



BPSC

Prelims & Mains

Bihar Public Service Commission

General Studies

Paper 1 – Volume 1

**Ancient & Medieval History of
India and Bihar**



BPSC

G.S. PAPER – 1 VOLUME – 1

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF INDIA & BIHAR

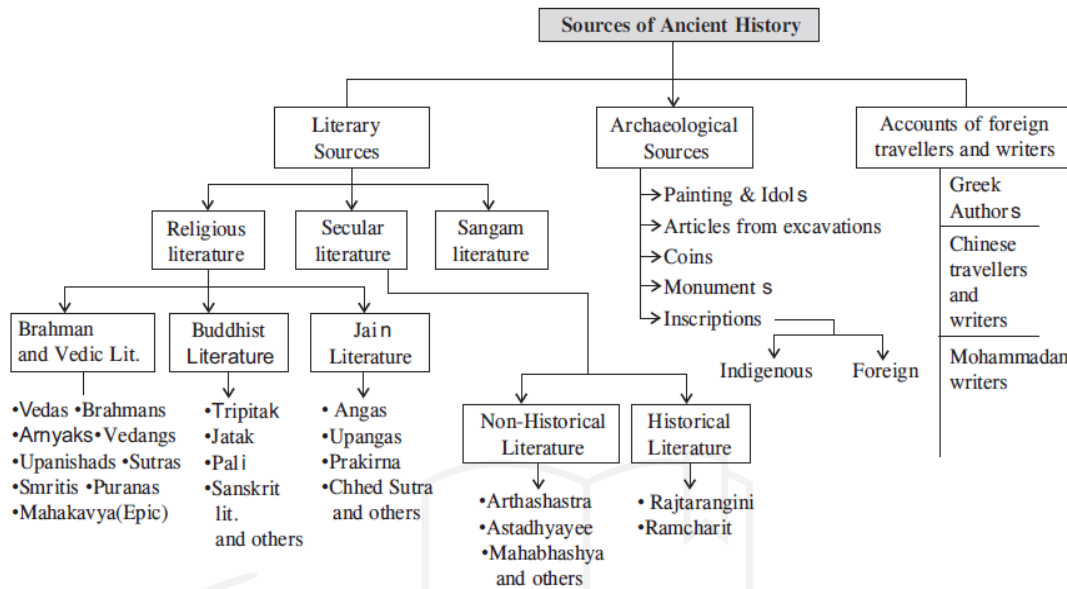
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1 CHAPTER

Sources of Ancient Indian History



Archeological Sources

- **Numismatics**- study of coins.
- **Epigraphy**- study of inscriptions.
- **Archeology** = 'Archaiois' + 'Logia' (archaios= ancient and logia = knowledge).

1. Inscriptions/ Epigraphs/ Edicts:

- Oldest inscriptions - Emperor Ashoka- majorly in Brahmi script.
- Other inscriptions of importance:

Name	Found	About
Naganika's inscription	Naneghat, Maharashtra	Works of Satavahana King Satakarni I
Nasik inscription	Nasik caves, Maharashtra	Gautamiputra Satkarni
Prayag Prashasti/ Allahabad Pillar	Allahabad, UP	Samudragupta ; written in Sanskrit by Harisena .
Aihole Inscription	Karnataka	by Ravikirti about Pulkeshin II , the Chalukya king of Badami.
Hathigumpha inscription	Udaygiri, Odisha	About King Kharvela .

2. Copper-plates

- Engraved for 'land-grants' and issued to the grantee.
- **3 plates of copper**, tied with each other through copper knot.
- **Upper and last portions are left not engraved** as these can be blurred with time.

- Inform about the **socio-economic condition** of that period.
- **Eg. Sohagaura-copper plate** informs us about severe drought and the measures undertaken by authorities to tackle the problem of food-shortage.

3. Coins

- Inform about the **trade and commercial activities**, and **economic and technological development**.
- Dates mentioned **help us to know about the chronology of kings**.
- **First coin of India** - 'Punchmarked coins' made by the method of punching.
- Possibly introduced **by the trading guilds** and not by any ruler.
- **Ratio of purity** in coins - interpret **about the economic condition of the ruler** and his time.
- **First gold coin** - by Indo-Greeks.
- **Purest gold coins** issued by 'Kushanas'.
- **Maximum number** but **impure gold coins**- Guptas.

