

# Middle Palaeolithic

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- A definite middle palaeolithic phase was present in India showing regional variations
- Difficult to distinguish middle palaeolithic tool kit as distinct 'index fossils' as many of them stay mixed with acheulian assemblages and are sometimes mistaken for a size-reduced flake phase of acheulian culture complex
- Two main indicators of shift from acheulian to middle palaeolithic are size reduction of tools and increase in flake elements, although technologically they may appear less developed than the acheulian complex

- From acheulian to middle palaeolithic there is a definite transitional phase where mixed assemblages of cores-flake cores-crude heavy flakes-unfinished cores-cortical flakes-noncortical flakes-flakes and flake blades are found and cores are less than debitage
- With the development of middle palaeolithic components a slightly larger percentage of Levallois cores are seen, indicating the introduction of prepared core technique

- These were probably not properly recognised earlier due to the differences of fracturing style from those of European Levallois cores. This may be due to the differences in raw materials as well as indigenous technological developmental feature of India

- At present a number of works are being carried out by Scholars like Pappu, Haslam, Petraglea, James, Korisettar and others to understand:
  - Techno-typological raw material utilisation,
  - sources of raw materials,
  - transport and import of raw materials,
  - adaptation with available kinds of raw materials,
  - reuse of broken/exhausted artifacts,
  - occupation reoccupation and purposive/ seasonal migration of the middle palaeolithic hominids to understand their cognitive and behavioural patterns

- New approaches like experimental tool making, geomorphological studies, reconstruction of palaeo-environment and site/region specific excavation methods are being used for having a better understanding of the middle palaeolithic culture complex and their makers as a whole.