

MPPSC

MP State Civil Services Main Exam 2024

Revised & updated Study Material

GENERAL STUDIES PAPERS - I

(History and Culture)



TOPICS INCLUDED AT GENERAL STUDIES PAPER - 1

HISTORY

History and Culture

UNIT- I

Indian History:- Political, Economic, Social and Cultural History of India from Harappan civilization to 10th Century A.D.

UNIT- II

- Political, Economic, Social and Cultural History of India from II to 18 Century A.D.
- Mugal rulers and their administration. Emergence of composite culture
- Impact of British Rule on Indian Economy and Society.

UNIT- III

- Reactions of Indians against British Colonial Rule: Peasant and Tribal revolts, The First Struggle of Independence. Indian Renaissance: National Freedom Movement and its leaders.
- Emergence of India as a Republic Nation, Reorganization of States, Formation of Madhya Pradesh. Major events of the post independence period.

UNIT- IV

- Independence Movement in Madhya Pradesh,
- Indian Cultural Heritage (with special reference to Madhya Pradesh) : Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature, Festivals & Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- World Heritage sites in Madhya Pradesh and Tourism.

UNIT- V

Dynasties of Madhya Pradesh: - Gondwana, Bundeli, Bagheli, Holkar, Scindia and Bhopal State (From beginning till independence). * With in Geographic reference of Present Madhya Pradesh.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

PAPER - I

INDIAN HISTORY : HISTORY AND CULTURE

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF INDIA FROM HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION TO 10TH CENTURY A.D.

- Q. 1 : What is the description of the Harappan civilization?
Q. 12: What was the social and economic life of the Harappan civilization?
Q. 3 : What was the social and political system of the Harappan civilization?
Q. 4 : What were the different types of art and crafts of Harappan civilization? Also, examine their significance. (Write ans. max. 250 words)

Introductions

Harappan civilization is one of the most ancient civilizations of the world. It was believed to be a hub of art and culture and architecture. The discoveries made at these architectural sights give us great insight into the lives and lifestyles of our ancestors.

Art works of the Indus Valley Civilisation emerged during the second half of the third millennium BCE. The artists of that time surely had fine artistic sensibilities and a vivid imagination. Their delineation of human and animal figures was highly realistic in nature, since the anatomical details included in them were unique, and, in the case of terracotta art, the modelling of animal figures was done in an extremely careful manner. The forms of art found from various sites of the civilisation include sculptures, seals, pottery, jewellery, terracotta figures, etc.

PREHISTORIC AGE

Palaeolithic Period or Old Stone Age

The earliest traces of human existence in India so far discovered go back to the second interglacial period between 4, 00,000 and 2, 00,000 BC. This is suggested by a large number of primitive stone tools found in the Soan Valley (now in Pakistan) and in south India, chiefly in and around Chennai. In the Indian Sub-continent primitive humans in the Old Stone

(Palaeolithic) Age, which lasted till 8,000 BC, used tools and implements of stone roughly dressed by chipping, found throughout the country, except the alluvial plains of the Indus, Ganga and Jamuna rivers.

Flint was commonly used as it is hard but flakes easily. Tools serve a variety of purposes, such as skinning of dead animals, cutting their flesh and splitting bones etc. Humans during this period were essentially food gatherers. They were almost totally dependent on nature for their food supply requirement of game animals and edible plants. In course of time they learnt to control fire which helped improve the pattern of living in many ways. They used the skins of animals, barks of trees and large leaves as clothes. Humans organised themselves in small wandering groups consisting of a few men, women and children.

It was towards the end of the Palaeolithic period that the Homosapiens first appeared, around 36,000 BC. A significant find of Indian archaeology in recent times is the discovery of a fossil (a skull cap) of a Homo Sapien at Hathnora in the Narmada valley. It is found in association with the early Palaeolithic tools. The Middle Palaeolithic tools were identified at Nevasa (Distt.

Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra) by H.D. Sankalia for the first time and the Upper Palaeolithic from Kurnool Caves in Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently Palaeolithic sites have been reported from across the country including the regions of Assam, Bengal and Orissa.

