

FREE EBOOK



WORLD'S ANCIENT HISTORY



For SSC CGL Exam

SSC Topics Series

ANCIENT HISTORY

History is classified into three parts:-

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Pre- history | :- No written pieces of evidence. |
| Proto-history | :- Written one; but not yet deciphered. |
| history | :- Written and deciphered |

What do you mean by Indian Ancient History ?

India's history and culture is dynamic, spanning back to the beginning of human civilization. It begins with a mysterious culture along the Indus River and in farming communities in the southern lands of India. Available evidence suggests that the use of iron, copper and other metals was widely prevalent in the Indian sub-continent at a fairly early period, which is indicative of the progress that this part of the world had made. By the end of the fourth millennium BC, India emerged as a region of highly developed civilization.

We will discuss Prehistoric period from the exam point of view.

PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD

- Mainly the pre-historic period divided into four:-

- **Palaeolithic period / Old stone age (500000 BCE – 10000BCE)**
- **Mesolithic period / Late stone age (9000 BCE- 4000 BCE)**
- **Neolithic period / New stone age (5000BCE – 1000 BCE)**
- **Chalcolithic period / Metal age / Bronze age (1800 BCE- 1000BCE)**
- **Iron Age (started from 1000BCE -)**

- Palaeolithic period / Old stone age (500000 BCE – 10000BCE)**

-The term palaeolithic was coined by John Lubbock.

-Father of pre-historic archaeology – Robert Bruce (Discovered palaeolithic tools from Attirampakkam (Tamil Nadu)).

| Lower palaeolithic (500000-50000 BCE) | Middle palaeolithic (50000-40000 BCE) | Upper palaeolithic (40000-10000 BCE) |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of Hominidae or great apes. Tools are used in this period are choppers, hand axe, clavers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformation of primitive - Homo erectus or upright man Main tools are blades, points, borers Evidence in use of fire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed as Homosapiens or Human. Tools are blades , chisels |

Features of palaeolithic age:-

- People lived in Rock shelters and caves.

- Obtained food by hunting, gathering edible plants and tubers.
- Palaeolithic man is also called quartzite man (stones made of from hard rock called Quartzite).
- Palaeolithic sites are all around India *except the region of Indus and Ganga basins*.

Major Palaeolithic sites are:- - Thar desert, Rajasthan -Belan valley, UP (remains of animals like cattle, sheep) - **Bhimbedka, Madhya Pradesh (rock paintings)**, Chotanagpur plateau (tools are mainly found).

- **Mesolithic period / Late stone age (9000 BCE- 4000 BCE)**

- Transition stage from Paleolithic to the neolithic age.
- **Microliths** were an important tool introduced in this period.
- Tools have appeared in a more specialized way.
- The domestication of animals (Dog is the first animal domesticated) and primitive agriculture started.

Major Mesolithic sites are:- Bagor, Rajasthan -Langhnaj, Gujarat, -- Sarai Nahar Rai, Chopani Mando, Mahdaha Damdama in Uttar Pradesh, -- **Bhimbetka and Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh (paintings and engravings in rocks)**, Orissa, Kerala, and south of river Krishna, Andhra Pradesh.

- **Neolithic period / New stone age (5000BCE – 1000 BCE)**

- Related with the invention of the **wheel and pottery**.
- Major characteristics are:- Started agriculture (Cultivated crops were **Wheat, barley, Rice, Millets, Lentils**) and settled life.
- Polished tools with fine edge cuttings and developed Mortar and Pestel.

Major Neolithic sites are- Mehargarh, Gufkral and Burzahom in Kashmir; Chirand in Bihar, Mahgara, Chopani Mando, and **Koldihwa in Uttar Pradesh**.

- **Chalcolithic period/Metal age (1800 BCE- 1000BCE)**

- **Copper** was the first metal used by man; This period which copper used with stone is referred to as chalcolithic or stone-copper period.
- Metal age is also called the Bronze age.

