

# A Preliminary Report on the Stone Age of the Union Territory of Delhi and Haryana

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## The Study Area

THE ARAVALLIS, ALTHOUGH SUBJECT TO MUCH LEVELLING IN RECENT YEARS, ARE SPREAD like broken waves over Delhi, dipping down to the Yamuna at the Wazirabad crossing. In the southern periphery of the city the hills are higher and more rugged in relief. As one proceeds to Suraj Kund in the neighbouring Haryana, past the stone-grinding machines and the dust-laden air of Badarpur, one finds the distribution of the ranges more compact and continuous for at least several kilometres to the south. This hill massif presents a sharp and high southern edge to the plain along the modern Faridabad-Sona road roughly between the Badkhal Lake and the Sona-Paliwal road crossing. Along the Mehrauli-Gurgaon road the topography, particularly to the south of the road, is rocky and broken in patches, and for the sharper contour of the hills one has to go past the Chhatarpur village and the farm-houses of the rich to the Bhatti mines. The patches of broken topography in this sector continue intermittently up to the area of the modern 'bypass' to Gurgaon.

From the Delhi belt the Aravallis strike out in two directions, both in conformity with the overall northeast-southwest alignment of the Aravalli system. One strike is towards Alwar, with the hills coming close to the modern road near Sona. Beyond Sona one can climb atop a tableland (the entrance to which is protected by a mediaeval fortification) which continues—always with the hills in horizon—to the vicinity of Tauru. The hills feature sharply between Tauru and Nuh in a section called the Bandhwa Ghati. They also occur in a stretch between Tauru and Manesar on the Delhi-Jaipur road. The second Aravalli strike from Delhi is towards Jaipur. Much of this route traverses the Sahibi valley but the hills are always close by. Of these two routes to Rajasthan the Alwar route with the Asokan edicts of Srinivaspuri (Delhi) and Rupnath (Bairat) on the way was obviously more important in the historical period.

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Beyond the urban belt of Delhi the Aravallis constitute a world of comparatively low and rugged hills which are covered mostly by reddish rocks and scrub jungle and contrast sharply with the verdure of the Stone Age sequence to a specific stratigraphic situation. One can in all honesty claim that the present work with its discovery of 43 sites in a wide region and the stratigraphic sequence of this Stone Age material has laid the foundations of the Stone Age studies in the Union Territory of Delhi and the state of Haryana.

## The Inventory of Sites and Artifacts

1. *The area between the Kalkaji Temple and the Asokan inscription (AI)*: a casual search in this area revealed only one microlithic point in crystal quartz but one can be reasonably sure that a prolonged and careful search will result in the discovery of more microliths in the area. Even our lone find is interesting because of the light it seems to throw on the background of the myth of the Sakti cult-spot of the Kalkaji Temple and on the general cultural setting of the Asokan inscription.
2. *Lakkarpur (LKP)*: the road to Suraj Kund from Delhi branches off at this point (which is slightly beyond Badarpur towards Suraj Kund) for Faridabad—about 2m thick soil deposit exposed in various places of this area—a microlithic flake occurred *in situ* in this soil. Microliths: parallelsided blades—6, flakes—3, cores—5, burin—1, point—1, scraper—1. Except a flake which is on a greyish chert: all the specimens are in milky to crystal quartz.
3. *S.O.S. Children's Village (SOS)*: the site is to the west of the village which is little south of the Suraj Kund–Faridabad road—the top of the ridge is considerably disturbed, but the tools apparently came out of the conglomerate exposed here on the surface. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxes—3, scrapers—7. Middle Palaeolithic: points—2, round scraper—1, scraper—1, scraper-cum-borer—1. Upper Palaeolithic: retouched flake—1, retouched blades—2. The material is invariably a brownish fine-grained quartzite.
4. *Anangapur Hills (ANG)*: the road from Suraj Kund to Faridabad passes by the modern Police Post of the village of Anangapur, but the village itself—or at least the major part of it is more than a kilometre to the south and encircled by a rim of hills pierced only by the road coming from the Police Post side—implements are found sporadically on the surface of the hills but the surface is disturbed because of quarrying. Lower Palaeolithic: flakes—2, scrapers—10, discoid core—1, cleaver—1.
5. *Ankir Pahari (ANK)*: the road from Faridabad to Suraj Kund climbs an extensive low ridge soon after the bifurcation of the road to Badkhal lake—



