CHAPTER-II
FORMATIVE PHASE

[A] Neolithic-Chalcolithic Period.
[B] Iron Age Megalithic Period.

[A] Neolithic-Chalcolithic Period.

The heralding of the Neolithic age in the history of human civilisation marks distinct advancement, both technologically and economically, over the preceding primitive way of life. The age is characterised by the art of domestication of animals, agriculture, pottery, pecked and ground stone industry, blade industry, knowledge of metal and most important, some form/kind of permanent habitation. Here were, thus, present all traits which were later to blossom into "civilisation". Hence, the choosing of the Neolithic age as the starting period for the present dissertation.

The neolithic cultures of India are classified into five major groups. The Neolithic cultures of the area under study, viz., Karnataka and Andhra are included under "The Southern group", spreading over the Peninsula.¹

Intensive explorations in the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh regions by various agencies have brought to light scores of Neolithic sites. But it was only after the excavation at Brahmagiri in 1947 that the neolithic culture
was placed in its proper chronological context. Taking cue from Brahmagiri excavations, many of the promising and potential sites have been excavated, thus giving a comprehensive and fairly convincing picture of the neolithic cultures of the area under study. Largely on account of these excavations, the neolithic culture of south India in general and the Karnataka-Andhra region in particular is comparatively better known.

The excavated sites in the Karnataka-Andhra region are:


Nagarjunakonda, Utnur, Palavoy, Kesarapalli, Singanapally, Jami, Veerapuram (Mahaboobnagar district) - all in Andhra Pradesh.

From the above mentioned excavated sites of Karnataka and Andhra it at once becomes apparent that we have at present a lopsided evidence or an evidence of unequal nature. The Karnataka region is pretty well covered whereas it is not the same case with Andhra region.

The Neolithic culture is datable to C.2500 B.C.-1200 B.C. Considering the long duration of the Neolithic culture and
in view of the contiguity of the area under study it is not in the least surprising there was a uniform cultural pattern in major part of Karnataka-Andhra. There is no fundamental difference between the Karnataka-Andhra Neolithic culture, nevertheless there are variants due to the special ecological, geographical or environmental causes and these variants later in historical period develop into individualistic traits giving rise to two distinct cultural zones viz., the Karnataka and Andhra. In the following survey the emphasis will be more on the tendencies of the development of the culture.

Recently the earliest Neolithic culture comprising Microliths of non-geometric variety but with very few Neoliths as noticed at Nagarjunakonda (Site 45) is termed as a-ceramic stage. Apart from this, broadly two phases of Neolithic culture may be identified: the lower Neolithic and the upper Neolithic. The lower Neolithic culture is represented by Brahmagiri IA, Sangankallu IA, Piklihal IA, etc. This phase is devoid of any metal tools. Hence also called "pure Neolithic". The upper neolithic culture is represented by Brahmagiri IB, Sanganakallu IB, Piklihal IB, Maski I, T.Narasipur, Hallur Phase II, Nagarjunakonda. This phase is characterised by metal objects of copper or bronze; a specialised blade industry; steatite and faience beads along with those of carnelian agate and polished stone axes, etc. This stage is spoken of as chalcolithic stage. Therefore, the culture is also
described as Neolithic in Chalcolithic stage.

Now let us briefly examine the cultural equipment of the Neolithic people and try to know the cultural similarity and variations. The aspect for culture chosen for study are:

The Pottery; The Ground stone industry; The Stone blade industry; The Ornaments; The Art and The Ashmounds

Pottery:

