

Man and Environment ABSTRACTS Volume XLIX, No. 1 (January-June 2024)

1. [Human Skeletal Biology in India: Past, Present and Future](#)
Subhash Walimbe

Professor H.D. Sankalia Memorial Lecture delivered on 17th February 2023 during the Annual Conference of the Society at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, Greater Noida.

S.R. Walimbe, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 1-8 [2024].
ME-2024-1A01

2. [Palaeolithic Investigations at the Neemtone Palaeolithic Complex, Central Narmada Basin, Madhya Pradesh](#)
Akash Srinivas

The Neemtone Palaeolithic Complex, a site-complex in the central Narmada Basin, Madhya Pradesh, was discovered during the course of field investigations carried out by the Narmada Basin Palaeoanthropology Project. Located at the interface of the Narmada flood plains and the Vindhyan outcrops, this site-complex presents multiple Palaeolithic localities in a regolithic/colluvial context. Raw material is readily available, as natural clasts in the archaeological horizon (regolithic/colluvial deposit) and from the exposed outcrops of the Vindhyan formation. In this paper, field investigations, lithic analyses, and site formation processes of one cluster of the Neemtone Palaeolithic Complex, the Rampura-Samnapur locality, are detailed. Further, the collected and studied lithic assemblages from this locality are juxtaposed with a sample of previous collections collected in 2015 and currently housed at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara. Lithic analyses indicate that the Neemtone Palaeolithic Complex represents a Mode 2/Acheulean techno-complex with some presence of the Levallois method, represented in the form of large Levallois core elements.

A. Srinivas, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 9-23 [2024].
ME-2024-1A02

3. [V.D. Krishnaswami: the Forgotten Hero of Indian Archaeology](#)
Ravi Korisettar

This article places on record our gratitude to eminent personalities of Indian archaeology who laid the foundations for post-Independence archaeology in India. V.D. Krishnaswami was an exceptional individual with a firm commitment to the

growth of prehistoric archaeology in southern India in particular and to carrying forward the legacy left behind by Robert Bruce Foote. His professional career was marked by vicissitudes that came in the way of executing his action plan for Indian prehistory. His post-retirement engagements would have helped turn a new leaf in terms of an administrative career and institution building, but for his premature death, he stands tall among his contemporaries.

R. Korisettar, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 24-46 [2024].
ME-2024-1A03

4. [A Re-analysis of the Harappan Stoneware Bangles 40 Years Later: A Possible Invention of a Pressure-Release Valve in the Early Bronze Age](#)
Massimo Vidale

This paper proposes a re-consideration of the complicated firing apparatus for stoneware bangles used by Harappan potters at Mohenjo-daro in the second half of the 3rd millennium BCE. In fact, an important technical detail of my previous reconstructions was wrong, and the error has probably contributed to concealing a crucial implication: the possible original discovery in the Bronze Age of the principle of pressure release and control in pyro-technological processes. That modern metallic pressure valves may have had an ancestor in the Bronze Age pottery may be surprising, but, once again, it stresses the important roles of similar “virtuosistic” applications in Indus Valley ceramics. The overly emphasised pyrotechnology of Harappan craftpeople may have contributed to building up a solid, if latent, know-how that somehow survived urban devolution, to be discontinuously exploited in much later socio-technical contexts.

M. Vidale *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 47-58 [2024].
ME-2024-1A04

5. [Neolithic Human Skeletal Remains from Molapalayam, District Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu](#)
Veena Mushrif-Tripathy and V. Selvakumar

