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# General Studies

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**COURSE BOOK**

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SECTION-I  
**HISTORY**



# PRE-HISTORIC PHASE/STONE AGE

The Stone Age can be roughly divided into three parts :

1. Paleolithic Age : Old Stone Age
2. Mesolithic Age : Middle Stone Age
3. Neolithic Age : New Stone Age

**Paleolithic Age : 500, 000-10,000 B.C.**

## • Paleolithic Age

| S.No. | Phase                      | Tools  | Location  |
|-------|----------------------------|--|---|
| 1.    | Early or Lower Paleolithic | Hand axes & cleavers                                     | Sohan river valley and in the Belan Valley (Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh)      |
| 2.    | Middle Paleolithic         | Stone tools of flakes -mainly scrapers, bores and blade. | Sohan river valley, Narmada and Tungabhadra rivers                        |
| 3.    | Upper Paleolithic          | Use of stone tools-mainly blade and burins               | In Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bhopal and Chotanagpur Plateau |

## • Paleolithic Sites

| Sites          | Position         |
|----------------|------------------|
| Adamgarh hill  | Narmada Valley   |
| Attirampakam   | Chennai          |
| Bhimbetka      | Madhya Pradesh   |
| Kurnool        | Andhra Pradesh   |
| Potwar Plateau |                  |
| Sohan Valley   | North-West India |
| Siwalik Hills  | North India      |

**Mesolithic Age : 10,000-6,000 B.C.**

- The characteristic tools of this Age are known as **Microliths**, e.g., points, blades, scraper etc.
- The last phase of this age saw the beginning of plant cultivation.

## • Mesolithic Sites

| Sites           | State         |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Birbhanpur      | West Bengal   |
| Belan Valley    | Uttar Pradesh |
| Bagor           | Rajasthan     |
| Langhneigunj    | Gujarat       |
| Sarai Nahar Rai | Uttar Pradesh |
| Tinnevelly      | Tamil Nadu    |

- The Old Stone Age in India developed during the Pleistocene Period or the Ice Age.
- The Paleolithic sites are spread in all parts of India except the alluvial plains of the Indus and Ganga rivers.
- The people were **hunters and food gatherers**, who had no knowledge of agriculture, fire, pottery or metals.

**Neolithic Age : 6,000-1,000 B.C.**

- During this phase people used stones other than quartzite for making tools, which were more finished and polished.
- Neolithic men cultivated land and domesticated cattle, sheep and goats.
- They knew techniques of making fire and also made pottery; first by hand and then using the potter's wheel. They could also spin cotton and wool, and weave cloth.
- People led a more settled life and lived in circular and **rectangular houses made of mud**. The **Dolmens or the Megalithic tombs** are a characteristic feature of the Neolithic Age.
- Chopani Mando provides the earliest evidence of the use of pottery in the world.

## • Neolithic Sites

| State          | Sites           |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | Piklihal, Unter |
| Bihar          | Chirand         |



|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Jammu & Kashmir<br>Karnataka | Burzahom, Gufkral<br>Maski, Brahmagiri,<br>Tekkalakote |
| Meghalaya<br>Tamil Nadu      | Garo Hills<br>Paiyampalli                              |

All the **three phases** of the stone Age have been found in the northern spurs of the Vindhyas in the Belan Valley.

### Stone Copper Phase (Chalcolithic Phase)

- Tools, hand axes and other objects were made of stone and copper.
- Chalcolithic people of south-east Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh and western Maharashtra domesticated animals and produced wheat, rice (as staple crop), lentil, black gram, green gram, bajra and grass pea.

- People used different types of pottery, of which black and red pottery was the most popular.
- They generally lived in thatched houses made of mud and reed. It was village economy.
- They venerated the mother goddess and worshipped the bull. The systems of burial were different.

### • Chalcolithic Sites

| Position       | Sites   |
|----------------|---|
| Madhya Pradesh | Kayatha, Eran   |
| Maharashtra    | Jorwe, Nevas, Diamabad, Nasik<br>Inamgaon, Navdatoli, Songaon |
| Rajasthan      | Gelund  |
| West Bengal    | Pandu Rajar Dhibi   |

**Koldihwa** (Allahabad) reveals a three-fold cultured sequence of Neolithic, Chalcolithic and the Iron Age.

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## INDUS-VALLEY CIVILIZATION

### INDUS -VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- Indus Valley Civilization was the first major civilization in south Asia, which spread across a vast area of land in present day India and Pakistan (Around 12 lakh sq.km). The time period of mature Indus Valley Civilization is estimated between B.C. 2700-BC.1900, that is, for 800 years.
- This civilisation spread roughly across modern day Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, Pakistan and some adjoining areas. It extended from Manda (in Jammu) in the north to Daimabad in the south and from Alamgirpur (in Uttar Pradesh) in the northeast to Sutkagendor (in Baluchistan) in the west.

- **Important sites** are Mohenjodaro and Chanhudaro in Sindh, Harappa in West Punjab, Pakistan, Lothal and Dholavira in Gujarat, Kalibanga in Rajasthan, and Banwali in Haryana. Other sites are Ropar in Punjab, Rangpur and Sukotada in Gujarat, Alamgirpur in western Uttar Pradesh, Kot Diji and Ali-murad in Sind and Sutagendor in Baluchistan.
- **Capital Cities**-Harappa, Mohenjodaro
- **Port Cities**- Lothal, Sutkagendor, Allahdino, Balakot, Kuntasi.
- Largest and the latest site in India is **Dholavira** in Gujarat. Dr. J.P. Joshi and Dr. R.S. Bisht were involved in it.

