



UPSC - IAS

Civil Services Examinations

Union Public Service Commission

General Studies

Paper 1 – Volume 2

**Ancient and Medieval
History of India**



UPSC CSE - IAS

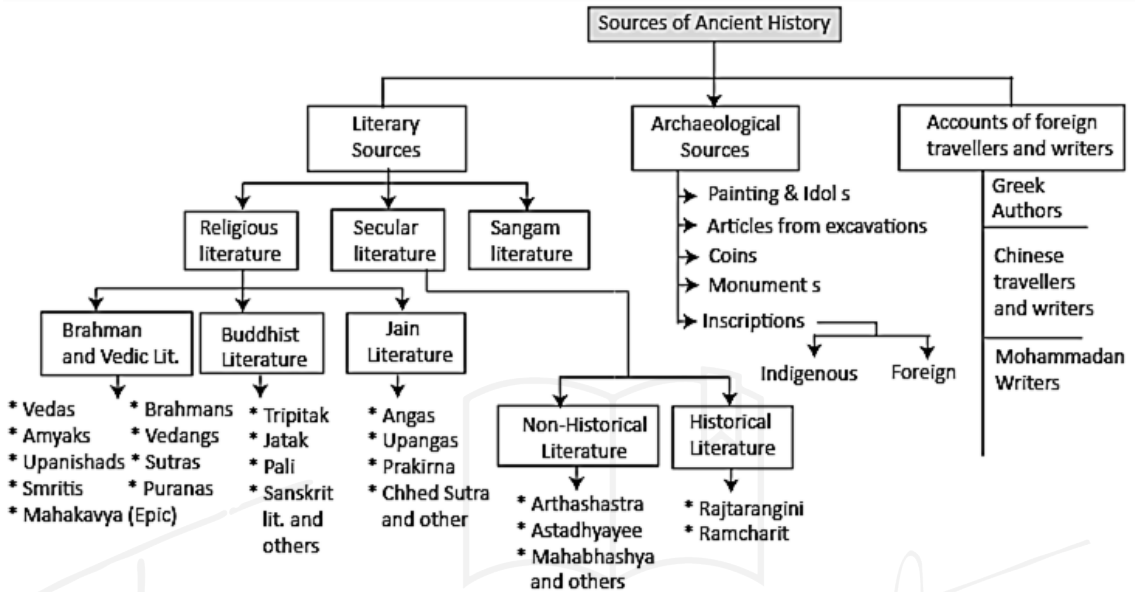
Ancient and Medieval History of India

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). ● Yagyavalkya 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 and Madhavi
Manimekalai	Sittalai Sattanar	The adventures of Manimekalai
Sivaga Sindamani	Tiruttakadevar	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