Archaeological explorations in the Noyyal River Valley at Molapalayam, District Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu in 2019 followed by an excavation in 2021 revealed a Neolithic site. This paper presents an analysis of the three human skeletal materials recovered from the site of Molapalayam (10° 55' 49.8" N; 76° 49' 20.0" E), along with Neolithic habitation remains dated between 1600 and 1400 BCE. Two Trenches MPM I and MPM II were excavated at the site in 2021 by the Department of Maritime History and Marine Archaeology, Tamil University under the direction of the second author. Trench MPM I yielded three human skeletal remains, which were exposed and brought to Tamil University by undercutting the sediment. The anthropological study was carried out at the Department of Maritime History and Marine Archaeology, Tamil University. Out of the three skeletons, the bones for two individuals were unearthed for study purposes, and one skeleton was kept

intact in the sedimentary context for museum display. There are two sub-adults, one around 2.5 years and the other 3.5 to 4 years, and an adult female aged around 45 of years. The pathological findings include a healed bone fracture on the right radius of the female individual and presence of enamel hypoplasia on the child aged 3.5 years.

Mushrif-Tripathy and Selvakumar, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 59-69[2024].
ME-2024-1A05

6. [Shipping Anchors from the Vengurla Rocks Island and Malwan \(Malvan\), Maharashtra, West Coast of India](#)
Jithin Thomas Kurian and Sila Tripati

The port and trade centres of Maharashtra have played a significant role in maritime trade with other overseas countries since ancient times. The coastline of Maharashtra is 760 km long and extends from Bardi in the north of Gujarat to Redi near Goa in the south. Literary sources, namely The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, and archaeological evidence suggest a chain of ports, namely Chaul, Elephanta, Dabhol, Kalyan, Sopara, Vijaydurg, Vengurla, and many others that flourished under different dynasties across different periods of history. Earlier, maritime archaeological investigations at sites such as Vijaydurg, Dabhol, and Sindhudurg yielded material evidence, including both stone and iron anchors. However, there was no mention of anchors from the Vengurla Rocks Island waters. The underwater reconnaissance at 12 m water depth off Vengurla Rocks Island brought to light stone as well as iron anchors. In this paper, recent underwater findings such as anchors, a short history of Vengurla, and seabed topography, observed off Vengurla Rocks Island, are presented.

J.T. Kurian and S. Tripati, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 70-76 [2024].
ME-2024-1A06

7. [Revisiting a Near-Extinct Harappan Site of Khambhodhar, Porbandar, Gujarat](#)
A.S. Gaur and Sundaresh

Khambhodhar, a protohistoric site discovered in the late 1950s near Porbandar on the Saurashtra Coast, was described as a Harappan site belonging to Rangpur (RGP IIA and B). The remains also indicated the presence of the Early Historic period. However, the site was subjected to heavy damage (almost extinct) as it was used for a rainwater harvesting pond. In 2011, the site was revisited, and the observations are presented in this short note.

A.S. Gaur and Sundaresh, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 77-78 [2024].
ME-2024-1A07

8. [The Potential of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Tanzania: Recent Discoveries in Mafia Archipelago](#)

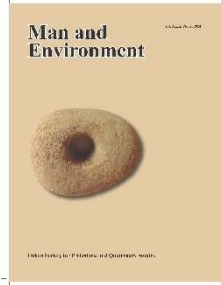
Studies have shown that the east African coast has been settled since the Neolithic period. Research has also shown that the ancient communities of this coast played an active role in ancient international maritime trading. Maritime commerce networks connected this coast and the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, India, Southeast Asia, and the Mediterranean world to lands as far as China. The African hinterland was also an integral part of this network, as it was a source of some merchandise for international trading. Research undertaken in the region has confirmed that the Tanzania coast bears evidence of the most ancient interactions between the east African coast and regions across the Indian Ocean seaboard. While initially this evidence came from terrestrial archaeological sites, recent maritime studies in the Mafia archipelago, on the central coast of Tanzania, have recovered submerged archaeological sites dating to the 1st millennium CE. This paper examines these findings and concludes that there is immense potential for underwater cultural heritage in Tanzania that calls for research and conservation for posterity

Bitá *et al*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 79-90 [2024].
ME-2024-1A08

