

- Three important areas of Neolithic settlements have been identified based on types of axes used:

A. North-west Neolithic:

- Kashmiri Neolithic culture distinguished by its dwelling pits, variety of stones and bone tools.
- Complete absence of microliths.
- Important sites are Burzahom and Gufkral near Srinagar. Dog burial with the master was the special feature of Burzahom.
- People in Burzahom used to live in lake sided pits whereas in Gufkral, meaning caves of potters, as the name suggests people used to live in caves.
- They had hunting and fishing economy but were also acquainted with agriculture.

B. South Indian Neolithic:

- The important sites are Maski and Piklihal in Karnataka and Utnur in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Neolithic settlers in Piklihal were cattle herders. They collected dung in their camping grounds and put fire to them. Hence, Ash mounds have been found at Piklihal.

C. North East Neolithic:

- Sites are found in Sarutaru and Markadola (Assam) and Daojali Hading (Meghalaya).
- A number of sites have also been found in Allahabad and Mirzapur in UP.
- Neolithic sites in the Allahabad district are noted for the cultivation of rice in the Sixth millennium BC.

4. CHALCOLITHIC (Eneolithic) CULTURE:

- With the end of the Neolithic Age, several cultures started using metal, mostly copper and low-grade bronze. The culture based on the use of copper and stone was termed as Chalcolithic meaning stone-copper Phase.
- In India, it spanned around 2000 BC to 700 BC. This culture was mainly seen in the Pre-Harappan phase, but at many places, it extended to the Post-Harappan phase too.
- The people were mostly rural and lived near hills and rivers. The Chalcolithic culture corresponds to the farming communities, namely Kayatha (Chambal and its tributaries), Ahar or Banas (Rajasthan), Malwa (MP and Gujarat), and Jorwe (western Maharashtra).

Features:

- The people of Chalcolithic culture had used unique painted earthenware usually black-on-red.
- Hunting was one of the important occupations. Animals such as sheep, buffalo, goats, cattle, and pigs were reared and killed for food.
- The settlements of *Malwa* culture are mostly located on the Narmada and its tributaries. The three best-known settlements of *Malwa* culture are at *Navdatoli*, *Eran*, and *Nagada*.
- The best-known settlements of *Jorwe* culture are *Prakash*, *Daimabad*, and *Inamgaon*. *Daimabad* was the largest one that measured almost 20 hectares. *Daimabad* is also famous for the discovery of Bronze goods influenced by Harappan culture.
- The houses of Chalcolithic people were rectangular and circular. They were made of mud wattle and daub. The circular houses were mostly in clusters.