Chapter IV

Exploration
EXPLORATION

Part of the present research is intensive exploration in the submergence area of two mega dam projects; the Narmada Sagar Project and the Sardar Sarovar Project. The Narmada Sagar Dam submergence area completely falls within Madhya Pradesh, whereas the submergence area of Sardar Sarovar Dam covers three states namely Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The present research deals with the evidence within the submergence area within Madhya Pradesh only which is known as ‘Nimar’ or ‘Nimad’.

The Narmada Sagar Dam submergence area covers the area within the district East Nimar; whereas Sardar Sarovar Dam submergence that covers the area of districts West Nimar (now Khandwa and Barwani) and Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. It is mentioned here that the submergence area is mostly confined to both the banks of the Narmada and, as most of the sites also occur in this zone, emphasis is given mainly to the area along the river banks, rather than the hinterland area away from the valley proper. Moreover, this portion of the Narmada Valley also forms a single geographical unit.

Given below is an account of the exploration within the submergence in two sections i.e. Narmada Sagar Project and Sardar Sarovar Project.

NARMADA SAGAR PROJECT

The Area

The area can be divided into two broad physiographic divisions: (i) the Narmada valley with Upper Vindhyan formations and (ii) the undulating plain composed of Deccan Trap. The former constitutes the Narmada and the Vindhyan hills, with luxuriant vegetation on both banks of the river. The hills rise conspicuously at certain places to more than 400 meters above MSL, whereas the Deccan Trap area is mainly an erosional landscape forming an undulating surface ranging in height from 246 meters to 277 meters above MSL. A number of seasonal and perennial streams drain the area. Due to the thin soil cover on the Trap, the growth of vegetation is poor. The northern part of the study
area is drained by the Narmada which flows in an east-west direction, and also by the river Chhota Tawa, a tributary of the Narmada.

The Exploration

Exploration (IAR 1987-88; Ota 1988, 1992) was carried out in 112 villages within the Khandwa and Harsud tehsils in the northern part of East Nimar district, Madhya Pradesh. The different types of archaeological remains that have been encountered in this area has been given below, village wise. Even villages where no archaeological remains occur have been mentioned. In this context it is mentioned here that before undertaking this present investigation there was only one limited nature of exploratory work carried out in this area by Krishna (1984). Simultaneous to the present investigation the other agencies that also carried out the investigation in the area have been dealt in the relevant chapter of this thesis.

Tehsil: KHANDWA

1. Village Balwara:

Cultural Assemblage: Acheulian

The site is located about 200 m north of the village on the side of a forest road. Here artefacts occur in stratified context just above murum deposit. Artefacts (Pl. 1) are made of quartzite and are also extremely fresh. On typo-technological grounds, this assemblage belongs to late Acheulian cultural phase.

Plate 1: Balwara - Acheulian Artefacts
2. Village Bijora:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

3. Village Jamoti:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Acheulian Site
Located in the forest tracts on the road leads to village Jamoti from Bijalpur Khurd
(b) Microlithic Site
Located on the foot-hill area in the forest tracts leads to village Jamoti from Bijalpur khurd.
(c) Stray Sculptures
Located on the hill top on an island in river Narmada. This place is locally known as Bhilgarh. A sculpture of Vishnu and some unidentified pieces; probably belong to 11\textsuperscript{th} /12\textsuperscript{th} century AD were found. Some large size brick pieces have also been noticed at the site.

4. Village Junapani:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

5. Village Purni:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Acheulian Localities I and II
Locality- I is located about 2.0 km north of the village on a hill top (900 feet above M.S.L.), whereas locality-II lies on a hillock about 1.0 km north of the village. Both these localities are open air sites. The assemblage from both these localities belongs to late Acheulian phase on the basis of typo-technological grounds. Artefacts are made of quartzite.
(b) Microlithic Site
This microlithic site is located about 0.5 km north-west of the village. Artefacts mostly of chalcedony occur in context of an outcrop.
(c) Microlithic Site
This is located about 2.0 km south-east of the village. Artefacts of chalcedony occur in context of barren rocky ridge.
(d) Historical Site
This mound is located in the village with an approximate cultural deposit of about 2.0 m. This site is badly disturbed due to present day occupation on the site.

(e) Early Historical Mound
This early historical mound is located about 0.5 km south-west of the village on the left bank of a stream. This site has yielded black-and-red ware. The site is of about 125 meter in diameter with an approximate cultural deposit of 1.5 meter. This site is badly disturbed due to present day cultivation.

(f) Iron Smelting Site
This iron smelting site is located near the Acheulian locality-I on a hill top.

**Tehsil: HARSUD**

6. **Village Abhawa:**
Cultural Assemblage: Acheulian Site
Acheulian artefacts have been located in the forest tracts around the village. These are all surface occurrences. Artefacts are of quartzite as well as a cherty type of material. Both raw materials are present in the area.

7. **Village Amulni or Imlani:**
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located 0.5 km south-west of the present village settlement. Sculptures of Hanuman (low relief), Siva linga, and some unidentified sculptures are associated with the site. The size of the site is approximately 60.0 meter in diameter with an approximate cultural deposit of about 1.0 meter. This site is partially disturbed due to present day cultivation.

8. **Village Balri:**
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Temple Remains
Temple remains (Pl. 2) have been located on the left bank of river Narmada opposite to the village Barkesar. It is locally known as ‘Shankar Mandir’ dedicated to Siva. This temple is constructed of dressed stones. A number of fine sculptures have been noticed.
On the basis of architectural and iconographical grounds, it might belong to 11\textsuperscript{th} and 12\textsuperscript{th} Century AD. This temple is in moderately ruined condition.

Plate 2: Balri – Temple Remains

(b) Structural Remains
Some structural remains have been noticed located about 1.0 km east of the present village settlement. A square structure of undressed stones with lime mortar has been noticed at the site that belongs to late medieval period.

9. Village Bamangaon:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Stray Sculpture
Sculpture of Hanuman (in low relief) taken from the historical mound and kept in a modern shrine in the present village settlement. It belongs to late medieval period.

(b) Historical Mound
The historical mound is located very close to the south of the present village settlement. This mound is of 150.0 meters in diameter with a cultural deposit of about 1.0 meter. This mound is partially disturbed due to cultivation and also the present day habitation lies on the site directly.
10. Village Bandaria:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
This mound is located on the left bank of Kalamachak nallah in the north–west of the village settlement. The mound is about 160.0 meter in length and about 120.0 meter in width with a cultural deposit of about 2.5 meter. This mound is partially disturbed due to cultivation.

11. Village Bargaon (Mal):
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Stray Sculptures
Some unidentified sculptures have been noticed in the present village settlement.
(b) Historical Mound
The mound is located in the present day habitation area of the village. The mound is badly disturbed due to present day occupation on the site.

12. Village Bargaon (Rayad):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

13. Village Barud or Barur:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Stray Sculptures
Images of Hanuman (low relief) and of Nandi are housed in a modern shrine in the village, belonging to late medieval period.
(b) Historical Mound
This mound is located on the left bank of Ruparail nallah, about 1.5 km north-west of the present village. A sculpture of Siva Linga is associated with the site. This site is locally known as ‘Ganesapura’. The dimension of the mound is about 120.0 meter in length and 80.0 meter in width with a cultural deposit of about 1.0 meter.