### Important Discoveries

| Site   | River   | District    | State     | Country  | Excavators  |
|--|---------|-------------|-----------|----------|---|
| <b>Harappa</b><br>(Buried City)                            | Ravi    | Sahiwal     | Punjab    | Pakistan | Daya Ram Sahni (1921),<br>Madho Swaroop Vatsa (1926),<br>Wheeler (1946) |
| <b>Mohenjodaro</b><br>(Nakhilistan i.e.<br>Oasis of Sindh) | Indus   | Larkana     | Sindh     | Pakistan | Rakhal Das Bannerji (1922),<br>Mackay(1927),Wheeler (1930)              |
| <b>Chanhudaro</b>  | Indus   | Nawabshah   | Sindh     | Pakistan | Mackay (1925),<br>N.G. Mazumdar (1931)                                  |
| <b>Lothal</b>  | Bhogava | Ahmedabad   | Gujarat   | India    | S.R. Rao (1954)   |
| <b>Kalibanga</b><br>(the bangles of<br>black colour)       | Ghaggar | Hanumangarh | Rajasthan | India    | Amalanand Ghosh (1951),<br>B.V. Lal and B.K.Thapar(1961)                |
| <b>Banawali</b>  | Ghaggar | Fatehabad   | Haryana   | India    | R.S. Bist (1973)  |
| <b>Dholavira</b>   | Luni    | Kutchh      | Gujarat   | India    | J.P. Joshi (1967-68)  |

### Town Planning

- **Elaborate town-planning** : It follows the **grid system**. Roads well cut, dividing the town into large rectangular blocks.
- **Used burnt bricks** of good quality as the building material.Their drainage system shows developed sense of health and sanitation.
- The towns were divided into **2 parts** : Upper Part-Citadel and Lower Part-Residential Complex.
- In Mohenjodaro, a **big public bath** (Great Bath) has been found.

### Script and Language

- The script was **boustropheden**, written from right to left in one line and then from left to right in the next line.The script is not alphabetical but pictographic (about 600 undeciphered pictographs).

### Religion

- The chief male deity was **Pashupati Mahadeva** (Proto-Siva), represented in seals as sitting in a **yogic posture** on a low throne, and having three faces and two horns. He is **surrounded by four animals** (elephant, tiger, rhino and buffalo), each facing a different direction, and **two deers** appear at his feet.

- The chief female deity was **Mother Goddess**, who has been depicted in various forms.
- There is sufficient evidence for the prevalence of **phallic (lingum)** and **yoni worship** also.
- The **worship of fire** is proved by the discovery of fire altars at Lothal, Kalibangan and Harappa.
- Further they **believed in ghosts and evil forces** and used amulets as protection against them.

### Art and Craft

- The Harappan culture belongs to the **Bronze Age** (mixing tin and copper).
- Tools were mostly made of copper and bronze.
- Cotton fabrics quite common. Woollen in winter.
- Very fond of ornaments (of gold, silver, ivory, copper, etc) and dressing up. Ornaments were worn by both men and women.

### Sources of Materials :-

**Gold** : Afghanistan, Persia;

**Silver** : Afghanistan, Iran, Baluchistan and Khetri (Rajasthan);

**Tin** : Afghanistan, Central Asia.

### Site Archaeological Finds :-

**Banawali** : Lack of chest-board or gridiron pattern town planning, Lack of systematic drainage system, Toy plough, Clay figures of Mother Goddess.

**Chanhudaro** : City without a citadel, Inkpot, Lipstick; Metal-workers, shell-ornament makers and bead-makers shops; Imprint of dog's paw on a brick, Terracotta model of a bullock cart, Bronze toy cart.

**Dholavira** : A unique water harnessing system and its storm water drainage system, a large well and a bath (giant water reservoirs), only site to be divided into 3 parts, Largest Harappan inscription used for civic purposes, A stadium.

**Daimabad** : Bronze images (Charioteer with chariot ox, elephant and rhinoceros).

**Harappa** : 6 Granaries in row, Working floors, Workmen's quarters, Virgin-Goddess (seal), Cemetery (R-37, H), Stone symbols of Lingam (male sex organ) and Yoni (female sex organ), Painted pottery, Clay figures of Mother Goddess, Wheat and Barley in wooden mortar, Copper scale, Crucible for bronze. Copper-made mirror, Vanity box, Dice.

**Lothal** : Dockyard, Rice husk, Metal-workers, shell-ornament makers and beadmakers shoppes, Fire altars, Terracotta figurine of a horse, Double burial (burying a male and a female in a single grave), Terracotta model of a ship, Dying vat, Persian/Iranian seal, Baharainean seal, Painted jar (bird and fox).

**Kalibanga** : Ploughed field surface (Pre-Harappan), 7 fire altars, Decorated bricks, Wheels of a toy cart, Mesopotamian cylindrical seal.

**Mohenjodardo** : Great Granary, Great Bath (the largest building of civilization), Assembly hall, Shell strips, Pashupati Mahadeva/Proto-Shiva (seal), Bronze Image of a nude woman dancer, Steatite image of bearded man, Human skeletons huddled together, Painted seal (Demi-God), Clay figures of Mother Goddess, A fragment of woven cotton, Brick-Kilns, 2 Mesopotamian seals, 1398 seals (56% of total seals of civilization), Dice.

**Surkotada** : Bones of horse, Oval grave, Pot burials.

### Reasons for Decline of Indus Valley Civilization

- **Environmental Changes**- It declined because of the change in the course of the rivers and because the rivers dried up. The decline theory of environment degradation was given by John Marshall. The dogma says that cutting of forests for agricultural and timber for fuel may have resulted in the barren land and silting of rivers.
- Another version of the same story says that it declined and decayed because of the Floods in the rivers. It has been postulated that in Saraswati region, the civilization declined mainly because of the shifting of the river channels. However, the decline was not sudden and took several hundred years.

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