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**Volume – 3**

**HISTORY & CULTURE OF  
INDIA**



# TAMILNADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## HISTORY & CULTURE OF INDIA

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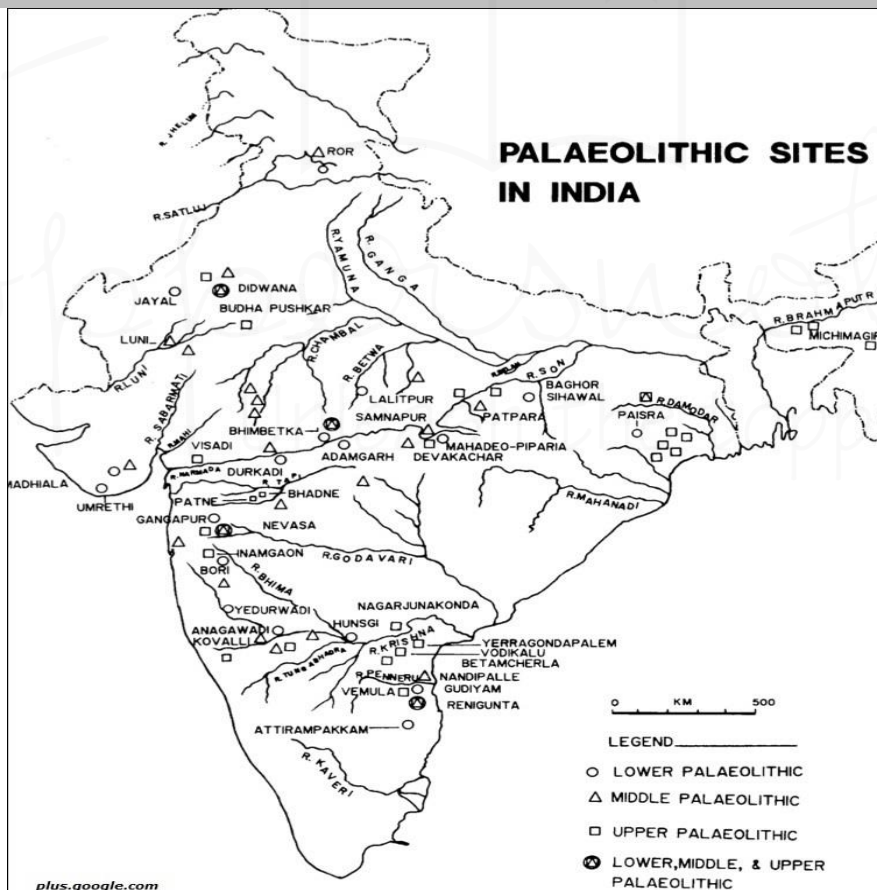
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# Prehistoric India

- **Prehistoric period**- no written evidence.
- Main source of **information**- **archaeological excavations**.
- **Pallavaram handaxe** - **First Paleolithic tool in India** - discovered by- **Robert Bruce Foote** (1863 AD)- also discovered a **large number of pre-historic sites in South India**
- Based on geological age, the type and technology of stone tools, and subsistence base, the **Indian stone age is divided into**-
  - **Palaeolithic age (old stone age)**: Period – 500,000 – 10,000 BCE
  - **Mesolithic age (late stone age)**: Period – 10,000 – 6000 BCE
  - **Neolithic age (new stone age)**: Period – 6000 – 1000 BCE

## Palaeolithic Age (Old Stone Age)



- **First archaeological period** in prehistory.
- Palaios (old) + lithos (stones) = Palaeolithic (old stone age)
- Developed in the **Pleistocene period or the Ice Age**.
- The term **“Paleolithic”** was coined by **John Lubbock** in 1865 AD.
- men were called **‘Quartzite’ men** in India as the **stone tools made of quartzite**.
- In **India**, people surviving this age belonged to the **‘Negrito’ race** and lived in the open air, river valleys, caves, and rock shelters.