Certain types of pottery are distinctively neolithic and occur over a wide area. Hand made pots of grey ware, smeared with a thin solution of clay and burnished all over is called burnished grey ware and is the most predominant pottery of the neolithic period in Karnataka, south and south-west Andhra. Other i.e., brown, buff, red ware occur in small quantity. Pottery types include globular pot with round base, everted rim, simple bowls with round base, everted sides and featureless rim, spouted and channel pots. Post-firing painting with red ochre at the lip is seen often, occasionally with purple painting of bands and simple lines in groups. The distribution pattern of different wares show that the grey ware in its variety is spread over a vast area and is predominant in the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab and its vicinity as for instance at Sanganakallu, Tekkalakota, Piklihal, Palavoy, Utnur, Maksi, Kodekal, Hallur etc. The doab covering a major part of Karnataka-Andhra was thus a homogenous cultural unit as far as the pottery evidence suggests.
Outside this core area, in the Kurnool and Prakasam districts and in other parts of western Andhra (e.g., Ramapuram, Patpadu, Pusalapadu) a distinct culture, so far as the pottery is concerned, emerges. Instead of grey ware, a particular kind of pottery called black painted red ware or black-on-red ware becomes predominant, besides usual red ware, grey ware. Most of them are hand made. The shapes are globular vessels without turned rims, convex sided vessels, a variety of bowls, including the channel spouted ones. The sudden emergence of red ware as a major ware is intriguing especially when these rich painted pottery sites lie very near to sites rich in grey ware. I.K. Sarma opines - a metamorphosis seems to have taken place in the late levels of the lower neolithic of southern Andhra and eastern Karnataka which went into the make up of so many painted pottery sites. Parallels with contemporary chalcolithic settlements at Nasik, Jorwe etc. have been drawn. However, the exact inter-cultural relations between these sites in Andhra and chalcolithic site of the western Deccan are not yet satisfactorily established.

Painted pottery using folks from sites like Singanapally, Sivavaram, Ramapuram etc., seems to have preferred plainer hills and less vegetated commanding cultivable tracts - a clear departure from the grey ware using folk who preferred thickly vegetated castellated hills, rocks and surrounding fertile valleys. Thus, the red painted pottery evidence suggests that, at late levels of the
Neolithic culture there emerged a distinct cultural group with its characteristic red painted pottery tradition and it preferred a separate environment.

Yet another distinct culture, so far as the pottery is concerned, emerges in northern coastal Andhra. The excavations at Jami and the surface evidence collected elsewhere in the Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and West Godavari districts reveal a predominant pottery known as gritty ware and it bear a weak impact of the eastern Neolithic traits as at Pandu-Rajer-Dhibi of Bengal. The pottery evidence thus suggests there were two distinct cultural zones in Karnataka-Andhra area. The one core area was the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab. The second was the Kurnool-Cuddapah-Prakasham zones. The third was the coastal Andhra with eastern Neolithic affiliation.

Recent studies by Sundara have shown that the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab region proved to be a contact zone wherein there is an indication of intrusion of Chalcolithic culture of upper Krishna into doab region and onwards, as evident from the painted pottery.

Apart from these noteworthy variations, some of the types of the pottery of different ware were common to both areas. The following are some of the examples:

a) a deep convex sided bowl with flaring convex sides

Cf. PKL. pl 24 1a, Patpadu fig. 3, 25;
Fusala padu, fig. 1. ThC.
2) goblet bowl, deep convex sides, slightly incurved constricted rim.
   Cf. PKL Pl.24, T.13; SGK PL.VIII; Pusalapadu fig. 1-3.

3) hemispherical bowls with slightly incurved thickened featureless rim.
   Cf. MSK. fig.9 T-7; PKL Pl.24, 5d, 5f,
   Brmg. Fig.22, T-61; Patpadu fig.2-6, 8,
   10, fig.3-16, 20; Pusalapadu fig.4;
   NGK fig. 26 Tgb.

4) Storage jar
   Cf. SKK., Brmg., Pusalapadu fig. 1,5.

5) Small wide-mouthed pot without turned rim, concave neck, rounded belly.
   Cf. Kodekal KKL 142, has nearest parallel from Iron Age sites at Muktiala, Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.

6) Shallow bowls with high, recurved channel spout having a wide end of highly burnished grey fabric from Hallur.
   Cf. Patpadu (Foote 1916, p.115, pl.26; Allchin, 1962, fig.1 no.1, p.223);
   Brmg. fig. 21, T.44,; SGK (Subbarao, pl.VIII, T.Narasipur (Sankalia, 1963; fig.75* no.1)
   ...... etc.

