

# Prelims Master Program (2023-24): Ancient, Medieval, Art and Culture

## Handout 1: Prehistory

<b>Prehistory – Stone Ages</b>	5,00,000 – 10,000 BCE	<b>Palaeolithic Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Longest Era of Humans</li><li>• Biological and cultural evolution.</li><li>• Bhimbetka cave</li></ul>
	10,000-6000 BCE	<b>Mesolithic Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Animal domestication</li><li>• Beginning of pottery.</li><li>• Beginning of Pre-historic Art</li></ul>
	6000-1000 BCE	<b>Neolithic Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture begins</li><li>• First settled village: Mehargarh (7000 BCE)</li></ul>
		<b>Chalcolithic Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Farming cultures spread</li></ul>
<b>Proto-History</b>	3300 – 1700 BCE	<b>Harappan Civilization (Bronze Age)</b> (M: 2600 – 1900 BCE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Urbanization</li></ul>
	1500 – 600 BCE	<b>Vedic Era (Iron Age)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrival of Aryan</li><li>• Composition of Vedic literature</li><li>• Foundation of Indian cultural life.</li></ul>
<b>Ancient Indian History</b>	600-320s BCE	<b>Mahajanapada Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First territorial states, standing armies and bureaucracies.</li><li>• Second Urbanization</li><li>• Buddhism and Jainism</li></ul>
	322-185 BCE	<b>Mauryan Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First all-India Empire</li><li>• Beginning of Epigraphy</li><li>• Oldest available royal architecture.</li></ul>
	200 BCE – 300 CE	<b>Post-Mauryan Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/NW: Foreign Invasions</li><li>• Emergence of states in Deccan and South (Sangam Era)</li><li>• Spread of Aryan culture to South India, Dravidian identity also taking place.</li><li>• Age of Commerce</li><li>• First land grant inscription.</li></ul>
	319 CE – 5 <sup>th</sup> c CE	<b>Gupta Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-unification of India</li><li>• Golden Age of India (culture)</li><li>• Beginning of Temple Architecture</li></ul>
	6 <sup>th</sup> c CE – 8 <sup>th</sup> c CE	<b>Post-Gupta Era</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harsha (North India).</li><li>• Chalukyas (Deccan)</li><li>• Pallavas (South)</li><li>• Beginning of Bhakti Movement</li></ul>

## Stone Ages

The Stone Age covers the earliest phase of human life. It can be categorised as the **prehistoric past** during which humans evolved from primates in Africa and spread to other parts of the world. This process began roughly 2 million years ago and is categorised by man in his primitive form, before the concept of **civilisation** emerged.

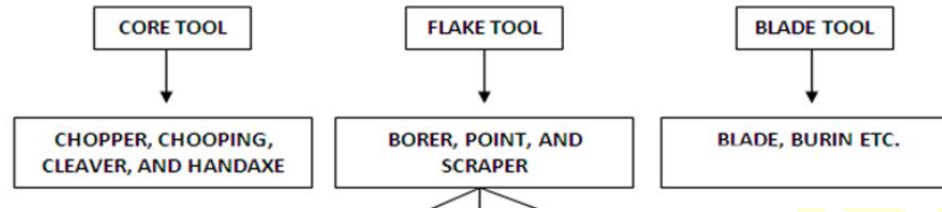
Since humans had not yet invented the script in stone age, **no written records** exist. Historians must rely on **archaeological** evidence to study it.

Based on tools and stratigraphic analysis, the stone age is divided into **three-age system**:

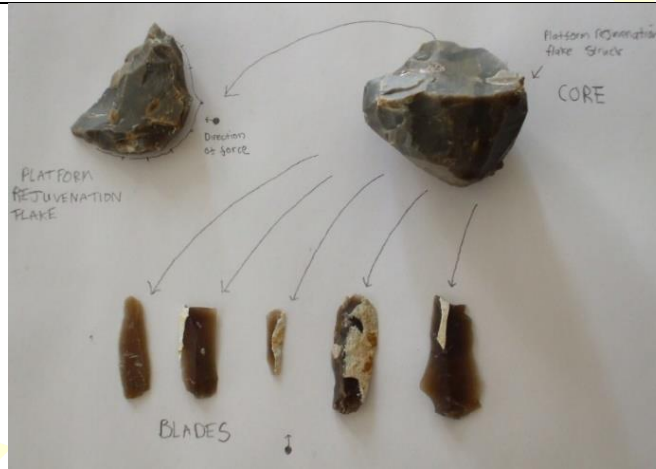
Stone Age					Chalco-lithic Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age
Paleolithic Age			Mesoli-thic Age	Neolithic Age			
Lower Paleolithic	Middle Paleolithic	Upper Paleolithic					
5,00,000 – 40,000	40,000 – 20,000 BCE	20,000 – 10,000 BCE	10,000 - 6000 BCE	6,000 – 1,000 BCE			
Tools, fire began Homo Erectus	Speech (~50K) Rock Art	Homo Sapiens came		Mehar garh	Various local cultures	Harappan Civilization	Vedic Era

