

**Ancient India: Prehistoric Period for UPSC
NDA 2026**

Instructions: Each question carries one mark.
Choose the most appropriate answer.

Section: Paleolithic Age

1. Which of the following sites is a **Lower Paleolithic** site in India?

- a) Brahmagiri
- b) Bhimbetka
- c) **Soan Valley**
- d) Navdatoli

2. The Paleolithic Age in India is also known as the:

- a) Copper Age
- b) **Old Stone Age**
- c) New Stone Age
- d) Iron Age

3. The main characteristic of the Paleolithic period was:

- a) Domestication of animals
- b) Invention of wheel
- c) **Use of unpolished, rough stone tools**
- d) Practice of agriculture

4. Which raw material was **most commonly used** for making tools in the Paleolithic period?

- a) Iron
- b) Copper
- c) Bronze
- d) **Quartzite**

5. The Paleolithic period is divided into three phases based on:

- a) Type of pottery
- b) **Nature of stone tools**
- c) Burial practices
- d) Script used

6. Which of the following animals was **NOT hunted** during the Paleolithic period?

- a) Bison
- b) Elephant
- c) **Domesticated cow**
- d) Rhinoceros

7. The earliest evidence of human existence in the Indian subcontinent comes from:

- a) **Paleolithic Age**
- b) Mesolithic Age
- c) Neolithic Age
- d) Chalcolithic Age

8. Which of the following is a **Upper Paleolithic** site?

- a) Hunsgi
- b) **Belan Valley**
- c) Sarai Nahar Rai
- d) Chirand

9. The primary source of livelihood during the Paleolithic period was:

- a) Agriculture
- b) **Hunting and gathering**
- c) Fishing
- d) Trade

10. Which Paleolithic site is famous for its cave paintings?

- a) **Bhimbetka**
- b) Mehrgarh
- c) Inamgaon
- d) Hallur

11. The climate during the Paleolithic period was generally:

- a) **Cold and humid**
- b) Hot and dry
- c) Similar to present day
- d) Extremely rainy

12. Which of the following tools is **NOT** associated with the Paleolithic Age?

- a) Handaxe

- b) Cleaver
- c) Scraper
- d) **Polished axe**

Section: Mesolithic Age

13. The Mesolithic Age is characterized by the use of:

- a) Copper tools
- b) **Microliths**
- c) Iron tools
- d) Bronze tools

14. Which of the following is a **Mesolithic site**?

- a) **Bagor (Rajasthan)**
- b) Kalibangan
- c) Dholavira
- d) Lothal

15. The Mesolithic period saw the beginning of:

- a) Urbanization
- b) **Domestication of animals**
- c) Use of iron
- d) Writing system

16. Which animal was **first domesticated** during the Mesolithic period?

- a) Elephant
- b) Horse
- c) **Dog**
- d) Cow

17. The main technological advancement in the Mesolithic period was:

- a) Invention of wheel
- b) **Development of composite tools**
- c) Smelting of iron
- d) Potter's wheel

18. Which of the following sites has evidence of the earliest **human burial** in India?

- a) **Langhnaj (Gujarat)**
- b) Harappa
- c) Mohenjo-Daro
- d) Taxila

19. The Mesolithic people lived in:

- a) Fortified cities
- b) **Temporary huts and caves**
- c) Brick houses
- d) Wooden palaces

20. Which period is known as the **transition phase** between Paleolithic and Neolithic?

- a) Chalcolithic
- b) **Mesolithic**
- c) Megalithic
- d) Iron Age

21. Evidence of **rock art** depicting hunting scenes is mainly found from which period?

- a) Paleolithic
- b) **Mesolithic**
- c) Neolithic
- d) Chalcolithic

22. Bagor, a Mesolithic site, is located on the banks of which river?

- a) Ganga
- b) Yamuna
- c) **Kothari**
- d) Indus

23. The main subsistence pattern during Mesolithic period was:

- a) Agriculture
- b) **Hunting, fishing and gathering**
- c) Trade
- d) Craft production

24. Adamgarh and Bhimbetka caves show continuity from:

- a) Neolithic to Chalcolithic
- b) **Paleolithic to Mesolithic**
- c) Mesolithic to Neolithic
- d) Chalcolithic to Iron Age

25. Which of the following is **NOT** a characteristic of Mesolithic period?

- a) Use of microliths
- b) **Practice of agriculture**
- c) Domestication of animals
- d) Semi-permanent settlements

Section: Neolithic Age

26. The Neolithic Age is characterized by:

- a) Use of microliths
- b) **Beginning of agriculture**
- c) Use of copper
- d) Urbanization

27. Which is considered the **earliest Neolithic site** in India?

- a) Burzahom
- b) **Mehrgarh**
- c) Chirand
- d) Hallur

28. The Neolithic people were the first to:

- a) Use fire
- b) **Produce food**
- c) Use stone tools
- d) Paint on caves

29. Which crop was **first domesticated** in the Indian subcontinent?

- a) Rice
- b) **Wheat and barley**
- c) Cotton
- d) Sugarcane

30. Which Neolithic site is famous for **pit dwellings**?

- a) Mehrgarh
- b) **Burzahom**
- c) Daojali Hading
- d) Brahmagiri

31. The Neolithic tool technology is marked by:

- a) Microliths
- b) **Polished stone tools**
- c) Copper tools
- d) Iron tools

32. Which animal was **NOT domesticated** during the Neolithic period?

- a) Sheep
- b) Goat
- c) **Lion**
- d) Cattle

33. The Neolithic revolution refers to:

- a) Invention of wheel
- b) Discovery of fire
- c) **Transition from food gathering to food producing**
- d) Development of writing