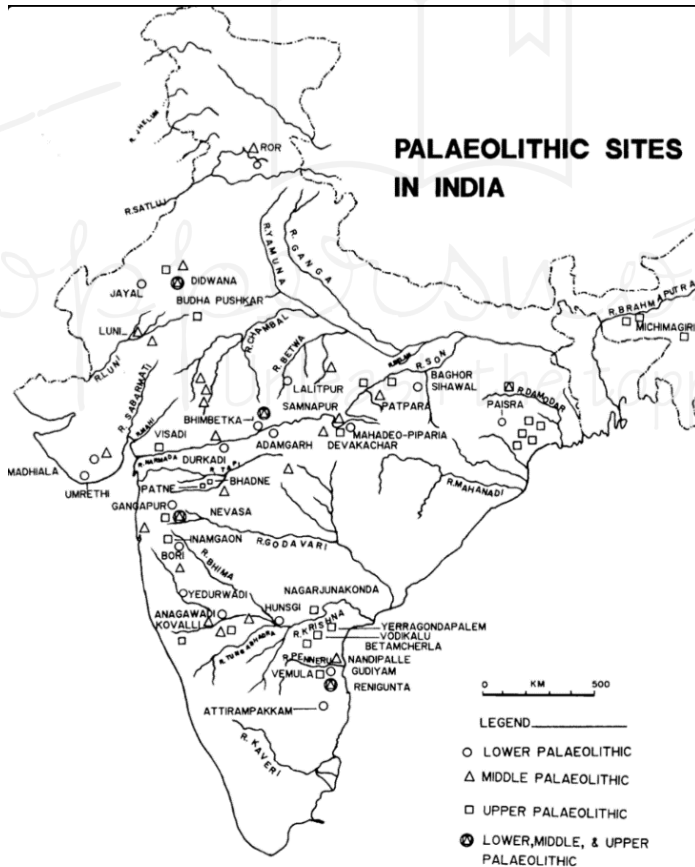


- Prehistoric period- no written evidence.
- Main source of information- archaeological excavations.
- Pallavaram handaxe - First Paleolithic tool in India - discovered by- Robert Bruce Foote (1863 AD)- also discovered a large number of pre-historic sites in South India
- Based on geological age, the 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

- of the **29 species** of animals depicted in paintings, **Cheetah** occurred most
- **No depiction of snakes**
- **Bhimbetka rock paintings** give an idea about the development of religious practices and also reflect the division of labor based on gender. Men have been depicted hunting while women are shown gathering and preparing food.

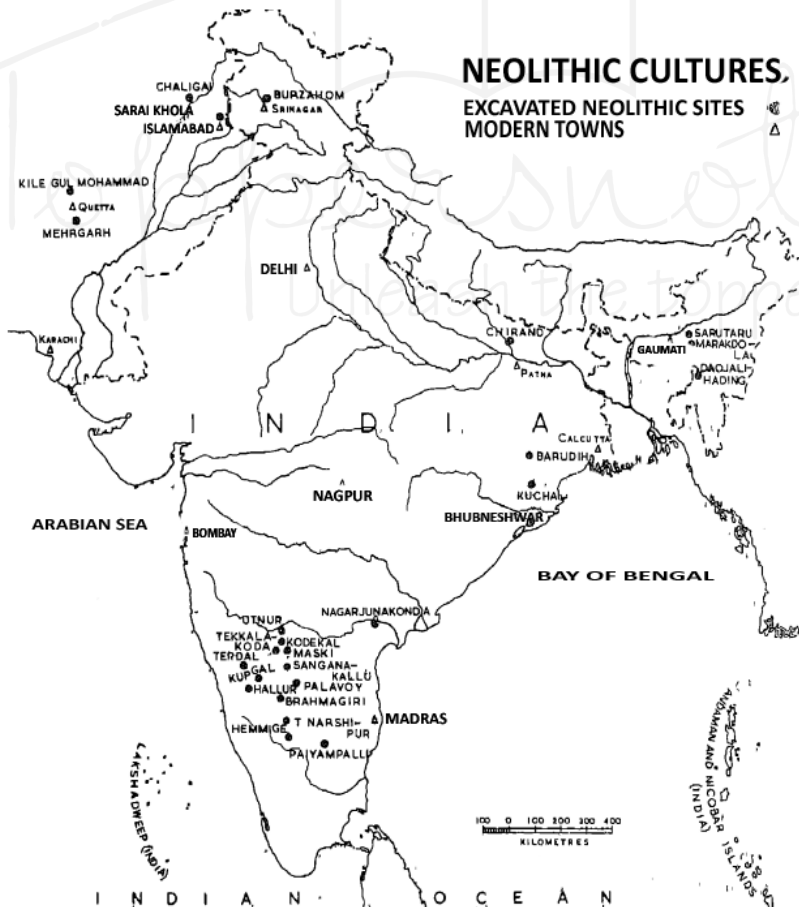
Important Mesolithic Sites

- **Bagore (Rajasthan)**
 - One of the **biggest and best-documented** Mesolithic sites in India
 - On **river Kothari**.
 - Provided the **earliest evidence** of the domestication of animals.

- **Mahadaha, Damdaha, Sarai Nahar Rai (Uttar Pradesh)-**
 - Evidence of **human skeletons**.
 - At Mahadaha, a **man and a woman** were buried together.
 - One burial had an **ivory pendant** as the Grave God.
- **Mesolithic rock art sites across India**
 - Central India such as **Bhimbetka caves, Kharwar, Jaora and Kathotia (M.P), Sundargarh**
 - Sambalpur (**Odisha**)
 - Ezhuthu Guha (**Kerala**)
- **Langhnaj (Gujarat) and Biharanpur (West Bengal)**
 - Langhnaj- **Bones of wild animals** (rhinoceros, blackbuck, etc.)
 - Several **human skeletons**
 - Large number of **microliths**

Neolithic Period (New Stone Age)

- **Greek words:** Neo = new and lithic = stone.
- **Coined by Sir John Lubbock** in 1865.



