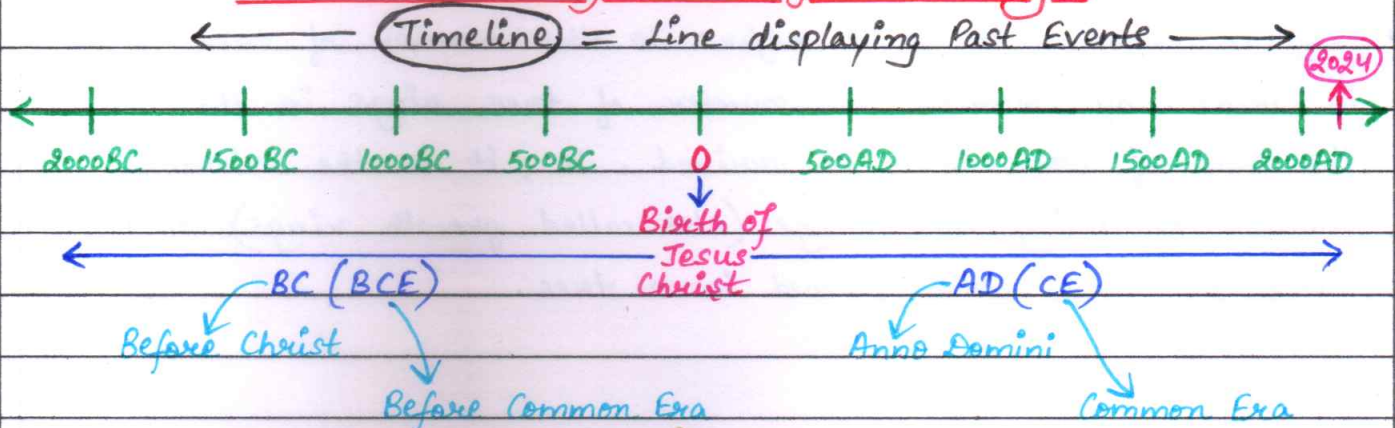


ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY

History:

- The word "History" originates from the Greek word "Historia" which means inquiry or knowledge acquired by the investigation.
- History refers to the study of past events set in a chronological order.
- In a simple language, History is all about the study of past events to understand your present and to make your future much better.
- • Father of History: — Herodotus
- • Father of Modern History: — Leopold von Ranke

Historic System of Dating



Time in History is calculated in years using BC (BCE) - Before

Christ (Before Common Era) and AD (CE) - Anno Domini (Common Era).

Note : — BC dates work as negative numbers.

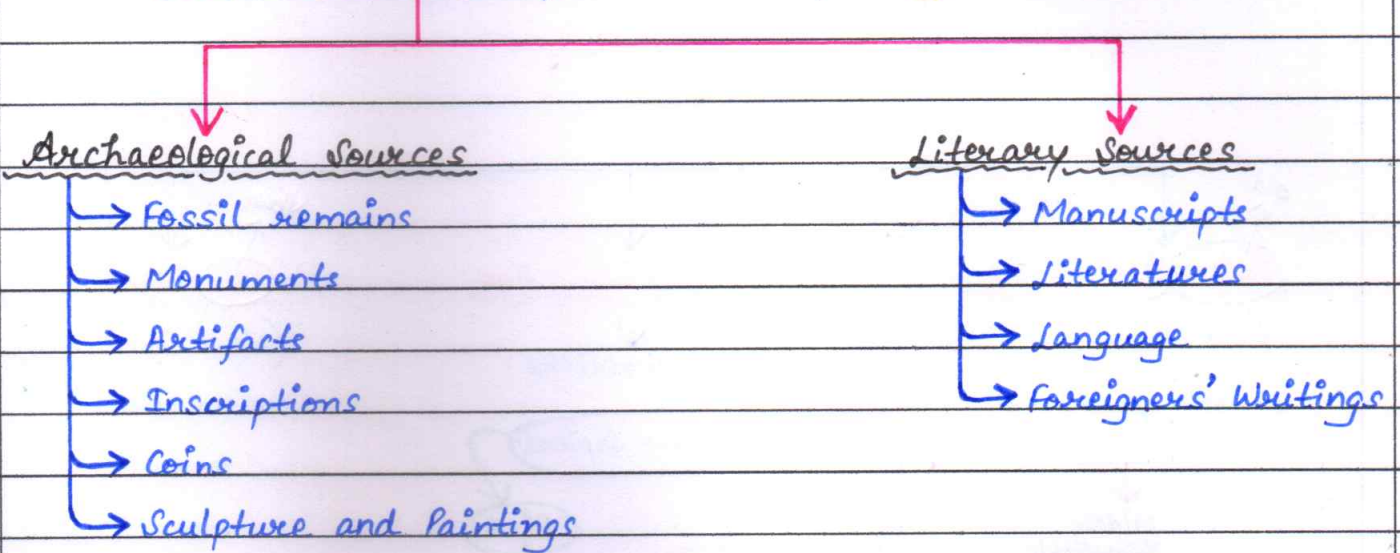
(e.g.) → 2000 BC is much further in the past than 200 BC.

