CHAPTER IV

EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS.
Vidishā has a glorious past. Its contribution to Indian culture was remarkable. Several scholars, such as Maj. Gen. Cunningham, John. Marshall, H. H. Lake, D.R. Bhandarkar, M.B. Garde, DrR. Patil, M.D. Khare etc. have conducted field work in and around Vidishā.

During the years from 1874-75 to 1876-77 Alexander Cunningham¹ "made a complete survey of the ruined city and explored the area for several kms. around it". This enable him to make several interesting discoveries. On eastern side of Benagar Cunningham found several parts of a Buddhist railing, which once surrounded a Buddhist stūpa. These consisted of one coping stone (length about 2.25 m.), one railing pillar and two rail-bars. All these are inscribed with short records of donors in Mauryan Brāhmi characters (3rd century B.C.).² The inner face of the coping stone bears a sculpture of a procession formed by "four elephants and four horsemen placed alternately with footman between each pair". The outer face is divided into ten panels.

Each elephant is depicted as bearing a reliqucasket. A tray of offering is shown in the hand of each horseman. A continuous band divides the outer face of the coping stone into ten panels, depicting elephant, pair of musicians, a female bearing a tray and a man, and a stūpa. A short record of a donor with svastika in the beginning and the dharmachakra (wheel of the Law) at its end, is engraved in Asokan Brāhmi characters on the above of these panels.
The railing pillar is more than a metre in height and its front part alone is richly ornamented. The top of it is adorned by a Bodhi tree. Under which three rows of men standing in attitudes of devotion are shown. The record engraved on it is badly mutilated.

The two rail-bars are of usual pattern. On each face there is a large lotus flower which are inscribed with short records of donors.

Besides, Cunningham picked up a number of ancient coins of various dynasties. Out of 90 specimens, six were of old punch-marked variety and 50 of uninscribed types, which were so common at Eran and Ujjain. Eight specimen were of the Satrapa of Saurashtra, eight of the Nagas of Narwar and one coin of Chandragupta Vikramaditya of Gupta dynasty.

In addition, a broken bell-capital, a colossal female statue (more than two metres in height) with two lions seated back to back and a buffalo’s head between them on its pedestal, a broken bell-capital, a small figure of lion, a large figure of Ganga (river goddess) standing on her crocodile, another ancient capital, crowned with the well-known (Kalpa-druma (a divine tree fulfilling all desires) etc., were discovered among the ruins found at Bes. Cunningham also noticed several high mounds which are the
probable sites of ancient stūpas, vihāras or temples, corner pillar of a Buddhist railing, a broken colossal statue of a female, curious and novel because of her one-
tune, a statue of an elephant with its rider and a pillar popularly named 'Nabān Baba'.

Two fan palm-capitals, Kalpa-druma, and a croco-
dile (Makara) capital were seen by Cunningham at Besnagar. The site of the ancient town is now marked by deserted mounds which have from time to time yielded numerous stone or other antiquities of historical or artistic importance. Of them, the three free-standing statues of yakṣhiṇīs, a colossal statue of Kubera, the images of Durgā, seven mother goddesses (saṇṭa-māṭrikas), Hrisīḥa, etc. are the most interesting, most of them being now preserved in the Gujarī Mahal (Fort) Museum at Gwalior.

On the site itself now stands a monolithic pillar known in the locality by name of 'Khamābā', "the pillar God". The pillar bears a Brāhmi inscription stating that it was set up as Garuda pillar in honour of God Vāsudeva (Vīṣṇu) by a Greek named Haliodoros, who had come to the court of King Bhāgabhadrā of Vidishā as an ambassador from the Greek king Antialkidas of Takṣassula (Taxila) in western Punjāb and who has styled himself as a Bhāgavata, having been a convert to Hinduism.
Cunningham discovered this pillar (known as khāmbābā) in the exploration of the site in the year 1877. Its significance was brought to light later on by Marshall in 1909. The importance of the Heliodorus pillar was revealed after the inscription incised on it was deciphered. It has the characteristics of the Aśokan pillars.⁷

To the east, near the Village of Somapura, he (Cunningham) found a broken pillar of a Buddhist railing with medallions in front. One abacus of a Buddhist pillar and some other fragments found from Udayagiri are bell-capital, pilasters, and lion-capital.⁸

After Cunningham, in 1910 Mr. H.H. Lake⁹ published his excavation report in the journal.¹⁰ Most of the mounds dug into by him proved that the place had not contained remains of a period earlier than the Gupta Age.¹¹ No exploration work was undertaken till the year 1913.

**Excavations (1913-14) at Khāmbābā site (Garudadwaja or Heliodorus pillar):**

A small scale excavation was conducted by D.R. Bhandarkar during the year 1913-14. The site on which stands the Khāmbābā pillar, close to the junction of Betwā and Beś rivers, was selected for excavation. Besides, the Garudadwaja inscribed pillar, the site yielded two fan-palm sculptures or palm leaf capitals and a rail-capital,
the lower most part of which is the ball of about 0.55 m. in height. The makara pinnacle sculpture of it was found lying beside it.

A stump of a column, which originally formed the lower part of a pillar shaft, was found lying in one of the narrow streets of Vidiśā. It was removed to Bes. A short inscription now affixed on one side. This informs that Bhāgavata, son of Goṭami, caused a Garuda standard to be made in connection with the best temple of Vāsudeva (Bhāgavata) when Mahārāja Bhāgavata had been crowned twelve years. 12

Thus this Garudadhvaja too was erected in front of the most celebrated temple of Vāsudeva. It is supposed that this pillar was surmounted by the rail-capital described above. Possibly Garuda on this pillar was riding on the Makara.

Other Important Remains:— Traces of some human habitation like earthen jars, cisterns, remains of brick and stone walling, toys etc. were also found. Besides this, a site, of a dwelling of some importance 13 (probably of the pujārī of the temple of Vāsudeva), a stone mortar such as that used for separating grains of corn from husk, tanks, bones of camel and elephant, extensive railing with their pillars, etc. were noticed. On the three sides of the mound, which
is surmounted by Bābāji's house, three walls of the same pattern were examined and these were the three retaining walls of a platform. The fourth wall could not be traced as its search would have involved demolition of the front part of Bābāji's house.

Age of the Monuments:— Partial excavation in the court inside Bābāji's house yielded a thin floor of old broken tiles well consolidated, with a still thinner layer of yellow earth upon it. But no vestige of structure was discovered here. The temple might have originally stood either on the terrace itself or on the floor and when the sanctity of the shrine increased a platform was afterwards erected and a new shrine built on it for Vāsudeva. 14

The tile-pieces referred to above are obviously of the time when the original Vāsudeva temple was constructed and cannot possibly be later than the solid railing, which can be attributed to B.C. 165. The tiles are Indian red in colour, though a few reddish brown. Even at such an early date the craft of tile making seems to have far advanced. 15

The railing surrounding the Khāmbābā and the column are assigned to 165 B.C. and 140 B.C. respectively. 16 The mound occupied by the Bābāji's house possibly represents the site of the best temple of Vāsudeva referred to in the inscriptions. 17
RUINS OF IRRIGATION CANAL—

The excavations carried on at Banagar during the year 1913-14 and 1914-15 yielded the remains of Mauryan or Pre-Mauryan Age. This included an irrigation canal, found below the foundation of stone railing. The canal had brick-walls infilled with pure alluvial earth evidently brought here by the floods of the river Bes with which it must have been connected. The canal was of the breadth of about a little more than two metres. It seems that the river Bes was dammed here and the water carried on to irrigate the fields through a canal. It seems that this excavated canal had been a storage canal as indicated by the cross wall joining the south and north walls. It is worthy of note that this excavated site has not yielded vestiges of human habitation at that level and this suggests that the canal was there for irrigating the soil.

Discovery of Sacrificial Kuđas— Simultaneously with the digging about the Khāmbābā column, excavations were started on the eastern bank of the river, where the ancient town of Vidishā was situated. Here a rail-bar imbedded in the ground surface was noticed at the foot of the small mound. Digging of this mound proved fruitful and interesting, as it yielded three ancient sacrificial pits or Kuđas, square, oblong and yoni type, at the depth above one metre. These brick structures are at a distance of about two to three metres from each other.
On a slightly lower level a silver coin of the Nalabhatrapa Devapadatta (2nd or 3rd century A.D.) and on the level on which the Kukkuras were found, six coins of the Naga kings, i.e. Bhima Naga and Gandhara or Gandapa Naga (middle of the 3rd century or early 4th century A.D.) were found. These help us in fixing the age of these Kundas to the beginning of the 4th century A.D. These pits were surrounded by brick-pavements. Not far from the south and the north Kukkuras were found two nālīs or drains built of bricks with stone bottom. The water of both the drains seems to have been carried eastwards and from their junction the joined drain could be traced up to the length of about three metres. These were probably connected with the sacrificial pits and water.

