

Archaeological Sites and tools of Baghelkhand: An Overview

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Abstract— The Present paper focuses on exploration of Archaeological Sites of Baghelkhand.

Baghelkhand is located in eastern and northern district of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh, known as the heartland of India, has Baghelkhand of Vindhya region located in its small heart. It has immense possibilities of archaeology in its vast area. Surrounded by Vindhya Mountains, this area is a place of Cultural Heritage, natural Beauty, artistic Temples, Stupas, Beautiful Forts, Royal Palaces and Monuments of Archaeological Importance. Through this paper, extensive information has been given about all the Archaeological Sites of Madhya Pradesh.

Keywords— Archaeology, Exploration, Antiquity, Artifacts.

I. INTRODUCTION

Madhya Pradesh is a region, which is a combination of Vindhya region and Narmada Valley. This is the Place where we can see all the periods. It is the Narmada Valley from where evidence has been found of ancient humans. Baghelkhand is located to the north of this Narmada Valley. Many Archaeologist sites found in the Bhaghelkhand, in which Neolithic Period, Copper Age and Buddhist Sites etc. are located.

Baghelkhand was earlier known as Dehla. The Kalchuris from the sixth to twelfth century ruled this region. When Baghelas came to this region in the fourteenth Century, due to their popularity this region came to be known as Baghelkhand. After a few years, Baghelkhand was merged into Rewa state.

Sir Alexander Cunningham (1814-1893) was the first Archaeological Surveyor to the Government of India (1861- 1865), the department was abolished in 1965, but revived in 1870, with Cunningham as the Director. He had the post until he retired in 1885 and it was due to his efforts that information about the ancientness of Baghelkhand was obtained and the

Buddhist architecture here gained fame in the world. The archaeology of Baghelkhand is as important as that of any civilized and cultured country.

All the sites here are world famous, for example, the stupa of Bharhut and the stupa of Deur- Kothar are excellent example of this region, apart from this, the stupa of Singrauli is also very

beautiful but it is also in a dilapidated condition like Bharhut. Keoti fort, Gudh fort, Bandhavgarh Fort is very famous. Some ancient remains have also been seen in Gurgi and Rehunta. Keoti has been found a large mound of fort and ancient temples. Which can be seen in irregularly shaped of Kalchuri period. Inscriptions have been found from Barhat Cave. Here has been found few Rock shelters and Inscriptions.

II. OBJECTIVES

The aim of research is to find out the archaeology of Baghelkhand and to find out that place which is still unknown to historians and scholars. Baghelkhand is the only place where many archaeological sites still exist.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the heartland of India, has a great importance since ancient times. This is the only place where one can see the history from the prehistoric period to the period of Buddhists, Jains, Kalchuri and Baghelas.

IV. DATA SOURCE & RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Many primary and Secondary Sources have been utilized. In the Primary Sources apart from visiting sites antiquities and sculptures kept in the museum has been also analyzed. In the secondary sources

along with the excavation and exploration report of the sources, the research works of the early scholars were also analyzed.

V. STUDY AREA

Bagelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh extends between the latitudes 22° 50' to 25° 28' North and the longitudes 80° 20' to 82° 58' east. It is in the central part of the peninsular 'foreland' and situated between the alluvial stretch of the northern Great Plains and the Deccan. It presents a transitional region comprising the Vindhya in natural forms. The northern border of Baghelkhand is taken from the territory of Uttar Pradesh and the southern border is bordered by Allahabad and Chitrakoot districts of Uttar Pradesh. The northeastern part is located in the district of Mirzapur. Sironj, Jabalpur and Dindori districts lie in the east and south of this region pass through Panna district (Singhpur). However, I have focused only 6 districts. Whose names are as follows: -

Archaeological Sites of Baghelkhand

The sites tell the ancient art heritage of this region. Here was a great dynasty; the name was Chedi Kingdom, which had been known as Baghela Kingdom of Kalchuri. King Vyaghradev founded Baghel dynasty in 1234 A.D. If seen, Baghel dynasty was originally related to Chalukya dynasty, which belonged to the Solanki dynasty of Anahilwad in Gujrat.

