



History Optional

Secure 50

The Map Pointing Program

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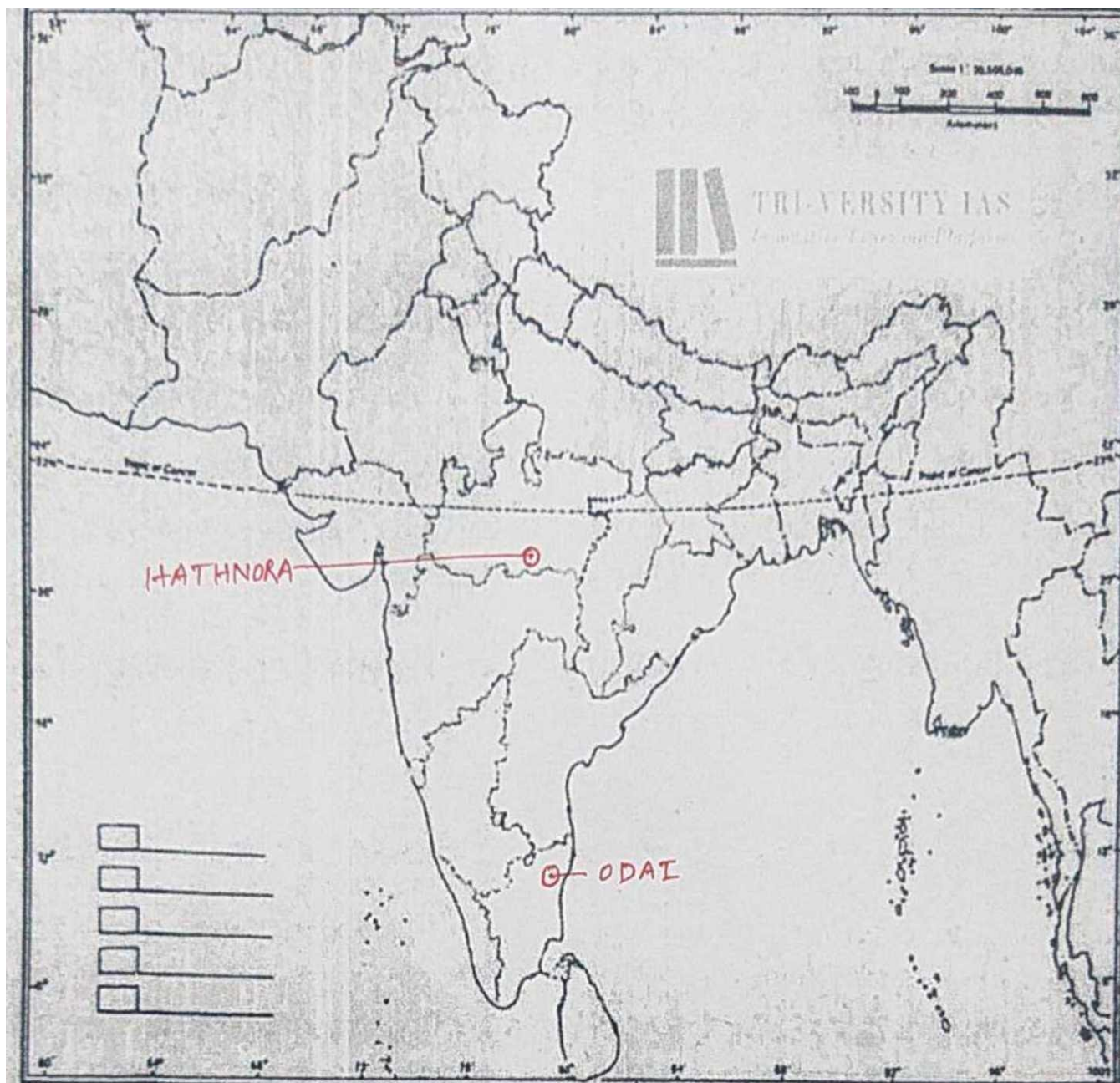
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Hominid Sites



Hominid Sites

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1. Hathnora: (2013)

