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History CLASS - 2

Date: 29/06/2020

Pre History - The Period that begins with appearance of human being that is about 5 lakh years ago and finishes with invention of writing i.e. about 6000-8000 year ago.

The main source of this period are stone tools, bones etc.

The earliest known writing are clay tablet (Greece) and Tartaria tablet.

It covers the area of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. and some part of metal age.

Proto history

It is the period between Prehistory and History. It is a period during which a culture or civilization has not yet developed writing but other cultures have noted its existence in their own writings. In India it existed till 600 BC.

STONE AGE

1. Palaeolithic Period (5 lakh - 10,000 year ago)

- (i) Lower Palaeolithic (5,00,000 - 50,000 year ago)
- (ii) Middle Palaeolithic (50,000 - 40,000 year ago)
- (iii) Upper Palaeolithic (40,000 - 10,000 year ago)

5 lakh year

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Lower

Date _____

Palaeolithic This period coexist with ice age. Its characteristic hand axe, cleavers; and choppers.

- Stone tools were mainly used for chopping, digging, skinning.
- These tools were relatively blunt and bigger in size found all over India except Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra (because of lack of raw material). The fossile of earliest homo species of Indian subcontinent is found during this period called Narmada man. It is the only authentic record of homospecies fossile from stone age in India.
- main sites around Tapti, Godavari, Bhima and Krishna rivers.
- The raw materials used for making tools were quartzite & chert. In some cases they use quartz and Basalt.
- Some important culture related to Lower Palaeolithic age are Saan culture, Madrasian culture, Nevasan culture, Acheulian culture (first effective colonisation of Indian subcontinent)

Middle Palaeolithic Period

- This Period is also called period of flake industry.
- The principal tools are varieties of blades, points, borers and scrapers.
- The geographical horizons of middle palaeolithic site coincides roughly with that of lower palaeolithic site.

→ In comparison to the lower palaeolithic period the tools in middle palaeolithic become smaller, thinner and lighter. (throwable).

Material

- While quartzite, quartz and Basalt continued to be used in many areas they were replaced or supplemented by fine grained Siliceous rock like zasper,
- Important Sites - Luni Valley, Belan valley, South of TungBhudra River.

Upper Palaeolithic Period

The upper palaeolithic phase coincided with the last phase of the ice age when climate started warming.

This period recorded rich fossils. The most important discovery of this period is Ostrich egg shell at over 40 sites in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra which shows that Ostrich a bird adapted to arid climate was widely distributed in western India during this phase.

There were very important changes in environment (extensive formation of desert in Northwest of India), it had its own impact on distribution and life of humans, South western monsoon became weak.

This period also marks the appearance of homosapien.

The people of Upper palaeolithic age started painting (Bhimbetka painting).

Main Sites → Northern Vindhya, Chota Nagpur Plateau, Odisha, Eastern ghat, western ghat.

Tools - More refined stone were used and man started using prototype of traps, net, grinding slabs.

Material - The raw material during this period were still Basalt and chert.

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Megalithic Period (10,000 - 200 BC)

- It is considered as a transitional phase between Palaeolithic and Neolithic period.
- The main characteristics of this period is domestication of plants and animals and use of stones very smaller in size and better finishing called microlith.
- It is also a period of transition from Pleistocene to Holocene (Recent geographical area).
- It also turn into favourable changes in climate. The climate become warmer and humid and there was expansion of flora and fauna contributed by increased rainfall.
- The main tools were blades, sharp point, crescents, triangles, knives, daggers etc.
- Use of Bow and Arrow for hunting has been shown through painting.
- These new technological elements lead to enhanced efficiency in hunting, collection and

processing of wild plant foods.

Economic life of Mesolithic People

- Initially their economy was based on hunting and food gathering but later domestication of crops and animals. 136
- The earliest evidence of domestication have been provided by Adamgarh in M.P and Bagor in Rajasthan.
- Earliest example of cultivation of plant found near Sambhar lake (Rajasthan).
- The first animal to be domesticated were dog, cattle, sheep and goat and first plant to be cultivated were wheat and barley.
- This new subsistent economy based on food production have a lasting impact on evolution of human society and environment.

Social life

- favourable climate, better rainfall, warm atmosphere, and increased food security lead to reduction in nomadism, to seasonal sedentary settlement and increased population.
- They moved to new areas such as near rivers. first human colonisation of the Ganga plains took place during this period.

Religious life

- The first evidence of intentional disposal of the dead comes from the mesolithic period.
- Burial have been found at Bagor in Rajasthan,

Langhnaj (Gujarat) and Bhimbetka (M.P.).
 ➤ The Dead were buried in graves both in extended and crouched position.

3.

Neolithic Age

Neolithic age is also called neolithic revolution.

In India, it started in 7000 BC.

The neolithic period began around 10,000 BC in northern Syria and in South Asia (Indian subcontinent) neolithic started in 7000 BC and the earliest example is Mehrgarh.

The human settlement in mesolithic area got more sedentary and this was the beginning of establishment of villages. Man now could keep cattle, sheep and goats for economic benefit and protect crop from pests. As the efficiency of agricultural production improved some farmers were able to generate surplus food, so accession of population were freed from the task of food production, so engaged in non-agricultural sectors like production of pottery, baskets, brick making, carpentry etc.

New professions started emerging like washerman, barber, musician etc.

The transition from hunting, gathering to food production is called neolithic revolution.

During this time houses were made mainly from mud bricks. In some of the cases deads were buried inside their

own houses, pottery were decorated with images of birds; animals etc.

Important Sites → At Buszhome & Gufrakal in Kashmir.
dead were buried along with dog, In Belan valley (U.P)

4.

Chalcolithic Period → (5000 BC - 1000 BC)
(Copper + stone)

→ This period is known for abundant use of Copper. The economy of this period is based on agriculture, stock rearing, hunting and fishing.

→ The use of painted pottery is a hallmark of Chalcolithic Period.

Chalcolithic pottery ranges from red ware, deep redware to deep brown, pictographic red, and red and black polished ware.

→ The Burial practice during this period now the dead were buried in a particular direction.

→ The largest Chalcolithic site is Daimabad, but it is expected that more excavation could give different site bigger than this.

5.

Megalithic Period: (1000 BC - 200 BC)

It gives idea about the South history.

Graves have been found encircled by big stones (must be there for the protection of grave).

Inside grave evidence of iron made utensils it shows that they were having spiritual ideas and they believed in life after death.

* Indus Valley Civilization *

- It is also called bronze age civilization.
[bronze (copper + tin)]
(most of its products were made of bronze).
- This civilization was also called Harappan civilization. (because Harappan was the first site discovered).
- It is also called river based civilization.

Three phases of IVC -

- (i) Early phase (3300 BC - 2600 BC)
- (ii) Mature phase (2600 BC - 1900 BC)
- (iii) Later phase / Declining Phase. (1900 BC - 1750 BC)