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**s 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

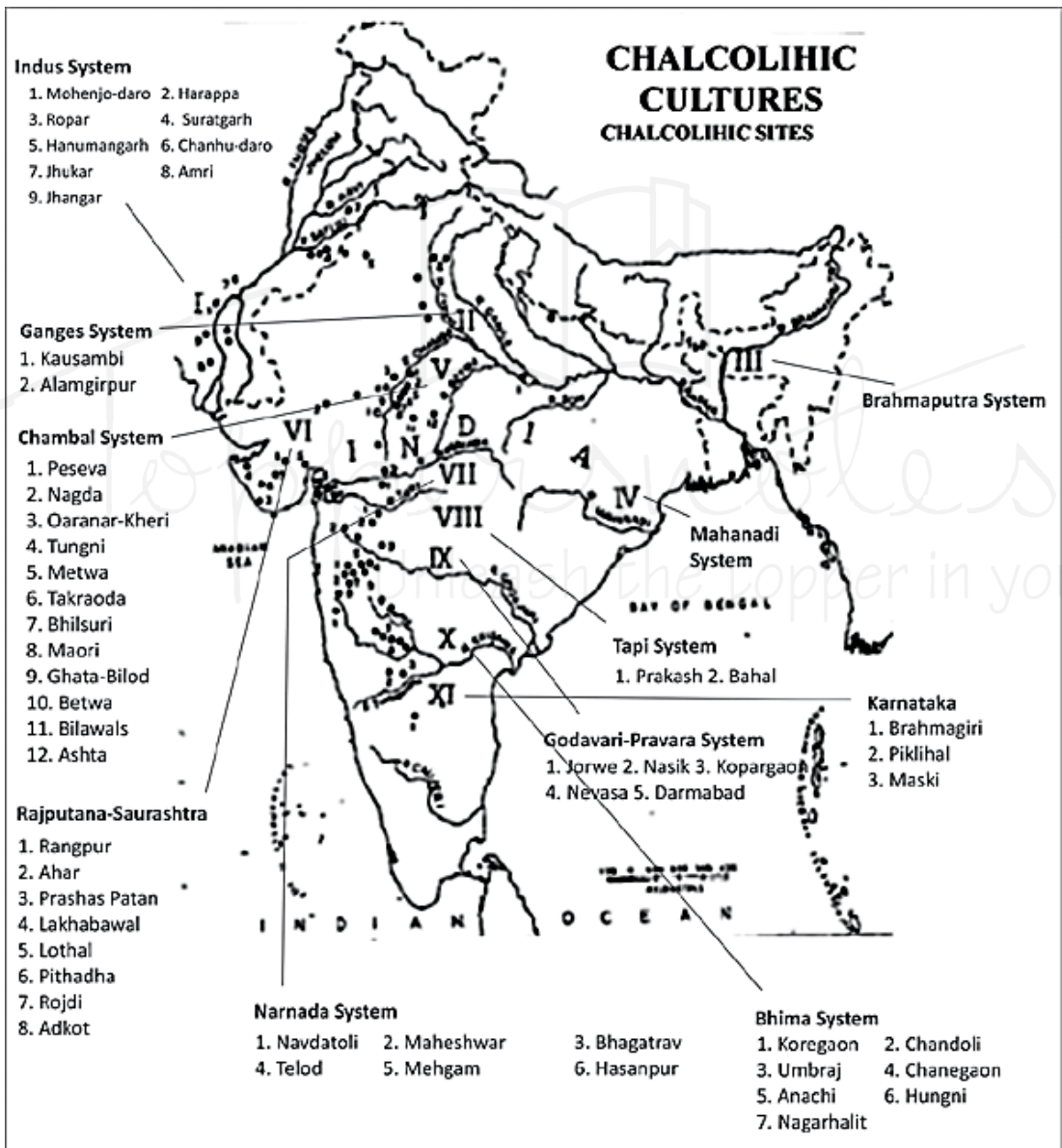
Chalcolithic Age (3500 BC-1000 BC)