4. Monuments/ Memorials

- Study helps us to **interpret the technical skills, living standard, economic condition & architectural style** of the time.
- **Depict the prosperity of a ruler** or the dynasty.
- **3 major styles**:
 - Nagar style in the North.
 - Dravid style in the South.
 - Vesara style in Deccan

5. Sculpture

- **Harappan Sculptures**- Made of stone, steatite, clay, terracotta, lime, bronze, ivory, wood etc- uses- idols, icons, toys, entertainment.
- **Bronze statues** (Harappan civilization) and **toys** (Diamabad)
- **Mauryan sculptures** - Yakshi of Didarganj - contemporary affluence and aesthetic sense of people.
- **Statue of Kanishka**- **foreign origin of the king** and costume of foreign style, like, high shoes, overcoats etc.

6. Paintings

- **Earliest instances of paintings**- Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh) - drawn **by Mesolithic cave-dwellers** by using colours and tools from surrounding nature.
- **Ajanta paintings**- information about **religious ideology, spiritual serenity, ornaments, costumes, foreign visitors** etc.
- **Chola Paintings**- display the **concept of 'divine kingship'** of Chola polity.

7. Archaeological Remains

A. Potteries:

- **Base equipment** from protohistory to Early Medieval period.
- **Composed of** various items, like, **bowls, plates, pots, etc.**

- **Differentiated** according to respective culture, shapes, fabrics, surface-treatment (fabric, colour, designs, painting), pottery-making technique etc.
- **Specific pottery-type** is assigned to **particular culture/period**.

B. Beads

- **Made of** various materials, like, **stone, semi-precious stones** (like Agate, Chalcedony, Crystal, Turquoise, Lapis-lazuli), **glass, metals like gold, copper; terra cotta, ivory, shell** etc.
- **Different shapes** like round, square, cylindrical, barrel-shaped etc.
- Can be **used as a source to know the technological development & esthetic sense** of a specific period.

C. Faunal Remains/Bones

- Excavations reveal large amounts of bones or faunal remains.
- **Shed light on the surrounding historical ecology or ecosystem** of that particular site.
- **Helps to understand the dietary habits of concerned people.**

D. Floral Remains

- Give **information on historical ecology** and **dietary habits** of concerned people.

Literary Sources

1. Religious sources

- Base source: **Brahmin texts** like Vedic texts, Sutras, Smriti, Puranas and Epics.

