

17-03-25

UPSC

Time
17 min

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Q. Discuss The Significance of Menhir Stones in India's archaeological & Cultural heritage. How do they contribute to our understanding of ancient civilizations? 15 Marks/200 words.

Recently Mudumal megalith menhirs in Telangana added to UNESCO's tentative list of cultural sites By World Heritage Center.

What is Menhirs → Menhirs is a prehistoric times structure, a man-made that is standing or an upright stone.

Archaeological Significance

✓ Ancient Architecture

They mark presence of ancient culture
Indicator of human habitation, ritual or ceremonial activities.

✓ Burial Practices:

Many Menhirs are associated with funerary & burial practices, provides insights of ancient beliefs about death.

✓ Astronomical observations

Some menhirs are align with celestial bodies such as sun as the sun moon or stars, indicates Ancient Culture use these Monuments for astronomical observation.

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✓ Symbolic Iconography

→ Some Menhir often feature intricate carving symbol or, which can provide valuable information of ancient Mythologies & worldviews etc.

Cultural Significance

① Ancestral Worship: Honoring ancestors & past generations

② Spiritual Significance: Connection to divine or Supernatural forces become divine Connectors.

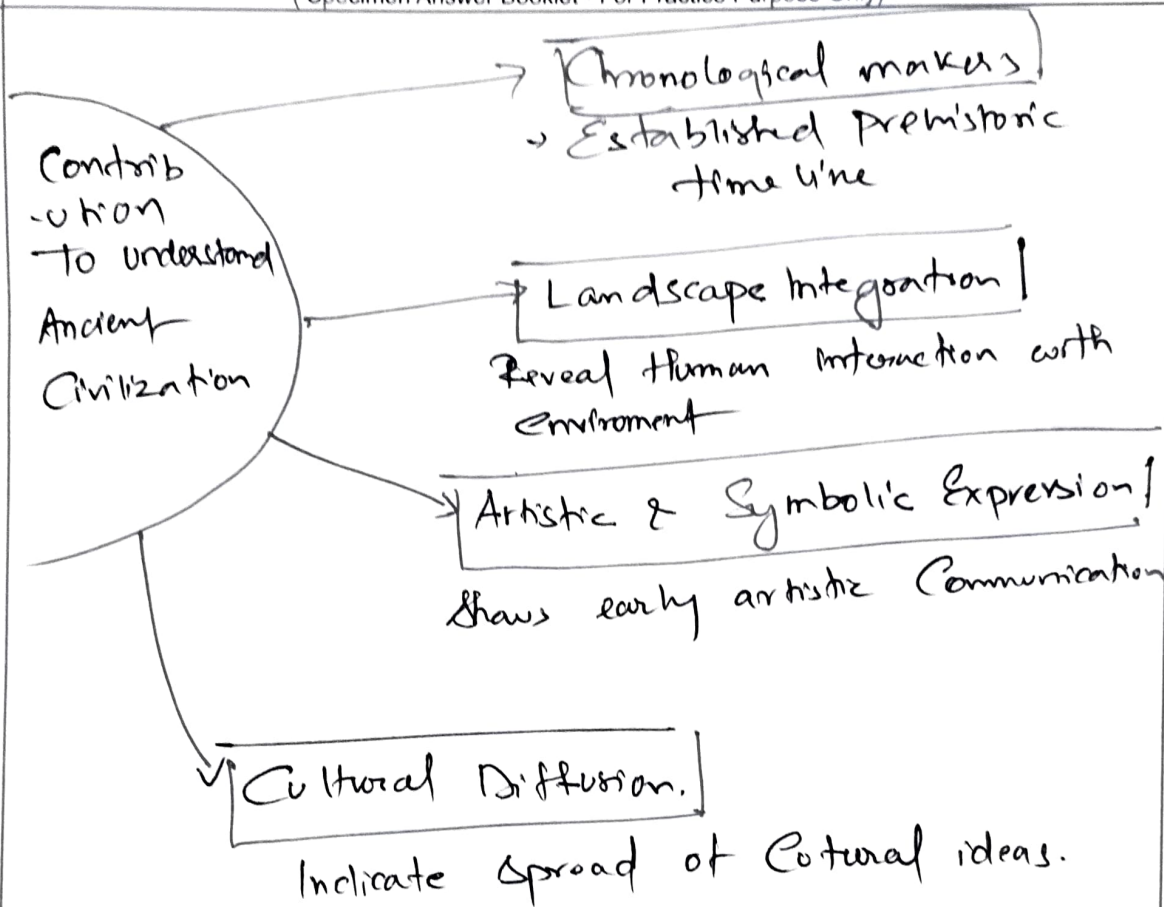
③ Community Identity: Symbolizing Community unity & shared heritage become Community unity.

④ Rituals & Ceremonies - Part of traditional rituals & ceremonies become Sacred Spaces or events.

⑤ Menhir reflect early communities & their including organised social structures - & shared cultural beliefs.

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Menhir in Southern parts of India such as Mundumal are about 3000-4000 year old are India's oldest known Menhirs. Studying these relics reveals India's rich cultural heritage.

