

*PEP Sutras*

**HISTORY SmartNotes - 1**

**PEP - 2025**

**PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME**

**ONE STOP DESTINATION FOR PRELIMS PREPARATION**

**Dear Aspirants,**

**History** holds a unique place in UPSC preparation. It's a subject that demands not just knowledge but also the ability to approach questions with precision and context. From the architectural marvels of ancient India to the freedom struggles of modern times, history shapes our identity and influences the policies of today. For the UPSC prelims, mastering history is about spotting patterns, linking events, and tackling factual questions with clarity and confidence.



At IASbaba, we recognize the challenges aspirants face with history — its vast syllabus, overlapping timelines, and the need to retain key facts. That's why our **Prelims Exclusive Program (PEP)** is tailored to simplify your preparation. We have designed the program to cover the must-know topics for prelims, emphasizing recurring themes and high-probability areas.

This program will guide you through **ancient, medieval, and modern history**, focusing on areas where UPSC frequently tests aspirants. Expect to gain clarity on critical events, understand the causes and consequences of movements, and, most importantly, learn how to approach questions with a strategic mindset. Our focus will be on delivering content that is exam-relevant, concise, and easy to revise.

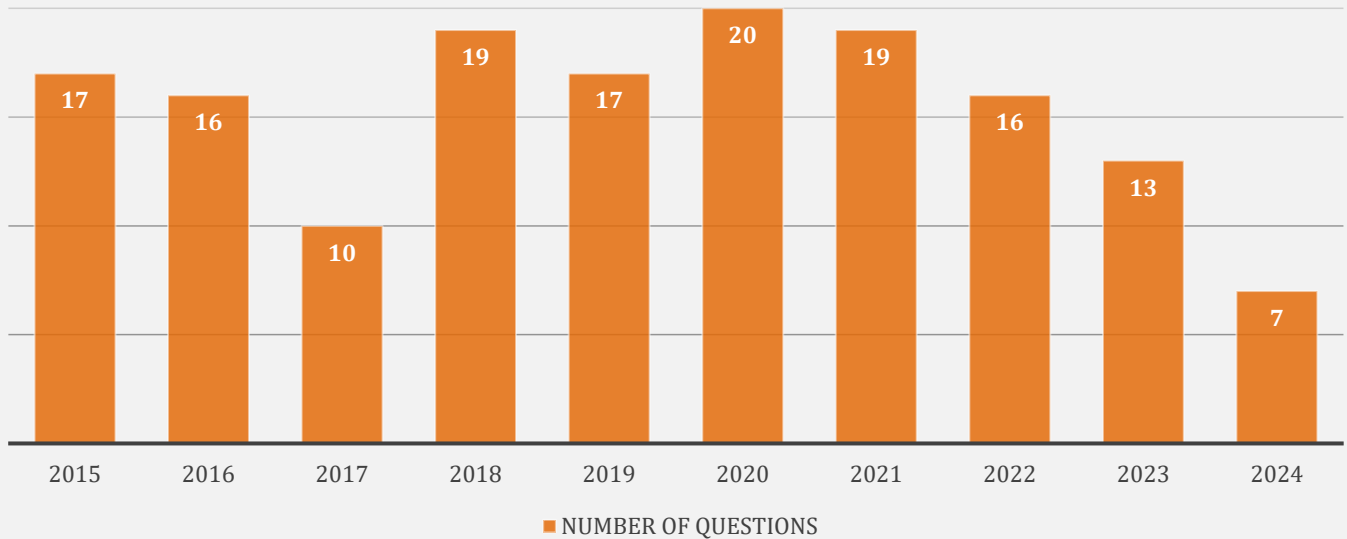
Preparing for prelims is a test of consistency and smart work. While history may seem dense, a focused approach can make all the difference. Revise often, practice questions, and keep your mind open to connecting dots across topics. Every effort you make today will bring you closer to your dream tomorrow.

We are proud to be a part of your journey and are committed to providing the guidance and support you need to succeed. Let's navigate the stories of the past together, with a sharp focus on acing the prelims.

With warm regards and best wishes,

**Mohan Kumar S**  
**Founder, IASbaba**

## HISTORY & ART & CULTURE



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**PYQs from the Topics**

**1. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs?**

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Rakhigarhi
- (d) Ropar

**2. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?**

- (a) Chanhudaro
- (b) Kot Diji
- (c) Sohgaura
- (d) Desalpur

**3. Which of the following characterizes/characterises the people of Indus Civilization?**

- 1. They possessed great palaces and temples.
- 2. They worshipped both male and female deities.
- 3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

**Select the correct statement/ statements using the codes given below.**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the statements given above is correct

## Introduction:

Human evolution is a complex process spanning billions of years. Life on Earth began approximately 3.7 billion years ago, with the genus Australopithecus emerging 4.4 to 1.4 million years ago as early human ancestors.

- ▶ **Homo habilis**, considered the earliest member of the Homo genus, appeared in sub-Saharan Africa around 2-1.5 million years ago.
- ▶ **Homo erectus**, discovered on Java Island in 1891, is often viewed as the "missing link" between humans and apes.
- ▶ **Neanderthals** (Homo sapiens neanderthalensis) were first identified in Germany in 1856.
- ▶ **Modern humans, Homo sapiens**, evolved in Africa about 315,000 years ago, with the oldest fossils of Homo sapiens found at Cro-Magnon in France, dating back 100,000-125,000 years.
  - In India, the earliest human evidence, Homo erectus **narmadensis**, was discovered in the Narmada Valley, Madhya Pradesh.

## Pre-historic Period or Stone Age

The Pre-historic Period or Stone Age in Ancient India is characterized by the creation and use of stone tools. This period spans from the appearance of the first hominids on Earth to the emergence of Homo sapiens. Historians have divided the history of Ancient India into three main categories:

- ▶ Pre-historic period (Stone Age)
- ▶ Proto-historic period
- ▶ Historical period

The Stone Age represents a progressive stage in the evolution of human capacities to handle materials and produce tools.

- ▶ **Christian Jurgensen Thomson** developed the archaeological system based on the Stone Age in 1820.

**The Pre-history of the Stone Age is further divided into three broad divisions:**

### Palaeolithic Age: Hunters and Food Gatherers (Up to 10,000 BC)

**Archaeologist John Lubbock** introduced the term "Palaeolithic" in 1865, defining a prehistoric era marked by the emergence of the first stone tools made of Quartzite.

- ▶ People from this period are also known as **Quartzite Men**.
- ▶ The Palaeolithic age unfolded during the **Pleistocene period**, commonly referred to as the **Ice Age**.

**The Palaeolithic age is conventionally categorized into three periods:**

- ▶ Lower Palaeolithic
- ▶ Middle Palaeolithic
- ▶ Upper Palaeolithic

These periods are distinguished by the nature of stone tools created by humans and climatic changes. During this time, people did not know about pottery, agriculture, or the use of metals.