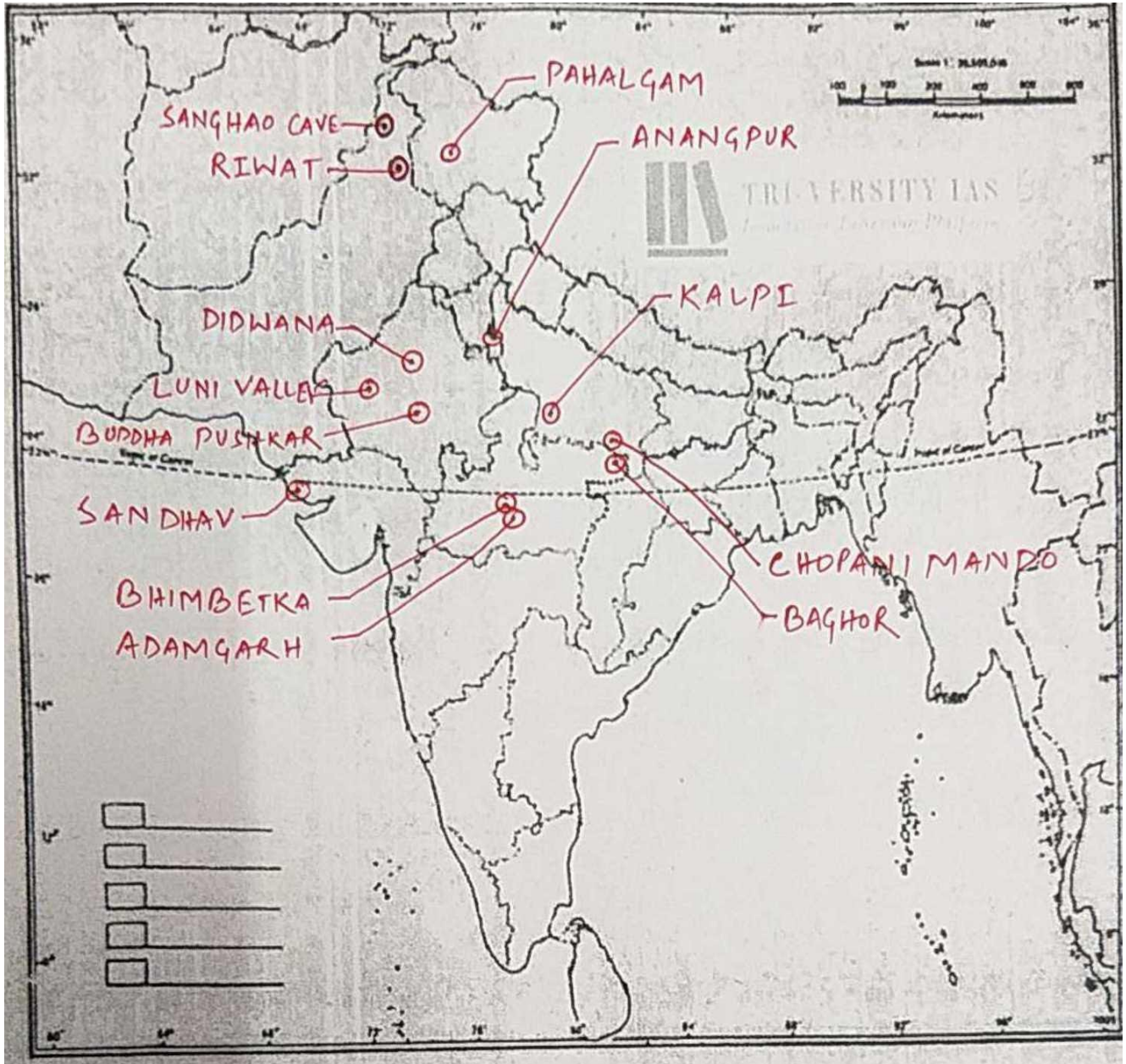
- Narmada valley, M.P.
- In 1982 the **first hominid fossil** (a skull cap), belonging to around 5 lakh years B.P, was found by **Arun Sonakia**.
Most probably the skull belonged to Homo Erectus.
- Also few fossils of vertebrates and Acheulean tools like handaxe were found.

2. Odai:

- Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu.
- A baby skull belonging to around 1,66,000 years B.P excavated.
- Also microliths & upper Paleolithic tools were discovered



Paleolithic Sites



Paleolithic Sites- MAP 1

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Pakistan

1. Riwat:

- Potwar plateau, Pakistan.
- **Oldest paleolithic tools** belonging to 2 mya excavated.
- Early core tools found.

2. Sanghao Caves:

- NWFP, Pakistan.
- **Period: Middle and Upper Paleolithic site.**
- **Tools excavated:** Middle paleolithic **flake tools** like points and scrappers. Upper Paleolithic **blades** and **burins**.
- **Tools material:** Locally available Quartz.
- **Other findings:** Animal bones, Hearths and burial like structure.