Methods of Dating in History

- Radiocarbon Dating : — It is also referred as Carbon-14 (C-14) dating. C-14 is a weak radioactive isotope of Carbon. It is a method that uses the decay of Carbon-14 to estimate the age of organic materials as old as approximately 60000 years. An age could be estimated by measuring the amount of Carbon-14 present in the sample and comparing this against an internationally used reference standard.
- Pollen Analysis : — The history of climate and vegetation is known through the examination of plant residues, especially through Pollen Analysis. On this basis, it is suggested that agriculture was practiced in Rajasthan and Kashmir around 7000-6000 BC.
- Dendro-chronology : — It refers to the number of tree rings in wood. By counting the number of tree rings in the wood, the date of wood could be ascertained. So, it is the scientific method of dating tree rings (also called growth rings) to the exact year they were formed in a tree.

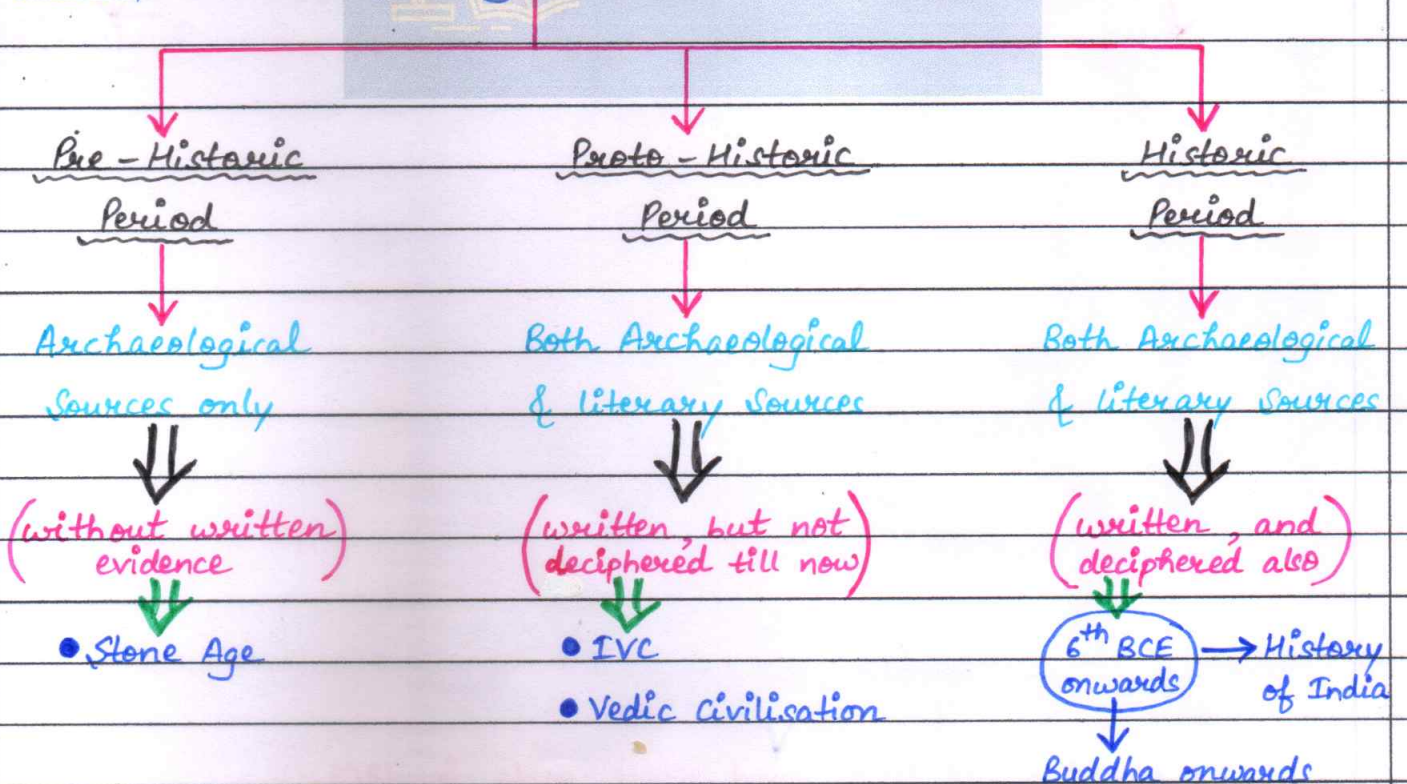
Sources of History

- ★ Records of past events are the sources of History.
- ★ The Sources of History are broadly categorized as:—



Periods of History

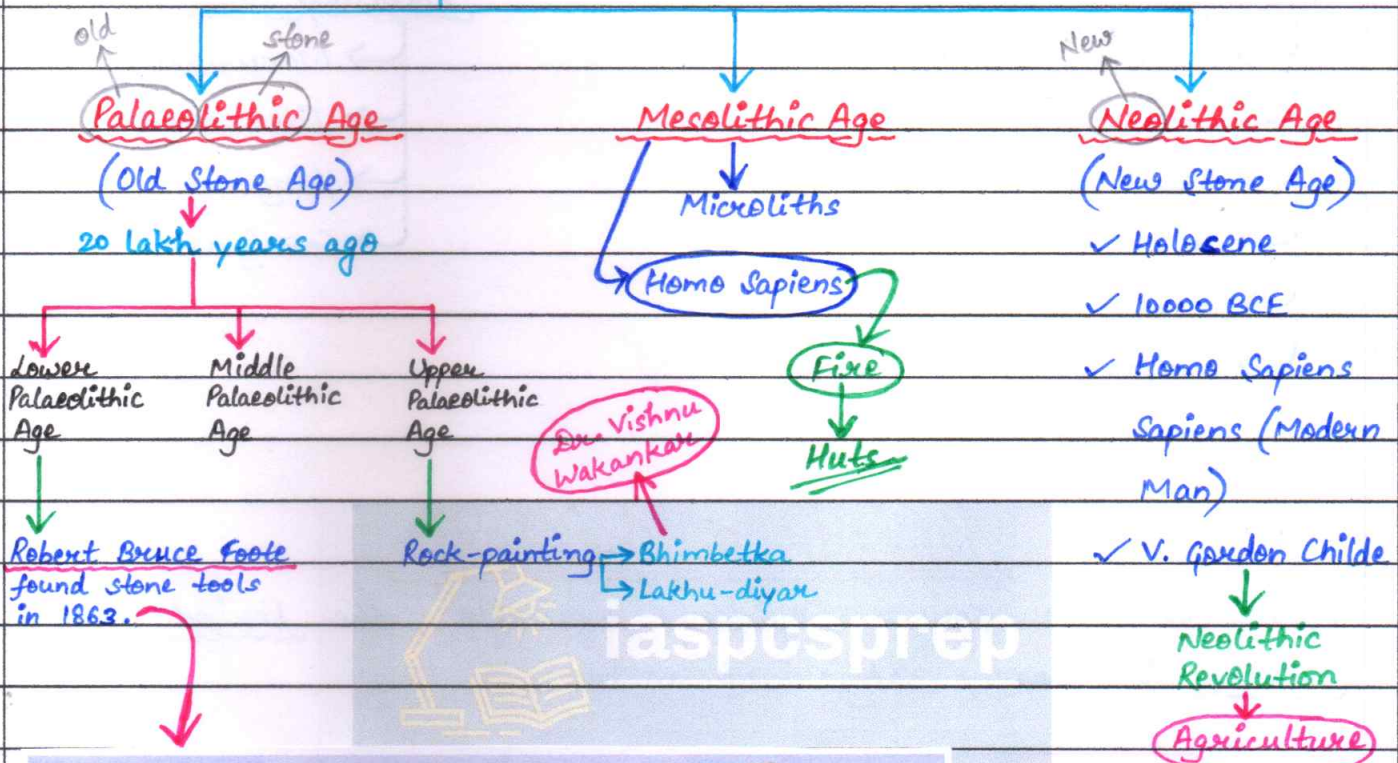
Based on the sources/evidence available, the Periods of History is broadly categorized as:—