Not only the ceramic forms but also some of the
painted designs have a close affinity. The following designs are used over a wide area of the region under study:

1) thick horizontal bands on the top followed by two irregularly drawn wavy lines interspersed with three thin horizontal bands.
   Cf. Pusalapadu fig. I, 8; Brmg. IA, fig. 18 T. 6;
2) simple uprights or oblique lines from horizontal bands.
   Cf. Singanapally; MSK fig. 9, 4, plate XIX, 1, 2; Brmg. IA, fig. 18, T 5; Brmg. Plate CVII, 5.
3) horizontal bands either singular or in groups
   Cf. Brmg. Plate CVII, 3; Singanapalle, Plate VI, 18, 19.
4) Feather motifs (?) incomplete
   Cf. Singanapalle plate VII, 6, A. Sundara 12, etc.

From the above discussion of ceramic forms and design it becomes clear that there was a common cultural tradition. The distribution pattern of the various ceramic ware also throws abundant light not only on the cultural identity but also the dichotomy.

Ground Stone Industry

Axe:

Axes constitute the most important group of ground
and pecked stone industry. In almost all of the excavated sites of the region under study the axes are encountered in various proportions. The axes were made of rocks of igneous and metamorphic type like basalt, dolerite, diorite, granite, epidioite granite, greenstone, seliat, gneiss, quartz and quartzite. Among these, basalts and dolerites formed the most common rocks for the manufacture of axes. Selection of the rock is guided not only by the suitability of the rock but also by the availability of the rock nearby.

As regards technique there is close similarity. Flaking, grinding and polishing were the stages the axes had to undergo. Allchin, however, while describing the stages of preparation of axes, postulates five stages - rough flaking, fine flaking, pecking, edge grinding and over all grinding.

There are different varieties of axes. Among the, the pointed-butt axe is the most popular occurring in almost all sites of the region under study and finds rich representation in and around Bellary region. Other types include rectangular butt axe, rounded butt axe, etc. The rounded butt axes are found predominantly in the north coastal Andhra area.\(^{25}\)

Coming to the transverse cross-section of the axes, the axes with lenticular cross-section is most popular and is followed by ovoidal. The other cross sections, less common are trapezoidal, circular, ellipsoidal, plano-canvies etc.
From the above general survey of axes, it is apparent that there is over-all similarity as regards the technology adopted and raw material used. Although this may point to general contemporaneity of the industries, it is also likely that such a uniformity is due to the contacts enjoyed by the different neolithic/chalcolithic groups within the area under study. The following examples point to common tradition.

i) Axes found in and around Bellary region have a triangular body, pointed butt, a semi-rectangular section across the butt, and a convex cutting edge, slightly splayed. Quite a good number of axes of Bellary type have been noticed as far east as Amaravati in the Guntur district;

ii) A very specialised form of axe, shoe-last celt, so called by Childe, with prominent plano-convex cross-section comes from Nagarjunakonda. The same type is also reported from Bellary, thus pointing to trade contacts.

The analysis of axes from different sites of the region shows that most of the factory sites are situated in and around Bellary and also a large percentage of complete tools comes from Bellary and surrounding region. The pointed butt axe type occurring in profusion at Bellary is named as Bellary axe type. Allchin dubs it as North Karnataka axe type. In view of the above facts, the eastward spread of
pointed butt polished stone axes in eastern Andhra may indicate the spread of a common cultural tradition. Thus, the evidence of axes once again confirms the evidence of pottery. It indicates a common cultural horizontal all over the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab and neighbouring Kurnool-Cuddapah region, whereas the coastal North Andhra was a separate zone.

The Stone Blade industry:

The blade industry represents not only second tradition of the stone working complex of the Neolithic-chalcolithic period of our area, but also is distinct from the ground stone industry in respect of raw material, technique and the size of the tool.

Almost all the excavated sites have yielded the blade tools in varying quantities. The industry finds its richest expression at the sites of Maski, Tekkalakota, Piklihal, Sanganakallu and the sites in Shorapur doab. It was rather poorly represented at Utnur, Nagarjunakonda, Kesarapalli, Palavoy, etc.

The raw materials employed for the manufacture of tools includes chert, chalcedony, jasper, agate, carnelian and rock crystals of the crystalline form. The analysis of the material from excavated sites shows that the cherts of various hues - chocolate, brown, dark brown, brown red, red and white - predominate. Other materials occur less
frequently. However, at Maski, instead of chert other raw materials were used. The selection of raw materials ultimately depends on its availability nearby the settlements. However, there are instances of resorting to particular raw material for production of blade tools even if that raw material is not available in the vicinity.