Assembly Hall:— Besides these, walls of two structures, one to the south and the other to the east of the pits were discovered on the same level. One of them is of about 35 metres in length when the other is of about 19 metres in length. One of these structures probably served the purpose of an assembly hall for the celebrated or distinguished guests of the sacrificer, while the other was used as their dining hall, as it was provided with drain. The north-east corner of the hall yielded fragments of pottery of diverse nature in vast quantity and this suggests the possibility of its being a dining hall, where sacrificer's
guests were feasted.21

Incised Seals:— Twenty-six pieces of clay seals bearing impressions lying in or near halls were recovered from the excavations. About twenty-five of these bearing marks of thread or of wooden tables, or both, on their reverse side showing that they were affixed to documents which came from outside to the sacrificial assembly hall. Words like ṇota, ṇota and mamāntra, which are technical to sacrificial literature, occur in the legends on these seals and these indicate that the sealing is connected with Vaiṣṇavā. The name of the donor is given as Timitra which appears to be a Sanskritised form of the Greek Demetrios, who instituted the sacrifice.22

Minor Antiquities:— The other minor antiquities included terracotta figurines, miniature copper bell, circular brass signet ring, cylindrical copper tube etc. A flat-bottomed solid copper figurine, representing lion couchant in profile with open jaws, is the most artistic piece of the whole lot, while a brass signet ring is the most interesting specimen, as it bears the name 'Golakasa', engraved in reverse form in characters of the first century B.C.

The other minor antiquities of the site, 38 in all, include terracotta figurines, pottery, stone and metallic objects and beads and amulets. Besides, Khānbābā and Besnagar
sites exposed 66 coins, of which 56 are Kārshāpanas of the Age of the Khaṭrāpa and Nāgas. These antiquities recovered from Khāmbāba and Ganeshpura were described by D.R. Bhandarkar.²³

Remains of Earlier Period:— Some remains of walls, which are on a lower level than the walls of the sacrificial dining hall were exposed. They were of Khaṭrāpa period. Below one of these walls remains of still earlier stone walls were traced and they belong to the Sātavāhana period. These are the earliest stone walls discovered on this site. Of a slightly earlier period i.e. probably of the Suṅgas, is a portion of a brick wall in which traces of lime mortar as cementing material was used. This mortar was discovered in the brick walls of the irrigation canal on the Khāmbāba site. The discovery of lime mortar at the site confirmed the fact that such well-made mortar was used by the ancient people.²⁴

Habitation during the Mauryan Period:— Below the stratum of stone and brick walls of the Sātavāhana and Suṅga periods, respectively, a stratum of charcoal at the bottom, ashes in the middle and tile pieces at the top, showing the traces of human habitation of Maurya period was unearthed.²⁵ The only structures exposed were four or five wells constructed of burnt earthenware rings.
Relic Casket:— The site also yielded a piece of flat stone with 'bhikuniya' (by the nun) incised on it in characters of the Maurya or Sunga Age, a thing like relic casket and a vase with very narrow mouth and rounded bottom. It looks as if a stūpa of the above age stood at the site before its occupation by human beings.


The excavation work at Besnagar was conducted under the direction of Sri M.D. Khare, Archaeological Survey of India, central circle, Bhopal during the years 1963–64 to 1965–66. The main objectives of these excavations was to know in detail, the cultural sequence at the site during the various phases: (1) to ascertain the nature and extent of the chālcolithic deposit already revealed by surface indications; (2) to lay bare the plan of the temple adjacent to the Heliodoros pillar; and (3) to find out the extent of the massive wall exposed duly in BSN–1 (trench) in section cuttings. With the discovery of the chālcolithic deposits in cuttings, BSN–1 and 4, the incidence of the cultures at Besnagar is now complete.