**Palaeolithic Period:**

Geological Time	Period	Evolution	Food base	Tools and Technology	Dwelling Sites	Society and religion
Pleistocene ( <u>Great ice age</u> ) – Extremely cold temperature	Lower	In Central Africa, primates began walking on feet and evolved into <b>HOMO HABILIS</b> , and then into <b>HOMO ERECTUS</b> (upright).  Earliest human fossils discovered from <b><u>Hathnora</u>, MP (Narmada Man)</b>	Hunting and gathering – <u>Big woolly animals</u> confined to narrow tropical/sub-tropical zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peleo people generally used <b>Quartz</b> which is <b>metamorphic</b> rock, has <b>hard</b> and <b>crystalline</b> in structure and <b>brittle</b> in nature.</li> <li>• Pebbles and <b>core tools</b> like choppers, cleavers, hand axe (heavy tools – used for brute force).</li> <li>• <b><u>Pallavaram</u></b> (TN) – first time pelaeo <u>hand-axe</u> was found here by <b><u>Robert Bruce Foote</u></b> in 1863. It belongs to 15 lakh years BP.</li> <li>• In India, there is a profusion of stone tools, especially in the period 8 lakh - 2 lakh years BP.</li> <li>• Jwalapuram (AP)</li> </ul>	<p>People lived in <b>Natural dwellings</b> (caves and rock shelters) – no artificial houses.</p> <p>Occupied <b>entire subcontinent except alluvial plains</b>.</p> <p>Thus, Shiwalik, Vindhya, forested zones of Chhota Nagpur, Bhima, Cuddapah basins of south</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Migratory Bands</b> (20-100)</li> <li>• Human existence was largely <b>solitary</b>. They competed with each other for food and shelter. Absence of communities.</li> <li>• <b>Fire</b> increased chances of survival. (<u>Belan Valley</u>, UP: first evidence of controlled fire- 55,000 years BP in India. Middle paleo)</li> <li>• At the end, <b>speech, language</b> evolved. (upper)</li> <li>• Earliest Bhimbetka <b>paintings</b> belong to Upper Palaeolithic era.</li> <li>• <b>Baghor I</b> (Sidhi, MP): Perhaps the oldest known deity in India in Upper Palaeolithic era.</li> </ul>
	Middle	Evolution of <b>HOMO SAPIENS ARCHAIC</b> .		<b><u>Flake tools</u></b> : points, borers, scrapers		
	Upper	Homo Sapiens Archaic evolved into <b>HOMO SAPIENS SAPIENS</b> .		<b><u>Blade tools</u></b> – <b>blades and burins</b> (fine and regular sharp edge to skin animals and de-bark trees)		



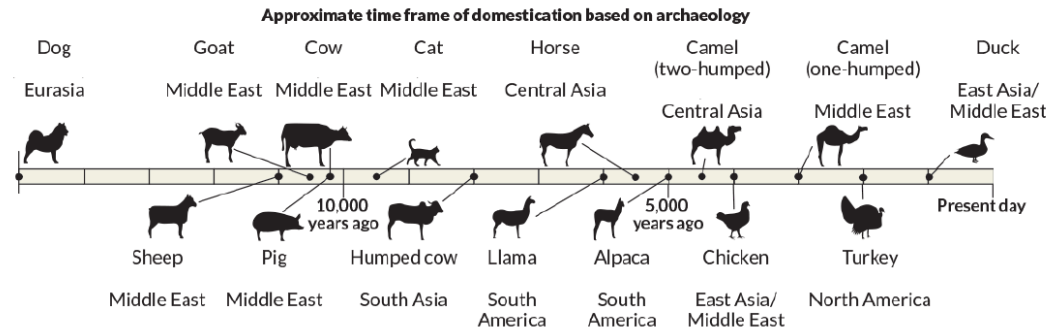
Robert Bruce Foote  
(Father of Indian Pre-History)



## Mesolithic:

Not considered as a separate stage earlier. With matured archaeological understanding, this age introduced as an age of transition from food consumer to food producers.

