

## Upper Palaeolithic Cultural Development in India

It is the period of cultural history in Europe, the near East, and Asia known as the upper Palaeolithic dates from about 40,000 years ago to the period known as Mesolithic. Upper palaeolithic tool making appears to have its roots in the Mousterian and post Acheulian tradition, ~~since~~ since flake tools are found in many upper palaeolithic sites. The upper palaeolithic period is also noted for the production of large numbers of bone and antler tools.

The upper palaeolithic culture coincided with the last phase of the Great Ice Age. Now the climate became comparatively warm. The upper palaeolithic age is authored by the fully evolved human race viz. Homo Sapien. It is almost certain that the previous evolutionary stages like the variety of the Neanderthal were totally wiped out by this fully grown human group. The early Homo Sapiens were called Cramagnon man after the name of the site in France where it

not yet recorded

The Indian upper palaeolithic cannot be compared with its European counterpart as an independent and clearly distinct cultural stage. Among the not too many upper palaeolithic sites on which we base most of our knowledge of Indian upper palaeolithic, the sites of Kenigunta (Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh), Metchhala Chintamani Garhi (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), Bahimbhalka and Bagor (Medhya Pradesh) and Belan valley (Allahabad, U.P. Pradesh) may be considered very important.

Kenigunta has yielded a large number of blades that are often regarded as representative tools of the upper palaeolithic. Among the blades tools are burins, awls, scrapers, borers, points and small choppers.

The cave site of Metchhala Chintamani Garhi occupies a special place among the sites. The first bone tool have been discovered from the site. Not only that the richness of the site can be imagined by the fact that more than 90% of the tools found at this sites consists of bone tools. Among such tools made on bone, horns and other non-lithic materials are scrapers, points, borers and awls.

The site at Belan ~~to~~ valley, beside other artifacts has also yielded a "female figurine" made on bone. Similar figurines known as venus have been found in abundance from many European upper palaeolithic sites. But some scholars have created doubt over its nature by describing it as a "fishing harpoon". It finally proved to be a venus like figurine it will be the first object of this type from the Indian upper palaeolithic. Recently, a site belonging to the upper palaeolithic has also been discovered from Bagor. The most striking features of this site is that not only it is a habitation site, it also looks like a worshipping place.

This cultural phase world wide began around 36,000 B.C. and came to an end around 9,500 B.C.