- They were **food gatherers and hunters**.
- **No knowledge of houses, pottery, agriculture**.
- In later stages, they **discovered fire**.
- In the upper paleolithic age, there is **evidence of art** in the form of **paintings**.
- Humans used **unpolished, rough stones** like hand axes, choppers, blades, bruins, and scrapers.
- **Basic social structure**- based on a **band society** (<100 people formed a small community).
- **Nomadic people**, bound by customs, social etiquettes, and norms
- According to the nature of the stone tools used by the people and the nature of the change of climate, the **paleolithic age in India is divided into three phases**:
  - **Lower/ Early Palaeolithic Age**: up to 100,000 BC
  - **Middle Palaeolithic Age**: 100,000 BC – 40,000 BC
  - **Upper Palaeolithic Age**: 40,000 BC – 10,000 BC

### Lower Palaeolithic Age (Early Palaeolithic Age)

- **Characteristics:**
  - **Maximum time span** (covering whole Lower Pleistocene and bulk of the Middle Pleistocene epoch).
  - **River valleys and terraces were formed**.
  - Early men preferred to live near the water supply, as the stone tools are found mainly in or adjacent to the river valleys.
  - Mainly spread in Western Europe and Africa.
  - **Evidence of the earliest stone tools** - Western Europe - deposits of first Inter-glacial phase in the Lower Pleistocene.
  - Lived a **nomadic lifestyle**.
  - **Hunters and food gatherers**
  - **Contribution of Neanderthal-like Palaethropic men** (3rd stage of hominid evolution)
  - One of the **earliest lower Palaeolithic sites is Bori in Maharashtra**.
- **Tools:**
  - **Tools**- made of **limestone** - hand axes, choppers, and cleavers - **rough and heavy**.
  - **First stone tool fabrication** started; k/a **Oldowan tradition**.
  - Splintered stones k/a **eoliths** - **earliest tools**.

- **Major sites:**

Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh
Bhimbetka, Jogdaha	Madhya Pradesh
Bagor, Budha Pushkar	Rajasthan
Patne, Nandipalle	Maharashtra
Renugunta, Karnool Caves	Andhra Pradesh
Singhbhum	Jharkhand

### Two important cultures -

#### 1. Sohanian culture:

- Name derived from the Sohan river, a tributary of Indus.
- **Sites - Siwalik Hills in North-west India and Pakistan.**
- **Lower Palaeolithic stone tools** found.
- **Animal remains** - horse, buffalo, straight-tusked elephant and hippopotamus.
- Deposits of **pebble tools and choppers** found.

#### 2. Acheulian culture/ Madrasi Culture:

- Named after the French site of St. Acheul.
- **First effective colonization of the Indian subcontinent.**
- **Synonymous with the lower Palaeolithic settlements** in India.
- Deposits of **hand-axes and cleavers**

## Middle Palaeolithic age

### ● Characteristics:

- Indian Middle Palaeolithics are as old as **African Middle Palaeolithics.**
- Mainly **associated with** the early form of man- **Neanderthals.**
- Evidence of the **use of fire.**
- The Middle Paleolithic man was a **scavenger** but little evidence of **hunting and gathering were traced.**
- **Dead were painted** before burial.
- **Slow transformation of Acheulian culture** by shedding some of the tool types and by incorporating new forms and new techniques of making them.

### ● Tools

- Became **smaller, thinner and lighter.**
- Majorly **dependent on flakes** used to make bores, points, and scrapers etc.
- A **crude pebble industry** is also noticed in this period.
- **Stones** found were very small k/a **microliths.**
- Quartzite, quartz and basalt replaced by **fine-grained siliceous rocks like chert and jasper**
- **Tool Factory sites** at chert outcrops occur in **central India and Rajasthan.**

### ● Important sites

- **H.D. Sankalia discovered the site** on the **Pravara River at Nevasa.**
- **Site of Athirampakkam** dates to 3.85-1.72 lakh years ago.
- Belan valley in UP
- Luni valley- Bagor, Karmali Valley, Didwana (Rajasthan)
- Son and Narmada rivers
- Bhimbetka
- Tungabhadra river valleys
- Potwar Plateau (between Indus & Jhelum)
- Sanghao cave (near Peshawar, Pakistan)



## Upper Palaeolithic age

- **Characteristics:**

- Appearance of **Homo Sapiens**.
- **Widespread appearance of figurines and other artifacts** reflecting art and rituals.
- **Discovery of ostrich egg shells** at over 40 sites in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
- **Extremely cold and arid climate in the high altitude** and northern latitudes.
- **Extensive formation of deserts** in North west India
- **Drainage patterns of western India became almost defunct** and river courses shifted "westwards".
- **Decreasing vegetation cover.**
- Human population faced **rusticated food resources**- that is why Upper Palaeolithic sites are very limited in the arid and semi-arid regions.

