In India, the Archaeologists have noticed hundreds of Megalithic sites. Megaliths in India attracted the attention of persons interested in the field of Archaeological investigation. Babington was the first who discovered the rock cut burial chamber in Malabar. (Description of the Pandoo coolies of Malabar, 1823), Meados Taylor published his observation pertaining to the (Distribution of cairns, cromlechs, kistvaens and other celtic, druidical and scythian monuments in the Dekhan), James Fergusson brought out (Rude stone monuments in all countries, their age and uses., 1872), J.W..Breeks (An account of the primitive tribes and monuments of the Nilgiris), Different sites were excavated, by Dr,Jagor of Berlin (Adichanallur, Tinnevelly dist), Alexander Rea (Perumbair 1904-08), M.H.Krishna (Brahmagiri, Chandravalli), R.E.M.Wheeler (Brahmagiri, 1947).

The systematic exploration and excavations of the iron age Megalith and its few habitation sites are carried out e.g. At Maski (Raichur Dist), Jadigenahalli (Bangalore Dist), Terdal - Halingali (Bijapur district), Hunur( Belgaum district), T.Narasipur (Mysore district), Hallur (Dharwad District), Konnur (Belgaum district), all in Karnataka. Porkalam (Kerala), Kunnattur, Sanur (Tamilnadu), Kesarapalli (A.P.) Junapani Takalghat (Maharastra), Banimilia and Behara (Mirzapur Dist), Kotia (Allahabad Dist), Burzahom (Kashmir), Kuntitoli (Bihar). There are four monographs on the topics that have been brought out. (Guru Raja Rao,1972, S.B.Deo 1973, Leshnik, 1974, Sundara, 1975).
The systematic investigations of Megalithic sites in northern Karnataka had been carried out first by A.Sundara of the Decca College, Poona, when he was a Research scholar. (IAR 1958-59, p. 32)

Karnataka is one of the regions having in abundance Megalithic remains of varied types in almost all its districts. Medows Taylor was the first to report about the Megaliths in Gulbarga, Raichur and Bellary. James Burgess noticed Konnur and Aihole. (1874, 306.08). Department of Archaeology (ARDAH, 1915-16, p.6-10). Gulbarga and Raichur. The Kannada Research institute of Karnataka University, Dharwad, Bijapur and Dharwar (ARKRBK, 1939.40:11), Archaeological survey of India, Bijapur and Dharwar, (IAR 1958-59:32, 1950-60:37-38, 1960-61:28)

The region under study so far James Burgess,¹ R.S. Panchamukhi² and A Sundara³ did lot of work and published their reports.

A.Sundara during his exploration noticed some sites at Yamal, Savalagi, Konnur and Kundargi (Gokak taluka). The details of the sites are given below.

**KONNUR:**

The village is situated on the bank of the river Ghataprabha, which is 11 kms from Gokak and one km from the the railway station. There are hillocks on the southern side of the village. Large numbers of megaliths are located on the slope of the hillocks.

The site was first noticed by James Burgess (1874, I.A. Vol .III, 306-308) next the site was studied by James Campbell (BGM.dist. Gazetteer,1884:582-84). After words R.S.Panchamukhi also studied the site (J.K.U. 1945 ,10-28). Later the site was studied in detail by A.Sundara. (IAR, 1963 : 64; 23).
The Megaliths are facing towards southern and western direction. These are constructed with quartizitic sandstone, which is locally available raw-material.

These tombs are scattered over a considerable area. Each megalith is added with a passage. Therefore they are called passage chamber tombs. The tombs stands in southeast direction and has a heap of small stones. The capstone is a conglomerate slab about a foot thick, 8 feet long and the breadth varies from 4 feet 2 inches to 8 feet. The two sided stone is about 4½ feet long by 3 feet 8 inches high and at the back is 4 feet 3 inches long and two stones in front are about 2 feet long each. The cell is 2 feet 9 inches wide in front, 4 feet 3 inches at the back, and about 4 feet in length. The entrance between the front stones is 18 inches wide and from the entrance two lower stones extended outwards about 5½ feet from the passage up to the entrance.

