Chapter 4

Archaeological Sites in India
This chapter discusses porcelain finds from various sites in India. The location, details of excavation and exploration, findings from the site including structural remains, antiquities and ceramic assemblage are also mentioned to indicate the nature of site. The details of sites are mentioned to understand the use of Chinese porcelain in association with other finds. The detailed report on all the sites and findings are however not available otherwise it would have given useful information about the societies using Chinese porcelains in different parts of the country.

Different varieties of Chinese porcelain have been reported from 117 archaeological sites in India. These sites are spread across 21 states and Union Territories i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Daman, Diu, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal suggest popularity of porcelain in India (Map 7).
Besides these excavated and explored archaeological sites, porcelain was also collected from some other sites such as Sion fort (Maharashtra), Bandar fort (Andhra Pradesh), Prabhas Patan (Gujarat), etc. during the fieldwork conducted by the researcher. It suggests that the porcelain reached to several sites and reflect its popularity and high demand in India.

The finds from these sites are separated according to their period, on the basis of decorative motifs and materials. Details of these sites and the finds are dealt in the chapter. The sites are listed alphabetically and the varieties of Chinese porcelain from each site has been mentioned.
Table 8: Archaeological Sites Yielding Chinese Porcelain in India

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<th>State/Union Territory</th>
<th>Variety</th>
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In order to know the material culture found on the sites along with the findings of Chinese porcelain each of these 117 sites have been discussed. The sites are separated state wise.

**Andhra Pradesh**

Andhra Pradesh, the fourth largest state of India having twenty-three districts is located on the southeastern coast. During the Satavahana period, the state was holding an important position for believers of Buddhism. The Satavahana dynasty was also known as Andhra. Nagarjunakonda and Amaravati are the two most famous Buddhist sites in Andhra Pradesh. During the medieval period, the present capital city, Hyderabad became popular. It was once ruled by the Mughals followed by
Nizams. In this state, Chinese porcelain has been reported from seven sites. Amongst these, two are fort sites and rest of the four are located near the coast or ports.

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<td>Prakasam</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rajahmundry</td>
<td>East Godavari</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Warangal Fort</td>
<td>Warangal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Amaravati**

Amaravati is located in district Guntur of Andhra Pradesh. It is about 35 km away from the Guntur town and situated on the course of River Krishna. The Buddhist site was excavated in 1958-59 by the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of Krishna Murthy and R. Subramanyam (*IAR* 1958-59: 5).

The site revealed three periods which shows the occupation from 3rd-2nd century BCE to 9th-10th century CE. During the excavation, the damaged portion of the *pradaksina-patha, ayaka* platforms and original drum of Stupa were found. Other structures found were brick floors and steps; oblong chambers; votive Stupas, etc.

The antiquities found in the excavation included five crystal caskets, stone images of Buddha and other deities, stucco image of Jambala, a limestone medallion, etc.

The ceramic assemblage comprised Northern Black Polished Ware, roulette ware and celadon ware.

**Bandar Fort**

Bandar Fort, at Machilipatnam is located in district Krishna. It is about 50 km from the town of Vijayawada. Bandar Fort is connected with the early struggled between the Dutch, French and British in India. The port was found suitable for trade by the British in 17th century CE who made this fort. Maximum area of this fort is now encroached.
The exploration in 2012 around a protected monument of an old light house (fig. 4.1) and armoury located near the shore revealed some dilapidated structures which look like chambers made of *lakhauri* bricks. The area around the monuments is now encroached.

While exploring the area, seven potsherds of Chinese blue-and-white porcelain and white porcelain were collected (fig. 4.2). The blue-and-white porcelain potsherds has greyish-white core. It has small black particle in the core. The translucent bluish-white glaze on the body is as thin as 1 mm. The sherds are bearing flower motifs mainly prunus, peach fruit motif which is partially broken and geometrical patterns like lines. The cobalt decoration on two sherds looks refined while on another sherd it seems fainted. One potsherd has deposition of sand particles and soil on its base which might have stick on it during the firing process. The potsherds resemble the shapes of bowls. These blue-and-white porcelain potsherds belong to Ming period.

Three potsherds of white porcelain were also collected. One amongst these has an extremely refined white thin core. It is covered with white translucent glaze on both the sides. It also has a thin foot-ring. It resembles with the shape of a small bowl. Other
two white porcelain pieces have thick core but the white translucent glazing on them is refined. Out of these two potsherds, one resembles with the shape of a dish with foot-ring. These potsherds may be dated around 17th century CE (late Ming period).

Golconda Fort

This site in district Hyderabad is located 11 km west of district headquarters. This medieval site was excavated for five seasons between 1970-71 and 1974-75 by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh under the direction of Mohd. Abdul Waheed Khan (IAR 1970-71: 1; 1971-72: 1-2; 1972-73: 1-2; 1973-74: 5; 1974-75: 2-3).

Excavation was carried out at the area north of Qutb Shahi Tombs. A number of important structures were traced which includes a Qutb Shahi Period’s mosque, decorated with mosaic tiles and inscribed with texts from the Holy Quran in Kufik script. Other important structures found from the site were a throne room, a distillery and buildings of the palace-complex and residential quarters, ware-house, military quarters, cemetery, watch towers, etc.

Noteworthy antiquities include copper coins, terracotta figurines, beads of faience and glass, iron nails, daggers, knives, tongs, hammers, pestle, mortar, querns, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes grey pottery, celadon ware and Chinese porcelain of Ming period. The important shapes were chalices, dishes, etc.

The porcelain excavated from the site is stored in the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh. Some pieces are displayed on the site itself. Varieties of porcelain examined were blue-and-white porcelain, over-glaze enamelled porcelain and celadon ware.
Sixteen pieces of porcelain were studied (fig. 4.3). The blue-and-white porcelain variety is fine in composition and bearing different decorative designs of birds, flowers, animals, landscape scenes, etc. Some pieces are also inscribed with the Chinese dynastic marks. These are dated to late Ming period (16th-17th century CE). The shapes found in this variety are dishes, bowls and jars.

The over-glaze enamel porcelain is a variety in which the painted designs were made over the glaze and re-fired again on low temperature. One example of over-glaze enamelled porcelain bowl is discovered at this site which is decorated with a golden colour pigment.

The celadon pieces are found having thick section and gritty core. Some are decorated with incised designs. It includes bowls and a stem-cup. These pieces also belong to the late Ming period.

Kottapattanam

Kottapattanam or Kothapatnam is a small village site located about 500 m away from the present shoreline in district Nellore. The excavation was carried out in 1996-97 by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh (IAR 1996-97: 1). In the year 2001 and 2005, the site was explored by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 234-235).

Remains in the area of ancient habitation are still scattered over more than 1 km. The
excavation revealed some noteworthy antiquities like stone beads and bangle pieces. Chinese coins of Ming dynasty were also discovered.

The site is important for its ceramic assemblage that includes roulette ware, China ware and celadon ware. The other varieties of potteries explored in 2001 and 2005 include blue-and-white porcelain, white porcelain, Vietnam green glazed ware and Thai celadon jar.

The published report in *IAR* 1996-97 only mentioned ‘China ware’ and ‘celadon ware’. The site however revealed blue-and-white porcelain, celadon ware and white porcelain. The celadon wares found in the excavation is of typical Longquann type. These are having refined core and covering of thin olive green glaze. Some potsherds are bearing incised designs. The common shapes found are bowls with foot-ring. The blue-and-white porcelain belongs to 15th century and bears flower motifs, Buddhist emblems, precious symbols, etc. The shapes found in this variety include dishes and bowls. The white porcelains are found in less number. The variety bears no decorative motif but it shows white glossy covering of translucent glaze. The common shapes found in this type are bowls with thick circular foot-ring.

**Motupalli**

Motupalli is located in district Prakasam. The site was excavated in 1973-74 by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh (*IAR* 1973-74: 7). The site was explored in 2005 by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 234-236).

The excavation on this port site revealed a brick structure with the height of a wall measuring 90 cm and thickness of 50 cm. The mud mortar was used for joining bricks. A covering of lime plaster was found on both sides of the wall. Two rows of pillar bases were found inside the structure. Besides this, another rectangular brick structure was also found. Its superstructure is supported by wooden pillars.

The noteworthy finds excavated from the site include coins of Chola king Rajaraja, Chinese coins of Ming period and some iron objects.
The pottery finds comprise celadon ware. During the exploratory survey in 2005, the Japanese team recovered celadon ware, blue-and-white porcelain and white porcelain.

The porcelains explored by Noboru Karashima comprise celadon ware, blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware. The celadon ware potsherds found from the site are tiny in size. Most of the pieces have moulded and incised decorations of flowers and lines but these are not clearly visible. This celadon ware variety belongs to Longquan and Fujian kilns of China. Ten pieces of Longquan celadon and one piece of Fujian celadon were found. Both these types have refined white core and thin covering of glaze on both sides of the body. The common shapes in celadon ware resemble bowls. These are datable to 13th-14th century CE.

The white porcelain found from the site belongs to Dehua kiln. These are having thin refined white body without any decoration. The material suggests that these are datable to 13th-14th century CE. The blue-and-white porcelain variety found here are of less refined quality. The cobalt decoration on them is not refined and it looks black. The motifs are not clear as the potsherds are too small. One potsherd might be bearing the decoration of flower motifs but it is not clearly visible. These potsherds resemble the shape of small bowls. This variety is dated to 17th-18th century CE.

Rajahmundry

Rajahmundry is located in district East Godavari. It was excavated in 1979-80 and 1980-81 by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh (IAR 1979-80: 1; 1980-81: 1).

The excavation revealed that the earliest deposition on the site is datable to 2nd-4th century CE and the upper layer belongs to 18th century CE. It revealed some Buddhist structures like stupa and walls of a monastery. Other structure found from the site comprises circular brick structures; structures having square cells and floors of bricks; a small shrine having two cells made of bricks.

The noteworthy finds from the site are bronze figurines of Hanuman and Ganesha, iron
cannons, stone balls, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes red polished ware, arretine ware, grey ware and porcelain bearing floral designs in different colours.

**Warangal Fort**

Warangal fort is located about 170 km northeast of Hyderabad in district Warangal. The site was subjected to scientific clearance in 2002-03 by Hyderabad Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of K. Veerabhadra Rao (*IAR* 2002-03: 37). The main aim was to expose the buried structures and other archaeological remains to know the plan of Swayambhu Temple in Warangal fort.

The area selected for scientific clearance measures about 4.3 acres with a road on its southern, western and partly on northern sides and agricultural fields on the northeast and east sides. Some trial trenches were laid measuring 1 x 1 m on the northern side which revealed an archaeological deposit ranging in thickness from 0.5 to 1.5 m.

During the course of clearance, antiquities like fragmented sculptures, architectural members, copper objects like bangles, rings and needles, iron objects like dagger and sickle, copper coins, precious and semiprecious stone beads, moulded brick fragments, etc. were reported.

The ceramic assemblage includes bright red ware, red ware, grey ware and Chinese porcelain. Some of the potsherds of Chinese porcelain bear Chinese characters.

The porcelain discovered in the excavation is stored in Hyderabad Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India. Six potsherds of Chinese porcelain belonging to red-and-white porcelain, and blue-and-white porcelain varieties were examined. Amongst these, two potsherds belong to red-and-white porcelain variety and rest of the four are of blue-and-white porcelain. Out of the four blue-and-white porcelains only two bears Chinese characters on the base. The complete inscription is not visible as the potsherds are partially broken. The porcelain pieces belong to 17th-18th century CE.
Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh having sixteen districts is the eastern most state of India sharing its border with Myanmar, Tibet and China. Chinese porcelain has been discovered at only one site in Arunachal Pradesh.

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<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Naksaparvat</td>
<td>East Kameng</td>
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</table>

Naksaparvat


The excavation revealed a cultural sequence of medieval settlement, datable to 13th-16th century CE.

Structural remains found in the excavation were cylindrical and square shaped stone pillars over which on a platform the houses were constructed which is a similar tradition as followed by the modern tribal houses (fig. 4.4). Remains of dressed stones, blocks of plain stones, sun-dried bricks, pebble flooring plastered with mud, and post holes at an interval of 1.75 m were found.

![fig. 4.4 Naksaparvat: Excavated remains (source: Directorate of Research, Arunachal Pradesh)](image-url)
The noteworthy antiquities include stone sculptures of dvarapalas, naga, glass beads of green and blue colours, iron smelting kilns and ring wells.

The ceramic assemblage includes red, brownish, glazed and celadon ware. It also includes kaolin pottery and other local hand-made potteries. Some pots also comprised of impressed or stamped designs. The common shapes noticed in potteries are bowls, carinated vessels, conical lids, ritualistic pots, jars for storage purposes, etc.

The porcelains found in the excavation are housed in the museum of State Department of Archaeology, Arunachal Pradesh. Documentation of one blue-and-white porcelain potsherd and four glazed ware pieces was done. The blue-and-white porcelain sherd has a covering of translucent glazing on both the sides. The inner side seems to be glazed using a thick brush. This broken potsherd of a vase or a jar is quite refined and has thin whitish section. It has decoration of diamond pattern on the outer rim part and beneath it there must be a panel of lotus petal frame which is partially visible. Another piece of porcelain found from the site looks like a broken handle of a ewer or a kendi (water pot). There are a few more potsherds covered with greenish-brown coloured glaze. These are mentioned as Chinese celadon ware in the report although the potsherds do not come in the category of porcelain. These are low-fired glazed ware.

Assam

Assam is one of the important northeastern states of India which shares a border with Bangladesh. It has twenty-seven districts, some of which are historically significant being connected with Ahoms. It was an important centre of trade. A number of Chinese monks especially Xuanzang have visited ancient Kamrupa (Assam) in 7th century CE. A number of archaeological sites have been discovered in this state amongst which Ambari is noteworthy. Chinese porcelain have been reported from two sites in Assam amongst which Ambari was a transit port and Karenghar was a palace.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ambari</td>
<td>Kamrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Karenghar</td>
<td>Sivasagar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ambari is situated about 1 km to the south of River Brahmaputra in district Kamrup of Assam. It was famous from the ancient times being a transit port on the trade route between Magadha and China. The site was accidently discovered in 1968-69 while digging the foundation of the Reserve Bank of India (IAR 1968-69: 3). It was excavated for ten seasons by the Department of Anthropology, University of Gauhati; State Department of Archaeology, Guwahati; and Guwahati Circle, Archaeological Survey of India under the directions of M.C. Goswami in 1970-71 (IAR 1970-71: 4); T.C. Sharma and G.N. Bhuyan in 1987-88 to 1989-90 (IAR 1988-89: 6); T.C. Sharma in 1992-93; N.P. Choudhury in 1995-96; G.N. Bhuyan and H.N. Dutta in 1997-98; R.D. Choudhury in 1998-99; and R.C. Das in 1999-2000. Scientific clearance of the site was done in 2002-03 by the State Department of Archaeology, Guwahati and by the Guwahati Circle, Archaeological Survey of India in 2008-09 (fig. 4.5).

The earliest period is datable to 2nd century BCE-3rd century CE (Sunga-Kushana) going up to 18th-19th century CE. The site revealed stepped water tank, finished and un-finished stone blocks, brick walls, pathways, drains made of dressed slabs, etc.