Mesolithic Age or the Late Stone Age

From 8,000 BC. (the end of the Ice Age) began an intermediate stage in the stone culture, called the Mesolithic Age. It is also referred to as the Late Stone Age. In India, it continued well up to about 4,000 BC. The characteristic tool of this transitional phase is the microliths, for instance the pointed or crescentic blade. Some of these were used for killing fast moving animals. Some were stuck on handles of wood or bone to make tools such as saws and sickles. Various Mesolithic sites are found in the Chotanagpur plateau in

central India and also south of the river Krishna. This stage reflects a more specialised and increasingly efficient food collection, leading to the beginning of plant cultivation.

Neolithic or the New Stone Age

This was the food producing stage when humans completely changed their way of life. Neolithic settlements in the Indian subcontinent are not older than 4,000 BC. even though in the world context they began much earlier, in 7,000 BC. Traces of Neolithic communities have survived mostly in the north-western region e.g. the Sulaiman and Kirtar hills, in the Vindhya in Deccan and the Garo hills in the north-east. Eolithic settlements in Baluchistan seem to be the oldest.

In the new way of life, humans began to domesticate animals and cultivate plants. The dog, goat and sheep were probably the first to be domesticated. Among plants, wheat and barley were the earliest cereals grown. As a result, man began to settle down in certain selected areas. This led to the growth of villages and farming communities.

The tools that they needed also changed: a heavy digging-stick used for digging the ground; a sickle used for harvesting; an axe, used for cutting and felling trees; a quern and mortar for grinding grain, and various types of pottery to store surplus grain and to hold liquids. They used ochrecoloured pottery. The wheel was an important discovery. Towards the close of the Neolithic period the use of metals began, which ushered in the Chalcolithic phase around 6000 BC.

Palaeolithic Age (Old Stone Age) (100,00 B.C.-9,000 B.C.)

The Palaeolithic Age in India is generally divided into following three phases according to the nature of the stone tools used and also according to the nature of change in the climate.

Lower Palaeolithic: (250,000 B.C.-100,00 B.C.)

(a) Important Tools-Hand-axes, cleavers & choppers mainly for chopping, digging and skinning.

(b) Climate became less humid (second Himalayan interglaciation period).

(c) Sites-Valley of river Soan now in Punjab, Belan Valley at Mirzapur in UP., caves & rock shelters of Bhimbetka near Bhopal (MP) .

Middle Palaeolithic (100,000 B.C. - 40,000 B.C.)

(a) Important Tools-Tools industry was mainly based on flakes. Tools such as blades of different varieties, points bones and scrapers made of flakes are found.

(b) Climate-Colder, more humid (third glaciation period).

(c) Sites-Near Narmada, Soan valley & also south of Thugabhadra river.

(d) Interesting feature-Evidence of a crude pebble industry taking form.

Upper Palaeolithic:

(a) Tools-Use of blades & burins.

(b) Climate-Less humid and the climate became comparatively warm.

Mesolithic Age (Late Stone Age) (9,000 B.C.- 4,000 B.C.)

Mesolithic age is a transitional phase between Palaeolithic and Neolithic (New Stone) Age. It is a transitional phase between hunting and fishing age and Food Producing age.

(a) Climate- Became warm and humid. The period coincided with the end of Ice Age. Since then there has been no major changes in the climatic conditions. Climatic changes brought

about changes in fauna & flora and made it possible for human beings to move to new areas.

(b) Tools-Microlithic (small stone) tools.

(c) Interesting features- (i) Adamgarh in M.P. and Bagor in Rajasthan provide the earliest evidence for the domestication of animals. (around 5,000 B.C.) (ii) Evidence from Rajasthan (deposits of Salt Lake, Sambhar) suggests plant cultivation around 7000-6000 B.C. Prehistoric Art: The people of . Palaeolithic and mesolithic age practised cave wall painting of which Bhimbetka near Bhopal (M.P.) is a striking site.

Neolithic Age (New Stone Age) (4,000 B.C.-1,000 B.C.)

Tools: The people of this age used polished stone tools and the main tool was stone axe.

Weapons made of bone were found in Burzahom (near Srinagar) and Chirand (near Patna, Bihar) belonging to this period.

Interesting features:

(a) The neolithic settlers were the earliest farming communities. They lived in circular or rectangular houses made of mud and reed.

(b) The people of Burzahom (the place of birth) used coarse grey pottery. People here lived in pits. Burzahom domestic dogs were buried with their masters in their graves.

(c) Hand made pottery found in earlier stage and later on foot wheels were used.

(d) Pottery first appears in this phase.

In a nutshell

Palaeolithic Sites

- Bhimbetka, close to Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh