

Ancient and Medieval History Class 01

14th December, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Ancient and Medieval: (9:18 AM)

- Human beings appeared on planet Earth in the middle of the **Pleistocene Epoch**.
- The maximum development or evolution of human beings happened in the **Holocene Period (recent)**.
- It is difficult to know everything about the early human beings, since, in those times, the literary aspect was not developed.
- Early human history is mainly reconstructed on the basis of stone tools and artifacts used by them.
- In India, the main source of information about early human beings is the stone tools and their rock-cut painting.
- The Stone Age in the Indian context is divided into **three phases**:
- **1) Palaeolithic:**
 - Lower Palaeolithic (5 Lakh BCE to 1 Lakh BCE)
 - Middle Palaeolithic (1 Lakh to 50 BCE)
 - Upper Palaeolithic (50,000 - 10,000 BCE)
- 2) Mesolithic (10,000 -6,000 BCE),
- 3) Neolithic (6,000 BCE to 3000 BCE).
- **Proto History:**
 - Pre Harappan Phase (3000-2600 BCE)
 - Indus Valley Civilization (2600-1500 BCE)
- **The advent of Aryans:**
 - Vedic Age: Early Vedic Period (1500-1000 BC)
 - Later Vedic Period (1000-500 BC)

Sixth Century BCE:

- Rise of 16th Mahajanpada.
- Religious reform movements:
- Buddhism, Jainism, Ajivikas.
- Magadh Mahajanpada: Haryanka Dynasty.

Post Maurya Age: (9:48 AM)**Indigenous:**

- Shunga Dynasty (185-75 BCE):
- Kanva Dynasty (75-1st Century AD)
- Satvahana Dynasty (1st Century AD to 300 AD)

Foreigners:

- Parthians (25 AD-45AD)
- Kushana Dynasty (65 AD)

- **Sangama age:**

- **In South India:**

- Early Chola,
- Chera,
- Pandya

Gupta Empire:

- **(319-550 AD)**
- Chandragupta Ist.
- **Samudragupta.**
- Chandragupta II.
- Kumargupta.
- Skandgupta.

600 AD onwards: (9:59 AM)

- Pushyabhuti Dyanasty.
- (Harshaverdhan 602-647 AD)
- Pratihara Gurjara (North West)
- Pala Dynasty (Eastern India)
- Rashtrakuta (Central India)
- **South India:**
- Chalukya (510 AD)
- Pallava (600 AD)

Medieval India: (10:17 AM)

- **Delhi Sultanate:**
- Foundation in (1206-1526)
- Slave Dynasty (1206-1290)
- Khilji Dynasty (1290-1320)
- Tughlaq (1320-1414),
- Sayyid Dynasty (1414-1451)
- Lodhi Dynasty (1451-1526)
- **Mughal Period:**
- 1526-1540 and 1555-1707
- Zahiruddin Babar (1526-30)
- Humayun (1530-1540 to 1555-1556)
- Akbar (1556-1605)
- Jahangir (1605-27)
- Shah Jahan (1627-58).
- **Viajaynagar Kingdom:**
- (1336-1640)
- **Bahmani Kingdom:**
- (1347-1509)

Stone Age in India: (10:27 AM)

- The stone tools of this period were irregular in shape and big in size.
- The characteristic tools were hand axes, cleavers, and choppers.
- Majority of these tools were found in the area of Narmada Valley and Bhimbetka.
- The first human fossil in India of the Paleolithic age was found in Narmada Valley by **Arun Soankia**.
- It was named **Hathnora Man** in the beginning, but later, it came to be known as **Narmada Man**. (originally it is a fossil of femur bone)

Middle Palaeolithic Phase:

- In this phase, rectangular-shaped tools were created with the **flake method**.
- These tools were thinner and smaller than the previous phase tool.
- The characteristics of tools were **Blades, Borers, and Burines**.
- The important sites from where these tools were **discovered are:**
- 1) Bhimbetka.
- 2) Pallavaram.
- 3) Brahmagiri.
- 4) Sohan Valley.

Upper Palaeolithic Phase: (10:39 AM)

- The tools of this period were created with Flint Technology, and they were mostly triangular in shape.
- The characteristic tools were **Blades and Points**.
- These **tools** have been found in Bhimbedka, Belan Valley, Sohan Valley, Narmada, Kurnool, Sarai Nahraya, Chopani Mando, and Chirand.

Upper Palaeolithic Painting:

- In **Bhimbetka and Narsinghgarh** areas, rock-cut cave paintings were created.
- These were line diagrams created by scratching the rock with the stone tool and filling it with color.
- These paintings are referred to as **Petroglyph**.
- The theme of the painting was mainly based on Hunting, Gathering, and fighting scenes.
- They used naturally obtained colors like **Ochre, Brown, Yellow, Green, and Red**.

Mesolithic Age:

- **(10,000 BCE to 6,000 BCE)**
- It was a transition phase between the **Ice Age and the Warm Phase**.
- Due to increasing temperatures in the environment, human growth was further facilitated, and they started to move in different areas.
- The characteristic tool of this age was **microliths**.
- They were tiny but very sharp.
- Moreover, they created a variety of shapes, in the stone tool, i.e. **Lunate, and Trapezium**.
- Harpoons were also used as tools at this time.
- Microlith not only facilitated the effective killing of animals but also, in the creation of **Mesolithic paintings**.
- The first evidence of the domestication of animals has been found from this age in places like **Aadamgarh in MP** and **Bagohar in Rajasthan**.

Mesolithic Painting: (11:30 AM)

- It was also a **petroglyph painting** created on the walls of the caves.
- In terms of aesthetic value, it was quite better than the previous age.
- They mainly used colors like **Red, Green, Yellow, and Brown.**
- Red was the dominant color, and it was mainly sourced from animal blood.
- In the other colors, egg yolk was added to give an emulsifier effect.
- And these colors increased the longevity of the painting.
- The themes of **Mesolithic Painting** depict the socio-cultural practices of the times.
- A wide variety of themes were painted, **which are as follows:**
- Hunting,
- Food Gathering,
- Fighting,
- Household Chores,
- Animal Riding,
- Group Dance,
- Celebration,
- Sexual Union,
- Phallus Worship,
- Yoni Worship.
- These themes indicate practices like **sexual division of labor**, domestication of animals, development of community sense, the primitive concept of marriage, and the primitive idea of worship.

Neolithic Phase (6000-3000 BCE)

- **Microlith Polishing** started.
- Bow and arrows.
- Wheel Made Pottery.
- Started creating **thatched houses.**
- The microlith of the previous phase continued at this time, but now, it was polished.
- Moreover, human beings also started using **Bow and Arrows.**
- For the first time, the interface of humanity with copper happened in this age.
- Another major development of this phase was the **emergence of agricultural practices** which started in the Mehargarh area of Baluchistan.
- Human beings started to **live in communities** in permanent thatched houses.
- **Wheel-made pottery** was also created at this time, and finally, one of the important achievements of human beings in this age was mastering the art of controlled use of fire.

Topic for the next class: Indus Valley Civilization.