

Foundation of Archaeological Anthropology

Introduction to Archaeology – Definition, Aims, Scope. Relationship of archaeology with – Bio-Anthropology, Zoology, Botany, Geology, Chemistry, Physics, History. Recent trends of Archaeology – Public/ Community Archaeology, Indigenous Archaeology.

Development of Archaeology – Cultural Historical Approach; Antiquarian to traditional approach; Processual Archaeology – Application of natural sciences; Post-Processual Archaeology; Contemporary approaches to archaeological theory. Field methods of Archaeology – Exploration methods- Survey methods, Geo-Physical method, Ariel Survey.

Excavation methods – Types of trenches - Test pits, Trail Trench, Step trench ; Traditional Methods – Box Grid, Horizontal excavation, Grid Method,. Recent trends – Harris matrix. Chronology and Dating method: Absolute dating method (Radio-carbon, Potassium Argon, Thermo luminescence, Dendrochronology, Palaeo-magnetism), Relative Dating (Fluorine-Nitrogen Analysis, Stratigraphy, Typology)

Pleistocene Environment- The great Ice Age- Glacial and Inter Glacial, Pluvial and Inter Pluvial.

Introduction to pre-history and its major sub-divisions (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic) –Technology and typology of prehistoric tools.

South Asian Archaeology

Introduction - Development of South Asian Archaeology from pre to post independence; Introduction to quaternary; Quaternary environments in India.

Lower Palaeolithic: Concept of Lower Palaeolithic and Stone Age culture; Acheulian; Nature and significance of the technology; Distribution and Variation; Introduction to some important sites- Attirampakkam, Hunsgi valley, Isampur, Patne.

Middle and upper Palaeolithic: Nature and significance of the technology; Distribution and Variation; Introduction to some important sites- Nevasa, Bhimbetka, Patne, Kurnool, Adamgarh.

Mesolithic: Nature and significance of the technology; Distribution and Variation; Introduction to some important sites- Sarai-nahar-rai, Damdama, Langhnaj, Balangoda.

Neolithic-Megalithic: Nature and significance of the technology; Distribution and Variation; Introduction to some important sites- Burzahom, Mehergarh, Chirand, Daojali hading; Introduction to Megaliths of Vidharbha region, South India and North East India.

Ethno-Archaeology

Introduction - Definition, scope and methods of ethnoarchaeology; Nature and interrelationship of archaeological and ethnographic records: Role of Analogy.

Ethnoarchaeology in India - Brief review of the Ethnoarchaeological researches in India; Forager/collector model to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic societies: e.g. Andaman Islanders; Ethnoarchaeological researches on the living hunter-gatherers in central, western and southern regions of India- Pardhis, Van Vagris, Korkus, Gonds, Bastar, Birhors, Yanadis, Chenchus, and Musahars, Veddas of Sri Lanka.

Ethnoarchaeology outside India - Important Ethnoarchaeological studies of living hunter-gatherer societies outside India: Eskimos of Alaska, Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert and Australian Aborigines

Application of Ethnoarchaeology - Ethnoarchaeology and reconstruction of past material culture- Settlement pattern, technology, ceramics, food processing and cultural practices.

Ethnoarchaeology and Living megaliths – With special reference to central and North east India.

Fundamentals of Archaeological Anthropology

Archaeology as anthropology; relationship of archaeology with other disciplines; Historical development of archaeology.

Kinds of archaeology: Basic concepts and relevance: Pre-historic archaeology, Proto-historic archaeology, Historic archaeology, Ethno-archaeology, experimental archaeology, salvage archaeology

Location and identification of archaeological sites, Method of excavations, Methods of recording. Interpreting archaeological materials - Subsistence pattern, settlement pattern and site environment.

Dating methods: Chronometric dating – radio carbon, potassium-argon, thermoluminescence, archaeomagnetic, dendrochronology, fission track, obsidian hydration. Relative dating – stratigraphy, seriation, fluorine analysis and zonal concept.

Palaeo-environment: Geological and archaeological time scales: Tertiary, Quaternary, Pleistocene (Glacial, Interglacial, Pluvial, Inter-pluvial) and Holocene.

ANTHROPOLOGY OF NE INDIA

Emerging trends of archaeological studies in north east India (With special reference to the state Nagaland)

Prehistoric and Early Human Cultures

The main focus of this paper is to highlight the anthropological perspectives of archaeological materials in order to throw light on the emergence and evolution of human cultures.

Lower Palaeolithic (Important sites and associated fossils) - Oldowan, Abbevillian, Clactonian, Acheulean and allied development in India

Middle Palaeolithic (Important sites) – Mousterian and Levalloisean development in Europe and India. Upper Palaeolithic art and cultures in Europe.

Mesolithic cultures: Salient features – Europe and India and Early Holocene cultures of south east Asia- (Ecological background, hoabinhian culture)

Early farming cultures: In – West Asia and India subcontinent (evidence from important excavated sites). Chalcolithic cultures in India (Ahar, Malwa, Jorwe). Harappan civilization- (Settlement pattern, trade and economy).

Iron Age in India: Megalithic cultures in South India (distribution and typology), PGW and NBPW in North India (Hastinapur, Atranjikhare).

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY (BIO ARCHAEOLOGY)

Environmental archaeology- definition and scope, branches related to environmental archaeology.

Theories of plant domestication and origin of agriculture, early agriculture in old and new world.

Palaeontology and past environmental interpretation, fossils and process of fossilisation. Pleistocene vertebrate fauna of India.

Archaeozoology- definition and scope, archaeozoology techniques- quantification (NISP, MNI, Weight, Metrical Analysis), ageing and sexing methods. Holocene faunal record from archaeological sites in India.

Dental and bone histology, nature of archaeological human bone assemblage, bone diseases, dental diseases, traces of injury on skeleton, chemical analysis of bone.