Vedic Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rig Veda- oldest - gives us an idea of Rig vedic society ● Sam veda, Yajur veda and Atharva veda - information about the society of later vedic period. ● history of 900 years (1500B.C- 600B.C). ● Give information about the origin of Aryans, their political structure, society, economic activities, religious perspectives, culture, etc.
Sutras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Words or hymns placed beautifully like pearls in a thread. ● Gives information about the vedic period. ● six parts: Shiksha, Vyakrana, Chhanda, Kalpa, Nirukta and Jyotish
Upveda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ayurveda- related to medical science - upveda of Rig veda.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gandharva veda- related to music - upveda of Sam veda. ● Dhanur veda- related to war skills, arms and ammunitions- upveda of Yajur veda. ● Shilpa veda- related to art sculpture and architecture - upveda of Atharva veda. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Divyavadana - 4th century A.D - information about different rulers. ● Aryamanjushrimulka - information about different rulers of Gupta empire from the Buddhist perspective. ● Angutarnikaya - gives the names of Sixteen Mahajanapadas.
Smriti Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manusmriti - oldest Smriti text (200B.C- 200A.D). ● Yagyavalkaya Smriti - compiled between 100A.D to 300A.D. ● Narada smriti (300A.D-400A.D) and Parashara Smriti (300A.D-500A.D)- social and religious conditions of the Guptas. 	Sinhalese Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consisted of Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa - Buddhist texts. ● Dipavamsa - 4th century A.D ● Mahavamsa - 5th century A.D. ● Provide information about social and cultural life of that time ● Knowledge of cultural relation of India and foreign countries.
Puranas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compiled after smritis; 18 in number. ● Markandeya Purana, Vayu Purana, Brahma Purana, Vishnu Purana, Bhagwat Puran and Matsya Purana - ancient Purana. ● information of ancient Indian dynasties in Matsya, Vayu and Vishnu puranas. ● Only available source of the dynasties that ruled after the battle of Mahabharata. ● Provide chronology of different dynasties and their hierarchy 	Jain Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Main texts- Agama texts (Total 12 in number) ● Acharangasutra -part of the Agamas - based on the teachings of Mahavira & talks about the conduct of Jain saints. ● Vyakhyaprajapati aka Bhagvati sutra - life of Mahavira. Nayadhammakaha- compilation of teaching of Lord Mahavira. ● Bhagavati Sutra - information about the 16 Mahajanapadas. ● Bhadrabahu Charit - throws light on the life of Jain Acharya Bhadrabahu and Chandragupta Maurya. ● Parishistaparvana - most important Jain text - written by Hemchandra in 12th century A.D.
Epics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A part of Brahmanic texts ● Most important- Mahabharata and Ramayana . ● Ramayana - by Valmiki - Post Mauryan period. ● Mahabharata - by Ved Vyas - completed in Gupta period - initially, named as Jai Samhita /Bharata 		
Buddhist Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pitakas - oldest Buddhist texts. ● Compiled after Lord Buddha attained Nirvana. ● 3 types : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sutta Pitaka- consists of religious ideology & sayings of Buddha. ○ Vinaya Pitaka- consists of the laws of Buddhist Sangha. ○ Abhidhamma Pitaka- consists of Buddhist philosophies. ● Jataka kathas - anecdotes of previous births of Lord Buddha ● Milindapanho - Buddhist text - gives us information about the philosophical dialogue between Greek ruler Minander and Buddhist saint Nagasena. 		

2. Non-Religious Texts

- Throw light on almost all the aspects of the society.
- **Ashatadhayayi**- by **Panini** - **oldest grammar/literature of India** - information about the political, social and religious condition of **Pre-Mauryan period.**
- **Mudrarakshasa**- by **Vishkhadutta** - information about the **Mauryan period.**
- **Arthashastra** - **Kautilya/Vishnugupta/Chanakya** - divided into 15 parts - information about **Indian political system, condition of Mauryan age.**
- **Mahabhashya** of **Patanjali** and **Malvikagnimitram** by **Kalidasa** - information about '**Shunga Dynasty**'.
- **Kamasutra of Vatsyana** - information on social life, physical relations, family life, etc.

- 'Mrichchakatikam' by Shudraka and 'Dashkumaracharita' by Dandin - information of the social life of that period.

3. Sangam literature

- **Earliest south Indian literature**
- **information about** the social, economic and political life of the **people living in deltaic Tamil Nadu**

Sangam Literature and their authors	Authors	Subject/nature/Hint
Agattiyam	Agastya	A work on grammar of letters
Tolkappiyam (Tamil grammar)	Tolakpiyyar	A treatise on grammar & poetry
Ettutogai (8 anthologies)	--	Melkannakku combined form.
Pattu Pattu (10 idyls)	--	Melkannakku combined form.
Patinenkilakanakku (18 minor works)	--	A didactic work.
Kural (Muppai)	Tiruvalluvar	A treatise on polity, ethics, social norms.
Silappadikaram	Ilango Adigal	A love story of Kovalan Samadhavi
Manimekalai	Sittalai Sattanar	The adventures of Manimekalai

Sivaga Sindamani	Tirutakadevar	A Sanskrit treatise
Bharatam	Perudevanar	The last epic
Pannirupadalam (grammar)	12 disciples of Agastya	A grammatical work on puram literature
Kakkipadiyam (Prosody)	--	A work on prosody

4. Foreign Accounts

- Consist of writing of Greek, Roman, Chinese and Arab travelers.

