

## History of India

### Ancient India

#### Pre-Historic Period

**Palaeolithic Period** in this period, man barely managed to gather his food and lived on hunting. Palaeolithic period is divided into three phases.

They are

- I. Lower Palaeolithic
- II. Middle Paleolithic
- III. Upper Paleolithic

- **Mesolithic Period** Domestication of animals (dogs) began and characteristic tools used were called microliths.
- **Neolithic Period** Neolithic People knew about making fire. An important site of this age is Burzahom, which means 'the place of hich'.
- **Chalcolithic Period** Use of copper and stone made tools. According to radiocarbon dating, Indus Valley Civilization spread from the year 2500-1750 BC.

#### Indus Valley Civilization

- **Town Planning** Systematic town planning was based on grid system; burnt bricks made houses, well managed drainage system; fortified citadel; highly urbanized; absence of iron implements. The towns were divided into 2 parts; Upper Part or Citadel and Lower Part.
- **Boundaries** North-Manda (J&K); South- Daimabad (Maharashtra); East- Alamgirpur; West-Sutkagendor.

Site	Discovery/Finding
<b>Harappa</b>	Situated on river Ravi in Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan). It was excavated by <b>Daya Ram Sahni</b> in 1921-23.
<b>Mohenjodaro</b> (Mound of Dead)	Situated on River <b>Indus</b> in Larkana district of Sind (Pak). It was excavated by <b>RD Bannerji</b> in 1922. The main building includes the Great Bath, the Great Granary, the Collegiate Building and the Assembly Hall.
<b>Kalibangan</b> (Black Bangles) (Rajasthan)	Discovered by <b>BB Lal</b> (1953); situated on Ghaggar river, a ploughed field; a wooden furrow; seven fire-altars; bones of camel; and evidence of two types of burials namely-circular grave and rectangular grave.
<b>Lothal</b> (Gujarat)	Discovered by <b>SR Rao</b> (1954); situated on river Bhagava A

	part town was divided into citadel, lower town and dockyard. Evidence of rice has been found here.
<b>Chanhudaro</b>	On river Indus; discovered by <b>MJ Mazumdar</b> (1931); only Indus site without citadel; bronze figurines of bullock cart and ekkas; a small pot suggesting a kinkwell.
<b>Banawali</b> (Haryana)	On river Saraswati, discovered by <b>RS Bisht</b> (1973); evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture; lacked systematic drainage system; evidence of good quality barley.
<b>Surkotada</b> (Gujarat)	Discovered by <b>JP Joshi</b> in 1972; evidence of horse found, oval grave; Pot burials; and it was probably a port city.
<b>Rajdi</b> (Gujarat)	It Possesses structure of pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan Period.
<b>Bhimbetka</b>	A world heritage site, is known for ancient caves depicting pictures of birds, animals and humans.
<b>Dholavira</b>	It is found on river Luni of Kutch district in Gujarat largest and latest site, discovered by <b>JP Joshi</b> (1967-68).

#### Important Facts

- **Meluha** is the ancient name given to Indus region by Mesopotamians. Harappans were ruled by a class of merchants, as no evidence of weapons found there. No evidence of Harappans being **patriarchal people**.
- Indus people **sowed** their seed in November and **reaped** their harvest in April because of danger of flood. Produced wheat, barley, rai, peas, sesamum, rice, mustard. Indus people first produced **cotton** as Greeks called it **Sindon** (derived from Sindh).
- Known **Animals** were oxen, sheep, buffaloes, goats, pigs, elephants dogs, cats, asses and camels. Well-Knit external and internal trade,. **Barter** system was prevalent. A very interesting feature of this civilization was that iron was not known to the people.
- Many trees (pipal), animals (bull), birds (dove, pigeon) and stones too were worshipped though no evidence of temple found.
- Dead bodies were placed in North-South orientation. The seal of **Pashupati** depicts elephant, tiger, rhinoceros and buffalo. Two deers appear at the feet of Pashupati.
- **Harappan script** is pictographic but not deciphered yet. The script was written from right to left in the first line and left to right in the second line. This style is called **Boustrophedon**.