Chālcolithic Phase:— The chālcolithic phase (period–I) is characterised by the use of black-painted red-painted (black-on-red) and the black and red wares with short micro-lithic blades, mostly on crystalline quarts and a terracotta
head with incised decoration. A few sherds of grey ware, two of them belonging undoubtedly to the well-known painted grey ware, came from the upper levels of the deposit, thereby suggesting contemporaneity at least in that region, of the early phase of the painted grey ware with the later phase of the chalcolithic culture.

STRUCTURAL REMAINS:

Of the structural remains exposed, the following are noteworthy:

In the cuttings B.II-I, the massive wall was further exposed towards the north and the south to a length of 63 m. and to an average width of 3.75 m. Originally built of dry rubble masonry, it was provided with passages and drains and was twice rebuilt in brick with supporting buttresses. More than half a dozen large-sized stone-balls, recovered from either side of the wall and used perhaps as slings stones may perhaps indicate its function also as some sort of a defence-wall, besides an enclosure-wall of a palace-complex. Two ring-walls, of which one had already been noticed previously, were encountered in the strata of Period-II B (the N.S.P. Ware Phase).

Finds: Of the finds obtained from this cutting, a number of Punch-marked and Kṣatrapa coins from the Mauryan, Suṅga and Kṣatrapa deposits and a fragmentary terracotta image
housed in a shrine, ascribable to the Gupta period (Period VI), are noteworthy.

**Elliptical Temple:** At Ajin-3, the discovery of the plan of an elliptical temple, represented by two rows of grooves in an elliptical outline with the passage in between serving as the 'pradakshinapatha', is an important landmark in the history of the Indian architecture. A detailed study of the plan of the grooves as well the post-holes, besides iron nails and rings, would show that the superstructure of the temple must have been made largely of timber. The outer grooves was found to project forward to form an antarāla in front of the garbha griha facing east. This temple was destroyed sometime by the close of the third century B.C. Two small shards of the N.B.P. ware and six punch-marked coins were recovered from the floor of this complex which, however, did not yield any image or terracotta figurine.

In the second phase, the temple was represented by a brick platform on a raised plinth, retained by free-built rubble walls, the core being made up of clay filling. Remains of some brick-built structures, contemporary to the retaining wall, were also exposed. Stratigraphically, the Heliodoros pillar standing nearby and a portion of this stone-railing, exposed in an earlier excavation by
D.R. Bhandarkar, belonged to this phase. The retaining walls on all the sides lean outwards, as a result, perhaps, of a thrust from inside due to water stagnation.

**TRENCH — BSN-4**— Two trial trenches have revealed, besides a large quantity of chalcolithic pottery, a small baked-brick structure belonging to period-III, perhaps a furnace with plenty of charred wheat, charcoal, burnt copper objects and pottery. It confirms the occurrence of a large-scale conflagration postulated last year in BSN-1. The Sunga period (Period-IV) was represented by a 13 cm. thick floor composed of successive layers of pebbles, brick-bats and lime plaster. From the deposits of period V, only a Kṣaṭrāpa coin was recovered.

**Stratigraphy**— At Besnagar, a total habitational deposit of 4 to 8 metres was exposed during the course of excavations at the site and divided into seven periods.

Out of the four mounds taken up for the excavation during 1963-65, the two viz. BSN-I and BSN-IV yielded chalcolithic material. Both these mounds are situated on the two banks of the river Betwā, where it is joined by the Bes river. The fact that the other two mounds, one of which is in the interior of the ancient township, did not have any chalcolithic remains, indicates that their habitation was extensive within the confines of the early historic city.
The average thickness of the chalcolithic deposits, in each of the two mounds, was 200 cms. No structures were encountered in any of the trenches and even the finds were limited perhaps because of the very restricted digs, measuring 3x2 metre in BN-I and 4x2 metre in BN-IV. The chalcolithic people appear to have settled right on the black soil, which caps the yellow natural soil in this region.

FIND:- The finds of this period consists of pottery associated with short blade microlithic industry, fluted cores, a few flakes and a terracotta bead. But no copper had been recovered.

Being on the river bank, the pottery, which formed the bulk of the finds, is affected by the dampness of subsoil water. A few sherds of grey ware, two of which belonging undoubtedly to the painted grey ware assemblage, came from the upper levels of this deposit, there by suggesting contemporaneity, at least in this region, of the early phase of the painted grey ware with the latest phase of the chalcolithic culture.