9. [Did Environmental Factors Lead to the Rise and Spread of a Fertility Cult in Early Historic India? A Case Study of Lajja Gauri vis-à-vis Shakambhari from Vadnagar, Gujarat](#)
Disha Seth, Ananya Chakraborty, Gency Choudhary, Anindya Sarkar, Anil K. Pokharia, Ruchita Yadav, M.D. Kajale, Kishore Rajput and Abhijit Ambekar

The concept of worshipping fertility has been prevalent since time immemorial, and one of the most enigmatic deities belonging to the fertility cult from early Historic times is Lajja Gauri. An embodiment of fertility, known by many names in different regions, the goddess is often depicted seated in a birthing posture. Generally associated with southern India, the goddess in a symbolic form gradually evolved into an anthropomorphic form over time. Although, with the spread of the cult to northern India led to changes in some aspects of the deity, the earliest form (datable to 1st century CE) remained confined to South India. An effort is made to identify her transformation to Shakambhari as a vegetation fertility goddess at Vadnagar, Mehsana District, Gujarat. The goddess is shown holding crops/vegetation as her attributes. In Gujarati, the word 'shak' denotes vegetable. The name Shakambhari can be explained as the one who covers the earth with vegetation. This article discusses her transformation associated with crop failure, a rampant phenomenon occurring due to infrequent rainfall and droughts. In such a scenario, as a response to the drastic climatic changes, the fertility goddess Lajja Gauri might have evolved into a new form, Shakambari, denoted with vegetation in her hand to be invoked for warding off drought and for the boon of vegetational abundance.

Seth *et al*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (1): 91-108 [2024].
ME-2024-1A09



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ABSTRACTS

Volume XLIX, No. 2 (July-December 2024)

1. A Reassessment of Chopani Mando, Belan Valley, Prayagraj District, North Central India: A Short Analytical Note

Gargi Chatterjee, Nisha Singh, Sneh Rajbhar, Harish Km Gautam, Govind Pandey and Satyam Vishwakarma

The Late-Quaternary phase is regarded as a transitional period between the terminal Pleistocene and the early Holocene. The site of Chopani Mando, Belan Valley, Prayagraj District, was occupied by early humans during this transitional phase. The findings at Chopani Mando could be interpreted in terms of the human behaviour/behavioural changes that emerged during the Late-Quaternary phase. This article focuses on re-examining the human behaviour at this site based on previously published data and recent surface collections by the author.

Chatterjee *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 1-5 [2024].
ME-2024-2A01

2. Sites and Tactics: Reinvestigating the Neolithic Sites of Khasi-Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya

Neelima Vasudevan, Varun Vyas and P. Ajithprasad

Fresh investigations for deepening our understanding of the Neolithic culture of Northeast India were carried out in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya. The new data on environmental setting, lithic assemblages, and the sedimentary context of the sites were examined along with the existing data from the study region. Building upon previous research, our study aims to shed new light on the challenges in archaeological data collection and specific features of Neolithic cultural developments in the region. While the comprehensive analysis of the collected data is currently underway, this paper presents our preliminary observations on the Neolithic period of the Khasi-Jaintia Hills.

Vasudevan *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 6-19 [2024].
ME-2024-2A02

3. Excavations at Tokwa (2023-2024), Mirzapur District, Uttar Pradesh

Vikas K. Singh, Jennifer Bates, R.N. Singh, Manisha Singh, Brij Mohan, S. Chakradhari, Sunil Kr. Singh, Chung Hwan Hee, Matthew Conte, Olzbayar Gankhuyag, Nathaniel James, Jang Yoonsun, Rakesh Jollu, Jung Seowon, Kim Jihyun, Kim Pangyu, Sunghui Kim, Urvashi Singh, Snigdha Konar, Satyam Kumar, A.K. Pandey, Lily Albert Robinson, Seo Yujin, Abhay P. Singh, Anisha Singh, Dhananjay Kumar and P.P. Joglekar

Dating to between the Neolithic and early Iron Age, Tokwa stands as an important site in the archaeological context of the Gangetic Doab for considering settlement development trajectories in the region. Originally excavated in the early 2000s, several key discoveries were made relating to the archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological samples collected. However, questions remain due to the limited publication of the excavation itself, including the precise relationship between the individual trenches, the position of samples within the stratigraphic layers, and the exact dating and chronology of the site. In this paper, we present the findings of the initial season of section cleaning excavations at Tokwa carried out in 2023-2024 to remedy some of these past issues as well as develop new areas of research.