- **Tools**

- **bone tools** - needles, fishing tools, harpoons, blades and burin tools.
- Show a marked regional diversity with respect to the **refinement of techniques and standardization of finished tool forms.**
- **Bored stones and grinding stabs have also been found** - advancements in the technology of tool production.

- **Major sites:**

Sites	Location
Sohan Valley	West Punjab (Now in Pakistan)
Narmada Valley	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
Kurnool Caves, Gichchur, Nellore	Andhra Pradesh
Belan Valley	Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
Nevasa	Maharashtra
Sabarmati Valley	Gujarat
Singrauli	Uttar Pradesh
Mayurbhanj	Odisha
Hungsi Valley	Karnataka
Attirampakam, Kortallayar Valley	Tamil Nadu
Pahalgam	Kashmir
Didwana	Rajasthan
Hathnora, Bhimbetka, Adamgarh	Madhya Pradesh

- **Bone tools** have been found only at **cave sites of Kurnool and Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi in Andhra Pradesh.**

### Mesolithic Period (Middle Stone Age)

- Derived from Greek words – ‘meso’ and ‘lithic’. aka ‘Middle Stone Age’
- Belonged to the **Holocene era.**

**Transitional period** between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods - aka **Late Stone age.**

- **Characteristics:**
- **Many environmental changes took place** during this transition
  - **Ex:** soil samples from **Birbhanpur in West Bengal** show a trend of **increasing aridity** while salt lake sediments and pollen grains at **Didwana in western Rajasthan** suggest **higher rainfall** at this point of time.
  - **In eastern Madhya Pradesh,** the climate is **wet and warm, with heavy rainfall** in the **summer monsoon** months and **moderate** levels of rainfall **in winter.**
- Initially hunters and gatherers, but **later domesticated animals and cultivated plants.**
- **Primitive cultivation,** and horticulture began.
- The **first animal to be domesticated** - **wild ancestor of the dog.**
- **Sheep and goats-** **most common** domesticated animals.
- **lived in semi-permanent settlements** along with occupying **caves and open grounds.**
- **Believed in the afterlife** and hence buried dead with food items and other goods.
- People started to **wear clothes made of animal skin.**
- **First human colonization of the Ganga Plains** during this period.
- Last phase - **beginning of plant cultivation**

### Tools - microliths

- Made of **crypto-crystalline silica, chalcedony or chert,** in geometrical and non-geometrical shapes.
- **Used to make composite tools, spearheads, arrowheads, and sickles .**
- **Enabled to hunt smaller animals** and birds.
- At **sites** such as **Patna,** long and continuous **stratigraphic sequence of prehistoric occupation, the gradual decrease in the size of stone tools** can be seen very clearly.
- **Epi-paleolithic: transitional stage of tools** that are smaller than those typical of the upper paleolithic, but smaller than microliths.
- Sites such as **Patne (in Maharashtra) and Fa Hien Lena, Batadomba Lena, and Beli Lena (in Sri Lanka)** have given **evidence of microliths** in late Pleistocene contexts.
- **Paintings-**
- Art lovers and initiated rock art in **Prehistory.**
- **First Rock painting in India-** found at **Sohagighat (UP) in 1867.**
- **Themes-** wild animals and hunting scenes, dancing, and food collection.
- Paintings **mostly in red ochre** but sometimes bluish-green, yellow, or white colors have been used
- of the **29 species of animals depicted** in paintings, **Cheetah** occurred **most**
- **No depiction of snakes**



- **Characteristics:**
  - Belongs to the **Holocene geological age**.
  - aka '**Neolithic revolution**' (by **V. Gordon Childe**) as it introduced a lot of important changes in man's social and economic life.
  - The **man transformed from food gatherer to food producer**.
  - **Division of labor** based on sex and age
- **Tools and Weapons**
  - **Polished, pecked, and ground stone tools.**
    - **North-western-** Rectangular axes with curved cutting edge
    - **North-eastern** - polished stone axes with rectangular butt and occasional shouldered hoes.
    - **Southern-** axes with oval sides and pointed butt
- **Agriculture**
  - **Grew fruits and corn** like ragi and horse gram (kulati).
  - Also **domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats**.
- **Pottery** –
  - Witnessed **first hand-made pottery** and then used foot's wheel.
  - Included **grey ware, black-burnished ware, and mat impressed ware**.
- **Housing and Settled Life** –
  - People lived in **rectangular or circular houses made of mud and reeds**.
  - Also **knew how to make boats** and could **spin cotton, wool, and weave cloth**.
  - **Inhabited mainly the hilly river valleys, rock shelters, and the hills slopes**.