Many neolithic settlements seem to have imported desired raw materials even from distant places. For instance, at the sites of Bellary district (e.g., Sanganakallu) tools were made out of chert and chalcedony. But, these rocks are sparsely present in Dharwad beds of Bellary district. Therefore, it appears that the required raw material was imported from either Shorapur doab or the adjoining Kurnool district where it is found.

Preference for certain raw material, even at the cost of importing, appears to be due to:

i) Suitability of the raw materials;
ii) Colour attraction; and
iii) Through contacts with such settlements where particular raw material was used.

From the above discussion it becomes clear that different neolithic settlements of our area maintained contacts with each other. Another noteworthy factor is setting up of large and small factory sites in the areas where there is unlimited supply of raw materials. The sites at Mallur-I, Tirth, Budihal-s and Kodekal in Shorapur doab and
Katanaduvudur hills, Chetnapalli and Nagaladinne from south-western Andhra Pradesh are typical examples. Such unusually large factory sites, it is suggested, apart from meeting the needs of local communities, also met the demands from other regions. Under the circumstances, it is fairly reasonable to assume that poor blade industry sites (Utnur, Palavoy etc), lying in the eastern part of the area i.e. present eastern Andhra Pradesh, must have been maintaining the contacts with the nearest factory sites. In this connection, Allchin's (1960) opinion that the site of Hegragi (Medowa Taylor's Hegartagi) lying on the spur of the Bhima limestones might have served the purpose of core producing factory for neolithic settlements deserves notice. The evidence of blade industry thus suggests spread of common tradition.

As regards the typology of the tools the sites of Piklihal, Maski and Tekkalakota offer a rich variety. They include:

- Parallel sided blades; backed blades; scrapers; truncated blade; 
- Awls; Graver; Lunates; Trapezes; Burins.

Ash mounds:

Eversince the discovery of ashmound for the first time by Col. Mackenzie in the North Karnataka in the beginning of the 19th century there were many attempts at explaining the formation and date of ashmounds resulting in numerous
theories. Various explanations range from volcanic ash, slag of iron, copper, and gold workings to the product of human cremations. However, the extensive work undertaken so far is by Allchin. His excavation at Utnur in the Mahabubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh brought to light 4 main periods of occupation. Each period terminated with a burning of cow-dung. On the basis of evidence of stockades in the first 3 periods and the presence of hoof-impressions of cattle, Allchin advanced his theory known as cattle-pen hypothesis. The main conclusions of his theory are:

1) the ash mounds are products of Neolithic culture of southern Deccan;
2) they represent pens in which cattle were herded. The history of each cattle pen is cyclic levelling of the sites, construction of stockade, accumulation of cow dung and finally its burning and formation of ashes. Some of these pens were located in forests;
3) The burning of cow dung was intentional and purposeful. Every year at the time of seasonal migration in search of new grazing ground a ceremony was held in which burning was done; and
4) the process of ash formation came to an end about the beginnings of the iron age.

The neolithic association of the ashmounds was further confirmed by excavation of one of the mounds at Kupgal, near Bellary by Mujumdar and Rajguru (1966).
However, excavation at Palavoy by Ramireddy brought to light ash deposits comprising megalithic pottery, iron ore and two iron implements (a nail and a ring). In addition, the vitrified ash lumps were seen to be arranged in a row with dome shaped roofs and the vertical columns of burnt animal dung mixed with ash and earth at intervals which the excavator thought as kilns or oven for smelting. They thus think that Ashmounds are associated with Iron Age period. They get support from A.Sundara who on the basis of the explored ash mounds in the upper Krishna valley offers more or less similar interpretation.

Observations :

The distribution pattern of ash mounds suggest the movement of ash mound practising folk from North Karnataka to Anantapur and Kurnool district in south-western Andhra Pradesh. It indicates a common cultural pattern prevailing in an area which now comprises the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bellary, Anantapur, Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool which may be described as single cultural zone. Even in historical period this area continues to enjoy homogenous cultural pattern. That such a situation was already obtaining during Neolithic period is indicated by ash mound evidence. In cultural traffic the river Bhima and Tungabhadra acted as major highways.