### Prominent Archaeologists in Pre-Historical Studies in India

- ▶ Two notable British archaeologists significantly contributed to the discoveries and identification of pre-historical studies in India:
  - **Sir Alexander Cunningham**: A British historian and archaeologist, he became the first director of the Archaeological Survey of India established in AD 1861.
- ▶ **Robert Bruce Foote**: A British geologist and archaeologist, often regarded as the Father of Indian Pre-history. He was the first to discover Palaeolithic tools in India, with the Pallavaram Hand Axe being a crucial find.

### The Lower Palaeolithic Age (Up to 100,000 BC)

This is the earliest sub-division of the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age. Key features of this phase include:

- Tools such as hand axes, cleavers, choppers, and chopping tools
- People primarily engaged in foraging, hunting, and fishing for sustenance
- No burials were discovered during this phase
- Shelters were constructed using tree branches, leaves, and stones

#### Lower Palaeolithic Age Sites:

Sites	Area
Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
Bhimbetka, Jogdaha	Madhya Pradesh
Bagor, Budha Pushkar	Rajasthan
Patne, Nandipalle	Maharashtra
Renugunta, Kurnool Caves	Andhra Pradesh
Singhbhum	Jharkhand
Sohan Valley	West Punjab (Pakistan)

### The Middle Palaeolithic Age (100,000-40,000 BC)

The tools of this age are based upon flakes and crude pebble industry. Key features include:

- Dominant tool types are blades, points, and borers
- Hunting, food gathering, and fishing are the main occupations
- The Belan Valley (Uttar Pradesh) is rich in stone tools and animal fossils including cattle and deer

- These remains relate to both the Lower and Middle Stone Ages

#### Middle Palaeolithic Age Sites:

Sites	States
Nevada	Maharashtra
Bhimbetka, Narmada Valley	Madhya Pradesh
Bagor, Karmali Valley, Didwana	Rajasthan
Singhbhum	Jharkhand

### The Upper Palaeolithic Age (40,000-10,000 BC)

The Upper Palaeolithic Age is distinguished by:

- Presence of burins, scrapers, and a developed flint industry
- Emergence of modern man (Homo sapiens)
- Remnants of animals such as goats, sheep, and cattle in the Belan Valley of Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh
- Climate shift towards warmth and reduced humidity (last phase of the Ice Age)
- Human habitation sites, including caves and rock shelters, uncovered at Bhimbetka

#### **Bhimbetka Rock Shelter**

► Bhimbetka Rock Shelter, located in Madhya Pradesh, is a significant archaeological site renowned for:

- Being one of the largest prehistoric complexes in India
- Containing the country's oldest-known rock art
- Designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2003
- Offering a unique glimpse into the evolution of human settlement and culture

- Showing transition from hunter-gatherer lifestyles to agriculture
- Displaying prehistoric artistic forms

#### Upper Palaeolithic Age Sites:

Sites	Area
Kurnool Caves	Andhra Pradesh
Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
Nevasa	Maharashtra
Sabarmati Valley	Gujarat
Singrauli	Madhya Pradesh
Kichler	Andhra Pradesh
Hunsgi Valley	Karnataka
Attirampakkam	Tamil Nadu
Pahalgam	Kashmir Valley
Hathnora, Narmada Valley, Bhimbetka, Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
Sites	Area
Kortallayar Valley	Tamil Nadu

#### Mesolithic Age: Hunters and Herders (9000-4000 BC)

The Mesolithic Age served as a transitional phase between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic Ages, belonging to the Holocene era. This period was technologically characterized by microliths - small pointed and sharp stone tools - spanning from around 35,000 to 3,000 years ago.

#### Key Features of the Mesolithic Age

- ▶ Microliths, typically made of flint or chert, were about a centimetre in length and half a centimetre wide
- ▶ These tools were primarily utilized for hunting smaller animals and birds
- ▶ The Ghagara rock shelter in the Vindhya region stands out as a Mesolithic site with the highest number of human skeletons
- ▶ Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Bagor in Rajasthan provide early evidence of animal domestication, including cows, horses, and other poultry and farm animals
- ▶ Mesolithic art and paintings are abundant in sites like Bhimbetka, Adamgarh, Pratapgarh, and Mirzapur
- ▶ Damdama in the Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh gained fame for containing three human skeletons in a single grave.

#### Discoveries and Developments

- ▶ Indian archaeologist VS Wakankar was the first Indian to visit the Bhimbetka caves in 1957
- ▶ The discovery of microliths in India dates back to 1867 when Carlyle found them in Vindhyan Rock Shelters
- ▶ Initially, the primary activities of people in this era included hunting, fishing, and food gathering
- ▶ Later, they shifted to domesticating animals and cultivating plants, laying the foundation for agriculture
- ▶ Mesolithic people wore clothes made from animal skin and started using bows and arrows for hunting
- ▶ They were art lovers and drew paintings on stone depicting wild animals, hunting scenes, food collections, etc.
- ▶ This period witnessed the first human colonization of the Ganga plains



### First Pottery in the Mesolithic Phase

- ▶ Researchers believe that the first pottery started in Sanganakallu (Karnataka) during the Mesolithic phase:
- ▶ The pottery was usually dull brown or black and hand-made out of coarse clay
- ▶ Pottery was created to help people of that period in home settings or in the fields to assist with farming

### Mesolithic Age Sites

Sites	Area
Langhnaj	Gujarat
Tilwara, Bagor	Rajasthan
Patne, Hatkhamba	Maharashtra
Damdama, Chopani Mando	Uttar Pradesh
Pachmarhi, Bhimbetka, Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh
Sanganakallu	Karnataka
Kuchai	Odisha

The Mesolithic Age marked a significant transition in human development, with advancements in tool-making, the beginnings of agriculture and animal domestication, and the emergence of artistic expression. This period laid the groundwork for the more complex societies that would develop in the Neolithic Age.

### The Neolithic Age

The Neolithic Age, also known as the New Stone Age, marked the final phase of the Stone Age. This period, coined by Sir John Lubbock in 1865, corresponds to the Holocene age and is characterized by significant advancements in human civilization.

### Key Features of the Neolithic Age

- Use of polished stone tools
- Inception of crop cultivation
- Invention of the wheel
- Discovery of fire
- Domestication of animals
- Development of pottery
- Emergence of settled communities

### Agriculture and Animal Domestication

- ▶ Cultivation of crops such as ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, and barley
- ▶ Domestication of cattle, sheep, and goats
- ▶ People of this era earned the label of "food producers"
- ▶ Surplus food production played a pivotal role in the development of early urban cultures

### Housing and Settlements

- ▶ Construction of rectangular or circular houses using mud and reed
- ▶ Mehrgarh in Balochistan (Pakistan), dating back to 7000 BC, is the oldest Neolithic site in the Indian subcontinent
- ▶ Mehrgarh is unique, with cultural remnants spanning from the Stone Age to the Harappan Civilization

### Pottery and Technology

- ▶ Introduction of pottery due to the need for food storage, cooking, and water management
- ▶ Pottery categorized as grey ware, black-furnished ware, and mat-impressed ware
- ▶ Widespread use of fire-baked earthen pots.