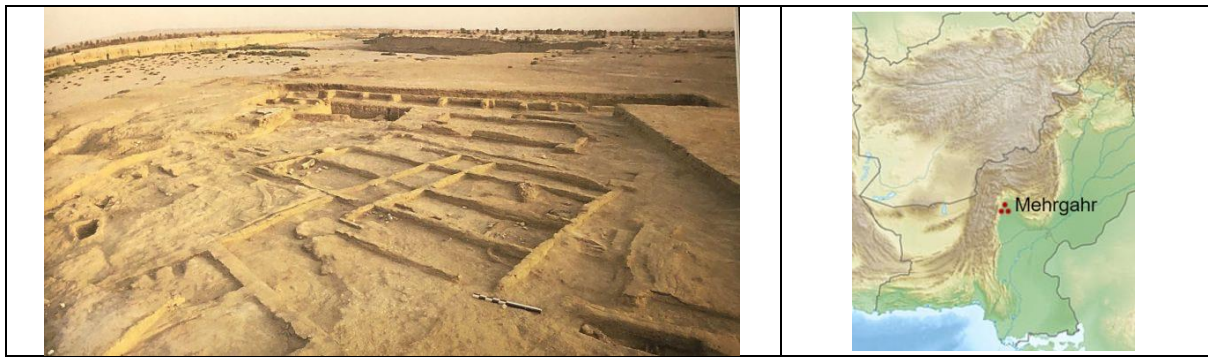
Geological Time	Food base	Tools and Technology	Dwelling Sites	Society and religion
Holocene	<p>Population of <b>grazing animals</b> increased sharply.</p> <p>With increase in human population also, hunting and gathering no longer sufficient → <b>domestication of animals</b> (first ones – goat, sheep and dog)</p>	<p>New kinds of tools known as <b>Microlith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sharp</b> edges</li><li>• <b>Geometric</b> tools</li><li>• <b>Composite</b> tools (arrows, spears, sling shots)</li><li>• Beginning of <b>pottery</b> (eg. <u>Langhnaj</u> in Gujarat)</li></ul>	<p>Population increases → more sites across the country.</p> <p>Imp sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bagor (RJ)</li><li>• Bhimbetka (MP)</li><li>• Chopani Mando (UP)</li><li>• Birbhanpur (WB)</li><li>• Bellary (KN)</li><li>• Tuticorin (TN)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Temporary dwellings (Nomadic life)</b></li><li>• <b>Artificial dwellings</b> of animal skin tents, wattle-and-daub huts with thatched roofs.</li><li>• <b>Band → Tribes</b></li><li>• Belief in afterlife – <b>N-S burial rituals</b></li><li>• Rock <b>Paintings</b> in profusion – indicate gender division of work and abstract paintings with philosophical developments.</li><li>• Religion – <b>primitive animism, nature worship</b></li></ul>



## Neolithic:

Geological Time	Food base	Tools and Technology	Dwelling Sites	Society and religion
Holocene  (climate warmed up further and conditions became more suitable for human life)	<p>First time <b>agriculture</b> started – <i>barley</i> and <i>wheat</i> were the first crops to be domesticated. Soon, it became the most important source of food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mehrgarh</b> (Balochistan, <i>Bolan</i> River valley)– <b>wheat, barley, sheep, goat, cattle</b> (7000 BCE)</li><li>• <i>Belan</i> valley (Mirzapur) – <b>Koldihawa</b>, first time <b>rice</b> evidence of 5500 BCE – totally Indian.</li><li>• Millets in south India</li><li>• Supplemented by animal diet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tools were highly polished and refined. Instead of quartz, <b>igneous rocks</b> such as <u>basalt and granite</u>. Thus, more robust tools.</li><li>• <b>Celt</b> (tools with <i>handles</i>) – ground, sharp, polished axe.</li><li>• <b>Wheel</b> – Transportation revolution</li><li>• Wheeled and fired <b>Pottery</b>.</li><li>• <b>Writing</b> → around 5000 BCE.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mehrgarh (Balochistan)</li><li>• Burzahom, Gufkral (JnK)</li><li>• Koldihwa (UP)</li><li>• Chirand (BH) – antler/bone tools</li><li>• Daojali Hading (Assam) (easternmost site)</li><li>• Maski and Brahmagiri (KN)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergence of <b>sedentary</b> life and permanently <b>settled villages</b>.</li><li>• Mud-brick houses – more permanent</li><li>• Tribe → <b>chiefdom</b> formation</li><li>• Emergence of <b>exchange networks</b> connecting several communities</li><li>• The remarkable technological progress <b>prepared the ground for the emergence of civilisation</b>, characterised by intensive agriculture, large cities and extensive trade.</li></ul>