Notable antiquities include stone sculptures of deities, architectural members, lamp stands, glass and terracotta bangles, terracotta figurines, iron arrow heads, rings of copper and iron, etc.
The ceramic assemblage includes kaolin ware, red ware, buff ware and grey wares, arretine ware, rouletted ware, celadon ware and green glazed ware.

The porcelain pieces are displayed in the Site Museum, Ambari. Four potsherds of olive-green celadon ware and one potsherd of white stoneware were studied. The reports of the site although states more pieces of celadon ware which could not be located now. The olive-green celadon ware has refined greyish white section with the covering of a thin glaze on both sides. The pieces also have crackled marks which may be a natural effect of age or due to environmental conditions. There are no decorative features on their surface. The shapes resembles of bowls. The white stoneware does not look much refined and has a gritty core. These are datable to 12th-13th century CE.

Karenghar

Karenghar in Talatalghar complex is located in district Sivasagar. It was in 2001-02 and 2002-03 excavated by the Guwahati Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of Syed Jamal Hasan (JAR 2001-02 17-20; 2002-03: 40).

During the excavation, three successive periods were noticed. The structural remains discovered from the period I includes rectangular cells, brick paved platforms, staircases, etc. Period II comprises terracotta pipes, post holes, etc. Period III includes brick platforms on a raised structure.

The ceramic assemblage includes local wares and a few potsherds of Chinese wares.

Daman and Diu

Union territories of Daman and Diu remained active sea ports under the Portuguese occupation. The Chinese porcelain has been reported from the following two sites.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Moti Daman Church</td>
<td>Daman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fort Diu</td>
<td>Diu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moti Daman Church

Moti Daman Church is located in district Daman. The site revealed noteworthy objects during the debri clearance on the northwest side of the church. The work was conducted in 1985-86 by Vasudevan Nair and Vijayan Pillai of Vadodara Circle, Archaeological Survey of India (*IAR* 1985-86: 107, 184).

The significant antiquities discovered from the site include a copper coin with characters of Nagri script, terracotta ball and an un-identified circular object of semiprecious stone. Pottery discovered from the site includes painted celadon ware.

Diu Fort

Diu fort is located in district Diu. The site was discovered in 1981-82 by Narayan Vyas of the Western Circle (now under Vadodara Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India (*IAR* 1981-82: 91) (fig. 4.6). Some sherds of Chinese porcelain were collected from the fort area.

fig. 4.6  Diu Fort: Front gate
Delhi

Delhi, the capital state of India has nine districts. The state has many archaeological and monument sites. The remains of different periods beginning from the stone-ages followed by Mauryan, Kushana, Gupta, Rajput, Arab, Tughlaq, Mughal, British, etc. have been discovered in a number of excavations conducted in Delhi. The state remained especially famous from the beginning of 11th-12th century CE when the era of Delhi Sultanate began. The Chinese porcelain has been discovered from seven sites in Delhi. Amongst these, the findings of porcelain at the Firozshah Kotla complex, Lal Kot and Purana Qila are noteworthy. These sites include some of the famous varieties of Chinese porcelain like celadon ware and blue-and-white porcelain in good number.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Firozshah Kotla Complex</td>
<td>North Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jhatikra - 1</td>
<td>West Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jhatikra - 2</td>
<td>West Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lal Kot</td>
<td>South Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Purana Qila</td>
<td>North Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sakraoti Nagli</td>
<td>West Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Salimgarh Fort</td>
<td>Central Delhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Firozshah Kotla Complex

Firozshah Kotla complex is located in district north Delhi. It is an old structure of Tughlaq period. The site of Rose Garden in Firozshah Kotla complex, where porcelain was found, was a chance discovery. It was discovered in 1960 by the Garden Branch of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during the course of clearance. The site revealed an important hoard of Chinese porcelain which were reported as Mughal pottery and ornamental Mughal porcelain (LAR 1961-62: 97).

These porcelain findings were studied in 1976 by Ellen Smart. She counted the broken pieces, tried to reassemble them and concluded that the collection makes a total of 72 porcelain pieces which belongs to Yuan period (14th century CE) (Smart 1976: 199-229). It was also found that this hoard is one of the Asia’s largest hoards of Chinese porcelain, anywhere out of China.
This collection of Chinese porcelain is stored in Central Antiquity Collection (CAC) of the Archaeological Survey of India. Eighty pieces of Chinese porcelain were examined. The varieties of porcelain found from the site include blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware, resembling the shapes of dishes and bowls. The collection includes big sized dishes and bowls as well as small ones. The diameter of the porcelain pieces varies from 13.8 to 52 cm.

The largest dish reported from the site has a diameter of 52 cm and height of 8.6 cm (fig. 4.7). It weights around 3.75 kg even though it is 30% broken. The blue-and-white porcelain pieces are decorated with a variety of motifs such as flowers, animals, mythical creatures, religious symbols of Taoism and Buddhism, geometrical designs, etc. The celadon wares are found having refined white coloured core and a covering of green glaze on both the sides. These pieces are bearing moulded and incised designs of flowers and geometrical patterns. Many of the blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware pieces are found bearing post-fired drilled inscription in Arabic which reads as matbah-e khas (royal kitchen); babat-e-mal-e karkhanah matbah-e khas (belongs to the royal kitchen); and sad (a mark of identification). Many inscriptions are still un-deciphered as the pieces are partially broken.

All the pieces of Chinese porcelain found at Firozshah Kotla complex are broken. The hoard suggests that these pieces would have been intentionally broken and dumped by the orders of Emperor Firozshah Tughlaq as it was against their religion. Many pieces are similar in design, size and composition with the collection of Chinese porcelain at Topkapi Sarai in Istanbul and Ardebil Shrine in Iran. These pieces recovered from Firozshah Kotla might have belonged to the Jingdezhen kiln.
Jhatikra 1 and Jhatikra 2

Jhatikra 1 and Jhatikra 2 are mounds located in the village named Jhatikra of district West Delhi. The Jhatikra 1 is situated to the south of Najafgarh and the other mound Jhatikra 2 is located near village Badusarai. These sites were explored in 1991-92 by the Delhi Circle and Excavation Branch - II of Archaeological Survey of India under the directions of B.R. Mani and C.L. Suri (IAR 1991-92: 15-16).

During the survey, a mosque of Mughal period located on the east side of the Jhatikra 1 was noticed. It was found in dilapidated condition. The mosque has a vaulted roof and it was constructed using the lakhauri bricks plastered with lime mortar.

The noteworthy antiquities collected from the 6 m high mound of Jhatikra 1 are copper coins of Sultanate period, stone beads, glass bangles, pieces of green glass, etc. The antiquities collected from Jhatikra 2 comprise an iron sickle and remains of glass bangles.

The ceramics collected from Jhatikra 1 were Painted Grey Ware (PGW), grey ware, black-slipped ware, black and red ware and Kushana red ware. The potteries belonging to medieval period includes red ware in plain as well as in painted form with black criss-cross decorations, glazed ware of terracotta, white and chocolate coloured painted grey ware, and a piece of Chinese porcelain. The potteries collected from Jhatikra 2 include red ware both in plain and painted varieties, and one potsherd of Chinese porcelain.

Lal Kot

For excavation purpose, the mound of Lal Kot was divided into two LKT-1 and LKT-2 (Mani 1997: 42-86). Excavation was carried out in 40 quadrants in 16 trenches of 10 x 10 m. The material found at the site belong to two cultural periods, Rajput period commencing from mid 11th century CE going till 12th century CE, and Sultanate period which starts from the end of 12th century CE and continued till mid 14th century CE. The sultanate period was further divided in four phases.

Structural remains include scattered architectural and sculptural fragments like decorated pillar bases, amalaka, varaha figure, etc. The important structural remains of the Sultanate period consisting lime plastered water tanks in first phase; house complexes of rubble masonry, having lime and paved floors of stone in second phase; hearth, ovens, storage jars buried under the floors in third phase; and random rubble walls in fourth phase.

Noteworthy findings from the site includes copper ring, earthen lamp, circular discs or hop-scotches, fragments of legs of terracotta figurines, crudely made terracotta human and animal figurines, beads of terracotta and semiprecious stones, green glass bottles, glass bangles, ivory ring, ear-cleaner of copper, incense burner of copper or brass, decorated door nails of iron, glazed tiles, etc. Copper coins found in the excavation were of Muhammad Ghori, Iltutmish, Razia Sultana (?), Kaikubad, Jalaluddin Khalji, Alauddin Khalji, and Ghayasuddin Tughlaq, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes pottery of the Rajput period. The plain red ware covered with red slip decorated with black painted, incised and stamped designs were noticed in the first phase of Rajput period. The glazed ware of terracotta, black-slipped grey ware and red ware belongs to the second phase of Rajput period. This phase also revealed a conical hollow knobbed-lid and ring base. The pottery finds of Sultanate period consists plain and painted glazed wares of terracotta, indigenous rough variety of celadon having brownish-sandy core, celadon ware and Chinese porcelain.

The potsherds of Chinese porcelain found in the excavation are stored in the Excavation Branch - II, Purana Qila of Archaeological Survey of India. The varieties of porcelain examined are celadon ware and blue-and-white porcelain. Five pieces of
celadon wares were studied which are having refined greyish-white coloured core with a covering of a thin layer of olive-green and bluish-green glaze (fig. 4.8). These celadon ware pieces are bearing incised and moulded designs of lotus petals. The evidence of riveting on celadon ware shows its extensive use. The potsherds resemble with the shapes of bowls.

Four potsherds of Chinese blue-and-white porcelain variety were studied. These fragmented blue-and-white porcelain pieces are decorated with floral designs, geometrical designs, etc.

Purana Qila

Purana Qila is located in the district north Delhi. The excavation on the site was conducted for three seasons between 1969-70 and 1971-72 by Exploration Branch (now Excavation Branch-II, Delhi) of Archaeological Survey of India under the directions of B.B. Lal, B.K. Thapar and M.C. Joshi (JAR 1969-70: 4-5; 1970-71: 8-11; 1971-72: 7) (fig. 4.9).

The earliest remains on the site are of Mauryan period (3rd century BCE). The other occupational level found were Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, Post Gupta, Rajput, Delhi Sultanate and Early Mughal periods.
Important structural remains found in the Mauryan period were house walls made of mud bricks, drains of rectangular and wedge shaped bricks, terracotta ring wells, etc. Evidence of wooden posts was also traced. Structural remains of other periods include houses, staircases, fortifications, etc.

Noteworthy artifacts discovered were terracotta figurines, coins, copper bells, semiprecious stones, etc.

The pottery assemblage included Painted Grey Ware (PGW), Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW), stamped ware, moulded pottery, Glazed ware, Timurid ware, celadon ware and Chinese porcelain.

The porcelain discovered in the excavation is housed in the Archaeological Site Museum, Purana Qila. The varieties of porcelain identified as blue-and-white porcelain, blue-and-red porcelain, and celadon ware. Six fragmented blue-and-white porcelain pieces of dishes and bowls, two celadon ware dishes and one blue-and-red porcelain dish were examined. Two pieces of blue-and-white porcelain are painted with Chinese characters suggesting dates of Ming period. One of the inscriptions painted on a blue-and-white porcelain bowl reads as da ming chenghua nian zhu i.e. made under the Great Ming Dynasty in the Cheng Hua Era (1465-87 CE). Another potsherd found from the site is bearing a painted scene along with an inscription in Chinese from a poem of Song period namely “Former Ode on the Red-cliff”. All the pieces are highly fragmented and some bear evidence of riveting. The common designs found on them include flowers, birds, geometrical patterns, etc. Some of the pieces are also bearing Chinese dynastic marks. The collection is datable to 15th-17th century CE.

Sakraoti Nagli

The site is situated towards southeast of village Sakraoti Nagli on the west bank of Najafgarh drain in district west Delhi. The exploration on the site was carried out in 1991-92 by the Delhi Circle and Excavation Branch - II of Archaeological Survey of India.

During the exploration, a rectangular mud fortress locally known as Kot was found. The gaps on the north and south sides of the fort indicate the evidence of gateways which no longer exists. There are remains of a brick wall adjoining with the southeast side of the mud wall fortification. It suggests that the brick wall might have been added in the later periods to provide strength to the mud wall.

The antiquities collected during the exploration include a terracotta ball and pieces of glass bangles. The ceramics collected were red ware, black painted red ware, grey ware, black-slipped grey ware, glazed ware with gritty core, and a piece of Chinese celadon.

**Salimgarh Fort**

Salimgarh fort is located in district Central Delhi. It was excavated in 1994-95 by the Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of B.R. Mani (*IAR* 1994-95: 5-6).

The excavation was carried out in a limited area in the fort. Quadrants 1 and 3 of trench A1 were excavated, which revealed deposits of about 900 BCE to early historical age and after a hiatus a re-occupation in the medieval period to the present time.

It was found that the surface was made even by 6 m filling of the mixture of sand and stone over which the construction was done. The structural findings include a Mughal period's random rubble wall built on a rammed floor. Two more rammed floors and remains of a hearth were noticed belonging to late Mughal period. The top level comprises debris of Mughal period's building.

Noteworthy finds include a copper coin of Sultan Balban (1265-87 CE), Mughal period’s glass ware, glass bangles, beads of semiprecious stones, painted terracotta figurines, lead pendants with studded glass, tobacco pipes made of white plastic clay, one of which is inscribed with human face and English legend which reads as - Glasgow and Helmet.
The ceramic assemblage includes potsherds of red ware, grey ware and Painted Grey Ware (PGW) and Chinese porcelain. The pieces of Chinese porcelain were found in less quantity as compared to the other potteries.

The porcelain found in the excavation is stored in the Delhi Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. Five pieces of porcelain were studied which include white ware and blue-and-white porcelain. The broken blue-and-white porcelain pieces are as tiny as 2 cm in size, as a result decorations on them are not clearly visible. The shapes are also difficult to identify. The white porcelains are plain and have crackled marks.

Goa

Goa, the smallest state of India, is located on the west coast. The state is having two districts. Historically, the state gained popularity during the 16th century CE when Portuguese started establishing their colonies here. Goa remained a hub for Portuguese from 16th to 19th century CE. It became one of the important trading ports under the Portuguese. The large number of Chinese porcelain reported in Goa suggests its trade and extensive use. In Goa, Chinese porcelain of Ming period has been reported from three sites amongst which St. Augustine Church is the most important. The site yielded about 22,000 potsherds of Chinese porcelain.

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>St. Augustine Church</td>
<td>North Goa</td>
</tr>
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Adilshahi Palace Gate

Adilshahi Palace gate is located in district north Goa. It was excavated in 1983-84 by the South-western Circle (now Aurangabad Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of R.G. Pandey (IAR 1983-84: 16-17).

The excavation brought to light two rectangular halls along with a platform and one room. Two phases of construction were found on the site. The first contains laterite
dressed stones plastered with lime. The second phase includes rubble masonry with mud mortar.

Important findings from the site include coins of Adilshahi period, floor tiles, a small star of iron and a gold droplet.

The ceramic assemblage includes coarse red and black ware, celadon ware from lowest levels and porcelain ware from upper levels.

