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2009-2022 14 YEARS SOLVED PAPERS

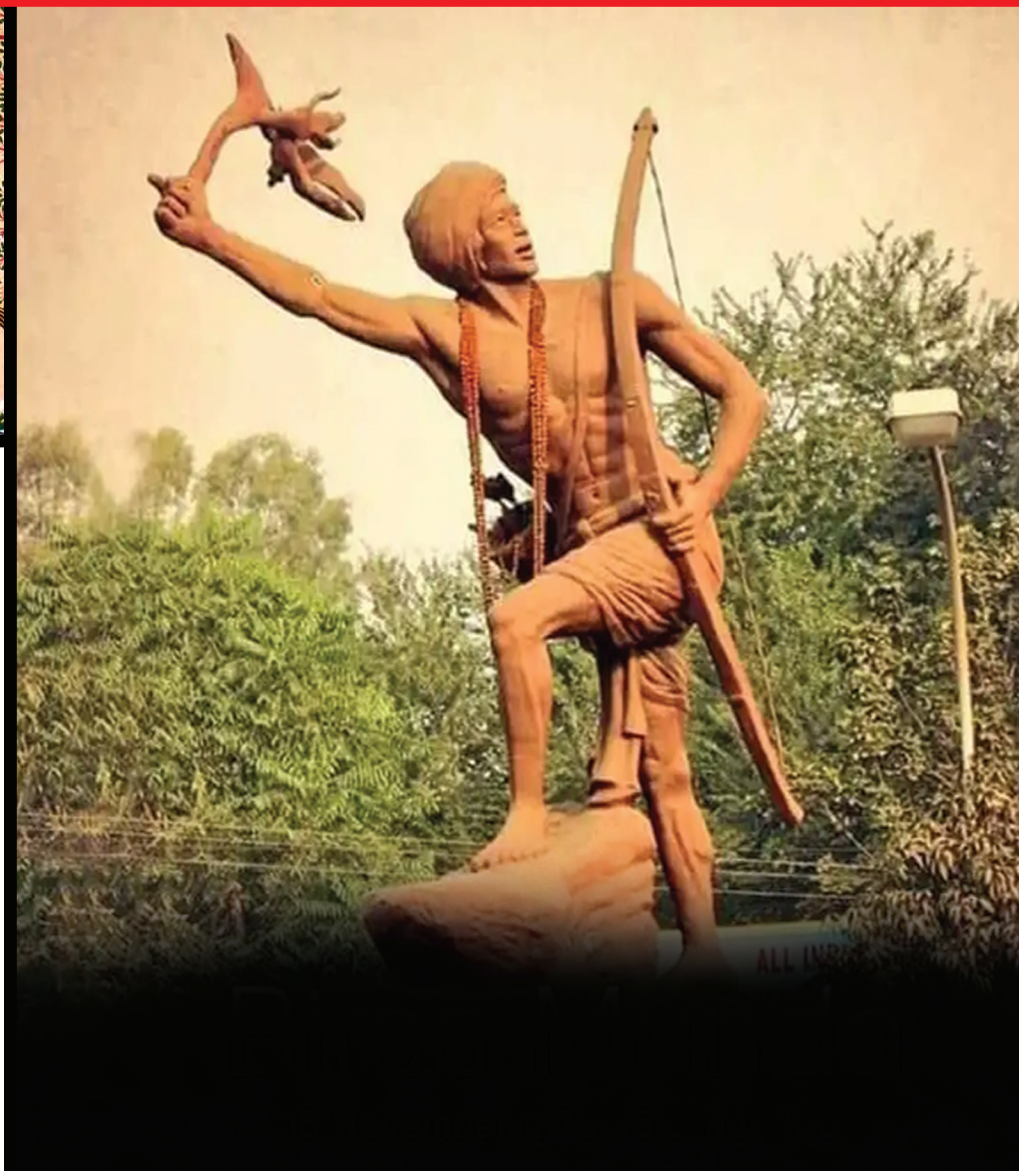
for Civil Services Examination

Topic-wise Solution of Previous Papers

HISTORY

IAS Mains Q & A

USEFUL FOR UNION AND STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION



14 Years Solved, 2009-2022

Topic-wise Solution of Previous Years' Papers

HISTORY

IAS Mains Q&A

Also Useful for All State Public Service Commission and Other Examinations

Edited by **- N.N. Ojha**

Guiding Civil Services Aspirants Since 30 Years

Solved by - Chronicle Editorial Team

CHRONICLE

Nurturing Talent Since 1990

ABOUT THIS BOOK

History – IAS Mains Q & A - revised and updated edition (2023) covers topic-wise solution to previous years' papers as per the latest syllabus.