PERIOD-I (1100-900 B.C.)- CHALCOLITHIC:- The occurrence of the painted grey ware, followed by the iron slag yielding layers of period II-A and the carbon-14 dates of period II-B (470-105 B.C.) are helpful in determining the date
and extent of the earlier period (period-I) of Besnagar. Further, the similarity of pottery and associated finds with many chalcolithic sites in Central India and Deccan, Period I of Besnagar could safely be dated from C. 1100 to 900 B.C.

In a total deposit of 620 cms. in BSN-I nearly 200 cms, consisting of two layers, belonged to period-I (chalcolithic). The lowest layer resting on the natural soil was thicker and yielded more pottery than the upper layer. Quite a few microlithic flakes, some cores and animal tooth were picked up from the lower levels. From the upper levels were also collected a few red ware ochreous sherds and some grey ware.

The other mound, 

locally known as Nave-
lakhī mound, on the right bank (eastern) of the Betwā was excavated to a depth of 575 cms. out of which the chalcolithic deposit was a little more than 200 cms, and consisted of two layers only. A floor level was clearly demarcated by two horizontally placed unknown stone slabs. This site yielded the maximum chalcolithic materials. But the pottery in the lower levels was much less and too fragmentary than that recovered from the upper. Painted Grey Ware sherds came from the topmost levels of this deposit.

The entire pottery from both the trenches, was not more than three baskets full and consisted of very
small sherds, belonging to plain red, black and red and all black wares. Plain red claimed about 50% of the total assemblage, while the remaining wares 35% and 15% respectively. Grey ware is also represented but feebly.

All the wares are made of fine clay and are well fired. Red ware is quite sturdy and naturally durable too, turned on a fast wheel, it has been burnt to various hues, ranging from cream, pale brown and brown to Indian red. A few of the sherds have black on red paintings.

Since the sherds are very small, only simple bands around the neck or body have been noticed with an occasional design of short, multiple horizontal strokes cut by a single vertical line. In one case a design of hatched triangles is also discernible. A fragmentary sherd carries a gratifying mark. The types available in this ware are mostly medium sized pots, very often slipped on the exterior and part of the interior.

No painted black-and-red ware had been met with. The black-and-red ware is usually of thin section, but a few sherds of coarser variety are comparatively thicker. Mostly the interior and part of the exterior up to the rim or slightly below are black but in stances are not wanting, particularly in its coarser variety where the blackness extends upto the waist of the bowls. Some of the bowls of
the finer variety have multigrooved shoulder.

In all black ware, there is a single specimen carrying bright black slip on both the sides. Its slip which stands out from the rest of the other wares, is the result of very thick and durable solution of black clay applied to it.

From amongst the grey ware sherds, a few of which are thick and of medium fabric, a fairly good number is of thinner variety and made of well levigated paste. The two sherds of painted grey ware have the traces of simple bands on the exterior.

Fortification: With a view to know the date and nature of the fortification of the ancient city and the extent of the chalcolithic habitation, the excavations were again resumed by Sri Khare during 1975-76, as a result of which a rubble-wall of criss-cross pattern, in the fashion of wooden palisades was brought to light. It was constructed for the first time probably during the 3rd-2nd century B.C. as a huge palace wall, to serve as a fortification wall, as per the principles of ancient city-planning.

The wall was of rubble with an exposed width of 10 m. It seems to have been built around the city, and remained in use for atleast two centuries. Its method of construction is criss-cross, and is the whole width of
the wall had been constructed by making thin walls of about 1 m. thickness and further strengthened by still thinner cross walls, the hollow apartments having been packed with small rubble, brickbats and pebbles. By adopting this device the construction becomes less expensive and the wall stronger. Six walls, made of partly dressed and partly random rubble, have also been exposed. These are datable from the 1st century A.D. to the 9th or 10th century A.D. The original fortification wall has been noticed at the depth of about 3.80 m. from the surface and about 13 m. to the west of a dozen charred posts of 10 cm. height.

More than one large-sized stone balls, weighing about 10 kg. and nearly a dozen smaller stone balls, have been recovered from the top or side of this wall. These were, probably, propelled through machines, kept on carts or chariots.