The Chinese porcelains found during the excavation include blue-and-white porcelain. Ten potsherds of this variety were examined. These potsherds are refined and well-levigated. Many pieces resembles with the collection of porcelain found at St. Augustine Church. The common motifs noticed were floral patterns, landscape, animals, precious symbols and Buddhist emblems, etc. The shapes found in blue-and-white porcelain are bowls and dishes. Two potsherds are bearing Chinese characters on the base but it is partially broken so it could not be deciphered. The probable period of these potsherds is late Ming (16th-17th century CE).

Chandor

Chandor is located in district south Goa. It was excavated in 2000-01 by Mini Circle Goa (now Goa Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of J.V.P. Rao (IAR 2000-01: 19-25).

The earliest layer on the site dates back to 4th-6th century CE and the last phase is datable to Portuguese period. During the excavation, three structural phases were noticed in a trench laid inside a temple structure. The other area chosen for the excavation was the east side of the temple’s trench. Overall, the area revealed five phases of structural activity in which phase I comprises a cruciform shaped structure, phase II includes a rectangular mandapa which was identified inside the temple’s trench, phase III was also identified in the temple’s trench which included few bricks of the plinth, phase IV included plinth of laterite, and phase V showed miniature shrines having rubble floors.
The noteworthy antiquities found from the site include naga plaques of soapstone, glass wares of different colours, tile fragments, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes dull red ware, pinkish red ware, burnished red ware, black ware, dull red ware, grey ware, black ware, glazed ware of West Asian origin, grey ware and porcelain ware.

Report of the excavation is being written and hence the porcelain is kept separately and documentation of the collection was not allowed. The exact number of the porcelain pieces could not be ascertained. The study of some potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain variety resembles with the shapes of small bowls and dishes which belonged to the Ming period. The core of these pieces is white, refined in texture and well-levigated. Potsherds are covered with glossy shine on both the sides. The motifs noticed on these potsherds include birds, flowers, precious symbols, etc.

St. Augustine Church

The excavation was conducted in three different areas i.e. southern belfry, chapels on the left and the main altar at the western end located around the 16th century church of St. Augustine.

Structurally at southern belfry, the remains of walls built of large-sized dressed laterite blocks, lime mortar plasters and plinth with ornamental mouldings were noticed. At the second location of the chapels, remains of vaulted roof of laterite blocks fixed with lime mortar and wall plastered with red and blue floral and geometrical designs were found. The third area of excavation at main altar exposed remains of ornamental entrance with octagonal pilasters and walls decorated with red and blue coloured Italian tiles. Other structural findings include large laterite blocks, grave stones, raised platforms of different dimensions in chapels amongst which some are decorated with geometrical and floral designs, etc.

The noteworthy antiquities are brick with inscription reading ‘inri’, two coins of Portuguese period, tiles of different colours.

The ceramic assemblage includes Islamic glazed pottery, blue and white Chinese pottery, Chinese celadon ware and Ceremonial porcelain pot.

The collection of Chinese porcelain is stored in Goa Circle at present. Two varieties of porcelain were noticed on site which includes blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware. In total more than 22,000 porcelain potsherds were noticed from the site but the documentation was not allowed as report writing work was in progress. Only thirty pieces were studied and their material and decorative motifs were observed. The material of all the pieces is refined and well-levigated. These are ranging from dishes, bowls, cups to jars and kettles.

A variety of decorative motifs are noticed on the porcelain that includes birds, animals including mythical, Buddhist and Taoist motifs, precious emblems, landscape scenes, etc. Several potsherds are bearing Chinese dynastic marks and commemorative emblems. These pieces are datable to Ming and Ch’ing periods.
Many pieces of Ming period belong to Wanli reign (1573-1620 CE) (fig. 4.11). Porcelains from Macao are also noticed along with Chinese porcelain.

The celadon wares are either greenish-brown or greenish-grey in tone. Most of the pieces are less refined and fragmented. Several are having crackled marks. The general shapes found are dishes and bowls. The number of celadon wares seems lesser as compared to blue-and-white porcelains. The potsherds are datable to late Ming and Ch‘ing periods (16th to 18th century CE).

fig. 4.11 St. Augustine Church: Potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain with decorative motifs (source: Sila et al. 2011: 107-116)
Gujarat

Gujarat, a state located in northwest India, has a rich history which is evident by the numerous archaeological finds from the region. Historically, Gujarat was one of the main centres of Harappan civilisation. Excavations and explorations in Gujarat have showcased diverse cultures starting from the stone ages till the medieval period. Many items in Gujarat were imported from China using the Silk Road. The merchants of different origins from Persia, Rome, China, etc. frequently used to visit on the ports of Gujarat especially Barygaza (Bharuch) for exchanging a variety of goods. The evidence of trade interactions between India and China have been noticed by the findings of Chinese porcelain from thirteen archaeological sites in Gujarat. The two important sites amongst these are Champaner and Sanjan.

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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Delwara</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Dherwara</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Vadapadra</td>
<td>Vadodara</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Anhilwad Patan

Anhilwad Patan is located in district Patan, about 108 km from Ahmedabad in Gujarat. The site was excavated in 1978-79 by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara and Western Circle (now Vadodara Circle), Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of R.N. Mehta and C. Margabandhu (IAR 1978-79: 68).
The earliest habitation deposit found at the site is dated to the 11th-12th century CE. During the excavation, a circular fortification-wall with traces of brick bastions was found. Structures constructed prior to the fortification wall were also discovered which includes brick-built platform and small sandstone blocks placed vertically and a flat slab with engraving of trident pointing towards northeast.

The ceramics assemblage includes red ware represented by stemmed bowls, vases, etc.; black ware with pots, lids, etc.; glazed ware with red or buff base and green or blue glaze; Chinese porcelain and celadon ware.

The excavated potsherds of Chinese porcelain is stored in the Vadodara Circle, Archaeological Survey of India. The celadon ware found from the site has refined white core and thin greenish glaze. The potsherds are as tiny as 1 to 2 cm and their shapes could not be ascertained. A few pieces are having incised marks of flowers which could not be identified. The blue-and-white porcelain found from the site is later than the celadon wares. Many pieces resembles with the porcelain found at Champaner. The designs on these potsherds include flowers, animals, precious motifs and geometrical patterns.

Bhagwa

Bhagwa located on River Sena is about 20.3 km from Surat. This medieval port site was explored in collaboration of Archaeological Survey of India and Cambridge University under the directions of J.P. Joshi, F.R. Allchin and B. Allchin in 1967-68 (IAR 1956-57: 17-18). Exploration was done to trace early to late medieval period deposits.

Pottery collected from the site includes celadon ware and glazed ware.

Bharuch

Bharuch/ Broach, located in district Bharuch, was an ancient port town. The area of the old town was explored by John Carswell in 1976 (Carswell 1978: 30). During the
exploration he collected one potsherd of blue-and-white porcelain datable to Chia-ching reign of Ming period. Other potsherds collected from the site also include some local red earthenware with crude glazing.

Champaner

Champaner is situated in district Panch Mahal. It is located near River Vishwamitri and about 159 km from Ahmadabad. This medieval site was explored and excavated during different seasons from 1969-70 to 1974-75 by the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara under the directions of R.N. Mehta (IAR 1969-70: 7; 1970-71: 15; 1972-73: 11-12; 1974-75: 14-15). The site was also excavated by the Vadodara Circle, Archaeological Survey of India.

Initially, an extensive exploration was conducted on this site which revealed tools of stone ages along the River Jorwan. The excavation revealed occupational deposits of medieval period.

Structural finds from the site revealed street-plan along with evidence of residential complex, office buildings, palaces, baths, step-wells, mosques, etc. Some houses built of bricks, mud-mortar and lime-plaster were found bearing paintings.

Noteworthy findings were terracotta pallets; figurines of horses, elephants and tigers; lamp-finials; querns, carnelian rings; beads; Iron nails, chains, lamps, arrow heads; copper rings, antimony rods, coins; a silver ring, etc.

The ceramic assemblage included local burnished red and black wares, pre-Mughal glazed ware, celadon ware, Chinese porcelain. Some of the potsherds of Chinese porcelain were bearing inscriptions in devanagari.

The Chinese porcelain is stored in the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara. Some potsherds of porcelain are also stored in the Conservation Assistant’s office of Archaeological Survey of India in
Champaner. The site revealed two varieties of porcelain - celadon ware and blue-and-white.

The blue-and-white porcelain is found in large quantity and represents shapes of dishes and bowls. Twenty-five potsherds of this variety were studied. These potsherds are bearing designs of floral, mythical animals, nature scenes, etc. An almost intact dish of blue-and-white porcelain decorated with qilin motif (fig. 4.12) which is a mythical animal is found from this site (Sonawane 2009: pi 11). Three blue-and-white porcelain potsherds found from the site were bearing under-glaze inscriptions in lantsa script which was earlier identified as devanagari in the report. It is a Tibetan script which has a close resemblance with devanagari. It could not be deciphered as the potsherds are broken. Thirteen pieces of blue-and-white porcelains are found bearing inscriptions in Chinese. Most of which are dynastic and commemorative marks.

Ten pieces of plain celadon ware have gritty core. A few are refined and well-levigated. The shapes found in this variety include bowls and dishes. The bowls are found having thick foot-rings.

The celadon and blue-and-white porcelain pieces belong to Ming period (15th-16th century CE).

Dahej

Dahej is located in district Bharuch. This medieval port site was explored in collaboration of Archaeological Survey of India and Cambridge University in 1966-67.

The explorations on this site revealed glazed pottery and celadon ware datable to medieval period.

Delwara

Delwara is located on River Purna in district Surat. This medieval port site was explored in collaboration of Archaeological Survey of India and Cambridge University under the directions of J.P. Joshi, F.R. Allchin and B. Allchin in 1967-68 (IAR 1967-68: 13).

The pottery noticed from the site includes glazed pottery and celadon ware.

Dherwara

Dherwara is located in district Surat. It is a medieval port site which was explored in collaboration of Archaeological Survey of India and Cambridge University under the directions of J.P. Joshi, F.R. Allchin and B. Allchin in 1967-68 (IAR 1966-67: 10).

The pottery noticed from the site includes glazed pottery and celadon ware datable to medieval period.

Dwarka

Dwarka is located in district Jamnagar. The site chosen for excavation was situated to the south of the Dwarkadheesh temple. It was excavated in 1996 by the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune under the direction of Zainuddin Dawood Ansari and Madhukar Shripad Matte (Ansari and Mate 1966).

The excavation revealed five periods. The first period was dated back to 1st-2nd century CE and last was datable to modern period.
Antiquities recovered from the site include coins of Gujarat Sultanate, terracotta ball, stokers, shells, shell bangles and also a piece of iron, polychrome glass bangles.

The ceramic assemblage includes red polished ware (RPW), amphorae, painted red ware, kaolin ware, glazed ware and celadon ware.

Another excavation on the site was conducted by the Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of Alok Tripathi in 2007. The excavation conducted by UAW revealed Chinese blue-and-white porcelain. These are of refined quality and well levigated. The potsherd found from the site may belong to 15th-16th century CE.

Ghogha

Ghogha, a coastal site is located in district Bhavnagar. It was explored by the National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa (Gaur and Bhatt 2008: 99-104).

The stone anchors of different types were noticed during the exploration. The ceramics collected from the inter-tidel zone of Ghogha comprises glazed ware of different colours, cream slipped ware, grey ware, buff ware and Chinese ware.

A bowl of Chinese ware having foot-ring and decorative motifs on both sides was found here.

Khambat

Khambat earlier known as Cambay is located on the north shore of the Gulf of Khambat. The site explored by the John Carswell in 1976 was situated outside a medieval gate facing sea side (Carswell 1978: 29).

During the exploratory survey, fragments of semiprecious stones were collected. The pottery collected from the site includes local red earthenware with crude glazing, a few fragmented pieces of celadon and blue-and-white porcelain, datable to 15th century CE.
Prabhas Patan

Prabhas Patan is located in district Jamnagar. The site was excavated initially in 1955-56 by the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara (IAR 1955-56: 7). Later in 1992, it was again excavated by the Gujarat State Department and the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune.

The site revealed local red wares, glazed ware and celadon ware (fig. 4.13). The celadon ware found from the site is refined and having a well-levigated core. The glaze is thin and found on both sides. The pieces show marks of horizontal lines on the outer side. The potsherds may belong to the shape of a bowl.

Sanjan

Sanjan, an ancient port site is located in district Valsad. The site was excavated in 2001-02 and 2002-03 by the Archaeological Survey of India in collaboration with Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune under the direction of S.P. Gupta (2001-02: 182-198; 2004: 93-106).

During the first season, seven layers were discovered. Structural remains from the site comprise circular ring wells, a small wall of burnt brick, etc. In the second season, two areas SJN-K and SJN-B were chosen for the excavation. SJN-K was located on the left bank of River Kolikhai. SJN-B lies on the other side of SJN-K separated by the Sanjan-Nargol road. The structural remains obtained during the second season were floors rammed with brickbats, courtyard with a rammed floor, square well of bricks, etc.

The noteworthy antiquities include fragments of glass of 9th-10th century CE, Sassanian coins, beads, carnelian, garnet, silver objects, bangle fragments, quern, etc. The site also revealed human skeletons.
The ceramic assemblage includes Turquoise glazed ware, glazed grey ware, glazed pink ware, red slipped pink ware, glazed buff ware, mica washed red ware, porcelain, celadon ware, etc.

The Chinese porcelains found in the excavation are stored in the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune. The site yielded celadon ware, blue-and-white porcelain and white porcelain. The celadon wares are having thin white-greyish core and covering of greyish-green or olive-green glaze on the body. The pieces are plain and resemble the shape of bowls. The potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain are of refined quality and having a thin white core. The decorative motifs on these pieces are landscape scenes, flower motifs, etc. Some are bearing Chinese inscriptions also. The common shapes found in this variety are bowls and small cups. These potsherds may belong to Ming period. The pieces of white porcelain are of slightly bluish-white tinge that may belong to Qingbai type. The sherds are devoid of any decorative motifs. These potsherds might belong to 12th-13th century CE.

**Vadapadra**

Vadapadra is located in district Vadodara. The area where excavation was conducted was situated in the compound of Udayanarayan temple. The site was excavated in 1975-79 by Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara (*IAR* 1975-76: 16).

The site was found to be occupied from 7th century CE till 17th century CE.

The ceramic assemblage includes red-and-black ware of medieval period, plain burnished black ware, burnished red ware, glazed ware and celadon ware.

Among the celadon ware pieces found from the site, three pieces were studied in detail. The potsherds are as tiny as 1 to 2 cm in size therefore the shapes could not be identified. The fabric of celadon ware is fine and well-levigated. A thin layer of green glaze is found on the potsherds.
Haryana

Haryana, located in north India has twenty-one districts. The state has a long ancient history. A number of Harappan sites are discovered in this region. This state is believed to be a historical place where several battles were fought. The region remained strategically significant during the 7th century CE when Harshavardhana was ruling here. The ruler had prolific contacts with Chinese. At present, the state has districts out. The remains of Chinese porcelain found at Thanesar from the mound of Harsh-ka-tila corroborates with the historical accounts.