For UPSC preparation, it is ideal to go through past 10-15 years' papers. In order to make the book more relevant and make it more affordable, in this issue, we have removed some older years' solutions. However, those can be accessed at 'e-Book Section' of our website chronicleindia.in.

Answer writing in this Book: We have put forth answers to each question as per the demand of the question. We have adopted an elaborate approach while writing these answers to arm you with relevant knowledge related to all aspects of a particular topic. In most of the answers, we have provided additional information, not necessarily adhering to the prescribed word limit but covering all dimensions to that question. This will enrich you with in-depth knowledge on that topic and help in writing better answers in future.

How to use this Book: This book will assist you in answer writing practice in two ways – use this book as a source of reference for the topics and write answers in your own unique way or alternatively, you may write previous years' answers and compare them with the standard answers provided in this book.

Importance of History as an Optional: History is a popular and very important subject in the UPSC scheme of things because it is included in the IAS Prelims exam and in IAS Mains General Studies papers as well. So you can better use your time by simultaneously preparing for Optional and GS Papers. Topics in History will also be helpful in Essay papers.

Optional subjects have become the deciding factor in getting an interview call. Though UPSC has introduced four GS papers to give a level playing field to all, the dynamic and unpredictable questions of GS papers defeated the purpose and made Optional paper the magic wand. The toppers' score also tells it loudly that optional subjects play a defining role in determining the selection of the candidates.

So, overall this book is an ideal companion for you going to appear for the Mains examination. To help the aspirants to get acclaimed with the pattern and trend of the exam, this book is a valuable gift to our readers.

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PAPER-I

MAP SECTION

Q. Identify the following places marked on the map and write a short note about 30 words on each of them. Locational hints for each of the places marked on the map are given below seriatim. (CSE 2022)

(i) Palaeolithic site
(ii) Mesolithic site with burials
(iii) Neolithic pit-dwelling
(iv) Early village settlement
(v) Neolithic site
(vi) Neolithic-Chalcolithic site
(vii) Harappan UNESCO site
(viii) Megalithic Burial site
(ix) Place of Second Sangam
(x) Earliest Satavahana capital
(xi) Place of inscribed statue of Ashoka
(xii) First Gupta hoard of coins
(xiii) Hoard of metal sculptures
(xiv) Ancient port
(xv) Oldest Jesuit church
(xvi) Centre of Gandhara Art
(xvii) Buddhist monastery
(xviii) Place of earliest Vishnu temple
(xix) Shiva and Buddhist temple complex
(xx) Earliest Chaitya Griha

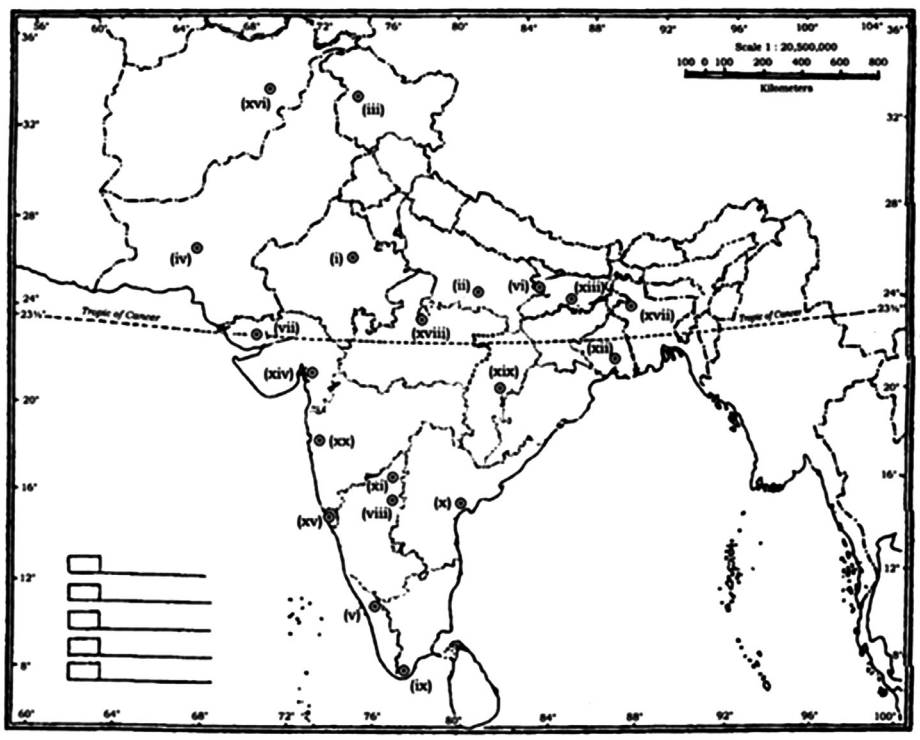
Ans. (i) Palaeolithic site – Didwana

- Situated in Nagaur district of western Rajasthan.
- Excavation has shown a sequence running from lower to middle Palaeolithic.
- At a 50km stretch from Didwana to Javal, several Acheulean sites have been found.
- City is famous for its Hindu traditional culture and philosophy and the Mathas and the Mathura Das ji ka Jaav i.e. a well built in 12th century.
- The name Didwana used to be 'Deen Dewana' a mystic lord of Islamic Sufi movement.
- Akbar made Qila masjid in memory of footsteps of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