Other Finds: Some other objects were picked up during the excavations (1973-76). These include a miniature head of Ganesa, made of stone, a small terracotta plaque, representing Siva on his vehicle Nandī, a miniature soapstone Nandī, a miniature terracotta yakṣaṇa, lower half of a statue of Manisāsuramāyūninī, about 110 Punca-marked Nāga and Kṣatrapa coins and a few northern black polished wares.
During the excavations at Besnagar, several cuttings were laid out. One of the cuttings, located on the confluence of the rivers Das and Betwa, revealed ruins belonging to six periods of habitation, ranging in chronology from prior to the Northern Black polished ware (N.B.P. ware) to post-Sukta times. Black and red and black-slipped wares along with plain red ware, animal bones and iron objects found here belonged to the Mauryan period.

Period - II (A and B):- Finds like Northern Black polished ware, along with wares of previous period, copper and iron objects, terracotta beads, bone objects, terracotta votive tank, stone pestles and querns, a collared copper bead, terracotta flash-rubbers, punch-marked coins etc. were obtained from the deposits of the early historical period. The end of this period seems to have been brought by conflagration pointed out by a uniform deposit of burning.

Period - III:- The third period includes the finds of marble objects, shell-bagles, punch-marked coins and burnt bone pieces. An inscribed stone seal bearing an inscription 'Nikunphanagnaga' in Brāhmī characters of the Śunga period was also found in the late level of this period.

Period - IV:- This period is assignable to the Nāga-Kushā horizon. Besides, wares of the ceramic industry, votive tanks, a few copper coins, etc. were found in the levels of this period.
Period - V :- Period V yielded antiquities relating to the Gupta Period. In this period the incised, stamped and impressed decorative motifs became frequent. Silver coins, terracotta human and animal figurines, terracotta and incised shell bangles, etc. were also found. This site was probably deserted after this period.

Period - VI :- The finds include thick copper coins, fragmentary stone sculpture; underground stone structures; coarse black, red ware and smoke-grey ware pottery etc. were noticed in a meagre quantity.

Period VII - A few coins of the Gopaul and Dwālior states have been collected from the upper layers.

Cultural Sequence :-

On the basis of the stratigraphy, antiquities, pottery, structures, datable material and the C.14 dates, the following cultural sequence has revealed at the site:

Period - I - Chālcolithic : 1100 to 800 B.C.
Period - II-A - Early historic (800 to 600 B.C.)
Period - II-B - Historic period (600 to 200 B.C.)
Period - III - IV - V - VI - Early Medieval (600 to 900 A.D.)
Period - VII - Late medieval period (900 to 1300 A.D.)
OUTSTANDING ANTIQUITIES:

1. Beads of semi-precious stones (carnelian, agate, jasper and crystal) etc;

2. Shell bangles, ear-rings, ivory or bone comb, bone points, copper antimony lumps;

3. T.C. skin-rubbers, arrows, various decorative miniature pots and sherd stones, with their lids;

4. T.C. beads, iron implements (arrow-heads, knives, etc,) utensils of daily-use; terracotta human and animal figurines, pottery disc, clay-tablets, lids and other minor antiquities were also recovered.

SEAL: One stone seal was found from the excavation at Besnagar. It bears the name 'Nikuhibha Nagasya' in the Brāhmī character of the 1st century B.C. 'Nikuhibha' of this seal may be a personal name. It may also be surmised that the seal belonged to a shrine of a Nāga deity called 'Nikuhibha'. Cunningham states that Nikuhbas were the residents of Alwar area, and were probably the ancestors of the Sārvabhauma 'Nikuhibha'.

COINS: Punch-marked, coins of the city-state (bearing the legend 'Vedasa') coin of the Ājīvāhana ruler, Gauṭamiputra Sātakarni; coins of the Ājīvāna rulers of the Nāga rulers, coins of Chandragupta and Shagupta and a few late medieval coins were also recovered from the excavations at Besnagar.
RANGAI—The modern village known as Rangai is situated between Sidhi and Vidisha near the railway-bridge over the Betwa river. The excavation work conducted on a mound located at a distance of about 1500 metres away from the left bank of river Betwa. This site is very close to the railway-bridge. The village is in the right bank of the river.