### Social Organization

- ▶ Neolithic communities shared common property rights
- ▶ Led to settled lives and the formation of early villages

### Important Neolithic Sites and Their Features

Site	Location	Notable Features
Burzahom	Kashmir	Earliest Neolithic homes as pits dug below ground level; plastered mud sides; domestic dogs buried with masters
Gufkral	Kashmir	Pit dwellings, stone tools, house graveyards
Chirand	Bihar	Neolithic tools and weapons crafted from bones
Kashmir (general)	Kashmir	Only site devoid of microliths; significant bone implements
Mehrgarh	Balochistan	Oldest Neolithic site in the Indian subcontinent; cultural continuity from Stone Age to Harappan Civilization

### Additional Neolithic Sites

Sites	Area
Daojali Hading	Assam
Chopani Mando, Mahagarha	Uttar Pradesh
Chechar	Bihar
Tekkalakota, Sanganakallu, Narsipur, Hallur, Kupgal, Kodekal, Brahmagiri	Karnataka
Nagarjunakonda, Piklihal, Utnur	Andhra Pradesh
Paiyampalli	Tamil Nadu

### Additional Information

- ▶ The Neolithic Age in India spanned from approximately 7000 BC to 1000 BC
- ▶ Neolithic tools included polished stone axes, adzes, chisels, and sickles
- ▶ The emergence of specialized crafts like pottery and weaving began during this period
- ▶ Evidence of early trade networks has been found at Neolithic sites
- ▶ Some Neolithic communities practiced megalithic burial traditions
- ▶ The transition from hunting-gathering to agriculture is known as the Neolithic Revolution
- ▶ Climate change at the end of the Pleistocene era may have contributed to the adoption of agriculture
- ▶ The Neolithic period saw the beginnings of social stratification and the emergence of leadership roles
- ▶ Some Neolithic sites show evidence of early religious or ritual practices
- ▶ The development of agriculture led to significant population growth, known as the Neolithic Demographic Transition.

## Megalithic Culture

The Megalithic Culture in India represents a significant phase in the subcontinent's prehistory, spanning from around 1000 BC to 100 AD, with its peak popularity between 600 BC and 100 AD.

- ▶ This culture was predominantly concentrated in South India, particularly in regions south of the **Vindhyas, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.**

## Chronology and Distribution

- ▶ The earliest evidence of megalithic culture dates back to around 1200 BC in North Karnataka.
- ▶ The culture overlapped with the end phases of Neolithic-Chalcolithic cultures and extended into the early historical period.
- ▶ While primarily concentrated in South India, megalithic sites have been found across the country, including rare instances in North India like Burzahom in Kashmir.

## Megalithic Structures

- ▶ Megalithic monuments vary in type and size:
  - **Menhirs:** Single upright stones, ranging from 60 cm to over 3m in height.
  - **Boulder Circles:** Circular arrangements of rocks or boulders marking burial spots, with diameters sometimes exceeding 20m.
  - **Cairns:** Heaps of stones, often associated with boulder circles.
  - **Dolmens:** Table-like structures made of large stone slabs, sometimes exceeding 2m in height.

## Cultural Practices and Beliefs

- ▶ **Burial Customs:** Elaborate methods of disposing of the dead became a

characteristic feature, especially in South India.

- ▶ **Grave Goods:** Burials often included various artifacts, suggesting a belief in afterlife and the need to provide for the deceased.
- ▶ **Animism:** Evidenced by the presence of animal bones and terracotta figurines in graves.
- ▶ **Astronomy:** Some megalithic structures show alignment with celestial bodies, indicating astronomical knowledge.

## Material Culture

- ▶ **Iron Technology:** Widespread use of iron tools and weapons, marking the beginning of the Iron Age in South India.
- ▶ **Pottery:** Distinctive types include Black and Red Ware, often associated with megalithic sites.
- ▶ **Ornaments:** Made from various materials including metals, stones, shells, and bones.
- ▶ **Paintings:** Rock art depicting hunting scenes, battles, and rituals.

## Social Structure and Economy

- ▶ Evidence suggests the existence of specialized groups within communities, including craftsmen, warriors, and farmers.
- ▶ Agriculture was a primary economic activity, supplemented by animal husbandry and hunting.
- ▶ The construction of large megalithic structures implies social organization and the ability to mobilize collective labour.

## Significance and Legacy

- ▶ The megalithic culture represents a crucial transition from the Neolithic to the Iron Age in India.
- ▶ It provides insights into early religious beliefs, social structures, and technological advancements.

- ▶ Some practices and beliefs associated with megalithic culture have survived in modified forms in later periods and even in contemporary tribal societies.

### Chalcolithic Age

The Chalcolithic Age in India, spanning from approximately 2500 BC to 700 BC, was a crucial period of transition and development in the subcontinent.

This era saw significant advancements in various aspects of human civilization, including technology, agriculture, social organization, and cultural practices.

### Technological Advancements

#### ▶ Metallurgy

- The introduction of copper marked a significant leap in tool-making technology.
- Copper was initially used alongside stone tools, gradually replacing them for many purposes.
- The ability to smelt and work with copper led to the creation of more efficient tools and weapons, such as axes, chisels, and spearheads.
- Some sites have yielded evidence of early experiments with bronze, indicating the beginnings of alloying technology.

#### ▶ Pottery

- The use of the potter's wheel became widespread, allowing for mass production of standardized vessels.
- ▶ Besides the Black-and-red ware, other distinctive pottery types emerged, such as:
  - Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab
  - Lustrous Red Ware in parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan

- ▶ Painted designs on pottery became more elaborate, often depicting geometric patterns, animals, and occasionally human figures.

### Agricultural Developments

- ▶ The introduction of plough agriculture led to increased food production and surplus.
- ▶ Irrigation techniques began to develop, with evidence of small-scale water management systems at some sites.
- ▶ The cultivation of new crops like lentils, peas, and oilseeds diversified the agricultural output.
- ▶ The use of manure for soil enrichment became more widespread, improving crop yields.

### Social and Economic Changes

- ▶ The emergence of craft specialization led to the rise of distinct occupational groups.
- ▶ Evidence of long-distance trade networks suggests the beginnings of a more complex economic system.
- ▶ Social stratification became more pronounced, as indicated by differences in burial practices and house sizes within settlements.
- ▶ The appearance of fortified settlements in some regions points to the emergence of social hierarchies and possibly inter-group conflicts.