Singh et al., Man and Environment XLIX (2): 20-32 [2024].
ME-2024-2A03

4. Excavation at Parabhadi (Sukhuapada), Tehsil Darpana, District Jajpur, Odisha (2022-2023)

Dibishada Brajasundar Garnayak, Prajnya Pratim Pradhan, Umakanta Bhoi, Sadhish Sharma, Himanshu Mahajan, Y. Prabakar Paul, Rajat Singh, Aditya Rathore and Arpit Tiwari

The excavation at Parabhadi (Sukhuapada) in Jajpur District, Odisha, has yielded a Buddhist stupa made of stone ashlar masonry. It is located on top of a khondolite hillock in the periphery of the Buddhist Diamond Triangle of Odisha. The site was excavated in 2022–23, and the results of the excavation are discussed in this article.

Garnayak et al., Man and Environment XLIX (2): 33-37 [2024].
ME-2024-2A04

5. Excavations at Mayiladumparai (2021 and 2022), Tamil Nadu

K. Rajan, R. Sivanantham, B. Asaithambi, S. Paranthaman, K. Sakthivel and R. Venkataguru Prasanna

Mayiladumparai, a multi-cultural site, yielded cultural material ranging from the Microlithic to the Early Medieval times. The excavations conducted in the years 2003, 2020, 2021, and 2022 led to the discovery of microlithic tools, rock shelters with paintings, Neolithic habitational deposits, Neolithic grooves, Iron Age habitation mounds and megalithic monuments, memorial stones, and trade guild inscriptions. The impressive burial complex of about 1000 burials consists of stone circles entombing pit burials and cairn circles enclosing cist burials entombed with a huge capstone. The site covers over 40 ha (100 acres) of undulating rocky terrain dissected with numerous water bodies. The

excavation conducted in the years 2021 and 2022 provided clues for the understanding of the introduction of iron, and also the transformation from the late Neolithic Phase to the Early Iron Age. The rock art with paintings both in red and white pigments was observed in the rock shelter, and the grooves used for polishing Neolithic celts were also noticed near the rock shelter. The trenches laid in Locality-4 yielded ¹⁴C AMS dates of cal. 1615 BCE and cal. 2172 BCE. Thus, the excavations strengthened the view of the existence of the Iron Age in the 2nd millennium BCE and of the Neolithic phase preceding this date in Tamil Nadu.

Rajan *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 33-53 [2024].
ME-2024-2A05

6. Archaeological Investigations at Kankaikuda, A Protohistoric and Historic Settlement on the Chilika Lake, District Ganjam, Odisha

Shantanu Vaidya, Monica L. Smith¹ and Rabindra Kumar Mohanty

Kankaikuda is a shoreline settlement along the Chilka Lake, Odisha that has evidence for Chalcolithic, Early Historic and Medieval occupations. Archaeological investigations included surface survey, mapping, and excavations in five localities. The site has a lateral stratigraphy of repeated small occupations within its 7.8 ha area, illustrating that settlement was episodic rather than continuous, perhaps in response to cyclonic storms or other disturbances

Vaidya *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 54-65 [2024].
ME-2024-2A06

7. Situating the Rang Mahal Pottery in the Chronological Sequence in Kachchh, Gujarat

Srisamarth Inamdar, S. Prathapachandran and P. Ajithprasad

For over four decades the Rang Mahal Pottery (RMP) has been well-known in Kachchh, Gujarat. However, attempts to analyse its chronological position among ceramics have been limited. This Early Historic Period pottery was assessed to situate it within the chronological context of the ceramics in the Kachchh District of Gujarat. Rang Mahal Pottery and associated materials recovered from excavated sites, namely Kanmer, Siyot, and Nani Rayan in Kachchh, were studied for this purpose. RMP from these sites was compared with RMP reported from Rajasthan and the Bahawalpur region of Pakistan. This research submits a tentative chronology ranging from the 4th century CE to the 8th-9th century CE for the Rang Mahal Pottery from Kachchh