14. Village Berian or Bedia:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
This historical mound is located on the western side of the village. The dimension of the mound is about 80.0 meter in length and 60.0 meter in width with a cultural deposit of about 1.0 meter. It is partly disturbed due to present day habitation and cultivation.
15. Village Bhawarli:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Sculptural Remains
Few stone images have been kept in the present day village settlement. These images include sculptures of Hanuman (on a slab with low relief), Nandi and some unidentified ones, belonging to late medieval period.
(b) Temple Remains
It is located on right bank of a stream flowing into Kalamachak nallah. A few pillars and other temple architectural members of dressed basalt are seen buried at the site. The surrounding area is barren and bedrock is exposed. There is a perennial spring at the site. This site is badly disturbed as many of the architectural members of the temple have already been taken by the villagers.
(c) Historical Mound-I
This mound is located within the present day habitation area. There is an unidentified sculpture associated with the site. It is badly disturbed as part of it is under cultivation and partially occupied by the present day habitation. Soil from here has been quarried for modern house construction.
(d) Brick Temple
A brick temple with lime plaster and mortar probably belonging to Rajputs is located close to the historical mound in the village. A wooden beam used at the door of the temple can still be seen. It belongs to late medieval times.
(e) Historical Mound-II
This mound is located on the right bank of Kalamachak nallah. The dimension of this mound is about 250.0 meters in length and about 150.0 meters in width with a cultural deposit of about 2.5 meter. This mound is slightly disturbed at the top surface due to cultivation.

16. Village Bijalpur Kalan:
Cultural Assemblage: (a) Historical Mound, (b) Temple Remains and (c) Structural Remains
The site locally known as ‘Kotra’ is located on a hill top (above 800 feet M.S.L.) on the right bank of Chhota Tawa River, about 1.8 km north-west of the village. It is a very
elaborate structural complex with fortification walls of both undressed stones and mud. It contains large settlement debris and a separate cemetery ground. Apart from this, a temple complex of bricks and lime mortar has been noticed just outside the complex; which probably belong to a later cultural period than the ancient settlement. This structural complex with fortification wall probably belongs to 13th /14th century AD. Besides these remains there is the remnant of another temple noticed near the cemetery area. It seems probable that the temple is older than the present settlement complex. The site is in a comparatively good state of preservation.

17. Village Bijalpur Khurd:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Acheulian Localities I –IV
Four Acheulian localities have been noticed in the forested area. All these are open air sites, except locality-III. Localities I, II and IV are situated on the foot-hill zones, whereas locality-III is located on the hill top about more than 1100 feet above M.S.L. Locality-III yields a cultural deposit of about 30 cm. The assemblage (Pl. 3) belongs to late Acheulian phase on the basis of typo- technological grounds. The artefacts are mostly made of quartzite. Localities-I, II and IV are partly disturbed, whereas locality-III is almost undisturbed.

Plate 3 : Bijalpur Khurd - Acheulian Artefacts
(b) Early Historical Mound
This mound is located in north-east of the present village on the left bank of Chhota Tawa river. This site has yielded black-and-red and black slipped ware. Iron slag has also been noticed on the surface of the mound apart from other antiquities such as shell bangles, hop-scotch, grinding stones, anvils, querns, etc. The dimension of the mound is about 200.0 meter in length and 120.0 meter in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about 1.0 meter. The site is partially disturbed on the surface due to cultivation.

(c) Microlithic Site
This site is located on an outcrop (rising about 8.0 m from the surrounding area) few hundred meters north of the present village settlement. Artifacts are mostly of chalcedony and few are on chert.

(d) Iron Smelting Site
The iron smelting site is located on an outcrop on the same spot where microliths were noticed. A heap of iron slag has been noticed at the site.

(e) Stray Sculptures
Few stone images have been noticed just outskirt of the village settlement. These include sculptures of Ganesa and some unidentified sculptures belonging to 11th/12th century AD. These sculptures are badly weathered.

(f) Memorial Stones
These are located just outskirt of the present village settlement. Three of these have been noticed (Pl. 4), of which one contains an inscription in Devnagari script.

Plate 4 : Bijalpur Khurd – Memorial Pillars
18. Village Billod (Mal):
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
This site is located in the village. A number of stone structures are visible at the site. Sculptures of Hanuman (low relief), Siva Linga, Hara & Parbati, and some unidentified sculptures were noticed in a modern shrine in the village. It is one of the largest historical mounds in the area. The size of the mound is about 220.0 meter in length and 150.0 meter in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about 3.0 meters. The mound is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.

19. Village Bori Bandri:
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Stray Sculptures
Stone images of Hanuman (in low relief) is noticed in the village, probably belongs to late medieval period.
   (b) Microlithic Site
The site is located on the left bank of Ghora Pachar River. It is an extensive open-air site in association with rocky ridges. Artefacts are mostly on chalcedony.
   (c) Historical Mound
This mound is located on the left bank of Ghora Pachar River. It lies very close to the Microlithic site and is about 2.5 km east of the present village. It is one of the largest historical mounds in the area which preserves remnants of a large stone fortification wall which is partly exposed to the surface. This wall is of 1.0 m in width. A sculpture of Hanuman (in low relief) is associated with the site. The mound is about 350 meter in length and 200 meter in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about 3.5 meter. It is partly disturbed due to soil taken for house construction. However the major portion of the mound is still intact.

20. Village Borkhera Khurd:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

21. Village Borkhera (Mafi):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

22. Village Bothia Khurd:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil
23. **Village Chalpa Kalan:**
Cultural Assemblage: Early Historical Mound
The mound is located on north of the present village settlement. This site has yielded black-and-red and black slipped ware. It is partially disturbed due to present day habitation as well as cultivation.

24. **Village Charkhera:**
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Microlithic Site-I
   It is located in the forested area, of about one km northwest of the village settlement. Microliths associated with stone structures have been observed. Most probably these are the remains of tribal settlements during historical times.
   
   (b) Microlithic Site-II
   It is located about 1.5 km southwest of the village on the foot hill zone. There is a perennial spring very close to the site. Chalcedony as the major raw material used for fabricating the artefacts.
   
   (c) Historical Mound:
   The mound is located on the east of the present village and very close to a perennial spring. Structural remains of floors have been observed. A sculpture of Hanuman (low relief) housed in a modern shrine is noticed near the mound. The mound is 300 meter in length and 150 meter in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about one meter. The mound is moderately disturbed due to cultivation and present day habitation on the mound.

25. **Village Chhalpi or Chhalpa (Khurd):**
Cultural Assemblage: Nil.

26. **Village Chhirwan:**
Cultural Assemblage: Microlithic Site
It is located about a kilometer away to the north of the village settlement. Artefacts on chalcedony occur in context of barren land and rocky ridges.

27. **Village Chich:**
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Stray Sculpture
Stone image of Hanuman (in low relief) housed in a modern shrine in the village, probably belong to late medieval time.

(b) Historical Mound
This mound lies on north of the village settlement on the left bank of Kalamachak nallah. The mound is about 200 meter in length and about 150 meters in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about 2.5 meter. It is badly disturbed due to cultivation and soil from the site has been taken for house construction.