### Ahar Culture (1950-1700 BC)

- ▶ Located in southeastern Rajasthan, particularly along the Ahar and Banas rivers
- ▶ Major sites include Gilund, Balathal, and Ojijana
- ▶ Distinctive ceramic tradition featuring Black-and-red ware and Tan ware
- ▶ Over 90 sites of this culture have been identified

- ▶ Evidence of copper exploitation from the Aravalli Range
- ▶ Subsistence based on wheat, barley, and animal husbandry

## Kayatha Culture (2450-2000 BC)

- ▶ Centred around the Chambal River in Madhya Pradesh
- ▶ Named after the type site Kayatha in Ujjain district
- ▶ Notable for its specialized blade industry and evidence of horse remains
- ▶ Characteristic pottery includes chocolate slipped ware (Kayatha ware)
- ▶ Mixed economy based on farming, stock raising, and hunting-fishing
- ▶ Houses were small huts with well-rammed floors and wattle and daub walls

## Malwa Culture (1700-1400 BC)

- ▶ Predominant chalcolithic culture of central India, particularly around the Narmada River
- ▶ First identified in excavations at Maheshwar
- ▶ Characterized by buff or cream slipped pottery with dark brown painted patterns
- ▶ Subsistence based on farming of wheat, barley, rice, and various legumes
- ▶ Evidence of religious beliefs from terracotta figurines of female and bull forms
- ▶ Decline around 1400 BC, possibly due to climatic changes.

## Jorwe Culture (1500-900 BC)

- ▶ Most important chalcolithic culture of Maharashtra, extending across most of the state
- ▶ Named after the type site of Jorwe in Ahmednagar district
- ▶ Known for well-developed copper technology and painted Black-and-red ceramics
- ▶ Large centres found at Prakash, Daimabad, and Inamgaon

- ▶ Houses evolved from rectangular in early phase to circular in later phase
- ▶ Subsistence based on dry-farming, stock-raising, and hunting-fishing
- ▶ Distinctive burial practices, including child burials in urns

## Prabhas Culture (2000-1600 BC)

- ▶ Located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat
- ▶ Known for its distinctive pottery with reserved **slip decoration**
- ▶ Evidence of maritime activities and possible trade connections with Mesopotamia

## Savalda Culture (2300-2000 BC)

- ▶ Found in the Tapi basin of Maharashtra
- ▶ Characterized by thick, sturdy pottery with ochre surface and painted designs
- ▶ Shows evidence of early copper working and bead manufacturing

## Rangpur Culture (1700-1400 BC)

- ▶ Centred in Gujarat, particularly around the Bhadar River
- ▶ Notable for its links with the Harappan civilization, especially in pottery styles
- ▶ Evidence of well-planned settlements and advanced water management systems

## Navdatoli Culture (1700-1400 BC)

- ▶ Located in the Narmada Valley of Madhya Pradesh
- ▶ Known for its distinctive painted pottery and evidence of extensive trade networks
- ▶ Shows signs of cultural continuity from earlier Neolithic traditions

## Cultural and Religious Aspects

- ▶ The presence of mother goddess figurines across various Chalcolithic cultures suggests the prevalence of fertility cults.
- ▶ Animal worship, particularly of bulls, is evidenced by numerous terracotta animal figurines.
- ▶ The practice of burying the dead within settlements, often with grave goods, indicates evolving beliefs about the afterlife.
- ▶ Some sites have yielded evidence of ritual structures, possibly early forms of temples or communal worship areas.

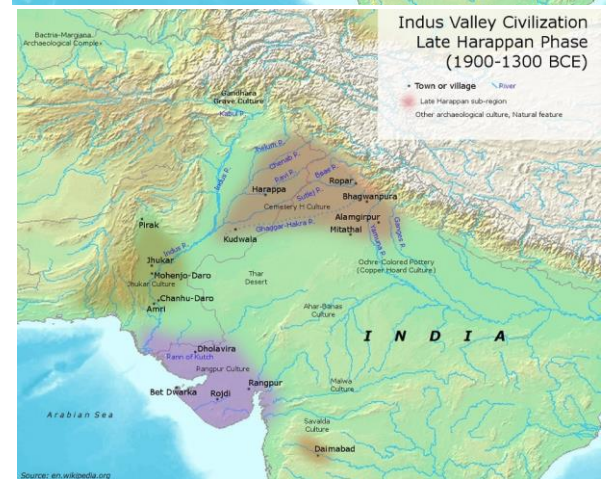
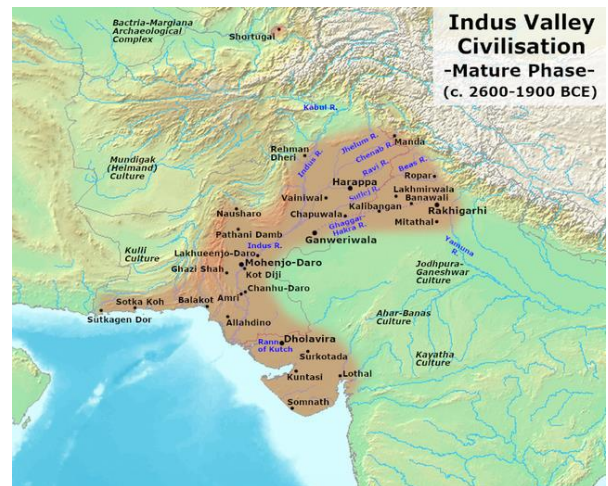
## Decline and Legacy

- ▶ The decline of Chalcolithic cultures was not uniform across India. While some regions transitioned into the Iron Age around 1000 BC, others continued Chalcolithic traditions well into the first millennium BC. Factors contributing to the decline may have included:
  - Climate change leading to altered rainfall patterns and agricultural stress
  - Overexploitation of local resources
  - Social upheavals possibly caused by migrations or invasions
  - The gradual adoption of iron technology, which eventually replaced copper

The legacy of the Chalcolithic Age in India is significant. It laid the groundwork for more complex social organizations, established long-distance trade networks, and developed technologies that would be further refined in subsequent periods.

The regional diversity of Chalcolithic cultures also set the stage for the rich cultural mosaic that would characterize later Indian civilization.

## Indus Valley Civilisation



The Indus Valley Civilization, also known as the Harappan Civilization, was a sophisticated ancient society that flourished in South Asia from around 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE.

Spanning parts of modern-day Pakistan and northwest India, this civilization developed along the fertile Indus River plains.

It is renowned for its advanced urban planning, exemplified by the cities of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, which featured well-organized streets, efficient drainage systems, and multi-story brick structures.

The civilization demonstrated remarkable progress in trade, art, and technology, leaving behind a rich archaeological legacy. Despite its undeciphered script, the Indus Valley Civilization remains a crucial subject of study, offering valuable insights into early urban

societies and their complex socio-economic structures.

Its significance in human history is undeniable, representing one of the world's oldest and most intriguing ancient civilizations. The Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), also known as the Harappan Civilization, was the first urban civilization in South Asia.

It flourished during the Bronze Age, alongside other early civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China.