There are fine passage chambers which are in good condition. These chambers have retained their capstones. One passage chamber is 5 feet 9 inches high, inside 4 feet 8 inches wide at the back, 5 feet 10 inches long, and 2 feet wide in front and the entrance is 2½ feet high. Beside there are small passage chambers which have no capstones. More than 60 tombs were destroyed by the local masons.

According to local legends the hordes of Jain ascetics had migrated from North to South India during Mauryan time. On their way they left a few settlements in Karnataka. Accordingly the four-walled cells at Konnur represents the tombs of the Jain Munnis or the rock-shelter of the ascetics. (I.A.R. 1963-64:23)

Recently the site has been destroyed by the villagers, for cultivating the land. Therefore, at present several megaliths are in bad condition. The Megaliths
are partly buried in the ground. Locally they are called Pandavara mane or guhe or rock-shelters of munis (ascetics).

A. Sundara of Deccan College, Poona conducted excavation. Bones, black ware and red ware potteries and charcoal were collected. He studied thoroughly and published his report in the Journals (IAR 1963 : 64;23).

SAVALAGI:

The village is situated 16 kms from Konnur. It is located on the bank of the river Ghataprabha. There is a hill on the southern side of the village. There are some Megaliths situated at the slope of the hillock. The site was noticed and studied earlier by A.Sundara of Deccan College, Poona.

Now the site is completely destroyed by the villagers for cultivating the land. Therefore the Megaliths are in a bad condition. Earlier the Megaliths were partly buried in the ground. They were facing towards southern or western direction. These are constructed with quartizitic sandstone, which is a locally available raw-material. They were also passage chambers.

From a megalith bones, black ware and red ware potteries and charcoal were collected during the excavation by A.Sundara.

KUNDARGI:

Kundargi is a small village, located on the bank of a river Markandeya which is 32 kms from Gokak. There are hillocks on the northern side of the village. Some Megaliths are situated at the slope of the hillocks. Now the Megalithic site is totally disturbed by the agriculturist and leveled for cultivation. The site was
noticed and studied by R.S. Panchamukhi, the former director Kannada Research Institute of Karnataka University, Dharwad.

The black ware and red ware potteries were collected from the site and reported. (KRI, progress). The megaliths were constructed with sandstone. Which is abundantly available around the hillock. These slabs used for constructing the Megaliths were removed and used for building houses by wadaris. (Masons)

GODCHINMALKI:

The village is situated on the bank of the river Markandeya and 16 kms from Gokak, located to the west of the Gokak-Konnur road in a deep green valley, the village is surrounded by hillocks. On the Southern side of the village, there are some Megaliths at the slope of the hillocks. The site was first noticed by A.Sundara of Deccan College, Poona.

Recently the site was destroyed by the villagers for the purpose of agriculture. At present several Megaliths are in a bad condition. They in yielded bones, black ware, red ware, black and red ware and ashes of charcoal. These Megaliths are partly buried in the ground. They were facing towards southern and western direction. These are constructed with quartizitic sandstone. Which is a locally available raw-material? These tombs are scattered over a considerable area. But all are destroyed and leveled for cultivation.

SIGIHOLI:

The village is situated on the bank of the river Markandeya and 25 kms from Gokak. The village is surrounded by hillocks. On the southern side of the village, there are Megaliths at the slope of the hillocks. The site was first noticed and studied by A.Sundara.
Recently the site was destroyed by the villagers for agriculture. In Megaliths bones, black ware, red ware potteries and ashes of charcoal were recovered. These Megaliths are partly buried in the ground. They are facing towards southern and western direction. These are erected with quartzitic sandstone. Which is a locally available raw materials.