- 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

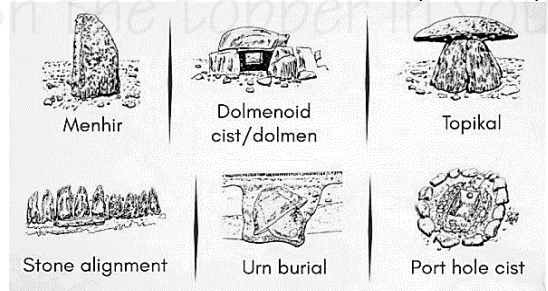
- People were of tribal descent- prevalence of chiefdoms.
- Chief k/a perumakan/ great son.
- Commanded the entire personal, material and cultural resources of his clan.
- Distribution of power - simple and involved no hierarchy.
- Small chiefdoms co-existing and contesting against one another and anticipating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

4 CHAPTER

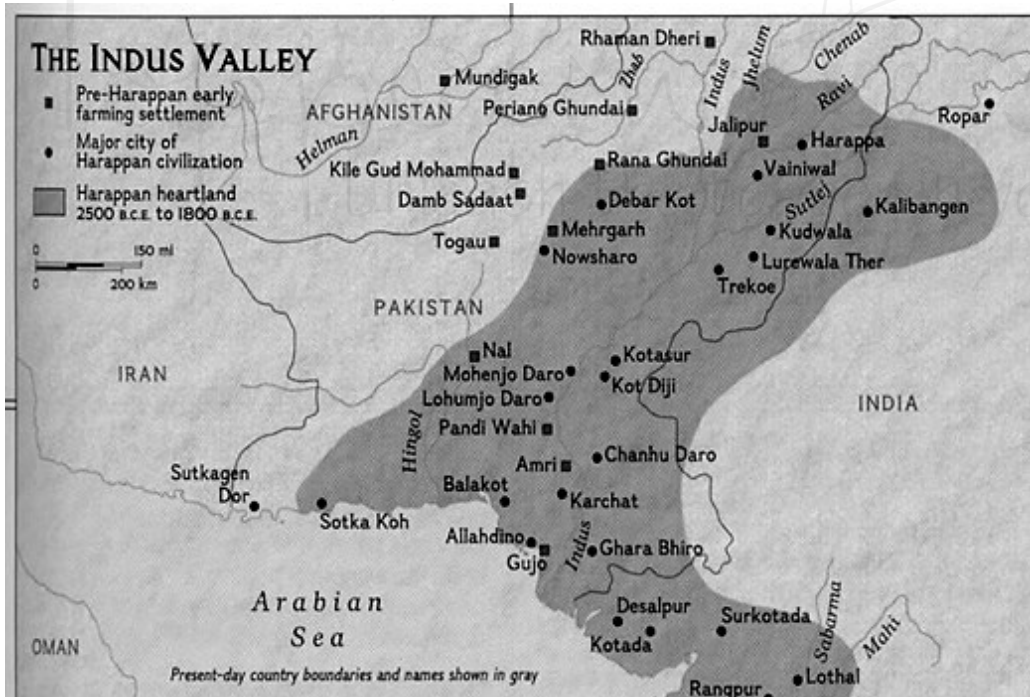
Indus Valley Civilization



Discovery of Indus Valley Civilization

- First Urban Civilization of South- Asia
- Contemporary to Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.
- Developed in the North-western part of the Indian subcontinent
- 1853- Discovery of a Harappan seal which showed a bull by A. Cunningham.
- 1921- Discovery of Harappa (the first archaeological site discovered) by Dayaram Sahni. Therefore, it is also known as the Harappan civilization.
- 1922- Discovery of Mohenjodaro by R.D. Banerjee
- Essentially a Riverine Civilization.
- A Bronze age Civilization.

