

## Chapter – 2: From Hunting-Gathering to Growing Food

### The Earliest People: Why Were They on the Move?

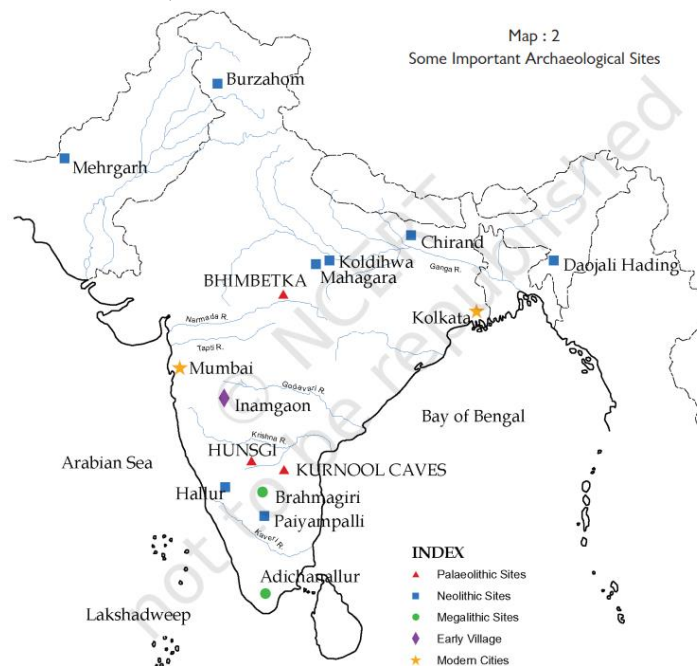
- People – living in sub-continent – 2 million years ago – hunters-gatherers – name – that's how they got their food
- Generally –
  - Hunted – wild animals, fish, birds
  - Gathered – fruits, roots, nuts, seeds, leaves, stalks, eggs
- Moved from place to place – many reasons
  - Stayed in one place – used all resources – go somewhere else – search for food
  - Animals move – search prey or grass and leaves – those who hunted – follow them
  - Plants – bear fruit in different seasons – people – move according to seasons
  - Everyone needs water – lakes, rivers, streams – some perennial – some seasonal – people living on the banks – move according to season

### How do We Know About These People?

- Archeologists – found things – used by early people
- People – made and used tools – stone, wood, bone
- Stone tools – cut meat, bone, scrape bark (trees), hides (animal skins), fruit, roots
- Some – attach to handles – bones, wood – make spears, arrows – hunting
- Other – chop wood – used as firewood – also used to make huts and tools

### Choosing a Place to Live in

- Map shown below
- Red triangle – sites – evidence of hunter-gatherers
- Many sites – near water bodies, rivers and lakes



- Stone tools – very imp. – sites where good quality stones were found – chosen specifically
- Many caves – paintings on walls – wild animals – great accuracy and skill

## **Finding out About Fire**

- Kurnool caves – traces of ash – found here – suggest – people – familiar with fire
- Fire – could be used for – source of light, to roast meat, to scare away animals

## **Names and dates**

- Archeologists – named older period – Paleolithic – stone age – lots of stone tools found
- This period – 2 million years ago to 12,000 years ago – divided into lower, middle, upper paleolithic – 99 % of human history
- Period – environmental changes – 12,000 years ago to 10,000 years ago – Mesolithic
- This period – stone tools – tiny, stuck on bones or wood
- Next period – 10,000 years ago to afterwards - Neolithic

## **A Changing Environment**

- 12,000 years ago – major changes in climate – shift to warm conditions
- This led to development of grasslands – increased number of deer, antelope, goat, cattle, etc
- People – hunted these animals – followed them – learning food habits and breeding seasons
- This helped people – herding and rearing animals
- Fishing – became imp.

## **The Beginning of Farming and Herding**

- This period – several grain bearing grasses – wheat, barley, rice – grew naturally
- Men, women, children – collected these grains for food – learnt when they grew, when ripened
- This led to growing them on their own – people became farmers
- People – leave food near animal shelters – attract and then tame animals
- First animal – tamed – wild ancestor of dog
- Later – gentle animals – encouraged to come near settlements
- These animals – sheep, goats, cattle – lived in herds – ate grass
- People – protected them from wild animals – became herders

## **Domestication**

- Process – people – grow plants and look after animals
- These plants and animals – different from wild plants and animals – selected specifically –
  - Plants – good quality – no disease
  - Animals – relatively gentle
- Gradual process – took place at many parts of world
- Began about – 12,000 years ago – all the animal and food produce – used today – result of domestication
- Earliest plants – wheat and barley – earliest animals – sheep and goat

## **A New Way of Life**

- Seed – planted – takes time to grow – several days, months, even years
- People started growing plants – had to stay in same place – look after plants – water them, weeding, protecting from animals and birds – grain had to be stored
- Grain stored for – food and seed

- Many areas – made large clay pots, or baskets, or dug pits into ground

## **Rearing Animals**

- Animals – multiply naturally
- Looked after carefully – provide milk and meat – imp. source of food
- Animals – reared – used as ‘store’ of food

## **Finding Out About the First Farmers and Herders**

- Map above – blue squares – sites – evidence of early farmers and herders
- Most imp. – north-west (present day Kashmir), east, south India
- On these sites – scientists – study evidence of plants and bones – most exciting – remains of burnt grains
- Scientists – identified – number of crops – different regions – also identified – bones – different animals

## **Towards a Settled Life**

- Archeologists – found traces of huts or houses
- Burzahom (present-day Kashmir) – people – built pit-houses – dug into ground – steps leading into them
- These houses – provided shelter in cold weather
- Also found cooking hearths – inside and outside – suggests – depending on weather – cooking done inside or outside the house
- Many sites – stone tools found – many of these – different from earlier paleolithic tools – called Neolithic
- Some tools – polished – fine cutting edge
- Mortars and pestles – grinding grains and other plant produce
- Some other tools – made of bones
- Many kinds of earthen pots – also found – used for storing things – some – decorated
- Pots – used for cooking food – especially grains – rice, wheat, lentils
- People also began weaving cloth – using different materials – cotton, etc
- Habits changed – gradually over 1000 years – some people – settled – others – still wandered – some – even combined both lives – switching as per seasons

## **A Closer Look – Living and Dying in Mehrgarh**

- This site – located in fertile plain – near Bolan Pass – most imp. routes to Iran
- People learnt to grow wheat and barley – rear sheep and goats – earliest in the area
- This site – many animal bones found – wild as well as domesticated animals
- Other findings – square or rectangular houses – each house – 4 or more compartments – may be used for storage
- After death – relatives and friends – pay respect to them – look after them – belief – there is some form of life after death
- Burial – one such arrangement – several burials found here
- On burial – dead person – buried with goats – probably meant as food in the afterlife