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Q5(c)

Neolithic Cultures of India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · Neolithic

(iii) Neolithic

Core demand of the question

- Write a note on Neolithic Cultures of India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

The Indian Neolithic is early farming with ground stone.

Burzahom, southern **ashmounds**, and Ganga sites are type regions.

Mehrgarh anchors the northwest farming story.

Pottery and sedentism arrive in local orders.

It is several cultures, not one Neolithic people.

Introduction

Indian Neolithic cultures are the first farming and herding village sets, with ground stone and, later, pottery. They are regional, not one migration.

Body**Regions**

- **Kashmir**: **Burzahom** pit-dwellings, polished tools, and later megalithic contact.
- **Vindhyan-Ganga**: **Koldihwa** and **Mahagara** with early rice claims that remain debated.
- **South**: **Ashmounds** of cattle dung in Karnataka, **Utnur**, **Piklihal**, and **Brahmagiri** sequences after **Wheeler** and **Allchin**.
- **Northeast** and **eastern** India: shouldered celts and rice in a different package.
- **Mehrgarh** in Baluchistan is the western farming gateway, often taught with the Indian Neolithic story.

Features

- Domestication, sedentism, and polished axes. Metal is still rare. **Sankalia** and **Paddayya** stressed local process.

Flow diagram

Indian Neolithic -> Burzahom
Indian Neolithic -> Ashmounds Karnataka
Indian Neolithic -> Koldihwa rice
Indian Neolithic -> Mehrgarh west

Conclusion

- **Indian Neolithic cultures are regional farming beginnings:** Kashmir pits, southern **ashmounds**, Ganga rice debates, and **Mehrgarh** to the west. Ground stone is the shared fossil director.

Facts & figures

Burzahom

Kashmir Neolithic pit-houses and bone tools.

Ashmounds

Burnt cattle-dung mounds of the south Indian Neolithic.

Mehrgarh

Aceramic to ceramic farming sequence in Baluchistan.

Koldihwa

Vindhyan site tied to early rice claims, still argued in dating.