Herodotus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered the first historian of the world. • Mentioned Indian soldiers fighting along the side of Persians.
Megasthenes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador of Seleucus Nicator, posted in the court of Chandragupta Maurya. • Work - Indica - gives description of the layout of Pataliputra • Mentions above social structure, caste-system, caste-relations etc. • Original Indica is lost.
Periplus of Erythraean Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presumed to be written by a fisherman on Egypt coast. (64th BPSC Prelims Examination) • Gives impartial and objective information on the Indo-Roman trade during the Early Historic period. • Inform about the ports on India's coast-line, trade-centres in India, the trade-routes-connecting trade centres and ports, distance between centres, items-of-trade, annual volume of trade, types of ships etc.

Fa-Hien (Fa Xian)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited India during Gupta period. • Buddhist monk; visited India to seek knowledge from Devbhumi (i.e. India) and visit Buddhist pilgrimage centres.
Hiuen-Tsiang (Xuan Zang)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited India during Harshavardhana's reign. • Visited Buddhist pilgrimage centres, stayed at Nalanda University. • Studied Buddhism, read original Buddhist works, collected original manuscripts and mementos, made copies, attended Harsha's assembly. • In China, he wrote 'Si-Yu-Ki' (Great Tang Records on the Western Regions)- gives vivid descriptions of what he witnessed in India. • Gives information of kings especially Harsha and his generosity, people and customs of various regions in India, lifestyles etc.

Sources of Bihar History

Sources of Bihar History

Archaeological Evidence

- Paleolithic (Munger & Nalanda)
- Mesolithic (Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Singhbhum and Santhal Pargana)
- Neolithic (Chirand in Saran & Chechar in Vaishali)
- Ruins of the Eighty pillared hall at Kumhrar (Patna)
- Maurya's pillar inscription at Lauriya Nandangarh, Rampurva (W.Champaran) and Lauriya Areraj (East Champaran)
- Seals and coins of Gupta Period found at Vaishali.