Art :

The artistic expression of the peoples of the region...
under study can be studied mainly through Rock paintings. A body of material for rock paintings comes mainly from North Karnataka regions. Recently, explorations in Kurnool and Karimnagar districts have also brought to light rock paintings. In the absence of detailed study from Andhra the evidence from Karnataka region is discussed here.

The rock paintings are depicted on the granite and sand stones in Karnataka and granite and lime stone in Andhra region. While some of the paintings are assigned to the Neolithic period, most of them can be dated to the last phase of the Neolithic period and overlapping phase of the Neolithic-chalcolithic with the megalithic. In north Karnataka region painted rock shelters/caves command the view of ancient sites with neolithic/megalithic cultural remains. Most of the paintings are found in the region of the Tungabhadra in Gangavati-Hospet, particularly in Hirebenkal-Hampi area of Raichur and Bellary districts. Some of the noteworthy sites are - Badami (Nos. 1,4,5), Hosa-Mahakuta, Tekkalakota, Hire-Benkal (Nos.2,5,7), Chikka-Rampur, Hampi, Venkatapur, Anegundi (1,4), Anjanahalli, Narayanpura, Bandiharlapur, Sangapakallu, Piklihal (7-11), Kurugodu (1-6), Togalagudda, Balachakra, Sirwar etc. 30

The region which abounds in the rock shelters and caves were undoubtedly inhabited during the Neolithic times and the protected rock surface of the shelters and caves were decorated with the figures of human beings and animals
either single or in group. Among the animals it is the cattle, long horned and humped, shown singly and in groups which is most frequently depicted. Other animals include deer, tiger, elephant, leopards, peacocks, sparrow. Noteworthy is the depiction of pregnant deer. The lizard class, apparently crocodiles are depicted in Piklihal, Hampi and in Togalagudda.

In Andhra region however, little work has been done. Rock paintings\(^3\) were reported from Kokapet, 10 Km. from Hyderabad, Mudumula (Mahaboobnagar district) and Ketavaram (Kurnool district). But their dating is not certain. Whether some of them can be dated to Neolithic-Chalcolithic period is also not clear.

To sum up, the paintings of North Karnataka region although creation of primitive people, nevertheless display their close perception of the animals and humans in relation to the environment and their culture of the features and moods.

Ornaments:

Among the ornaments, beads occupy prominent place. The sites yielding large number of beads are Hallur (62); Sanganakallu (24); Maski (23); Bramagiri, Tekkalakota (15); South-west Andhra Pradesh (10); Piklihal (6); Shorapur doab (5); in Karnataka region. However, the sites like Poosalapadu, Ramapuram in Banganapalli taluq of Kurnool district are very rich in beads. Beads were made of various raw materials such as steatite, magnasite, shell, terracotta, agate, carnelian,
glass, jasper. Among these steatite was most popular. Noteworthy feature is the occurrence of steatite bead sites near the steatite source. More number of steatite beads are found at Tekkalakota, Sanganakallu and southwestern Andhra Pradesh. These sites are very near to Bellary and Kurnool region which are rich in steatite and faience. Close to these raw material sites were beads producing sites like Pusalapadu and Ramapuram. Although Allchin derives the source of steatite to the Indus valley, it is also likely that part of the needs of the neolithic people were met by the bead manufacturing centres of Kurnool district. The evidence of beads thus suggest trade contacts existing within the region.

The metal objects are very scarce, and they make appearance during the late stages of the Neolithic culture. Piklihal, Maski, Brahmagiri, Tekkalakota, Hallur, Nagarjunakonda, Palavoy are some of the sites yielding metal objects. The evidence thus suggests not only a common tradition even contacts within the region.

**Burials:**

Our knowledge regarding the burial practices of the region under study comes mainly from the sites of Brahmagiri, Piklihal, Utnur, Tekkalakota, T.Narasipur, Nagarjunakonda and Hallur. The burials belonging to the early phase of Neolithic culture are encountered at Nagarjunakonda, Piklihal, Utnur and T.Narasipur while those excavated at Brahmagiri,
Tekkalakota and Hallur are assignable to late neolithic phase. There are mainly two types of burials:

i) Extended inhumations and

ii) Urn burials.

