cloth**
- **Piklihal, Brahmagiri, Maski and Takkalakota, Hallur (Karnataka)**: discovery of **ash mounds**.

At **Chopani Mando in the Belan Valley of Vindhya** and the middle part of the Narmada valley, occupations from **all three stages (Paleolithic to Neolithic)** have been found- also the **discovery of fossil animal bones** from this site.

3 CHAPTER

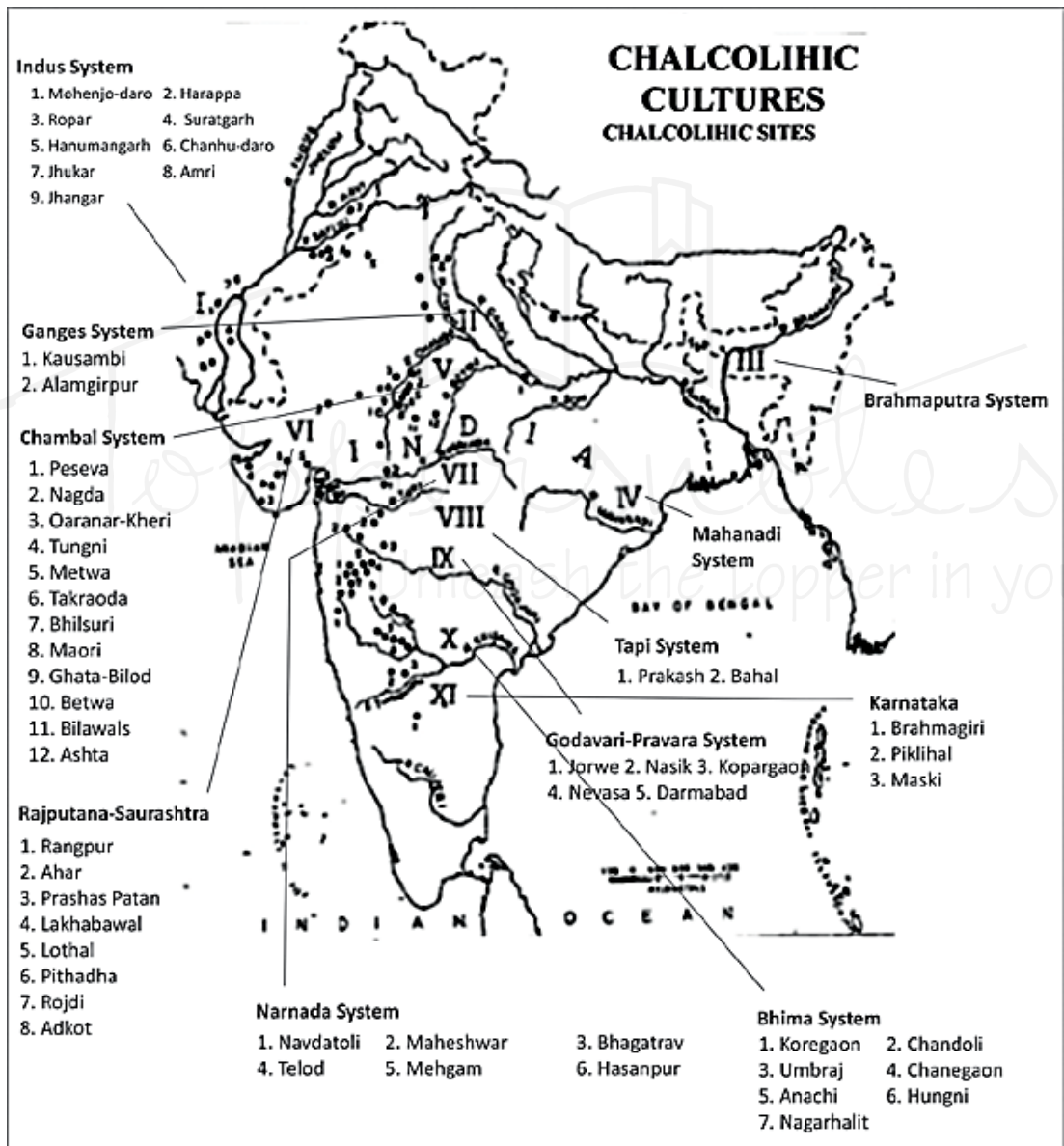
Chalcolithic Age (3500 BC-1000 BC)



- End of the neolithic phase- people began using metals.
- First metal used - copper.

