

## TECHNOLOGIES OF DIFFERENT INFORMATION AGES

What is Technology?

The term 'Technology' is the use of materials, tools, techniques, art, craft, or skills to make life easier or more pleasant and work more productive. For example, if someone skillfully puts some tools/materials together so that communication can be made possible over some distance; that simply means that he has invented a simple technology for communication.

What is Information Technology?

Information Technology can therefore be described as any technology developed/invented that helps to produce, manipulate, store and communicate information. This is essential for the development and progress of any country.

Since the early ages to the present one, several technologies have been developed to help in the development of the various ages.

Five different information ages in the field of technology

1. Stone Age
2. Iron Age
3. The Middle Ages
4. The Industrial Age
5. Electronic Age

### THE STONE AGE

This was the period during where stone was widely used to make implements. Stones were carved and shaped for different purposes, one of which was to provide information. In those days, stones were carved as symbols on the walls and other places to provide information.

### THE IRON AGE

The Iron Age was a time in early human history when people began to use tools and weapons made of iron. In this age, tools were mainly made of iron and steel. Tools like hoes and cutlasses were made for agriculture and for war. For the first time villages were fortified, warfare was conducted on horseback.

### THE MIDDLE AGES

This age experienced a major technological advances, which includes the manufacturing of gun powder, mechanical clock, measuring instruments like the barometer and thermometer, building techniques and the gearing system. Horses were also used more efficiently during this period. Feather or quill pens were important writing tool in this age (used by craftsmen and artists to create beautiful calligraphy and manuscripts).

### THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

The iron and textile industries, along with the development of the steam engine, played central roles in the Industrial Revolution, which also saw improved systems of transportation, communication and banking. While industrialization brought about an increased volume and variety of manufactured goods and an improved standard of living for some, it also resulted in often grim employment and living conditions for the poor and working classes. This period replaced an economy based on manual labour with one dominated by industry and machine manufacture. The development of metal machine tools further helped the increase of manufacture of more production machines for manufacturing in other industries.

### ELECTRONIC AGE

The Information Age also known as the Computer Age, Digital Age, or New Media Age. We are presently in electronic age where modern technologies are used. In this age, a vast number of electronic equipment are used, including televisions, radio, video cameras and computers. This covers the period from the advent of personal computer to the development of internet. Computer is now acknowledged as the most important part of human existence. It is one of the tools needed for success and progress today.