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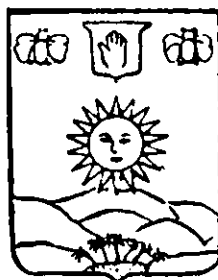
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THE GODAVARI PALAEOLITHIC INDUSTRY

By

HASMUKH D. SANKALIA

M.A., LL.B. (Bombay), Ph.D. (London)



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The Godavari Palaeolithic Industry

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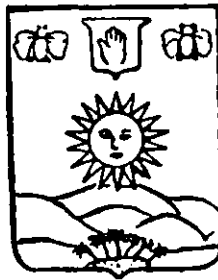
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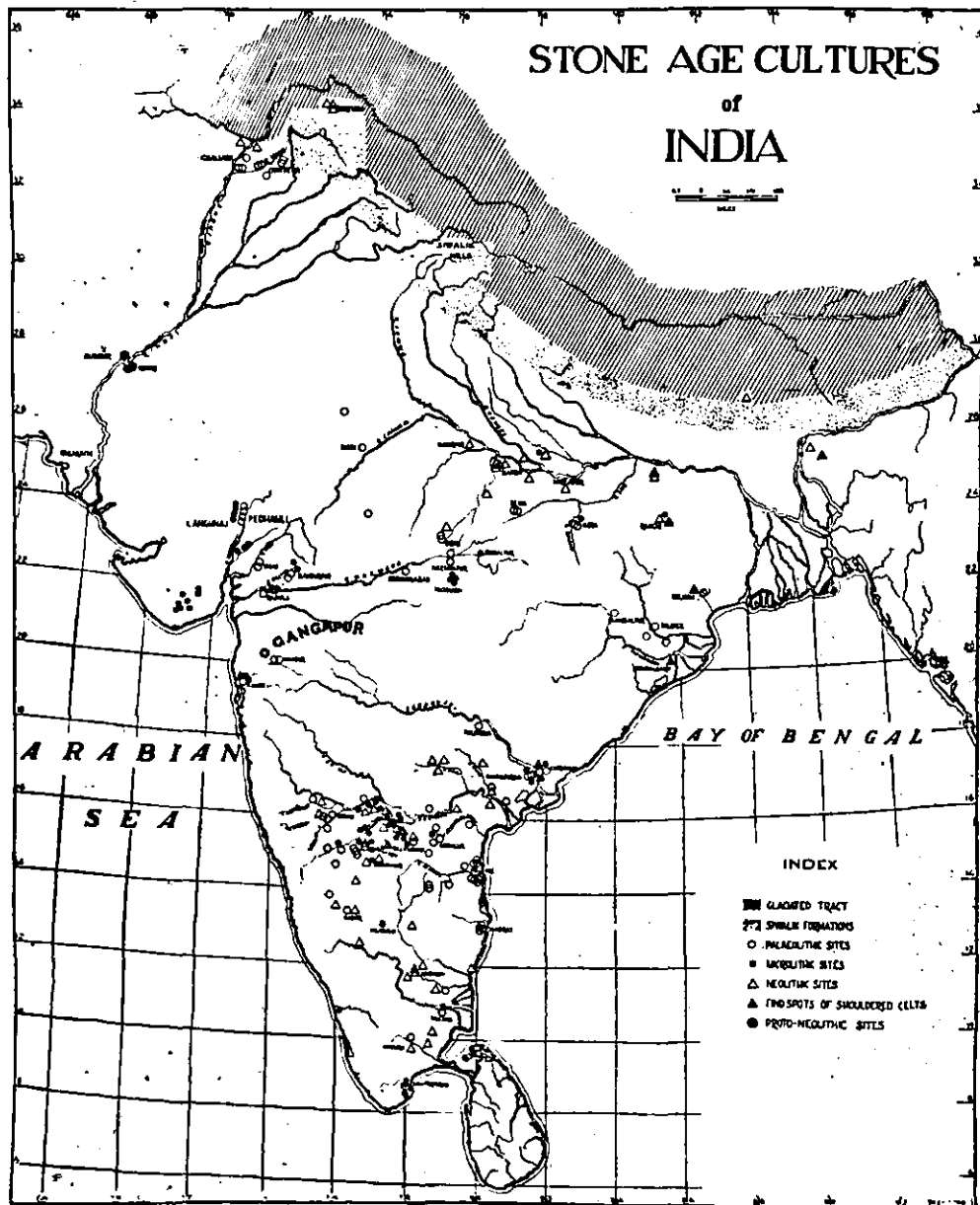
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THE GODAVARI PALÆOLITHIC INDUSTRY



(ADD GHARGAON, AND SANGAMNER S.E. OF GANGAPUR, AHMADNAGAR DISTRICT).

