




UNDERSTANDING PRE AND PROTO HISTORY: INDIAN CONTEXT

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History can be divided in many ways both vertically and horizontally:

- Vertical/ Horizontal

- Chronology

 - Ancient, Medieval, Modern

- Metal

 - Stone, Copper-Bronze, Iron

PRE HISTORY

Without Written Documents

PROTO HISTORY

Written Documents: Not Deciphered

HISTORICAL PERIOD

Written Documents

Younger
↑
↓
Older

Eon	Era	Period	Epoch		
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	← Today	
			Pleistocene	← 11.8 Ka	
		Neogene	Pliocene		
			Miocene		
			Oligocene		
		Paleogene	Eocene		
			Paleocene	← 66 Ma	
			Cretaceous		~
			Jurassic		~
	Paleozoic	Triassic		~	
		Permian		← 252 Ma	
		Carboniferous	Pennsylvanian	~	
			Mississippian	~	
		Devonian		~	
		Silurian		~	
		Ordovician		~	
	Cambrian		~		
	Proterozoic	~	~	~	← 541 Ma
	Archean	~	~	~	← 2.5 Ga
Hadean	~	~	~	← 4.0 Ga	
				← 4.54 Ga	



System	Series	Stage	Age (Ma)
Quaternary	Holocene		0–0.0117
	Pleistocene	Tarantian	0.0117–0.126
		Ionian	0.126–0.781
		Calabrian	0.781–1.806
		Gelasian	1.806–2.588

The development of tool based and symbolically structured modern human culture began only tens of thousand of years ago, during the geological Pleistocene epoch.

The Holocene is a geological epoch which began at the end of the Pleistocene (at 11,700 calendar years BP) and continues to the present

The Pleistocene epoch is a geological time period that includes the last ice age, when glaciers covered huge parts of the globe. Also called Pleistocene era or simply Pleistocene. This epoch began about 2.6 million years ago and ended 11,700 years ago.

Stages and Timeline of Prehistoric Period

Phase		Time Period
Neolithic		4,500 - 2,500 BC
Mesolithic		10,000 - 4,500 BC
Palaeolithic 2.6 million - 10,000 B.C.	Upper Palaeolithic	40,000 - 10,000 BC
	Middle Palaeolithic	200,000 - 40,000 BC
	Lower Palaeolithic	2.6 million-200,000 BC

PREHISTORY

Typo-technology of tools, economic activities and other cultural features

❖ Palaeolithic

Lower Palaeolithic

Middle Palaeolithic

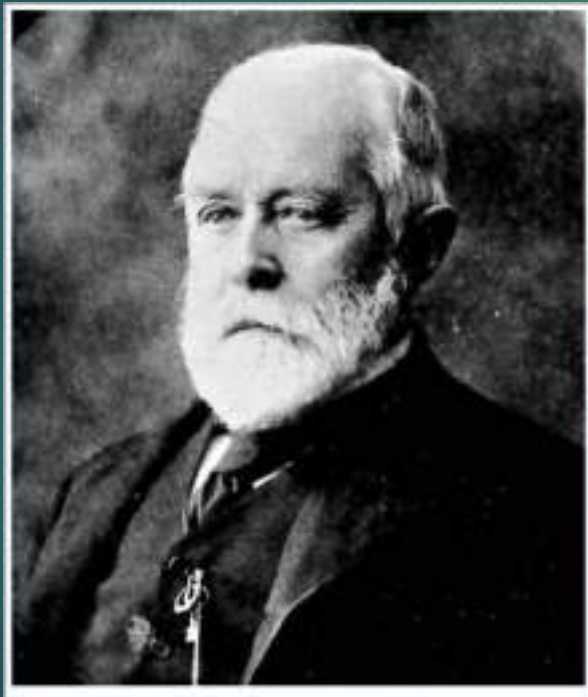
Upper Palaeolithic

❖ Mesolithic

❖ Neolithic

Palaeolithic

- ❖ Forms the earliest cultural stage in the history of mankind in India
- ❖ The first discovery of the Palaeolithic artefact in India :
1863 Pallavaram & Attirampakkam
- ❖ No human fossils in India



Robert Bruce Foote



Tool Types of Lower Palaeolithic

Handaxe

Choppers

Cleavers

□ Homo Habilis and Homo Erectus

Two main tradition in India

❑ Soanian Tradition (Soan Valley in west Punjab):

East and Southeast chopper chopping tool tradition

❑ Acheulian Tradition: Old world (Africa, Western Europe, West and South As

The first cultural complex were first noticed by De Terra and Paterson (1939) in the Soan valley in West Punjab (now in Pakistan)













How Stone Age Humans Made Hand Axes

1. The process started with a large piece of rock.



2. The humans roughly shaped the rock with a stone hammer.



3. Using a hammer made of wood, stone, or antler, they sharpened the edge.



4. They trimmed the edge by prying off tiny flakes with a pointed stick.



finished hand ax



front view



side view

TECHNIQUE



Block on Block



Stone Hammer



Soft or Cylinder Hammer

Tool Types of Middle Palaeolithic

Handaxe

Chopper

Cleaver

Flake Tools

Early Homo Sapiens

Sites: Didwana and Budha Pushkar in Rajasthan, Hiran valley in Gujarat, Potwar Plateau between Indus and Jhelum, Sanghao cave (Pakistan), Chirki Nevasa in Maharashtra, Kalpi in Uttar Pradesh

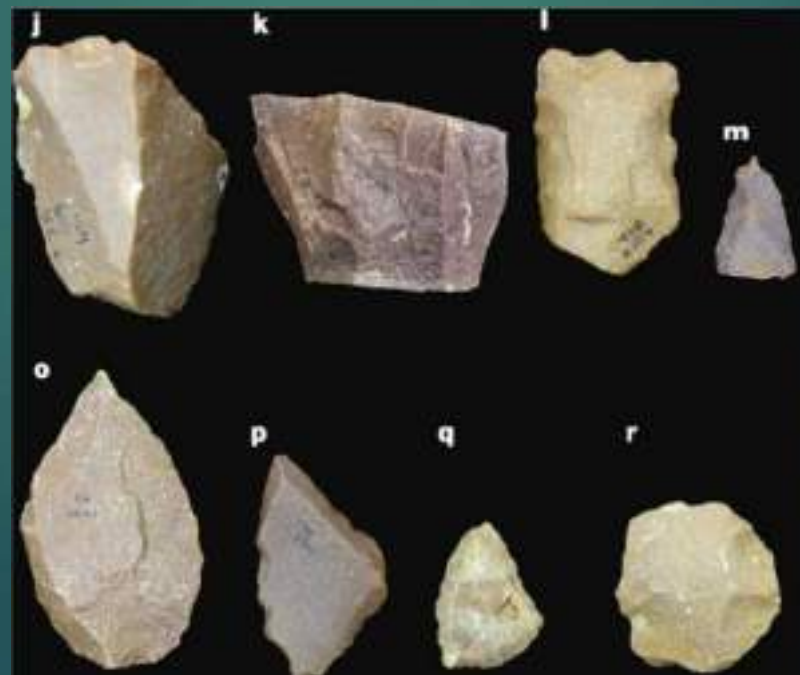
Scraper collected from well debris near Nandra village,
District West Nimar, MP, in 1980



Scraper from well debris near Nandra Village, District
West Nimar, MP, collected in 1980



Found on path walking from Barwah to Mehtakheri in
1990



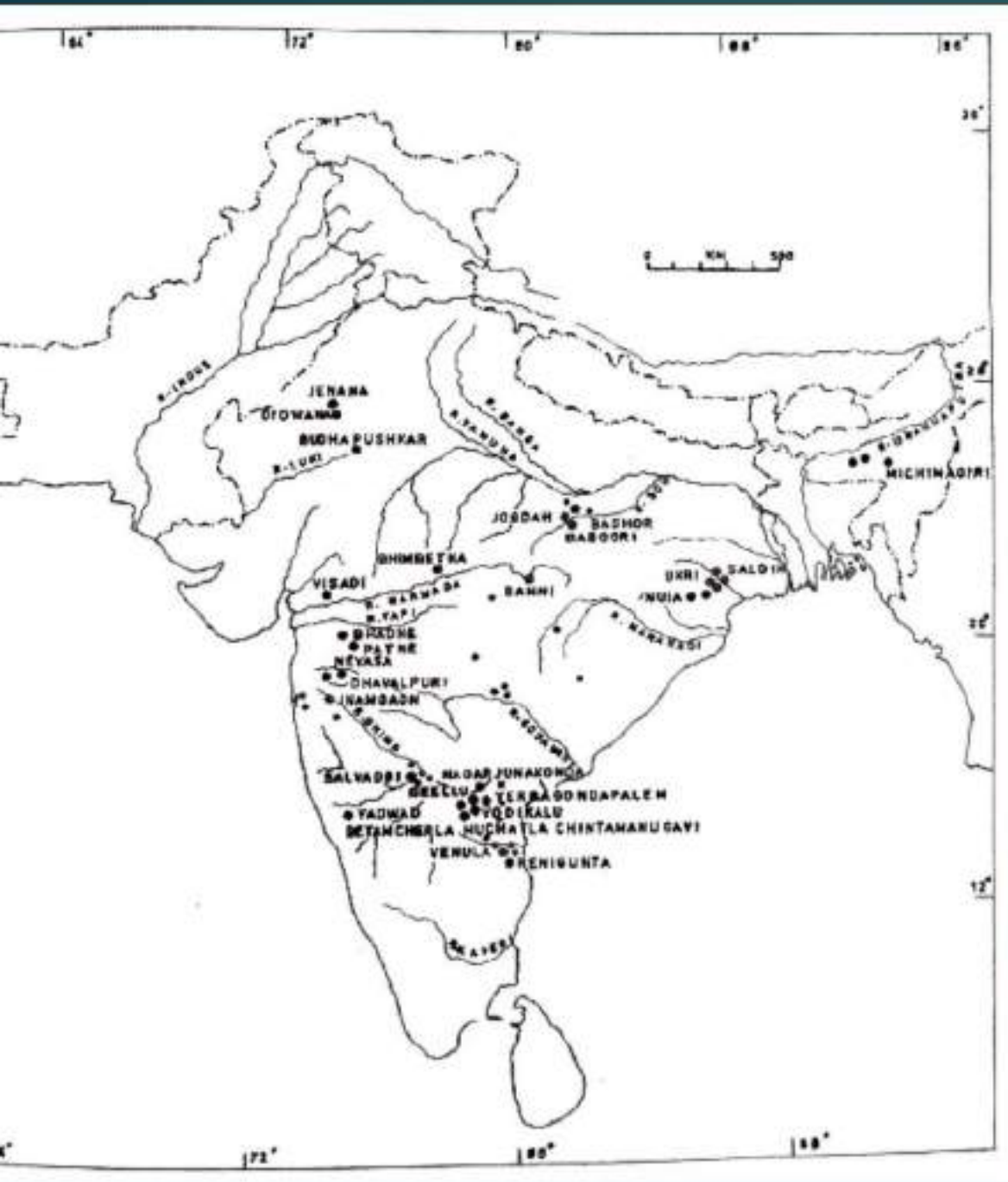
Tool Types of Upper Palaeolithic

Stone tools of the Upper Palaeolithic were primarily blade based technology.

Blades are stone pieces that are twice as long as they are wide and, generally, have parallel sides. They are created to wide spread patterns with specific purposes,

Homo Sapiens-Sapiens emerged 50,000 years ago





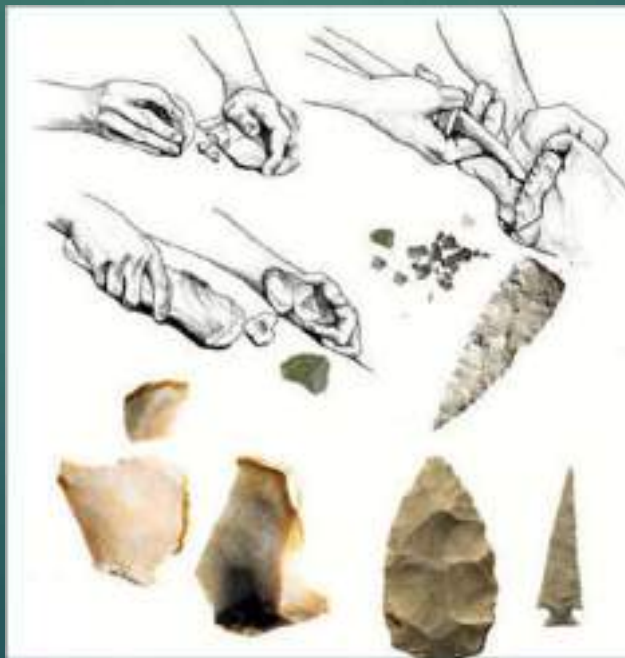
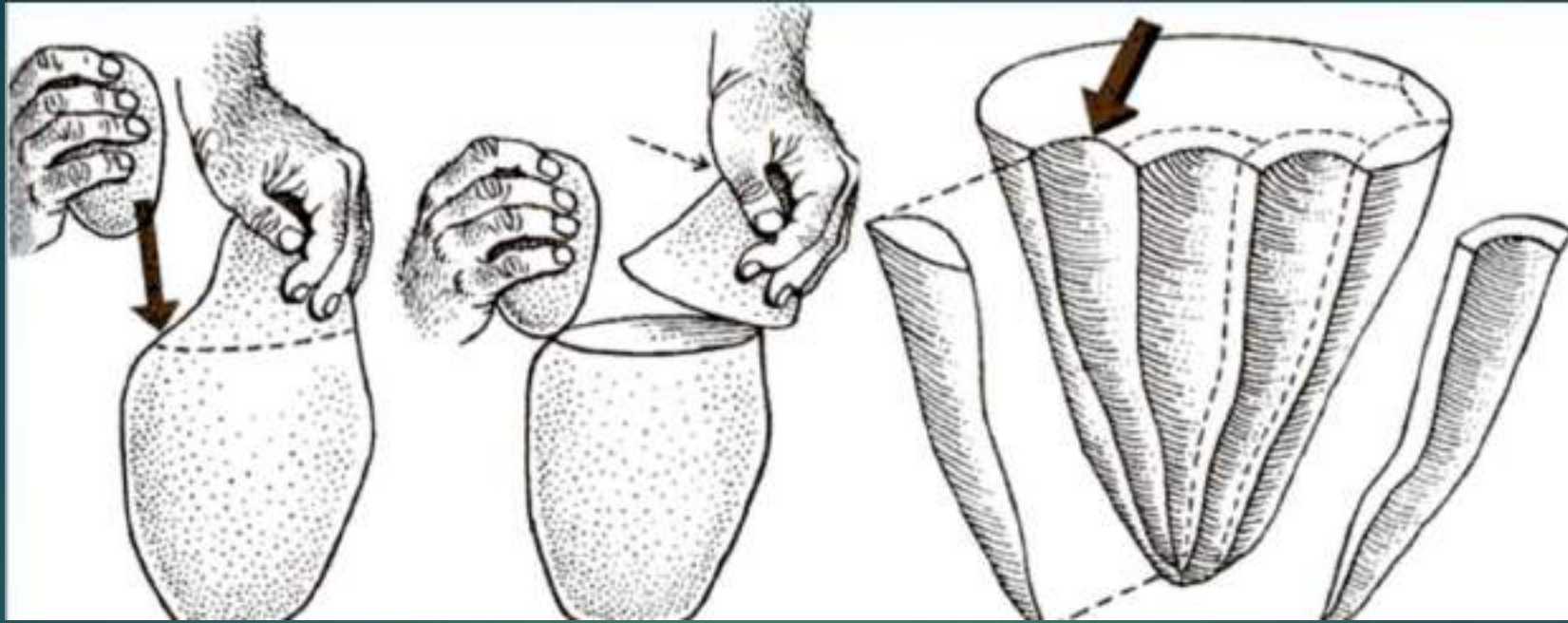
- ❖ Rohiri hills in Sindh
- ❖ Chopani Mando in Belan Valley, Uttar Pradesh
- ❖ Baghor in Madhya Pradesh
- ❖ Paisra in Bihar
- ❖ Haora and Khowai in Tripura
- ❖ Kurnool and Muchchatla Chintamanu Gavi in Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ Patne in Maharashtra

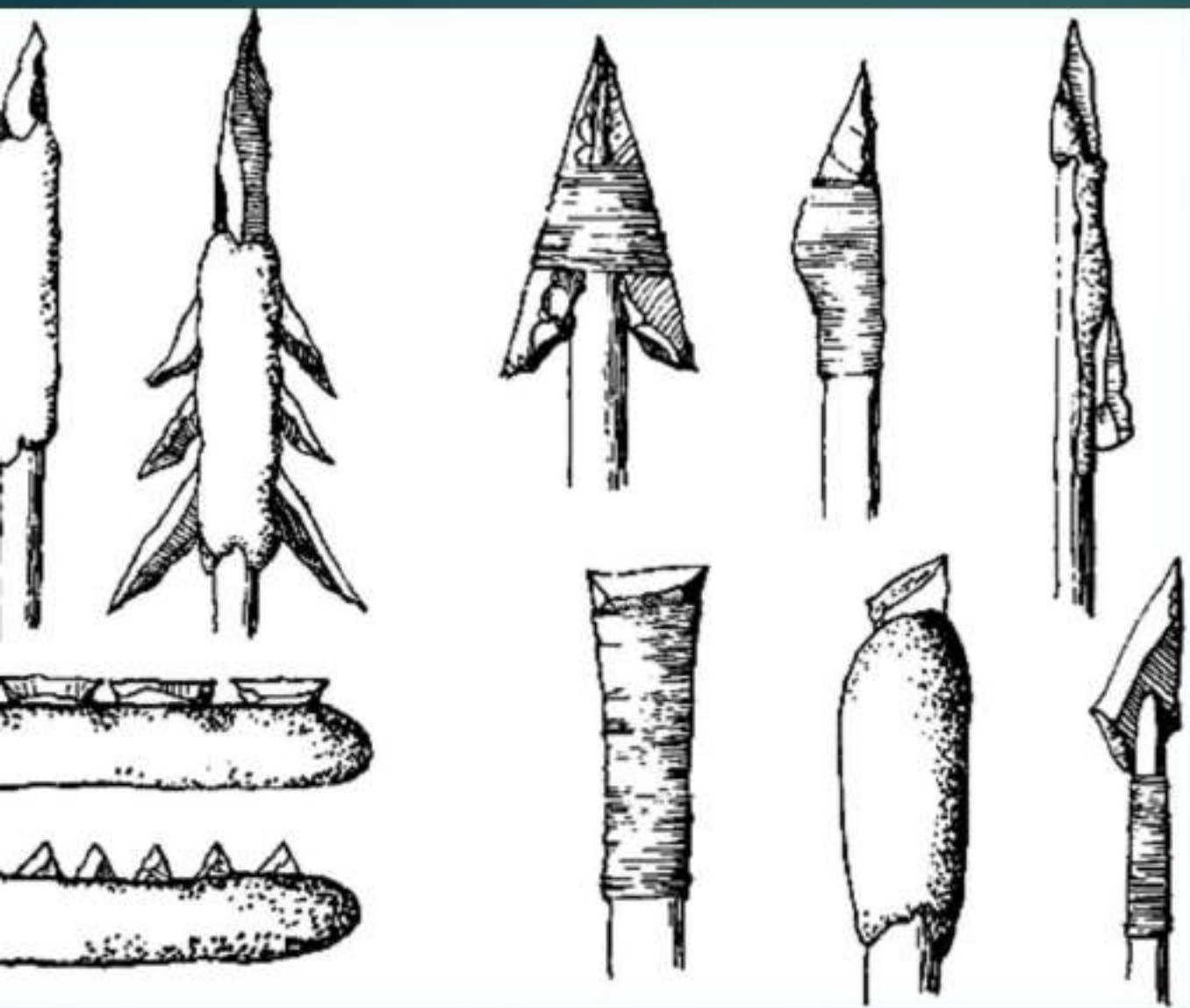
Mesolithic

The discovery first of Mesolithic Microliths in India was made by A.C.L. Carley (an assistant to General Alexander Cunningham, the first Director General of ASI) in 1860's in the caves and rock shelters of the Kaimur range of the Vindhyan hills, south of the Ganga river in the Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh

Tool Types of Mesolithic period







Mesolithic Rock Art





Neolithic

Childe (1936) tried to define Neolithic period on the subsistence pattern. He regarded the food production of Neolithic period as the greatest economic change in human history, thus called it “Neolithic Revolution”

According to him (Childe, 1954), the beginning of food-production i.e. cultivation of plants and the breeding of animals, was clearly a more significant change and influenced all aspects of culture ...

The Neolithic period is characterized by :

- technique of shaping stone tools
- grinding and polishing
- development of agriculture
- domestication of animals
- more-or-less permanent settlements and
- eventually the invention of pottery



NEW STONE AGE (*NEOLITHIC*) ARTEFACTS



Hafted Neolithic Tools





Thank you