All megaliths are on the slopes of hill which are now practically leveled for cultivation. Same peculiarities of these tombs observed by the scholar are given below.

1. They are all on the slopes of the hill or on the mounds which are now practically leveled for cultivation.

2. They invariably face south direction.

3. Every one of them has a small passage in front leading to the cell. It is strictly observed in the bigger passage chambers. The passage is narrow and runs into the entrance of the cell.

4. The big dolmens are enclosed by a short wall of heaps of rough stones all around. The interior is filled up with round balls of stone.

Early Historic Sites:

In the region under study the early historic remains have been found in all the Neolithic-Chalcolithic habitation sites. Besides some of the sites are found with the remains of the early historic and medieval period. Numerous early historic sites have been found in many parts of India. Some of the sites with cultural remains of the preceding and or succeeding ages have also been found. It may be noted that considerable sites of this period were noticed in several places in
Karnataka. They are Sannati, Banavasi, Vadgaon-Madhavapur, Rajaghat, Chandravalli, Brahmagiri etc.

The cultural materials of the period are potteries of black ware, red ware, black and red ware, coarse red ware, russet coated white painted pottery; terracotta, shell, bangle pieces, coin of the Satavahana or Pre-Satavahana or Romans; granaries, structural remains, a few sculptures of stone and metal, Inscription etc. The study of the region informs that Vadagaon-Madhavapur, Suburb in Belgaum city have shown considerable cultural materials of the period in South India. The site is nearer to the region under study. Here compared to the other known sites in Karnataka. The study of the region has a few sites with cultural materials of not only the early historic or later but also Neolithic-Chalcolithic. None of the sites studied in the region, have shown a single culture especially of early historic period. The details of the sites are discussed below.

KALLOL:

Kallol a small village situated about 17 kms north of Chikodi. It is situated on the bank of river Krishna. The site with the cultural remain of the Neolithic-Chalcolithic has been mentioned earlier under this culture. The site has seen more modern debris since the village is very near to it. A few cultural remains of the early historic period were found scattered in this site. A few of red ware potteries collected in the site belonged to the early historic period.9

SADALAGA:

The village Sadalaga situated 18 kms., from Chikodi, is on the bank of the river Dudhaganga a tributary of river Krishna. The cultural materials with the Chalcolithic found by A. Sundara (1965-66. p.32) has also the remains of the early
historic period. A few potteries of the early historic period collected from the site, are black and red ware etc.  

EXAMBA:

Examba is located 13 kms north of Chikodi, situated on the bank of the nallah, tributary of the Krishna. The site has the cultural remains of the Neolithic-Chalcolithic. The site has been disturbed by agriculturists. A few cultural remains of the early historic period are found scattered over a large area on the bank of the nallah. The potteries are red ware, black ware etc., which where collected from the area.

LAKHANAPUR:

Lakhanapur a small village situated on the bank of a nallah, tributary of the Dudhaganga river, 5 kms. from Nippani and situated on western side of Chikodi. The site with the cultural remains of the early historic period is found scattered on the site. A few potteries of black ware, red ware etc., collected in the site belong to the early historic period.

MAMDAPUR:

Mamdapur is a small village situated about 14 kms east of Gokak. The site has the cultural remains of the Megalithic. The site was disturbed by agriculturists. A few cultural remains of the early historic period are found, scattered over a large area on the bank of the nallah. The potteries are red ware, black ware etc., which are collected from the area.

KALLOLI:

Kallol is a small village situated about 11 kms north of Gokak Taluka The site has been disturbed by agriculturist. A few cultural remains of the early historic
period are found, scattered over a large area on the bank of the nallah. The potteries are red ware, black ware etc., which are collected from the area.\textsuperscript{14}

**Conclusion:**

The river Krishna is the major river and its tributaries Dudhaganga, Vedaganga and Panchaganga, flowing in the Chikodi region as well as Ghataprabha and Markandeya flow in Gokak region. The river valleys have shown the existence of human culture right from the Paleolithic period. Therefore, these valleys were extremely hospitable to the pre-historic people since many early, middle and upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic factory sites, as well as Neolithic-chalcolithic, Iron age Megalithic and early historic sites have been brought to light. It also shows cultural development.