Jammu and Kashmir

3. Pahalgam:

- On the bank of **river Lidder**, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Few handaxes belonging to early Acheulean tools have been excavated from the site.
- Was not a big site in the palaeolithic period due to glaciation of Kashim valley.

Delhi

4. Anangpur

- Situated in **Badarpur Hills**, south of Delhi.
- Thousands of **early and late Acheulean tools** like handaxes, cleavers were found.
- Tool material: Tools were made of quartzite or granite.
- Traces of palaeo-channels of the Yamuna river have been found.
- The evidence indicates that this was a large **palaeolithic habitation & factory site**.

Rajasthan

5. Didwana (2013)

- Situated in Nagaur district of Rajasthan.
- Excavation has shown a sequence running from **lower to middle Palaeolithic age**.
- Site ageing about **390000 BP**.



- **Early Acheulean** and late Acheulean tools like handaxes, cleavers etc made of Quartzite found from the lower paleolithic age.
- **Flake tools** like points and scrappers from the middle paleolithic age were excavated.

6. Buddha Pushkar:

- In the old Buddha Pushkar lake region.
- Famous **Middle Paleolithic site** due to availability of water and stone.
- **Tools:** Flake tools like Points and scrappers.

7. Luni Valley:

- In the valley of **River Luni**, Rajasthan.
- Excavation revealed lower & middle Palaeolithic sites.
- The term '**Luni Industry**' is used for **middle Palaeolithic** assemblage west of Aravallis and here more variety in stone tool types and larger numbers of reworked flakes have been found.

Gujarat

8. Sandhav (Kachchh): (excavated in 2019) (Current)

- Near coast site in the **Naira Valley**, Kachchh region of Gujarat.
- Recently archaeologists have found **one of India's oldest stone-age sites, ageing 1,14,000 years..**
- This new finding gives a new dimension to the complex story of human **migration out of Africa**. It indicates that human migration started around 1,20,000 and reached India around 1,14,000 through sea route.
- An earliest sign of "**hafting practices**" – a way of making a tool with multiple components was found at Sandhav.
- The scholars have argued that during the Palaeolithic age the climate of Kachchh was **more moist and habitable** which attracted the larger population.

Madhya Pradesh

9. Bhimbetka: (2017, 2014, 2007, 2004)

- Located at foothills of the **vindhya mountains**, Narmada valley, M.P.
- Due to availability of shelter, food & raw material for tools, continuous occupation from upper paleolithic to medieval period.
- Rock shelter and cave painting site.



- The painting reflected their **subsistence pattern** (hunting-gathering), their **social grouping** (in small bands) and **everyday activities** as well as leisure activities like **group dancing**.
- Ostrich egg shell **beads** have been found that date back to upper Paleolithic. This was an **ornamentation tool** in paleolithic India.
- The rocks with cup marks found in the tunnel inside the cave is interpreted as some kind of **ritual of Prehistoric men**.
- Bhimbetka is one of the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** in India.

10. Adamgarh:

- Narmada valley, M.P.
- Inhabited from **lower paleolithic to neolithic -chalcolithic phase**.
- Famous for **prehistoric rock shelters & paintings** done in red & white colours.
- Stone age artefacts included **early acheulean to geometric microliths** like triangles and trapezes.
- Subsistence included hunting-gathering as shown in rock paintings and animal remains.
- **Evidence of pottery** from Mesolithic level suggests some settled living.
- **Historians have debated** over the questions of earliest evidence for the **domestication of animals** from this site.

11. Baghor

- Located in Son valley, MP.
- **Inhabited from upper palaeolithic phase to mesolithic phase.**

Paleolithic period:

- **Tools- Upper paleolithic tools** like blades, scrapers & burins excavated.
- A large amount of waste material of tools suggests it was an important **factory site**.
- An **upper palaeolithic mother goddess shrine** dated 9000- 8000 B.C has been found. Similar practice of worship has been found among the **Kol & Baiga tribes** residing in the region.
- Subsistence activity - **hunting, food gathering & processing**.

Mesolithic period:

- **Mesolithic period-** geometric microliths like triangles, trapezes.
- **Tool material:** Chert and Chalcedony.
- Excavated Post holes suggest large shelters in the Mesolithic period.



