

# 2024

# HISTORY



*for*

**State Engineering Services Exams,  
SSC, PSUs, Banking, RRB and  
Other Exams**

*by* Mr. B. Singh



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# Preface

This comprehensive textbook on **History** provides all the requirements of the students, i.e., comprehensive coverage of theory, fundamental concepts and objective type questions articulated in a lucid language. This concise presentation will help the readers grasp the topics of **History** with clarity and apply them with ease to solve objective questions quickly.

This book covers the syllabus of States Engineering Services Exams including APPSC, MPPSC, MPSC, BPSC, UPPSC; SSC, PSUs, Banking, RRB and other examinations. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book clarifies all the concepts. The book incorporates theory as well as previous years' questions of various State Engineering Services Examinations, UPSC ESE, etc. It also contains plenty of objective type questions for practice. This book has been very well targeted for aforementioned exams covering all the aspects of subject matter required for these examinations.

We have put-in our sincere efforts to present detailed theory and MCQs without compromising the accuracy of answers. For the interest of the readers, some notes, do you know and interesting facts are given in the comprehensive manner.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors. It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting-in their efforts to publish this book.



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## Archaeological ruins at Mohenjodaro

*A view of the Buddhist Stupa in the background located in the higher settlement to the west, generally referred to as the citadel mound, and it is mostly comprised of the ruins of ancient administrative buildings constructed on top of a massive mud-brick platform.*

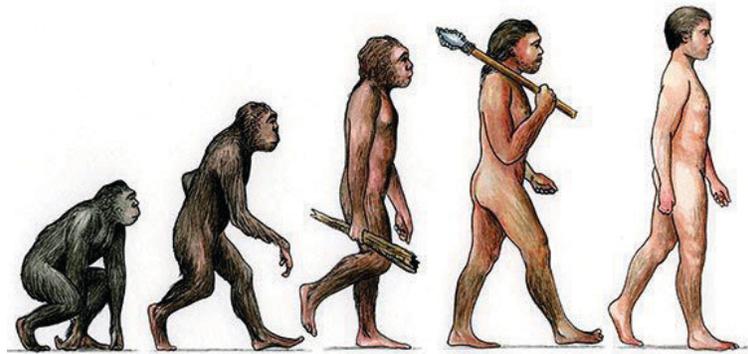
# Ancient India

## Prehistoric Period

- The early prehistoric period was observed before the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE.
- The period of the prehistoric agriculturalists and pastoralists was during approximately the 8<sup>th</sup> to the mid-fourth millennium BCE.

The prehistoric period can be studied under four Periods/Cultures:

- Paleolithic Culture
- Mesolithic Culture
- Neolithic Culture
- Chalcolithic Culture



## Paleolithic Culture

The Paleolithic Age in India is divided into three phases, based on tool technology. These phases are:

- Lower Paleolithic-Hand axe and cleaver industries
- Middle Paleolithic-Tools made of flakes
- Upper Paleolithic-Tools made of flakes and blades

## Lower Palaeolithic Culture

- Lower Paleolithic culture is dated between 6,00,000 and 60,000 B.C.
- Tools- Hand axes, cleavers
- Raw materials used for tools were made of stone, like quartzite, chert and sometimes even quartz and basalt, etc.
- **Important sites:** Pahalgam in Kashmir, Belan valley in Allahabad district (Uttar Pradesh), Bhimbetka and Adamgarh in Hoshangabad district (Madhya Pradesh), 16 Rand Singi Talav in Nagaur district (Rajasthan), Nevasa in Ahmadnagar district (Maharashtra), Hunsgi in Gulbarga district (in Kanlataka) and the famous site of Attirampakkam (Tamil Nadu).

Culture/Period	Date
Paleolithic Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Paleolithic culture is dated between 6,00,000 and 60,000 B.C.</li> <li>• Middle Paleolithic culture can be dated between 1,50,000 and 40,000 B.C.</li> <li>• Upper Paleolithic culture as per scientific studies is estimated to lasted from about 45,000 to 10,000 B.C.</li> </ul>
Mesolithic Culture	9,000 to 6,000 B.C.
Neolithic Culture	10,000B.C. -3000 B.C.
Chalcolithic Culture	2800 B.C.- 1400 B.C.