### Key features of IVC:

- ▶ Part of the proto-historic period (before written records)
- ▶ One of the world's earliest "Cradles of Civilization"
- ▶ Demonstrated complex societal organization

**The civilization is typically divided into three phases for study:**

- Early Harappan Phase (3300-2600 BCE)
- Mature Harappan Phase (2600-1900 BCE)
- Late Harappan Phase (1900-1300 BCE)

### Theory of origin

The origin of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) has been a subject of debate among historians. Three main theories have emerged:

- ▶ **Aryan Theory:** Proposed by historians like SR Roy and TR Ramachandran, suggesting IVC was developed by Aryans. This theory is largely refuted due to significant differences between IVC and Vedic culture.
- ▶ **Diffusionist Theory:** Supported by Mortimer Wheeler and DH Gordon, proposing that IVC originated from outside influences, particularly Mesopotamia or Sumeria. However, differences in scripts, town planning, and religious structures challenge this view.

▶ **Indigenous Origin Theory:** Advocated by A. Ghosh and M.R. Mughal, arguing that IVC evolved from settled farming cultures in the region. This theory has gained support from recent genetic studies.

▶ Recent DNA analysis of skeletal remains from Rakhigarhi cemetery provides evidence for an independent origin of IVC.

- The study, published in Cell, shows that the Harappan genome lacks ancestry from Steppe pastoralists or Iranian farmers, challenging previous migration theories.
- This suggests that the IVC likely emerged from indigenous populations, with farming possibly developing independently in the region.
- The findings support the view that the Harappan civilization had a distinct genetic profile, contributing significantly to the ancestry of modern South Asians.

### Features of Harappan Civilization

The Harappan Civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization, flourished between 3300 BCE and 1300 BCE in the northwestern regions of South Asia. Here's a comprehensive overview of its key features:

#### Town Planning and Architecture

The Harappan civilization is renowned for its advanced urban planning and architectural prowess.

##### ▶ **City Layout**

- Cities were meticulously planned and divided into two main parts:

##### ▶ **Citadel (Raised Part):**

- Located on the western side
- Housed rulers and important public buildings

- Fortified with mud-brick walls, massive towers, and gateways
- Elevated on platforms

► **Lower Town:**

- On the eastern side
- Consisted of houses for common citizens
- Contained various workshops, houses, drains, bathing platforms, and well

► **Street Design**

- Streets followed a grid pattern, intersecting at right angles
- Divided the city into rectangular blocks
- Main streets varied from 9 feet to 34 feet wide
- Networks of narrow lanes skilfully divided the cities

**Key Architectural Features**

Feature	Description	Significance
Building Materials	Standardized burnt-bricks (ratio 1:2:4) used across all sites	Indicates centralized weights and measurement systems
Houses	Often two or more stories, with no windows facing the streets	Shows long-term inhabitation and privacy concerns
Drainage System	Advanced system with drains connected to all houses, made of mortar, lime, and gypsum	Demonstrates attention to health and sanitation
Feature	Description	Significance
Wells	Public wells in every street, private wells in many houses	Indicates advanced water management
Roofs	Flat and made of wood	Shows adaptation to local climate

**Public Structures**

- Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro (39 feet x 23 feet, 8 feet deep)
- Granaries for food storage (e.g., Great Granary at Harappa measuring 169 feet x 135 feet)
- Dockyards, warehouses, and protective walls
- Assembly halls and religious structures in the citadel area.

**Social Structure and Daily Life**

The Harappan society was complex and stratified, with clear divisions between social groups.

**Social Hierarchy**

- At least three distinct social groups:
- Rulers and aristocrats (residing in the citadel)
- Rich merchants and craftsmen
- Poor labourers (living in the lower part of the city)

**Clothing and Food Habits**

- Garments made of cotton and wool
- Diet varied by region:
  - **Sindh and Punjab:** Wheat and barley



- **Rangpur and Surkotda:** Rice and millets
- Fish and molluscs were commonly consumed
- Recent evidence of dairy production at Kotada Bhadli (Gujarat)
- Cultivation of sesamum and mustard

### Animal Husbandry

- ▶ Large-scale animal raising
- ▶ **Domesticated animals:** Oxen, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs
  - Humped bulls were favoured
  - Evidence of dogs, cats, asses, and camels being bred
- ▶ Controversial evidence of horse domestication

### Religion and Burial Practices

Harappan religion was characterized by nature worship and diverse burial practices.

#### ▶ Religious Beliefs

- Nature worship: Trees (e.g., peepal) and animals (especially bull)
- Worship of Mother Goddess and Pasupati Yogi (Lord of Cattle)
- Use of phallic symbols
- Possible ritual bathing practices (evidenced by the Great Bath)

#### ▶ Burial Practices

- **Three main types:**
  - Complete burial
  - Fractional burial (burial of bones after exposure to elements)
  - Cremation followed by burial of ashes

#### ▶ **Characteristics:**

- Bodies placed in North-South direction
- Graves included food, pottery, and jewellery

- Burials within settlements

### Economy and Trade

The Harappan economy was diverse and sophisticated, based on agriculture, manufacturing, and extensive trade networks.

### Agriculture

- ▶ **Main crops:** Wheat, barley, rice (in specific regions), dates, mustard, cotton
  - **Advanced irrigation techniques:** Wooden ploughshare, well irrigation, dams, and canals
  - Evidence of ploughed fields at Kalibangan (Rajasthan)
  - Cotton cultivation (earliest known)

### Manufacturing

Craft	Details
<b>Terracotta</b>	Figurines, bangles, seals
<b>Metallurgy</b>	Copper, bronze, silver, gold (no iron)
<b>Bead-making</b>	Centres at Chanhudaro and Lothal
<b>Jewellery</b>	Gold, silver, semi-precious stones
<b>Pottery</b>	Red Ware painted with black designs, well-fired
<b>Faience</b>	Artificially produced material for beads and bangles

### Trade

- ▶ Extensive network including Mesopotamia, Central Asia, Persia, Afghanistan
- ▶ Barter system used
  - **Export items:** Teak, amazonite, slate, lead, copper
  - **Import items:** Jade, turquoise, lapis lazuli, gold, silver, tin, steatite
- ▶ Evidence of maritime trade at Lothal's dockyard

### Script and Language

- ▶ Indus script: Pictographic and logo-syllabic
- ▶ Over 400 distinct symbols
- ▶ Written right to left, sometimes boustrophedon (alternating direction in successive lines)
- ▶ Still undeciphered
- ▶ Found on seals, pottery, and other artifacts

### Technology and Crafts

- ▶ Advanced system of weights and measures
  - Binary system: 1, 2, 8, 16, 32, 64, 160, 320, 640, 1600, 3200
  - Weights made of chert, limestone, and steatite
  - Length based on foot (37.6 cm) and cubit
- ▶ Seal carving and pottery making
- ▶ Boat building and wheeled transport (bullock carts)
- ▶ Advanced metallurgy and alloy production

### Art and Culture

- ▶ Terracotta figurines (more female than male)
- ▶ Stone and bronze sculptures
- ▶ Painted pottery (Red and Black ware)
- ▶ Famous artifacts:
  - Dancing Girl statue from Mohenjo-daro (bronze)

- Pashupati Seal (proto-Shiva figure)
- ▶ Bead-making and jewellery crafting

### Seals

Feature	Description
Material	Primarily steatite
Size	0.5 to 2.5 inches
Shape	Generally square or rectangular
Imagery	Animals (hump less bull most common), inscriptions
Use	Marking ownership, trade, possibly as amulets