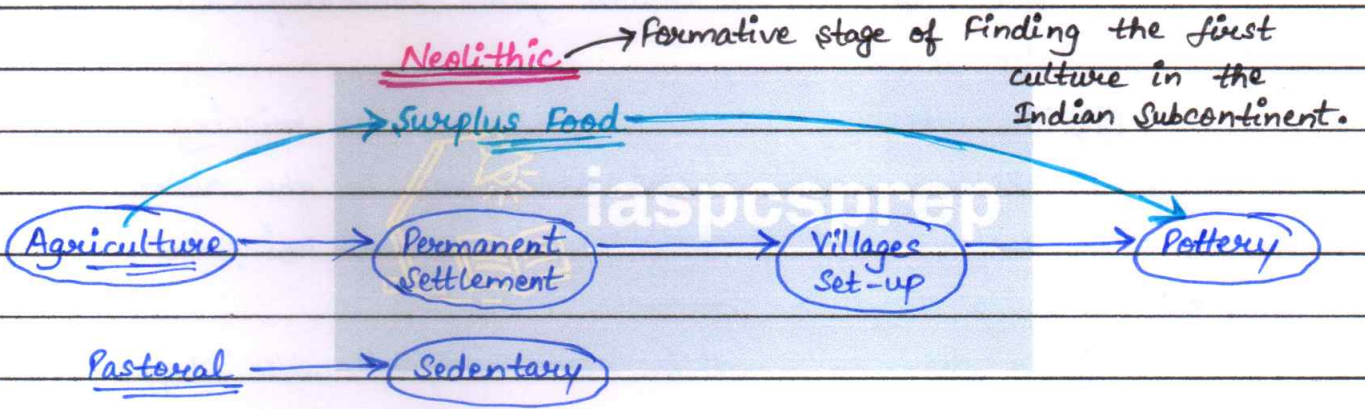
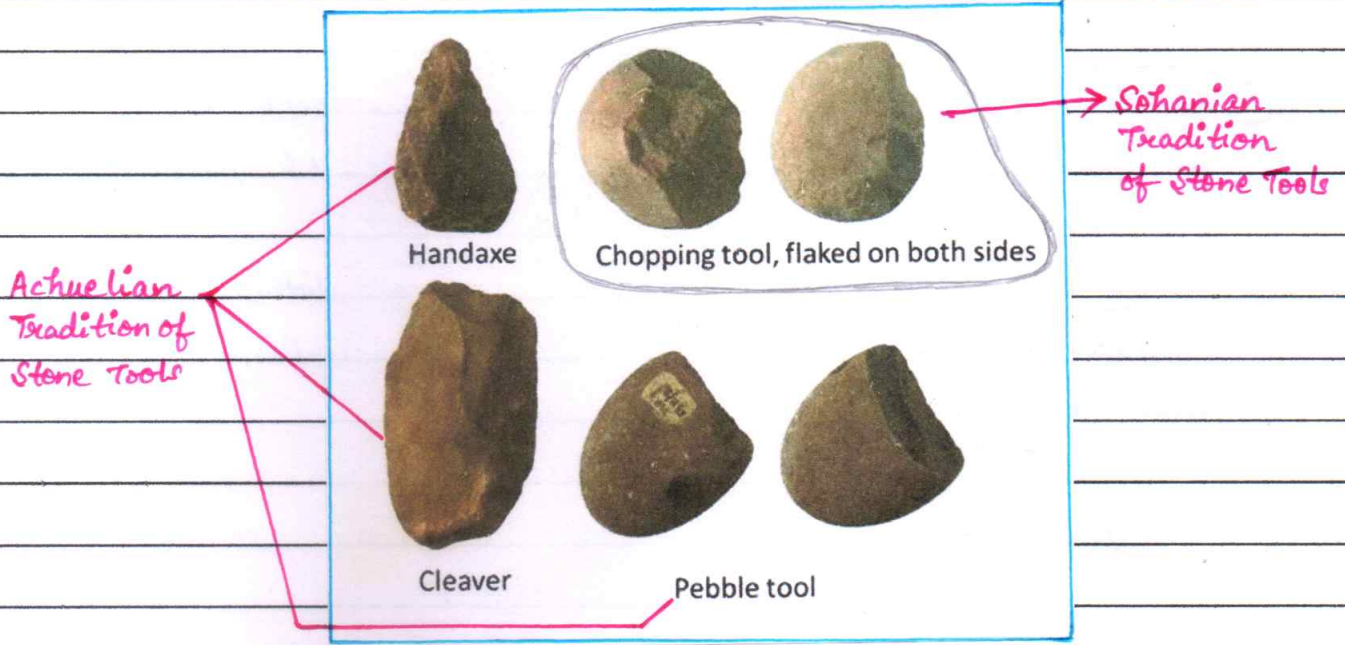
Pre-Historic Period