### Middle Palaeolithic Site

- Middle Palaeolithic culture can be dated between 1,50,000 B.C. and 40,000 B.C.
- **Tool:** Small and medium-sized handaxes, cleavers and various kinds of scrapers, borers, and knives.
- **Important sites:** Bhimbetka, Nevasa, Pushkar, Rohiri hills of upper Sind, and Samnapur on Narmada.

### Upper Palaeolithic Site

- Upper Palaeolithic as per scientific studies is estimated to last from about 45,000 to 10,000 B.C.
- **Tools:** Parallel sided blades.
- **Sites:** Various sites in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra

### Mesolithic Culture

- It is also referred as Late Stone Age, Mesolithic or Microlithic period.
- **Tools:** Parallel side blades.
- **Materials used:** Chert, chalcedony, crystal, jasper, carnelian, agate, etc.
- These tools are generally 1 to 5 cm. long and included points, scrapers, burins, awls, etc.,
- These communities were essentially hunters, food-gatherers and fishermen, but also practised some form of agriculture.
- **Important sites:** Bagor in Rajasthan, Langhnaj in Gujarat, Sarai Nahar Rai, Chopani Mando, Mahdaha and Damdama in Uttar Pradesh, and Bhimbetka and Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh.
- Evidence of the association with sheep and goat at Bagor and Adamgarh sites are obtained.
- Cloths made of animal skin were used.
- Domestication of dogs was seen.
- Semi-permanent settlements can be observed.

### Prehistoric Rock Art

- Rock-paintings depicting subjects, chiefly animals, hunting scenes can be observed in Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites.

- **Important rock painting sites:** Chargul in north-west Pakistan, Murhana Paharb in Uttar Pradesh, Bhimbetka, Adamgarh, Lakha Juar in Madhya Pradesh and Kupagallu in Karnataka.
- The colours used in making these drawings are deep red, green, white and yellow.

### Neolithic Culture: Beginning of Settled Life

- By 3,000 B.C., Neolithic culture was widespread over a large part of the Indian subcontinent.
- **Settled life:** Presence of sheep and goat bones in good quantities in the early phase of Neolithic culture (dated to c. 7000-10000 B.C.) and cereal crops indicate domestication or settled way of life by that time.
- **Regions:** In the Indian context, the Neolithic-agriculture based regions can roughly be divided into four groups: (i) the Indus system and its western borderland; (ii) Ganga valley (iii) western India and the northern Deccan and (iv) the southern Deccan.
- **Economy:** Economy was based on agriculture and domestication of animals. While subsistence was primarily based on hunting and food gathering
- **Use of Ceramic:** Earthen pots and pans come in use around 6000 B.C. Initially these were handmade and then they were wheel-made.
- **Crops:** Rice, barley and wheat.
- **Trade:** Finding of shell bangles and pendants made of mother-of-pearl indicates long-distance trade.
- **Houses:** Rectangular houses made of mud-bricks.
- **Tools:** Stone axes, shouldered celts and round-butted axes.
- **Important sites:** Gufkral and Burzahom in Kashmir, Mahgara, Chopani Mando and Koldihwa in Belan valley in Uttar Pradesh, and Chirand in Bihar.
- Around 6000 B.C., Rice crop evidence in Koldihwa has been found which indicates the earliest presence of Rice in the world.
- **Southern Neolithic Culture:** The southern Neolithic Age is dated between 2600 and 800 B.C. Some of the most important sites in southern India are

Narsipur, Sangankallu, Hallur and Brahmagiri in Karnataka, Kodekal, Utnur, Nagatjunikonda and Palavoy in Andhra Pradesh, Tekkalakota, Maski, T. and Paiyampalli in Tamil Nadu.

## Chalcolithic Culture

### Some important Chalcolithic cultures

Culture	Period
Ahar culture	2800-1500 B.C
Kayatha culture	2450-1700 B.C.
Malwa culture	1900-1400 B.C.
Savalda culture	2300-2000 B.C.
Jorwe culture	1500 -900 B.C.
Prabhas culture	2000-1400 B.C.
Rangpur culture	1700-1400 B.C.

- At the end of Neolithic culture, different cultures emerged in different areas. While in the Indus plains a full-fledged civilization emerged, in Deccan a contemporary culture called Chalcolithic culture developed.
- **Trade and Commerce:** It is suggested that in Chalcolithic culture copper tools and objects were traded from one region to another. For example-copper tools from Ahar to Malwa and Gujarat, Conch shell from the Saurashtra coast to various other parts of the Chalcolithic regions, Jorwe pottery to distant places and Inamgaon pottery has been found at several sites located away from it.
- **Religious Beliefs:** Mother Goddess, Bull and stylised lingas have been found at different sites. People had a belief in after death as pots and other funerary objects were found along burials.
- **Technology:** Painted pottery was well fired in kilns. Metal tools are mainly made of copper-axes, chisels, bangles, beads, hooks, etc. Gold ornaments were very rare and found only in Jorwe culture. Crucibles and pairs of tongs of copper were found at Inamgaon which shows the technology of goldsmiths was present. Lime was used for various purposes like painting.

- **Copper Hoards:** Large amounts of copper hoards were found at different sites which mostly included- celts, harpoons, antennae swords, rings and anthropomorphs. The Copper Hoards include weapons and tools as well as objects of worship. Most of these are made of Copper, which was mostly obtained from Khetri copper mines of Rajasthan and hilly regions of Almora District in Uttaranchal.
- **OCP Culture:** Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) is found in Upper gangetic plains during the period of Mature Harappan Civilization. It was made of red slip with black paintings. Copper Hoards are also found at many sites of OCP culture. For example-OCP deposit at Saipai, in District Etah. Many other sites in upper Ganga valley like Bahadarabad, Nasirpur (Hardwar), Rajpur-Parsu (Meerut) Bisauli (Badaun) and Baheria (Shahjahanpur) had copper hoards and they also yielded OCP.

## Indus Valley Civilization

- Indus Valley Civilization is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. It flourished around the Indus river and its tributaries. The area consists of modern Pakistan and Northwestern India. Mohenjodaro is the largest site of the Civilization.
- Indus valley civilization is also called as Harappan civilization because Harappa was the first site to be excavated in 1921 under the supervision of **Daya Ram Sahni**.
- The known extent of this civilization in the west is upto Sutkagendor in Baluchistan; Alamgirpur (UP) in the east; Daimabad (Maharashtra) in South; and Manda (J and K) in the north.
- This civilization belongs to Bronze Age/ Chalcolithic Age. Hence, it is also called Bronze Age civilization.
- Contemporary civilizations of Harappan civilization are Mesopotamian or Sumerian civilization, Egyptian civilization and Chinese civilization.

- John Marshall was the first scholar to use the term “Indus Valley Civilization”.
- Harappan seals have been found in Ur and Kish in Mesopotamia. On the basis of which Archaeologist John Marshall suggested that Harappan civilization flourished between 3250 and 2750 B.C.
- On the basis of radiocarbon dating, following chronology has been attributed to the civilization:

Harappan Phase	Date
Early Harappan Phase	c. 3500 -2600 B.C
Mature Harappan Phase	c. 2600 -1900 B.C.
Late Harappan Phase	c. 1900 -1300 B.C.

## Important features of Harappan Civilization

### Town Planning

- Town planning was the most distinguishable feature of Harappan Civilization.
- Orientation of streets and buildings were according to cardinal directions- from north-south and east-west and cut each other at right angles which gave a Chess-board pattern to the town.
- Western citadel for rulers and a lower town to the east for service communities was also featured in the town planning. But this can't be attributed to all cities. As many had crafts workshops located in the lower city, large public buildings, market areas, large and small private houses as well as crafts workshops found in all areas.
- Each city comprised a series of walled sectors or mounds, oriented in different directions.
- Many sites like Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Kalibangan, Surkotada had large gateways at various entry points of the city.
- At Dholavira, a large sign board has been excavated which is the largest example of writing ever from Harappan sites.
- Mud-bricks and kiln-fired-bricks, wood and reeds were mainly used for buildings. The floors of houses were generally hard-packed earth that was often plastered.

### Types of Building

- Different types of buildings have been excavated at IVC sites which can be categorized into three types: Private houses, Large houses surrounded by small houses, Large public structures.
- A wide variation is seen in different houses. Some are single roomed while some have dozens of rooms with a courtyard.
- Two storied houses are also excavated.
- Herths and bathrooms are also found in houses.
- The doors were made of wood with a brick socket set.
- Well is found in the courtyard of almost all houses. Deep grooves on the wall of wells shows that rope was used to fetch the water from the well.
- The adjacent houses were separated by narrow lanes.
- **Public Buildings:** Several large and distinct structures have been found at many sites for example the citadel mound at Mohenjodaro is the Great Bath. Blocks of brickwork crisscrossed by narrow lanes are found at Mohenjodaro and other sites as well which have been identified as granaries. A dockyard is found at Lothal and near the dockyard a number of seals have been found which made scientists think that Lothal was a major trading center of the Harappan civilization.

