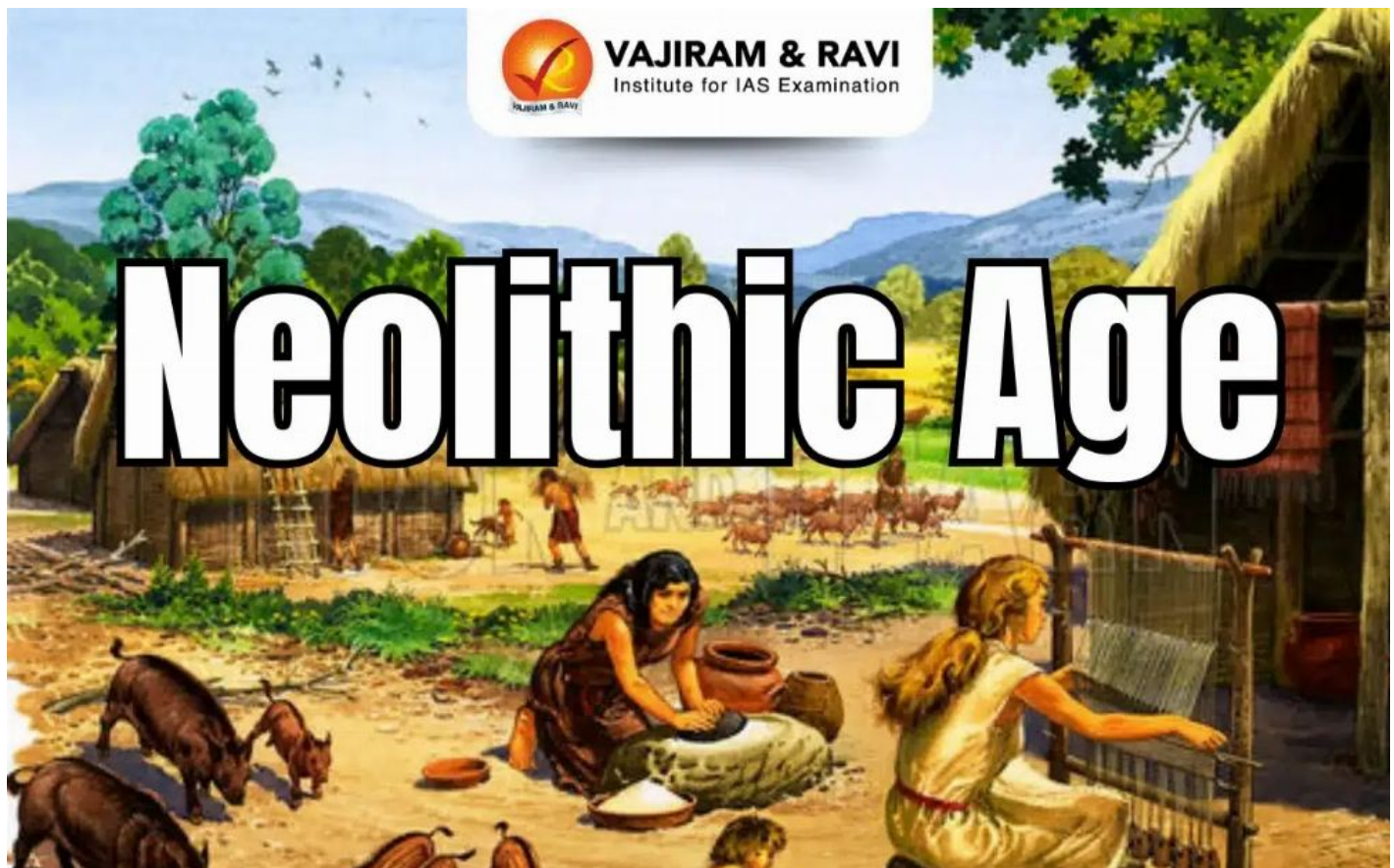


Neolithic Age

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Neolithic Age Latest News

The Archaeological Survey of India recently discovered one of the first rock grooves in Kanniyakumari district, which was created during the neolithic age, where people used to sharpen their weapons.

About Neolithic Age

- The Neolithic Period, also called the **New Stone Age**, is the **final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans**.
- It is characterized by the **beginning of a settled human lifestyle**. People learned to **cultivate plants and domesticate animals** for food, rather than rely solely on hunting and gathering.
- The Neolithic stage of development was **attained during the Holocene Epoch** (the **last 11,700 years of Earth's history**).
- The **starting point** of the Neolithic is generally thought to have occurred sometime **around 10,000 BCE**.
- The **Neolithic followed the Paleolithic Period**, or the **age of chipped-stone tools**, and **preceded the Bronze Age**, or the **early period of metal tools**.

- The Neolithic Revolution **started in the Fertile Crescent**, a region of the **Middle East**, where humans first took up farming. It then **spread to India, Europe**, and beyond.

Features of the Neolithic Age

- It was characterized by **stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding**, dependence on domesticated plants or animals, **settlement in permanent villages**, and the appearance of such **crafts as pottery and weaving**.
- The **houses** were **built of mud and reed** in rectangular or circular shapes.
- **Alcohol** was **first produced during this period**, and **architecture**, as well as its **interior and exterior decoration**, **first appeared**.
- **Status objects** like elaborate pottery and carved jades were **placed in tombs** during the Neolithic period. This practice **suggests** two things: Neolithic people's **belief in the afterlife** and the **emergence of social classes**. **Only important and wealthy individuals** had the privilege of being **buried with these precious objects**.

Effects of the Neolithic Revolution

- The Neolithic Revolution led to masses of **people establishing permanent settlements** supported by farming and agriculture.
- It **paved the way for the innovations of the ensuing Bronze Age and Iron Age**, when advancements in creating tools for farming, wars, and art swept the world and brought civilizations together through trade and conquest.

End of the Neolithic Age

- **Towards the end** of the Neolithic era, **copper metallurgy is introduced**, which marks a **transition period to the Bronze Age**, sometimes referred to as the **Chalcolithic or Eneolithic Era**.
- In time, **bronze became the primary material** for tools and weapons, and a good part of the **stone technology became obsolete**, signalling the **end of the Neolithic** and thus of the Stone Age.

Neolithic Sites in India

Some of the **important Neolithic sites in India** include **Burzahom in Kashmir, Chiron in Bihar** and **Uttar in Andhra Pradesh**, and **Edakkal caves in Kerala**.

Neolithic Age FAQs

Q1. What is the Neolithic Age period?

Ans. The Neolithic Period, also called the New Stone Age, is the final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans.

Q2. What is the difference between Paleolithic and Neolithic Age?

Ans. The Paleolithic Age was characterized by a nomadic, hunting-gathering lifestyle while the Neolithic Age marked a shift to settled agriculture.

Q3. The Neolithic Revolution first started in which region?

Ans. The Neolithic Revolution started in the Fertile Crescent, a region of the Middle East, where humans first took up farming.

Source: TH

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