In extended inhumations the skeleton of either male or female is laid on its back in extended position. Such extended burials are encountered at Nagarjunakonda (five out of six graves), Piklihal, T. Narasipur, Brahmagiri, Tekkalakota (Period II). The North-South orientation was popular e.g., Nagarjunakonda, Piklihal and Tekkalakota. The other orientations met with less frequently are East-West (T. Narasipur, Child burial at Brahmagiri), South-North (one from Piklihal, community burial at Tekkalakota) South-East (Child burial at Piklihal).

Burials are generally located in the habitation area as at Piklihal, Brahmagiri. It was thus common practice to bury their dead within habitation area. However, there existed a separate neolithic cemetery (Site 68) at Nagarjunakonda.32

An interesting feature that is met within sites of Nagarjunakonda33 and Brahmagiri34 is occurrence of pits yielding animal bones, pottery, microliths. In one pit in Nagarjunakonda was found remains of an articulated skeleton. Among the various views expressed, the one holding the view that 'they represent' macerating pits appears plausible.

Extended burials are accompanied by funerary objects,
generally earthen pots of wheel and hand made grey ware and in rare cases ornaments. Noteworthy among the pottery are: Spouted pots from Nagarjunakonda, spouted jars from Piklihal, head-rest and channel spouted bowls of cream colour from T.Narasipur. Sometimes funerary objects seem to indicate the profession of the deceased as at Piklihal where a male burial had such interesting objects as five well made chert blades, two basalt axes, bowl of grey ware and a scapula of bovine.

Another type of burial encountered in the region under study are urn burials. The urn burials were generally used for children. Large number of urn burials are noticed at Brahmagiri. They contained the tightly folded bodies of infants and children. Urn burials are also reported from Tekkalakota, Hallur. They generally do not have funeral objects and are generally found under the floor of hut.

From the foregoing account it is apparent that ceremonial burial of the dead was an established practice during the Neolithic chalcolithic period. Although burial practices were same throughout the region under study, a noteworthy feature which makes its appearance at the end of the period is a separate cemetery for burials as at Nagarjunakonda.

Observations:

It may be observed from the above survey that there were developed communities, socially and materially in
different parts of Karnataka and Andhra. While the grey
ware pottery tradition and neolithic tool repertoire seem
to be common in the life-style of the people throughout the
region. There are some distinct variations as well, partly
owing to natural resources and environmental conditions.

The essentially neolithic culture in the northern
part of Karnataka is in Chalcolithic stage immediately
exposed to the Chalcolithic cultural traditions of Godavari
Narmada and further northwards. The culture in the southern
part of Andhra especially in Nagarjunakonda area and its
surrounding is almost exclusively neolithic characterised by
the absence of parallel sided blade industry, painted pottery
tradition and use of copper tools, with hardly any influence
of the chalcolithic cultures from the North. Even in
dwelling pattern in Nagarjunakonda area there are pit burials
which have not been found in the Karnataka area. Thus, what
we notice here is that the culture in the region seem to have
the areas of variations in certain respects owing to the
facility of direct exposure to the other neighbouring cultures
and the local environmental conditions, although the culture
in both areas has a basis common traditions. Thus, the
traditions in the subsequent periods are already found in
this stage.

[B] Iron Age Megalithic Period

The excavations have revealed more or less sudden
appearance of Iron Age megalithic builders with their
distinctive pottery and Iron objects in many of the sites of present Karnataka and Andhra, for the remains of both the Neolithic and Iron Age megalithic cultures are found together in upper layers overlying the main neolithic cultural layers suggesting an overlap of the two. There are numerous megalithic sites throughout the region noticed from as early as 1851 A.D. A few of them have been excavated, some along with habitations nearby. The excavated habitational sites include Brahmagiri, Maski, T.Narasipur, Tekkalkota, Hallur etc. in present Karnataka and Nagarjunakonda, Yelesveram, Peddamamkur in present Andhra Pradesh. The excavated burial sites are at Brahmagiri, Maski, Jadigenahalli, Teral etc. in present Karnataka and Nagarjunakonda, Yelesvaram, Pochampad, Gondimalla, Chagatur, Agirapalli - in present Andhra Pradesh.