### Streets and Drains

- One of the most prominent features of Harappan civilization is well laid-out streets and side lanes equipped with drains. The streets cut each other at right angles.
- Even the smaller towns and villages have impressive drainage systems which indicates great civic sense of sanitation and care for health and hygiene.
- Drains of burnt bricks. Small drains were connected with bathing platforms and latrines of private houses which joined to medium sized drains in the side streets which in turn ran into larger sewers in the main streets. One of them is large drain which functions as the main drain taking all the waste water out of the town.

### Craft and Industry

- Usually unalloyed copper was used for manufacturing artifacts. Tin was rarely used to make bronze.
- Tools included- Flat-axes, chisels, arrowhead, spearheads, knives, saws, razors, fish-hooks, chert blades.
- Weights of lead, and gold and silver jewelry, precious and semi-precious stone beads are also found.
- Steatite was used for making a variety of objects like seals, beads, bracelets, buttons, vessels, etc.
- Gold objects occur in the form of beads, pendants, amulets, brooches etc.
- Wheel made pots are found with bright red surface painted with black.
- Seals made of steatite depicting unicorn bull, elephant, rhinoceros, trees, semi-human and human figurine etc are found.
- Shell ornaments like pendants, rings, bracelets, inlays, beads etc., beside objects as bowls, ladles and gamesmen are also found at settlements nearing sea.

### Trade and Commerce

- Trade was done in agricultural produce, industrial raw materials, like copper ores, stone, semi precious shells, etc and finished products of metals (pots and pans, weapon, etc.), precious and semiprecious stones (beads, pendants, amulets etc.), ornaments of gold and silver.
- Harappan seals and other artifacts are found in contemporary Mesopotamian civilization, and some Egyptian objects in Harappan civilization.

### Weights and Measures

- Cubical and spherical shaped measures made of chert, jasper and agate were used by harappans.
- The weights proceed in a series, first doubling, from 1,2,4,8, to 64, then going to 160; and from then on in decimal multiples of sixteen, 320, 640, 1600, 6400 (1600x4), 8000 (1600x 5) and 128,000 (i.e . 16000 x 8).

- The measures of length was based upon a foot of 37.6 cm. and a cubit of 51.8 to 53.6 cm.

### Transport and Travel

- Some seals had representation of boats and ships which indicates travel and transport were carried on through ships and boats.
- Bullock-carts and pack animals like bull, camel, ass, etc. were used for land transport.

### Agriculture

- Cereals were produced in enough quantities that they have also been stored in granaries.
- The principal cereals seem to have been wheat and barley but rice was also grown.
- Millets like jowar, kodon, sanwa, and jowar, and crops like dates, varieties of legumes, sesame and mustard were also cultivated.
- Cotton has been found at Mehrgarh, at least 2000 years before the mature phase of the Civilization.
- Wooden plough with a copper-wooden ploughshare was used for tilling fields.
- Animals like sheep, goat, bull, buffalo, elephants, camels, pig, dog and cat were domesticated.
- Seals depicting sheep, goat, humped bull, buffalo, elephant, etc have been found. Bones of wild animals like spotted deer, sambar deer, hog deer, wild pig, camel, etc. are also found which evidently were hunted for food. Several types of birds as well as fishes were also hunted for food.

### Arts

- **Terracotta figurines:** A large number of terracotta figurines, which were handmade, of humans, animals, birds, monkeys, dogs, sheep, cattle, humped and humpless bulls are found.
- **Seals:** Seals depicting unicorn, humped bull, elephants, tigers, rhinoceros, ram and occasionally human have been excavated.
- The red sandstone torso made of detachable limbs and head and gray stone torso dancing figurine is found at Harappa.
- Bronze female statue of a dancing girl is excavated from Mohenjodaro.

**Script**

- The script of Harappan culture is still unknown.
- The Harappan script has 400 to 500 signs and it is generally agreed that it is not an alphabetic form of writing rather is pictographic.
- The script was written from left to right.