- the site is near the beginning of this ridge from the Faridabad side—implements on the disturbed surface. Lower Palaeolithic: discoid core—1 (in brownish quartzite). Microliths: burin—1, point-cum-scraper—1 (both in milky quartz).
6. *Meola Pahari* (MLP) I: the site is about a kilometre south of the Suraj Kund—Faridabad road, between the Anangapur Police Post and Ankir Pahari—Lower Palaeolithic: handaxes—4, scrapers—3, cleavers—5. Middle Palaeolithic: side scraper—1, nose scraper—1, borer-cum-side scraper—1. The material is invariably brownish including the Middle Palaeolithic specimens.
  7. *Meola Pahari* II: more than 2 km to the south of MLP I—a large natural exposure at the spot showing from the top a thick (1–1.5 m) deposit of soil and a thinner (.5–.75 m) deposit of conglomerate/breccia underlain by bedrock. The lower palaeolithic implements occurred in the conglomerate. Lower Palaeolithic: flakes—2, discoid core—1, core—1, cleavers—3, (one on flake), side scraper—1, keel scraper—1, handaxe—1. Material—brownish quartzite.
  8. *Meola Pahari* III: about 1 km to the northwest of MLP II. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxes—2, discoid core—1, scrapers—5. Middle Palaeolithic: cleaver—1 (on flake, edge retouched), scrapers—6, scraper-cum-borer—1. Microliths: borer—1, blade—1. Except the microlithic borer in crystal quartz, the other specimens are in brownish quartzite.
  9. *Bhaunkri* I (BNK): the site is to the north of the road to Sohna from the Badkhal lake area—Lower Palaeolithic (in quartzite): scrapers—3, handaxe—1, cleaver—1. Upper Palaeolithic (in crystal quartz): blade core—1, points—4, burin—1, notch—2, retouched cores—6, retouched flakes—16, borer-cum-scraper—1, thumbnail scraper—1, scraper (with a tang)—1.
  10. *Bhaunkri* II: about a kilometre to the west of Bhaunkri I. Lower Palaeolithic (in quartzite): handaxes—2, retouched flake—1, side-scraper—1.
  11. *Noadah Koh* (NDK) I: the site is to the north of the Badkhal lake-Sohna road, near the village of Noadah Koh. Lower Palaeolithic (in quartzite): cleaver—1, flake—1.
  12. *Noadah Koh* II: the site is about 1 km to the south of the Badkhal lake—Sohna road. Lower Palaeolithic (quartzite): handaxes 2, scraper—1. Middle Palaeolithic: point-cum-borer—1, scrapers—8 (one in crystal quartz), points—5 (4 in milky quartz), nose scraper (milky quartz)—1. Upper Palaeolithic: blade core—1, blade and blade fragments—15 (11 in crystal or milky quartz), scraper—1. Microlithic: scraper—1, cores—9, lunate—1, p.s. blade—1 (all in crystal quartz). Unless otherwise stated, all specimens are of brownish quartzite.
  13. *Paligaon Hills* (PGH): the site is roughly to the north of the Paligaon village which seems to be an important quarrying centre. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxes—4, retouched flake—1. Middle Palaeolithic: scrapers—7. Microliths: core—1, side scrapers—2, end scraper—1, borer—1. All microliths and a few Middle Palaeoliths are in milky to crystal quartz.
  14. *Mohtabad Hills* (MTB): the site is further west along the bills—Upper Palaeolithic: blade cores—2, burin-on-core—1, scrapers—3. Microlithic: points—7, cores—2, flakes—2. Except a single piece of microlithic flake which is in quartzite, all these specimens are in crystal quartz.
  15. *Gothra* (GTH): 1.5 km west of MTB—Lower Palaeolithic: scraper—1, handaxe—1. Upper Palaeolithic: blades—5, notch—1. Microlithic: retouched flakes—5.
  16. *Dhauj* (DHJ): 4 km to the west of Gothra. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxe—1, scrapers—4. Microlithic: scraper—1.
  17. *Shehi* (SHI): 2.5 km west of Dhauj. Lower Palaeolithic: scraper—1, discoids—3. Upper Palaeolithic: blade core—1, blade fragment—1, scrapers—2 (all in crystal quartz). Microliths: 25 cores/flakes (crystal quartz).
  18. *Khari Jamalpur* (KHJ): 2 km west of Sirohi. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxe—1 (lanceolate), scrapers—2. Middle Palaeolithic: borer—1 (crystal quartz). Upper Palaeolithic: knife—1, blade—1 (crystal quartz). Microlithic: core—1 (crystal quartz).
  19. *Tethur* (TTH): 2 km west of Khori Jamalpur. Upper Palaeolithic: blade cores—2. Microlithic: scraper—1, core—1.
  20. *Kherli* (KRL): 1.5 km west of Kherli. Lower Palaeolithic: scrapers—3, scraper-cum-borer—1 (milky quartz).
  21. *Nimour* (NMR): 2.5 km west of Kherli. Lower Palaeolithic: scraper—1, Middle Palaeolithic: scrapers—3. Upper Palaeolithic: blade core—1. Microlithic: point—1, burins—3, scrapers—3, P.S. blades—2. flake—1. All specimens except the LP one are in milky quartz.
  22. *Ladho Sarai* (LDH): on the Mehrauli-Gurgaon road, close to Qutab—Upper Palaeolithic: blade core—1, cores—2, points—8. Microlithic: borer—1, scraper—1, ps. blades—2.
  23. *Chhattarpur* (CHT): Mehrauli-Gurgaon stretch—Lower Palaeolithic: handaxe—1, scrapers—2. Upper Palaeolithic: blade fragment—1, points—2, scraper—1. Microlithic: core—1, point—1, flakes—3.
  24. *Harchandpur* (HCD): on the way to the Bhatti mines from Chhattarpur—Lower Palaeolithic: scrapers—2, handaxe—1. Middle Palaeolithic: borers—2, points—2. Microlithic: retouched flakes—6, point—1. All except LP specimens are in crystal quartz.
  25. *Sikandarpur* (SKN): Mehrauli-Gurgaon stretch—L.P.: cleaver—1, scraper—1. Upper Palaeolithic: points—6, scraper—1, blade fragments—