Views of Scholars	Origin
E.J.H. Mackay	Due to the migration of people from Sumer (Southern Mesopotamia)
D.H. Gordon and Martin Wheeler	Due to the migration of people from Western Asia
John Marshall and V. Gordon Childe	A colony of Mesopotamian Civilization having a foreign origin
S. R. Rao and T. N. Ramachandran	Built by Aryans
Stuart Piggot and Romila Thapar	Originated from Iranian-Baluchi culture
D. P. Aggarwal and Amlananda Ghosh	Originated from Iranian-Sothi culture



Geographical Extent

- Coverage- about 13 lakh square km

- Extent- Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Western U.P., and northern Maharashtra.

- **Northernmost site-** Manda in Jammu and Kashmir (River- Chenab)
- **Southernmost site-** Daimabad in Maharashtra (River- Pravara)
- **Western-most site-** Sutkagendor in Balochistan (River- Dashk)
- **Easternmost site-** Alamgirpur in Uttar Pradesh (River- Hindon)

Phases of Harappan Civilization

1. The Early/Pre-Harappan Phase (3500-2500 BC)-

- around Ghaggar-Hakra river valley
- a **proto-urban** phase
- witnessed the development of villages and towns

- characterized by a **centralized authority and urban life**.
 - **Crops** - peas, sesame seeds, dates, cotton, etc.
 - **Sites-** Mehrgarh, Kot Diji, Dholavira, Kalibangan, etc.
 - The **earliest Indus script** dates back to **3000 BC**.
- ### 2. Mature Harappan Phase (2500-1800 BC)-
- development of **large urban centers** like Harappan, Mohenjodaro, and Lothal.
 - concept of **irrigation developed**.
- ### 3. Late Harappan Phase (1800-1500 BC)-
- Signs of **gradual decline**, by **1700 BC** most of the cities were abandoned.
 - **Sites-** Manda, Chandigarh, Sanghol, Daulatpur, Alamgirpur, Hulas, etc.

Important Sites of the Harappan Civilization

Sites	River	Features
Harappa (1921) Montgomery district of Punjab. aka city of granaries .	Ravi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A row of 6 granaries. ● R-37 and H cemetery found here. ● Coffin burial ● Red Sandstone male torso ● Copper bullock cart ● Stone symbols of lingam and yoni ● Terracotta figure of Mother Goddess. ● Single room barracks ● Bronze pots. ● Citadel (raised platform) ● Dice
Mohenjodaro (1922) (mound of the dead)- Larkana district of Sindh Largest IVC site	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great Bath (for ritual bathing, no use of stone, built with burnt bricks, bitumen used on outer walls and floors) ● Great granary (the largest building in Mohenjodaro) ● Piece of woven cloth ● Bronze Statue of dancing girl- Right arm on the hip and left arm covered with bangles. ● Cotton cloth ● uniform buildings and weights ● Seal of mother Goddess ● Idol of yogi ● Pashupati seal ● Steatite image of a bearded man ● Mesopotamian seals ● Bronze image of nude women dancer ● 7 layers of the city → city was rebuilt 7 times.
Lothal (1957) (port city)- Gujarat Trade centre for gems and ornaments	Bhogvaha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City divided into 6 sections ● Coastal town, sea trade links with Mesopotamia ● Dockyard (to manufacture and repair ships) ● Evidence of rice husk ● Double burial and 3-pair burial



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fire altars ● Terracotta model of a ship ● Ivory scale for measurement ● Persian gulf seal
Chanhudaro (1931) - Sindh	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only City without citadel ● Evidence of beads making factory, Lipstick, inkpot. ● Dog's paw imprint on brick ● Terracotta model of bullock cart ● Bronze toy cart
Kalibangan (1953) (black bangles)- Rajasthan	Ghaggar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Furrowed land ● Fire altars ● No presence of baked bricks, earthen bricks present ● Houses with wells ● No drainage ● Shows evidence of pre- Harappan as well as Harappan phase
Dholavira (1990-91) - Gujarat	Luni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water harvesting system ● Stormwater drainage system ● Stadium ● Nameplate of 10 letters (largest IVC inscription) ● The only city to be divided into 3 parts.
Rangpur (1931) (Gujarat)	Mahar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remains of Pre+Mature Harappan phase ● Evidence of stoneflacks
Banawali (1973-74) (Hisar, Haryana)	Saraswati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre+Mature + late Harappan phase ● Clay model of plough ● No drainage system ● Terracotta model of plough ● Barley grains ● Lapis Lazuli ● The only site with Radial streets
Rakhigarhi (1963) (Haryana)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The largest IVC site in India ● Fragmented artifact of a thick sturdy red ware with an incised female figure
Surkotada (1964) (Kutch, Gujarat)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Horse remains and graveyard ● Soldiers sign-on potsherd ● Pot burials ● Oval grave
Amri (1929) (Sindh, Pakistan)	Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence of rhinoceros
Ropar (Punjab, India)	Sutlej	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● first site to be excavated after independence ● Dog buried with a human ● Oval pit Burials ● Copper Axe
Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh)	Yamuna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Broken copper blade ● Ceramic items
Daimabad (Maharashtra)	Pravara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bronze images (charioteer with chariot, ox, elephant, and rhinoceros)