In megalithic habitation sites in the entire region are found material remains such as Iron tools and weapons, a distinctive kind of pottery described as Black-and-Red ware with some characteristic types, exotic objects of bronze, gold and remains of the human dead and of the horse. Black-and-Red ware of thin fabric with a shining surface and with or without graffiti is very characteristic feature of Iron Age megalithic culture. Since the excavations are of limited nature not much is known about the everyday life of the megalithic builders. Varieties of megalithic monuments were erected with rough, large stone slabs or boulders. Passage chamber tombs, port-hole chamber tombs, oblong cists,
cairn stone circles, stone alignments etc. are found, variously in different sites of both Karnataka and Andhra. With this let us now examine how far the cultural traditions represented by the above evidence are common in the two areas known as Karnataka and Andhra in later times.

In the entire region the megalithic burial sites, for obvious reasons, are located in the hilly terrains for obtaining easy supply of stones for funerary monuments. Apart from geological consideration megalithic people also preferred areas with some other distinctive facilities. The megalithic sites are concentrated in the North Karnataka, Telengana and Rayalasima regions of Karnataka-Andhra. These areas abound in suitable rock material. Besides, this region has abundant supplies of iron ore and gold deposits as at Bellary-Hospet, Hatbi-Raichur, Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool Anantapur region. Munn in 1921 has shown that megalithic sites of Hyderabad were closed to the ancient sites in the region. Similarly Sundara has shown Kappatagudda range near Gadag (Dharwad district, Karnataka) has many gold working pits and sites strewn with iron slag.

Distinctive features:

The pottery are of three wares: typical Black-and-Red ware, Red ware and all black ware. These wares occur almost all over the entire region. However, in Hallur (Dharwad district, Karnataka) Iron Age levels of the habitation site and the excavated cairn stone circles in
Tadakanahalli nearby have produced a distinctive pottery known as white painted Black-and-Red ware so far not found in other excavated megaliths of Karnataka and Andhra. Secondly, even in the Black-and-Red ware, both in fabric and types, are somewhat different from the typical Black-and-Red ware of other megaliths of the entire region. Again in Tadakanahalli and Komaranahalli (Malebennur taluq, Chitradurga district) there is a peculiar type of pot with four spouts, thus, megalithic culture of the upper Tunga valley seem to have some distinct features. Similarly from Peddamarur (Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh) a coarse red pot of medium size, with three perforations was found. It has been called Visage urn. According to excavator it symbolises Mother goddess. A black ware dish from Peddamarur was decorated with Sun symbol. From Pochampad a red ware vase with a squattish or bulging body and a long cylindrical neck is a distinct type. These were some of the distinct types from present Andhra. But for these distinctive features the other pottery types continue to be the same throughout the entire region. The common shapes in Black-and-Red ware include deep bowls with round, flat or pointed bottoms, dishes, deep or shallow vessels, globular bodied pots etc. The rare types of black and red ware include Chalices, pedestal vases (Maski), tulip shaped vessels, lid-cum-bowls, funnel shaped lids etc. Funnel shaped black-and-red ware vessels are reported from Brahmagiri, Maski, Kadambapur, Pochampad. Black-and-
Red ware vase with a flat base, a thin featureless rim come from Jadigenahalli, Pochampad. The ceramic evidence thus suggests that there was a broadly a common cultural tradition throughout the entire region.

Distribution Pattern:

As regards the distribution pattern of different megaliths, the passage chamber tombs of Kannur type are found in both area. They are found up to the Krishna-Tungabhadra confluence in the Mahbubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. But the passage chamber tombs in Andhra as noticed at Gondimalla, Chagatur, Uppalapadu all in Mahbubnagar district are in the transition stage from passage type to port-hole types as found in the adjacent part of Karnataka as for example at Hagaratagi and other sites in Belgaum and Bijapur districts. The evidence of passage chamber tombs indicate the existence of this type of megalithic monument and common custom over a large central part of both Karnataka and Andhra. This point is significant as it indicates tradition commonly prevalent in this part.