**Two phases of Neolithic Culture-**

- **Aceramic-** no evidence of ceramic
- **Ceramic-** evidence of pottery, mud houses, copper-arrowheads, blackware pottery, painted pottery.

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### Important Neolithic Sites

- **Koldihwa (lying south of Allahabad):** Provides evidence of **circular huts** along with crude hand-made pottery.
- **Mahagara:** The earliest evidence of **rice cultivation** in the world
- **Mehrgarh (Balochistan, Pakistan):** **earliest Neolithic site**, where people lived in houses built of sun-dried bricks and cultivated crops like cotton and wheat.
- **Burzahom (Kashmir):** **domestic dogs were buried along with their masters** in their graves, people lived in pits and used tools made of polished stones and bones.
- **Gufkral (Kashmir):** Literal meaning "cave of the potter". This neolithic site is famous for **pit dwelling, stone tools, and graveyards within households**.
- **Chirand (Bihar):** **bone tools** made of antlers
- **Nevasa:** Evidence of **cotton cloth**
- **Piklihal, Brahmagiri, Maski, Takkalakota, Hallur (Karnataka):** discovery of **ash mounds**.

At **Chopani Mando in the Belan Valley of Vindhya**s and the middle part of the Narmada valley, occupations from **all three stages (Paleolithic to Neolithic)** have been found- also the **discovery of fossil animal bones** from this site.

# 2 CHAPTER

## Chalcolithic Age (3500 BC-1000 BC)

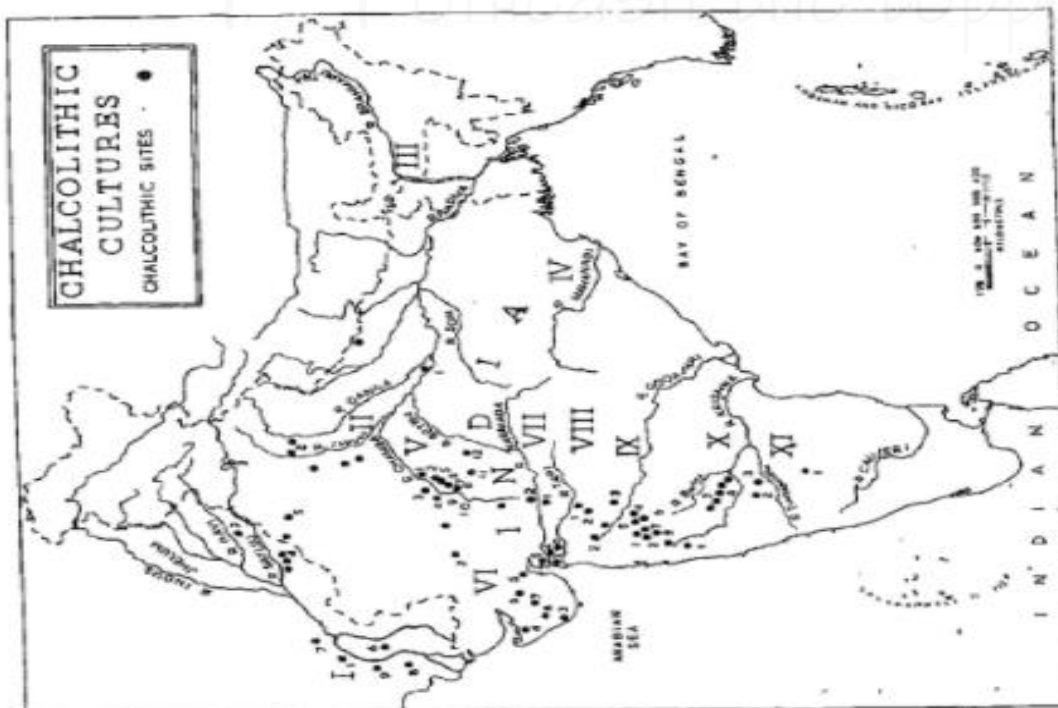
- End of the neolithic phase- people began using metals.
- **First metal used** - copper.