Baghelkhand is known for Rewa and its surrounding area like Satna, Sidhi and Shahdol and here the remains from the Stone Age to Maurya and Gupta era can be seen. On hearing the name of Rewa, people feel that Rewa's History is from the Mughal Period. Although Rewa got popularly from Mughal period, but the history of Rewa is very old. From the Stone Age to the Gupta Period, it has been received.

Remains of Stone Age paintings and stone weapons have been found here. The history of this region can be clearly seen even in the Ramayana and Mahabharata Period. In Valmiki Ramayana, this region has been mentioned by the name of "Maikal". During Buddhist period, this region was called Majjhim region. The Stupa and Viharas of Bharhut and Deur Kothar built by Emperor Ashoka exist in this Area. In the 4th-5th centuries, the Guptas ruled these areas. They built group of 11stupas in

Singrauli. The Kings of Chedi and Haihaya dynasties also ruled this region. The Kalchuri Kings ruled here until the 12th century AD. Chauhanas, Gauras and Sengaras ruled this region for about 100 years. Around the thirteenth Century, the Baghelas ruled this area.

Here are many sites related to Baghelkhand:

Rewa:

Human existence in Rewa region existed in the prehistoric era. Information about various tools and rock shelters is available in this area. Other regions such as prehistoric times in Rewa region can be divided into three parts. These are the Paleolithic period, Mesolithic Period and the Neolithic Period. There are still a lot of places in Rewa. The importance of this place is not only in India but also abroad. Here are many sites related to different period of Rewa.

Major Sites of the Lower Paleolithic Period related to Rewa: - Patparghat

This site is situated on the banks of the Behar River. A large no. of stone tools have been recovered from this site, and deposits of almost every type of prehistoric tool have been found here. Handaxes and cleavers from the lower Paleolithic period have been recovered here. These handaxes are made of quartzite stone.

Pahua Ghat

This site is located 10 km. from Rewa to the North of the Behar River. From this site, equipment from Mesolithic Period to Neolithic Period has been obtained from the stone period. A handaxe from the Lower Paleolithic Period has also been recovered.

Dohara Ghat

This site is also situated on the bank of Bihar River. Equisetin of prehistoric period has been obtained from here. Along with the hand cuts, clever has also been obtained from this site. Lower Paleolithic tools found here are made of quartzite stones. These tools are fresh, fully acted, and well- shaped.

Mesolithic Site: -

Itar Pahar (Sita Stone)

This site is located 50 km. northeast in Dhadhwa Village. A range of tools from the Lower Paleolithic to the Mesolithic period have been recovered from

this site. A handaxe from the Lower Paleolithic period has also been recovered. The tools found here in surface deposits.

Post Paleolithic Site: - Dadar Pahad

This Prehistoric site is located on the Rewa Bankuiyan road at a distance of about 22 km from Rewa. From this place a great reorganized blade of high quality made from chert, chalcedony and agate stone, very adorned and reorganized and unorganized blade have been obtained.

Kyoti Kund

Kyoti waterfall is located on the right bank of Mahana River, 30 km away from Rewa on Rewa Lalgaoon road. This site is rich not only with stone tools but also with rock shelters and rock paintings. Rock Paintings and stone tools from the upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods are abundant in this area.

Khnadhons (Govindgarh)

The site is located in the Southern part of Rewa on Sahdol road at a distance of about 22 km. from Rewa. Remains from the upper Paleolithic to the lower Paleolithic age have been found from this site. Painted and unpainted rock shelters, naturally formed along a drain, have been found. The painted rock shelters, here feature depictions of numerous animals, handprints and alpina patterns. Eight stone carvings are found here.

Kamhai

Scraper stone tools of Upper Paleolithic period made of chert Guba Nala. Here s and chalcedony stone have been found near the Shivpurwa rock shelter group on the banks of Guba Nala.

Amokhar

This Prehistoric site is located 9km away from Mauganj on Mauganj- Beheradabar road. Upper Paleolithic stone tools made of chert and chalcedony. Stone have been found from here.