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<td>1</td>
<td>Thanesar</td>
<td>Kurukshetra</td>
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Thanesar

Thanesar is located in district Kurukshetra. The excavation was carried out on a mound Harsh-ka-tila between 1987-88 and 1990-91 by the Archaeological Survey of India for four seasons under the direction of B.M. Pande (IAR 1987-88: 28-30; 1988-89: 21-23; 1990-91: 18-22) and Ram Sharan in 2002-03 (IAR 2002-03: 97).

The mound Harsh-ka-tila measures about 900 X 500 m. On the basis of surface features, the mound was divided into three parts - TSR-1, TSR-2 and TSR-3. Trenches were laid on three parts i.e. the northern, western and southern sides.

Occupational deposit of about 16 m revealed the cultural sequence from Kushana to Mughal periods. Structurally, a massive brick wall was noticed from the level of Vardhana period (mid 6th to 7th century CE). Some brick walls were also discovered in the levels of Sultanate period (13th to 16th century CE). The remains of big house complexes, hall like buildings, opened and covered drains, etc. were noticed in the Mughal period level (16th-19th century CE).

The noteworthy findings were terracotta plaques, moulded bricks, fragmented Vishnu images of Gupta period, massive bricks of Vardhana period, human and animal figurines, balls, beads, dice, toy cart, rings, dabbers, gamesmen, arrowheads, spades,
nails, iron knives, ear ornaments of ivory, saddle and quern, shell bangles, copper coins of Shah Alam II (1759-1806 CE), etc. Some human burials were also found.

The ceramic assemblage include typical Kushana red ware followed by moulded, bright-red slipped and red polished ware; Gupta period’s moulded pottery, plain red ware; chocolate brown slipped and impressed decorative wares of Vardhana period; red ware of Pratihar and Tomar period. Sultanate period is marked by red ware and glazed wares. The last period is marked by the Mughal period which includes Chinese porcelain.

Chinese porcelains found from the site are displayed in the Archaeological Site Museum, Thanesar. This collection includes blue-and-white porcelain variety. Four pieces of blue-and-white porcelains are available. First one is a miniature bowl decorated with prunus and pine tree in the centre and the outer side has a covering of brown glaze. Second is a fragmented potsherd of a dish decorated with flying pheasant (fig. 4.14) on the inner side while the outer side has a decorated foot-ring decorated with spiral scroll design. The third potsherd is decorated with lotus design in the inner side and plain on the outer side. The fourth potsherd is painted with brown design on the white base. These are datable to 16th century to 18th century CE. One of these sherds is having Chinese characters but it could not be deciphered as the potsherd is partially broken. Rest of the pieces are having decoration with floral motifs.

Jharkhand

There is only one site in Jharkhand where Chinese porcelain was discovered. The state was earlier a part of Bihar but now it fell under Jharkhand. It has twenty-four districts out of which porcelain is reported from only one district.
Jhimjhimia-Kalistan

Jhimjhimia-Kalistan is located in village Turtipur about 3 km southwest of Rajmahal in district Sahebganj. Before the creation of Jharkhand the site fell under the state of Bihar. The excavation was conducted in 1987-88 and 1988-89 by the Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Bihar under the direction of Prakash Charan Prasad and Ram Shekhar Singh (IAR 1987-88: 12-13; 1988-89: 8-9).

The excavation revealed periods of three cultural sequences i.e. NBPW, Post NBPW (2nd century BCE-2nd century CE), and Indo-Islamic.

No structural remains are found from the site except the burnt clay with reed impressions which suggest evidence of huts of wattle and daub type from the NBPW level.

The noteworthy finds from the earliest layer are bangles, beads of semiprecious stones, pestle, animal figurines, arrowheads, iron chisel, copper antimony rods. The important antiquities found from period II includes beads, balls, terracotta animals, etc. Period III yielded antiquities like Persian tiles, terracotta male head and some iron objects.

The ceramic assemblage includes NBPW, black ware, black-slipped ware, grey ware and red ware from period I. Potteries found in period II includes red ware with and without slip, black-slipped ware, black ware and grey ware. The period III comprises glazed wares in green, yellow and bluish colours, red ware, red slipped ware and Chinese porcelain.

Karnataka

Karnataka, a state of thirty districts in located in northwest India. Archaeologically, the state revealed a number of sites having remains of stone-age and megalithic structures. The archaeological remains belonging to the periods of Mauryan, Satvahana,
Rashtrakuta, Chalukya, Hyosala, Vijayanagara, etc. have been discovered from different sites in Karnataka. The findings of Chinese porcelain in Karnataka have been reported from five sites. Amongst these, Hampi, a capital city of Vijayanagara kingdom is a significant site which has revealed porcelain of Ming period in good number.

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<td>5</td>
<td>Srirangapatna</td>
<td>Mandya</td>
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Gudnapur

Gudnapur is located in district Uttara Kannada. It was excavated in 1988-89 by the Bangalore Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of K.P. Poonacha (*IAR* 1988-89: 36-39). The area for the excavation was selected adjacent to the Virabhadra temple.

During the excavation, the remains of *prakara* wall having wide bricks were found on the eastern side of the mound. On the inner side, a wall parallel to the *parkara* wall was discovered. Other important structural motifs include four square pillar bases, large structures having rectangular rooms, basement, brick paved passages, etc.

The noteworthy findings include female figurine; torso and head of a Jaina *yaksha*; inscribed and un-inscribed *nishidi*-stones datable to 10th-11th century CE; silver bangles, plain ingots, rings and needle; copper spearhead; and terracotta beads.

The ceramic assemblage includes red ware, red-slipped ware, grey ware, and a miniature pot of celadon.
The celadon pot (fig. 4.15) found from the site has a crackled surface. It is having moulded designs which are not clearly visible. The neck of the globular shaped pot is straight and small. There must be two small handles on its shoulder which are broken now. The core of the pot is refined and body is covered with thin glaze.

**Hampi**


These excavations revealed the layout and plan of the ancient city. Three phases were noticed on the site. Important structural remains discovered from the site includes moulded stones in plinth, plastered mud walls, lime floorings, a pavilion with twelve monolithic pillars, polished stone slabs, etc. Other important structural finds included enclosure walls, pillared halls, basement having well-dressed mouldings, rooms, drains, lime concrete floors, etc.
The noteworthy findings from the site are small stone sculptures of deities, beads of glass and semiprecious stones, copper coins, iron nails, clamps, rings, bangles, iron nails, terracotta objects, stone sculpture, metallic image of Krishna, gold coins, copper coins, a Chinese coin with a square hole at the centre, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes earthen pottery, medieval black and red ware, glazed ware, glazed ware, Chinese porcelain and Chinese celadon ware.

The Chinese porcelains excavated at Hampi are stored in the Bangalore Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India. Fifteen pieces of blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware variety were studied. These are having refined white core and translucent glaze of bluish-white tinge. The decorative motifs found on the pottery include flowers, animals, landscapes, precious symbols, etc. Three pieces are having Chinese inscriptions on the base but it could not be deciphered. The shapes found are bowls and dishes mainly. The celadon wares are thick and heavy with covering of refined greenish glaze. These are having incised designs of flowers and geometrical patterns. The shapes found in this ware include bowls and dishes. The material and decorations suggest that the porcelain belongs to the Ming period.

Honavar

Honavar, a small village, is situated in district Uttara Kannada. The site was explored in 1976 by John Carswell (1978: 32). The explored area was a garden situated near a shrine named Darka Sharif Ghaiban Shah Wali Allah.

The ceramics collected during the exploration includes celadon ware and later blue-and-white porcelain.

Mirjan Fort

Mirjan fort is located in district Uttara Kannada. It was excavated in 1999-2000 by the Dharwad Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of K. Veerabhadra Rao (IAR 1999-2000: 73-76).
The trenches were laid inside the fort area. The site revealed buried laterite structures, cloister of chambers, an apsidal shaped structure, etc.

The noteworthy finding of this site are cannon shots, copper and lead coins, terracotta sealing, adzes, axes, scraper, hammer, iron nails, copper rings, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes red and black ware and Chinese porcelain.

The porcelain collected during the excavation is stored in Dharwad Circle, Archaeological Survey of India. The varieties of porcelain found from this site include blue-and-white porcelain and white porcelain. Two pieces of blue-and-white porcelain and one piece of white porcelain were studied. The blue-and-white porcelain includes one bowl on stand and a dish. The motifs found on these pieces are floral designs, peaches, dragon, peacock, etc. The dish of blue-and-white porcelain is bearing an inscription in Chinese on the base. The white porcelain found is having a shape of a long-necked bottle with foot-ring. It is bearing some moulded designs which are not clear. The core of this type is gritty and not much refined.

Srirangapatna

Srirangapatna is located in district Mandya. The site was excavated in 1999-2000 by the Bangalore Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of Jithendra Das (IAR 1999-2000: 68-69). The excavation was conducted 200 m east of Sri Ranganathaswamy temple.

The structural findings from the site include pillared-rooms with flight of steps, pillared-balustrade of brick and lime-mortar, a small room which has an opening in a verandah, drainage covered with slabs, etc.

The noteworthy antiquities include musket balls, cannon balls and iron nails.

The ceramic assemblage includes dull grey ware, dull red ware, jars of soapstone and Chinese porcelain.
The finds of porcelain is stored in Bangalore Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. The main variety found from the site includes blue-and-white porcelain. Four pieces of this variety were studied. The core of these wares is white and refined and the body is covered with thin translucent glazing. The decorations found on the pieces are floral designs, geometrical and non-geometrical motifs, landscapes, human figures, animals, etc. The common shapes are bowls and dishes. These are datable to 17th-18th century CE.

**Kerala**

Kerala, also known as Malabar Coast is located in southwest of India. Since the ancient times, this state remained popular for the spice trade. The state remained an entrepôt for the ships coming from Persia, China, Europe, etc. The region was especially famous amongst the Chinese merchants who frequently used to visit the ports of Cochin, Kozhikode, Kollam, etc. for trade purposes. The remains of Chinese porcelain discovered from twelve sites in Kerala have confirmed the trade contacts between India and China.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Cheraman Parambu</td>
<td>Thrissur</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Kottappuram</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tangacheri</td>
<td>Kollam</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Bekal Fort**

Bekal Fort is situated in district Kasargod. It was excavated by the Thrissur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India between 1997 and 2001 (Nambirajan 2009).
The excavation was conducted inside the fort. The site revealed remains of habitational structures and streets. Other structures include rectangular chambers, wooden pillars, laterite blocks, etc.

The noteworthy findings include silver coins, copper ingots, iron cannon balls, gold pendants, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes glazed ware and Chinese porcelain.

The collection of porcelain is stored in the Thrissur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. Twelve pieces were studied, all of which belongs to blue-and-white porcelain variety (fig. 4.16). The common designs found on these potsherds are flowers, geometrical lines, dragon motifs among clouds which is only partially visible, etc. Many pieces resemble with the findings of porcelain collected at Pattanam in Kerala. Two pieces are having yellowish colour body but rest of the pieces are bearing bluish-white glaze. The common shapes found in porcelain were bowls having foot-ring and dishes. The collection belongs to 17th century CE mainly Ch’ing period.

**Cheraman Parambu**

Cheraman Parambu is located 2 km west of Craganur in district Thrissur. It was excavated by the Southern Circle (now Chennai Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of K.V. Soundara Rajan (*IAR* 1968-69: 10).

The occupational deposits found from the site are datable from 13th to 16th century CE.
The noteworthy finds from the site are roof tiles, glass beads and iron nails.

The ceramic assemblage includes dull-red pottery, stoneware having light cream colour, and a few porcelain pieces.

Cochin Fort

Cochin fort is situated in Cochin in district Ernakulam. It was excavated in 1986-87 by the Madras Circle (now Chennai Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of K.P. Poonacha and T. Satyamurthy (JAR 1986-87: 46). The excavated area was located opposite to the RDO office at Cochin fort.

During the excavation a covered passage made of bricks was found. Mortar of shell and lime was used between the bricks. Two more underground passages were found which were connected with the earlier found covered passage. Other important structure found were lime-plastered steps leading to the ground.

The antiquities from the site include terracotta lamps.

The ceramic assemblage from the site includes porcelain ware with markings of Portuguese period.

Dharmadam

Dharmadam is located in district Kannur. The site was explored in 1988 by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 242).

During the exploration, about 50 potsherds of Chinese ceramic datable between 13th to 16th century CE were collected.

Elavanchikkulam

Elavanchikkulam is located in district Thrissur. This site is situated near another excavated site Mathilakam. The exploration on the site was carried out in 2006 by the
Indian Archaeological Society in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala (Dikshit 2006: 307-308).

During the exploration, the potteries collected were local potsherds with dabber marks and celadon ware.

Kannur

Kannur, earlier called as Cannanore, is located in district Kannur. The site was explored in 1976 by John Carswell (1978: 33).

The exploration was done on the seashore near a Portuguese fort, and porcelain pieces were collected.

Kondungallur

Kondungallur is an ancient coastal town located in district Thrissur. The site was excavated by the Kerala State Department of Archaeology in 1945-46 (Karashima 2009: 244).

The noteworthy objects recovered from the site include bangle pieces and beads.

The ceramic assemblage includes turquoise ware, martaban pottery, celadon ware and blue-and-white porcelain.

The collection of porcelain is preserved at the Thrissur Archaeological Museum of the Kerala State Department of Archaeology. Seventeen pieces of Chinese porcelain were documented. It includes blue-and-white porcelain, red-and-blue and celadon ware varieties.

The blue-and-white porcelain pieces found from the site are refined in composition. Some pieces are having white core while some have brownish-grey core. Some of the potsherds have deposition of sand on the base which might be occurred in the kiln
itself. The decorative motifs on include floral designs, animals, geometrical designs, etc. (fig. 4.17). The common shapes are of dishes and bowls. The celadon wares found from the site are of refined as well as non-refined quality. Some sherds are bearing refined green coloured glaze. There are also some potsherds which are not having fine coating of glaze. Such sherds are also bearing moulded motifs of flower petals. The red-and-blue porcelain sherds are very few in number. Only three such sherds are documented. These are bearing flower designs. The shapes found in this variety are bowls. This porcelain discovered from the site is datable 13th century CE to 17th century CE.

Kottapuram

Kottapuram is located in district Thrissur. The excavation was done by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala during different seasons between 2006 and 2011 (Dikshit 2006: 307-310).

The site revealed Chinese porcelain in large quantity. At present all the excavated material is kept in a store near the site in Kottapuram. It includes blue-and-white porcelain variety. Twenty-five pieces were studied from the collection which includes pieces of dishes and bowls. The designs noticed on the potsherds are animals especially deer, flowers, conch motif, precious symbols, Taoist symbols, etc. Two sherds were also found having Chinese characters on the base. Most of the sherds belong to late Ming and Ch’ing periods.
Madilakam

Madilakam is located in district Thrissur. The excavation on the site was carried out by the Southern Circle (now Chennai Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India and Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala under the supervision of K.V. Soundara Rajan (*IAR* 1969-70: 13-15).

This trial excavation exposed walls of laterite. The structure seemed like a part of a temple.