- Witnessed the emergence of the rural community along with social inequalities

Copper + low-grade bronze + stone tools = Chalcolithic phase/ Stone-copper phase



Characteristics

- **Pre-Harappan phase**, however, some parts of the country witnessed Chalcolithic culture after the Harappan phase.
- **Staple Diet - Fish and rice**
- **No use of burnt bricks**,
- **Houses-** mud and wattle and **circular or rectangular**
- **Use of Gold** for ornamental purposes only
- **Cotton** was produced in the **Deccan region**
- People practiced **weaving, spinning, and copper smelting**
- **Evidence of Chalcolithic Settlements -**
 - south-eastern Rajasthan,
 - Western Madhya Pradesh,
 - western Maharashtra,
 - south and eastern India
- Use of tiny **tools and weapons** made of stones- stone blades and bladelets
- Use of **black and redware (BRW)**.

Other features of Chalcolithic Culture

1. Pottery

- **First to use painted pottery**
- **Wheel made fine pottery**
- For decorative purposes- floral, animal, bird, and fish motifs were used

2. Ornaments

- Beads made of **semi-precious stones like steatite, quartz crystal, carnelian**, etc were manufactured.
- **Common ornaments** included **anklets, bangles, and copper beads**

3. Implements

- **Microlithic tools made of siliceous material** were used commonly

- Use of **low-grade bronze** for weapons
- **Grinders, millers, and hammers** were used for **food processing**

4. Religious practices

- **Mother Goddess** was worshipped
- The **bull** was a **symbol of the religious cult**
- **Fertility cult** was worshipped
- **Female figurines** made of both baked or unbaked clay have been discovered **at Inamgaon and Nevada**
- **No evidence of a temple.**

5. Agriculture

- Chalcolithic settlements flourished in the **black cotton soil region**
- Both **Kharif and Rabi crops cultivated** in rotation
- **Crops grown** - barley, wheat, lentil, black gram, green gram, rice, and green peas.
- **Livestock** - buffaloes, cows, hunted deer, goats, sheep, and pigs.
- **Remains of the camel** have been discovered.
- **No evidence of plough or hoe**
- Discovery of perforated stone discs and digging sticks

6. Burials

- People belonging to this phase **believed in after-life**
- In **Maharashtra**, dead were buried in urns **under the floor of their houses** in a **north-south position**
- In **eastern India**, **fractional burials** were practiced.
- In **Southern India**, dead were buried in an **east-west position**
- **Feet of the dead were chopped** to prevent the dead from returning to this world
- In **Daimabad**, **five urns with pierced bottoms** have been discovered.

Important Chalcolithic Cultures and their features

Culture	Period	Features	Sites
Ahar Culture	2100-1500 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distinctive black and redware with white designs ● crops grown- rice, jowar, bajra, kulthi, ragi, green peas, lentil, green and black gram. ● houses made of stones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional center- Gilund ● Important sites- Ahar and Balathal
Kayatha Culture	2000-1880 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● sturdy red slipped ware painted with designs in chocolate color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chambal and its tributaries

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● red painted buff ware ● combed ware which bore incised patterns ● Fortified settlements 	
Malwa Culture	1700-1200 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● coarse fabric wares with a thick buff surface having designs in black and red. ● crops grown- wheat and barley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navdatoli, Eran, and Nagda - imp. settlements ● Navdatli - largest settlement
Savaldia Culture	2300-2000 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● earliest farming community in Deccan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dhule district in Maharashtra
Jorwe Culture	1400-700 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black painted ware on red with matt surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valleys of Tapi, Godavari, and Bhima ● Daimabad - largest settlement
Prabhas and Rangpur Culture	2000-1400 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Polished redware 	