Mesolithic Sites

Bankuiyan

This site is located 20km west of Rewa. A large number of miniatures of the Middle Stone Age have been found from this prehistoric site, among which a lateral reconstructed blade, a cusped and foot scraper, a bilateral brushed dorsal blade and a partial

handle dorsal blade are the main ones. These tools were made from chert

Kathar

This site is situated on the right bank of the Kariwari River, 24 km west of Rewa district headquarters. Some microlithic stone tools have been found from the estuary and upper surface of this river, which were made of chert and chalcedony stones. Among these microlithic tools, one lateral restricted stone scraper, lateral and unshaped tools are prominent.

Bardahaghat

This prehistoric site is located on the right bank of the Kariyari River, 23 km from Rewa. This archaeological site is famous for the tools of the middle stone age. The tools obtained from here include a lateral blade, bilateral blade, and convex blade, straight handle back blade, partially handle back blade, unformed blade and restricted blade.

Jhiriya

This prehistoric site is located 42 km north of Rewa near the Toss Hydroelectric Project. From this site, tools of the Mesolithic period have been found, including a reconstituted blade, a double sided notched blade, bi-lateral reconstructed blade, a blunt – sided reconstituted blade , a notched blade, an internal scraper, semi-lunar and unconsolidated blades, made of chert and chalcedony stones. About 10 percent of tools industry found here is stone tools, and the rest is unused stone.

Chachai

This Paleolithic site is located 45 km north of Rewa, near the Chachai Falls. The Prehistoric site has yielded Mesolithic monolithic reworked blades, bilateral reworked blades, and semi – lunar tools made from chert and chalcedony. Very few tools have been recovered from this site. The percentage of used stone tools is approximately 8 or 9, with the remainder being unused stone.

Satna:

Over the past few years, Satna has witnessed extensive activity and developments in the field of archaeology. The discovery of several new prehistoric sites has significantly increased our knowledge. Remains from the Lower Paleolithic to the Neolithic have been found in Satna district. Several prehistoric sites have emerged in Satna district, which are important for prehistoric studies.

These sites are listed below:

Prehistoric Sites in Satna district

Remains from the Lower Paleolithic to the Neolithic have been discovered in Satna district. Numerous Prehistoric sites have been discovered in Satna district, which are important for prehistoric studies.

Details of these sites are given below:

Lower Paleolithic Sites Maiher :

This archaeological site is located 66 km. from Rewa on the Rewa – Jabalpur Road. The Vindhya Hills lie in semi circle southwest of the Maher Devi hill. The Lilli River, a tributary of the Tauns River, which flows south of the temple, drains the area. This site has yielded tools from the Lower Paleolithic and Mesolithic Periods. Among Lower Paleolithic tools, hand axes are found only at sites here the overlying rock deposits have been recovered. Because blades and tools in various stages of Manufacture are found at the same site, it can be inferred that prehistoric humans may have been manufacturing tools at these locations.

Middle Paleolithic Sites Rampurwa

This site is located on the banks of a stream in Unchehra tehsil, 48 km. south of the district headquarters. Although the stream is rain-fed, it is possible that in ancient times, springs existed at various locations, providing a continuous supply of water. A Middle Paleolithic end scraper has been recovered here, which is valuable for prehistoric studies.

Dhanvahi

This site is located in Maihar tehsil, approximately 100 km south of Satna district headquarters. Deposits of stone tools from almost every period of prehistoric times have been found here. Side scrapers made of sandstone from the Middle Paleolithic period have been recovered. Reconstituted blades, side and terminal scrapers, terminal scrapers, and convex scrapers from the upper Paleolithic period have been found, while monolithic reconstituted blades, bilateral reconstituted blades from the Mesolithic period have been found.

Upper Paleolithic Sites Dhousta

This site is located 41 km south of Satna district headquarters in Unchehra tehsil

.Painted and non- Painted rock shelters have been found from this prehistoric site, which include five painted rock shelters. Red ochre Paintings have been made in these rock shelters. Animals are the main subject matter in the Paintings, but human figures are also found in many places.

Sohawal

This site is an important prehistoric sites located 21 km west of Satna district headquarters from where reconstituted blades lateral and terminal scrapers, convex, scrapers, lateral scrapers of Upper Paleolithic period along with Unilateral reconstituted blades, bilateral reconstituted blades, knobbed dorsal blades of middle Paleolithic period have been recovered.