### Important Sites

- ▶ The Indus Valley Civilization, one of the world's earliest urban civilizations, is known for its remarkable achievements in urban planning, infrastructure, and trade.
  - Several important sites showcase the civilization's ingenuity and complexity:

### Harappa

- ▶ Harappa, located on the bank of the Ravi River in Western Punjab (now Pakistan), was the first discovered site of the Indus Valley Civilization. Key features include:
  - Excavated in the 1920s by archaeologists like Daya Ram Sahni, M.S. Vats, and Mortimer Wheeler
  - Covers an extensive area of about 150 hectares
  - Divided into a citadel mound to the west and a larger lower town to the southeast
  - Citadel fortified with mud-brick walls, massive towers, and gateways
  - Lower town contained workshops for shell, agate, and copper artifacts,

houses, drains, bathing platforms, and wells

- Known as the "city of granaries" with 12 granaries found on site
- Evidence of coffin burials in an H pattern, suggesting possible invasions
- Direct trade links with Mesopotamia, evidenced by seals
- Harappa's granaries suggest either a need for storage due to seasonal or low grain productivity, a large population, or changes in the Indus River's floodplain.

→ The lack of clusters of sites around Harappa remains intriguing to archaeologists.

### Mohenjo-Daro

- ▶ Mohenjo-Daro, meaning "Mound of the Dead," is located in the Larkana district of Sindh, Pakistan. It is the most prominent site of the Harappan Civilization:
  - Discovered by Rakhal Das Banerji and Sir John Marshall
  - Located approximately 5 km from the Indus River
  - Exemplifies advanced town planning with a division between the citadel and the lower city
- ▶ Notable structures include:
  - The Great Bath
  - The Great Granary
  - A large assembly hall
  - A temple-like structure
  - The Pashupati seal
  - A bearded man bust
- ▶ The city shows evidence of continuous building and rebuilding due to frequent flooding, highlighting its resilience and adaptability. The lower city contained numerous shops and workshops engaged in copper, bead, dyeing, pottery, and shell working.

### The Great Bath

- ▶ The Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro is a remarkable example of ancient engineering:
  - Measures 14.5 × 7 meters and 2.4 meters deep
  - Features a north-south oriented staircase descending into the tank
  - Watertight construction using bitumen and finely fitted bricks
  - Sloping floor towards the southwest corner with outlets leading to a significant drain
  - Series of rooms along the eastern edge, including a well for water supply
  - Believed to have been used for religious and ceremonial purposes

### Kalibangan

- ▶ Kalibangan, known as the "city of black bangles," is located on the banks of the dry bed of the Ghaggar River in Rajasthan, India:
  - Shows evidence of both early and mature Harappan phases
  - Divided into a citadel and a lower town, both fortified
- ▶ **Notable findings include:**
  - Large number of fire altars used for ceremonial sacrificial offerings
  - Burial ground southwest of the citadel with circular pits containing grave goods but no human remains
  - Numerous bangles of terracotta, shell, alabaster, steatite, and faience
- ▶ The unique burial practices at Kalibangan, differing from usual Harappan patterns, suggest the burning of corpses and a belief in the afterlife. The abundance of bangles indicates that bangle-making was a crucial craft in the city.

### Kot-Diji

- ▶ Kot-Diji, situated on the left bank of the Indus River opposite Mohenjo-Daro, was excavated by F.A. Khan. This site is crucial for understanding the development of the Indus Civilization:
- ▶ Precursor to the Indus Civilization, showing evidence of pre-Harappan and mature Harappan phases
- ▶ Comprises two main parts: the citadel area on elevated ground and the lower area
- ▶ Surrounded by fortification
- ▶ Structures constructed from unbaked mud bricks and stones
- ▶ Notable findings include:
  - Terracotta bulls
  - Five figurines of the Mother Goddess
  - Large brick-lined ovens
- ▶ Shows signs of extensive burning in both citadel and lower sections

### Lothal

- ▶ Lothal, located between the Sabarmati and Bhogavo rivers in Saurashtra, Gujarat, was excavated by S. R. Rao. This city played a significant role in trade:
  - Laid out in a rectangular plan with a brick wall surrounding the entire city
  - Divided into a citadel and a lower city
- ▶ Notable variations in house sizes:
  - Some residences were large with four to six rooms, bathrooms, a large courtyard, and a veranda
  - Some houses had fire altars with lumps of clay, ash, and terracotta cakes
- ▶ Important trading hub, evidenced by:
  - Discovery of 65 terracotta seals with impressions of reed, woven fibre, matting, and twisted cords on one side and Harappan seals on the other
  - These seals are believed to record sales transactions

- ▶ One of the first Harappan towns to cultivate rice
- ▶ **Distinctive feature:** dockyard on the eastern side, enclosed by burnt brick walls
- ▶ Western embankment features a mud-brick platform, likely used for loading and unloading goods

### Surkotada

- ▶ Surkotada, located in Rapar Taluka of Kutch district, Gujarat, was excavated by J.P. Joshi:
  - Divided into a citadel and a lower town, both fortified with burnt bricks
- ▶ **Notable findings:**
  - A grave associated with a big rock, similar to megalithic burials
  - Horses' bones discovered in the last phase of the site (rare in Harappan civilization)

### Sutkagen-Dor

- ▶ Sutkagen-Dor, located near the Makran coast close to the Pakistan-Iran border, was likely a trading seaport:
  - Landlocked in dry, barren plains
  - Divided into a citadel and a lower town
  - Citadel fortified with a stone wall
  - Construction materials included mud bricks and stone rubble
  - Believed to have been cut off from the sea due to coastal uplift

### Ropar

- ▶ Ropar, situated on the left bank of the Sutlej in Punjab, India, contains remains of both pre-Harappan and Harappan cultures:
  - First location in post-partition India where Harappa civilization remains were excavated
  - Features a fortified citadel and a lower part of the city

- Buildings constructed from stone and mud bricks
- ▶ Notable findings:
  - Faience beads and bangles
  - Triangular terracotta cakes
  - Chart weights
- ▶ Unique burial practice: a dog buried beneath a human burial
- ▶ **Human burials:**
  - Heads typically oriented towards the northwest
  - Accompanied by pots and personal ornaments (faience or shell bangles, beads, copper rings)

### Alamgirpur

- ▶ Alamgirpur, situated on the banks of the Yamuna River in Meerut district, Uttar Pradesh:
  - Also called Parasaram-ka-khera
  - Features a fortified citadel and a lower part of the city
  - Buildings mainly made of burnt bricks

### Amri

- ▶ Amri, located in the Sindh province of Pakistan, south of Mohenjo-Daro:
- ▶ Shows signs of pre-Harappan and mature Harappan phases
- ▶ Lacks the fortifications prominent in other Harappan sites
- ▶ Notable finding: actual remains of rhinoceros excavated