28. Village Chikhli:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Historical Mound-I
This mound is located on the left bank of Slar nallah, a tributary of Kalamachak. It has a cultural deposit of about one meter. Site is associated with sculptures of Vishnu (?), Siva Linga and Hanuman (carved in low relief). This site is moderately disturbed due to cultivation.

(b) Historical Mound-II
It is located very close to the village in northeast direction. It is associated with a Hanuman sculpture (carved in low relief), probably belongs to medieval period. The mound is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.

29. Village Dabri:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

30. Village Dewaldi:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located on the left bank of a stream which flows into Ghora Pachar River. Water in the stream at this location remains throughout the year. A stone image of Hanuman (in low relief) is associated with the site. The mound is about 150 meter in length and about 100 meter in width with a cultural deposit of about 1.5 meter. It is partially disturbed due to cultivation.

31. Village Dhanora:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculptures
Few stray sculptures are housed in a modern shrine within the village. Sculptures of Nandi, Siva Linga and Hanuman (in low relief) are noticed that belong to probably late medieval time.

32. **Village Dhanwani (Theka)**:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

33. **Village Dongarkheri**:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Stray Sculptures
Stone images of Siva Linga, Nandi and Hanuman (in low relief), all housed in a modern shrine in the village, probably belong to late medieval period.
(b) Structural Remains:
A well (locally known as baudi), and a tomb like structure of lakhauri bricks and lime mortar are located close to the village. These structures belong to late medieval times. These structures are in ruined condition.

34. **Village Dotkhera**:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculpture
A sculpture of Hanuman (low relief) is housed in a modern shrine in the village, probably belongs to late medieval time.

35. **Village Gambhir (Cir)**:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

36. **Village Ganor**:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Microlithic Site
The site is located about 1.0 km southwest of the village. Artefacts are mostly of chalcedony associated with rocky barren land.
(b) Iron Smelting Site:
It is located about 1.0 km southwest of the village where an undisturbed heap of iron slag has been noticed.
(c) Historical Mound:
The mound is located in the village with an approximate cultural deposit of about 2 meters. It is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.
37. Village Gehelgaon:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
Mound is located within the present day village settlement. Some sculptures of Siva Linga, Nandi and Hanuman have been noticed near the site. Few sherds of black slipped ware have been noticed. It has a cultural deposit of about one meter and is badly disturbed due to present day habitation and soil taken for house construction.

38. Village Gehugaon (Kalan):
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
Mound is located within the present village settlement and is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.

39. Village Gehugaon (Khurd):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

40. Village Gondikhera:
Cultural Assemblage: Microlithic Site
The site is located about 200 meters southeast of the village on the right bank of Ghora Pachar nallah. At this site microliths are associated with potsherds. Remnants of structures of stone blocks have been observed. It seems probable that the cultural remains belong to some primitive tribes during historical period. The site is located in context of an outcrop rising about 5 meters from the ground level. The site is about 70 meters in length and 60 meters in width with a cultural deposit of about 50 cm.

41. Village Gullas:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Middle Palaeolithic Site-I
The site is located about 1.5 km east of the village on a barren land. It is an open air site. Artefacts are mostly on quartzite. The site is badly disturbed due to cultivation.
(b) Middle Palaeolithic Site-II
The site located in the forested area on a hill about 2.0 km northeast of the village. It is an open air site. Artefacts are mostly on quartzite. Raw material is available at the site.
(c) Iron smelting Site
It is located near the Middle Palaeolithic Site-II. Heaps of iron slags have been noticed at this site.
(d) Historical Mound?
It is located at the same area where Middle Palaeolithic locality-II and iron smelting site have been noticed. This site is locally known as “Tajpura”. A number of floor remnants have been noticed at the site. The most interesting feature of the site is that it is devoid of pottery remains. Probably it belongs to some tribal groups those who were unaware of the use of pottery.

42. Village Gurawan:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculpture
A life size Hanuman (carved on a slab with low relief) image on stone and a Nandi, probably belong to late medieval period are found housed in a modern shrine in the village.

43. Village Hatnora:
Cultural Assemblage: Structural Remains
Structural remains of tomb and other structure of lakhauri bricks and lime mortar are located 0.5 km from the village. These structures belong to late medieval times that are in ruined condition.

44. Village Hanwantia:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

45. Village Harsud:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Historical Mound:
This mound is located in the town. It is one of the largest sites in the area with an approximate cultural deposit of about 3.5 meter. This site is badly disturbed due to present day occupation.

(b) Temple Remains:
Temple remains locally known as ‘Saraswati Kund’ is located in the town. A number of fine sculptures have been noticed here. On iconographical grounds, this temple can be pushed back to 13th century AD. This temple shows elaborate renovation by modern constructions.

46. Village Igaria (Akia):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil
47. Village Jabgaon:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Stray Sculpture
Stone sculpture of Hanuman (in low relief) is observed in a modern shrine in the village.
(b) Historical Mounds
The mound is located within the present village settlement that is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.

48. Village Jaitapur Khurd:
Cultural Assemblage: Microlithic Site
The site is located on the right bank of Kalamachak nallah in context of barren land. Artefacts are mostly of chalcedony. Raw materials are available in the form of pockets and veins at the site.

49. Village Jalwan:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
Mound is located within the present village settlement and is badly disturbed due to habitation.

50. Village Jamunia:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculptures
Stone images of Siva Linga and one unidentified piece have been noticed in an underground cave. Most probably these sculptures originally do not belong to this cave.

51. Village Jhagria (Mal):
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located in the present village settlement. A Hanuman image (low relief) has been noticed near the site. The site is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.

52. Village Jhagria (Rayad):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

53. Village Jhirighat or Jhingadarh:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located on the left bank of Slar nallah, a tributary of Kalamachak. Site is associated with a Hanuman image (on a slab in low relief) and a Nandi. The mound is
200 meter in length and 100 meter in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about one meter. It is moderately disturbed due to cultivation.

54. Village Jogibida:

Cultural Assemblage:

(a) Historical mound-I, Temple and Structural Remains
The mound is located about 1.0 km northeast of the village on the left bank of a stream flowing into Agni River. The mound is about 180 meter in length and 120 meter in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about one meter. Besides, remnants of a temple have been noticed almost in the middle of the mound. Sculptures of Ganesa and some unidentified ones are found associated with the temple remains. On the stylistic grounds of the icons, it may belong to 12th /13th century AD. Temple debris are scattered in an area of about 6.0 m in diameter. Apart from these remains, an ancient well of dressed stones is noticed about 125 meters away from the historical mound. Mound is partially disturbed due to cultivation and temple is badly disturbed as stones have been taken by the villagers for house construction.

(b) Historical Mound-II
This mound is located on the left bank of Agni River about 1.5 km northeast of the village settlement. It is about 150 meters in length and 100 meters in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about 1.5 meter. The mound is partially disturbed due to cultivation.

(c) Historical Site-III
The site is located about 1.5 km north of the village on the left bank of Agni River. It is small and flimsy looking site and is badly disturbed due to cultivation.

(d) Temple Remains
It is located very close to the historical mound-II. The temple is constructed of dressed stones. A number of pillar remains and other architectural components of the temple are noticed as part of the ruins. Fine sculptures of Nandi, Narasimha Avatar (Pl. 5), Chamunda (Pl. 6), Vishnu, etc have been noticed at the site. On the basis of stylistic grounds of the icons, it seems to belong to 10th /11th century AD.
55. Village Junapani:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located within the present village settlement. An image of Hanuman (in low relief) has been noticed at the site. It is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.

56. Village Karoli:
Cultural Assemblage: Microlithic Site
The site is located on the left bank of Kalamachak nallah. It is associated with an outcrop that rises about 10 meters from the surrounding ground level. It is an open air site. Artefact scattering covers an area of about 40.0 x 25.0 meter. This site is extremely rich in artefacts comprising mostly flake and blade cores, flakes, blades, points, lunates, etc. on chalcedony. Site is partly disturbed at the periphery due to erosion on the outcrop.

57. Village Kashipura:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Microlithic Site
The site is located about 250 m north of the village associated with an outcrop that rises about 7 meters from the ground level. The site is partially disturbed.
(b) Historical Mound
The mound is located about one km south of the village, on the right bank of Ruparail nallah. Sculptures of Nandi and few unidentified pieces are associated with the site. The mound is about 120 meter in length and 80 meter in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about 1.5 meter. It is badly disturbed due to soil taken for house construction.

58. Village Kasrawad:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located within the present village settlement. Sculptures of Hanuman, Siva Linga, and Nandi are noticed in the village. It has an approximate cultural deposit of about 2.5 meter and is badly disturbed because of habitation on the site.

59. Village Kharwa:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

60. Village Khudia (Cir):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

61. Village Khudia (Mal):
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Middle Palaeolithic Site
It is located on one of the hillocks lying very close to the village. Majority of the artefacts are prepared on chert. The source of raw material is available at the site.

(b) Two Temple Remains
These two temples are located on two separate isolated hillocks lying very close to the village. Locally these temples are known as ‘Shankar Mandir’ (Pl. 7). Both are of dressed stones without any carvings either on the exterior or interior walls. On architectural grounds it seems to belong to medieval period. Both are in ruined condition.

(c) Brick Temple Remains
It is located very close to the village. Temple is of lakhauri bricks and lime mortar, which belongs to late medieval period. It is in ruined condition.

(d) Historical Mound
The mound is located in the present village and is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.
62. Village Khutia:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located few hundred meters away on the southern side of the village. Sculptures of Hanuman (in low relief) Hara and Parvati, Nandi and some unidentified pieces are associated with the site. The diameter of the mound is about 150 meters and has a cultural deposit of about one meter. The site is partially disturbed due to cultivation.

63. Village Kukdal:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Middle Palaeolithic Site
This site is located on a rocky ridge, about 1.0 km southwest of the present village. Surrounding area is forested. Majority of the artefacts are on quartzite. The site partially disturbed due to cultivation.

(b) Historical Mound
The mound is located within the present village settlement with a cultural deposit of about 1.5 meter. The site is badly disturbed due to present day habitation.

(c) Temple Remains
It is located very close to the village. Temple remains of dressed stones have been noticed here. A fine sculpture of Vishnu probably belongs to 10th /11th century AD has
also been noticed at the spot. The temple is badly ruined and many of the stones are missing.

64. Village Kuksi:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
Mound is located very close to the village. Sculpture of Hanuman (in low relief) is housed in a modern shrine near the mound. It is partially disturbed due to present day habitation on the mound.

65. Village Lachhora:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located in the present day habitation area of the village. A Hanuman (low relief) sculpture has been noticed near the site. It has a cultural deposit of about one meter and is badly disturbed due to present day occupation on the site.

66. Village Laharpur (Mal):
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculptures
These sculptures are kept in the village. Sculptures of Hanuman (carved on a slab with low relief), Nandi and Siva Linga comprise the assemblage that probably belongs to late medieval period. These sculptures are badly weathered.

67. Village Laharpur (Rayad) or Neemkhera:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculptures
These sculptures are kept in the village. Two of them have been identified as Ganesa and Hanuman (carved on a slab with low relief) probably belong to late medieval time. These are badly weathered.

68. Village Lodhisanthri:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
This mound is located on the left bank of Ghorapachar nallah, about 1.0 km north of the village. There is a small (about 10 m in diameter) abruptly rising (about 2.5 m in height) mound in the middle of the site, probably buried structural remains of a temple. Microliths have also been observed at the site. The mound is about 125 meters in length and 100 meters width with a cultural deposit of about 0.5 meter. It is partially disturbed due to cultivation.
69. Village Malod:
Cultural Assemblage: Microlithic Site
This site is located about 1.0 km south of the village in context of outcrops. Artefacts are mostly on Chalcedony.

70. Village Mogal:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

71. Village Nagpur:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Microlithic Site
The site is located about 0.75 km northwest of the village in context of rocky ridge. It is one of the richest sites in the area, where stratified cultural deposit is suspected. Artefacts are mostly on chalcedony. Artefact scatter covers an area of about 150 x 75m. This site is partly disturbed due to cultivation.

(b) Stray Sculptures
Some unidentified stone sculptures have been located near the village.

(c) Memorial Stones
These memorial stones (Pl. 8) are located near the village that contains some engravings.

Plate 8: Nagpur – Memorial Stones
72. Village Nandgaon (Mal or Khurd):
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located on the west of the village. It is one of the largest historical sites with exposed stone fortification wall. The dimension of the mound is about 300 meter in length and 250 meters in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about 3.5 meters. It is partly disturbed due to present day habitation on the site and soil has been quarried for house construction.

73. Village Nandgaon (Rayad):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

74. Village Naoghata:
Cultural Assemblage: Acheulian Site
Acheulian artefacts have been observed in the forest tracts around the village.

75. Village Newalkhera:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Middle Palaeolithic Site
The site is located about 1.0 km west of the village on a barren table land. Artefacts are mostly of quartzite noticed on the surface. Assemblage (Pl. 9) is dominated by the occurrence of varieties of scrapers.

(b) Microlithic Site
It is located very close to the Middle Palaeolithic site. Artefacts are mostly on chalcedony.

(c) Early Historical Mound
The mound is located on the east of the village on the left bank of Chhota Tawa River. It has yielded black-and-red ware. The mound is badly disturbed due to present day habitation activity.

(d) Stray Sculpture
A stray stone sculpture of Vishnu has been noticed in the village.
76. **Village Nirguria:**
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

77. **Village Palani (Mal):**
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

78. **Village Pangeria:**
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Site
The site is located within the present village settlement. It is a small flimsy looking site with a cultural deposit of about 0.5 meter. It is partly disturbed due to present day village occupation.

79. **Village Panghat (Kalan):**
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculpture
A sculpture of Ganesa and an inscription (in Devanagari script) have been noticed in a modern shrine within the village settlement.

80. **Village Pipani:**
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculpture
Sculpture of Hanuman (on a slab in low relief) housed in a modern shrine at the village, probably belongs to late medieval period.

81. Village Piplia / Singaji (Theka) and Piplia / Singaji (Mafi):

Cultural Assemblage:

(a) Historical Mound-I
It is located about 100 m away from the right bank of Piprar nallah and about 1 km from Singaji by road. Remnants of floors and fortification walls of undressed stone blocks have been noticed at the site. Two sculptures of Hanuman are associated with the site. The mound is about 180 meters in length and 120 meters in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about one meter.

(b) Historical Mound-II
The mound is located on the right bank of Piprar nallah on an outcrop. It is about 6 km southwest of Singaji by road. Remnants of structures of stone blocks have been noticed and are associated with pot-sherds and microliths. A sculpture of Hanuman and some unidentified sculptures are associated with the site. The site measures 200 meters in length and 150 meters in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about one meter.

(c) Historical Mound-III
The mound is located on the right bank of Piprar nallah, about 3.5 km northeast of the villages. Both potsherds and microliths have been noticed in association with structures of stone blocks. An unidentified sculpture is also associated with the site. The mound measures 150 meters in length and 100 meters in width with an approximate cultural deposit of about one meter.

(d) Historical Mound-IV
There is twin historical mound located on the right bank of Piprar nallah, about 5.0 km northeast of Singaji. Pot-sherds and microliths have been noticed in association with structural remains of stone blocks. The distance between two sites is about 200 m. One mound measures approximately 90.0 x 80.0 meters in size with a cultural deposit of about one meter; whereas the other mound is of 100 meters in diameter with a cultural deposit of about 0.5 meter.
(e) Historical Mound-V
This mound is located to the north of the village with a cultural deposit of about one meter. It is badly disturbed as the site is under cultivation and partly due to present habitation.

82. Village Pratabpura:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

83. Village Rewapur:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

84. Village Saktapur:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located in the present day habitation area of the village and is badly disturbed due to habitation.

85. Village Sarai:
Cultural Assemblage: Acheulian Localities I & II
Localities I and II are located on the foothill area on the left bank of River Narmada. Besides, a large number of artefacts also occur in the forest tracts.

86. Village Semrur (R):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

87. Village Sodia:
Cultural Assemblage:
  (a) Microlithic Site
  It is located on the left side of the Harda-Harsud road, about 5 km short of Harsud. A large number of microliths mostly of chalcedony are found associated with a rocky ridge. The site is badly disturbed.
  
  (b) Historical Mound:
  This mound lies on the spot where microliths are found on the Harda-Harsud road, about 5 kms short of Harsud. Maximum deposit of cultural debris is about 1.0 m and is badly disturbed as soil from the site has been taken for house construction.

88. Village Sonpura:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
The mound is located about 1.5 km east of the village on the Harsud-Chhanera road. Few unidentified sculptures are associated with the site. The site measures about 240 meters in length and 100 meters in width with a cultural deposit of about 1.5 meter. The site is partially disturbed due to cultivation.

89. Village Sonpura Khurd:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

90. Village Susarel:
Cultural Assemblage: Temple Remains
Temple remains are located on the right bank of Chhota Tawa at the confluence of Kalamachak nallah. Brick size of 40 x 20 x 8 cm has been noticed at the site. Besides this, probably some later construction of stone and sculptures of Siva Linga and Nandi have been observed at the site. The site measures about 23.0 x 20.0 meter with a cultural deposit of about 2.5 meter.

91. Village Tanda Nazarpura:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

92. Village Tornia:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Microlithic Site
The site is located on the left bank Ruparail nallah in association with outcrops, about 1.0 km northwest of the village. Chalcedony as the major raw material used for fabricating tools. This site is partially disturbed.

(b) Temple Remains
The temple remains are located very close proximity of the microlithic site. It is a brick temple locally known as ‘Tarkeswara temple’, which has been renovated during recent times. There is a prakara (boundary wall) constructed with stone surrounds to temple. Two stray sculptures have been noticed near the temple. According to a local myth, it was constructed by a Bhil king (tribal king) known as Tantia Bhil. It belongs to medieval time. These temple remains are partially disturbed and renovated.

(c) Stray Sculptures
Sculpture of Hanuman (in low relief) and some unidentified sculptures have been noticed under a tree in the village; probably belong to late medieval period.
TAHSIL: HARSUD

93. Village Bandhi:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

94. Village Bedia:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

95. Village Belwari:
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Microlithic Site-I
This site is located about 1.0 km west of the village and artifact context is associated with a flat topped rocky ridge (rising about 12.0 m above surrounding ground level). It is an open air site. Chalcedony is the major raw material used for the artefacts. It is partially disturbed.

(b) Microlithic Site- II
This site is located about 1.0 km southwest of the village, associated with a barren rocky ridge covering a larger area. Chalcedony as raw material is mostly used. The site is partially disturbed.

(c) Historical Site
This site is located on a rocky ridge about 1.0 km southwest of the village. It is a small flimsy site with thin cultural debris. Few unidentified sculptures are associated with the site. The site measures approximately 75.0 x 40.0 meters.

96. Village Billod (Dhani):
Cultural Assemblage:
(a) Microlithic Site
The site is located northeast of the village. It is an open-air site associated with rocky ridge. As regards the area of this site is concerned it is one of the largest sites. Artefacts are mostly on chalcedony. This site is partially disturbed.

(b) Historical Site
According to the villagers, there was a small ancient settlement very close to the present village settlement. At this spot arrangement of stone clusters are noticed probably remnants of some structures. This site is badly disturbed due to cultivation.
97. Village Bir:
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Stray Sculptures
Sculpture of Hanuman housed in a modern shrine in the village, probably belongs to recent times.
   (b) Historical Mound
This mound is located on the right bank of Arwa nallah, a tributary of Pathar nallah. Sculptures of Nandi and Hanuman (in low relief) are associated with the site. The mound is of 250 meters in diameter with a cultural deposit of about 3.0 meters. Only top surface of the mound is partly disturbed due to cultivation.

98. Village Blurari:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
This mound is located about 200 meters west of the present village. A Hanuman sculpture (low relief) is associated with the site. The dimension of this mound is about 150 meters in length and 100 meters in width with a cultural deposit of about one meter. It is partially disturbed due to cultivation.

99. Village Bori Bandri or Kherkheda:
Cultural Assemblage: Microlithic Site
This site is located just east of the village associated with a rocky barren land. A number of floor remnants made up of paved stone blocks containing a large amount of microliths are observed at the site. The floors are of both square and rectangular in shape. It seems probable that these are the remnants of some tribal people activity those who were still primitive to use stone tools during historical times. This site is almost undisturbed.

100. Village Bothia Kalan:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculptures
Sculptures of Hanuman (low relief), Siva Linga and Nandi all kept in a modern shrine in the village; probably belong to late medieval times.

101. Village Gondikhera or Kherkheda:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil
Though this village is going to be submerged fully, it is not mentioned in the list supplied by the Dept.
102. Village Hirapur:
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
This mound is located in the village. It is a small flimsy looking site. A Hanuman sculpture (low relief) has been noticed near the site. It is badly disturbed due to present day occupation on the site.

103. Village Mahatpur:
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Microlithic Site
   This site is located about 1.5 km southwest of the village. It is an open air site associated with a flat-topped rocky ridge (rising about 7.0 m from the surrounding ground level) Artefact scattering covers an area of about 125 x 60 meters. Chalcedony is the major raw material used for fabricating artefacts. The site is partially disturbed.
   (b) Historical Site
   Traces of floor remains have been noticed at the foot of the rocky ridge containing microlithis. The location of the site is rising higher than the surrounding area and is barren. Probably, it belongs to late medieval period. The site is marginally disturbed.

