

## Ancient and Medieval History Class 01

**ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY: (5:00 PM) (Prelims + Mains indirectly)**

### Focus Area:

- Political, Economic and Social History.

### Sources of Information:

- Archeological Sources:

- Architecture, Pottery, Seals, Coins, **Inscriptions**, etc.

- Literary Sources:

- Foreign and Indigenous

### India's Past on the basis of sources of the information:

- Pre-History:

- Literary sources are unavailable.

- Archeological sources are there.

- Time Period: 2 Million Years Ago till Circa 2600 BCE.

- Examples: Paleolithic Period, Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic Period.

- Proto-History:**2619**

- Literary sources are there but yet to be deciphered.

- Archeological Sources are there.

- Time Period: 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE.

- Example: **Indus Valley Civilisation**.

- History:

- Literary sources: Available and deciphered.

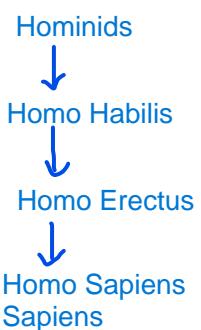
- Archeological Sources: Available

- Example: **Vedic culture** from 1500 BCE onwards.



## PREHISTORY: (5:33 PM)

- 13.6 BYA: The Big Bang Theory (Creation of Universe).
- 4.6 BYA: Creation of the Solar System followed by the Earth.
- 3.5 BYA: Life on Earth (Unicellular Organism).
- 6 MYA (Million Years Ago): Development of **Australopithecus** (Southern Ape) and rise of **Hominids** (Earliest traceable ancestor to modern man).
- 2 MYA: Rise of **Homo Habilis** (Skilful man; associated with development of the earliest tools; Marking the beginning of the Paleolithic Age.)
- Then comes **Homo Erectus** (Evidence of Migration), to Homo Sapiens and finally **Homo Sapiens** Sapiens (Modern Man).



### Classification of Pre-History as per the crust of the Earth:

- Primary.
- Secondary.
- Tertiary.
- **Quaternary**: It is again divided into **Pleistocene** (2 mya to 1200 BCE) and **Holocene** (End of ice age till now).

### Division of Pre-history:

- Paleolithic.
- Mesolithic.
- Neolithic.
- Chalcolithic.

Paleolithic Age	Mesolithic Age	Neolithic Age	Chalcolithic Age
<p>-&gt; Longest period in the evolution of man (2MYA to End of Ice Age)</p> <p>-&gt; Literally means old stone age.</p> <p>-&gt; Divided into 3 phases -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Lower Paleolithic</li> <li>→ Middle Paleolithic</li> <li>→ Upper Paleolithic</li> </ul> <p>Primary Economic Activity: Hunting and Gathering</p> <p>-&gt; Rough stone tools, hand axes, cleavers</p>	<p>-&gt; It literally means Middle Stone Age. Marks the transition between the Paleolithic and Neolithic Age.</p> <p>-&gt; Stone tools: Microliths</p> <p>-&gt; The period was around the end of last ice age.</p> <p>-&gt; Primary Economic Activity: Hunting and Gathering, Domestication of animals but food cultivation was absent.</p> <p>-&gt; Microliths used with wood and bones.</p>	<p>-&gt; Also known as the New Stone Age or Neolithic Revolution.</p> <p>-&gt; Primary Economic Activity: Hunting and Gathering, Domestication of animals, and Food Cultivation(Piklihal does not have food cultivation).</p> <p>-&gt; Polished stone tools.</p>	<p>-&gt; Copper Stone Age.</p> <p>-&gt; Primary Economic Activity: Similar to the Neolithic Age.</p> <p>-&gt; Knowledge of Metals: Copper, Bronze (Towards the later Chalcolithic Cultures), and Iron</p>

## **PALEOLITHIC: (5:50 PM)**

- *The longest period in the evolution of man, roughly 2mya, end of an ice age.*
- *It literally means Old Stone Age.*

### **Divided into 3 phases:**

- *Lower Paleolithic.*
- *Middle Paleolithic.*
- *Upper Paleolithic (Some characteristics may overlap with the Mesolithic period).*
- *Stone tools associated with the period: Large stone tools (Chopper Chopping). Examples: Hand axes, Cleavers, etc.*
- *Economic Activities: Hunting, and Gathering. Domestication of Animals absent. Agriculture absent.*
- *The upper Paleolithic period and Mesolithic period mark the beginning of Cave paintings.*
- *Examples of Important Pre-historic Cave paintings: are Bhimbetka, Lakhudiyal (Uttarakhand), and Pilkhala (Karnataka). (these are natural caves)*
- *The gathering is primarily carried out by women. (Relatively more important economic activity)*
- *Hunting is mainly carried out by male counterparts.*
- *Women enjoyed higher social status in hunting-gathering society as compared to later agrarian society.*

## **MESOLITHIC PERIOD: (6:22 PM)**

- Time Period: Around the end of the last ice age.
- It literally means Middle Stone Age. Marks the transition between the Paleolithic and Neolithic Age.
- Stone tools: **Microliths.** Hunting and Gathering
- Primary Economic Activity: **Domestication of animals** but **food cultivation was absent.**
- Evidence of Cave Painting and Cave dwelling.