Literary Sources

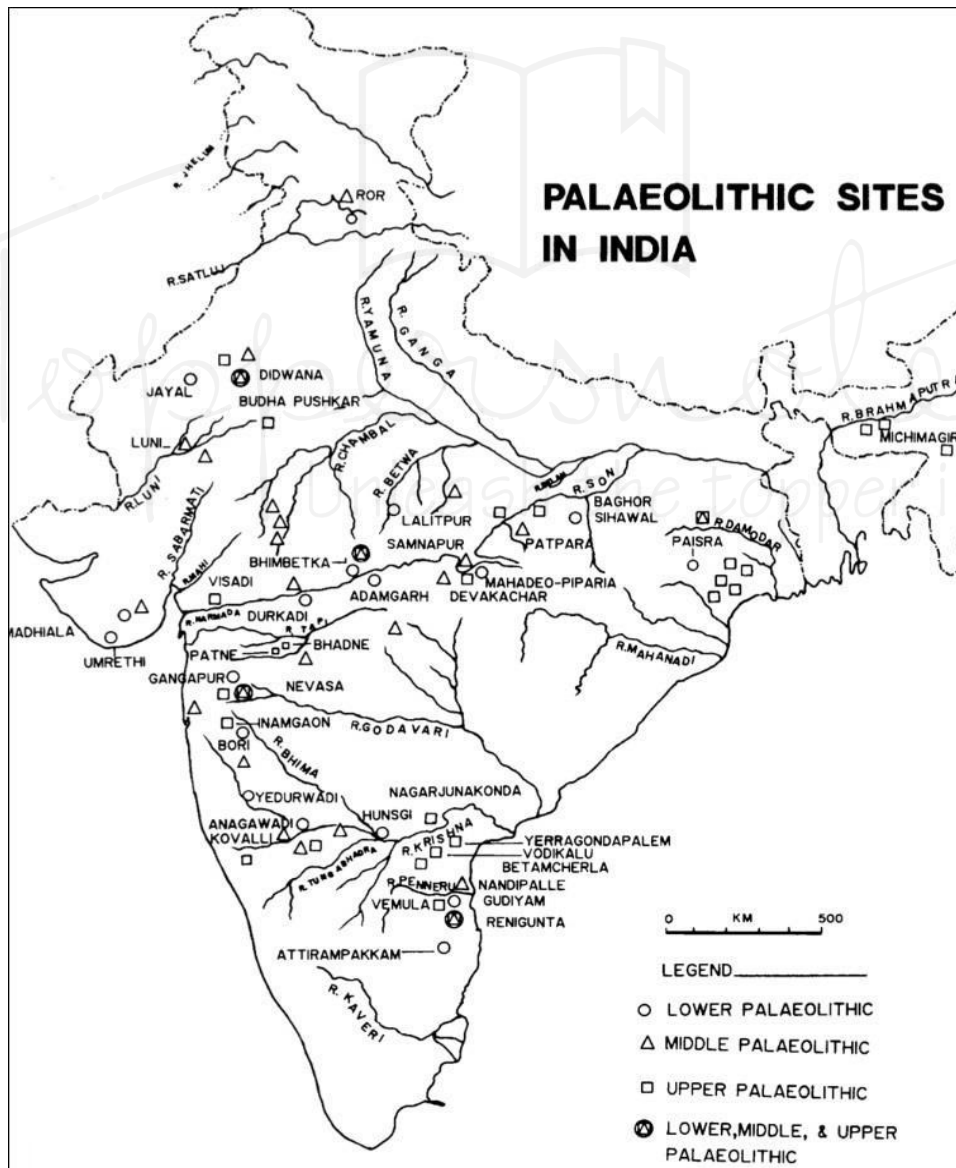
- Shatapatha Brahman refers that Aryan Civilisation besides the Ganga.
- Atharvaveda & Panchvish Brahman referred to wandering ascetic in ancient Bihar as Vartyas.
- Rigveda mentioned untouchable people of the region as Kikat.
- Purana, Ramayana and Mahabharata
- Buddhist literatures like Abhidhamma Pitaka, Vinaypitaka and Suttapitaka.
- Angutar Nikaya mentioned about Mahajanpada.
- Digh Nikaya, Deepvansh and Mahavansh
- Jain literatures like Bhadrabahu's Kalpsutra, Parishishta Varnana and Vasudeveharita states about the early history of Chandragupta Maurya
- Megasthenese visited India in the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Fa-Hien visited India during 5th century AD talks about Magadha.
- Hiuen Tsang came in 637 AD in the court of King Harsha and mentioned the great monastery at Nalanda.
- I-tsing, a Chinese traveler who describes about Nalanda and its neighbour.

2 CHAPTER

STONE AGE

- 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)



Palaeolithic (Paleolithic) Age= Old Stone Age			
	Lower	Middle	Upper
Period (Approx.)	5,00,000 BC to 40,000 BC	40,000 BC to 23,000 BC	23,000 BC to 10,000 BC
Occupation	Hunting, fishing, food gathering	Hunting, fishing, food gathering	Hunting, fishing, food gathering
Tools	Chopper/Cleaver, Hand-axe	Blade (for hiding), Borer (for piercing), Point (for piercing), Scraper (for hiding)	Blade (for hiding), Scraper (for hiding), Burin (for piercing, carving)
Forms of Stones	Pebbles	Flakes	Flint (form of quartz and chert)
Material	Quartzite	Quartzite	Chert and Jasper; Bone Tools
Clothing	Hides &Skins, Tree-barks, Leaves	Hides &Skins, Tree-barks, Leaves	Hides & Skins, Tree-barks, Leaves
Shelter	Caves and rock-shelters	Caves and rock-shelters	Caves and rock-shelters
Other Features	No Agriculture No Fire No Wheel	No Agriculture No Fire No Wheel	No Agriculture Fire (Possibly) No Wheel Cave Petroglyphs

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

- 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.

Painting

- Art lovers and initiated rock art in **Prehistory**.
- **First Rock painting in India-** found at **Sohaghat (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
- **Mesolithic rock art sites** -
 - Central India - **Bhimbetka caves, Kharwar, Jaora and Kathotia (M.P), Sundargarh**
 - Sambalpur (**Odisha**)
 - Ezhuthu Guha (**Kerala**).