104. Village Munjawa:
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Microlithic Site
   This site is located on an outcrop (rising about 7.0 m from the surrounding area) on the right bank of an ephemeral streamlet. This site is partially disturbed.
   (b) Historical Mound
   This mound is located about 1.0 km northeast of the village. Sculpture of Hanuman (low relief), Siva Linga and some unidentified sculptures are associated with the site. The site measures about 180 meters in length and 120 meters in width with a cultural deposit of about 2.5 meters. This mound is partly disturbed due to cultivation and soil taken for house construction.

105. Village Nazarpura or Nazarpurasanthri:
Cultural Assemblage:
   (a) Microlithic Site
The site is located about 1.0 km northwest of the village and is associated with a barren rocky ridge. Artefacts are mostly on chalcedony.

(b) Historical Mound
The mound is located about 1.5 km north of the village. It is a small flimsy looking site. It measures about 130 meters in length and about 90 meters in width with a cultural deposit of about 0.5 meter. The site is partially disturbed due to cultivation.

(c) Stray Sculpture
Sculpture of Hanuman (in low relief) kept in a modern shrine in the village, probably belongs to late medieval time.

106. Village Rosar:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculpture
Stray sculpture of Hanuman (carved on a slab with low relief) is kept in the village that belongs to late medieval period.

107. Village Saktapur (Sakin):
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

108. Village Saktapur or Temru Khodra:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

109. Village Salikhera:
Cultural Assemblage: Nil

110. Village Semrur (Mal):
Cultural Assemblage: Historical Mound
This mound is located in the village and it is one of the largest mounds in the area. A Hanuman sculpture (low relief) has been noticed near the site. It measures about 250 meters in length and about 150 meters in width with a cultural deposit of about 2.5 meter. This site is moderately disturbed due to present occupation on the site.

111. Village Sonpura:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculpture
A broken unidentified sculpture noticed in the village.

112. Village Somgaon:
Cultural Assemblage: Stray Sculpture
A stray sculpture probably of life size Hanuman (carved on a slab with low relief) is kept in the village that belongs to late medieval time. This sculpture is broken and only legs are left out.
Observations:

The general distribution pattern of the sites belonging to various cultural phases across the landscape is interesting (Ota 1988 and Ota 1992: 97-103). Acheulian, the earliest Stone Age cultural phase is only confined to the hilly tracts and thick forests area on both the banks on Narmada; while Middle Palaeolithic sites are located in the Deccan Trap forested areas. Subsequent Microlithic sites are located across length and breadth of the area, however confined only to the perennial or seasonal water sources. These Microlithic sites occur in open land in context of rocky ridge and barren land. But during historical times man was a settled agriculturist started occupying the areas that had good cultivable patch of land and water sources for irrigation were available. Thus all the early historical and historical sites are located in the plain open areas.

Exploration was carried out in 112 villages within the Khandwa and Harsud tehsils of East Nimar district. The different types of archaeological remains that have been encountered in this area (Fig. 8) has been given below with number of villages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Type of Archaeological Remains</th>
<th>Number of Villages containing Archaeological Remains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Acheulian Site</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Middle Palaeolithic Site</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Microlithic Site</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Early Historic Site</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Historical Site</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Temples</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Structural Remains</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Stray Sculptures</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Memorial Stones</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Iron Smelting Site</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some of the villages contain more than one site of a particular type of archaeological remains. In the above mentioned table wherever one or more than one archaeological remains of a particular type occur, those have been taken as one. Therefore, figure in the above table suggests number of villages containing a particular type of archaeological remains.

(A) Acheulian Sites

The present investigation has brought to light a rich configuration of Acheulian localities in the hilly tracts confining to the southern fringe of the Vindhyan hills on the left bank of the Narmada. The distribution pattern of these localities in relation to the landscape suggests that there is the possibility of occurrence of similar occurrences on the right bank of the Narmada, as both the banks of Narmada belong to almost similar geographical configuration. During the course of investigation, Acheulian localities have been located in the village areas of Adhawa, Naoghata, Sarai, Jamoti, Bijalpur Khurd, Purni and Balwara. These sites occur with combination of clusters and sometimes spreading over a large area in the forest tracts and found mostly on surface. Most of them are open-air surface sites mainly confined to foot-hill zones or low hill tops, except the case of locality III at Bijalpur Khurd which is located at a height of more than 339 meter above MSL. Some of these sites such as Bijalpur Khurd locality III and Balwara do preserve rich cultural deposits.

The typo-technological features noticed in the assemblage suggest that the industry belongs to the Late Acheulian cultural phase. However, it is interesting to note that the inter-assemblage variability observed in the area suggests a sort of linear developmental phases within late Acheulian. For example, the assemblage at Balwara is comparatively earlier in time than the assemblage found in locality III at Bijalpur Khurd. The assemblage at Balwara in general is characterized by heavier and larger sized artefacts, comparatively more patinated, and occurrence of a large number of hand-axes and cleavers; whereas the assemblage at Bijalpur Khurd locality III is characterized by thinner and smaller sized artefacts, which are less patinated along with the occurrence of a large number of simple utilized artefacts. However, this observation at the moment is purely tentative and subjected to correction in course of further investigation.
The assemblage comprises hand axes, cleavers, discoids, varieties of scrapers, choppers, a large number of simple utilized artefacts etc. The most interesting aspect of this industry is the inter-assemblage variability, which has been observed in terms of tool types and the use of raw materials. It has been observed that at every locality, the raw materials have been exploited locally for fabricating tools. The locally available quartzite served as the principal source of lithic raw material. In addition to quartzite a cherty raw material was used at Sarai and Abhawa where it is locally present.

The most significant aspects of these localities are the differences in the size of the areas that they cover, the context of occurrence, variation in artifact density and variation in assemblage composition.

**Bijalpur Khurd Locality III**

This locality lies on the flat top of a hill at a height of more than 339 meter above MSL. It is the only site located so far at such a height in the area. The assemblage comprises choppers, discoids, scrapers, etc. The most interesting aspect of this assemblage is the occurrence of a large number of utilised flakes. Moreover, a large number of natural flakes occur with utilization marks. Quartzite as the raw material is commonly used which occurs at the site in abundantly. The nature of the assemblage and the occurrence pattern suggests that the site was a habitation-cum-factory site.

For understanding the assemblage and their surface scattering pattern, an area measuring 5 x 5 meter was selected for analysis. Scanning of the material in this area has yielded 437 artefacts. Apart from this a trial trench measuring 1 x1 meter was taken at this spot for ascertaining the cultural deposit at the site if there is any. The result from this trial trench was extremely promising. A total cultural deposit of about 30 cm has yielded over 550 artefacts. The cultural deposit rests directly on the bed-rock.