- 2, borer—1. Microlithic: flakes—4. All except LP specimens are in crystal quartz.
26. *Nimriwali Pahari* (NMP): western edge of the hills towards Sohna on the Badkhal lake Sohna road—LP: handaxe—1. MP: retouched cores—2, core—1. UP: knife—1, end scraper on blade—1. Microlithic: scrapers—4.
27. *The JNU Hills* (JNU): not far from the main gate of this university campus there is a small market to the western side of the university road. The land outside the university complex slopes away at this point, first to a school and then to a large expanse of undulating rocky land full of scrub jungle and dissected partly by a deep ravine holding rainwater in places. The tools were found around a suitable rocky outcrop in this area. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxes—4, discoid core—1, cleaver—1, scrapers—4. Middle Palaeolithic borers—4, scrapers—4. Upper Palaeolithic: borers—2, keel scrapers—1.
28. *Bhondsi* (BHD): on the Gurgaon—Sohna road, to the right. Middle Palaeolithic: scrapers—3 (all in crystal quartz).
29. *Nangri-ki-Dhari* (NGD): on the Gurgaon—Sohna road, immediately before Sohna, to the right—Lower Palaeolithic: scraper—1. Microlithic (all in crystal quartz) cores—2, scrapers—5, points—3, blades—2.
30. *Bandhwa Ghati I* (BNG I): the road from Nuh to Tauru crosses a hill range called Bandhwa Ghati. BNG I is in the first stage of this passage on the Nuh side. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxe—1, scraper—1. Middle Palaeolithic: scraper—1, borer (crystal quartz)—1. Microlithic: flakes/crores—5.
31. *Bandhwa Ghati II* (BNG II): immediately before the above mentioned passage gets down to the plain on the Tauru side—Lower Palaeolithic: handaxes—4, scrapers—4. Middle Palaeolithic: scraper-cum-borer—1. Microlithic: flake—1.
32. *Dhulawat* (DWT): on the Tauru—Sohna road, to the left—Lower Palaeolithic: handaxes—2, scrapers—1 (one in crystal quartz), cleavers—3. Microlithic: points—2, scraper—1, burin—1.
33. *Bhutla* (BTL): on the Tauru—Sohna road—to the left. Lower Palaeolithic: discoid—1, scraper—1, handaxes—2. Middle Palaeolithic: hollow scraper—1. Upper Palaeolithic: blade core—1. Microlithic: scrapers—2 (in crystal quartz).
34. *Bypass to Gurgaon* (BTG): soon after the beginning of the bypass from the Gurgaon side—to the right. Lower Palaeolithic: handaxe—1. Middle Palaeolithic: double-sided-cum-end scraper—1, handaxe—1 (crystal quartz), scrapers—2, core—1.
35. *Manesar I* (MNS I): on the Delhi—Jaipur road—microliths, all in crystal quartz, embedded in the top soil. Point—1, scraper—2, retouched core—1.

