

Palaeolithic cultures of India

Priyadarsini Sengupta
Associate Professor
Dept. of Anthropology
Bangabasi College
Kolkata

North India

- Kashmir Valley
 - Geological formation: Karewas
 - Massive flake and crude handaxe discovered near Pahalgam datable to 2nd glaciation (Controversial)
 - Variety of scrapers, borers, cores and handaxe-cum-chopper discovered from Liddar Valley.

- Potwar and Sohan Valley
 - Number of flakes, choppers and chopping tools found
 - Equated to Clacton flakes of Europe
 - Some handaxes also discovered
 - Debates regarding sequence of cultures, particularly pre-Sohan, as well as the term chopper-chopping culture

Western India

- Rajasthan
 - 1917 – Brown reported first acheulian tools from Jaipur.
 - Geological setting occupies an important position
 - Acheulian handaxes discovered from North of Luni, Gambhiri basin, Chambal basin and Berach basin in the Mewar region
 - Middle Palaeolithic tools are discovered from Marwar region, mostly from Lake deposits.

- Rajasthan

- Mostly microliths (post pleistocene) are discovered from Luni drainage system.
- Chalcolithic, Harappan, PGW evidences found from the Ghaggar-Drishadvati and Banas river complexes.
- Due to its climatic and geographical factors nomadic lifestyle still very much extant in Rajasthan – a good ethnoarchaeological understanding is possible

- Gujarat

- Geographical factors are important
- Sankalia reported middle and upper palaeolithic industries from Bhandarpur (Orsang valley)
- Upper Palaeolithic assemblages also found from Orsang valley
- Indian Middle Palaeolithic absent over here.
- Middle Palaeolithic assemblages discovered from the terraces of river Bhadar in Saurashtra
- Acheulian tools also found from Junagarh and South Gujarat coast.

Central India

- The northern fertile place do not yield any artifacts
- Lower and Middle Palaeolithic tools has been discovered from Vindhyan Ganga region and also from Belan valley
- Upper Paleolithic and microlithic elements have also been found from Vindhyan region.

- Narmada Region
 - One of the richest regions for yielding artifacts in association with fossils
 - Important sites are Hosangabad, Narsimhapur, Hathnora, etc.
 - Palaeolithic evidences have been discovered from Narmada and Tapi basins and Betwa valley
 - Hominid Calotte has been discovered

- Bhimbhetka

- Bhimbhetka, Adamgarh, Didwana are important sites
- Evidences from Lower Palaeolithic to Microlithic have been found from these regions
- Sites are mainly cave sites
- At Bhimbhetka, gradual replacement of acheulian by middle palaeolithic elements can be clearly seen
- Most remarkable features are the rock paintings in the caves and rock shelters ranging from Mesolithic to Medieval times.

- Maharashtra
 - Geologically formed of Deccan lavas
 - Late Acheulian artifacts found from the semiarid tract of Pune and Nasik.
 - Most important industry over here is the Nevasian from the sites of Nevasa and Chirki located along the banks of Pravara river (Corvinus; Sheila Mishra)

- Maharashtra

- Early acheulian mixed with flake components, heavy duty tools are rare
- Basalt is an important raw material
- Early palaeolithic artifacts found from Koregaon, Chandoh, Shikarpur, etc.
- Main emphasis of Maharashtrian palaeolithic studies is on chronostratigraphic correlation of industries

Eastern India

- Assam, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa are grouped together
 - Bihar (undivided)
 - Sen and Ghosh reported two tool bearing terraces on the river Raro in the Singhbhum district
 - Handaxes and Choppers are the main tools
 - Two more important sites are Bhimbandh and Chormara valleys
 - Understanding the stratigraphic deposits very important
 - Large forested areas must have formed good habitat for early to Mesolithic way of life

- Bengal

- Most of the palaeolithic tools found from Western Part of Bengal which is the eastern most extension of Chhotonagpur plateau
- The valleys of Damodar, Subarnarekha, Tarafeni are important areas from which Paleolithic to Neolithic tools have been discovered
- Topographic control (elevated tracts richest in tools) is seen on the distribution of palaeoliths.

- Orissa

- Buharbalang valley in Mayurbhanj district is very rich in early and Middle Palaeolithic tools – first worked upon by Bose and Sen
- Recently Chakrabarti studied the prehistory of Khiching area
- Both Mayurbhanj and Khiching have yielded lower and Middle Palaeolithic tools

- Assam

- Area of High rainfall and Dense forests
- T.C. Sharma reported tools of both handaxe and chopper-chopping varieties
- At the site of Waran, near Garo Hills, Acheulian and Middle Palaeolithic tools have been found
- Number of Triangular points similar to Mousterian and a few Aterian Points have also been obtained.
- Upper Palaeolithic consists mainly of blades, burins are rare.

Southern India

- Andhra Pradesh
 - Discovery of first Palaeoliths in Andhra dates back to 1930 from Kurnool district by Cammiade and later Burkitt
 - Only the Coastal and Deltaic regions yields some tools
 - Most of the tools are made on pebbles consisting of crude and fine Handaxes, Cleavers and Clacton flakes
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 - Chittoor is another important site

- Karnataka

- Belan valley yields a number of early palaeolithic artifacts
- Middle palaeolithic elements found from sites like Taminhal, Anagawadi, etc.
- Gulbarga, Bellary and Bijapur districts have also yielded a number of Middle Palaeolithic sites
- Most recent and meticulously worked area is the Hunsgi – Baichbal valley by Paddayya.

- **Tamilnadu**

- The Kortalayar valley is the most important palaeolith yielding zone of Tamilnadu
- Tools have been discovered from Kortalayar valley from the time of Robert Bruce-Foote upto present
- Extensively worked in recent times by S Pappu
- Large Number of Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic tools have been discovered from a number of sites