

HPAS

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Revised Study Materials

GENERAL STUDIES

PAPER - I



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Syllabus

General Studies (Paper - I)

Topics included in this book

1. **Current Events of National and International Importance (See a separate Book)**
2. **History of India and Indian National Movement**
3. **Indian and World Geography** - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World
4. **Indian Polity & Governance** - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
5. **Economic and Social Development** - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
6. **General Science**
7. **General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change** - that do not require subject specialization and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

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History of India and Indian National Movement

Ancient Indian History

Indian Prehistory

- The fossils of the early human being have not been found in India. A hint of the earliest human presence in India is indicated by stone tools of about 250,000 BC obtained from the deposits.
- However, recent reported artifacts from Bori in Maharashtra suggest the appearance of human beings in India around 1.4 million years ago.
- From their first appearance to around 3000 BC humans used only stone tools for different purposes.
- This period is, therefore, known as the Stone Age, which has been divided into Paleolithic (early or Old Stone) Age, Mesolithic (Middle Stone) Age, and Neolithic (New Stone) Age.

The Paleolithic Age in India (500,000 BC – 8000 BC)

- In India it developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age.
- The earliest traces of human existence in India go back to 500,000 BC.
- The Paleolithic sites are spread in practically all parts of India except the alluvial plains of Indus and Ganga.
- The people of this age were food gathering people who lived on hunting and gathering wild fruits and vegetables.
- Man during this period used tools of unpolished, undressed rough stones and lived in cave and rock shelters. They had no knowledge of agriculture, fire or pottery of any material.
- They mainly used hand axes, cleavers, choppers, blades, scrapers and burin. Their tools were made of hard rock called 'quartzite'. Hence Paleolithic men are also called 'Quartzite Men'.
- Homo sapiens first appeared in the last of this phase.
- It has been pointed out that Paleolithic men belonged to the Negro race.
- The Paleolithic Age in India has been divided into three phases according to the nature of stone tools used by the people and also according to the nature of change in the climate – Early or lower Paleolithic, Middle Paleolithic

and Upper Paleolithic.

- The Early Paleolithic Age covers the greater part of the Ice Age. Its characteristic tools are hand axes, cleavers and choppers. Such tools have been found in Soan and Sohan river valley (now in Pakistan) and in the Belan Valley in the Mirzapur district of UP. In this period climate became less humid.
- Middle Paleolithic Phase is characterized by the use of stone tools made of flakes mainly scrapers, borers and blade like tools. The sites are found in the valleys of Soan, Narmada and Tungabhadra rivers.
- In the Upper Paleolithic Phase, the climate became warm and less humid. This stage is marked by burins and scrapers. Such tools have been found in AP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bhopal and Chhota Nagpur plateau.

The Mesolithic Era History (8000 BC – 6000 BC)

- In this age, climate became warm and dry. Climate changes brought about changes in fauna and flora and made it possible for human beings to move to new areas. Since then, there haven't been major changes in the climate.
- The characteristic tools of the Mesolithic Age are known as Microliths-pointed, crescentic blades, scrapers, etc, all made of stone.
- The people lived on hunting, fishing and food gathering; at a later stage they also domesticated animals.
- The last phase of this age saw the beginning of plant cultivation.
- Various Mesolithic sites are found in the Chhotanagpur region, Central India and also south of the Krishna River.
- In the Belan valley of Vindhya, all the three phases of the Paleolithic followed by the Mesolithic and then by the Neolithic have been found in sequence. Similar is the case with the middle part of the Narmada valley.

The History of Neolithic Era (6000 BC – 1000 BC) :

- In India Neolithic Age is not earlier than 6000 BC and at some places in South and Eastern India; it is as late as 1000 BC.
- During this phase people were again depending on stone