## India's first village – Mehrgarh, Balochistan



## Burzahom (15 km from Srinagar)



Megaliths of Burzahom

Domesticated dog burial

Pits

Rock art etching with hunting scene with a dog at Burzahom



## Prehistoric Art

### Different Artforms:

- **Portable Art:**

- Engraved chert core in **Chandravati** (RJ)
- Bone engraving in **Bhimbetka** (MP)
- Marked human tooth in Deccan college, Pune.
- Ostrich eggshell beads from **Patne** (MH)

- **Cupules:** Cup impressions on rock surface through hammering

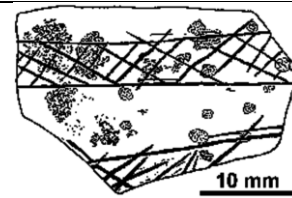
- **Daraki Chattan**, MP

- **Petroglyphs:** Engravings and carvings

- On **menhirs** or in shelters
- **Konkan Geoglyphs/Petroglyphs:** more than 1500 specimens found, but we don't know the exact context.

- **Petrography** (Rock painting):

- The subjects of their drawings were human figures, human activities, geometric designs and symbols.
- Found from across India.
  - Lakhudiyar (Uttarakhand)
  - Mangar bani (Aravalli, Delhi-HR)
  - Raigarh (CG)
  - Anegundi (Bellary, KN)
  - Chinnar sanctuary (Munnar, KR)
- **Bhimbetka** (MP) – UNESCO WHS
- **Chaturbhujnala** (near Bhanpura, MP) – longest miniature rock art gallery



Ostrich eggshell



Daraki Chattan Cupules



Konkan Geoglyphs/Petroglyphs  
(UNESCO Tentative list)

### **Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka: UNESCO Citation**

The Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka are in the foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau. Within massive sandstone outcrops, above comparatively dense forest, are five clusters of natural rock shelters, displaying paintings that appear to date from the Mesolithic Period right through to the historical period. The cultural traditions of the inhabitants of the twenty-one villages adjacent to the site bear a strong resemblance to those represented in the rock paintings.

Why? (speculation)	Religious/ritual significance?
1. Leisure time	1. Some paintings from the shelters where people didn't seem to have lived.
2. Creative urges: Decorate or beautify homes.	2. Some paintings are very high up on rock shelters or close to the ceilings of rockshelters.
3. To keep visual record of day-to-day life	3. Superimposition: as many as 20 layers.
4. To tell story	
5. Rituals	

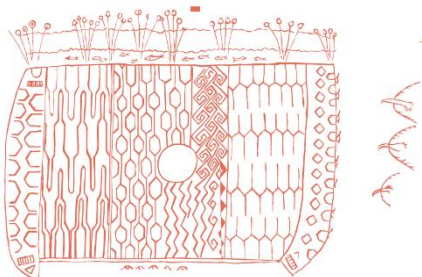


## Colour pigments:

- Most common: red and white
  - Iron oxide (geru/haematite) for red
  - White from limestone.
  - Black from soot (lamp black).
- Less used:
  - Green came from chalcedony.
  - Yellow came from chalcedony (when amount of water used is less – hydration)
  - Blue was largely absent.

## Thematic Appreciation:

Wild animals and hunting scenes	Family and related social activities	Religious scenes?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hunting variety of species:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Deer (most common), boar (wild pig), Bison, elephant, tiger, rhino, neelgai (commonly hunted)</li><li>○ At Bhimbetka, animals dominate with total of 29 species depicted.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Activities:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Standalone animals.</li><li>○ Hunting in group or singly.</li><li>○ Animals chasing men.</li><li>○ Animal fights.</li><li>○ Riding elephant/horse (later era).</li><li>○ Fishing.</li><li>○ Honey collection.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Weapons used:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bow and arrow</li><li>○ Pointed sticks (javelins) – archery and javelin</li><li>○ Barbed spear</li><li>○ Sometimes traps and snares</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Young and old, male, and female</li><li>• Style: animals <b>naturalistic</b> but humans <b>stylistic</b>, <b>matchstick</b>-like, sometimes <b>x-ray</b></li><li>• Decoration on bodies (fashion)</li><li>• Child burial and mourning</li><li>• Man, woman, child eating together (Family)</li><li>• Group dancing scenes (community)</li><li>• Sexual activities too depicted.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hunters wearing mask.</li><li>• Sorcerers</li><li>• Composite or fantastic animal</li><li>• Abstract paintings (Jaora)</li></ul>