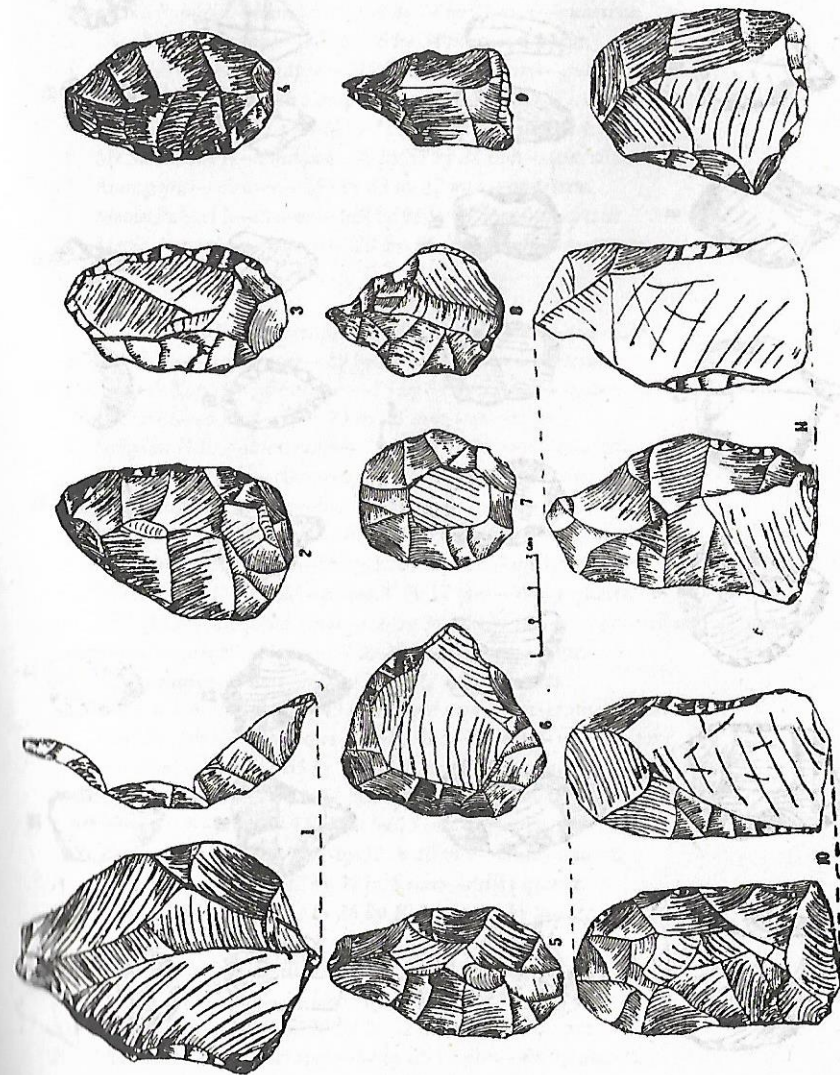


Figure 1:



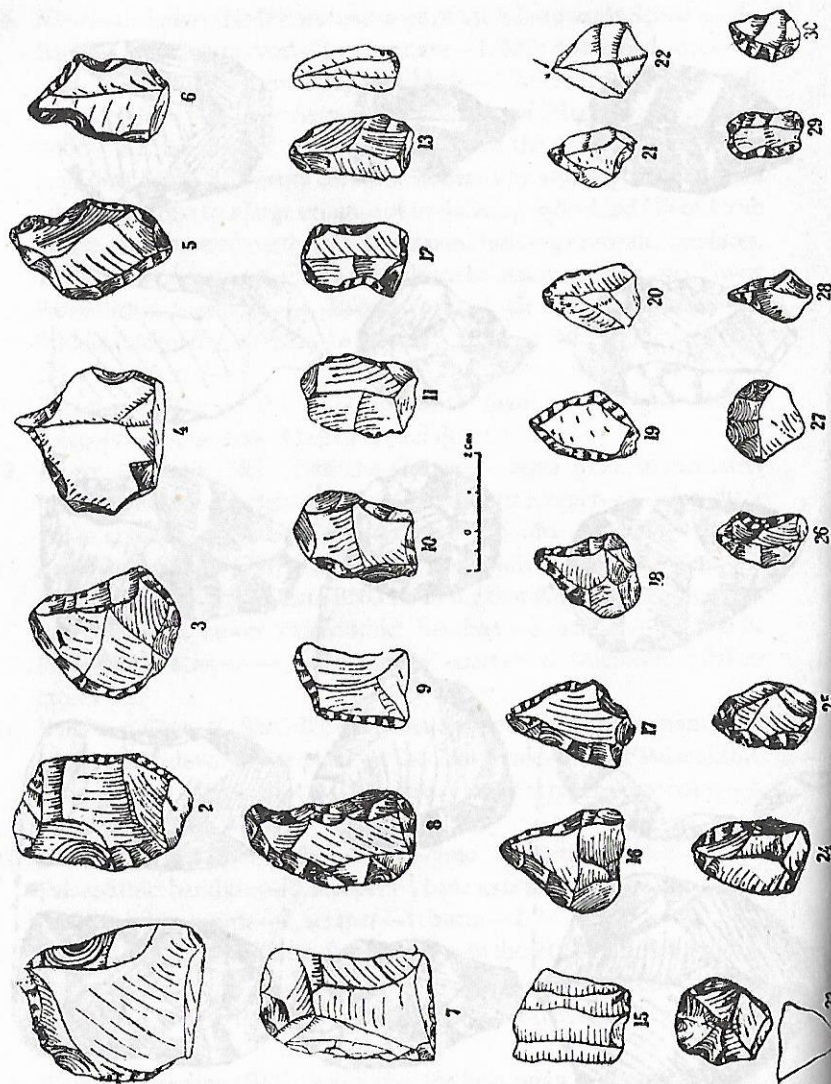


Figure 2:

Figure 1

1. Bhaunkri II—handaxe—180 by 140 by 52 mm—fine-grained quartzite.
2. JNU Hills—handaxe—140 by 90 by 40 mm—fine-grained greyish quartzite.
3. SOS Children's Village—handaxe—130 by 70 by 29 mm—quartzite.
4. Meola Pahari I—handaxe—119 by 74 by 27 mm—quartzite.
5. JNU hills—handaxe—139 by 76 by 34 mm—quartzite.
6. Bhaunkri II—sidescraper—110 by 112 by 38 mm—quartzite.
7. Delhi University South Campus—round scraper—87 by 75 by 30 mm—quartzite.
8. Bhaunkri II handaxe—104 by 71 by 38 mm—quartzite.
9. Meola Pahari I—handaxe—99 by 57 by 28 mm—quartzite.
10. Anangapur—cleaver—155 by 83 by 42 mm—quartzite.
11. Meola Pahari I—cleaver—160 by 91 by 42 mm—quartzite.
12. Meola Pahari I—cleaver—128 by 96 by 38 mm—quartzite.

Figure 2

1. Noadah Koh II—sidescraper—91 by 79 by 24 mm—quartzite.
2. JNU Hills—sidescraper—89 by 62 by 32 mm—quartzite.
3. Noadah Koh II—sidescraper—75 by 59 by 22 mm—quartzite.
4. JNU Hills—borer—75 by 73 by 38 mm—quartzite.
5. Paligaon Hills—sidescraper—79 by 48 by 21 mm—quartzite.
6. JNU Hills—knife—70 mm by 39 by 14 mm—quartzite.
7. SOS Children's Village—blade—92 by 46 by 15 mm—quartzite.
8. Nimriwali Pahari—knife—82 by 42 by 22 mm—milky quartz.
9. Noadah Koh II—knife—56 by 38 by 25 mm—milky quartz.
10. Noadah Koh II—blade—64 by 36 by 17 mm—milky quartz.
11. JNU Hills—retouched blade—56 by 34 by 12 mm—fine grained greyish stone.
12. Meola Pahari II—blade—59 by 29 by 15 mm—quartz.
13. Harchandpur—blade—60 by 28 by 12 mm—quartz.
14. Noadah Koh II—blade—49 by 15 by 6 mm—fine-grained quartzite.
15. Noadah Koh II—blade core—55 by 45 by 30 mm—whitish stone.
16. Bhaunkri I—point—63 by 52 by 15 mm—milky quartz.
17. Noadah Koh II—point—64 by 39 by 11 mm—milky quartz.
18. Bhaunkri I—point—53 by 38 by 23 mm—quartz.
19. Harchandpur—point—52 by 30 by 10 mm—milky quartz.
20. Bhaunkri I—point—47 by 32 by 8 mm—milky quartz.
21. Bhaunkri I—point—42 by 28 by 10 mm—milky quartz.
22. Bhaunkri I—burin—45 by 31 by 36 mm—quartz.
23. JNU Hills—thumbnail scraper—45 by 31 by 36 mm—quartz.
24. Bhaunkri I—olade—58 by 35 by 17 mm—milky quartz.
25. Bhaunkri I—point—52 by 34 by 12 mm—milky quartz.
26. Bhaunkri I—notch scraper—44 by 25 by 12 mm—milky quartz.
27. Bhaunkri I—end scraper—38 by 39 by 16 mm—quartz.
28. Bhaunkri I—borer—40 by 23 by 12 mm—quartz.
29. Noadah Koh II—sidescraper—36 by 22 by 10 mm—quartz.
30. Noadah Koh II sidescraper—30 by 25 by 11 mm—quartz.