Major Chalcolithic sites are:- Harappan sites like **Kalibangan, Rajasthan -- Banawali, Haryana** - others are Malwa region include Daimabad, Kayatha etc.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (2500 BC-1750 BC) (chalcolithic age/Bronze age)

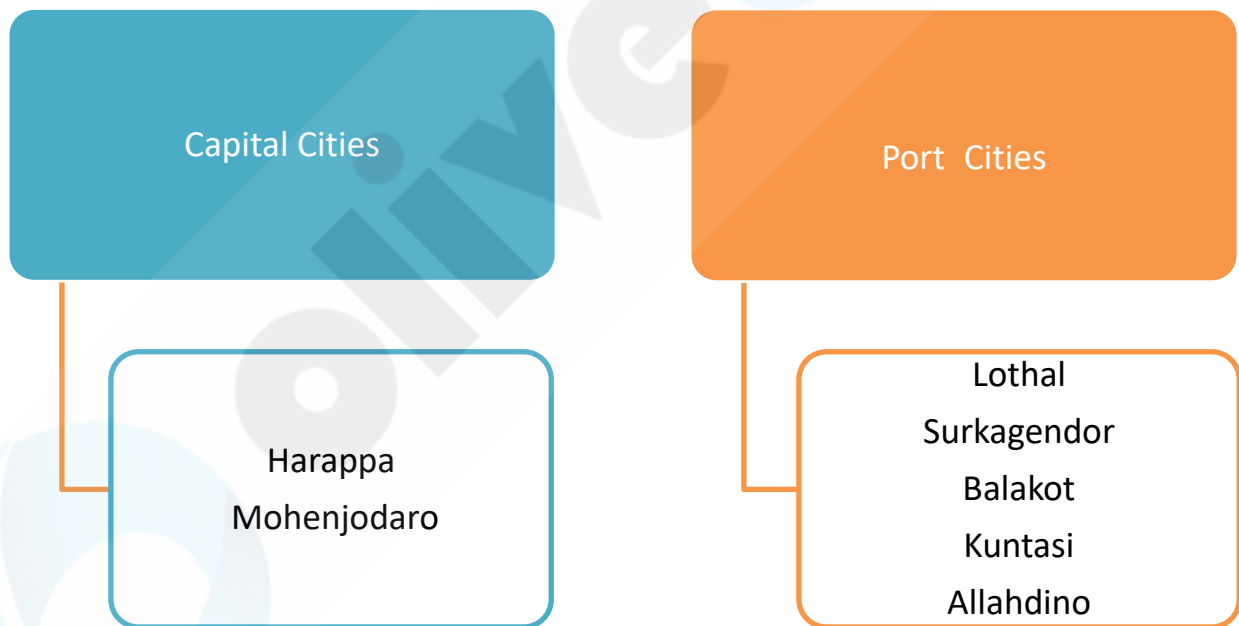
- **Father of Indian Archaeology:- Alexander Cunningham**
- First discovered site is **Harappa** (Therefore, this civilization also got the name- **Harappan civilization**).
- Contemporary civilizations are :- Mesopotamia, Egypt and Chinese civilization.
- The total area of Indus valley Civilization – 12,60,000sq.km (India, Pakistan, Afghanistan).
- **Sir John Marshall** – used the term Indus civilization.

| Sites | Features |
|---|--|
| 1. Harappa (1921- excavated by Daya Ram Sahni) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Rigveda, Harappa mentioned as a battle place called Hariyumpia Situated near the Ravi river, Punjab, Pakistan. - Great granary, Naked Redstone Statue, a symbol of Swastik, Single room barrack. |
| 2. Mohenjodaro (1922- R.D.Banerjee) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohenjodaro means ' Mount of dead' - Located near the Indus, Sindh province, Pakistan. - Great Bath, Multi-pillared assembly hall, Two Bronze swords, Bronze statue of the dancing girl, Statue of beard man, Stamp/Seal. |
| 3. Chanudaro (1931 -N.G. Majumdar) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location - Indus river, Pakistan. - An only site without citadel. - Bead making factory, Evidence of Lipstick. |
| 4. Kalibagan (1953 - A.Ghosh) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location - Ghaggar river, Rajasthan. - Black bangles, ploughed fields, Tiled floor, Human head, Bones of camel, Two burials(Oval and rectangular pits) - 7 fire Altars, Mesopotamian seal. |
| 5.Ropar (1953-Y.D.Sharma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located at Punjab - Strange burial - Dog buried with humans. - Only site divided into three parts;- Giant water resources, Unique water harnessing system, Dam, embankments |
| 6. Lothal (1957 - S.R.Rao) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location - Bhogava river, Gujarat. brick dockyard, Terracotta shi - Got p, Terracotta statue of the horse, Stamp seal, Compass like instruments. - Chess-like game and Rice granary, Double burial. |
| 7.Surkotada (1964 - J.P. Joshi) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location -Gujarat. - Bones of the horse, Pot burials, Oval grave. |
| 8.Dholavira | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location -Gujarat. |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| (1967- J.P.Joshi) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rain Water Harvesting. - A Stadium |
| 9.Banwali (1973- R.S.Bisht) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location – Hissar, Haryana - Terracotta toy Plough - Grains of barley, mustard, Clay figure of the mother goddess |

Other Important Sites:-

- **Mehargarh, Kashmir (Mudbrick houses)**
- Burzahom, Kashmir (The neolithic site had Pit dwelling)
- Rakhigarhi, Haryana
- Rangpur, Gujarat
- Daimabad, Maharashtra
- Ganweriewala, Pakistan
- Kot Diji, Sind, Pakistan
- Suktagendor, Balochistan.
- Shatughai, Afghanistan
- Mundigao, Afghanistan.