**Balwara Acheulian Sites**

This site is located in a low lying area on the foot-hill zone. The density of artefacts at the site is high. To have a general idea of nature of the industry, a collection was made from an area of about 20 meter in diameter mostly from the road cutting. The assemblage (Pl. 10 & Pl. 11) comprises a large number hand-axes and cleavers, scrapers and discoids, utilized flakes, etc. The artefacts are fabricated on quartzite which is locally available at the site.
The most interesting aspect of this site is the context of artefact occurrence which was observed in a road cutting section at the site. Here there is a thick deposit of murum which has been observed underlying unconformably a colluvial deposit. The artefacts occur at the junction of these two deposits. The morum and colluvial deposits suggest a low and high energy depositional history forming a strong background for reconstructing the palaeo-environmental set-up during the prehistoric times. The understanding of this interesting depositional history will certainly help in interpreting the palaeo-environmental conditions of the area and its impact on prehistoric cultural system.

\textbf{(B) Middle Palaeolithic Sites}

Middle Palaeolithic sites have been located at a number of places in the village jurisdiction of Newalkhera, Gullas, Khudia, and Kukdal. These are all open-air surface sites occur in context of barren table land, rocky ridges and hillocks, mostly in the forested areas of the Deccan Trap region. Most of these sites are rich in artifact scatters. The overall composition of this industry is quite distinct both from its preceding Acheulian industry and succeeding Microlithic industry. The assemblage comprises mostly varieties of scrapers, points, utilized flake, etc. Raw materials are mostly of quartzite and sometimes chert as at Khudia, locally available in the area. This evidence of distinct Middle Palaeolithic industry in a primary context in the area is interesting.
(C) Microlithic Sites

So far the occurrence of Mesolithic sites are concerned, the present area is probably one of the richest area in the Narmada valley. These sites are mostly confined to the undulating Deccan Trap region concentrating mainly on both the banks of Chhota Tawa and its major tributaries, and major streams. Once again these are all open-air and getting exposed to the surface except in a few cases where some cultural debris in stratified context is suspected. These sites occur in context of barren land, rocky ridges, and hillocks, very close to the perennial or seasonal water bodies. The interesting features observed are the occurrence of some microlithic sites associated with structural remains occurring in the village jurisdiction of Gondikhera, Bori Bandri (Kher kheda) and Charkhera. There is a possibility that some of these sites might belong to recent period (probably during historical times) ascribed to some tribal activity. If this context is established then the evidence would be unique, suggesting the use of stone tools till very recent times in the area.

So far as the assemblage is concerned, it is characterized by the occurrence of blades and blade products, points, lunates, backed blades, utilized flakes, fluted cores, flake cores, worked nodules, etc. It seems the industry as a whole is very crude in nature as compared to other microlithic industries of other areas. The raw material chalcedony is mostly used for fabricating artefacts apart from minor use of chert. These crypto-crystalline materials occur in pockets in the Deccan Trap area.

(D) Early Historic Sites

The present investigation has so far brought to light only four early historic sites at villages Bijalpur Khurd, Purni, Newalkhera, and Chapla Kalan. To know the existence of this cultural phase and its position in chronological frame-work of the area, a trial trench measuring 2.0 x 1.0 m was laid at the highest point of the mound at Bijalpur Khurd. A maximum cultural deposit of about 1.0 meter has been encountered at the site overlying black soil. The ceramic industry of this period is characteristic by the occurrence of black-and-red ware, black slipped ware, and black polished ware apart from commonly occurred plain red ware and red slipped ware. Burnishing is very common on the potteries. Black-and-red and black polished are of medium fabric and are prepared from well levigated clay. Red ware occurs both in thin and thick fabrics. The shapes include
mostly bowls, jars, vessels, etc. Carination on the pots is almost absent. Apart from pottery, other antiquities from the site include saddle querns (Pl. 13), grinding stones, anvils, burnisher, hop-scotch and shell objects (Pl. 12). A large number of animal bones mostly of *Bos* sp occur at all the levels. Iron slag and corroded iron objects do occur all throughout. Structural remains in the form of lime platform also observed at this site.

Based on affinity noticed between the cultural material found at Bijalpur Khurd and Maheswar and Navdatoli particularly in respect of black-and-red ware, legged querns, mullers, anvils, shell objects, lime platform, etc it can be placed back to about 2nd-3rd century AD.

**(E) Historical Sites**

The investigation has brought to light numerous historical mounds of varying dimensions. They mostly belong from late historical to early medieval times. These sites are locally known as ‘Kheda’ and the brownish anthropogenic soil is known as ‘pandarmati’. The sited are located both within and away from the present day village settlements. From the density of these sites, it seems that the area was very prosperous
during this period in the history of the area. It is the most prolific so far as the archaeological evidence is concerned. Most of these sites lie very close to the perennial rivers or streams, and sometimes springs. It has been noticed that many of these sites are rapidly disappearing and also disturbed due to present day village occupation on the site, cultivation, and moreover the soil from the site is taken for house construction which is considered as good binding material.

During the course of investigation, the incidental relationship between the historical mounds and the low relief carved Hanuman figure on stone slabs helped in locating many sites. Some of the largest mounds contain stone fortification walls. Apart from this, in many of the low deposit sites remnants of structures mostly houses in the form of arrangement of rubble have been noticed.

From the preliminary study of pottery collected from some of these sites it is most likely that these sites got deserted same time sometime during late medieval times. It is corroborated by the evidence that most of the present day settlements sitting on these ancient sites suggesting a reoccupation by the people after a short span of desertion of the area. Most likely the present day villagers are the descendants of the people who deserted the area, and probably reoccupied their respective villages after a short span of desertion. The reason for this large scale desertion can only be some natural calamity. In this context mention may be made of the great famine during Shah Jahan’s reign described by Abdul Hamid Lahori in *Padshahnama* which desolated the Deccan including Nimar and Gujarat. The relationship between the temple remains with some of the historical mounds is yet to be ascertained. Among the historical sites so far located in the area, the site in village Bijalpur Kalan locally named as ‘Kotra’ deserves special mention. It is the largest historical site so far discovered in the area.

**Kotra**

The site is located on a flat hill top about 800’ above MSL overlooking the right bank of river Chhota Tawa. The surrounding forested area is with good vegetation cover. It is unique for its strategic location and elaborate settlement complex. The fortification wall around the settlement follows along the natural slope line making the best use of the available landscape both for settlement as well as defense. The fortification wall along the
slope line might have helped the inhabitants for their protection both from wild animals and enemies.

The site is divided into three distinct complexes. Complex A which is structurally more sophisticated was probably meant for the king or chieftain. There is a thick rectangular fortification wall with round bastions on four corners surrounding complex A. This wall is of undressed stone blocks with mud used as binding material. This complex contains large size rooms, probably remains of a shrine which is badly plundered for treasure-trove, and a rain-fed tank into the bedrock. The gate from this complex opens-up to complex B.

Complex B is also surrounded by a fortification wall of small size stone and mud unlike the wall around complex A. There are remains of some houses which can be seen in this complex. The gate from complex B opens to complex C.

Complex C is surrounded by a mud wall with stone foundations. It is very large settlement complex probably meant for the public. Literally hundreds of house remains in the form of heaps of stone rubbles can be seen. The most interesting aspect of this settlement is the planning. Houses are in rows and roads cutting in right angles. To the east of this complex one can see the smelting area and working spot for the blacksmith. The number of houses is comparatively less in this part of the settlement. It seems probable that this was the area meant for the artisans. From this part a potter’s wheel stone has also been collected.