34. Which Neolithic site shows evidence of **rice cultivation**?

- a) Mehrgarh
- b) **Koldihwa**
- c) Burzahom
- d) Gufkral

35. The pottery of Neolithic period was initially:

- a) Glazed
- b) Painted
- c) **Handmade**
- d) Wheel-made

36. Evidence of **megalithic burials** begins from which period?

- a) Paleolithic
- b) Mesolithic
- c) **Neolithic**
- d) Chalcolithic

37. Which of the following sites provides evidence of **early silk production**?

- a) Harappa
- b) **Chirand**

- c) Mohenjo-Daro
- d) Kalibangan

38. The Neolithic culture in South India is mainly identified by:

- a) Pit dwellings
- b) **Ash mounds**
- c) Cave paintings
- d) Stone circles

39. Which of the following was a **new invention** during Neolithic period?

- a) Fire
- b) Stone tools
- c) **Wheel**
- d) Metal

40. The Neolithic site of Gufkral is located in:

- a) Rajasthan
- b) **Jammu & Kashmir**
- c) Bihar
- d) Assam

41. Which of the following statements about Neolithic period is **INCORRECT**?

- a) People lived in settled villages
- b) Agriculture was practiced
- c) **Iron tools were used**
- d) Pottery was made

42. The Neolithic site of Daojali Hading is located in:

- a) Punjab
- b) **Assam**
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttar Pradesh

43. Which Neolithic site shows evidence of **multiple cropping**?

- a) Burzahom
- b) **Mehrgarh**
- c) Chirand
- d) Hallur

Section: Mixed and Previous Years' Questions

44. (Previous Year NDA) The earliest evidence of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent comes from:

- a) **Mehrgarh**
- b) Harappa
- c) Kalibangan
- d) Lothal

45. (Previous Year NDA) Which of the following periods is also called the 'Food Gathering Stage'?

- a) Neolithic
- b) Chalcolithic
- c) **Paleolithic**
- d) Iron Age

46. (Previous Year NDA) The Mesolithic period is characterized by:

- a) Use of bronze
- b) **Use of microliths**
- c) Practice of agriculture
- d) Urban settlements

47. (Previous Year NDA) Which of the following sites has yielded the earliest evidence of settled life?

- a) **Mehrgarh**
- b) Mohenjo-Daro
- c) Harappa
- d) Kalibangan

48. The three-age system (Stone, Bronze, Iron) for prehistoric cultures was proposed by:

- a) John Marshall
- b) **Christian Jurgensen Thomsen**
- c) R.E.M. Wheeler
- d) Mortimer Wheeler

49. The term 'Neolithic' was first coined by:

- a) **Sir John Lubbock**
- b) Gordon Childe

- c) Leakey
- d) Cunningham

50. Which of the following sequences is **CORRECT** in terms of chronology?

- a) Mesolithic → Paleolithic → Neolithic
- b) **Paleolithic → Mesolithic → Neolithic**
- c) Neolithic → Mesolithic → Paleolithic
- d) Paleolithic → Neolithic → Mesolithic

Answer Key

1. c) Soan Valley
2. b) Old Stone Age
3. c) Use of unpolished, rough stone tools
4. d) Quartzite
5. b) Nature of stone tools
6. c) Domesticated cow
7. a) Paleolithic Age
8. b) Belan Valley
9. b) Hunting and gathering
10. a) Bhimbetka
11. a) Cold and humid
12. d) Polished axe
13. b) Microliths
14. a) Bagor (Rajasthan)
15. b) Domestication of animals
16. c) Dog
17. b) Development of composite tools
18. a) Langhnaj (Gujarat)
19. b) Temporary huts and caves
20. b) Mesolithic
21. b) Mesolithic
22. c) Kothari
23. b) Hunting, fishing and gathering
24. b) Paleolithic to Mesolithic
25. b) Practice of agriculture
26. b) Beginning of agriculture
27. b) Mehrgarh
28. b) Produce food
29. b) Wheat and barley
30. b) Burzahom
31. b) Polished stone tools
32. c) Lion
33. c) Transition from food gathering to food producing
34. b) Koldihwa
35. c) Handmade
36. c) Neolithic
37. b) Chirand
38. b) Ash mounds
39. c) Wheel
40. b) Jammu & Kashmir
41. c) Iron tools were used
42. b) Assam
43. b) Mehrgarh
44. a) Mehrgarh
45. c) Paleolithic
46. b) Use of microliths
47. a) Mehrgarh
48. b) Christian Jurgensen Thomsen
49. a) Sir John Lubbock
50. b) Paleolithic → Mesolithic → Neolithic