### Chanhu-daro

- ▶ Chanhu-Daro, located approximately 130 km south of Mohenjo-Daro, was first excavated by N. G. Majumdar in March 1931:
- ▶ Lacks fortifications and distinct separation between citadel and lower city
- ▶ Nicknamed "Sheffield of Ancient India" by Earnest Mackay due to tool discoveries

- ▶ Three distinct cultural layers:
  - Jhangar culture (top)
  - Jhukar culture (middle)
  - Harappan culture (bottom)
- ▶ Significant centre for craft activity:
  - Raw materials found: carnelian, agate, amethyst, crystal
  - Finished and unfinished beads and drills for bead and ornament making
  - Identified as home to a bead factory
  - Other crafts: seal making, shell working, production of stone weights

### Banawali

Banawali, situated near the dry bed of the Rangoi River in Haryana, shows evidence of all three phases of the Harappan Civilization:

- Early phase
- Mature phase
- Late phase
- ▶ Key features:
  - Divided into a citadel and a lower town, both fortified and separated by a wall
- ▶ Construction materials:
  - Baked bricks for wells, bathing pavements, and drains
  - Mud bricks for other structures
- ▶ Notable discoveries:
  - House with multiple rooms, kitchen, toilet, and a jar believed to be a wash basin
  - Numerous seals and weights suggesting the house belonged to a merchant
  - Terracotta model of a plough
  - Many stone weights in small denominations
- ▶ Banawali was primarily a trading centre.

### Rakhigarhi

- ▶ Rakhigarhi, the largest Harappan site in India, is situated in the Hissar district of Haryana:
- ▶ Divided into a citadel and a lower town
- ▶ **Citadel features:**
  - Fortified
  - Platforms
  - Brick wall
  - Fire altars
  - Drains of various sizes
- ▶ **Notable discoveries:**
  - Lapidary workshop with unfinished beads and roughly cut stones (carnelian, chalcedony, agate, jasper)
  - Bead polishers and hearth for heating stones
  - Evidence of bone and ivory working (finished and unfinished bone points and engravers)
  - Wooden coffin (peculiar to Harappan burial practices)

### Rangpur

- ▶ Rangpur, located near Vanala on the Saurashtra peninsula in Gujarat, was excavated by Madhav Swarup Vats in 1935:
- ▶ Situated northwest of Lothal, near the Gulf of Khambhat and the Gulf of Kutch
- ▶ Divided into a fortified citadel and a lower town
- ▶ Citadel served as a trading port and a Harappan city
- ▶ Evidence of rice cultivation discovered during excavations

### Dholavira

- ▶ Dholavira, located on Kadir Island in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, is divided into three parts:
  - The citadel

- The 'bailey' area to its west
- The large middle town in the north

#### ▶ **Key features:**

- Substantial evidence of habitation outside the fortification wall
- Construction materials: sandstone and mud bricks

#### ▶ **Citadel features:**

- Large well
- Elaborate drainage system
- Large buildings

#### ▶ **Middle town:** various craft activities (bead making, shell working, pottery making)

#### ▶ **Unique feature:** excellent rainwater harvesting system (not found in other Harappan sites)

- Dams built to channel water into reservoirs

#### ▶ Dholavira was likely an important stopping point on busy maritime trade routes.

### Decline of IVC

#### ▶ The decline of the Harappan civilization, occurring around 1900-1700 BCE, has been attributed to multiple factors by various scholars:

- **Climate Change:** D.P. Agarwal and Sood argue that increased aridity and the drying up of the Ghaggar-Hakra river system led to the civilization's downfall.
- **Ecological Imbalance:** Fairservis suggests that over-exploitation of resources and deforestation disrupted the fragile semi-arid ecosystem.
- **Natural Disasters:** Floods and earthquakes have been considered as potential causes. R.L. Raikes, a hydrologist, supports the flood theory.
- **River Course Changes:** H.T. Lambrick proposes that changes in the Indus River's course led to the abandonment of cities like Mohenjo-daro.

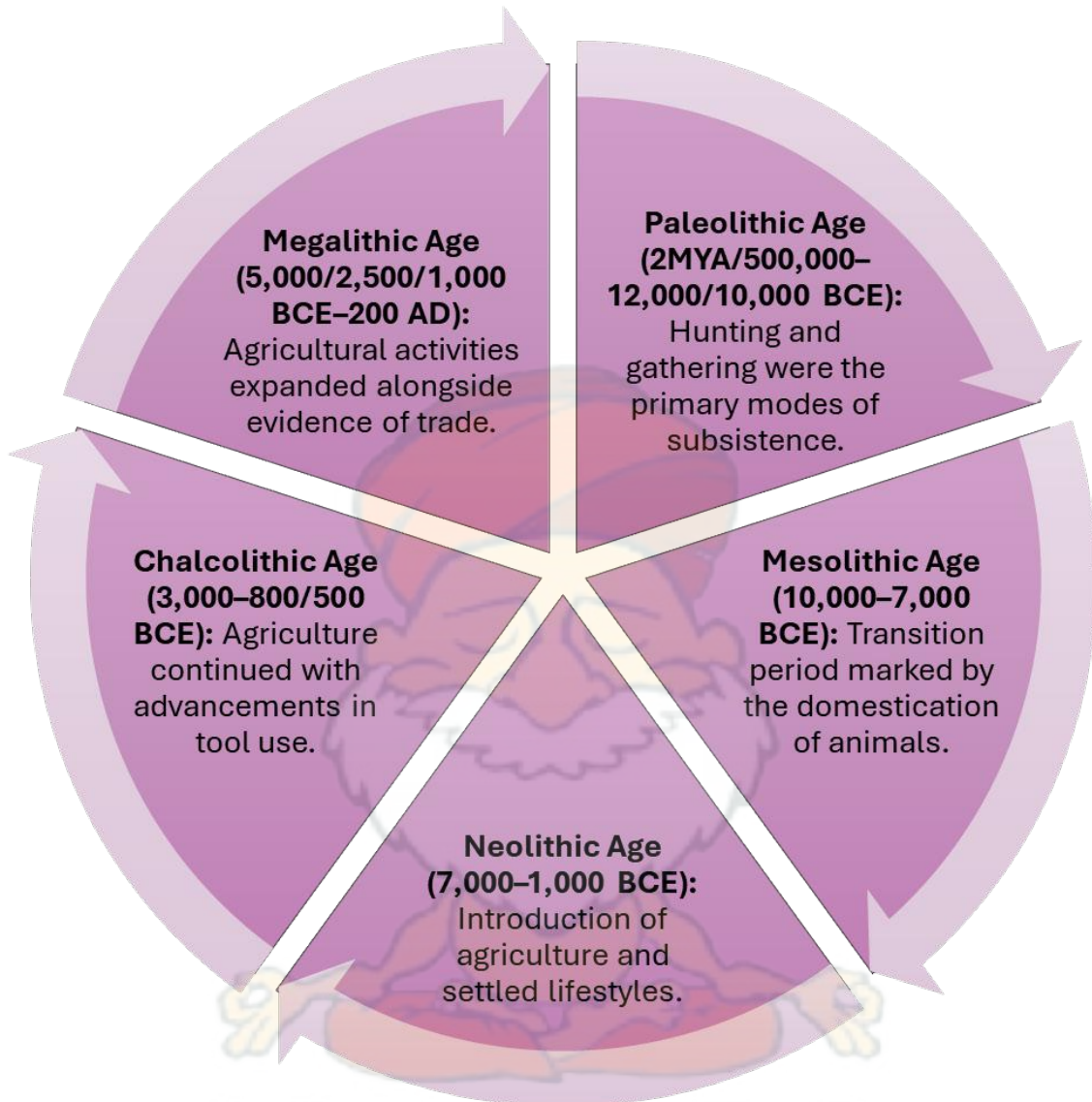
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- **Aryan Invasion:** Initially proposed by Mortimer Wheeler, this theory has been largely discredited.
- **Gradual Decline:** Modern scholarship favours a gradual decline over a sudden collapse, emphasizing the continuity of Harappan cultural elements in later South Asian civilizations.
- **Disease and Violence:** Recent studies, such as one by Dr. Robbins Schug, suggest that climate change, violence, and diseases like leprosy and tuberculosis played a role in the civilization's collapse.