(ii) Mesolithic site with burials – Damadama/ Sarai Nahar Rai

- Both these sites are in Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Sarai Nahar Rai dates back to 8400 to 150 BCE, whereas Damadama dates back to 7000BCE.
  - **Sarai Nahar Rai:** 11 human burials in oblong pit with grave goods like tools, shells, animal bones found here. Multiple graves i.e. 4 persons in one grave also found.
  - **Damadama:** It is on Sai River. Geometric microliths along with shells and animal bones have been found here. 41 human burials with 4 multiple burials found here. Damadama also gave evidence of domesticated rice recently.

INDIA—POLITICAL



(iii) Neolithic pit-dwelling – Burzahome

- **Location:** Near Srinagar district, J&K.
- **Settlement**: Around 2700 BC. People lived in mud plastered circular and oval pits with steps and ladders to get inside large pits, but in later period they started to live in houses built on ground level.
- **Economy:** Hunting and fishing economy as suggested by remains of animal bones, engraved hunting scenes and high percentage of weapons, but practiced agriculture. Evidence of wheat, lentil and barley were found.
- **Harvesters:** Distinctive stone choppers.
- **Bone Industry:** It was most developed among all Neolithic sites, comprising harpoons, needles, arrowheads, etc.
- **Pottery:** Coarse and handmade grey, buff and red.
- **Burial Practice:** Graves of both human and animals found in later part of Neolithic period. Both inhumation and secondary burials was prevalent and body placed in flexed position. Humans were sometimes buried with dogs. No grave goods except a few cases of beads were found here.

(iv) Early village settlement – Mehargarh

- **Location:** Bolan river, Baluchistan region
- **Evidence:** Earliest evidence of agricultural life based on wheat, barley, cattle, sheep and goat.
- **Period:** 7000BCE -3500BCE
- **Settlement:** Mud brick houses, granary at one site
- **Economy:** Cattle rearing, agriculture, spinning and weaving, ivory making.
- **Trade and Craft Production:** Turquoise beads, shell bangles, beads of lapis-lazuli found as grave goods. Supports the idea of external trade as these items were not locally available.
- **Pottery:** Initially a ceramic culture but later handmade pottery and wheel made painted pottery were made.
- **Artefacts:** Terracotta human figurines, steatite workshop, beads of lapis lazuli
- **Tools:** Stone tools like axes, chisels, querns and microliths and bone tools like awls and needles were found.

(v) Neolithic Site – Payyampalli / Edakkal Caves

- Located at about 1200 ft above the sea level, the Edakkal Caves are among the oldest human settlements ever discovered. Inside the caves are pictorial drawings and engravings that indicate the presence of ancient human settlements in the region. Despite their name, the Edakkal Caves are not actually caves.
- Payyampalli is located in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu. Here both ash mounds and habitation have been found. Its period is 2000-1000 BCE.

(vi) Neolithic-Chalcolithic Site – Chirand

- **Location:** Saran district, Bihar, 2100-1400 BCE
- **Settlement:** Circular and semi-circular, wattle and daub huts with post holes and hearths.
- **Pottery:** Coarse earthenware comprising red, grey and black handmade wares.
- **Bone Industry:** Only site other than Burzahom where bone industry was present.
- **Animal Remains:** Range from domesticated cattle to elephant and rhinoceros.
- **Craft:** Craft production was prevalent.

(vii) Harappan UNESCO Site - Dholavira

- **Location:** Kutch district, Gujarat.
- All 3 phases of Harappan i.e. early (2650 BC), mature and late-Harappan is evident here.
- Most unique feature is division of city into three parts viz. Citadel, middle town and a lower town.
- Special feature is a **stadium** between middle town and cattle -bailey area.
- Longest inscription with 10 pictograph in one single sentence is found here.
- Water conservation system of channels and reservoirs.
- A circular planned city, large use of sandstone in architectural activities.

(viii)Megalithic Burial site – Kollegal / Sangankallu

- Megalithic burial cluster close to site of human habitation belonging to the Iron Age have been discovered near Kollegal in Chamarajanagar district.
- Sangankallu is situated in Bellary district, Karnataka. Before Neolithic phase, Mesolithic was present as shown by several microliths tools found during excavations.

(ix) Place of Second Sangam – Kapatapuram

- The Second Sangam was held at Kapatapuram, only Tolkappiyam written by Tolkappiyar survives from this.
- It was called **Kuadom** in ancient Sangam period. It was capital of Pandyan kingdom who convened the second Sangam academy.
- Second Sangam is known for its literature, poems collection. It was attended by 59 members, 1700 poets during its 3700 years existence.
- This Sangam is linked with 4 poems compilation i.e. Kali, Kuruga, Vandali, Viyamalai Ahawal.

(x) Earliest Satvahana capital – Pratisthana

- Location: On the banks of river Godavari, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra.
- Ancient capital of Muluka kingdom, south of Assaka.
- From 2nd century BC to 2nd century AD, capital of Satavahanas.

1

SOURCES

Q. Foreign accounts as a source of ancient Indian history may have some advantages but also have a few shortcomings. Citing appropriate examples examine the statement.

(CSE 2022)

Ans. India was visited by many foreign travellers from Greece, China, Turkey, etc.

- (Here we have to ancient Indian history from prehistory – 700AD / 11th - 12th AD for history of south of India)

Different Foreign Accounts

(A) Greeks

- **Herodotus:** He mentions about Indian soldiers fighting in Persian wars during 6th BC.
- Megasthenes: His Indica gives information about Maurya dynasty.
- Economic history of 2nd BC – 2nd AD is available in Pliny's Natural Historica, Ptolemy, and Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, etc.

(B) Chinese

- **Fa hien:** He visited India during Chandragupta II's period in order to visit places associated with Buddha.
- **Hiuen Tsang:** He visited during the reign of Harshavardhan. Although he was a student, he wrote a lot about India.
- **I Tsing:** He also came as student at Nalanda and then wrote many informative instances about that period of India.

(C) Arabs

- **Suleiman:** He basically came from Iran to India in 9th AD. He was a traveller, merchant and writer and. He came in the court of Amoghvarsha. He gave information about Pala and Pratihara.
- Al Masudi: He talked about Rashtrakutas during 941 – 943 AD.

Information from Foreign Sources

1. **Political**
   - **(a) Neutrality:** Example: Hiuen Tsang's visit to Pulkeshin II when he says Harsha couldn't defeat him, whereas Banbhatt's **Harshcharit** didn't mention it. However Aihole inscription supports Hiuen Tsang.
   - **(b) Policies:** Example: Fahien accounts that Gupta administration was mild in comparison to Mauryas.
2. **Social**
   - **(a) Composition of Society:** Megasthenes mentions of 7 castes in Mauryan society.
   - **(b) Religious Ideas:** Foreigners were getting themselves converted into indigenous religion.
   - *Example:* Besanagar pillar inscription of Heliodorous.
3. **Economical**
   - **(a) Decline of Trade:** In Natural Historica, Pliny criticized Roman trade with India as unnecessary, as all the gold Roman Empire was draining in India merely for cotton and spices.
   - **(b) Trade Routes:** All the trade happened between Red Sea and Bharuch was given wholesomely. Example: Periplus of the Erythraean Sea

Advantages of Foreign Sources

- **Unbiased Opinion:** Mostly they were not patronized by the kings of that time, so these sources are bias-free in nature mostly.
- *Example:* Robbery across the empire was mentioned by Hiuen Tsang, but Banabhatta writes that empire was safe.
- **Corroboration:** It means the similarity and differences between indigenous sources and foreign sources.
- *Example:* Evidence for Mauryan Empire from Indica as well as Arthashastra.
- **Informative in Nature:** Provide sufficient information about that period.
- *Example:* Purushpur (modern Peshawar) has 13 storeyed Buddhist hub writes Fahien.
- **Geographical Knowledge:** People of the subcontinent at that time had elaborative geographical knowledge. They also sent embassies to countries like China.
- *Example:* Overland and overseas trade routes by Pliny.

Disadvantages

- **Hearsay:** Foreign writers also wrote hearsays in their description which were nowhere to be found.

2 PRE-HISTORY & PROTO-HISTORY

Q. "The emergence of Non-Harappan Chalcolithic cultures in Central India and the Deccan mark a change not only in the subsistence pattern of people but an overall transition from pre to proto history period." Critically analyse. (CSE, 2017)

Ans. In India, Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases are counted as the proto-historic. The first chalcolithic cultures of Central India and Deccan were actually the first village settlements that practiced agriculture. But, they didn't meet all the criteria of being a proto-historic phase.

Microliths have been found in the river valleys of Tapi, Narmada and Godavari, etc. But, the beginning of settled village life in Central India and northern Deccan is associated with the chalcolithic phase rather than the Neolithic phase. Bagor, a Mesolithic type site shows transition to the chalcolithic phase and then to the Iron Age. Mesolithic cultures were basically hunter-gatherers, living in semi-permanent settlements. Ahar culture, Kayatha culture and Savalda culture were the earliest non-Harappan chalcolithic cultures in the Central India and Deccan. Settlements showed some kind of social hierarchy. Animal husbandry became more feasible due to the settlements. Copper implements like bangles, rings, knife blades, axes were used. Black and red ware and chocolate coloured pottery, etc. were used. But, it is hard to conclude that these cultures practiced writing, even if un-deciphered; which is an important criterion to qualify as proto-historic in India. Also, only some of these village settlements expanded into proto-urban center later Malwa culture and Jorwe Culture. The chalcolithic cultures in Central India and Deccan brought the Mesolithic period to an end and started the proto-historic phase. Though, they may not have tradition of writing.

Q. Delineate and account for the regional characteristics of the Neolithic period in India. (CSE, 2016)

Ans. The term Neolithic has been derived from two Latin words i.e. "Neo" meaning New and "lithic" meaning stone, hence Neolithic period is also known as New Stone Age. This period is considered as one of the significant cultural stages when man started producing food and shifted to production economy from their previous hunting-gathering stage. Man started making specialized tools to suit this economic behaviour and also modified their social behavior in a large extent which is reflected in the material record. Stratigraphic evidences supported by radio- carbon dates suggest that the Neolithic culture in India flourished in different areas between the mid third millennium BC and the beginning of the historical period. On the basis of distributions and cluster of sites, the development of Neolithic pattern in India may broadly be divided into three main broad groups: (i) Eastern Group (Vindhyan region, middle Ganga plain, Chotanagpur plateau of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha and Northeast India) (ii) Southern Group (South India) (iii) Northern Group (Kashmir Valley)

North-Western: The earliest evidence of the cultivation of wheat and barley has been found in present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan. Punjab, Kashmir, West-Pakistan, and Afghanistan were the original places of bread-wheat and spelt-wheat cultivation. Excavations at Mehrgarh in Baluchistan have revealed the evidence of cultures ranging from pre-pottery Neolithic to the mature Harappan period.

The Neolithic levels at Mehrgarh have been classified into two phases: (i) the early aceramic without pottery (Period I); and (ii) the later phase (Period ll). The cereals at the site included two varieties of barley and three varieties of wheat. Plum and date seeds have also been found. The beginning of the pre-pottery settlement phase in Mehrgarh has been fixed at about 6000 BC. Period II represents the Chalcolithic phase (5000 BC). It is assumed that the Harappans inherited the knowledge of wheat, barley, and cotton cultivation from their ancestors in Mehrgarh.

Kashmir: Burzahom and Gufkral in the Kashmir valley, where village settlements appeared by about 2500 BC, are other important Neolithic sites in Kashmir.

The Neolithic culture in the valley is characterised by pit-dwellings with well made floors smeared with red-ochre, and dwellings in the open. The eastern

3

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Q. The urban character of the Harappan Civilization was a result neither of any outside influence nor a sudden act but a gradual evolution of regional socio-economic factors. Comment (CSE 2022)

Ans. The Indus Valley Civilization was the earliest known urban culture of the Indian subcontinent—one of the world's three earliest civilizations, along with Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt. The nuclear dates of the civilization appear to be about 2500–1700 BCE.

The Indus Valley Civilization interestingly declined around 1800 BCE without leaving any clear reasons for its demise, leaving scholars debating about the causes that resulted in the civilization's decline. Many such theories include Aryan invasion, climate change, drying of the Saraswati River, while others conclude that a great flood struck the area.

The end of the cities however did not mean the end of the Harappan tradition. The Harappan communities which continued after the urban phase retained their older tradition which is evident through various examples such.

Influence of Outside Factors on Urban Character

- **Metallurgy:** Harappa was a Bronze Age civilization as majority of equity were of bronze (found near Punjab, Afghanistan and Rajasthan region). Bronze is an alloy of tin and copper. Tin is not available in India but Afghanistan.
- **Trading Town:** There was lots of trading town in and outside Harappa. For example, Sutkagendor, Surkotda and Shortughai (in current day Pakistan). They were outpost of Harappa to carry out trade with other areas.
- **Shift:** Harappa is divided into 3 phase; pre, mature (2200-1800BC) and late (1800-1500 BCE). There is a gradual shift in mature and late phase. During mature phase civilization concentrated near Indus river belt i.e. Punjab region. But towards the end of mature and beginning of later phase, it started shifting to Bahawalpur area. It signifies declining trade.

Regional Socio-Economic Factors influencing Harappan Urbanization

1. **Grain Production:** Surplus of agriculture leads to division of labour in society, emergence of non-agrarian classes which further leads to urbanization.