Symbolic art from a rock shelter at Jaora, on the Malwa Plateau (Madhya Pradesh)

# Citing damage to ancient rock carvings, experts red-flag mega oil refinery project

OMKAR GOKHALE &  
VALLABH OZARKAR  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 25

THE SITE proposed for a mega oil refinery in Barsu village of Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district is at the centre of a row over whether it might damage ancient rock carvings found in the area.

The rock art, or petroglyphs, estimated to be 20,000 years old and classified as protected monuments by the state archaeology



The petroglyphs near the site in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri are estimated to be 20,000 years old. Nisarga Yatri Sanstha

department and the Archaeological Survey of India, have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites.

Known as Ratnagiri oil refinery and petrochemical complex, the project is being developed by Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited, a joint venture of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

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## ● Citing damage to ancient rock carvings, experts red-flag mega oil refinery project

The original plan to develop the project in Nanar village of Ratnagiri district was dropped in 2019 by the Devendra Fadnis-led government due to opposition from local residents and then BJP ally Shiv Sena. Thackeray later wrote to the Centre suggesting Barsu-Solgaon as the new site.

However, the alternative site too has run into trouble, not just with residents of Barsu village who have been citing land acquisition and environmental reasons, but conservationists and archaeologists, who say it will end up damaging the petroglyphs.

Last month, a committee of ex-

perts appointed by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology visited Ratnagiri to inspect and study the petroglyphs scattered across several villages and propose measures for conserving them.

Led by senior archaeologist Professor Vasant Shinde, the team included scientists, historians and archaeologists from premier institutes of India.

Shinde told *The Indian Express* that the team visited the sites to assess and make a proposal for funds required to conserve "the heritage and to study how a project can be undertaken to make the

entire country and the world aware of the importance of the sites as they are unique."

"The government should have conducted a joint survey before allotting land for the refinery project. It should do so in future whenever it has to fix another land for the refinery project. The petroglyphs are on the tentative UNESCO list. If the project starts at Barsu, the rock carvings will get destroyed due to construction and chemical reaction at the site," Shinde said.

"The petroglyphs can be saved if the project is shifted 5-6 kilometres away from the sites. We'll rec-

ommend that to the government."

More than 250 petroglyphs have been identified in the area where the petrochemical refinery will be built. Shinde said the rock carvings have not received the attention they deserve due to a lack of funding.

A state government official said that the Barsu site for the refinery has not been finalised yet and is "only being considered." "The talks are going on at a serious level. The decision to finalise the refinery site will be taken only once all the local stakeholders are taken into confidence," the official said.

Petroglyphs are drawn by re-

moving part of a rock surface by incising, picking, carving or abrading. Ratnagiri district has more than 1,500 petroglyphs, also called katal shilpa, spread across 70 sites. The carvings are in the shape of human figures, birds, animals and geometric forms, though they vary in shape and size from site to site.

Nisarga Yatri Sanstha, a Ratnagiri-based non-profit organisation, has been working for the last few years to find and preserve petroglyphs in Konkan region. Led by a local conservationist, Sudhir Risbud, Nisarga has discovered over 1,700 petroglyphs from more than 72 villages.

## 'Dickinsonia fossil' found in Bhimbetka is old beehive

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

Fossils of an extinct species of animal that scientists reported in a sensational discovery from India's Bhimbetka Rock Shelters in 2021 have been found to be believed hopes.

Gregory Retallack, the lead author of the February 2021 paper that reported the discovery, has acknowledged to *The New York Times* that they are planning to correct their paper after a closer look at the site revealed the apparent fossil to really be wax smeared on a rock by a

beehive. In March 2020, Dr. Retallack, a Professor of palaeontology at the University of Oregon, and some other researchers were given a tour of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, in Madhya Pradesh, by members of the Geological Survey of India when they had flown to India to attend a conference.