Mesolithic Site Goraiya

This site is located in Rampur tehsil, 24 km. northeast of the district headquarters.

Only Mesolithic tools have been recovered here. Mesolithic bilateral reshaped lades, blunt black blades, and unshaped blades made from chert and chalcedony stones have been found back blades,. It appears as if someone brought these tools here in small quantities dumped them.

Dongaria

This site is located in the Unchehra tehsil 64 Km. south of the district headquarters. Here too only middle stone Age tools made of chert and chalcedony stones were found : a unilaterally restructured blade a bilaterally restricted blade, a blunted back blade, and an unstructured blade.

Sidhi

Sidhi area has been a suitable place for primitive man since ancient times. These areas had adequate water supply. This was the reason why it was a favorite place of Primitive man. The Son, Banas and Gopad rivers are found here. Many prehistoric sites have become known in Sidhi district. The Tools obtained from these sites are helpful in providing information about ancient humans. Prehistoric tools have been found from many sites in Sidhi district, the vibrancy of which is as follows.

Lower Paleolithic Sites

Patpara

Tools of the Achulian tradition have been found

from Patpara. Many remains of scrapers and cleavers of the middle Paleolithic period were found here by G.R. Sharma and his team.

Tools from all three stone ages, the upper, middle and lower, have been found here.

Sihawal

Hings and Scrapers have been found from this site, who has given a new dimension to the prehistory of India. Numerous stone tools from the Lower Paleolithic period were recovered from the deposits found here. This site is one of the oldest tool site in India. These tools are pebble tool, made from sandstone along the riverbank.

Mesolithic Paleolithic Sites Baghor

Baghor village is located on the left bank of the Son river approximately 66 km. northeast of the district headquarters in Sihawal tehsil. Two deposits have been recovered from this site.

Animal fossils have been found. Stone tools from the middle Paleolithic to the upper Paleolithic were recovered here include single- and bilaterally reshaped blades, blunt- faced blades, convex scrapers, and unshaped blades. These were made from chalcedony, chert, Jasper and agate.

Mohania

This site is located in the Son River Valley, 60 km. northwest of Sidhi district headquarters. The team of G.R. Sharma and J.D. Clarke recovered numerous tools from the middle Paleolithic, upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic Periods. These tools were recovered from the river section, as well as from surface deposits and clay deposits. The team also recovered several Middle Paleolithic scrapers from this site.

Upper Paleolithic Sites Khadbada

This village is located approximately 32 km northeast of the district headquarters, on the right bank of the son river. Numerous stone tools from the upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods have been uncovered here. Single and bilaterally reworked blades, blunt surface blades and unformed have been found from the upper Paleolithic period.

Piprohars

This village is located in the Belan region on the right bank of the Son River in Sidhi tehsil, 14 km. northeast of the Sidhi district headquarters. Some Mesolithic stone tools, made from chert and

bloodstone, have been recovered from the river bed and upper surface.

Singrauli:

Singrauli's geographical location has given new dimensions to archaeology. Rock Shelters and caves have revealed this site as an early habitat for early humans. Painted rock shelters in Dhaulagiri and Gaura Prahlad tell the story of prehistoric people who lived here. Additionally, several sites provide clues to prehistoric human settlements and workplaces. The Maya caves are man-made, but nearby prehistoric stone tools adorn this region with its earliest civilization. In historical times, the Kalliyuri people constructed numerous temples and sculptures. Later, the British utilized this region as a raw material source for industry, and today, modern India is energizing development through its natural resources.

Mesolithic Paleolithic Sites Khatai

The prehistoric site is located on the banks of the Son River in Chitrangi tehsil, 76 km. north of the Singrauli district headquarters. A large number of Middle Paleolithic, Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic tools have been recovered from this prehistoric site. Among the middle Paleolithic tools, a cleaver was recovered. Upper Paleolithic microlithic tools include reshaped blades, cusped and lateral scrapers, terminal scrapers, convex scrapers, and lateral scrapers, terminal scrapers, and lateral scrapers.

Bagdara

The Prehistoric site is located 79 km. north of the singrauli district headquarters, on the bank of the son river in Chitrangi Tehsil. A wide range of Stone tools and a variety of materials have been recovered here. The Son river Basin in Singrauli has been a major center of prehistoric culture. Like Khatai, this site has also yielded wide range of prehistoric tools.

