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Dr. Shadab Farha
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Sri Satya Sai University, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Madhavi Navnath Kisan
Research Scholar, Department of Indian History, Sri Satya Sai University, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Shadab Farha
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Sri Satya Sai University, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Formation of culture in pre-historic Maharashtra region

Dr. Shadab Farha and Madhavi Navnath Kisan

Abstract
The man of this Age had renounced the use of traps or basalt. He had used the quartzite to make tools, which he had done in his spare time. The man of this era lived near rivers and rocks, where he could gather raw materials for his tools to use in his daily life. He was nomadically living his life. There is nothing else that can be said about this man's way of life. It is also unclear what caused his disappearance. This article will guide you ages wise with details like – timeline, cultures, lifestyle, and more. It is completely based on facts and is easy to understand. It should not take a lot of time to read and remember the basics.

Keywords: Lower, middle and upper palaeolithic age, Maharashtra

Introduction
In Maharashtra, as in all other places, the process of culture formation began in prehistoric times. Recent archaeological discoveries and research have yielded some material that can be used to reconstruct the history of prehistoric man's culture. The period preceding the era of written records is referred to as pre-historic. Archaeology and geology can be used to date pre-historic epochs. Prehistoric archaeology is related to Anthropology as well. Anthropology is the study of man's physical and cultural characteristics. Prehistoric archaeology, like modern archaeology, studies man and his activities. Prehistoric research in Maharashtra began in 1863, when Wynne discovered an agate flake tool at Mungi-Paithan on the Godavari in the Marathwada region. Wynne interpreted it as a knife, most likely used by a man in the old Stone Age in Maharashtra. The discovery of an agate flake was quickly followed by another significant find in the Nasik district. The Pliestocene is a geological epoch in Earth's history. It is the period of time during which man evolved as a species from advanced apelike forms to his current state. It began approximately 25,00,000 years ago and ended approximately 10,000 years ago. Pre-historic archaeology divides human history into two major periods: the Stone Age and the Age of Metals. The pliestocene period is thought to have given rise to Stone Age cultures. Ice ages are associated with the Pliestocene period. Because of the Ice Age, there were climatic changes. Environmental changes were caused by climatic phases, also known as glacial and periglacial periods. For instance, mountain escalation or river aggravation. During this time, rivers have a lot of room for deposition. On the banks of rivers, tools that indicate man's presence can be found.
In the case of India, there is still a scarcity of abundant evidence for Ice Ages. De Terra and T.T. Paterson established the evidence of the Ice Age in Kashmir valley in 1939. There is now evidence that man lived on the banks of the Liddar at Pahlgam during the second glacial period. Following that, Stone Age tools were discovered all over India.

Lower palaeolithic age and Maharashtra
Environment archaeology has been practised in Maharashtra for many years, and the work of geologists in Maharashtra has helped to clarify the nature of various river deposits. It has been reported that Lower Palaeolithic tools have been found in deposits along the rivers Pravara, Godavari, Mula-Mutha, Tapi, Purna, Wardha, Wainganga and Krishna, as well as the Ghod. Lower Palaeolithic tools are primarily composed of pebble tools and flake tools, with a few exceptions. Both categories include (1) hand axes, (2) scrapers, (3) cleavers, and (4) choppers, as well as other tools. There have been a significant number of palaeolithic sites discovered. The following are some noteworthy locations.

Kandivali Bombay (1939)
K.R.U. Todd discovered the site in 1939 and named it after him. He was the one who discovered the sequence of lower palaeolithic to Microlithic industrialization. As a result of his discovery, India now has the world's first continuous sequence of Stone Age industry that has been discovered in a stratified position. He presented a stratigraphical sequence consisting of five stratigraphical layers.

Gangavadi near Nasik (1952)
Sankliya conducted an investigation of a site on the Godavari River. There were cleavers, handaxes, flakes, and cores discovered, as well as other lower palaeolithic tools.

Nevasa in Ahmednagar District (1956)
Sankliya conducted a survey of the site on the river Pravara, which is a major tributary of the Godavari. Handaxes, cleavers, scrapers, unifacial chopping tools, and flakes with prominent bulb were discovered, as were lower palaeolithic tools such as cleavers and scrapers. The lower palaeolithic tools were discovered in the same area as the pebbly gravel.

Vidarbha Region
Similarly, the eastern part of Maharashtra, popularly known as Vidarbha, has revealed a significant amount of evidence of Stone Age industries.