Source :- Archaeological only

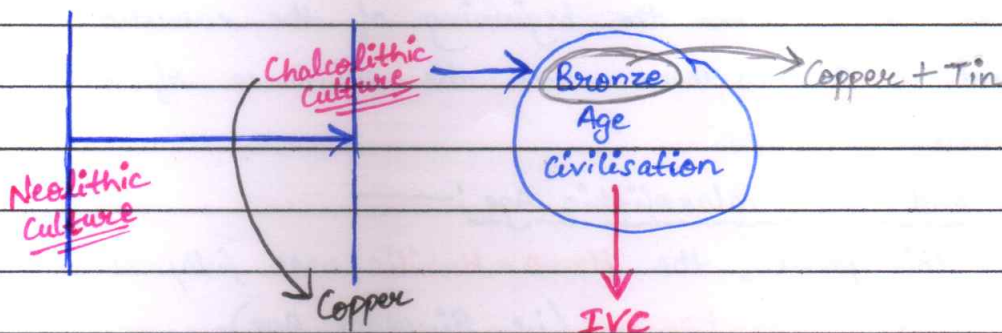
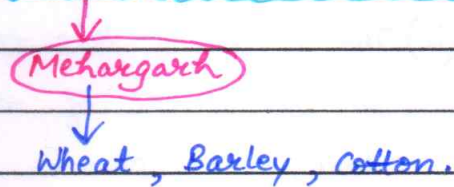
Stone Age



Robert Bruce Foote found stone tools in 1863.



Oldest Agriculture site in India



(I) Palaeolithic Age :—

→ ① The Palaeolithic Age in the Indian Subcontinent began in the period of 20 lakh years ago till 4 lakh years from the present time.

→ ② Lower Palaeolithic Age :— The lower Palaeolithic age is characterized by the emergence of 2 traditions of stone tools such as Acheulian and Sohanian.

• (a) Acheulian Tradition :—

(i) This tradition is identified with the use of Hand axes and Cleavers.

(ii) Dr. Robert Bruce Foote had discovered the first Hand Axe from Pallavaram near Chennai in 1863 and subsequently Cleaver from Attirampakkam was also discovered.

(iii) The sites of Acheulian tradition are missing in the Western Ghats, Coastal Areas and in the North-eastern part of India due to heavy rainfall.

• (b) Sohanian Tradition :—

(i) The Sohanian tradition is identified with Chopper and Chopping tools which were based upon the flaking technique.

(ii) The sites of this tradition have been found mainly in the pocket of the river bank of Sohan in today's Pakistan.

Therefore, right from the beginning of the evolution of mankind in India there were the existence of multiple stone based cultures.

→ ③ Middle and Upper Palaeolithic Age :—

• (a) In this phase, the Homo-Habilis was fully transformed into the Homo-Erectus (i.e. Bi-pedal Ape).

- (b.) H.D. Sankalia had discovered various middle palaeolithic sites near the river bank of Pravara located in Maharashtra.
- (c.) The Flake industry was now well-established and the tools like scrapers, borers, points etc. were added into the list of stone tools.
- (d.) The Upper Palaeolithic age is known for the emergence of Homo Sapiens for the first time on the Earth as well as in India.
- (e.) Dr. Vishnu Wakankar was the first who discovered the caves of Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh through which we came to know about the cave paintings for the first time.
- (f.) Subsequently more than a dozen of caves were discovered in Bhimbetka from the Palaeolithic to Mesolithic era in the form of the Rock-paintings. Besides Bhimbetka, caves like Lakhu-diyar (in Uttarakhand), Azamgarh (in Vindhya) have also shown the evidences of rock-paintings and mesolithic art.