The noteworthy findings from the site include coins of Chola period and small earthen lamps.

The ceramic assemblage from the site revealed sturdy red ware and Chinese celadon ware.

Pandalayini-Kollam

Pandalayini-Kollam is located in district Kozhikode (earlier known as Calicut). The site which is situated near a mosque is about 40 km north of Kozhikode town. It was explored and excavated in 1988 by the Calicut University and the Japanese team of Noboru Karashima (2009: 242-243). Only three trial pits were made to know the type of deposition. The explorations were also carried out in other areas of the town by the Japanese team.

The ceramic assemblage includes blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware.

The potsherds are stored at Calicut University which includes blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware. Amongst these, four potsherds belong to celadon ware. These are refined and consist a covering of olive-green shiny glaze on white body. One piece is decorated with incised lines but other pieces are plain. The sherds resemble with the shape of bowls. One piece is having a foot-ring also. Two pieces are of rim portion which showed flaring outward rims. The blue-and-white pieces are also refined and
have a thin covering of translucent creamish glaze. One of the potsherds with foot-ring bears a motif of floating dragon under the crescent moon in an abstract form which is a typical 14th century depiction. These pieces are datable to 13th-14th century CE.

Pattanam

The ancient port site of Pattanam is located in district Ernakulam. An exploratory survey on the site was initially done by the Indian Archaeological Society and Department of Archaeology, Kerala in 2006. After it, excavation was conducted for five seasons by the Kerala Council for Historical Research under the supervision of P.J. Cherian from 2007 to 2012 (Cherian 2007: 1-10).

The excavation revealed Chinese porcelain in large quantity. Varieties of blue-and-white porcelain, white porcelain and red-and-white porcelain were found.

The porcelain finds are stored in the Kerala Council of Historical Research. More than 200 potsherds of porcelain were studied. The potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain are found in large quantity. Most of the pieces are very tiny and the decorations are not visible. The core of potsherds varies from fine to coarse. The glazing is thin and refined. Many sherds are having bluish-white translucent glaze. A few decorative motifs showed floral motifs, lingzhi scroll, Taoist emblems, precious symbols, lines and geometrical patterns. Some pieces are painted over the glaze with colours like green. The shapes resemble with bowls mainly.

The sherds of white porcelain are less in number. Some pieces bear moulded designs on the rim portion. These are thin and refined in quality. The common shapes found are bowls.

Three pieces of red-and-white porcelain variety are noticed. The core of such wares is refined and glazing is thin. The designs with red pigment seem to be made using impression seals. These paintings are made over the glaze and not so refined. The colour red is even fading away on the bowls.
The finds of porcelain are datable to late 17th-18th century CE which was a period of Ch’ing dynasty in China. Some of the pieces look non-Chinese and they might have belonged to European manufactories. Such pieces may be datable to 18th century CE.

**Tangacheri**

Tangacheri/ Thangasseri is a coastal town located in district Kollam. It is about 50 km north of Tiruvananthapuram. The site was explored in 1986 by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 244-245). The area explored in Thangacheri is situated near a light house on the seashore front.

During the exploration, blue-and-white porcelain potsherds were collected.

The five pieces of Chinese porcelain were studied which includes three of blue-and-white porcelain variety and two of celadon ware. The blue-and-white porcelain pieces comprise designs like floral motifs, landscape scenes, etc. These pieces are of refined quality and bearing thin translucent glazing on both sides. These resemble with the shapes of dishes having foot-ring. The third potsherd bears a Chinese inscription which reads as *ta-ming wang* which shows that the pieces might have produced during the Wan-li reign (1573-1620 CE). The celadon pieces found from the site are having white core and green coloured covering of glaze. One of these celadon pieces is moulded and bearing decoration of chrysanthemum petals in the centre. It resembles with the shape of a dish. Another celadon piece is plain. The material and decoration of the porcelain potsherds suggest a dates between 16th to 18th century CE.

**Lakshadweep**

The Lakshadweep is a group of thirty-six islands which lies in the Arabian Sea. These islands are located on the southwest coast of India. This group of islands acted as a landmark for ancient navigators. The islands were also used as halting stations by the merchants and navigators in case of emergency. The remains of ancient settlements have been explored on some of the islands in Lakshadweep. The explorations
conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India and National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula has revealed different variety of potteries at Androth, Kavaratti, Agatti, etc. (*LAR* 1983-84: 48). In 2000, an offshore excavation on a European shipwreck *Princes Royal* found near Bangaram Island of Lakshadweep was done the Underwater Archaeology Wing of Archaeological Survey of India. The excavation revealed potsherd of Chinese porcelain from the shipwreck.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bangaram Island</td>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Bangaram Island**

The Bangaram Island is one of the thirty-six small islands of Lakshadweep. It is a small boat-shaped uninhabited island. In 1991, first underwater archaeological investigations were carried out off Bangaram Island by the Underwater Archaeology Wing, Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of Alok Tripathi (2004: 1246-1250). A shipwreck namely *Princes Royal* was noticed during the survey.

The site was divided as 3 m sq. grid. Each of these grids was numbered properly. For excavation purpose, two grids were identified in the north and six in the south. This excavation was done both manually and mechanically. The area with small fragments and artefacts were excavated manually with great care. During the excavation, an iron anchor and other corroded and cemented part of the ship were retrieved.

The antiquities discovered were bricks, pieces of wood, metal sheets, cannons, utensils of copper, nails, a bronze bell, pieces of glass bottles, copper rods, etc.

The ceramic assemblage include brown glazed ware, green glazed ware and Chinese porcelain.

The blue-and-white porcelain found from the site are having thin core with fine
translucent bluish-white glaze. Decorations of an abstract form of flying dragon is visible on the outer side of a potsherd (fig. 4.18).

fig. 4.18 Bangaram Island: Blue-and-white porcelain (source: Alok Tripathi 1991)

**Madhya Pradesh**

Madhya Pradesh, located in the central region, is one of the largest states of India. The state has revealed some of the significant archaeological sites beginning from the stoneages. The region is rich in history and was ruled by some of the major dynasties which include Mauryans, Mughals and Marathas. There are two sites in this state where Chinese porcelain has been reported.

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kutwar</td>
<td>Morena</td>
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**Bhojasala**

Bhojasala is located in Dhar, a district headquarters. This site was excavated in 1972-73 by the Central Circle (now Bhopal Circle), Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of V.K. Tiwari (*IAR* 1972-73: 14).

Trenches were laid in the northern and eastern sides of the monument. The site revealed occupational deposits from Paramara period to Mughal period.
On the northern side, medieval period structures were found which includes two concrete terraces; a small structure with two steps and a cell; and stone sculpture of Vishnu. Eastern side yielded bricks of Paramara period and temple architectural members.

Noteworthy finds include copper objects, knives, rings, locks, arrow-heads, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes pottery of Paramara period, porcelain fragments and pre-Mughal glazed ware.

A few pieces of Chinese porcelain were reported during the excavation. Four pieces were studied which includes two pieces of white porcelain and two pieces of blue-and-white porcelain varieties. The white porcelain has crackled marks and has no decorative motif. The blue-and-white porcelain has refined core and thin bluish-white glazing. These potsherds bear motifs of flowers and wavy lines. The pieces belong to Ming period.

Kutwar

Kutwar is located in district Morena. It was excavated in 1996-97 by the Bhopal Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of A.K. Sinha (IAR 1996-97: 64-65). The excavation area was conducted on the Gadhi mound.

The earliest layer belongs to pre-PGW period followed by the other layers of PGW, NBPW, Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta and medieval period. The excavation revealed some post holes and patched of mud floors. Other structural remains include houses made of stones and mud mortar along with wattle-and-daub huts.

The noteworthy findings include some microlithic blades, debitage, iron objects, beads, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes black-and-red ware, black slipped ware, PGW, NBPW, red wares, glazed ware and Ming blue-and-white porcelain.
Maharashtra

Maharashtra, having a coastline of around 840 km, is situated on the west coast of India. The state has ancient connections with Buddhism. A large number of Buddhist sites like Bhaja, Karle, Ajanta, etc. have been found in Maharashtra. For a long time it remained a major entrepôt for the merchants coming from Persia, China and Europe. The import of porcelain from China was prolific in Maharashtra. Chinese porcelain of different varieties has been reported from thirteen sites in India. Amongst these, the sites like Aurangabad and Daulatabad which were once ruled by the Mughal emperor Jahangir yield blue-and-white porcelain in large number. Other significant site in terms of the findings of Chinese porcelain is Chaul.

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<td>4</td>
<td>Chaul</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Daulatabad</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Vijaydurg</td>
<td>Sindhudurg</td>
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Aurangabad

The mound, located near River Kaum (Kham) to the east of Bibi-ka-Maqbara was discovered by Ajit Kumar and M. Mahadevaiah in 1984-85 of the Archaeological Survey of India (IAR 1984-85: 149).

Antiquities discovered were chert bead, decorated terracotta human head and animal figurines of bull, horse and elephant.
The ceramic assemblage includes glazed ware and Chinese porcelain.

The Chinese porcelains found here are stored in the Aurangabad Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. Six potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware were studied. The potsherds found were of tiny size and decoration on them is difficult to interpret. Some pieces are having floral motifs, lines, and geometrical patterns. Two pieces of celadon wares were examined which were having greenish-brown glaze. The core of the celadon ware pieces is refined and well-levigated. There is no trace of any decoration. These porcelain pieces are datable to Ming period.

Bahal

The ancient site of Bahal is located near the River Girna in district Jalgaon. It was excavated in 1956-57 by the South-western Circle (now Aurangabad Circle) of the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of M.N. Deshpande (IAR 1956-57: 17-18).

Excavation brought to light five periods. Period I revealed Chalcolithic deposits and period II showed the remains of iron. There was a hiatus after period II and then the site was re-occupied during Yadava and Muslim times (1300-1700 CE). Remains of post-holes were found in period II and floor of rammed pebbles with post-holes in period III.

Notable antiquities include beads of terracotta and semiprecious stones, microliths of chalcedony and agate, parallel-sided blades, copper lumps, ear ornaments of agate, spear-head, arrow-head, knives, daggers, sickles, shell bangles, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes thick grey ware, fine red ware painted with black, lustrous red ware, black-and-red ware, Northern Black Polished ware, Mughal glazed ware and celadon ware. The celadon ware was found in the deposit of period IV which belonged to Muslim period.
Bhokardan

Bhokardan, located near River Kelna is located in district Jalna. It was excavated in 1972-73 and 1973-74 by Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Nagpur, and University of Marathwada, Aurangabad under the direction of S.B. Deo (*IAR* 1972-73: 20-21; 1973-74: 20).

The site comprises four mounds out of which mound I and III were excavated. Five structural phases were found. The early phases belong to Satavahana period while later periods are dated to Kshatrapa and post-Kshatrapa.

Structural remains include houses with pebble foundation, wall of baked bricks and roofs which were supported by wooden posts. These houses are having verandha, kitchen and soakage wells. Remains of hearth and lime floors were also evidenced.

Noteworthy finds include Satavahana and Kshatrapa coins, terracotta bullae, beads of semi-precious stones, ivory and terracotta figurines, shell bangles, etc.

The pottery assemblage includes amphorae, Megarian ware, red polished ware, glazed pottery, and celadon ware.

Chaul

Chaul is situated on the bank of River Kundalika in district Raigad. It was excavated by the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune as part of the NIOT project from 2003 to 2005 under the direction of Vishwas Gogte. For excavation, four separate areas were marked, two of which were selected near the mud flat of River Kundalika and other two near the river bank (Gogte 2006: 65).

The site revealed cultural sequence from the 300 BCE to 1700 CE. The earliest habitation on the site belonged to Mauryan period was found below the present sea level which shows the rise in sea level over two millennia. The noteworthy structures appeared during the excavation were terracotta ring wells, some brick walls, etc.
The important antiquities discovered from the site were lead coins of Kshatrapa period, bricks, roof tiles, four-legged saddle, quern, beads, clay figurines, glass bangles and beads, thin glass vessels, iron ring, knife, nail, spatula, small stones of garnet, furnace lining, etc.

The ceramic assemblage include black-and-red ware, red ware, bright red slip ware, chocolate slipped ware, mica washed red ware, turquoise glazed ware, monochrome ware, amphorae, sgraffiato ware. The Chinese ceramic types noticed at the site were stoneware, celadon, blue-and-white porcelain.

The Chinese porcelain found from the site is stored in the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune. Five potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain, two pieces of celadon and one piece of white porcelain were studied. The blue-and-white porcelain variety is of fine quality and bears different decorative motifs like prancing deer, birds, heron floating in a pond, etc. These pieces are datable to Ming period. The celadon ware potsherds are having greyish-white core and refined olive-green glaze. These are bearing incised designs of flower scrolls. The white celadon piece found from the site is plain and has a translucent white glossy shine. The potsherds resemble the shape of small dishes with foot-rings. These are datable to 14th-15th century CE.

Daulatabad

Different areas were selected for excavation. Initially, the excavation was conducted to reveal an extensive mansion of 15th century CE. Built of stone and plastered with lime, the structure includes rooms, courtyard, rows of arched cells, a brick-well or storage tank, water-channels. House complexes of 16th-17th century made of rubble masonry, roof tiles, etc. were also noticed.

Noteworthy finds were iron arrowheads, horse trappings, glass bangles, silver and copper rings, ivory pendant, conch shells, glass bangles, lamp, beads, grinding quern, terracotta ball, animal figurine, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes glazed ware, red ware, red slipped ware, Chinese porcelain, and celadon ware. Some important shapes found were of storage jars, bowls and dishes. The Chinese porcelain and celadon ware traced during different seasons are mentioned in distinguished ways such as celadon ware (two with Chinese characters on their base); various types of sherds of Chinese porcelain (one with Chinese character); white celadon ware with blue designs; and China wares.

The Chinese porcelains found in the excavation are stored in the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune and Aurangabad Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. Three varieties of porcelain were examined which includes blue-and-white porcelain, white porcelain and celadon ware.

The blue-and-white porcelain wares are refined in quality and bearing different motifs like floral designs (fig. 4.19), landscapes, geometrical patterns, Taoist motifs and precious symbols, etc. One potsherd amongst these is bearing a precious symbol of lingzhi scroll on the base. The potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain were wrongly termed as celadon ware in the published report of Daulatabad excavation by

![fig. 4.19 Daulatabad: Blue-and-white porcelain decorated with floral designs (source: Mate 1992: 99)](source: Mate 1992: 99)
the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune. These pieces are bearing Chinese dynastic inscriptions on the base. These potsherds of bowl and dishes, of blue-and-white porcelain variety, belong to Ming period.

The white porcelain potsherds of bowls bears crack marks on their bodies. The celadon wares are in greenish-brown tint. Some of the pieces are not refined and bears crackling marks. The foot-rings and rim portions of the broken pieces suggest the shapes of bowls. These are datable to Ming period.

Khairwada

Khairwada is located in district Wardha. It was excavated in 1981-82 by the Department of Archaeology, Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune and Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra under the supervision of A.P. Jamkhedkar (IAR 1981-82: 51-52).