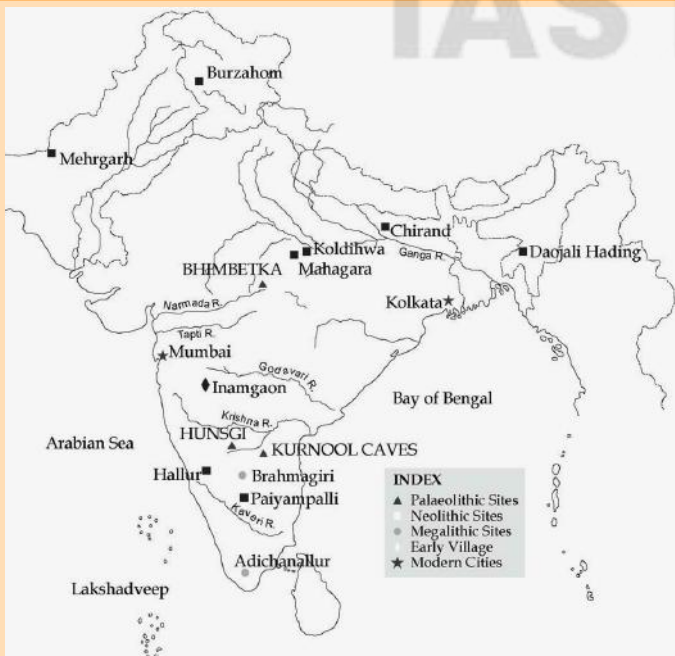
The current consensus points to a complex interplay of environmental, social, and possibly epidemiological factors contributing to the gradual decline of the Harappan civilization, rather than a single catastrophic event.

# Prehistoric Period



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## Sites Map



Bhimbetka, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Madhya Pradesh, showcases rock shelters with stunning prehistoric cave art, some dating back 30,000 years. These vivid depictions of hunting, dancing, and rituals offer a glimpse into the lives of early humans. The site also preserves evidence of continuous human habitation from the Paleolithic to the Mesolithic age.



## Paleolithic Age

- **Tool Types:** Crude stone tools (hand axes, cleavers, scrapers); quartzite material.
- **Economy:** Hunting and gathering; complete reliance on nature.
- **Social Life:** Nomadic groups; safety and hunting cooperation.
- **Key Indian Sites:** Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh – cave paintings), Hunsgi (Karnataka – tool sites), Pallavaram (Tamil Nadu – ancient tools).
- **Special Discoveries:** Fire use for warmth and cooking (Kurnool caves).

## Mesolithic Age



- **Tool Types:** Microliths (small, sharp tools); fishing tools (harpoons, bone points).
- **Economy:** Mixed (hunting, gathering, fishing, early domestication).
- **Social Life:** Semi-sedentary lifestyle; burials with grave goods.
- **Key Indian Sites:** Bagor (Rajasthan – domestication, microliths), Langhnaj (Gujarat – skeletal remains), Adamgarh (Madhya Pradesh – animal domestication).
- **Special Discoveries:** Rock art (Bhimbetka, Adamgarh), food storage, fishing evidence.

## Understanding AD, BC, CE, and BCE

AD (Anno Domini) and BC (Before Christ) are the traditional ways of denoting years based on the birth of Jesus Christ. BC refers to years before Christ's birth, while AD means "in the year of our Lord" in Latin, referring to years after Christ's birth. In modern usage, CE (Common Era) and BCE (Before Common Era) are secular alternatives to AD and BC, respectively, used to avoid religious connotations. The timeline remains the same: BCE counts backward (e.g., 500 BCE), while CE counts forward (e.g., 2024 CE), with the transition point marking the approximate birth year of Jesus.

## Neolithic Age

- **Tool Types:** Polished stone tools (axes, sickles); pottery (painted, handmade).
- **Economy:** Agriculture (wheat, barley, rice); domesticated animals; barter system.
- **Social Life:** Settled villages (mud/stone houses); social differentiation.
- **Key Indian Sites:** Mehrgarh (Baluchistan – farming, domestication), Burzahom (Kashmir – pit dwellings), Chirand (Bihar – rice cultivation).
- **Special Discoveries:** Burial rituals (grave goods, megaliths).

## Chalcolithic Age

- **Tool Types:** Copper tools (axes, chisels); continued use of stone tools.
- **Economy:** Agricultural surplus; trade of tools, pottery, beads.
- **Social Life:** Hierarchy based on trade and wealth; granaries, occupations.
- **Key Indian Sites:** Ahar (Rajasthan – copper tools, pottery), Kayatha (Madhya Pradesh – fortified settlements), Jorwe (Maharashtra – granaries, advanced pottery).
- **Special Discoveries:** Painted pottery; long-distance trade (semi-precious stones).

## Megalithic Age



**Tool Types:** Iron tools (plows, axes, swords); megalithic structures (dolmens, stone circles).

**Economy:** Mixed (agriculture, trade, handicrafts); rice, millet cultivation.

**Social Life:** Larger, organized communities; burials with grave goods (social stratification).

**Key Indian Sites:** Brahmagiri (Karnataka – iron tools), Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu – burial urns), Amravati (Andhra Pradesh – trade links).

**Special Discoveries:** Stone circles; cultural artifacts (terracotta figurines, beads).



## Tool-making techniques

**Stone-on-Stone:** Here, the pebble from which the tool was to be made (also called the core) was held in one hand. Another stone, which was used as a hammer, was held in the other hand. The second stone was used to strike off flakes from the first until the required shape was obtained.

**Pressure Flaking:** Here, the core was placed on a firm surface. The hammer stone was used on a piece of bone or stone that was placed on the core to remove flakes that could be shaped into tools.