Other Chalcolithic Sites

1. Eastern Uttar Pradesh
 - Khairadih
 - Narhan
2. South-Eastern Rajasthan
 - Ganeshwar- shows the pre-Harappan chalcolithic culture
 - Ahar- an abundance of copper tools, stone axes or blades absent, practiced smelting and metallurgy
3. West Bengal (evidence of rice hooks)
 - Mahishadal
 - Pandu Rajar Dhibi
4. Western Madhya Pradesh (produced wheat and barley)
 - Malwa- richest chalcolithic ceramics have been discovered here
 - Kayatha- the discovery of 29 copper bangles and two unique axes, necklaces of semi-precious stones such as carnelian and steatite
 - Eran- shows non-Harappan culture
5. Western Maharashtra
 - Jorwe- evidence of flat, rectangular copper axes
 - Daimabad- largest Jorwe cultural site (20 hectares), Bronze goods
 - Chandoli- Copper chisels
 - Inamgaon- Evidence of rice, figurines of Mother Goddess, Large mud houses with ovens, and circular pit houses.
 - Navdatoli- evidence of beer and linseed.
6. Bihar
 - Narhan
 - Chirand (evidence of fish hooks)

Megalithic Culture of South India

Megalith

- Greek term: Megas = great + lithos = stone.
- Monuments built of large stones.
 - all monuments constructed of big stones ≠ megaliths.
 - Term has restricted usage and is applied only to a particular class of monuments or structures, have grave like, commemorative or ritualistic association except the hero stones or memorial stones.
- Megalithic monuments - Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

Origin and Spread of Megalithic Cultures

- Megalithic monuments - most widespread remains of man.
- Origin - Mediterranean region in the early neolithic period- carried by traders who went in search of metals along the Atlantic coast to western Europe,.
- India - arrived with Dravidian speakers to South India from west Asia by sea.
- Indian megaliths belonging to the Iron Age generally dated to 1000 B.C onwards.
- Advent into Indian subcontinent would have taken place by two routes-
 - From Gulf of Oman to the West coast of India
 - Land route from Iran.
- Main concentration in India- Deccan (south of the river Godavari).

- Some of the **usual megalith types** are found in **North India, Central India and Western India**. Eg. Seraikela in Bihar; Deodhoora in Almora district and Khera near Fatehpur Sikri in Agra district of Uttar Pradesh; Nagpur; Chanda and Bhandra districts of Madhya Pradesh; Dausa, 32 miles east of Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- Also found near **Karachi in Pakistan, Leh in the Himalayas** and at **Burzahom in J&K**.
- But **widespread distribution in the southern region** of India- essentially a South Indian feature.

Various aspects of Megalithic Culture

Society

- Sizeable rural population.**
- Houses - **huts with thatched or reed roofs**, supported on wooden posts.
- Spread of **plough cultivation- intensive cultivation**.
- Village transhumance** within a distance of 10- 20 km from major water resources.
- Maximum concentration in river valleys** and basins and black soil, red sandy-loamy soil zones.
- Rainfall-** 600-1500 mm.
- Differences in monument size and nature of grave valuables- **class division**.

Religious Beliefs and Practices

- Had **great veneration for the dead**
- Grave goods- **believed in life after death**.
- Also **buried domesticated animals**.
- Belief in animism** - evident by occurrence of animal bones of domestic animals like cattle, sheep/goats and the wild animals like wolf in the megaliths.
- Skeletal remains were buried in the graves**



Grave Goods in Megalithic Burials

- Megalithic people **constructed elaborate and labour-consuming tombs**.
- Believed in the after-life of the dead**
- Grave furniture - pottery; weapons**, iron, stone or copper implements; ornaments like beads of terracotta, semi-precious stones, gold or copper, shell, etc., strung into necklaces or rarely the ear or nose ornaments, armlets or bracelets and diadems;
- Food** - paddy husk and chaff, and some other cereals;
- Skeletal remains of animals** also found in the graves.

Polity

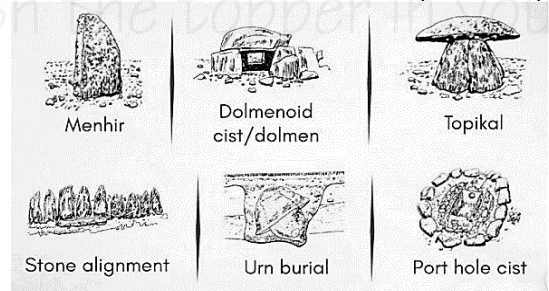
- People were of tribal descent**- prevalence of chiefdoms.
- Chief k/a perumakan/ great son**.
- Commanded the entire personal, material and cultural resources of his clan.
- Distribution of power** - simple and involved **no hierarchy**.
- Small chiefdoms co-existing and contesting against one another** and anticipating the emergence of big chiefdoms by the turn of the Christian era.
- Special burials for chiefs**.