Sanauli

Sinauli Excavation 1.0 in 2005:

- 116 burial sites discovered.
- Referred to as one of **India's largest known necropolises in the Chalcolithic period.**
- The **burial sites** are **different from Indus Valley Civilization.**
- **Coffins are 4 legged** and the tombs had underground chambers.
- **Systematically arranged vases, bowls and pots** near the body.
- **Rice found in those pots** buried along with the bodies of the troops
- **8 anthropomorphic figures** (something that looks like humans) found.
- **Burials similar to vedic culture and not Indus Valley culture**

Sinauli Excavation 2.0 in 2018:

- **Came into light again in 2018** when a **farmer reported to have found antiquities** in the land **while ploughing** the field.
- **Horse drawn chariots** (almost 5000 years old) found - have a fixed ankle linked through a long pole to a small yoke - thought to have been **drawn by animals, preferably horses.**
- Many weapons like **copper antenna swords, war shields** etc were found
- **Wooden four legged coffins** this time along with **pottery.**
- **Whip** to indicate to the animals has been found, which means the tribe that lived here controlled the animals
- **Female + Male warriors** have also been found **buried with their swords.**
- However their **legs around ankles had been removed before they were buried.**

Pottery:

- **Ochre Colored Pottery (OCP)** culture.
- **Similar to late mature Harappan culture** but is different from it in many other aspects.

Features of Indus Valley Civilization

Town Planning

- **Fortification**
- **Well-planned streets**
- **Advanced drainage system** in towns
- **Cities-** two or more parts.

- **Western part** - smaller but higher - *citadel*- occupied by the ruling class.
- **Eastern part-** larger but lower- inhabited by common or working people -brick houses.

- **Chanhudaro: City without Citadel,**
- Both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro had a citadel. (these two sites are called the capital cities of IVC)
- Towns followed a rectangular grid pattern with **roads cutting each other at right angles.**
- **Houses were 1 or 2 storeys high.**
- **No large monumental structures** like temples or palaces are present.
- Use of **baked and unbaked bricks and stones** for construction.
- Houses were made up of mud bricks, while the drainage system was built using burnt bricks.

Great Bath

- In the **citadel mound**
- A tank made of bricks that was **used for ritual bathing**
- **Measurement-** 11.88 by 7.01 meters and 2.43metres deep
- There were **flights of steps** that led to the tank.
- **Presence of side rooms** for changing clothes
- The **bottom** of the tank was **made up of burnt bricks**
- **Water was drawn from a large well** in the adjacent room emptied into a drain

Granary

- **Mohenjodaro-** It is the **largest building** in Mohenjodaro, 45.71 meters long and 15.23 meters wide
- **Harappa-** Presence of two rows of **6 granaries**, situated close to the riverbank, 15.23 meters long and 6.09 meters wide. Rows of circular brick platforms were found that were meant for threshing grains, as there have been pieces of evidence of wheat and barley
- **Kalibangan-** at the southern part, presence of brick platforms that might have been used for granaries

Drainage system

- **Every house** in IVC had its **courtyard, private well, and well-ventilated bathroom.**
- Water from these houses went to street drains that were covered either with bricks or stone slabs.
- **Street drains** were equipped with **manholes.**
- Harappan people paid too much attention to health and hygiene.