Upper Paleolithic Sites Shivpurva

This Prehistoric site is located in Chitrangi tehsil, north of the Son River, 112 km north of the Singrauli district headquarters. G.R. Sharma 's team recovered several painted rock shelters and numerous tools from here. However, the researchers found only one unpainted rock shelter.

Tools are scattered around this rock shelter and along the river section. Stone tools made of chert,

chalcedony and agate stones have been recovered from this site, including upper Paleolithic reconstituted blades, groove and lateral scrapers, convex scrapers, lateral scrapers and Mesolithic, monolithic reconstituted blades, bilateral reconstituted blades, blunt dorsal blades, bipped scrapers and unshaped blades.

Gerui

This prehistoric site is located in the Chitrangi tehsil, on the south bank of the Singrauli district headquarters. Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic tools made of chert, chalcedony and agate have been recovered from this site, including reconstituted blades, notch and lateral scrapers from the upper Paleolithic period and convex and scrapers, unilaterally reconstituted blades, bilaterally reconstituted blades, blunted dorsal blades, bilaterally reconstituted scrapers, semilunar, unformed blades, and other geometric tools from the Mesolithic Period.

Shahdol

Shahdol is bordered to the north by the Son Valley and Kaimor mountain ranges; to the northeast by the Banas Valley, The Padyat Plateau and the Khajala mountain Range; to the center by the high mountainous chand plateau; to the south by the pendra Basin and the Amarkantak Plateau; to the southwest by the Basniha Basin, the Narmada Valley and the Maikal Mountains .The Persona plateau to the west; the Manpur plateau and Mahanadi Valley to the northwest mark the district's natural boundaries. This landscape played a significant role in establishing human settlements. Prehistoric remains have been found from many places in this district, details of which are given below:

Mesolithic Paleolithic Sites Koylari

This village is located on the left bank of the Banas River, 92 km north of the Shahdol district headquarters in Jaisingh Nagar tehsil. A large number of small tools from the middle Paleolithic period have been recovered from this prehistoric site, including a lateral reconstituted blade, groove and lateral scrapers bilateral blunt surface blade partially blunt surface blade, and other geometric tools.

Upper Paleolithic Sites Kumhiya

This village is located n Byohari tehsil, 112 km

north of Shahdol district headquarters. This site is situated on the right bank of the Son River. Tools from chert, chalcedony, pilasters, jasper and agate have been recovered from the riverbank. These stone tools include lateral scrapers and terminal scrapers from the upper Paleolithic period and monolateral blades, bilateral reshaped blades, blunt dorsal blades, semilunar and unshaped blades from the Middle Paleolithic Period have been recovered.

Mesolithic Paleolithic Sites Budwa

This Prehistoric site is located 120km north of Shahdol district headquarters in Byohari tehsil. The site lies on the right bank of a mountain stream. This stream joins the son River approximately 5km north. The stream contains numerous water sources, keeping it full even after the rains. Some middle stone ages tools have also been discovered here, made from chert, agate, carnelian, and chalcedony.

Kyuntiha

This site is located 125 km. north of the district headquarters, along the banks of the Banas River. It is a Mesolithic Prehistoric Site. Mesolithic microlithic tools have been recovered from the upper surfaces of some mounds along the Banas River. This site is rocky and forested.

Microlithic tools recovered here include a unilaterally reshaped blade, a bilaterally reshaped blade, a triangular arrowhead, a blunt black blade and an unshaped blade.

VI. CONCLUSION

The research Paper describes the research work done so far related to the study of prehistoric culture of Rewa division. Additionally, supporting elements have been included in the study.

Remains from the Lower Paleolithic to the Neolithic period in Baghelkhand, in the form of prehistoric tools and rock paintings are found in this region. A large number of fossils have also been found from Rewa, Sidhi and Shahdol. Ancient tools have also been found from the present division which were used from the prehistoric period to the Lower paleolithic Period.

In this way I have attempted to highlight prehistoric culture. Many aspects still require intensive and through survey and study , and the possibility of

new discoveries and breakthroughs cannot be ruled out.

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