The stratigraphic units of the Lower Palaeolithic at Patne were not exposed and, as pointed out before, the Lower Palaeolithic cleaver was a derived specimen. The cleaver shows Advanced or Late Acheulian characters and is comparable with the Late Acheulian cleavers from Gangapur. The tool-bearing gravel at Gangapur yielded a thoroughly mineralised fragmentary mandible of *Bos namadicus* (Joshi et al., 1966). This fossil, on the parallel evidence from the Narmada, (De Terra and Paterson, 1939) may denote Middle Pleistocene horizon for the tool-bearing gravel. The cleaver from Patne may also belong to the same age.

There was no evidence to show the situation of the Middle Palaeolithic tool-bearing gravel in relation to the deposits containing Lower Palaeolithic tools. The Middle Palaeolithic gravel and its purple silt on the Ad Nala appear to be correlatable with the purple silt and the underlying consolidated gravel occurring at the base of the trench PTN-10 in Area B. If this presumption is correct the Middle Palaeolithic tools at Patne may be earlier than 40,000 years B.P. or of the Late Pleistocene age in terms of geological age. This seems to be most
likely in view of the fact that the C-14 date for the Phase II D has been determined as 20,000 years B.P.

The ostrich eggshell pieces recovered from the deposit of Phase II D were sent for Carbon-14 determination to the Laboratorium voor Algemene Natuurkunde, Rijksuniversiteit, Groningen, Netherlands. The date obtained for this phase is as follows:

\[ \text{Ovni-7200 Patne} \ 25000 \pm 200 \text{ B.P.} \]

Dr. Hoeklo of the Laboratory comments that there is a chance that the age may have been increased by incorporation of "dead" carbonate without carbon-14 by the ostrich, although the apparent increase definitely would not be more than 5000 years. He concludes that the real age should be between 20,000 and 25,000 years B.P.

In the light of the above detailed comments the date for Phase II D can hardly be later than 20,000 years B.P. This seems most likely in view of the C-14 dates obtained for the Upper Palaeolithic of Inamgaon (Sali, 1974) and the Belan valley (Sharma 1975). They are as under:

Inamgaon

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{Tf} & \ 1003 \ \ 21110 \pm 615 \text{ B.F.} \\
& \ (21725 \pm 630 \text{ B.P.}) \\
\text{Tf} & \ 1177 \ \ 18750 \pm 350 \text{ B.P.} \\
& \ (19230 \pm 360 \text{ B.P.}) \\
\text{Belan Valley Tf} & \ 1246 \ \ 19715 \pm 240 \text{ B.P.}
\end{align*} \]
All these C-14 dates lie around 20000 years B.P. Interestingly enough the Inamgaon Upper Palaeolithic industry, chiefly on chalcedony and bereft of geometric elements, but having lunates, shows close affinities, typologically and technologically, with the industry of Phase II D of Patne. Although the lithic tool industry of Gravel III of Belan Valley may not show close resemblance with that of Phase II D of Patne in particularly raw material and size of the tools, the fact that the lunate makes its appearance first in the Gravel III marks are important techno-typological event as at Patne where the true lunate appears first in the Phase II D.

There lie below the horizon of Phase II D the deposits of earlier three phases of the Upper Palaeolithic. It may not be unreasonable, therefore, to suggest that the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic at Patne may well go back to around 35000 years B.P., and that Phase II E might have lasted until about 10,000 years B.P.

There is no evidence of a cultural gap between the Upper Palaeolithic and the beginning of the Neolithic. Therefore, the beginning of the Neolithic may have taken place around 10,000 years B.P. If, on the basis of the aeolian activities prevalent during the Phase III B it is considered contemporary with the Adamgarh and Bagor
Late Mesolithic, the Phase III B at Patne may be ascribed to circa 5000 B.C. The end of the next phase, Phase III C, the last phase of the Mesolithic, may be ascribed to about 4000 B.C. or 3000 B.C., giving way to the Neolithic about which, so far, we have no evidence at all in the whole of Maharashtra.

The excavation at Patne has thus brought to light cultural material of the Stone Age dating between 40000 years B.P. and 5000 years B.P. as under:

Period I Advanced Middle Palaeolithic - 40,000 years B.P.
Period II Upper Palaeolithic - From 35,000 years B.P. to 10,000 years B.P.
Period III Mesolithic - From 10,000 years B.P. to 5000 years B.P.