Just south of this whole settlement, there is the cemetery area with burials oriented north-south. There is the remnant of a temple with few unidentified sculptures lying very close to the cemetery area. It is interesting to note that some of the burials lie almost in the temple premises. Therefore, it seems probable that the temple is earlier than the inhabitants of Kotra. Moreover, it seems the religion practiced by the people of Kotra was different from the religion to which the temple belongs.

Apart from these, there are some later structural activities on the east just beyond the mud wall of complex C. These structures are in a line constructed out of lakhauri bricks and lime mortar. Few meters away there is a stray sculpture of Hanuman in low relief carved on a slab has been noticed. As it has been observed at other places, this figure of Hanuman is the indicative of a historical settlement. Another interesting feature
of this site is the artificial rain fed tank lies east of complex C. Here a huge erosional gully at the slope has been blocked by a mud bund to store rain water.

So far the exact chronology of this site is concerned; it is very difficult to say anything at the moment. However, tentatively, it belongs to early medieval times. It may be mentioned here that few bricks (of 18 x 16 x 6 cm & 20 x 15 x 5 cm size) found in complex A might belong to a slightly later phase.

Among the antiquities, the stone and brick antiquities which have been collected during the course of exploration include a brick with incised design (Pl. 14), saddle quern, potter’s wheel stone, stone lamp and grinding stone (Pl. 15). Apart from these, cowries, glass bangles, and beads (both lac and stone) have also been collected (Pl. 16). The metal objects picked up from the site include an unidentified iron implement, iron nails, iron bangle, and copper ring (Pl. 17). This site is disturbed at some places because of a teak plantation as well as by villagers for treasure troves. Otherwise, there is thick cultural debris still sitting at the site.
(F) Temple Remains

A number of temple remains have been located in the area. Almost all of them are in a very bad state of preservation and temple stones have already been removed from the site. Because of these reasons it is difficult to determine in many cases to which deity the temples are dedicated except in case of Balri and Jogibida. However it seems probable from certain observations that all these temple remains belong to three different successive structural activities belonging to three different phases. At certain sites two different successive structural activities is also observed. Temples belonging to the earliest phase are all brick constructions. The temple remains at Harsud, Balri, Susarel etc belong to this phase. Use of bricks in the temple construction is probably because of two reasons. Firstly suitable stones as the raw material for the construction of the temple are not easily available in the area, and secondly, bricks are easy for any construction work.

The second phase of temple construction is characterized by stone construction with elaborate carvings and number of fine sculptures. Temples belonging to this phase are located at Kukdal, Harsud, Jogibida, and Balri. On the basis of stylistic grounds of the icons, these temples, most likely belong to around 12th-13th century AD. However, many other temples located in the area might belong to one of these two phases, but due to dilapidated condition, it is difficult to assign them correctly to any of these phases.

The third phase of temple constructions once again characterized by bricks and stones construction such as at Khudia, Tornia, Bharwali, Kotra, etc. These are all plain constructions without any sculptural remains, belonging to late medieval times.

Among the discovered temples, two of them deserve special mention. One of them is in village Balri locally known as ‘Shankar Mandir’. The other temple located at Jogibida is dedicated to Siva. It is a unique discovery so far sculptural remain are concerned. The whole temple is in badly dilapidated condition. Sculptures of Chamunda, Hiranya Kashapa, Vishnu, etc. are some of the magnificent pieces among the sculptural remains in the temple.

(G) Structural Remains

Structural remains mostly of late medieval times have been located in a few villages. These remains are mostly of tombs, houses, wells and some unidentified structures located in the village jurisdiction of Balri, Jogibida, Dongarkheri, and Hatnora.
These structures are constructed either of dressed stones or lakhauri bricks, and lime plaster as mortar has been used as binding material. Remains of a mud fort have been observed at Balri.

Apart from these remains, some more structural remains in the form of stone fortification wall and house remains have been noticed at some of the historical sites in the area, such as Kotra in Bijalpur Kalan, Bori Bandri, Charkhera, Nandgaon (Mal), Singaji, and Billod (Ma1).

(H) Iron Smelting Sites

A number of iron smelting sites have been discovered in the villages Gullas, Ganor, Bijalpur Kalan, Bijalpur Khurd, and Purni. Apart from these sites a number of historical sites also contain iron slag on the surface suggesting smelting activities. There is an obvious distribution pattern of these iron smelting sites. These are mostly confined to the Vindhyan and its adjoining areas on the southern bank of Narmada. It may be mentioned here in this context that this part of the area yields iron-ore. Thus the iron smelting sites are mainly confined to the southern bank.

These sites are located in two different contexts one is in the forested area on the hill top, and the other is in the river bank area in association with rocky ridges. These smelting sites occur isolated in the form of a heap of iron slag rising about 1 to 2 meters in height. The antiquity of iron smelting activity in the area goes back to early historic times, which was confirmed during the trial digging at Bijalpur Khurd. The exaction of these smelting sites will certainly throw light on the ancient iron technology in the area.

(I) Stray Sculptures

So far the stray sculptures are concerned; the area is not that promising. Sculptures of Hanuman which are common in many village settlements are all housed either in modern shrines or on platform under a tree. The Hanuman figure is associated invariably in all the cases with sculptures of Nandi and Siva linga. The deity Hanuman is locally known as ‘Mahavir’ or ‘Bajrangvali’. Broadly two distinct style of Hanuman sculpture have been observed in the area; one is with detailed features of hands, face, body, etc which is of recent times, whereas the other one is featureless without any details or organs with low relief carved on a stone slab which belongs to historical times.
The interesting features of this featureless low relief Hanuman carved on a stone slab are that, it has got an incidental relationship with the historical sites of the area. In many of the cases the Hanuman sculptures lifted from historical mounds nearby are kept in the present villages. Moreover at many of the historical mounds one still finds Hanuman figures associated with the sites. It may be mentioned here that during the course of exploration, these Hanuman sculptures noticed in the present village helped in discovering many of the historical mounds.

Among the other stray sculptures which deserve mention are those of Vishnu noticed at Bhilgarh, Kukdal and Newalkhera; Ganesa at Bijalpur Khurd, Jogibida and Panghat. On the iconographic and stylistic grounds, these sculptures probably belong to 12\textsuperscript{th} – 13\textsuperscript{th} century AD. Apart from this some unidentified pieces have been noticed at some village premises. Apart from sculptures, mention may be made of an inscription (in Devnagari script), probably belongs to 13\textsuperscript{th} - 14\textsuperscript{th} century AD housed in a modern shrine at Panghat.

\textbf{(J) Memorial Stones}

Despite the regulation of the act claiming unlawful the practice of Sati (self immolation of widow) by Lord William Bentinck in 1829; this inhuman practice of the Sati cult did disappear completely from the land, as the reverence for the cult is still found in the deep layers of folklore and folksongs of Malwa and Nimad area (Parmar 1972: 105-108). So far as the present area is concerned; it seems that this Sati cult was not that popular because of the absence of wide-spread occurrence of Sati stones or memorial stones in the area. However, during the course of exploration Sati stones have been located three each at the villages of Nagpur and Bijalpur Khurd. These stones are square on plan and pillar-type, standing upright on the ground. These Sati memorials depict the figures of horse-rider, the sun and the moon, Sati sacrifice, etc. One of the memorial stones at Bijalpur Khurd contains an inscription in Devanagari script.