Copper + low-grade bronze + stone tools = Chalcolithic phase/ Stone-copper phase

- Witnessed the **emergence of the rural community** along with **social inequalities**.

The following Chalcolithic sites are shown region-wise :

- THE STONE-COPPER PHASE**
- I. INDUS SYSTEM**
    - 1 Mohenjodaro 2. Harappa 3 Ropar 4. Surattgarh
    - 5 Hanumangarh 6 Chanhudaro 7 Jhukar 8 Amri
    - 9 Jhangar
  - II. GANGES SYSTEM**
    - 1 Kausambi 2 Alamgirpur
  - III. BRAHMAPUTRA SYSTEM**
  - IV. MAHANADI SYSTEM**
  - V. CHAMBAL SYSTEM**
    - 1 Pseva 2 Nagda 3 Paramar-Kheri
    - 4 Tungri 5 Metwa 6 Takraoda
    7. Bhulsuri 8 Maori 9. Ghata-Bitod
    - 10 Betwa 11 Bilawali 12 Ashit
  - VI. RAJPUTANA-SAURASHTRA**
    - 1 Rangpur 2 Ahar 3 Prashas Patan 4. Lakhbawal
    - 5 Lothal 6. Pithadia 7 Rojdi 8 Adkot
  - VII. NARMADA SYSTEM**
    - 1 Navdatoli 2 Maheshwar 3. Bhagatray
    - 4 Telod 5 Mehgam 6 Hasanpur
  - VIII. TAPI SYSTEM**
    - 1 Prakash 2 Bahal
  - IX. GODAVARI-PRAVARA SYSTEM**
    - 1 Jorwe 2 Nasik 3. Kopergaon 4 Nevasa
    - 5 Daimabad
  - X. BHIMA SYSTEM**
    - 1 Koregaon 2 Chandoli 3 Umbraj
    - 4 Chanegaon 5 Anachi 6 Hingni
    - 7 Nagarhalli
  - XI. KARNATAKA**
    - 1 Brahmagiri 2 Pikital 3 Maski



## Characteristics

- **Pre-Harappan phase**, however, some parts of the country witnessed Chalcolithic culture after the Harappan phase.
- **Staple Diet - Fish and rice**
- **No use of burnt bricks,**
- **Houses-** mud and wattle and **circular or rectangular**
- **Use of Gold** for ornamental purposes only
- **Cotton** was produced in the **Deccan region**
- People practiced **weaving, spinning, and copper smelting**
- **Evidence of Chalcolithic Settlements -**
  - south-eastern Rajasthan,
  - Western Madhya Pradesh,
  - western Maharashtra,
  - south and eastern India
- Use of tiny **tools and weapons** made of stones- stone blades and bladelets
- Use of **black and redware (BRW).**

## Other features of Chalcolithic Culture

### 1. Pottery

- **First to use painted pottery**
- **Wheel made fine pottery**
- For decorative purposes- floral, animal, bird, and fish motifs were used

### 2. Ornaments

- Beads made of **semi-precious stones like steatite, quartz crystal, carnelian.**, etc were manufactured.
- **Common ornaments** included anklets, bangles, and copper beads

### 3. Implements

- **Microlithic tools made of siliceous material** were used commonly
- Use of **low-grade bronze** for weapons
- **Grinders, millers, and hammers** were used for food processing

### 4. Religious practices

- **Mother Goddess** was worshipped
- The **bull** was a **symbol of the religious cult**
- **Fertility cult** was worshipped
- **Female figurines** made of both baked or unbaked clay have been discovered **at Inamgaon and Nevada**
- **No evidence of a temple.**

### 5. Agriculture

- Chalcolithic settlements flourished in the **black cotton soil region**
- Both **Kharif and Rabi crops cultivated** in rotation
- **Crops grown** - barley, wheat, lentil, black gram, green gram, rice, and green peas.
- **Livestock** - buffaloes, cows, hunted deer, goats, sheep, and pigs.
- **Remains of the camel** have been discovered.