(ii.) Mesolithic Period :— The Mesolithic period is identified with the following features :—

- ① Homo-Sapiens were the chief architect of this culture in around 10000 BCE in India.
- ② They learnt the art of use of fire for cooking food or baking milk and also warming themselves in the cold climatic conditions.
- ③ Microoliths discovered by C.L. Carlyle were identified with this phase in the form of small and sharp stone tools

designed on the geometric pattern.

- (4) The transformation of early human being into a sedentary life or settled life have started from this era as the domestication of animals was practiced first by the people of mesolithic culture.
- (5) There are some important sites like Chapani Mando (UP), Mahadaha (UP), Damdaha (UP), Bagore (Rajasthan) and Tilwara (Rajasthan).

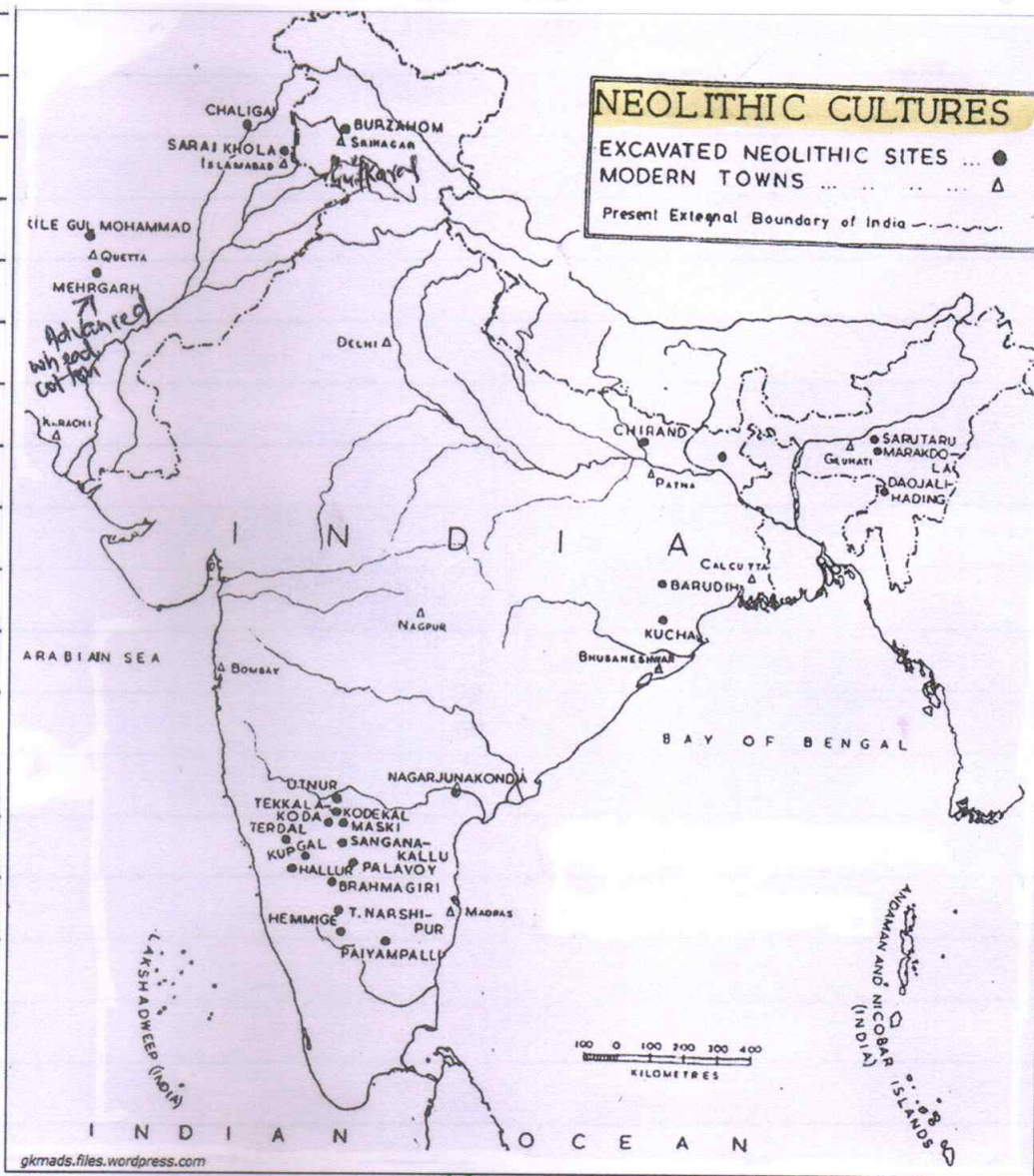
III. Neolithic Period : —

- (1) The term "Neolithic" was coined by John Lubbock. It means the era of new stone age.
- (2) This era has said to begun in the Indian Subcontinent from ^(approx) circa 10000 BCE onwards.
- (3) This era also witnessed a climatic transformation as well i.e. Pleistocene era (cold climatic) was changing into the Holocene era (warm climatic).
- (4) Homo-Sapiens Sapiens (Modern Man) became the chief architect of the Neolithic culture which is identified on the basis of following features : —
 - (a) The beginning of Agriculture, For e.g. → Mehargarh in the Bolan Valley of Baluchistan in today's Pakistan is the oldest Agriculture site in the Indian Sub-continent shown the evidences of the cultivation of Wheat, Barley and Cotton (c. ^{circa} 7000 BCE).
 - (b) The people of this culture started living on a permanent piece of land. Therefore, the Pastoral hunter-gatherer society transformed into a settled society in this era. For e.g. → The sites like Juxicha

(Jordan), Catal Huyuk (Turkey), Tepe Guran (Iran) have shown the evidences of the permanent settlement in West Asia as well.

- (c.) The emergence of large villages was also a chief characteristic of the neolithic culture.
- (d.) Pottery was invented for the first time in this era and a site of Chopani Manda in UP has given the earliest and the oldest evidence of Pottery (c. 6500 BCE).
- (e.) The neolithic culture has been found in various pockets of India indicating a massive transformation took place in this era. Therefore, V. Gordon Childe has termed it as the "Neolithic Revolution".