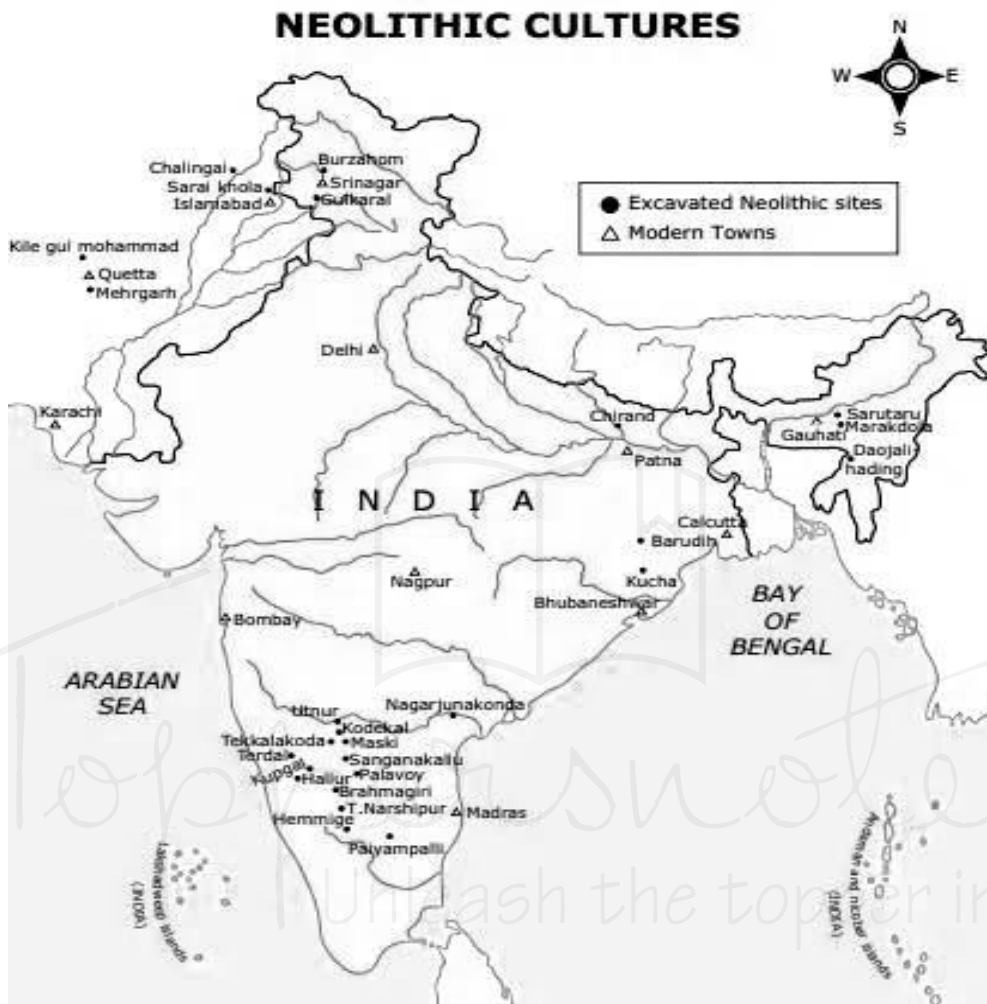
Important Mesolithic Sites

Sites	Major findings
Bagore (Rajasthan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the biggest and best-documented Mesolithic sites in India • On river Kothari. • Earliest evidence of the domestication of animals.
Mahadaha, Damdama, Sarai Nahar Rai (Uttar Pradesh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of human skeletons. • Double burial • One burial had an ivory pendant as the Grave God.

Langhnaj (Gujarat) and Biharanpur (West Bengal)-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Langhnaj- Bones of wild animals (rhinoceros, blackbuck, etc.) ● Several human skeletons ● Large number of microliths
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Neolithic Period (New Stone Age)

- **Greek words:** Neo = new and lithic = stone.
- **Coined by Sir John Lubbock** in 1865.



● 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**.

● Tools and Weapons

- **Polished, pecked, and ground stone tools**.

● 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**.