The excavation was carried out in the habitation and burial area of the site. The burial area revealed stone circles of two types, one with pebble and clay falling within a circle of boulders and other with only loose pebbles. The site thus revealed the remains of megalithic culture followed by early historic depositions and then medieval period. The habitational deposits were noticed by the circular post holes, floors of lime plaster, saddle and legged querns.

The artefacts discovered from the site were iron axes, iron blades, iron hoes, copper lids, coins, etc.

The ceramic assemblage include black and red ware, mica coated ware and celadon ware.

Koralai Fort

Koralai fort is a located in the south of Mumbai. This fort of Portuguese period was explored in 1976 by John Carswell (1978: 32).
The area around the fort was explored and the ceramics collected were pieces of local pottery and Chinese porcelain. The Chinese porcelain belonged to 17th century CE.

**Nevasa**

The famous site of Nevasa is situated on the bank of River Pravara in district Ahmednagar. The excavation on the site was conducted in 1955-56 by the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune under the direction of H.D. Sankalia and S.B. Deo (*IAR* 1955-56: 8-11).

During the excavation, the first two periods of the site revealed the remains of Stone Age followed by the occupational level of Chalcolithic period. The third layer comprises NBPW followed by early historic or Satvahana deposit. The remains of Roman deposits were found in layer V. The last cultural phase of layer VI showed the remains of medieval period. The structural remains found from the site were houses supported with square and round pillared.

The noteworthy antiquities collected during the excavation were Stone Age tools consisting crescent, trapeze, triangles, pen-knife and straight-sight blades, copper objects like chisel, a needle, beads and harpoon, terracotta decorative masks with foreign hair dress, glass bangles, shell bangles, terracotta figurines, flesh-rubbers, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes brown and black ware, NBPW, black-and-red ware, Megaron ware, amphorae, red polished ware, glazed pottery, Chinese porcelain and celadon ware.

**Paunar**

Paunar, a famous site is located on the right bank of the River Dham in district Wardha. This ancient site has been identified with ancient Pravarapura which was the capital of the Vakatakas during the 3rd-5th century CE. It was excavated in 1966-67 by the Department of History and Culture, University of Nagpur under the direction of S.B. Deo (*IAR* 1966-67: 27).
Noteworthy findings from the site include terracotta figurines, beads of semiprecious stones, coins of Satavahana, stone plaques, polychrome glass bangles and fragmentary stone sculptures.

The ceramic assemblage from the excavation includes black and red ware, red polished ware, amphora, glazed ware and celadon ware.

Revedanda

Revedanda is located near Barbara's tower in district Kolaba. Exploratory dig was conducted in 1977-78 by the South-western Circle (now Aurangabad Circle) of the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of S.A. Sali (JAR 1977-78: 38-39).

The excavation revealed red ware and Chinese porcelain of 16th-17th century CE.

Sion Fort

This medieval fort is located at Sion, a suburb of Mumbai. Existing structure belongs to Portuguese period and popularly known as Shivaji cha killa. Exploration outside the fort boundary in 2010 yielded varieties of porcelain and local pottery.

The site was thoroughly examined during the research and two pieces of celadon ware and one potsherd of white porcelain eight potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain were collected. The glazed ware was also found.

The celadon wares found from the site is thick in composition and less refined. These are bearing a thick covering of light green glaze. One piece among the celadon ware finds is a base portion of a bowl having thick foot-ring. It is crude in composition and the foot-ring is left un-glazed. The white porcelain collected from the site is bearing crackled marks over the glazed body. It is refined and well-levigated. There are no decorative motifs on it. These pieces of Chinese porcelain belong to 17th-18th century CE.
The blue-and-white porcelain pieces (fig. 4.20) are refined and having a white core. The common designs on the potsherds include landscape, a typical Chinese house, grass, a flying bird, diamond diaper patterns, geometrical motifs, etc. These potsherds are of dishes of different sizes.

Vetalwadi

Vetalwadi is an ancient Buddhist site located in district Satara. In order to find out the exact location of the Buddhist monastery, the debris was removed in 1989-90 by the Aurangabad Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of P.N. Kamble (IAR 1989-90: 56).

The clearance of debris from the site revealed a hall supported by four square pillars. The noteworthy artefacts found were iron objects, stone lamps, human bones, etc. The ceramic assemblage includes red and black wares and Chinese glazed ware.
**Vijaydurg**

Vijaydurg, an ancient fort is located in district Sindhudurg. An offshore and onshore exploration on the site was conducted in 1983 by National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa (Sila et al. 1998: 51-53).

During the exploration in Vijaydurg waters, a stone structure was discovered. It lies on the western side of the fort and measures 122 m in height. The stones used in the structure were of different size. The surveys also revealed remains of a tidal dockyard (datable to 17th century CE) on the left bank of the River Vaghotan. Stone anchors of grapnel type were found near the dockyard.

The ceramics collected were potteries of medieval period. It includes some local potteries and Chinese porcelain. Two varieties of Chinese porcelains were noticed, blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware. The porcelain found from the site is refined and well-levigated. The common motifs found on blue-and-white porcelain are flowers like *lotus, narcissus, chrysanthemum, peony, etc.* (Sila et al. 1998: 61).

**Manipur**

Manipur is one of the seven states of northeast India. The state shares its border with Myanmar. It includes a number of archaeological sites and structures. The finds of Chinese porcelain has been reported from two archaeological sites in Manipur. Amongst these, the findings of porcelain from Sekta are noteworthy and they belong to Ming period.

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<td>Imphal</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sekta</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Andro**

Andro is located in district Imphal. This site was excavated in 2003 by the Manipur State Archaeology Department and the Department of History, Manipur University.
At present, one porcelain bowl found from Andro are displayed at a private museum “The Ching Tam Yokhat Museum and Research Centre” of Manipur. The site revealed blue-and-white porcelain bowls. The bowls are much refined if compared with the other porcelain finds of the region. These are having fine white core and thin glazing on both sides of the body. The conch shell motif found in the centre of one of the bowls is similar as found on one of the porcelain bowls of Sekta. The other bowls found during the excavation are bearing flower motifs. These are also having circular un-glazed foot-rings. The probable period of this collection is 16th-17th century CE.

Sekta

Sekta is located on the left bank of River Iril in district Imphal. It was excavated in 1994-95 by Department of Anthropology, D.M. College of Science, Imphal and Department of Archaeology, Government of Manipur under the direction of O. Kumar Singh (IAR 1994-95: 58-59).

The excavation revealed eight layers. Being a burial site, the site revealed remains of burials in big pots. The burial remains found at the site include limb bones along with skull but each of these were placed in separate jars. Skulls with mask were also found in a separate jar.

Some noteworthy findings are beads, bangles, rings, armlets, implements of iron like spearheads, knives, etc.

The ceramic findings include glazed ware and porcelain.

The porcelain reported in the excavation is stored in the Department of Archaeology, Government of Manipur. Three bowls of blue-and-white porcelain datable to 16th century CE were examined. One bowl amongst these belongs to Vietnam. All the three bowls are in fragmented condition.
Amongst the three bowls (fig. 4.21), two have whitish-blue surface with decoration in blue while the third one, a Vietnamese porcelain bowl has yellowish glaze with decoration in purplish-black colour. All three are decorated on both the sides and have round base. One bowl has a conch shell motif in the centre on the inner side while the outer rim portion is decorated with floral decoration. The other bowl has a central decoration of a flower and its outer side bears some rocks, plants surrounding two prancing deer which is a typical feature of Ming porcelain. The rim of this bowl is out-turned.

Orissa

Orissa is located on the east coast of India. It was known as Kalinga during the Mauryan period and remained an important Buddhist centre for a long time. The region was popular among the travellers and merchants from China. Many port towns of Orissa are mentioned in the Chinese texts which have played significant role in trade activities between India and China. The remains of Chinese porcelain from seven sites of Orissa have attested the strong connections of India and China. The Chinese porcelains discovered from Manikapatna and Barabati fort are noteworthy.

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<td>Khalkattapatna</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Manikapatna</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Potagarh</td>
<td>Ganjam</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Ratnagiri</td>
<td>Cuttack</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tundupada Banta</td>
<td>Puri</td>
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</table>
Barabati Fort


The site revealed earliest deposits of 13th century CE followed by the occupational levels of Bengal Sultanate in 16th century CE. The site remained occupied till 18th-19th century CE.

During the excavation, remnants of Durbar hall, citadel wall, etc. were unearthed (fig. 4.22). A gateway complex on the east of the citadel wall was also found. The exterior of the gateway was decorated with mouldings. Remains of a temple with the base of lateritic blocks were also noticed in the lowest level.

fig. 4.22 Barabati Fort: Remains around the citadel
Noteworthy finds include iron nails, empty brass cartridges, lead bullets, a stone cannon ball, stem and base of a glass goblet, earthen lamps, iron arrow-head, coin of Shahjahan, terracotta animal and human figures carved on a handle and a wheel of schist carved with human figures, elephant bones, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes red ware, sturdy grey ware, dull red ware, red slipped ware, Chinese porcelain, creamy white porcelain, white porcelain and celadon ware.

The Chinese porcelain discovered from the site is stored in Excavation Branch - IV, Bhubaneswar of Archaeological Survey of India. Thirty-five pieces of celadon ware, white porcelain and blue-and-white porcelain were examined. The celadon ware is found having a coarse body as compared to the blue-and-white porcelain variety. These are covered with olive-green glaze. No decorative motif is found on this variety. The white porcelain pieces are having thin core and glossy white glaze. These pieces are bearing no decoration. These potsherds resemble the shape of small bowls and dishes.

The pieces of blue-and-white porcelain are refined and bear a covering of bluish-white glaze. These are decorated with nature and landscape scenes such as huts, birds and trees, etc.

These porcelain pieces are datable to Ming period. There are a few pieces datable to Ch’ing period also.

Gourangapatana

Gourangapatana, an ancient port site is situated near village Pallur in district Ganjam. It was explored in 2005 by Tripati Sila and K.H. Vora of National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa (Sila and Vora 2005: 1175-1181).

Potteries discovered during the exploration were red slipped ware, dull red ware, coarse black ware, turquoise-glazed ware and Chinese ceramics.
Khalkattapatna

Khalkattapatna, a port town, is situated on River Kushabhada in district Puri. This site was excavated by the Excavation Branch-IV, Bhubaneshwar of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of J.S. Nigam in 1984-85 (*IAR* 1984-85: 59) and K. Veerabhadra Rao in 1994-95 (*IAR* 1994-95: 61-62).

Excavation revealed occupation of a single habitational culture between 12th and 14th century CE.

The structural remains unearthed were brick floor, hearth and ring-wells.

Noteworthy findings include terracotta beads, Chinese copper coins, etc.

The ceramic assemblage include sturdy grey ware, dull red ware, orange red slipped ware, Chinese celadon ranging from light blue to bluish green, creamish white porcelain, egg-white glazed and glazed chocolate ware of Arabian origin. The popular shapes noticed were bowls, basins, *handis*, vases, miniature pots and lamps.

The Chinese porcelain of different varieties is stored in the Excavation Branch - IV, Bhubaneswar of Archaeological Survey of India. Two pieces of celadon ware, one piece of white porcelain and eight pieces of blue-and-white porcelain were documented. The celadon ware pieces are refined and bear glaze in bluish green and olive-green colour glaze. These are having greyish-white refined core. These potsherds are decorated with moulded and incised designs of lotus petals and geometrical lines. These celadon ware potsherds resemble the shape of bowls. The potsherds are datable to 12th-14th century CE.

The white porcelain piece has crackled marks. The clay is refined and glaze is smooth. Another noteworthy variety of porcelain found from the site is blue-and-white. Pieces are fragmented and most are joined to trace the original shape and size. These pieces are bearing decorations of flowers, landscape scenes, etc. They resemble with the shapes of small tea-cups, dishes, bowls, etc. These are datable to 15th-16th century CE.
Manikapatna

Manikapatna, an ancient port town is situated in district Puri. The excavated site is located near the Chilika Lake. It was excavated by the Orissan Institute of Maritime and Southeast Asian Studies, Bhubaneswar from 1987 to 1993 (Mahalik 2004: 39-45).

The excavated site revealed two phases of habitational deposits, datable from 2nd century BCE to 6th century CE and 9th century to 19th century CE.

The important findings collected were the coins of Kushana, Ceylonese, Chinese, Mughal and East India Company period.

Pottery assemblage include rouletted ware, knobbed ware, stamped ware, kaolin ware, fragments of amphora, red glazed ware, egg-white Arabic glazed ware and celadon ware.

The celadon wares discovered during the excavation are stored in Orissan Institute of Maritime and Southeast Asian Studies, Bhubaneswar. Fifty pieces of Chinese porcelain were examined which includes one blue-and-white porcelain, four white porcelain and forty-five pieces of celadon ware. The only sherd of blue-and-white porcelain has circular design on white base which is not clearly visible. The cobalt on this sherd is fainting on the white body of porcelain.

Four white porcelain pieces are bearing white glossy white glaze. One potsherd amongst these has a thin core and extremely refined white glaze on both side of the body. The celadon wares found from the site include potsherds of both refined and non-refined quality. These are having greyish-white core and covering of olive-green or greyish-green glaze. Five pieces are bearing moulded and incised decorations. One potsherd of celadon ware bowl amongst these is bearing a moulded twin fish motif design in the centre. Rest of the four pieces are decorated with incised lotus petals and flower motifs. These are datable to 13th-14th century CE.
Potagarh

Potagarh is located on the left section of the Rushikulya in district Ganjam. The site was explored in 1984-85 by the Excavation Branch - IV of Archaeological Survey of India and Department of History, Utkal University, Bhubaneshwar under the direction of Amarendra Nath, M.P. Singh and K.S. Behara (IAR 1984-85: 57).

Exploration at the site revealed a floor of lateritic kankar soil and bricks which served the purpose of loading and unloading goods by the ships. The exposed floor measured 10 to 15 cm in thickness and 30 m in length.

Ceramics collected from the deposit over this floor includes potsherds of red ware and Chinese blue-and-white porcelain. The common shapes found in Chinese ware were bowls and dishes.

Ratnagiri

Ratnagiri, a Buddhist site is located in district Cuttack. It was excavated in 1957-58 and 1958-59 by the Eastern Circle (now Kolkata Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of Debala Mitra (IAR 1957-58: 39; 1958-59: 33-34).

The site exposed a large-sized brick stupa, two monasteries, hundreds of small cells, etc.

The noteworthy antiquities collected during the excavation were small sealings of unbaked clay, bronze sculptures, stone sculptures, iron objects and glass pieces.

The pottery collected from the site includes Chinese porcelain.

Tundupada Banta

Tundupada Banta is a small village site located in district Puri. It was explored in 1994-95 by the Excavation Branch - IV, Bhubaneswar under the direction of
The ceramics collected from the site during the exploration include grey ware, dark grey ware, orange red ware and celadon ware.

**Puducherry**

Puducherry, earlier known as Pondicherry, is a Union Territory of India. It has four unconnected districts. The earliest mention of Puducherry in literature has been noticed in the *Periplus Maris Erythraei* (1st century CE). The region had yielded archaeological remains from the Roman period as discovered from the site of Arikamedu which is about 40 km from the district headquarters. Chinese porcelain belonging to different periods has been discovered from this site.