- (f.) The prominent sites of the Neolithic culture have been found in the Northwest and Southern part of India such as Mehargarh, Rana Ghundai, Sarai-khola in the Northwest and Utnur, Piklihal, T. Navsipur, Paiyampalli etc. from South India.
- (g.) In the Eastern and North-eastern part of India, the sites of Belan Valley of UP such as Koldihawa, Mahagara, Chopani Manda are the prominent sites. In the North-eastern part of India, Dajjali Hading in Assam is the most prominent neolithic site.
- (h.) The Neolithic Age contributed in the emergence of various culture across the subcontinent like Buzrahom and Gulksal belong to J&K have shown the evidences of the Pit-dwelling and domestication of dogs and other animals from the Neolithic culture. Therefore, there has always been variety of cultural

practices followed even in the Neolithic era right from the beginning. It also paved the way for the emergence of **Chalcolithic cultures** from c. 5000 BCE onwards across the Indian Subcontinent such as Amri, Balathal, Rangpur, Kalibangan etc.



Map :- Neolithic Cultures site

Class Quiz

Q(1) According to the excavated evidence, the domestication of animals begun in -

- a) Lower Palaeolithic period
- b) Middle Palaeolithic period
- c) Upper Palaeolithic period
- d) Mesolithic Period

Q(2) Name the site which has revealed the earliest evidence of settled life?

- a) Dholavira
- b) Kile Gul Mohanmad
- c) Kalibangan
- d) Mehargarh

Q(3) Given below are the location of four archaeological sites in India :-

- (A) Paiyampalli → Tamil Nadu
- (B) Bhimbetka → Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Hunsgi → Karnataka
- (D) Buxzahom → J&K

Which among the following presents the correct order of their locations from North to South?

- a) A, B, C, D
- b) B, C, A, D
- c) B, D, A, C
- d) D, B, C, A

Q(4) Which of the following is not a subdivision of the Stone Age ?

- a) Mesolithic Age
- b) Iron Age
- c) Palaeolithic Age
- d) Neolithic Age

Q(5) Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the Neolithic Age ?

- a) Introduction of agriculture and domestication of animals
- b) Emergence of settled agricultural communities
- c) Use of advanced metal tools
- d) Development of pottery and weaving

Q(6) Which hominid species is associated with the Lower Palaeolithic Period ?

- a) Homo erectus
- b) Homo sapiens
- c) Homo habilis
- d) Australopithecus