Important Neolithic Sites

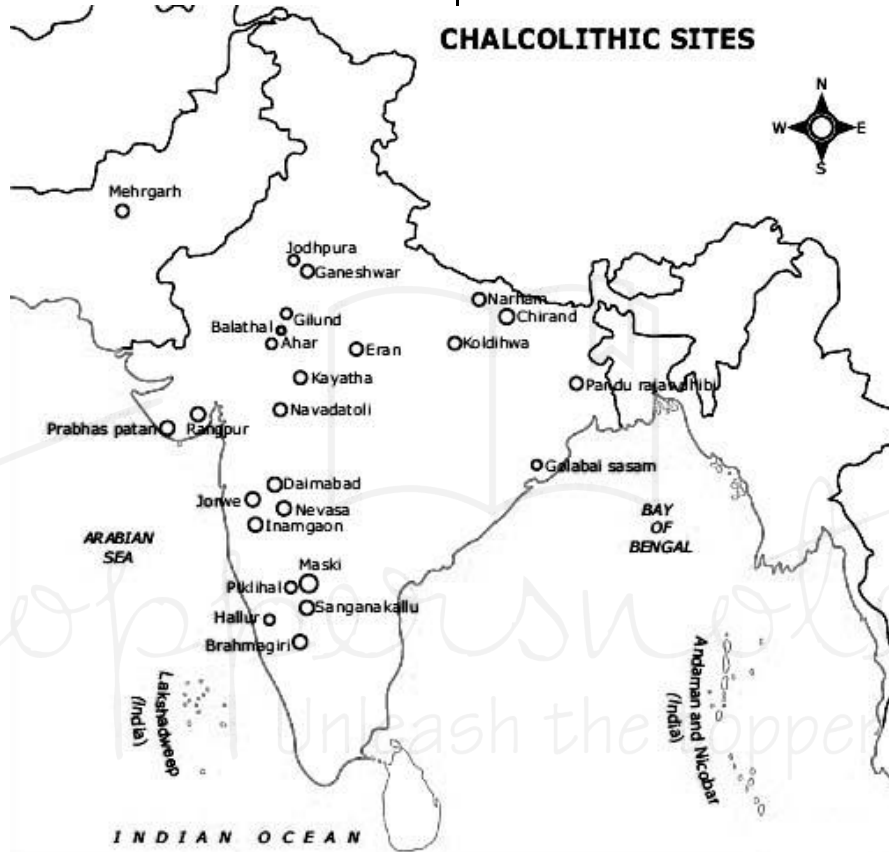
- **Koldihwa (lying south of Allahabad):** Provides evidence of **circular huts** along with crude hand-made pottery.
- **Mahagara:** The earliest evidence of **rice cultivation** in the world
- **Mehrgarh (Balochistan, Pakistan):** **earliest Neolithic site**, where people lived in houses built of sun-dried 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.

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



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).**

Important Chalcolithic Cultures and their Features

Culture	Period	Features	Sites
Ahar Culture	2100-1500 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distinctive black and redware with white designs ● crops grown- rice, jowar, bajra, kulthi, ragi, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional center- Gilund ● Important sites- Ahar and Balathal

		green peas, lentil, green and black gram. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● houses made of stones 	
Kayatha Culture	2000-1880 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● sturdy red slipped ware painted with designs in chocolate color ● red painted buff ware ● combed ware which bore incised patterns ● Fortified settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chambal and its tributaries
Malwa Culture	1700-1200 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● coarse fabric wares with a thick buff surface having designs in black and red. ● crops grown- wheat and barley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Navdatoli, Eran, and Nagda - imp. settlements ● Navdatoli - largest settlement
Savaldia Culture	2300-2000 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● earliest farming community in Deccan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dhule district in Maharashtra
Jorwe Culture	1400-700 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black painted ware on red with matt surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valleys of Tapi, Godavari, and Bhima ● Daimabad - largest settlement
Prabhas and Rangpur Culture	2000-1400 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Polished redware 	

Other Chalcolithic Sites

1. Eastern Uttar Pradesh

- Khairadih

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 grains)

- 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**)