- **No evidence of plough or hoe**
- Discovery of perforated stone discs and digging sticks

#### 6. Burials

- People belonging to this phase **believed in after-life**
- In **Maharashtra**, dead were buried in urns under the floor of their houses in a north-south position
- In **eastern India**, fractional burials were practiced.
- In **Southern India**, dead were buried in an east-west position
- **Feet of the dead were chopped** to prevent the dead from returning to this world
- In **Daimabad**, five urns with pierced bottoms have been discovered.

#### Important Chalcolithic Cultures and their features

Culture	Period	Features	Sites
<b>Ahar Culture</b>	2100-1500 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Distinctive <b>black and redware</b> with white designs</li> <li>● <b>crops grown-</b> rice, jowar, bajra, kulthi, ragi, green peas, lentil, green and black gram.</li> <li>● <b>houses made of stones</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regional center- Gilund</li> <li>● Important sites- Ahar and Balathal</li> </ul>
<b>Kayatha Culture</b>	2000-1880 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● sturdy <b>red slipped ware</b> painted with designs in chocolate color</li> <li>● <b>red painted buff ware</b></li> <li>● combed ware which bore incised patterns</li> <li>● <b>Fortified settlements</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chambal and its tributaries</li> </ul>
<b>Malwa Culture</b>	1700-1200 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>coarse fabric wares</b> with a <b>thick buff surface</b> having designs in <b>black and red.</b></li> <li>● <b>crops grown-</b> wheat and barley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Navdatoli, Eran, and Nagda - imp. settlements</li> <li>● Navdatli - largest settlement</li> </ul>
<b>Savalda Culture</b>	2300-2000 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>earliest farming community in Deccan</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dhule district in Maharashtra</li> </ul>
<b>Jorwe Culture</b>	1400-700 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Black painted ware</b> on red with matt surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Valleys of Tapi, Godavari, and Bhima</li> <li>● Daimabad - largest settlement</li> </ul>
<b>Prabhas and Rangpur Culture</b>	2000-1400 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Polished redware</b></li> </ul>	



## Other Chalcolithic Sites

1. **Eastern Uttar Pradesh**
  - Khairadih
  - Narhan
2. **South-Eastern Rajasthan**
  - Ganeshwar- shows the **pre-Harappan chalcolithic culture**
  - Ahar- an abundance of copper tools, **stone axes or blades absent, practiced smelting and metallurgy**
3. **West Bengal (evidence of rice hooks)**
  - Mahishadal
  - Pandu Rajar Dhibi
4. **Western Madhya Pradesh (produced wheat and barley)**
  - Malwa- richest **chalcolithic ceramics** have been discovered here
  - Kayatha- the **discovery of 29 copper bangles** and two unique axes, necklaces of semi-precious stones such as carnelian and steatite
  - Eran- shows **non-Harappan culture**
5. **Western Maharashtra**
  - Jorwe- evidence of **flat, rectangular copper axes**
  - Daimabad- **largest Jorwe cultural site** (20 hectares), Bronze goods
  - Chandoli- **Copper chisels**
  - Inamgaon- **Evidence of rice**, figurines of Mother Goddess, Large mud houses with ovens, and circular pit houses.
  - Navdatoli- evidence of **beer and linseed**.
6. **Bihar**
  - Narhan
  - Chirand (evidence of fish hooks)

## Megalithic Culture of South India

### Megalith

- **Greek term:** Megas = great + lithos = stone.
- **Monuments built of large stones.**
  - **all monuments constructed of big stones ≠ megaliths.**
  - Term has **restricted usage** and is **applied only to a particular class of monuments or structures**, have grave like, commemorative or ritualistic association except the hero stones or memorial stones.
- **Megalithic monuments** - Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

### Origin and Spread of Megalithic Cultures

- Megalithic monuments - **most widespread remains** of man.
- **Origin - Mediterranean region** in the **early neolithic period**- carried by traders who went in search of metals along the Atlantic coast to western Europe,.
- **India - arrived with Dravidian speakers to South India** from west Asia by sea.
- **Indian megaliths** belonging to the **Iron Age** generally dated to **1000 B.C onwards**.



