



Village Archaeology in Birbhum and Burdwan

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Abstract

In India, as the Asiatic Society founded in 1784, every year, this society surveyed, any subjects. Besides Archaeological Survey of India also surveyed and carried out their research methodology. During colonial India, the British servants conducted their research. After Independence, as, we, look, this trends also to be continued. Although, recent regional archaeology also has been increased and many universities every year conducted new research method and outed their new research. Not only University, this research conducted but also very new research institution also has been going to conduct their researchable method. In 1886, from Archaeological survey of India travelled a new site, kalna regions and discovered many things. On the other hand, Mongolkoat area has many days also unknown, recent this spot also excavated and discovered many artifacts and tools. Pandu Rajar Dhibi is another archaeological site of Burdwan district. There also discovered many tools and artifacts during period of post-colonial times. Birbhanpur also large site of archaeological remains. Today, Birbhum also, large historical site, because, near artifacts, tools and temple are terracotta remains. Many places, also seeing this region, such as Supur, Joydev's kendulis Temple, Adityapur, Paruldanga, Nanoor, Kopai river region etc, place. Today, a most attractive site of Burdwan district, that as Satdeulia temple. There had to be excavated many jains 'murtis' and tools. On the other hand, this temple sculpture was very old. To discuss the short item, they have been had clearly.

Keywords: *Satdeulia, Adityapur, Joydev, Burdwan, Birbhum, Birbhanpur*

Introduction

By the leadership of Alexander Cunningham, in 1861, the Archaeological Survey of India was founded, and in this year, archaeological remains played a crucial role. But then, various new villages and border archaeological remains were unknown. In post-colonial India, in Burdwan district, various places were also explored and excavated, and new findings had to be brought out, such as Mongolkot, Birbhanpur, Satdeulia, etc., by the team of the Archaeological Survey of India. On the other hand, various archaeological sites were also discovered in Birbhum district. Prof. Dilip Kumar Chakrabarti, in this matter, first studied these items. He concluded that throughout the Birbhum district, from Bolpur to Tarapith, various dhibis and Kakuredanga are also archaeological sites of the district. He also discovered various tools, including burins, from sites near Tarapith to Suri and Bolpur. Excavations at various sites in Santiniketan, Muluk regions, Illambazar, etc., were also observed.¹ According to Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, Burdwan Deul was pointed out as the most dramatic part of the archaeological remains. At present, near Barakar, some Deuls have also been remarked, and these have played a crucial role.² In 1986–87, a University of Calcutta team also excavated this spot and revealed a civilization from Maurya times to the Gupta period, and various tools were also discovered. A sculpture was also discovered in January 2002 by a fisherman, known as a 'dwarf male' stone.³

Review of Existing Literature

Excavated a new site from the district of Birbhum, Paruldanga had various tools, burins, stone, blades, etc., that had to be pointed out in *Indian Archaeology 1999–2000: A Review* book. Archaeologists thought that this spot was a microlith industry from a Mesolithic site. Such bone industry was also not found. In this method, from Nalhati, Suri, Labhpur, Rampurhat, etc., various fields had been excavated by the archaeological team, and they brought out a new civilization. They also thought that in this area it also spread to the far-flung corner of Rampurhat.⁴

According to Dilip Kumar Chakrabarti, it was made to think that Mongolkot was an unknown site. The 'Vikramaditya Dhibi' was also called by local men at this spot. As this site was excavated, a new civilization was seen, and numerous tools were also explored. He also remarked on the next tentative stage.⁵

According to recent archaeological teams, in Burdwan district, there are various temples also discovered. A new temple near Burdwan, near Kalna, Krishna Chandraji Temple, which was remarked in the book *Indian Archaeology 2011–12: A Review*, said: "The exterior surfaces of the temple were covered with micro-vegetation growth. These were cleaned chemically using a mixture of ammonia solution and non-ionic detergent. Fungicide was applied to arrest regrowth of micro-vegetation. Finally, two coats of preservatives were applied wet-on-wet system."⁶

Various temples are also situated in Birbhum. In Tarapith temple, the main sculpture had been seen as a picture of 'Buddhist', 'apadevata', 'Mar'. In Joydev temple, inside, a 'sin' was discovered, which was established in 1692.⁷

In 1989, R. K. Sen discovered a 'murti' from the Bataspur site in Burdwan district. In medieval archaeological remains of Burdwan zilla, various places were also excavated with many pots; there were Raigram, a new site.

Research Objectives

1. The new fact is to be discovered from a research basis.
2. The new temple architecture has been fascinating to look at, a new fact.
3. What was the role of the temple in contemporary times within society?
4. What was the relation between temple architecture and the economy?
5. New exploration and excavation sites, based on facts, will be included.

Research Methodology

From older facts, various historians and writers worked on archaeological sites in Birbhum. Then, in this method, this province started from the Mesolithic era. But this theory is also to be challenged. But a team from the University of Calcutta excavated a 'dhibi' nearby and found that various Hindu terracotta 'murtis' also played a crucial role. The temple was square in remains. The entire temple had a wooden door.

