







NEOLITHIC INDIA


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- In the southern zone the most decisive evidences of new patterns of subsistence are seen.
 - A number of important and well excavated Neolithic sites are located in the Krishna and its tributary basins.
 - The important sites are Brahmagiri (excavated by Wheeler, 1947), Sanganakallu, Piklihal, Maski, Tekkalakota and Hallur.



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- Ash mounds are present in Utnur, Kupgal, Budihal, Kodekal And Pallavoy.
 - The southern extension is upto the Kavery river valley upto the site of T. Narsipur .
 - The archeological records consist of stone axes, stone blades, and hand made coarse pottery.


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- The pottery includes gray or buff ware and also a ware with red, black or brown dressing before burnishing and firing.
 - A few microblades and neolithic blades have also been found in some of the sites.
 - One of the most recent and well excavated site is Budihal, excavated by K. Paddayya (1993).


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- A number of ash mounds as well as habitational deposits were excavated.
 - within the ash mound area two distinct parts were identified— a cattle-penning area and cow dung disposal area.
 - An extensive platform for chert working was discovered and a different place for storing pottery.


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- The dwelling units have low walls made of stones packed in mud.
 - Child burials in pits or pots were found in the habitational area.
 - The tool kit comprised ground stone axes, chert blades, bone tools, bone axe heads.

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- Red and gray pottery and beads of shells, bone and semi precious stones were found.
 - Evidences of community feasting are present at Neolithic Budihal.
 - The dates fall within c.2900-1000 BCE.
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- It is evident that the Indian sub continent had a definite food production and agro pastoral way of life which has been clumped together as Indian Neolithic.
 - The evidences show clear adaptation to the environment .
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- There is considerable variation in the dates – c. 7000BCE in the North West to c.1000 BCE in the South.
 - The neolithic life style included both animal and plant domestication as well as hunting and gathering.
 - The main tool kit consists of ground stone axes, blades, microliths, bone tools and querns and mullers.

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- An interesting feature is the overlap among Neolithic and Chalcolithic communities as well as with the different phases of Harappan civilization.
 - There are both a-ceramic neolithic levels as well as neolithic levels with pottery.
 - Indian neolithic is generally associated with relatively self sufficient village communities with equilibrium between food production and population.

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- From Budihal evidences of community feasting has been found.
 - Female terracotta figurines and purposive burials possibly indicate cultic belief systems.
 - Importance of the process of food production and associated cultural developments paved the way for the emergence of proto urban and finally full fledged urban settlements.