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<td>Puducherry</td>
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**Arikamedu**

Arikamedu is located on River Ariyankuppam, about 3 km south of Puducherry. This ancient port site was excavated several times. The first excavation on the site was done by a French team. Thereafter, a systematic excavation was conducted in 1945 by Mortimer Wheeler (Wheeler et al. 1946: 91-93). Another excavation was jointly conducted in 1991-92 by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai and University Museum, University of Pennsylvania under the directions of K.V. Raman and Vimala Begley (*IAR* 1991-92: 89-90).

Wheeler's excavation yielded cultural sequence from the Megalithic to the medieval periods. He divided the site into northern and southern sectors from where evidence of overseas trade has been noticed in large number.

The site was again excavated in 1991-92 and the dig was started in the southern sector. Six trenches were laid in this sector along the water front. The structural finds include a tank with drainage outlet and floors and walls of different phases.
Besides it, a previously laid trench AV 91-VII, in the northern sector, was reopened and excavated below the water level. In the west of this trench, two large brick walls were noticed datable after the period of 20 BCE to 20 CE. These walls are found to be contemporary with the adjacent ring-well visible in the southern baulk.

Important finds from the site includes square copper coin, four strand necklace, fragmentary coconut pendant or disc, numerous finished and unfinished lapidary pieces, glass beads, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes amphora, arretine and rouletted ware, Chinese celadon and Islamic blue glazed pottery, blue-and-white porcelain.

Chinese porcelain found in the excavation is housed in the State Museum, Puducherry. Thirteen pieces of celadon ware and eleven pieces of blue-and-white porcelain were examined. The celadon ware pieces are bearing greyish-white core and thin olive-green glaze. The glaze on some potsherds seems greenish-brown in tone. Some pieces are having incised combed motif which is a typical feature of 12th century Song period’s celadon ware. Other potsherds are plain and datable to Yuan and early Ming period. Eight pieces are having foot-ring which is un-glazed. It has a thin covering of olive-green glaze and decoration of incised lines and patterns.

The blue-and-white pieces are having thin body and refined core. The decoration found on the potsherds of this variety includes floral motifs like peony, dragon amongst the clouds, geometrical patterns, etc. These potsherds resemble with the shapes of bowls and dishes. The blue-and-white porcelain variety is datable to Ming period.

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu also known as Coromandel Coast has a coastline of about 1,076 km. The ports of Tamil Nadu were entrepôts for the ships coming from China. The Pallava and Chola kingdom had strong maritime trade connections with Chinese. The evidence of different varieties of Chinese porcelain from the twenty-nine coastal sites of Tamil...
Nadu has proved the well-established trade contacts between India and China. Amongst the large list of sites the significant ones are Alagankulam, Periyapattinam, Gangaikondacholapuram and Nagapattinam.

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Alagankulam

Alagankulam is located near River Vaigai in district Ramanathapuram. This ancient port site was excavated by the State Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu for six seasons under the direction of R. Nagaswamy in 1986-87 and Natna Kasinathan in from 1990-91 to 1997-98 (Sridhar 2005).

In total nineteen trenches were laid. Based on the stratigraphy and pottery types, four successive periods are determined datable from 5th century BCE to 12th century CE.

Notable finds were gamesman, terracotta dice, arrow heads, weights, metal objects, iron objects, coins of Pandya and Roman period, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes red ware, black and red ware, northern black polished ware, grey ware, amphorae sherds, stamped sherds, roulette ware, celadon and porcelain ware. The celadon and porcelain ware found from period IV are datable to 10th-12th century CE.

The celadon wares found from the site have thin olive-green coloured glaze on white porcelain body. These potsherds resemble the shapes of bowls and dishes with moulded rims. One potsherd has moulded designs of lotus petals. White porcelain is also found though comparatively less in number. These are plain and devoid of any decoration. Some pieces are having crackled marks.

Attivakkam

Attivakkam is located 30 km away from the district headquarters of Tiruvallur. This site was explored in 1989-90 by the Madras Circle (now Chennai Circle) of Archaeological Survey of India by G. Thirumoorthy (IAR 1989-90: 94-96).

The exploration revealed Megalithic cairn circles and habitational deposits of medieval period.

A few sherds of porcelain datable to 17th century CE were collected from the site.
Darasuram

Darasuram is known for its temple, located in district Thanjavur. The site was surveyed by the Archaeological Survey of India. In 1987, the potsherds of porcelain discovered from the precincts of Darasuram temple were studied by Noboru Karashima (2009: 237-238). According to Karashima, the potsherds of porcelain are of *yingqing* type datable to 11th-12th century CE.

Devipattinam

Devipattinam is located in district Ramanathapuram. The site was explored in 1987 by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 239).

During the exploration, thirty pieces of blue-and-white porcelain datable to 16th century onwards were collected.

Gangaikondacholapuram

Gangaikondacholapuram is located in district Ariyalur. It was excavated in 1983-84 by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu under the direction of S. Selvaraj (*IAR* 1983-84: 80).

Twenty trenches were laid on the site which exposed some brick structures, floors, stone pillars of granite tiles, etc.

The antiquities include iron nails, tiles, ivory and bone objects, handle of a sword, etc.

The ceramic finds also include porcelain potsherds.

The porcelain sherds discovered in the excavation are stored in the Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu. Some of the potsherds are housed in the site museum of Gangaikondacholapuram.
Five sherds of white porcelain were examined. These are of refined quality and having thin white core. The pieces are not bearing any design. It seems that they belong to yingqing type of white porcelain. These pieces resemble with the shape of bowls. These potsherds probably belong to the Song period.

**Gingee Fort**

Gingee fort is located in district Villupuram. It was excavated in 2002-03 by the Chennai Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of K.T. Narsimhan *(IAR 2002-03: 267-268)*.

During the excavation, two structural phases were discovered. Phase I includes drainage system datable to Nayaka period (17th century CE) and phase II comprises brick alignment with lime floorings, a brick wall, an entrance to the royal harem, etc. dated to 18th century CE.

The ceramic assemblage includes black and red ware, glazed ware and Chinese porcelain.

**Idindakarai**

Idindakarai, a coastal site, is located in district Tirunelvelli. The site was surveyed in 1972-72 by the Department of Anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of A.V.N. Sarma *(IAR 1972-73: 30-31)*.

During the survey at the site some microliths and a megalithic burial were exposed.

The ceramic finds from the site include local potteries and porcelain.

**Kancheepuram**

Kancheepuram is located in district Kancheepuram. Excavation was conducted in 1969-70 near the Kamakshi Amman temple and in the premises of
Mutt near the Ekambaresvarar temple. It was carried out by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai (JAR 1969-70: 34-35). The site was again excavated by the Chennai Circle of Archaeological Survey of India.

During the excavation of 1969-70, four trenches were laid KCM-1, KCM-2, KCM-2A and KCM-3. The cultural phases identified in the excavation belong to pre-Pallava, Pallava, Chola and Vijayanagar periods. The structural remains noticed were a small circular brick structure, some baked bricks, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes Black-and-red ware, rouletted ware, fine bright-red and orange-slipped wares, amphorae jars (local imitations), polished red wares, coarse red ware and a few sherds of celadon ware.

The excavation carried out by the Chennai Circle of Archaeological Survey of India in 2008-09 yielded blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware. Four potsherds of blue-and-white and two of celadon were examined. The potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain are tiny in size, and therefore the decorative motifs are not clearly visible. The material of these potsherds is refined and well-vitrified. The glaze is thin and translucent. The shapes could not be determined due to their small size. The potsherds may belong to the Ming period.

The celadon wares found from the site are not very refined. The glaze of olive-green colour has crackled marks. These pieces are not bearing any decorative motif. One piece amongst these is a base portion of a bowl having thick foot-ring.

Kannanur

Kannanur is located in district Thiruchirappali. The site was excavated in 1983-84 by the State Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu under the direction of P. Arasn and K.S. Sampath (JAR 1983-84: 81). The excavation was conducted in the area near Samayapuram in Kannanur.

Three trenches KNR I, II and III were laid on the site. During the excavation, water channels covered with stone slabs were noticed. The structural remains found were
brick structures, wells and slabs.

The ceramics found were celadon ware (http://www.tnarch.gov.in/excavation/kan.htm).

Kattabomman

Kattabomman is located in district Tirunelveli. The site was exposed during the debris clearance work which was carried out before the conservation work. The work on the site was carried out in 1968-69 by the Archaeological Survey of India (IAR 1968-69: 105).

The noteworthy findings include cannon balls and porcelain plates.

Kayal

Kayal is located in district Tuticorin. The site was explored in 1987 and 2003 by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 239).

During the exploration, a variety of Chinese porcelain pieces were collected which include white porcelain and celadon ware. The brown glazed stoneware was also noticed.

The porcelain varieties found from the site comprise celadon ware and white porcelain. Three celadon ware pieces (fig. 4.23) and two pieces of white porcelain were examined. The celadon wares are refined and well-levigated. The thin olive-green glaze covers both sides of these pieces. The material suggests that these potsherds belong to Longquan type of Yuan period. The pieces of white

![fig. 4.23 Kayal: Longquan celadon](source: Karashima 2009: 240)
porcelain are also thin and refined. These are bearing moulded and incised designs which are only partially visible. These pieces belong to the *yingqing* type. All these pieces may datable to 13th-14th century CE.

**Kovalam**

Kovalam, also known as Covelong is located in district Kancheepuram. The site was explored in 1992-93 by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai (*IAR* 1992-93: 115-116). The exploration was conducted between the places Chittalambakkam and Chinna Elamchery.

During the exploration, thirteen cairn circles were discovered.

The ceramic finds include black and red ware and porcelain sherds datable to 11th-17th century CE.

**Kulasekarapattinam**

Kulasekarapattinam is located in district Tuticorin. The site was explored in 2003 by the Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 241).

About fifty potsherds of Chinese porcelain were collected during the exploration around Kachchikondapandisvara temple. These are datable to 15th century CE onwards.

**Kunnattur**

Kunnattur is located in district Madurai. The site was excavated by the Southern Circle (now Chennai Circle) of the Archaeological Survey of India under the supervision of V.D. Krishnaswami and Ballabh Saran in 1956-57 (*IAR* 1956-57: 31-34).

The excavated site was situated on the slope of Subrahmanyasvami hill. Three types of megaliths were opened and a trench was laid on the foot of the hill. Megaliths of type I
was a cairn circle, type II was slab dolmenoid cist and type III was a new type, without having large circular-stones. The pottery found from these burials includes black and red ware.

The small area on the foothill of the mound was excavated where two periods were noticed. Period I comprises brick walls, drain made of pottery pipes, rubble stone walls. Period II include only large pits disturbing the strata.

The antiquities found from the site were beads of quartz, glass, coral, glass bangles, terracotta figurines, terracotta seal, a gold pin, three copper coins, etc.

The ceramic assemblage include russet coated painted ware, black and red ware, bright red slip ware, coarse red ware, black ware and porcelain.

Manmalai

Manmalai is located in district Salem. It was explored in 1988-89 by the State Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu under the direction of S.S. Selvaraj and K. Nedunchezhan (IAR 1988-89: 81).

During the exploration, trial digging was also done. Two trenches were laid out around the Manmalai mound and one trench was laid at a place named Guruvalappar Koil.

The structural remains found were brick structures and pieces of black granite used as base of pillars.

The antiquities comprise bangle pieces, roof-tiles, charcoal remains, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes red ware, decorated pottery pieces and celadon ware.

Marakkanam

Marakkanam is located in district Villupuram. This site was excavated by the State
Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu in 2005-06. The trenches were laid near the Boomeshvar temple in Marakkanam (http://www.tnarch.gov.in/excavation/Marakkanam.htm).

The noteworthy antiquities collected from the site were copper coins, gold coins, terracotta spouts, iron objects, copper rings, etc.

The ceramic assemblage comprises porcelain sherds.

The porcelain ware excavated from the site is stored in the State Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu. Four pieces of blue-and-white porcelain were examined. The pieces are refined and have a thin well-levigated core. The translucent white glaze is refined and glossy. The designs on this ware include flowers. These are datable to 16th-17th century CE.

**Nagapattinam**

Nagapattinam was an ancient port. The site is located in district Nagapattinam. The site was explored in 1987 by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 238-239).

During the exploration, fifty potsherds of Chinese porcelain were collected in front of the local court in Velipalaiyam at Nagapattinam. The Pottery of Southeast Asian origin potsherds and blue-and-white porcelain is datable to 16th century and later.

**Nemam**

Nemam is situated in district Thiruvallur. The site was discovered in 1989-90 during village to village survey conducted by the Madras Circle (now Chennai Circle) of the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of G. Thirumoorthy (IAR 1989-90: 94-96).

Middle Palaeolithic tools, glazed ware of late medieval period and porcelain were found during the survey.
Manalmedu

Manalmedu is located in district Nagapattinam. The site was excavated by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai.

The site yielded Chinese blue-and-white porcelain.

The porcelain is stored in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai. Four sherds of blue-and-white porcelain were examined. The sherds are refined and have thin white core. The glaze is smooth and thin in composition. The decorations found were Buddhist designs, flower motifs, landscape, diamond diaper pattern, etc. These potsherds resemble with the shape of bowls and dishes. These are datable to Ming period.

Padavedu

Padavedu is located in district Tiruvannamalai. The site was explored in 1992-93 by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras under the direction of K.V. Raman (IAR 1992-93: 89).

The two mounds named Vettaigiri Palayam and Mullandirum at Padavedu were noticed during the exploration. The noteworthy antiquities found were iron slags, blowing pipes, spouts, terracotta figurines, lamps, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes black and red ware, coarse red ware and Chinese pottery.

Palayarai

Palayarai, once a secondary capital of Chola, is located in district Dindigul. Excavation at the site was conducted by the State Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu in 1984 (http://www.tnarch.gov.in/excavation/palay.htm).
The site revealed antiquities like shell bangles, glass bangles, spouts, stone beads, terracotta ear lobes, etc.

The ceramic assemblage comprises coarse red ware, black ware and porcelain potsherds.

Periyapattinam

Periyapattinam, a village site is located in district Ramanathapuram. The site was excavated in 1987 by the Tamil University in collaboration with a Japanese team under the directions of Y. Subbarayalu (Karashima 2009: 226).

Seven test pits were excavation which revealed around 1500 pieces of Chinese ceramics (fig. 4.24). These potsherds were datable tentatively to 13th or 14th century CE.

![fig. 4.24 Periyapattinam: Test pit (source: Karashima 2009: 226)]

The Chinese porcelain found in the excavation is stored in the Tamil University. Fifteen potsherds were studied which comprises blue-and-white porcelain, celadon ware and white porcelain. Brown glazed wares are also noticed. The potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain are refined and well-levigated. These are bearing decorative...
motifs like flowers, geometrical patterns, etc. The celadon wares are extremely refined and having a white core. The olive-green glaze covers both sides of the potsherds. These may belong to Longquan kilns. Some potsherds are bearing moulded designs of lotus petals. The pieces resemble with the shapes of bowls. The white porcelain is refined and bears a glossy thin glaze on both sides. The core is thin and well-levigated. These pieces are not having any decoration. Some of the potsherds may belong to Dehua kiln. The common shapes found in this variety are bowls and dishes. The potsherds may be datable to 14th to 15th century CE.