Increased agriculture → increased urbanization

- **Evidence:** Large granaries in Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

2. **Non-Farming Specialization:** This arises due to surplus of agriculture. So, trade relations can be developed for improving economy. Evidence for this was given by emperor Sargon of Akkad of Sumerian kingdom (modern day Tigris Euphrates region), who wrote about Meluha in 2100BC has been identified by 'Harappa'.
3. **Conflict:** Harappa was a transitioning community. Earlier people were Neolithic-chalcolithic, aboriginal people in nature. Harappan were agrarian in nature. It led conflict and hence urbanization.

- **Evidence:** Burnt town of Kotdiji and Kalibangan (defensive wall).

4. **Specialized Town:** Indigenous socio-economic development led to specialized towns like:
   - **Mohenjodaro →** temple town, large fire altars, bearded man, etc.
   - **Chanhudro→** manufacturing hub

Other Factors

1. **Political:** Evidences of centralized polity have been found, which developed internally.
   Example: Same proportioned bricks throughout the region, city planning; citadel and lower town.
2. **Social:** Society was cosmopolitan.
   Example: Archaeologists found symmetry H culture in Harappa which was all different from other burial sites.
3. **Economic:** Non-agricultural town i.e. trading towns also aided urbanization by flourishing trade activities.
   Example: Rangpur, Lothal, Chanhudaro, Dholavira, etc.

4

MEGALITHIC CULTURES

Q. Will it be proper to consider the megaliths to represent a single, homogeneous or contemporaneous culture? What kind of material life and culture system is revealed in the Megalithic Culture? (CSE 2021)

Ans: A megalith is a stone which is larger in size and has been used to construct a monument or a structure. The monument or the structure is constructed either alone or together with other stones. 'Megalithic' has been used to describe stone structures built by people from many parts of the world living in many different times. The construction of this type of structures took place mainly in the Neolithic and continued into the Chalcolithic Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

According to recent studies, it is obvious that these Megalithic Complexes are not exclusive of each other. Some common elements can be traced among the cultures. Similarities and dissimilarities of ceramic fabrics and typology, presence and absence of iron, and concentration or otherwise of certain megalithic types in certain regions are all problems -for which widely diverging views are available.

Interestingly, unlike in the South, the Allahabad megaliths reflect the cultural change. The basic types-cairns, stone circles and cists remain the same, but the grave goods consist instead, of microliths, iron objects like sickle, adze, arrowhead and dagger. There was a significant variation in the livelihood pattern between the two zones.

Iron had replaced stone and copper and, as the evidence from Kotia in Allahabad shows, these were made locally by iron-smiths.

On the opposite bank of the River Belan at Koldihwa and Khajuri megaliths belonging to chalcolithic cultures were found, lying between cultures of Varanasi and Kotia of Allahabad. In the former iron is absent, and microliths are scarce while in the latter fragments of iron are associated with microliths. These types of megalithic cultures have also been observed in Mirzapur and Banda districts.

Habitation sites are rarely found in association with the megaliths, excepting at Maski, Tekalghat, Paiyampalli and a few others. Recently, a large habitation site along with scores of stone circles has been discovered at Naikund near Nagpur in Maharastra.

Material Life and Cultural System during Megalithic Culture

Burial Rituals: In the Vidarbha region, different burial traditions could indicate different social and ethnic groups, but so far no fixed regional conventions regarding orientation of the bodies or the graves have been observed. The burials vary from total to only fractional. Horses were buried with the dead, possibly after sacrifice, and this may have been a local ethnic tradition.

Social Organization: It appears that communities may have comprised different professional groups, such as smiths, warriors, goldsmiths, agriculturists and carpenters. This may be deduced from the types of grave goods offered.

Ethnic Affinity and Origins: The origin of Megalithic culture in India is not clear. No satisfactory answer is yet found. Some early European scholars put forward a view that the builders were Celts or Scythians. Rivett-Carnac related them to Central Asian tribes. Other scholars tried to relate them to the Dravidians. Practice of erection of megaliths are still found among some tribes in India in the southern, central, eastern and north-eastern parts of the country. The skeletal remains found especially from Brahmagiri, Yeleswaram and Adichanallur show that people were of a mixed racial type. According to Sarkar (1960), the Brahmagiri skeletal remains were probably of Scythians or Iranian stock. Gupta and Dutta (1962) concluded that similar trend is noticed for Yeleswaram remains, but Adichanallur skull shows different affinities.

Prehistoric Megaliths or large stone constructions dating before the advent of written history are found in huge numbers in all parts of India. The monuments are usually found in granitic areas. We still do not know exactly who the megalithic people were, whether they represent an immigrant group, or a local development.