Inamdar *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 66-74 [2024].
ME-2024-2A07

8. Zooarchaeological Remains from Mesa Landscape of Uppalapadu, Kurnool District,

Andhra Pradesh

Abhayan G.S., Jinu Koshy, S.V. Rajesh, Malar Koshy, Mutharasu Anbalagan and K. Anbazhagan

This article focuses on the analysis of the faunal remains recovered from a trial trench excavated from a rock shelter with paintings at Uppalapadu, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 2252 bone fragments were identified, representing a diverse range of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and molluscs. The majority of the fauna belonged to medium-sized mammals, with Artiodactyla (even-toed ungulates) being the most common group. Deer were the most frequently identified Artiodactyla, which included *Cervus* sp. and antelopes. Other identified mammals included pigs (*Sus* sp.), canids (*Canis* sp.), small carnivores (Felidae family), Indian porcupines (*Hystrix indica*), common house rats (*Rattus rattus*), and Indian bandicoot rats (*Bandicota indica*). The presence of large quantities of Artiodactyla suggests that hunting played an important role in the subsistence of the inhabitants of the rock shelter. However, the small sample size and the fragmented nature of the bones make it difficult to reconstruct detailed animal exploitation patterns. The rock paintings depict various animals, including ungulates represented in the faunal assemblage. Haematite nodules were also found in association with the faunal remains, suggesting that the rock art may date to the Mesolithic period. The study underscores the need for further excavations to better understand the faunal utilisation and cultural phases at Uppalapadu, providing insights into the prehistoric inhabitants' diet, hunting practices, and artistic expressions.

Abhayan *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 75-83[2024].
ME-2024-2A08

8. Megalithic Mortuary Practice in Dantari Hill Area, Mirzapur District, Uttar Pradesh

Virag G. Sontakke, Sachin Kumar Tiwary, Dheeraj Sharma, Shubham Saurabh and Dhamma Ratan

Megalithic burial monuments have a widespread distribution in India. In the Ganga Plain, megalithic burials are concentrated on the rocky Vindhyan outcrops in southern Uttar Pradesh. It is believed that geological factors played a vital role in the spread and survival of megalithic burial traditions. Here, megalithic monuments are reported from the Mirzapur district, where easy accessibility of rocks, mineral resources, and a perennial source of water and vegetation cover were available in plentitude. These environmental and ecological dynamics seem favourable for the practice of megalithism. Their presence attests to the selective strategy employed by the iron-using megalithic communities while choosing preferred landscape locales. Numerous megalithic burial sites have been reported in Mirzapur since the Colonial period. Also, many megaliths excavated after independence bestow potential on the area in the context of the megalithic period. However, as the trend was back then, the investigation focussed on documentation and the mere reporting of the sites. As a result, little was known about the types of megaliths, locational and cluster

statistics, raw material provenance, etc. In the absence of a systematic approach to the study of a megalithic burial cemetery, a clear picture of the megalithic burial system of this area could not be comprehended. The present paper denotes an attempt to detail the landscape analysis of the megalithic burial cemetery in the Dantari Hillock area of Mirzapur as a case study. This study is significant in preparing an itinerary of the megalithic monuments in an area prone to rapid destruction

Sontakke *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 84-96[2024].
ME-2024-2A09

10. An Annotated Bibliography of Dr. R.S. Pappu's Research Publications: Contribution to Indian Archaeology

Jayendra Joglekar and Sushama G. Deo

No abstract for this annotated bibliography
Joglekar and Deo, *Man and Environment* XLIX (2): 97-111[2024].
ME-2024-2A10