

IAS Prelims Exam: Ancient History

NCERT Questions: The Chalcolithic Cultures of India Set II

Old edition of NCERT Books are still high in demand in terms of UPSC IAS Exam Preparation because it has extensive coverage of the topics given in the UPSC IAS Exam syllabus. The IAS aspirants find it difficult to get an old edition NCERT book from market due to its unavailability in the market.

Here, we have provided Multiple Choice Questions of Ancient Indian History which have been created from the old edition of NCERT book, go and check your level of your Preparation of IAS Prelims Exam.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the trade and commerce of chalcolithic culture:

- I. Chalcolithic communities traded and exchanged materials with other contemporary communities.
- II. Large settlements like Ahar, Gilund, Nagada, Navdatoli, Eran, Prabhas, Rangpur, Prakash, Daimabad and Inamgaon would have served as major centres of trade and exchange.
- III. It appears that Ahar people, settled close to the copper source, supplied copper tools and objects to other contemporary communities in Malwa and Gujarat.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: There is evidence to show that the Chalcolithic communities traded and exchanged materials with other contemporary communities. Large settlements like Ahar, Gilund, Nagada, Navdatoli, Eran, Prabhas, Rangpur, Prakash, Daimabad and Inamgaon would have served as major centres of trade and exchange. It appears that Ahar people, settled close to the copper source, supplied copper tools and objects to other contemporary communities in Malwa and Gujarat. It has

been suggested that most of the copper axes found in Malwa, Jorwe and Prabhas cultures bear some identification marks, which are almost identical, suggesting that they may be the trademarks of the smiths who made them.

2. The Jorwe people have traded gold and ivory from which of the following places?

- a. Rajpipla
- b. Tekkalkotta
- c. Inamgaon
- d. Malwa

Answer: b

Explanation: Conch shells for bangles were traded from the Saurashtra coast to various other parts of the Chalcolithic regions. Similarly, gold and ivory may have come from Tekkalkotta (Karnataka) to Jorwe people who in turn traded these to their contemporaries. The semiprecious stones may have been traded to various parts from Rajpipla (Gujarat). It is interesting to note that the Jorwe people traded even the pottery to distant places, as Inamgaon pottery has been found at several sites located away from it.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the religious beliefs of chalcolithic cultures:

- I. The worship of mother goddess and the bull was in vogue.
- II. The bull cult seems to have been predominant in Malwa during the Ahar period.
- III. A large number of these both naturalistic as well as stylised lingas have been found from most of the sites.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: Religion was an aspect which interlinked all the Chalcolithic cultures. The worship of mother goddess and the bull was in vogue. The bull cult seems to have been predominant in Malwa during the Ahar period. A large number of these both naturalistic as well as stylised lingas have been

found from most of the sites. The naturalistic ones may have served as votive offerings, but the small stylised ones may have been hung around the neck as the Lingayats do today.

4. With reference to the religious identities of Chalcolithic cultures which of the following is not correct?

- a. The Mother Goddess is depicted on a huge storage jar of Malwa culture in an applique design.
- b. A painting on a jar found from Inamgaon; shows a deity surrounded by animals and birds such as tigers and peacocks.
- c. The Mother Goddess is flanked by a woman on the right and a crocodile on the left, by the side of which is represented the shrine.
- d. In a painted design on a pot, a deity is shown with dishevelled hair, recalling the Rudra of later period.

Answer: b

Explanation: The Mother Goddess is depicted on a huge storage jar of Malwa culture in an applique design. She is flanked by a woman on the right and a crocodile on the left, by the side of which is represented the shrine. Likewise the fiddle-shaped figurines probably resembling srivatsa, the symbol of Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth in historical period represent a mother Goddess. In a painted design on a pot, a deity is shown with dishevelled hair, recalling the Rudra of later period. A painting on a jar found from Daimabad; shows a deity surrounded by animals and birds such as tigers and peacocks. Some scholars compare it with the 'Siva Pashupati' depicted on a seal from Mohanjodaro.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the figurines recovered from the site of Inamgaon:

- I. Two figurines from Inamgaon, belonging to late Jorwe culture, have been identified as proto-Ganesh, who is worshipped for success before embarking on an undertaking.
- II. Several headless figurines found at Inamgaon have been compared with Goddess Visira of the Mahabharata.
- III. Fire-worship seems to have been a very widespread phenomenon among the Chalcolithic people.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: Two figurines from Inamgaon, belonging to late Jorwe culture, have been identified as proto-Ganesh, who is worshipped for success before embarking on an undertaking. Several headless figurines found at Inamgaon have been compared with Goddess Visira of the Mahabharata. Fire-worship seems to have been a very widespread phenomenon among the Chalcolithic people. Fire-altars have been found from a large number of Chalcolithic sites during the course of excavations.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the status of technology during the Chalcolithic period:

- I. The Chalcolithic farmers had made considerable progress in ceramic as well as metal technology.
- II. The painted pottery was well made and well fired in kiln which was fired at a temperature between 500-700° C.
- III. The copper was obtained, perhaps, from the Khetri mines of Rajasthan.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: The Chalcolithic farmers had made considerable progress in ceramic as well as metal technology. The painted pottery was well made and well fired in kiln. It was fired at a temperature between 500-700° C. In metal tools we find axes, chisels, bangles, beads, hooks, etc. which were mostly made of copper. The copper was obtained, perhaps, from the Khetri mines of Rajasthan. Gold ornaments were extremely rare and have been found only in the Jorwe culture. An ear ornament has been found from Prabhas also.

7. From which of the following sites the crucibles and pairs of tongs of copper have been recovered?

- a. Tekkalkotta
- b. Inamgaon
- c. Malwa
- d. Rajpipla

Answer: b

Explanation: The find of crucibles and pairs of tongs of copper at Inamgaon shows the working of goldsmiths. Chalcedony drills were used for perforating beads of semiprecious stones. Lime was prepared out of Kankar and used for various purposes like painting houses and lining the storage bins, etc.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalcolithic cultures in India:

- I. Some of the Chalcolithic cultures were contemporary with the Harappan culture and others were decidedly later than Harappan.
- II. The Chalcolithic cultures are characterised by painted ceramic, usually black-on-red, a specialised blade and flake industry of the silicious materials.
- III. Their economy was based on subsistence agriculture, stock-raising and hunting and fishing.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- e. Only I
- f. I and II
- g. II and III
- h. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: Some of these cultures were contemporary with the Harappan culture and others were decidedly later than Harappan.

9. In which of the following year the discovery of a Copper Harpoon was first reported in India?

- a. 1810
- b. 1820

- c. 1822
- d. 1830

Answer: c

Explanation: The first reported discovery of a copper harpoon from Bithur in Kanpur district in 1822, nearly one thousand copper objects have been found from almost 90 localities in various parts of India. As these copper objects have mostly been found in hoards, they are known as Copper Hoards.

10. The largest Copper Hoards has been recovered from which of the following sites of Chalcolithic cultures?

- a. Gungeria
- b. Bithur
- c. Almora
- d. Malwa

Answer: a

Explanation: The largest hoard from Gungeria (Madhya Pradesh) comprises 424 pieces of copper objects and 102 thin sheets of silver. The main types of objects are various kinds of celts, harpoons, antennae swords, rings and anthropomorphs.