PAPER-II

1 EUROPEAN PENETRATION INTO INDIA

Q. Can you explain how, after acquiring Diwani, the government of the East India Company functioned like 'an Indian ruler'?(CSE 2022)

Ans. Function of East India Company after acquiring Diwani

As an active trader in Bengal, the British East India Company had witnessed the autonomous power of the centrally appointed diwans whom they then gave, to earn their favour, peshkash on their appointment.

They also knew that the autonomous nawabs could make the institution obsolete because of the weakness of the centre.

Robert Clive, who came in 1765 for the second time to lead the affairs of the Company in Bengal, took advantage of the situation and met the homeless emperor, Shah Alam at Allahabad. The needy emperor was persuaded that appointing the East India Company the diwan of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa could revive the post of the centrally controlled diwan. The Company, as diwan, would be pleased to remit him a fixed amount of tribute as regularly as it was done in the good old days.

The proposal sounded very attractive to the emperor, who was not receiving any tribute from Bengal for a long time, and thus he agreed to the proposal of Clive. Accordingly a treaty was signed. The emperor issued a farman (12 August 1765) appointing the Company Diwan of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa with the condition that the Company would remit an annual tribute of twenty-six lakhs of rupees to the emperor.

Another agreement (30 September, 1765) was signed with the minor nawab of the Suba Bangla, Nazmuddaula, under which the Company agreed to pay an annual sum of fifty-three lakhs of rupees to the nawab to defray the costs of nizamat administration and the nawab's household. All these dues would be paid from the revenues collected from the subah and the surpluses after payment of all stipulated dues would be considered as the profit of the Company.

Clive did not choose to make the Company rulers of the country straightaway. Many practical considerations led him to run the diwani administration through native agencies.

He appointed Syed Muhammad Reza Khan as Naib Diwan and Naib Nazim of Bengal. As Naib Nazim he was to represent the Nawab and as Naib Diwan he was to represent the Company. The system that Clive evolved was called Double Government. The Double Government under Reza Khan worked well as long as Clive was there to support him as the governor at Fort William. With Clive's final departure in 1767, Reza Khan's influence declined. The Company officials began plundering the country in the name of private trade.

The consequence was the collapse of the economy, leading to the great famine of 1769-70. To save the new kingdom from ruin and also to save the Company from complete collapse through recurring losses, the court of directors resolved in 1772 to stand forth as Diwan and advised Warren Hastings, the governor, to abolish the Clive's Double Government system. Hastings sacked Reza Khan and assumed the diwani administration directly in his hand and with that began the second phase of the establishment of the British colonial state in India.

As Diwan, the Company became the chief financial administrator of the territory under its control. The Company needed to administer the land and organize its revenue resources. It needed to be done in a way that could yield enough revenue to meet the growing expenses of the Company.

Based on the terms of the agreement, Alam granted the East India Company Diwani rights, or the right to collect taxes on behalf of the Emperor from the eastern province of Bengal-Bihar-Orissa. These rights allowed the Company to collect revenue directly from the people of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.

Q. "It was Dupleix who had first showed the way of intervening in disputes of the Indian rulers and thereby acquiring political control over vast territories — a technique which was later perfected by the English East India Company." Elaborate. (CSE, 2020)

Ans: Dupleix was an influential governor-general (1742–1754) of the French East India Company during his three decades in India. He expanded the

2 BRITISH EXPANSION IN INDIA

Q. 'The Battle of Plassey (1757) was a skirmish while Battle of Buxar (1764) was a real war'. Critically examine (CSE 2022)

Ans.

Battle of Plassey

The Battle of Plassey was fought in 1757 in the Plassey (or Palashi) region of West Bengal, on the east of Bhagirathi river. Troops of the British East India Company, led by Robert Clive, came up against the forces of Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and his French allies.

Background

Siraj-ud-Daulah, the then Nawab of Bengal succeeded his grandfather Alavardi Khan after his death. Alavardi Khan was the Deputy Governor of Bihar who assumed the throne after killing Sarfaraz Khan, an incapable son of Murshiq Quli Khan, Dewan of Bengal. Siraj-ud-Daulah was surrounded by a number of rivals in his own court who helped the British in winning the Battle of Plassey.

Events Preceding the Battle

- The British victory in the Carnatic had already made Siraj apprehensive of the growing power of the East India Company. Moreover, the officials of the Company made rampant misuse of its trade privileges that adversely affected the Nawab's finances.
- The British also fortified Calcutta without the Nawab's permission which the Nawab took as ignorance to his sovereign power. The infuriated Nawab marched to Calcutta and occupied Fort William in June 1756.
- Shortly after Fort William's surrender, on June 20, 175, Siraj confined 146 British prisoners in a small dungeon in Calcutta, out of which 123 prisoners died of suffocation. It is infamously known as the 'Black Hole of Calcutta'. This event brought the hostility of the British in the open.