**Religion**

- From the material evidence, it has been concluded that Indus people used to worship- Mother Goddess, male deity probably Shiva, trees, inanimate stones in the form of linga and yoni, animals, natural, semi human, etc.
- Faith in amulets, practice of Yoga has also been suggested from the evidence.
- Seals representing mythical and composite creatures like human faced goat or part ram or goat, part bull and part elephant, three-headed chimeras, semi human semi-bovine creatures have been found.
- The evidence suggests that Indus people were progenitors of Hinduism.

Religious Evidences	Site
Earth or Mother Goddess, with a plant growing from her womb	Mohenjodaro, Pakistan
Depiction of Shiva as Pasupati in yoga posture with a pair of horns crowning his head with a central bump which appears like the trisula or trident of the Saivas. Surrounded by an elephant, a tiger, a buffalo, a rhinoceros with two deer.	Mohenjodaro, Pakistan
Terracotta piece having linga and yoni in one piece	Kalibangan, Rajasthan
A deity, standing between two branches of a pipal tree. The worship of the deity is indicated by a line of seven human figures and by the figure of a half kneeling suppliant with long hair, behind whom is a goat, with a human face	Mohenjodaro, Pakistan
Seal representing Unicorn	Mohenjodaro, Pakistan

Religious Evidences	Site
Fire altars probably used as sacrificial altars	Kalibangan, Lothal, and Banawali

**Social and Political Setup**

- The Harappan society is suggested to have three social orders- elite class associated with citadel, a well-to-do middle class, and a relatively weaker section, occupying the lower town.
- Some of the craftsmen and laborers resided outside the fortified area of lower town.
- The political structure of the Indus people has not been properly concluded through excavations or studies.

**Disposal of Dead**

- Cremation was practiced in Harappan culture as evident from Cinerary urns with vessel offerings for the use of dead persons in the next life.
- Scattered burials and discreet cemeteries have been excavated at various sites.
- Certain groups also practiced burials. Earthen pots containing food grains, etc. and sometimes ornaments were also buried in the grave.

**Decline****Many reasons have been given for decline of Civilization:**

- John Marshall suggested that civilization declined due to environmental degradation. Frequent flood, drought and famine led to its decline.
- Wheeler gave the theory that 'barbarian' Aryans who came to India in about 1500 B.C. Later research proved that Wheeler's thesis was a myth.
- The Harappan civilization was spread over a large area, and the causes of its decline in all the regions can not be one and the same.

**Late Harappan Culture**

- Once civilization was on decline, the features like urban town planning, drainage system etc disappeared in late harappan culture.
- Ruralisation became a prominent feature in distinctive regional variations.

- These cultures interacted with the then existing Chalcolithic cultures.

## Important sites of Harappan Civilization

### Harappa

- People of Harappa knew the process of making tarcoal.
- Main gate for the entry in the houses of Harappa was in the north direction.
- R-37 cemetery have been found here.
- Terracotta figurine of Mother Goddess have been found here.

### Mohenjodaro

- Mohenjodaro was discovered in 1922 under the supervision of **R.D. Bannerji**.
- The literal meaning of Mohenjodaro in Sindhi language is **mound of the dead**.
- The Great Bath, a granary, big halls, a bronze statue of a dancing girl, idol of a yogi and numerous seals have been found here.
- Seven layers of Mohenjodaro city directs that the city was destroyed and rebuilt seven times.

### Lothal

- In 1954, Lothal was discovered by S.R. Rao in Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat.
- Red & black clay pots, copper tools, brick built tank like structure, a bead making factory and a seal from Iran have been found at Lothal.
- Linear scale of bronze have been found here.
- A dockyard has been found at Lothal.

### Kalibangan

- Kalibangan was discovered in 1953. It is located in upper Rajasthan.
- It did not have a drainage system.
- A number of firepits *agnikundas* (firepits) have been found here.
- It saw two cultural phases viz. pre-Harappan and Harappan.
- A ploughed field have been found here.

### Dholavira

- Dholavira in Gujarat was discovered in 1992 by **J.P. Joshi**.
- Dholavira shows all the three phases of Harappan civilization.
- A script consists of big alphabets has been found on a gate in Dholavira.

### Surkotda

- Surkotda is located in Rapar Taluka of Kutch district, Gujarat, India. It was excavated by J.P.Joshi.
- Surkotda city is divided into citadel and lower town. The citadel and lower town had been fortified. The fortification was done by a burnt bricks.
- A grave has been found in association with a big rock as was done in megalithic burials. In the last phase of this site, bones of horses have been discovered. These were rare findings in the Harappan civilization.