Features Of Indus Valley Civilization

- Largest Site of Indus valley civilization:- **Mohenjodaro.**
- Largest Indian site of Indus Valley Civilization:- **Rakhigarhi.**
- Ancient port of Indus Valley Civilization:- **Lothal.**
- This Civilization spread in **Triangular shape.**
- Indus people were the **first to cultivate cotton** in the world.
- Major crops cultivated by Indus people are wheat, barley, Rice (Evidence from Lothal and Rangpur).

- Animals:- Sheep, goat, buffalo, boar, camel etc. **Amari** – an instance of Indian Rhinoceros.
- Social and economic factors:-
 - **Town planning (grid pattern & well drainage system), Urbanization.**
 - **Matriarchal society (Women as the head of the family).**
 - **The main occupation was agriculture.**
 - **Trade based on the barter system. (trade with Mesopotamia (Iraq) or Sumeria, Bahrain etc**
 - **Main goddess –Maitridevi or Shakti**
 - **Lord of Animals – Pashupati/Mahadeva and**
 - **Important Animal- Unicorn (Humped bull).**
 - **Important Bird –Dove and Pigeon.**
 - **Tree worshipped – Peppal.**
- **Iron** is not familiar to Indus people.
- **Meluha**, the name given to Indus region in the Sumerian texts.
- Pictographic Scripts (600 pictographs) and seals (**steatite** used for making seals).
- Writing script was **boustrophedon** (from right to left and left to right-Proto Dravidian).
- Origin of **Swastika** Symbol from Indus civilization.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

1. Which one of the following Indus Valley Civilization sites gives evidence of a stadium? (SSC 2017)
 - (a) Harappa
 - (b) Kalibangan
 - (c) Mohenjodaro
 - (d) Dholavira
2. Harappa is located on the bank of the river:
 - (a) Indus
 - (b) Ravi
 - (c) Beas
 - (d) Sutlej
3. To make tools and weapons, the earliest inhabitants of India used : (SSC Multitasking 2014)
 - (a) clay
 - (b) wood
 - (c) stones
 - (d) bronze

4. In which state is the archaeological site of Surkotada situated? (SSC CPO,2019)
- (a) Karnataka
 - (b) Haryana
 - (c) Rajasthan
 - (d) Gujarat
5. which of the following archaeological sites has evidence of pit dwellings? (SSC CPO,2019)
- (a) Mehrgarh
 - (b) Burzahom
 - (c) Rana ghundai
 - (d) Palavoi
6. Which of the following was a port site of Indus Valley Civilization? (SSC CGL,2019)
- (a) Kalibangan
 - (b) Lothal
 - (c) Rakhigarhi
 - (d) Dholavira
7. First Metal used by man?
- (a) Copper
 - (b) Bronze
 - (c) Iron
 - (d) Tin
8. The People of Indus valley civilization worshipped? (SSC CGL, 2016)
- (a) Vishnu
 - (b) Pashupati
 - (c) Indra
 - (d) Brahma
9. Match the following:- (SSC CGL, 2016)
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| A.Mohenjodaro | 1. Statue of a priest |
| B.Harappa | 2. Port |
| C. Kalibangan | 3. Plough marks |
| D.Lothal | 4. Great Bath |
- (a) A4, B1, C3, D2
 - (b) A3, B2, C4, D1
 - (c) A2, B3, C1, D4
 - (d) A1, B4, C2, D3

10. Remains of horse bones have been found from:

- (a) Mohenjodaro
- (b) Lothal
- (c) Surkotada
- (d) Sutkagendor

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1. | d. Dholavira |
| 2. | b. Ravi |
| 3. | c. Stones |
| 4. | d. Gujarat |
| 5. | b. Burzahom |
| 6. | b. Lothal |
| 7. | a. Copper |
| 8. | b. Pashupathi |
| 9. | a. A4, B1, C3, D2 |
| 10. | c. Surkotada |



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