Pre History in Bihar

- There are **evidence of Mesolithic human Inhabitation in Bihar**.
- **Pre-historic rock paintings** discovered from: **Kaimur, Nawada and Jamui** region of Bihar.
 - They **depict lifestyle** of people during that time.
 - Inform about **human activities** like dancing, hunting walking etc.
 - They are **identical** to those found in **central and southern India** and also in **Europe and Africa**.
 - Rock paintings of Spain's Alta Mira and France's Lascaux share some common features with those discovered from Bihar
- **Evidences of Neolithic settlement:** Discovered in **Chirand** region of Bihar.
- **Traces of Mesolithic habitation: Paisra (munger).**



Neolithic evidences in Bihar

Chirand

- It is an **archaeological site** in **Saran** district of Bihar.
- **Location:** northern bank of Ganga River.
- It has a **large pre-historic mound**
 - Known for its **continuous archaeological record from the Neolithic age** (about 2500–1345 BC) to the reign of the **Pal dynasty** who ruled during the premedieval period.
- Excavations have **revealed stratified Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Iron Age** settlements, and transitions in human habitation patterns dating from 2500 BC to 30 AD.
- **Chirand Neolithic group occupied plains**, while their contemporaries inhabited the plateaus and hills.
- Here **occupational categorization** covers **three periods** -
 - Period I Neolithic (2500–1345 BC)
 - Period II Chalcolithic (1600 B.C) and
 - Period III Iron age.
- **Carbon dating** of top layer of Neolithic period dates the layer between **1910 BC and 1600 BC**.
 - **Lowest** level of the **finds** date to **200 BC**.
- **Economy**
 - It included **hunting, gathering, fishing and animal rearing**.
- **Paddy husk impressions** in some **potsherds** indicate **involvement** in cultivating rice and cereals such as wheat, moong, masoor, and barley.
- Both **cultivated** and **wild rice** was harvested during summer and again during winter.

Major Findings

- **Archaeological finds** are from a **Neolithic deposit** of 3.5 metres (11 ft) thickness, a Chalcolithic layer 5.5 metres (18 ft) thick and iron age formation of 2.45 metres (8 ft 0 in) thickness.

- **Pottery**
 - **25,000 potsherds** excavated from **Chirand** are grouped according to **Period II Neolithic pottery** appearing more **refined** than the **Period I pottery**, all from smoothed **clay** mixed with **mica**.
 - Most of the **pottery** was **hand made**.
 - **Some vessels** were made by **turn table** or **dabbing**.
 - **Half potsherds** are **red ware** and **half** are **black and red ware**.
- **Tools**
 - Neolithic stone implements of **celts** were found.
 - **Axes** found were **made of quartzite, basalt and granite**.
 - The finds included **nine types of microliths**.
 - **Waste flakes** found indicate **prevalence of process of manufacture** in a well established **microlithic industry** in the area that included **chert, chalcedony, agate and jasper**, derived from dry river bed of **Son river**.
 - **Stone discs** were discovered in **long, cylindrical and triangular shapes**.

Social life

- Neolithic people **lived in circular wattle and daub** huts made of **mud** and **reeds** with rammed floors.
- **Hearths** and **oblong shaped ovens** were found in a **semicircular hut**.
- **White** colour of **soil** around the **hearth** and ovens pointed to **animal meat** roasted in ovens.
- **Rice** was **staple food**.
- **Mud boundary walls** of **houses** were traced.
- **Burnt** chunks of **clay with reed or bamboo** impressions **suggest** that **houses** were **destroyed by fire**.

Chalcolithic age

- 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**.

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)**.

Chalcolithic Sites in Bihar

- **Narhan**
- **Chirand**
- **Settlement:** post-holes and round houses.
- **Agriculture:** Rice+fishhook

Key takeaways

- **Pre-historic rock paintings** discovered from: **Kaimur, Nawada and Jamui region** of Bihar.
- Mesolithic habitation : **Paisra (munger)**.
- **Neolithic evidences** in Bihar from **Chirand**
 - Known for its **continuous archaeological record** from Neolithic age to the reign of the Pal dynasty
- **Chalcolithic Sites in Bihar**
 - **Narhan**
 - **Chirand**
 - **Settlement:** post-holes and round houses.
 - **Agriculture:** Rice + **fish hooks**