### **NEOLITHIC AGE: (6:30 PM)**

- Also known as the New Stone Age or Neolithic Revolution.
- Primary Economic Activity: Hunting and Gathering, Domestication of animals, and Food Cultivation (Piklihal does not have food cultivation).
- Stone tools used: Polished stone tools. → Invention of wheel pottery making
- Evidence of Food cultivation and also evidence of mud houses.
- At the beginning of food cultivation, mud houses were made using Reed wattle, and Daub Reed, with thatched roofs.
- Pottery: Ceramics, CGW (Coarse Grey Ware) associated with some of the Indian Neolithic sites (J&K).
- It marks the beginning of the Sedentary lifestyle.

### **CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD: (6:45 PM)**

- Copper Stone Age.
- Primary Economic Activity: Similar to the Neolithic Age.
- Knowledge of Metals: Copper, Bronze (Towards the later Chalcolithic Cultures), and Iron.

#### **Classification of Chalcolithic Period:**

- 1. Pre-Harappan (Before 2600 BC):  
Ochre
- Identified with OCP (Ochre Color Pottery).
- 2. Parallel to the IVC (2600 BC to 1900 BC).
- Black and Redware.
- 3. Post-Harappan Chalcolithic cultures (1900 BC onwards).
- Different types of Pottery (Such as Painted Grey Ware).
- Within the Chalcolithic Period took place, Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) also known as the Bronze Age or First Urbanisation.

took place and IVC

## **PRE-HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS ACROSS INDIA: (7:14 PM)**

**Paleolithic Age: settlements across India (here India means Indian sub-continent):**

- The Paleolithic Age in India started at a later phase as compared to Africa
- **Bori in Maharashtra** is considered to be the earliest Paleolithic site (So far excavated lower Paleolithic site).
- Some Paleolithic fossils are also found around the **Shivalik Hills**, covering India and Pakistan.
- The region is known as the **Potwar Plateau**.
- Here **2 skulls** remains have been found, named as **Rama Pithecus, and Shiva Pithacus**.
- Early Stone Age sites are found in **Sohan Valley, Kashmir, Thar Desert, Belan Valley, and Narmada Valley**.
- Important Paleolithic sites: **Hathnora, Didwana, Chirki, Nagarjunikonda, Bhimbetka (MP)**.
- The full-fledged modern **Homo Sapiens** is found in **Fa-hien Caves, Srilanka (Skeletal Remains)**.
- It seems the **movement of** the earliest modern humans was from Southern India.
- Due to early coastal migration that happened around 50,000 years ago from Africa.
- Sites such as **Inmagaon, Didwana, and Renigunta (AP)** show evidence of Lower, Middle, and Upper Paleolithic settlements in India.

## **MESOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS ACROSS INDIA: (7:29 PM)**

- The Mesolithic sites are spread across:
  - 1. Rajasthan (**Sambhar Region**).
  - 2. Southern Uttar Pradesh.
  - 3. Central India.
  - 4. Eastern India.
  - 5. South of River Krishna.
  - 6. Adamgarh in MP.
  - 7. **Bhagaur** provides the earliest evidence for the domestication of animals.

## **NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS ACROSS INDIA: (7:31 PM)**

- The earliest evidence of food cultivation in the Indian sub-continent is found from
- **Mehargarh in Baluchistan.** This site is dated back to 7000 BC.
- The other important Neolithic sites across India belong to a much later date. For Example Kachhi Plates of the Indus Valley Region (Circa 5000 BC).
- Neolithic sites of Southern India are not older than 2500 BCE.
- In some parts of Southern India as well as Eastern India, the Neolithic sites are dated as late as 1000 BC.
- **Some Important Neolithic Settlements across India:**
- **1. Burzahom(J&K):**
  - It literally means the place of the **Birch.**
  - It is an important Kashmiri Neolithic site, important for **dwelling Pits, Ceramics, a variety of bones as well as stone tools.**
  - This site is marked by the complete absence of Microliths.
  - The people of Burzahom used **Coarse Grey Ware** type Pottery.
  - The site has domestic dogs, buried with their masters.
  - The site dates back to 2700 BC.
- **2. Gufkral:**
  - It literally means the cave of the **potter.**
  - It is another neolithic site, marked by the practice of agriculture, as well as animal husbandry.  
*standard Kashmiri*
  - On this site, we find the use of polished stone tools, along with numerous bone tools.

- **3. Chirand:**

- It is located near Patna, the capital of Bihar.
- It is located at the junction of important rivers like Ganga, Sone, Gandak, and Ghaggar.
- The site yielded a number of bone tools and is marked by the complete absence of stone tools.
- This site cannot be dated before 2000 BC.

Ghagra.

- **4. Piklihal:**

- It is located in Karnataka and is marked by the absence of Agriculture.
- These Neolithic settlers were cattle herders, who had domesticated animals such as sheep, goats, etc.
- Other important Neolithic sites are Garo Hills, Vindhyas, and the Kaimur Hills, Koldihwa, and Mahagra in Prayagraj dist of UP, Hallur, Tekkalakota in Karnataka, Utnoor in Telangana, and Paiyampalli in TN.

- **Note:**

- Koldihwa in Belan Valley reveals a 3 fold culture sequence of Neolithic, Chalcolithic as well as Iron Age.
- Chopanimando in Belan Valley provides the earliest evidence of Pottery.
- Koldihwa and Mahagra show evidence of circular huts, handmade pottery, and the cultivation of rice.

**TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS: CHALCOLITHIC VARIATIONS AND PROTO-HISTORY.**