Portholed chambers, of course, are found over a large part of South India. The portholed chambers of the Brahmagiri type are found in the regions of Raichur, Bellary, Chitradurg, Kolar, Bangalore, probably Anantapur and Chittoor districts. Similarly the portholed chambers of the Hire Benkal type are reported from the southern part of
Raichur district and some parts of Bangalore, Kolar, rarely in Yelleswaram and Pochampad areas in Andhra Pradesh. The evidence thus suggests, Portholed chambers are found in the present Karnataka-Andhra border area.

Oblong cists are also found essentially in adjacent parts of Karnataka-Andhra as for example at Jevargi, Andola Maski etc. in Karnataka, Moula Ali, Hashampet, Polichetti cheruvugudda in Andhra.

The sarcophagus burials are reported from Jadigenahalli near Bangalore, Peddamaddur, Agripalli, Sankavaram and other sites in Kolar districts of Karnataka and Cuddapah Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra region, however, some aberrant type of sarcophagus such as ram shaped sarcophagi from Sankhavaram in Cuddapah district are found.

Even with regard to stone alignments, menhirs are found mostly in Mahabubnagar district, Raichur district, and Gulbarga district, contiguous parts of Karnataka and Andhra as for instance at Vibhutihalli (Gulbarga district), Shahapur-Shorapur area in Karnataka and Mudumala (Makthal taluq, Mahabubnagar district) etc., in Andhra. The above survey of distribution pattern of different types of megaliths suggest that during the Iron Age megalithic period the central part of Karnataka and Andhra, i.e., the Raichur doab was inhabited by the megalithic builders, who
shared a common cultural tradition.

**Other Cultural Aspects**

As regards the other traits of this culture, they are uniform throughout the entire region. The Iron objects consisted of sickles, knives, lances, spear-heads. They were used for agriculture, hunting etc. Agriculture and hunting were the chief forms of the economy of the Iron Age megalithic people. Rice and Bagi were grown for food. Recent study by S.B. Deo suggests that Iron Age Megalithic people do not seem to have been basically settled agriculturists. He has also shown that in the megalithic society there may have been a class of artisans as is proved by a large number of Iron, Copper, Bronze objects. Iron ore prospecting and smelting may have been carried on large scale. The region being rich in Iron ores there must have been systematic activities. This factor may have helped in coming into existence of routes in different part of the region connecting the Iron ore producing regions.

Rock-art continues during the Iron Age megalithic period also. Rock paintings were discovered at Sanganakallu, Tekkalakota, Venkatapura, Anegudi, Chikka Ramapura, Hire Benkal etc. in North Karnataka region. Not much is known about the rock paintings of Andhra. The popular subjects painted are hunting scene, group dancing, taming the animals, horses are shown frequently.
As regards the dating the TL dates from the Iron yielding phase of Komaranhalli (Chitradurg district) in Karnataka state show the date range of C.1100-1200 B.C. The Iron Age megalithic culture, therefore, began from about C.1200-1100 B.C. and flourished up to 3rd-2nd Cent. B.C.

Observations:

The above critical survey has shown that the megaliths are concentrated in North Karnataka, southern Andhra southwestern Andhra. The Iron Age megalithic culture throughout the entire region is marked by a basic uniformity in culture-complex, observed particularly in Black-and-Red ware and Iron objects. The uniformity of culture is felt more in Raichur doab where the megaliths of different varieties were found. Another important feature is knowledge of Iron ore prospecting and smelting possessed by the megalithic people.

The emergence of the primitive societies during the Neolithic-Chalcolithic and subsequent Iron Age megalithic period shows that a common culture was spread in major part of central Karnataka-Andhra. The Raichur doab was the focal cultural area. There were regional variations especially in the present coastal Andhra owing to ecological and environmental factors. Thus, from about C.2500 B.C. to 3rd B.C., a common cultural base or foundation was laid. With this strong fundamental cultural base, the relations
between the Karnataka and Andhra during the subsequent historic period were able to grow in strength. When viewed against this background, the study of Karnataka and Andhra relations in historical period would be more meaningful and understandable.
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