The Early Stone Age industry primarily consists of hand-axe and cleavers, ovates, choppers, scrapers, discoids and a few pebble tools, most of the specimens are made from quartzite sandstone. The tools are in fresh condition and the raw-materials employed in preparing tools is quartzite of Kaladgi series. These tools of early Paleolithic are found in the stratified context at Manjari, Chandur in Chikodi taluka as well as in Kolavi, Lolasur, Kundargi in Gokak taluka.

The occurrence of the pebble tools in the area as per the studies of the other regions could be the earliest phase. The hand-axes, cleavers, flakes, scrapers, belong to the later phase. Most of them are similar to the implements of Anagwadi.

The Levalloisian flakes, points and scrapers made on chert belong to middle Paleolithic culture. They are located at Chandur and Manjari in Chikodi taluka, Kolavi, Mamdapure, Lolasur and Kundargi in Gokak taluka. These tools
are comparable to the tools of the stratified deposits found at Anagawadi. The Masolithic culture characterized by the parallel sided blades represents the advanced stage. In Karnataka the site Sangankallu which has yielded Microliths made of quartz and dyke basalt in the stratified deposits. It is the first known site in the stratigraphical context in India. Many of the tools of the area can be comparable to the known sites.

In Northern Karnataka Microliths can be distinguished from blades of Chalcolithic culture both occurring in the sites along the river banks. Shidlapadi near Badami and Bilgi nallah yielded flakes, blades, points and scrapers, made of chert and cornelian or jasper, finely retouched lunates, a trapeze and a small piece of black painted red ware of the jorwe fabric are noteworthy. The Mesolithic culture was succeeded by the Neolithic culture.

The Mesolithic culture is characterized by parallel sided blades, flakes of black trap of grey ware, blackish grey ware, saddle querns of granite as well as pottery of black painted red ware. The sites of the culture are known at Kalloli, Examba, Saladaga (in Chikodi tq) Konnur and Kallol, Dyaganhatti (in Gokak tq). All these sites yielded grey-blackish grey and pinkish buff wares. Some pottery are micaceous with incised decoration.

Flakes of black trap, parallel sided blades of chalcedony and a small piece of black painted red ware of the jorwe fabric are noteworthy.

The Neolithic-Chalcolithic culture is succeeded by the Iron age Megalithic culture, which are spread in the region. The Konnur site which is the classical example of the Megaliths. Yielded more than hundreds of passage chambers. These passage chambers are constructed with quartzite, sandstone, which are
locally available raw materials. The Megalithic builders preferred their cemeteries or built on the terraces of the hills or the stony waste land. But they erected tombs in the plain fields or near the hill valleys which provided suitable rock materials.

After end of Iron Age Megaliths the early historic period commenced. The cultural remains also appeared in the Neolithic sites in the region. The cultural materials are similar to that of Sannati, Brahmagiri, Chandravalli, Banavasi, Vadagoan-Madavapur etc. The cultural materials are potteries of black ware, red ware, black and red ware, coarse red ware, terracottas. Vadagoan-Madavapur a suburb in Belgaum has shown considerable cultural materials of the period in South India. (A.Sundara) The site is nearer to the region under study.

The ancient cultural sites ranging from Paleolithic to the early historical period in these river valleys, strikingly represent that these river valleys were occupied by the people. The human cultural activities from Paleolithic onwards were also active in the other river valleys.
Footnotes:

7. A. Sundara, The Early Chamber Tombs of South India, New Delhi, 1975, P. 22.
12. Potteries are collected during the Field Survey.
13. Potteries are collected during the Field Survey.
14. Potteries are collected during the Field Survey.