Sri M.D. Khare had brought to light the importance of the site for the first time during the year 1976. Two trial trenches were taken up by him for excavation in that very year. The abundance of painted pottery from this mound adjacent to the village called Rangai, shows that the village still retains its old name, after the people, who were well versed in painting pottery.

Cultural Sequence—A large number of pre-pottery microliths mostly of chalcedony, agate, quartz have been recovered from a deposit resting over the natural soil. As many as 300 artefacts, including the flakes and cores have been collected from the control pit measuring 1x1 m.

There is a sterile layer over the pre-pottery microlithic yielding deposit.

Main Finds—The sterile layer is overlain by about 200 cms. thick deposit, yielding chalcolithic remains, represented by archaic bulls of terracotta, microliths
and cores, paste beads, painted pottery and neolithic
burnished red ware. From uppermost levels of this deposit
was also picked-up a polished stone axe.

Although no structures have been exposed in this
site as well, a large number of post-holes have been dis-
covered in various levels.

**Pottery**— The pottery of this site consists of three
wares, viz. red, black and red, and grey ware carrying
most of the paintings in black, displaying horizontal or
vertical bands, triangles, chevrons, dots, horns, of anti-
lopes, bulls etc. The grey ware which forms about 10 per-
cent of the total assemblage and is very often of thick
section but fine fabric, is also painted in certain cases.
The black and red ware is about 30 per cent, usually of
thick section and represented by shallow basin types, some
of which have white paintings. Of the neolithic pottery,
noteworthy are the matt designs on its exterior and typical
burnished vases with splayed out rims, all in pale brown
ware. It is remarkable that no all black ware has been
found in this site.

The entire pottery, except the neolithic vases,
which are turned on a slow wheel, has been made of fine
clay on a very fast wheel, as revealed from the striation
marks, is well and uniformly fired and treated with a very
pleasing and luxuriant variety of painted designs on red ware. The plain red ware has a sturdy appearance.

Other Finds:— The other components of the culture are a large number of very small beads of paste and archaic bulls of terracotta with very long horns, prominent hump, short legs and very delicately carved tail. Copper is however, conspicuous by its absence. The analogies come from Gāyathā, Nāgū, Bhār, Pan and Svadatoli.

Conclusion:— The foregoing account shows that the chālcolithic people inhabited this area for several years, but long after the disappearance of the pre-pottery microlith using people. The earliest chālcolithic occupation is contemporaneous with Gāyathā — , which has been dated to 19th -18th century B.C. While the latest, as revealed from the finds of 1963-65, with the painted Grey ware using culture, assignable to the beginning of the 1st millennium B.C.

Secondly, the chālcolithic folk settled on the right bank of the river Betul. Thirdly, the neolithic pottery here has a greater affinity with that of south India and finally, the use of fine grey ware, with occasional paintings in brown pigment is one site and the contemporaneity of painted grey ware with the last phase of this culture in another, has added new dimensions to the central Indian chālcolithic complex.
REFERENCES TO CHAPTER IV

2. Ibid., p. 38.
3. Ibid., p. 39.
4. Ibid., p. 38.
5. Ibid., pp. 41-43.
6. Sp. Indica, vol. ..., p. 36 (Appendix);
   ASI, (AR), 1908-09; p. 156;
   Rapson; IA, vol. VIII, p. 147;
   D.C. Bircar, Select Inscriptions, pp. 88-89;
   ASI (AR): 1913-14, p. 87.
7. Marshall, ASI (AR), 1913-14, p. 188, Pl. L II(A);
   Excavation by D.R. Shandarkar.
8. Cunningham, Ibid., p. 36.
12. ASI (AR), 1913-14, p. 196.
13. ASI (AR), 1913-14, p. 196.
14. ASI (AR), 1913-14, p. 203.
15. ASI (AR), 1913-14, p. 203.
16. Ibid., p. 204.
17. Ibid., p. 204.
18. ASI (AR), 1914-15, p. 89.
20. Ibid, p. 76.
22. Ibid, pp. 76-77
25. Ibid, p. 79.
26. Indian Archaeology 1964-65 - A Review, pp. 16-17;
    Ibid, 1964-65, pp. 19-20;
    deposits = 2430 - 195 (470 B.C.)
28. Khare, M.U. Chalcolithic remains from Desnagar
    Prachyavajyottar, Nepal, vol. IV, no. 2
    (1976); pp. 42-43.