Temple site of Ghurisha

Ghurisha is a small village in the district of Birbhum on the western side. It is situated from the town of Santiniketan. A village where a Muslim burial place on the top has been reported, and the 'lateritic temple' has been found in this area. Remarkably, the village has a beautiful terracotta temple, and this temple is unprotected and privately maintained. It is known that Gopal Mandir has nine shikharas, a popular style of architectural remains in Bengal. The temple was built in 1768 AD. The outer wall has terracotta sculptures, and Hindu goddesses and mythological remains are also situated, and many terracotta images of goddess 'Krishnalila' are also seen.⁹

Adityapur

73M/10 (23°07'1"N and 87°07'1"E) is a medieval site near Santiniketan. It is on the right bank of the Kopai River. There were various artefacts seen near the bridge. The artefacts were stone wares, red wares, and microliths, debitage.¹⁰

Paruldanga

73M/10 (23°0'N and 87°04'3"E) is a Mesolithic site. It is about 4 km north, near the Bolpur railway station. This Mesolithic site was discovered in August 1979 and was tried to be excavated in March 1981, 1982, and 1986. Mesolithic tools are seen here at depths between 0.26 m and 1.5 m in the yellowish-red silt, and above, in the yellowish-brown to reddish-brown pots at a depth between 5–7 cm are occurred. The Mesolithic tools have occurred in various numbers as stone mud artefacts. The finished tools such as blades, lunates, points, burins, scrapers, and not flaked are also seen at this spot. Chert is another stone raw material, followed by agate, quartz, and fossil woods seen near Paruldanga. It is really a microlith industry at all.¹¹

Joydev-Kenduli Temple in Joydev

Joydev-Kenduli Temple is near the village of Joydev, on the bank of the Ajoy River, on the western side of Birbhum district. From the south-west part of Santiniketan, it is 35 km distance to Joydev village. It is glorious that the Sena dynasty eminent poet Joydev had been a court poet in the durbar of Lakshmana Sena. It has a Navaratna temple, known as the Radhabinod temple, and it is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. It has nine shikharas on the platform, and various terracotta Hindu deities are also situated on the temple wall, and Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Krishnalila and other mythological stories have been pictured.¹²

Exploration and excavated sites are also seen all over the Birbhum district, such as near Bolpur, on the bank of the Kopai River, where various archaeological tools have been discovered. New research areas are also discussed below:-

Sultanpur

73M/10 (23°07'0"N and 87°05'9"E) noticed. Some grey potsherds had been observed, with burnt brick ware that is significant. High temperature had been used most of that time. Designs are also noticed in maximum pots, and they were geometrical designs.¹³ Mongolkot, Pandu Rajar Dhibi, and Birbhanpur, many archaeological sites were discovered, and many temple architectures were also noticed.

Satdeulia

During the colonial period, in 1934, under the leadership of Nanigopal Majumdar, a field survey had been conducted for the Archaeological Survey of India. Later, S. K. Saraswati conducted a detailed investigation regarding art design for the temple architecture. He correctly mentioned that the body of the sanctum was otherwise plain, but the shikhara is profusely decorated with scroll work and chaitya-window pattern. Next, in 1972, another exploration was conducted in Satdeulia village temple, and Paresh Chandra Dutta discovered a built sculpture in Jain 'Ashtapadati'rtha', whose length and breadth were 43 cm and 23 cm respectively. The upper portion of this 'murti' is the Jain Jina Rishabhnanatha himself, seated in lotus position with meditation. In 7 rows, a total of 148 figures of tirthankaras have been carved.

At present, no artefacts other than pottery have been noticed from this site, and pottery is the diagnostic material for this site. There were early medieval pottery remains identified. On the basis of sculptures, bricks, architectural fragments, and epigraphic evidence, it is also noticed here. At the side of Rekhadeul, various kinds of pots and brick structures were also found.¹⁴

Grey Ware

On the basis of remains, we can start an idea of the shape of grey ware. Various kinds of jars, bowls, dishes, handi are remarkable products that have been explored and excavated. In making grey ware, the ingredients used are minute mica dust, sand, and inorganic materials. In some cases, sand is also used, but the upper portion of potsherds is rough.

Archaeological site of Birbhanpur

In 1954, in January, B. B. Lal collected some samples at this site. Later, in 1957, under his leadership, this site was explored and excavated. After excavation, a large remarkable civilization was noticed here, and five fugitive layers had occurred:

1st phase – White and broken sandy stony layer.

2nd phase – Ancient 'pali'-based soil that may have changed due to weather.

3rd phase – Stone-based clay soils.

4th phase – Microliths were discovered.

5th phase – Brown-based soil and mixed soils.¹⁵

Various artefacts and tools were also excavated at depths of 3–5 meters in the soil. On the other hand, chert, quartz, crystal stone were also discovered, and microliths were noticed here. Archaeologists thought that this civilization also originated from Mesolithic times.

Results

In these sites, there were various archaeological remains discovered, that is to be, how accepted in this society?

1. Remains had been discovered, that is to be, how accepted in this society?
2. What pots had been used in society?
3. How had life status been participated in society?

Conclusion

In ancient regions, this civilization also started during the period of the Mesolithic age, and there were several changes in economic and social matters. In Birbhum now, many archaeological tools and products have been explored and excavated. As a result, they had once played an essential role in society.

Another point we have seen is that temple sculpture in those times played a pivotal role in society, and architectural remains changed society, which is based on 'Deul', 'Shikhar', which are kinds of temples, and explored sites also have their place in history. So, temple architecture is the most remarkable site. In Burdwan district, near the Satdeulia temple, various kinds of sculptures and 'murti' were also discovered, and here temple architecture is attractive. The most vulnerable site of archaeological remains, Birbhanpur, has carried a new chapter of village archaeological remains, which is very significant.

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