Jalgaon District
At Gang nullah near Manegaon and Changdev in Jalgaon district, Shri B.P. Bopardikar discovered lower palaeolithic tools such as flake tools such as ovates and cleavers, as well as cores and other fragments of stone. These flake tools were found in the hard cemented gravel and were collected.

Interpretation of Lower Palaeolithic Culture in Maharashtra
Several major and minor rivers in Maharashtra have been found to contain lower palaeolithic tools, based on the evidence from the sites mentioned above. It implies that the entire state of Maharashtra was inhabited by lower palaeolithic man at one point in time. This man could also live in the western coastal strip or the Konkan region, which were both suitable locations for him. There were a variety of tools discovered, including handaxes, cleavers, cores, and occasionally scrapers. It is usually the case that these tools can be found in the lowermost or earliest deposit of pebble conglomerate (Gangawadi, Nevasas etc.). Sometimes they are collected from pebbly gravel beds as well as other places (Districts Bhandara, Jalgaon etc.).
The majority of the tools used during this period are handaxes and cleavers. They were quite substantial in stature. The tools of the time should not be compared to those of the present. The reason for this is that their shape and size were different from what we see today. The most important thing to remember about them is that they were general-purpose tools. This Age's man might have used them to cut wood, flesh, and other materials.
The man of this era lived a nomadic existence. There was no concept of a family or a social structure. This man's way of life can be compared to that of chipanzees4 or a group of apes, depending on your perspective. There is nothing else that can be said about this man's way of life. Our understanding of this man's material culture is limited to what we can deduct from his tools and fossils from this Age.
Lower palaeolithic tools that are similar to those found in Maharashtra have been discovered in neighbouring states such as Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka as well. The fact that these tools were made of a different material in Maharashtra, however, should be noted at this point.

Middle palaeolithic age and Maharashtra
Middle palaeolithic tools were discovered in Rahuri (in Ahmednagar district) and Paithan, along with fossil bones of the 'Bos namadicus1' and an elephant's tusk, which were all discovered in the same area. At Nandur-Madhyamesh-war in the Nasik District, artefacts from the Middle Palaeolithic period, primarily scrapers, were discovered in a basal gravel bed that had been exposed in a river bed.
The tools of this 'Age' have been discovered all over Maharashtra, particularly in the river basins of the Pravara, Mula, Tapi, Girna, Wardha, Wainganga, Ghod, Bhima, and Krishna rivers, amongst other rivers. The tools are also reported to have originated in the Konkan region. It implies that the man of the middle Palaeolithic Age considered the entire state of Maharashtra to be habitable. However, the tools' stratigraphic placement is a source of considerable debate. According to the information provided by the sites mentioned above, these tools are located in gravel II, which is classified as coarse gravel.
In a nutshell, this was also a stage of food gathering. The man of this era lived near rivers and rocks, where he could gather raw materials for his tools to use in his daily life. He was nomadically living his life. There is nothing else that can be said about this man's way of life. It is also unclear what caused his disappearance.

Upper palaeolithic age and Maharashtra
The Upper Palaeolithic Age is thought to have been a prosperous period in human prehistory. It has been suggested that the upper palaeolithic man in Europe was known as 'Home sapiens,' or the man of thought. This man's intellectual progress has been documented in Europe, according to the evidence collected so far.
However, in the case of Maharashtra or India, there was no conclusive evidence for this Age to support it. However, in Maharashtra, tools from the upper palaeolithic period have been discovered in regions such as Vidarbha, Marathwada, Khandesh, and other nearby areas. Human remains from this time period have not yet been discovered. Consequently, this culture can also be investigated solely through the use of tools. Blades and burins are the most common types of tools found in the Upper Palaeolithic Age.

Conclusion
A description of prehistoric man's way of life has been provided, which relies primarily on archaeological sources. The evidence for this Age was discovered in a number of river valleys in Maharashtra. However, almost all of Maharashtra's regions were perfectly suited for the habitation of prehistoric man, according to archaeological evidence. Despite the limited number of sources available, they suggest a degree of cultural continuity. The Palaeolithic Era, with its sub-divisions of lower, middle and upper, is clearly visible. The size, shape, and stratigraphical position of the tools from the lower, middle, and upper Palaeolithic Ages all indicate that technology advanced at each stage. There are no human skeletons available for study. However,

the changing nature of tools is sufficient to demonstrate such a step forward in technology.

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