### Sutkagen-Dor

- Sutkagen-Dor is located near the Makran coast which is close to the Pakistan-Iran border. The settlement is land-locked in dry inhospitable plains and its existence can only be explained as a trading sea port.
- Sutkagen-Dor city is divided into citadel and lower town. The citadel had been fortified. The fortification was done by a stone wall. In addition to mud- bricks, stone rubble was liberally used for construction.
- Scholars believe that Sutkagen-Dor was cut off from the sea due to coastal uplift.

### Ropar

- Ropar is situated on the left bank of the Satluj in the Indian state of Punjab. This site had remains of pre-Harappan and Harappan cultures. Ropar has the distinction of being the site where the remains of the Harappa civilization were excavated for the first time in post-partition India.
- The site of Ropar has a fortified citadel and a lower part of the city. The buildings at Ropar were made mainly of stone and mud bricks.

- In Ropar excavations there were finds of beads and bangles of faience triangular terracotta cakes and chart weights.
- In Ropar there is an evidence of burying a dog below the human burial. The head is placed usually in the north-west direction and burials contain pots and personal ornaments, such as bangles of faience or shell, beads of faience and semiprecious stones and ring of copper.

### Alamgirpur

- Alamgirpur situated on the banks of Yamuna river in Meerut district in Uttar Pradesh. This site was also called Parasaram-ka-khera.
- The site of Alamgirpur has a fortified citadel and a lower part of the city. The buildings at Alamgirpur were made mainly of burnt bricks.

### Amri

- Amri is situated in Sind province of Pakistan. The site is located to south of Mohenjodaro. This site has signs of both pre-Harappan and mature Harappan phases. This site lacks the fortification that was prominently seen in the Harappan civilization. At Amri the actual remains of rhinoceros have been excavated.

### Chanhu-daro

- Chanhu-daro is located about 130 km south of Mohenjodaro. Chanhu-daro was first excavated by N. G. Majumdar in March, 1931. This is a site which has no fortifications and no distinction between citadel and lower city.
- Excavations at Chanhu-daro have revealed three different cultural layers from top to the bottom being the Jhangar culture, the Jhukar culture and the Harappan culture.
- Chanhu-Daro was an important centre of craft activity. During the excavations, the houses in Chanhu-Daro have yielded raw material such as carnelian, agate, amethyst, and crystal as well as finished and unfinished beads and drills which were used in bead and ornament making. A bead factory has been discovered in Chanhu-Daro. Other craft that may have flourished in the region are Seal making, shell working, and the making of stone weights.

- This site has been nicknamed as “Sheffield of Ancient India” by Earnest Mackay on account of the discovery of tools, spears, axes, copper knives, razors, vessels and dishes were found.

### Banawali

- Banawali is situated close to the dry bed of the Rangoi river in Hissar district of Haryana. This site has evidence for all the three phase of Harappan Civilization- early, mature, and late.
- Banawali was divided into the citadel and a lower town. The whole structure was fortified. There was a wall between the citadel and a lower town. Baked bricks were used for wells, bathing pavements, and drains rest everything was made from mud bricks.
- There was a house that had multiple rooms, kitchen, toilet and a jar that is believed to be a wash basin found during excavation. This house had many seals and weights suggesting that the house may have belonged to a merchant.
- A terracotta model of a plough and lots of stone weights in small denominations were found at the Banawali site. This all suggests that Banawali was primarily a trading center.
- Banawali has presence of fire alters in some houses. There has been an apsidal structure with fire altars suggesting community sacrificial rituals functions. High quality barley has been found in Banawali excavations.

### Rakhigarhi

- Rakhigarhi is situated in Hissar district of Haryana. Rakhigarhi was divided into the citadel and a lower town. The Citadel was fortified had platforms, a brick well, fire altars and drains of various sizes. Rakhigarhi is the biggest Harappan site in India.
- A lapidary workshop was identified during the excavations at Rakhigarhi with unfinished beads and roughly cut pieces of stone, mostly carnelian, chalcedony, agate, and jasper; bead polishers for smoothening the beads; and a hearth for heating the stones. In Rakhigarhi there is an evidence of bone and ivory working in a site where finished and unfinished bone points and engravers are found.
- A wooden coffin was found in Rakhigarhi which is peculiar to Harappan Civilizations burial site.