**Pulicut**

Pulicut is located in district Thiruvallur. The site was explored in 1987 by a Japanese team headed by Noboru Karashima (2009: 236).

During the exploration, around a Dutch fort in Pulicut, more than 100 potsherds of Chinese ceramics were collected. The pieces belong to the blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware. The blue-and-white porcelains of Jingdezhen and Fujian kilns are datable from 16th to 18th century CE. The celadon wares belong to Longquan and Fujian kilns and datable to 13th-14th century CE.

**Sadras**

Sadras is located in district Kancheepuram. The site was excavated in 2002-03 by the Chennai Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of K.T. Narsimhan (*IAR* 2002-03: 253-254).

The excavation was conducted around a Dutch fort in Sadras where structural remains like granite slabs, floors of tiles, fortification wall, etc. were exposed.

The noteworthy antiquities found were circular coins of copper datable to Dutch East India Company, iron nails, smoking pipes of ceramics, glass objects, etc.
The ceramics found were red ware and Chinese porcelain. The porcelains found from the site were of excellent quality. These were found having different shapes like shallow dishes, plates, cups, etc. The designs made on these pieces were painted in blue, red, orange and golden colours. A few pieces were found bearing Chinese inscriptions. European porcelain was also noticed from the site. These are datable to 17th-18th century CE (IAR 2002-03: 254).

Santhome

Santhome is located in Chennai. The site was a chance discovery when foundation pits were dug out at construction sites in Santhome in the locality of Mylapore. It was surveyed in 1992-93 by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai (IAR 1992-93: 116).

The potsherds collected from the site include rouletted ware sherds and Chinese sherds.

Settur

Settur is located in district Madurai. The site was accidently discovered when a farmer was cultivating a farm in 1992 (Karashima 2009: 241). It revealed pieces of celadon ware which was collected by the State Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu.

The pieces were joined which formed a shape of a jar datable to 10th-11th century CE.

The celadon ware jar is housed in the Government Museum, Madurai. The small globular jar is bearing a thin covering of glaze. Its rim portion is broken. The core of this jar is thick but well-levigated. The jar bears an incised design of lotus petals on its body. It may belong to Yuezhou kiln. The piece may belong to the Song period.
Thenkaraikottai Fort

Thenkaraikottai fort is located in district Dharmapuri. This site was explored in 1994-95 by the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai under the direction of K.V. Raman (JAR 1994-95: 91).

During the exploration, a number of ancient structural remains were discovered including this fort of Nayaka period at Thenkaraikottai. The other structures include two Siva temples, a Vishnu temple and a granary.

The explorations in the fort area revealed coarse red ware and porcelain ware.

Uraiyur

Uraiyur is located in district Tiruchirappalli. The site was excavated in 1964-65 and 1965-66 by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai (JAR 1964-65: 25; 1965-66: 26-27).

Three periods were noticed during the excavation. Period I is datable to 1st century BCE to 4th century CE, period II belongs to 4th-7th century CE, and period III to 8th-15th century CE. The structural remains noticed from the site were floors of clay, brick bats and rubble.

The noteworthy antiquities were gold chain, brass toe-ring, antimony rods, iron objects, beads of semiprecious stones, glass bangles, terracotta figurines, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes black and red ware, roulette ware, red ware and two potsherds of the celadon ware. The potsherds of celadon ware were found from period III.
Vellore Fort

Vellore fort is located in district Vellore. The fort which is in ruins was excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India.

The site revealed Chinese blue-and-white porcelain of 17th-18th century CE.

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh, located in north India share its boundary with Nepal. The region was ruled by some of the significant dynasties of ancient and medieval India which includes Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, Rashtrakuta, Pala, Mughal, etc. During the medieval period, this region became significant as Mughals established their capital in this region. The remains of Chinese porcelain from this region suggest that Mughals might have been exported them. So far porcelain has been reported from five sites amongst which Fatehpur Sikri yields a large number of blue-and-white porcelain.

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<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>District</th>
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<td>Etah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Birchhabili Tila</td>
<td>Agra</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Fatehpur Sikri</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mahtab Bagh</td>
<td>Agra</td>
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</tbody>
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Atranjikhera

Atranjikhera is located near River Kali in district Etah. This site was excavated in 1979 by the Dept. of History, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh under the direction of R.G. Gaur (*IAR* 1979-80: 75-76).

Deposits excavated at the site belong to seven periods starting from NBPW going till medieval period. During the excavation, two big rooms of a house-complex measuring 6.42 x 3.38 m and 6.6 x 2.3 m belonging to Kushana period were discovered. The other structural finds include the remains of a Jaina temple and its pradakshina-patha; house complexes having five rooms of reused brick.
Noteworthy antiquities found were stone images, pestles, weights, terracotta figurines, bangles, beads, skin-rubbers; bangles of shell and glass, iron rods, spearheads, arrowheads, nails, beads of semiprecious stones and bone points.

The ceramic assemblage includes NBPW, local potteries, glazed ware and Chinese celadon ware.

The collection is stored in the Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University. The pieces of celadon ware are having green or greenish-brown colour glaze. The body of the wares are found having both the thin as well as thick core. The clay of the core is refined having white texture but some pieces are also having gritty core. These are plain without having any decoration. Most of the pieces are fragile and broken. These pieces resembles with the shape of bowls. Some pieces are having thick unglazed foot-ring.

**Fatehpur Sikri**


Two different sectors were chosen for the excavation. FPS-I is located in the east of Badshahi gate and FPS-II southwest of Tansen’s Baradari. The excavated area of FPS-I revealed structures like floorings, bases of pillars and pilasters, house complex, a five roomed *hammam* complex, Horse and Camel stables, etc. Rubble structures were also found with the traces of lime mortar on the walls. The other area of FPS-II revealed structural remains of cells, rooms and a courtyard, series of shops, refuse water pit, etc. Big complexes and houses having courtyard and latrines were also noticed.
Noteworthy finds include copper rings, coins; terracotta human and animal figurines; a thin gold coil; iron objects including chisel, hammer, fish-hooks, horse saddle, arrow heads, horse-shoes; glass objects like beads, fragments of bangles; silver coins, etc.

The ceramic assemblage includes black-on-red ware, plain red ware, thin grey ware, glazed ware, celadon ware and blue-and-white porcelain.

The Chinese porcelain found during the excavation is stored in Purana Qila. The report writing work is in progress. The blue-and-white porcelain and celadon ware are discovered from this site. All the pieces are broken. Most of the potsherds are representing shapes of bowls and dishes. The blue-and-white porcelains are collected in good number. Designs found on the blue-and-white porcelain pieces are floral patterns, mythical animals, fishes, landscape scenes, human figures, geometrical patterns and narration of mythical stories, etc. Chinese dynastic symbols and commemoration marks are also found on the bases of blue-and-white porcelain. Celadon ware found here are having gritty core and thick covering of olive green glaze. Some refined pieces are also found bearing incised and moulded designs. These Chinese porcelain pieces are datable to Ming and Ch’ing periods.

Birchhabili Tila

The Birchhabili Tila is located in village Sikri of Kiraoli tehsil in district Agra. This site was excavated in 1999-2000 by the Agra Circle, Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of D.V. Sharma (IAR 1999-2000: 157-168).

The site revealed deposits belonging to four periods, Period I (6th-8th century CE), Period II (9th-12th century CE), Period III (12th-16th century CE), and Period IV (16th-18th century CE). Two-roomed structure of random rubble masonry and mud-bricks, hearth with brick-bat lining, etc. were unearthed during the excavation. Apart from these, remains of architectural members of a Jaina temple were traced from the site. Both moulded and carved sandstone parts are found scattered on the site.

Some noteworthy findings include terracotta beads, tablets, moulds, sling balls, gamesmen, hopscotch, glass beads, glass and iron bangles, animal figurines, pestle and
quern, chisel, etc.

The ceramic assemblage include plain red ware, black ware, grey ware, glazed ware and a few sherds of Chinese porcelain.

The porcelain collection of Birchhabili Tila is stored in Agra Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. The porcelain finds include five potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain and two potsherds of white porcelain. These are datable to late Ming period (17th century CE). All are broken pieces of dishes and bowls. Highly fragmented, decorations are not clearly visible on them. Two potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain are decorated with geometrical patterns and clouds.

Kannauj

Kannauj is located in district Farrukhabad. A few antiquities were collected in 1986-87 by P.N. Raizada of the Agra Circle, Archaeological Survey of India (IAR 1986-87: 123).

The antiquities collected were bone implements, terracotta figurines of Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana and Gupta period. The ceramic assemblage from the site includes Painted Grey Ware (PGW), NBPW, orange, red and black-slipped wares, glazed ware, and porcelain.

Mahtab Bagh

Mahtab Bagh is located on the bank of River Yamuna opposite to Taj Mahal in district Agra. It was excavated in 1979-80 by the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of W.H. Siddiqui (IAR 1979-80: 72-74).

The excavation was carried out to find out whether Emperor Shah Jahan wanted to built a black Taj Mahal just opposite to the Taj Mahal or not. The excavation unearthed a ruined structure of waterworks, terracotta pipes, brick walls and a thick wall with bastions facing the river side. A brick structure of octagonal shaped tank was
also found. There were no evidence of the plinth of any structure is noticed. A rectangular plan of a garden was found on the site.

The noteworthy antiquities include remains of copper spouts of fountains, fragments of terracotta pipes and glazed tiles of blue colour.

The ceramic assemblage includes glazed Mughal pottery and Chinese pottery.

The Chinese porcelain discovered during the excavation is stored in Agra Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. Chinese blue-and-white porcelain was found from this site which was mentioned as Chinese Mughal pottery in the report. Eight pieces were studied. The potsherds of this variety bear decorative motifs of flowers, animals, precious symbols, geometrical patterns, etc. The core seems to be refined and well-levigated. The common shapes found in porcelain from the site include dishes and bowls. A few pieces also bears inscription in Chinese on the base of their foot-ring but they are partially broken and could not be deciphered. The porcelain of Mahtab Bagh resembles with the porcelain discovered at Fatehpur Sikri. The designs and material shows that these blue-and-white porcelain pieces belong to the Ming period.

West Bengal

West Bengal is located on the east coast of India. It was a significant entrepôt for the merchants coming from China. It was also easily approached using the land route passing through Myanmar and parts of northeast India. During the rule of Bengal Sultanate, Chinese porcelain in large quantity was used by the royals. Chinese porcelain has been reported from three sites in West Bengal. The porcelain finds at Gaur shows its prolific use and demand.

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<td>North 24- Parganas</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gaur</td>
<td>Maldah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mangalkot</td>
<td>Burdwan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dum Dum

The Dum Dum is located in district North 24-Parganas. Initially exploration was done on the mound of Dum Dum which is about 2.85 m high. The excavation was conducted in the southern part of the mound near the dilapidated structure of the Clive’s house. It was excavated in 2001-02 by the Kolkata Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of S.B. Ota (IAR 2001-02: 297-299).

The excavation revealed two periods. Period I is datable from 2nd century BCE to 11th-12th century CE. After a long gap of three centuries, the site was re-occupied in 15th-16th century CE and continued to occupy till date.

The noteworthy finds from the period I include beads of semiprecious stones, medallion, terracotta figurines, hopscotch, wheels, toycart, bone discs, copper cast coins, amulets, rods, stoppers, sling balls, bangles, pendants, lamps, mould, iron nails, arrow heads, antlers, etc. The antiquities found from period II include iron nails, beads and coins of East India Company.

The ceramics assemblage from the excavation include red ware with stamped designs, black ware, dull red ware, grey ware and porcelain sherds.

Gaur

Gaur, a medieval fort site, is located in district Maldah. The area chosen for excavation was situated adjacent to Baisgazi wall known as the palace area of ancient Gaur. This site was excavated in 2002-2003 by the Kolkata Circle of Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of B. Bandyopadhyay (IAR 2002-2003: 324-331). Prior to this, the site was also explored in 1997-98 by Pratip Kumar Mitra of the State Department of Archaeology, West Bengal (Mitra 2005: 279-314).

The excavation was conducted to trace the occupational phase of the area. The site was divided into three parts i.e. Site I, II and III. In total, two layers were noticed amongst which layer I was represented by lakhauri bricks, lime plasters and a few sherds of porcelain. Layer 2 revealed architectural debris but it is devoid of lakhauri bricks.
During the excavation, the site revealed brick and stone structures of Bengal Sultanate and Mughal period. The main structures include brick cells, semicircular bastion-like stone formations, walls decorated with glazed tiles, etc. (fig. 4.25).

Noteworthy antiquities include terracotta animal and human figurines; glazed tiles; glass and terracotta bangles; tiny beads; iron nails; clamps; hammer, etc.

The ceramic assemblage comprises polished red ware, grey ware, black ware, glazed ware, and Chinese porcelain.

The Chinese porcelain discovered from the site is stored in the Kolkata Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. The report on excavation mentioned “porcelain sherds (specially with Chinese motifs)” were found. Five potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain and three potsherds of stoneware were examined. The blue-and-white porcelain pieces are refined and have a covering of glossy transparent white glaze. One piece amongst these is not as refined as other. It bears decoration in cobalt blue on both the sides. The inside of the bowl is decorated with a flower but the designs on outer side are not clear. Another potsherd of this variety bears decoration of a horse with a rider on the outer side. The other two pieces are bearing decorations of grass, flowers, etc. The three potsherds of stoneware are covered with olive-green glaze. The core of these pieces is brownish-grey in colour and gritty in composition. Decoration suggests that these are datable to 17th century.

The explored material from the site is housed in the State Museum, Bekala in Kolkata. It includes potsherds of blue-and-white porcelain datable to Ming period. A piece of
blue-and-white porcelain discovered from the site is bearing peony and chrysanthemum flower motifs in the centre.

**Mangalkot**

Mangalkot is located district Burdwan. It was excavated in 1986-88 by the Department of Archaeology, Kolkata University under the direction of Amita Ray (IAR 1987-88: 111-114).

The excavation revealed six cultural sequences starting from the Chalcolithic (1200-700 BCE), Transitional phase (700-300 BCE), Sunga (300 BCE-1st century BCE), Kushana (1st-3rd century CE), Gupta (4th-6th century CE), post-Gupta (6th-7th century CE), and periods from 8th to 18th century CE.

The noteworthy antiquities discovered during the excavation include bone points, blades, daggers, scrapers, knife of tortoise shell, terracotta discs and bangles, copper bangles, fish-hooks, net sinkers, terracotta figurines and moulds, beads, coins of East India Company, etc.

The ceramic assemblage include black slipped, red slipped, cream slipped, chocolate, ochre-red, grey, black on red, red on cream, black slipped, glazed and porcelain wares.

The reported finds of Chinese porcelain from 117 sites in India clearly explains that it was one of the extensively imported item. The findings of porcelain datable to Ming period are more than the porcelains of Song and Yuan period. The reports of many of these sites are not available which could have provide more details like the context, variety of porcelain and its period. These significant information could help in providing the exact chronology of the site along with the period in which porcelain was used.