There, according to *The New York Times*, they spotted by chance what looked like a 44-cm-wide fossil of Dickinsonia, an animal that lived at least 538 million years ago, in a cave.

Dickinsonia fossils in other parts of the world



Hopes belied: The fossil believed to be of Dickinsonia, found at the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters near Bhopal in 2021. RAMESH SUSARLA

have indicated it was circular or oval in shape, somewhat flat, with rib-like structures radiating from a

central column.

Dr. Retallack and his peers took photographs of the rock feature, since they

were not carrying their tools, and determined them with further analysis to be Dickinsonia fossils. They published a paper describing their findings in February 2021.

### Discrepancies found

But when Joseph Meert, a Professor of geology at the University of Florida, visited the same Bhimbetka cave in December 2022, he found some discrepancies with the other fossil finds.

Eventually, he was able to conclude that "the impression resulted from decay of a modern beehive which was attached to a

fractured rock surface", as he wrote in his paper published in January 2023. When Dr. Retallack was notified of these findings, he decided to have his paper corrected.

While the fossils were believed to be legitimate, they suggested that the youngest Upper Vindhyan sediments were 540 million years old; the rock shelters are located in this area.

But now that the finding has been overturned, Meert et al. wrote in their paper, "The age of the Upper Vindhyan ... remains contested."



# '3,000-year-old Iron Age' geoglyph circle etched on hillock discovered in Telangana

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

A geoglyph in the form of a circle, said to be 3,000 years old, has been unearthed on the outskirts of Mudichu Thalapalli in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district of Telangana.

Etched on a low-lying granitoid hillock, the geoglyph spans 7.5 metres in diameter and has a perfect circular shape. Surrounding the circle is a 30-centimetre-wide rim, and within the circle are two triangles. Archaeologist and CEO of Pleach India Foundation E. Sivanagireddy visited the spot on Sunday with a team and examined the geoglyph. They termed it a first-of-its-kind



**Vital find:** The 3,000-year-old iron age Geoglyph circle discovered in Mudichu Thalapalli of Medchal-Malkajgiri district.

discovery in Telangana.

Seeking to determine the age of the geoglyph, Dr. Sivanagireddy reached out to professor Ravi Korisetar, a prehistoric rock art expert, who dated the geoglyph to the Iron Age, spec-

ifically around 1000 BCE. He suggested that this circle might have served as a model for megalithic communities in planning their circular burial sites.

Noting the archaeological significance of the geo-

**Etched on a low-lying granitoid hillock, the geoglyph spans 7.5 metres in diameter and has a perfect circular shape**

glyph, which displays the artistic skills and etching techniques of Telangana's Iron Age inhabitants, the team appealed to the residents of Moodu Chintalapalli village to protect the location.

Sanathana, a research associate at Pleach India Foundation, said the site could be developed into an archaeological tourism destination, comparable to the renowned Konkan petroglyph sites in the Ratnagiri zone of Maharashtra.

The site is only 30-40 kilometres from Hyderabad and Secunderabad, making it easily accessible to tourists.

## Rock shelters

Additionally, the team identified several grooves, which they believe to be from the Neolithic period, dating to 4000 BCE, located five metres away from the geoglyph.

Also, within one-kilometre radius of the geoglyph's location, they discovered three prehistoric rock shelters adorned with depictions of bulls, deer, porcupines and human figures wearing masks. According to the team, these artworks date to Mesolithic and Megalithic periods.

## A fascinating fusion of rock art in A.P.'s Rudragiri

**Sambasiva Rao M.**  
GUNTUR

Rudragiri hillock, located in the village of Orvakallu, Atchampet mandal, in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, boasts a celebrated historical past and remarkable archaeological monuments.

This site unveils a fascinating combination of prehistoric rock paintings and exquisite artwork from the Kakatiya dynasty. D. Kanna Babu, former Superintending Archaeologist of the Temple Survey Project (Southern Region) at the Archaeological Survey of India, shared his discoveries with *The Hindu*, shedding light on the significance of this hidden gem.

Rudragiri, nestled amidst the Eastern Ghats,



**Captivating scene:** Drawing depicting the intense battle between the Vanara brothers — Vali and Sugriva. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

features five naturally formed rock shelters at its foothills, facing westward. These shelters served as living quarters for people during the Mesolithic age around 5000 B.C., and they bear witness to the luminous rock paintings of that era.

Interestingly, two natu-

ral caves at the southern end of the hillock also exhibit exceptional murals from the renowned Kakatiya kingdom.