# Previous Years' Questions & Practice Questions



## Ancient India

- 1.** Chandragupta Maurya built the first empire in with the help of  
 (a) Mahapadmananda  
 (b) Bindusara  
 (c) Seleuces  
 (d) Kautilya

[BPS (AE) : 2001]

**Ans. (d)**

- 2.** The Jains believe that Mahavira was the last of the  
 (a) teachers (b) prophets  
 (c) monks (d) tirthankaras

[BPS (AE) : 2001]

**Ans. (d)**

- 3.** One of the most outstanding ancient Indian astronomer was  
 (a) Panini (b) Asvaghosha  
 (c) Aryabhata (d) Susruta

[BPS (AE) : 2001]

**Ans. (c)**

- 4.** The people of Indus Valley Civilization worshipped  
 (a) Pashupati (b) Indra  
 (c) Brahma (d) Vishnu

[BPS (AE) : 2006]

**Ans. (a)**

- 5.** Buddha preached first sermon at  
 (a) Lumbini (b) Sarnath  
 (c) Sanchi (d) Gaya

[BPS (AE) : 2006]

**Ans. (b)**

- 6.** Where is the "Nirwana Sthal" (death place) of Buddha?  
 (a) Sarnath (b) Rajgir  
 (c) Bodhgaya (d) Kushinagar

[BPS (AE) : 2006]

**Ans. (d)**

- 7.** The first country in which Buddhism was Propagated outside India is  
 (a) Japan (b) China  
 (c) South Korea (d) Sri Lanka

[BPS (AE) : 2017]

**Ans. (d)**

- 8.** Which of the following is not true about the ancient texts of India ?  
 (a) The Rig Veda is the earliest of all Vedic texts.  
 (b) The Rig Veda contains both prayers and rituals.  
 (c) The Upanishads contain philosophical speculations.  
 (d) Panini's writings illustrate the rules of Sanskrit grammar.

[OPSC (AE) : 2021]

**Ans. (b)**

9. Which of the following is not true about the Sangam literature?

- (a) It comprised prose literature
- (b) It is in Tamil language.
- (c) Its final compilation may have been completed by the sixth century A.D.
- (d) The chiefs and kings had patronized its compilation.

[OPSC (AE) : 2021]

Ans. (a)

10. Which of the following period is significant for the beginning of agriculture ?

- (a) Paleolithic Age (b) Mesolithic Age
- (c) Neolithic Age (d) Iron Age

[OPSC (AE) : 2021]

Ans. (c)

11. Which one of the following statements is most appropriate about the Gandhara art?

- (a) Its theme is Indian, its style is Greek
- (b) Its theme is Greek, its style is Indian
- (c) Its theme and style are Greek
- (d) Its theme and style are Indian

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (a)

Gandhara School of Art flourished during Kushana Period.

12. Which one of the following works deals with the history of Kashmir?

- (a) Gaudavaha
- (b) Harshacharita
- (c) Rajatarangini
- (d) Vikramankadevacharita

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (c)

'Rajatarangini' was written by Kalhana.

13. Which one of the following was the major work to say that salvation by means of devotion is open to all humans regardless of birth, gender or station in life?

- (a) Atharva Veda
- (b) Chhandogya Upanishad

- (c) Dhammapada
- (d) Bhagavata Purana

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (d)

14. Which one of the following Vedic sacrifices was a royal consecration ceremony?

- (a) Agnihotra (b) Rajasuya
- (c) Vajapeya (d) Ashwamedha

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (b)

**Rajasuya** : Royal coronation

**Vajapeya** : Drink of strength

**Ashwamedha** : Unlimited Power

15. Which one of the following dynasties was ruling at the time of Alexander's invasion?

- (a) The Nanda dynasty
- (b) The Maurya dynasty
- (c) The Sunga dynasty
- (d) The Kanva dynasty

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (a)

During the time of Alexander's invasion, the ruler was **Dhanananda** of Nanda Dynasty.

16. In which one of the following is **Brahman** the central theme?

- (a) The Vedas (b) The Brahmanas
- (c) The Upanishads (d) The Sutras

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (c)

17. In which one of the following do we come across a detailed account of the municipal administration of the Mauryas?

- (a) The Arthashastra of Kautilya
- (b) The account of Megasthenes
- (c) The Mudrarakshasa
- (d) Mauryan inscriptions

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (b)

'**Arthashastra**' : a book written by **Kautilya** or **Vishnugupta** deals with statecraft.

'**Mudrarakshasa**' : was written by **Vishakhadatta**.