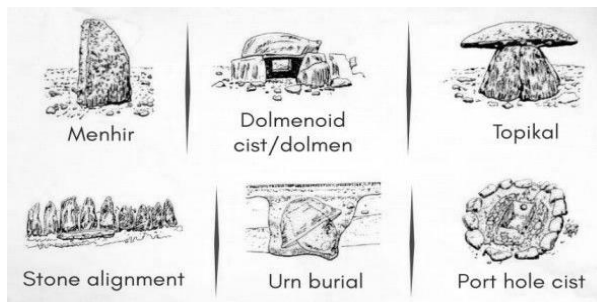
- **Advent into Indian subcontinent** would have taken place by **two routes**–
  - From **Gulf of Oman to the West coast of India**
  - **Land route from Iran.**
- **Main concentration** in India- **Deccan** (south of the river Godavari).
- Some of the **usual megalith types are found in North India, Central India and Western India.** Eg. Seraikela in Bihar; Deodhoora in Almora district and Khera near Fatehpur Sikri in Agra district of Uttar Pradesh; Nagpur; Chanda and Bhandra districts of Madhya Pradesh; Dausa, 32 miles east of Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- Also found near **Karachi in Pakistan, Leh in the Himalayas** and at **Burzahom in J&K.**
- **widespread distribution in the southern region** of India.

### Megalithic culture in South India

- A **full fledged iron age culture.**
- **Less use of stones for tools.**
- A circular tomb using big stone slabs built upon the place of burial is known as a **megalith.**
- Most of the **information about the iron age in South India** comes **from excavations of megalithic burials.**
- **Iron objects found in all megalithic sites** - Junapani near Nagpur in Vidarbha region (Central India) to Adichanallur in Tamilnadu in the far south.
- Some of the Megalithic sites in Tamilnadu are given below.
- **Adichanallur** - Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi district - The materials like Urns and pottery, Iron implements, Bronze objects and Traces of cloth and wood.
- **Paiyampalli** - Tirupathur taluk, Vellore district - Unearthed black & red ware pottery and Urn burials were found.
- **Kodumanal** - Erode (Banks of Noyyal river) - Conches and bangles, furnaces remnants, a kiln floor filled with ash soot, and potsherds with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions.

### Types of Megaliths

- Based on explorations and excavations carried out on different sites of South India:
  - **Rock Cut Caves**
    - **Carved on soft laterite** found in the southern part of the West Coast.
    - **Peculiar to west coast region** and occur in the Cochin and Malabar regions of **Kerala** (purely megalithic and funerary).
    - **East Coast of South India-** Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) near Madras.
    - **Deccan and western India** - Elephanta, Ajanta, Ellora, Karle, Bhaja etc.
  - **Hood Stones and Hat Stones /Cap Stones/Topikal**



<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/ae/dd/e0/aedde0751f57cd0165d4af8da553fe3a.jpg>

- **Allied with the rock cut caves** but of a **simpler** form.
  - **Consists of a dome-shaped laterite block** which covers the underground circular pit cut into a natural rock and provided with a stairway.
  - **Above a hood stone is a hat stone** or toppikkal-a **plano-convex slab resting on three or four quadrilateral clinostatic boulders.**
  - **Covers an underground burial pit** containing the funerary urn and other grave furnishings.
  - Found in **Cochin and Malabar regions.**
  - **Menhirs:**
    - **Monolithic pillars planted vertically** into the ground.
    - May be **small or gigantic** in height (16 ft - 3ft).
    - **Commemorative stone pillars** set up at or near a burial spot.
    - **Mentioned** in ancient Tamil literature **as nadukal / Pandukkal or Pandil.**
  - **Alignments:**
    - **Closely associated with the menhirs.**
    - Consists of a **series of standing stones, oriented to the cardinal directions.**
    - Found at Komalaparathala in **Kerala & Gulbarga, Raichur, Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar** districts of **Karnataka.**
  - **Avenues**
    - Consists of **two or more parallel rows of the alignments.**
  - **Dolmenoid Cists**
    - Consists of **square or rectangular box-like graves built of several orthostats**, one or more for each side, supporting the superincumbent capstone consisting of one or more stones, often with the floor also paved with the stone slabs.
    - May be **decorated & undecorated.**
    - Found **majorly in TN.**
- Orthostat**

  - A **large stone with a more or less slab-like shape artificially set upright.**
  - **Eg. Menhirs and other standing stones.**
- **Cairn Circles**
    - **Most popular type of megalithic monuments** occurring all over south India.
    - Consist of a **heap of stone rubble enclosed within a circle of boulders.**
    - **3 subtypes:**
  - **Pit burials**
    - Consist of **deep pits dug into the natural soil.**
    - **Roughly circular, square or oblong.**
    - **Skeletal remains and grave furniture placed on the floors.**
    - Then **filled up with soil.**
    - Found in Chingleput (**Tamilnadu**), Chitradurga and Gulbarga (**Karnataka**) districts.
  - **Sarcophagi burials**
    - A **legged coffin made of terracotta.**
    - Comparatively more **widespread than the pit burials.**