## Artistic brilliance

Mr. Kanna Babu described the physical condition of the Kakatiya artworks.

"These caves showcase

the artistic brilliance of the Kakatiya period. While many have suffered damage over time due to exposure to the elements, some sketches and outlines have managed to survive. The paintings, adorned with a variety of colours derived from white kaolin and different pigments, depict captivating scenes from the epic Ramayana. Despite the impact of nature's wrath, fragments of these paintings offer valuable insights into their creation during the 13th century A.D.," he said.

The first cave, starting from the southern end of the hillock, presents a narrative mural portraying the intense battle between the Vanara brothers — Vali and Sugriva.

In the middle cave, a grand sketch of Hanuman, accompanied by sacred

symbols of the conch (Sankha) and the fire altar (Yagna Vedi), captures visitors' attention. Hanuman is depicted carrying the Sanjivani hill in his hand, symbolising his mission to save Lakshmana's life.

The third cave houses the prehistoric rock paintings from the Mesolithic era. Interestingly, the Kakatiya artist chose the same rock shelter to superimpose the elegant figure of Hanuman, who is portrayed in a unique 'Anjali' posture, folding his hands in a divine offering.

Remarkably, the Ramayana figures neither overshadow the Mesolithic drawings nor diminish their scenic beauty.

Visitors today can marvel at the ancient drawings from two distinct periods, appreciating the artistic techniques employed.

## Chalcolithic Age

It is the **transition** period **between Neolithic** age and **Bronze** age. It was characterised by the emergence of **agro-pastoral communities** in different parts of the subcontinent. Also, for the first time, rudimentary **state** started to emerge in this era gradually, even though this is a part of the pre-history.

### **Technology:**

They used **stone tools with copper tools**, such as hand axes, copper angles, copper boards, knives, pins, hooks, rods, etc.



### **Occupational diversity increased:**

- These people continued to **hunt, gather, domesticate** animals and **cultivate** their food.
  - Domesticated animals include sheep, buffalo, goat, pig, dog etc.
  - Crops grown were barley, wheat, rice, lentils, millets, grams, peas, cotton etc.
- **Other important occupations** included pottery, metallurgy, weaving, bead making, shell-work etc.
  - These are **secondary** economic activities.
  - These were all probably **cottage** industries.

### **Living Pattern:**





- They lived in **settled villages** with well-established **socio-economic hierarchies**.
  - Houses of different sizes made of mud bricks have been discovered.
  - Few circular houses, majority houses were rectangular.
  - Distinct settlement hierarchy emerged.
- The concept of **private property** also seems to have emerged by this time.
  - **Inamgaon (MH)**: western houses smaller with no enclosure wall, while on the eastern side, houses are larger and less in number and have enclosure wall surrounding them.
  - Almost all houses had **animal enclosures**.
  - **Burial** of dead with their personal belongings (**grave goods**)
- Some chalcolithic settlements have **protective walls** around them.
  - Example: **Nagda** in MP.

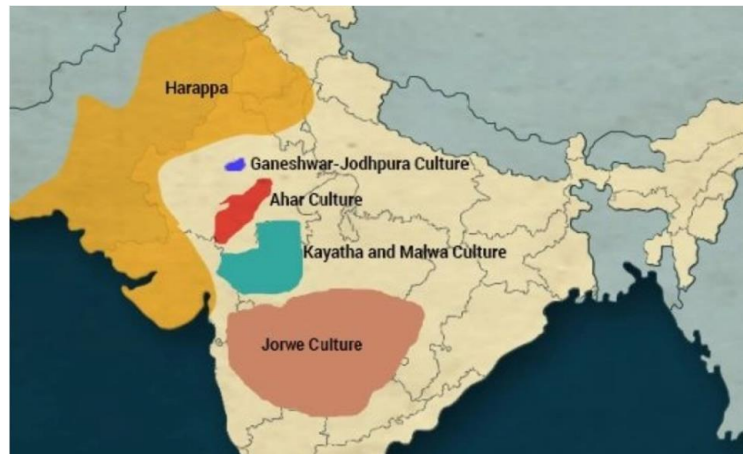
**Trade with Harappans:** Some chalcolithic cultures had contacts with other contemporary cultures, such as the Harappan civilisation.