FIG. 2. MAP SHOWING THE NEW PALÆOLITHIC SITES IN RELATION TO THE KNOWN ONES.

Introduction

At Gangawadi (Gangapur) the Public Works Department of the Bombay State are building a huge earthen dam, with a view to collecting the headwaters of the Godavari.¹ For this purpose a trench over two miles in length was cut. At that time (January 1951) we were digging on the mound at Nasik proper. One day we had gone to explore the region around Govardhan (a village, adjacent to Gangapur). A local friend, Shri. P. B. AURANGABADKAR took us round to Gangawadi Dam works. When I saw the deep cutting, I was surprised to see a series of layers forming the sides of the trench. Some of these were formed by gravel and contained large blocks of stone and pebbles. This sight was most unusual for this part of India. Here the river beds are not very deep. The banks are scarcely 20 feet to 30 feet high, and the water, for the most part, flows over a rocky bed. Rarely large pebbles are found in the thin sheets of gravel, which at places cover the underlying rock. The trench at Gangawadi at once reminded me of the Sabarmati in Northern Gujarat. In its stratified deposits a rich palæolithic industry was previously discovered.² It was, therefore, decided to examine the trench at Gangawadi.

As expected its lower layers yielded a well developed palæolithic industry. Though the material used is different, in type and technique, it is similar to the industries collected by us from the north and south of the Deccan (Maharashtra)³. This year (February 1952) tools were also discovered in a new cutting at Gangawadi, as well as in the pebble and gravel bed along the right bank of the Godavari, opposite Jalalpur. Only three days could be devoted to the search of tools in the trenches. For, the bulldozers were working alongside with us, and rapidly filling up the trenches. These are now sealed up. Where there was once a prehistoric river bed stands now a huge earthen dam.

A chance discovery thus helps us in filling up an important gap in the early prehistory of Western India. It is now possible to say that a developed Hand-axe and Cleaver Industry flourished from Northern Gujarat to Karnatak. In the absence of animal fossils in the beds containing the tools it is not possible to determine its exact age, but it should most probably belong to the Upper Pleistocene period.

My grateful thanks are due to Shri. G. G. DHANAK, Executive Engineer, Gangapur Storage Works, and his assistants, particularly Shri. BHALERAU for affording all facilities while examining the steep and vertical trench walls. Shri. DHANAK was also kind enough in supplying me the necessary plans and drawings for the study of the area. Some of these are reproduced here with

1. See Map, Fig. 1, prepared from 46 H/12 × 16 and other sheets of the Survey of India Maps. 1 Inch = 1 Mile. In the map the names of places are spelt as given in the original survey sheets. Here their correct spelling is given.
2. SANKALIA, H. D., *Investigations into the Prehistoric Archaeology of Gujarat*, Baroda, 1946.
3. See Index Map, Fig. 2 showing palæolithic and other Stone Age Culture sites in India.

the permission of the Government of Bombay. I am also thankful to my colleagues Dr. Iravati KARVE, Shaikh Zainuddin ANSARI and Shri. R. V. JOSHI for assisting in the collection of tools and surveying the area. A debt of gratitude will always remain to Shri. AURANGABADKAR, whose enthusiasm took us to the Gangawadi Dam Works, and Shri. B. PATANKAR, Principal, H. P. T. College, Nasik, for his hospitality.

The photographs and drawings of tools and sections have been made by Shaikh Zainuddin ANSARI.

A part of the expenses for conducting the explorations and excavations was paid by the University of Poona, under whose auspices the work was done at Gangawadi and Nasik. It also contributed a substantial sum towards the cost of publication of this Report. For both these grants the writer is thankful to the University of Poona.