The Battle

- Following this tragic defeat of British by the Nawab of Bengal, a strong force under Robert Clive was sent from Madras to overthrow Nawab and strengthen the British position in Bengal.
- The discontented followers of the Nawab, such as Mir Jafar and other Bengali generals, were bribed to forge an alliance with the British.
- Mir Jafar, a kin of Siraj was promised the throne in return for supporting the British.

Course of War

- Clive's army was confronted by the Nawab's army at Plassey (Palashi) along with the French soldiers on their side. The Nawab's army of 50,000 soldiers outnumbered Clive's force of just 3000.
- However, the secret alliance of the British with the conspirators strengthened the British foothold in the battle.
- Moreover, Mir Jafar, with around one-third of the Bengali army, did not join the battle and contributed to Nawab's defeat.
- Under compelling circumstances, the Nawab tried to escape with his army but was killed by Miran, the son of Mir Jafar.

Significance: The Battle is regarding a historic turning point for British in India; it established political and military supremacy of the British in Bengal.

Post-War

- After the Battle of Plassey, Clive proclaimed Mir Jafar as the Nawab of Bengal and placed him on the throne of Murshidabad.
- Mir Jafar in order to satisfy the British as per the agreement gave the Zamindari of 24 Parganas (group of villages) of Bengal to the Company.
- However, this could not satisfy the British and consequently he was removed from the throne and his son-in-law Mir Kasim was placed on the throne as the new Nawab of Bengal.

Battle of Buxar

The Battle of Buxar was fought between the forces under the command of the British East India Company, led by Hector Munro, and the combined armies of Mir Qasim, Nawab of Bengal till 1763; Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Awadh; and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

3 EARLY STRUCTURE OF THE BRITISH RAJ

Q. How did English utilitarian thinking impact India in the British era? (CSE 2021)

Ans: Utilitarianism, a tradition which has stemmed from the late 18th and 19th-century English philosophers and economists Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. The principle states that an action is right only if it tends to promote the happiness of everyone affected by the act.

The influence of utilitarianism has been widespread and its significance in law, politics is especially notable. Utilitarians typically advocate democracy as a means of making government interests align with the general interest; they have advocated for the greatest freedom of the individual together with equal freedom for others because each individual is usually the best judge of his welfare, and they have believed in the potential and desirability of radical social change through peaceful political processes.

The popular interpretation of Utilitarian jurisprudence, on the one hand, is historical and opposes the reworking of the criminal justice system that prevailed in Britain during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Utilitarianism and its influence are especially seen in the creation of a penal code, and a code of criminal and civil procedure in India.

In economic policy, the early utilitarians had tended to reject governmental intervention in trade and industry on the premise that if left intact, the economy would control itself for the greater welfare; however, later utilitarians lost trust in private enterprise's social efficiency and were willing to see governmental power and administration used to correct their violations.

Utilitarian philosohy justifies colonialism by arguing the paternalistic colonial governance of indigenous people is required until they matured and acceded to rational thoughts and self-government. Indians were to be taught the virtue of self-governance.

It contributed to 'legal particularism', its emphasis on difference/pluralism, and its concomitant advocacy of personal laws for India's religious communities. Bentham's utilitarianism and its influence are especially seen in the creation of a penal code, and a code of criminal and civil procedure in India.

Indian civilization was said to be lacking in the values of rational thought and individualism. A critical attitude towards Indian education and learning was adopted. This resulted in undermining the traditional knowledge, culture and learning methods. Western ideas and models of education were enforced on the Indian population without any regard for the unequal capacities and access to such education system, etc.

There were also substantial differences between the modes of thinking in the Orientalist construction of India or the Evangelical drive to save 'native' souls, or the Utilitarian calculus of the 'greatest goods' in terms of moral and material improvement. Yet, in this diversity of ideas an over-arching conception of Britain's 'mission' in India provided unity in action. Objectively these ideas and men all served to build the British Empire in India.

Q. "An ideology of paternalistic benevolence, occasionally combined with talk of trusteeship and training towards self-government, thinly veiled the realities of a Raj uncompromisingly white and despotic." (CSE, 2018)

Ans. The overtly publicised reason for the British rule in India was the Benthamite model - it was for the spread of civilization among the uncivilised people of the world.

To this end, the British constructed a narrative of paternalism whereby they were portrayed as the Mai-Baap of the common peasant. This was done by institutions like the courts, the revenue collectors, the police and also the army. Traditional forms of rule and conflict resolution were abhorred in favour of the more British ones.

Indian history too was re-imagined and the coming of the British was seen as deliverance for the common folk. Added to this, the British principle of trusteeship, which essentially followed the assumption that the Indian population was not fit to rule itself and that it needed a strong set of laws and time in which to get used to this system allowed for justification of British rule in India.