Megalithic culture in South India

- A full fledged iron age culture**.
- Less use of stones for tools**.
- Most of the **information about the iron age in South India** comes **from excavations of megalithic burials**.
- Iron objects found in all megalithic sites** - Junapani near Nagpur in Vidarbha region (Central India) to Adichanallur in Tamilnadu in the far south.

Different of South India

- Based on explorations and excavations carried out on different sites of South India:
 - Rock Cut Caves**
 - Carved on soft laterite** found in the southern part of the West Coast.
 - Peculiar to west coast region** and occur in the Cochin and Malabar regions of **Kerala** (purely megalithic and funerary).
 - East Coast of South India-** Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) near Madras.
 - Deccan and western India** - Elephanta, Ajanta, Ellora, Karle, Bhaja etc.
 - Hood Stones and Hat Stones /Cap Stones/Topikal**



- Allied with the rock cut caves** but of a simpler form.
- Consists of a dome-shaped laterite block** which covers the underground circular pit cut into a natural rock and provided with a stairway.
- Above a hood stone is a hat stone or toppikkal-**a **plano-convex slab resting on three or four quadrilateral clinostatic boulders**.

- Covers an **underground burial pit** containing the funerary urn and other grave furnishings.
- Found in **Cochin and Malabar regions**.
- **Menhirs**
 - **Monolithic pillars** planted vertically into the ground.
 - May be **small or gigantic** in height (16 ft - 3ft).
 - **Commemorative stone pillars** set up at or near a burial spot.
 - **Mentioned** in ancient Tamil literature as **nadukal / Pandukkal or Pandil**.
- **Alignments**
 - **Closely associated with the menhirs**.
 - Consists of **a series of standing stones, oriented to the cardinal directions**.
 - Found at Komalaparathala in **Kerala & Gulbarga, Raichur, Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts of Karnataka**.
- **Avenues**
 - Consists of **two or more parallel rows of the alignments**.
- **Dolmenoid Cists**
 - Consists of **square or rectangular box-like graves built of several orthostats**, one or more for each side, supporting the superincumbent capstone consisting of one or more stones, often with the floor also paved with the stone slabs.
 - May be **decorated & undecorated**.
 - Found **majorly in TN**.

Orthostat

- A **large stone with a more or less slab-like shape artificially set upright**.
- **Eg. Menhirs and other standing stones**.

- **Cairn Circles**
 - **Most popular type of megalithic monuments** occurring all over south India.

- Consist of a **heap of stone rubble enclosed within a circle of boulders**.
- **3 subtypes:**
 - ✓ **Pit burials**
 - ☞ Consist of **deep pits dug into the natural soil**.
 - ☞ **Roughly circular, square or oblong**.
 - ☞ **Skeletal remains and grave furniture placed on the floors**.
 - ☞ Then **filled up with soil**.
 - ☞ Found in Chingleput (**Tamilnadu**), Chitradurga and Gulbarga (**Karnataka**) districts.
 - ✓ **Sarcophagi burials**
 - ☞ A **legged coffin made of terracotta**.
 - ☞ Comparatively more **widespread than the pit burials**.
 - ☞ Similar to pit burials except that the **skeletal remains and the primary deposits of grave furniture are placed in an oblong terracotta sarcophagus**
 - ☞ **Supported on pottery stands and vessels or placed on the floor**.
 - ☞ Found in South Arcot, Chingleput and North Arcot districts of **Tamil Nadu** and Kolar district of **Karnataka**, southern districts of **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - ✓ **Pyriform or urn burial**.
 - ☞ Urns, in which burials are made, are **deposited in pits dug into the soil**.
 - ☞ **Pits filled up with soil upto ground level & provided with a capstone**.
 - ☞ Found in **Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra**.