- The Harappans obtained copper from the **Khetri Mines (Rajasthan)**.
- Archaeological evidence suggests that chalcolithic pottery was also used by the Harappans, since pottery from the **Rangpur** and **Prabhas** culture has been found at several Harappan sites in Saurashtra region. (**Lustrous Redware**)

**Painted pottery** emerged to be the significant marker during this age. The characteristic pottery of this age is **Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP)** with designs of flowers, animals, birds and linear patterns painted on them in black.



			
<b>Harappan Pottery</b>	<b>OCP</b> (Chalcolithic age)	<b>PGW</b> (iron age)	<b>NBPW</b> (Mahajanapada Era)



Culture	Era	Region	Sites
Ahar/Banas culture	3000-1500 BCE	S. Rajasthan, Banas valley	Ahar, Gilund, Balthal
Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture	3000-1800 BCE	NE Rajasthan, near Jaipur	Ganeshwar, Jodhpura
Kayatha culture	2500-1900 BCE	MP, Chambal valley	Kayatha (Ujjain)
Malwa culture	1900-1500 BCE	In place of Kayatha	Navdatoli, Eran, Nagda
Savalda culture	2000-1800 BCE	MH, Tapi Valley	Savalda
Jorwe culture	1400-700 BCE	Maharashtra	Daimabad, Inamgaon
Prabhas/Rangpur culture	1800—700 BCE	Gujarat-Saurashtra region	Rangpur

**Sinauli (UP)** belonged to the OCP era, which was contemporary to Late Harappan age. (around 1800 BCE). Important findings are:

1. Chariots
2. Coffin burials
3. Ribbed swords
4. Sheild



## Practice Questions: Stone Ages

**The word 'Denisovan' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to (2019)**

- a) fossil of a kind of dinosaurs
- b) an early human species**
- c) a cave system found in North-East India
- d) a geological period in the history of Indian subcontinent

**Consider the following pairs: (2021)**

- | (Historical Place): | (Well-known for) |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Burzahom:        | Rock-cut shrines |
| 2. Chandraketugarh: | Terracotta art   |
| 3. Ganeshwar:       | Copper artefacts |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 3 only
- d) 2 and 3**

**1. Consider the following statements in context of ancient Indian History:**

- 1. The Paleolithic Age was spread in all parts of the Indian Subcontinent.
- 2. Palaeolithic Man used tools made of a hard rock called quartzite.

Which of the above given statement/s is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**2. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:**

List 1(Phase of Stone Age)	List 2 (Characteristics of Tools)
A. Upper Paleolithic	1. Blade Tools
B. Middle Paleolithic	2. Core Tools
C. Lower Paleolithic	3. Flake tools
	4. Microliths

**Codes:**

- |    | A | B | C |
|----|---|---|---|
| a) | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| b) | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| c) | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| d) | 1 | 2 | 4 |

**3. In ancient India, Mehrgarh was a (CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2017)**

- (a) neolithic site in the Bolan Valley
- (b) graveyard of the Delhi Sultans
- (c) kingdom in the Deccan area
- (d) fort in Rajasthan

**4. Consider the following places: (CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2014)**



1. Bhimbetka
2. Badami
3. Khajuraho

At which of the above places pre-historic cave paintings are found?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**5. With reference to life in Neolithic Age, consider the following statements:**

1. Domestication of sheep, goats and cattle was widely prevalent.
2. Till this age, manufacturing of pottery did not start.
3. Growth of religion and beliefs can be deduced by the finding of terracotta figurines of the Mother Goddess.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 2 and 3 only      (c) 1 and 3 only      (d) 1 only

**6. One of the largest and most spectacular rock shelters is located in the Vindhya hills, full of palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains. It consists of the richest paintings of daily life events from hunting, dancing, and music to animal fighting, honey collection etc. Which of the following site is referred to above? (JKPSC 2023)**

- a) Lakhudiyar caves
- b) Pachmarhi caves
- c) Bhimbetka caves
- d) Raigarh caves

**7. Match list-I with list-II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists: (UPPSC 2022)**

**List-I**

**(Archaeological site)**

- (A) Nevasa
- (B) Isampur
- (C) Didwana
- (D) Gudiyam cave

**List-II**

**(Present location)**

- (1) Rajasthan
- (2) Tamil Nadu
- (3) Maharashtra
- (4) Karnataka

**Codes:**

- (a) A-(3), B-(4), C-(2), D-(1)
- (b) A-(3), B-(2), C-(4), D-(1)
- (c) A-(3), B-(4), C-(1), D-(2)
- (d) A-(4), B-(3), C-(1), D-(2)