- Similar to pit burials except that the **skeletal remains and the primary deposits of grave furniture are placed in an oblong terracotta sarcophagus**
- **Supported on pottery stands and vessels** or placed on the floor.
- Found in South Arcot, Chingleput and North Arcot districts of **Tamil Nadu** and Kolar district of **Karnataka**, southern districts of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Pyriiform or urn burial.**
  - Urns, in which burials are made, are **deposited in pits dug into the soil.**
  - **Pits filled up with soil** upto ground level & **provided with a capstone.**
  - Found in **Kerala , Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh** and **Maharashtra.**

## Various aspects of Megalithic Culture

### Society

- **Sizeable rural population.**
- Houses - **huts with thatched or reed roofs**, supported on wooden posts.
- Spread of **plough cultivation- intensive cultivation.**
- **Village transhumance** within a distance of 10- 20 km from major water resources.
- **Maximum concentration in river valleys** and basins and black soil, red sandy-loamy soil zones.
- **Rainfall-** 600-1500 mm.
- Differences in monument size and nature of grave valuables- **class division.**

### Religious Beliefs and Practices

- Had **great veneration for the dead**
- Grave goods- **believed in life after death.**
- Also **buried domesticated animals.**
- **Belief in animism** - evident by occurrence of animal bones of domestic animals like cattle, sheep/goats and the wild animals like wolf in the megaliths.
- **Skeletal remains were buried in the graves**

#### Grave Goods in Megalithic Burials

- Megalithic people **constructed elaborate and labour-consuming tombs.**
- **Believed in the after-life of the dead**
- **Grave furniture - pottery; weapons, iron, stone or copper implements; ornaments** like beads of terracotta, semi-precious stones, gold or copper, shell, etc., strung into necklaces or rarely the ear or nose ornaments, armlets or bracelets and diadems;
- **Food** - paddy husk and chaff, and some other cereals;
- **Skeletal remains of animals** also found in the graves.

### Polity

- **People were of tribal descent-** prevalence of chiefdoms.
- **Chief** k/a **perumakan/ great son.**
- Commanded the entire personal, material and cultural resources of his clan.
- **Distribution of power** - simple and involved **no hierarchy.**
- **Small chiefdoms co-existing and contesting against one another** and anticipating the emergence of big chiefdoms by the turn of the Christian era.

#### Special burials for chiefs.

# 3 CHAPTER

# Indus Valley Civilisation

## Discovery of Indus Valley Civilization

- **First Urban Civilization** of South- Asia
- **Contemporary** to Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.
- Developed in the **North-western part of the Indian subcontinent.**
- **Charles Mason** - He was the **first person to visit Harappa** in 1826.
- **Alexander Burnes** - He visited Amri in 1831.
- **Alexander Cunningham** - **first surveyor** of Archaeological survey of India (ASI).
- **1853**- Discovery of a **Harappan seal** which showed a bull **by A. Cunningham.**
- **Sir John Marshall** - Director General of ASI.
- 1921- Discovery of **Harappa (the first archaeological site discovered)** by **Dayaram Sahni.** Therefore, it is also known as the Harappan civilization.
- 1922- Discovery of **Mohenjodaro** by **R.D. Banerjee.**
- **1940's** - **Mortimer Wheeler** excavated the Harappan cities.
- **Mehrgarh** - The place where the **domestication and agriculture** started.
- Essentially a **Riverine Civilization.**
- A **Bronze age Civilization.**

Views of Scholars	Origin
E.J.H. Mackay	Due to the migration of people from Sumer (Southern Mesopotamia)
D.H. Gordon and Martin Wheeler	Due to the migration of people from Western Asia
John Marshall and V. Gordon Childe	A colony of Mesopotamian Civilization having a foreign origin
S. R. Rao and T. N. Ramachandran	Built by Aryans
Stuart Piggot and Romila Thapar	Originated from Iranian-Baluchi culture
D. P. Aggarwal and Amlananda Ghosh	Originated from Iranian-Sothi culture

## Geographical Extent