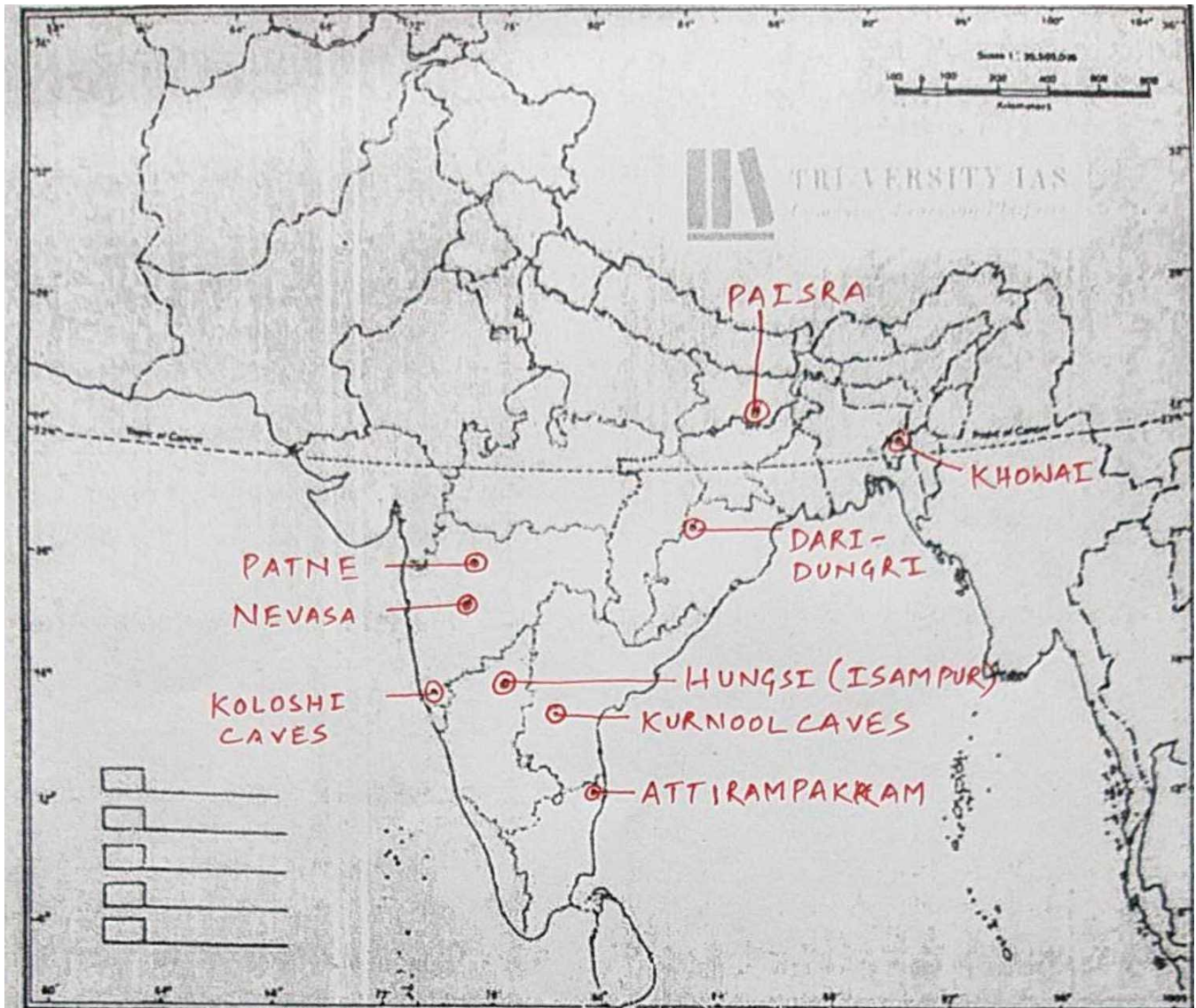
Uttar Pradesh

12. Kalpi: (1993, 1988)

- Located at the southern banks of **River Yamuna** in Jalaun district of U.P.
- A Middle **Palaeolithic age**, the **oldest site** having remains of human settlements found so far in the **Gangetic plains**.
- Both **stone tools** (pebble tools, point scrapers) & **bone tools** (which were hardened by fire) belonging to the Middle Palaeolithic age were excavated. Most probably was a **Factory site**.
- The fossils of Elephant tusks, molars of Equus have been found.

13. Chopani-Mando: (2019)

- Situated in Belan valley, Uttar Pradesh.
- Seems to be a habitation site from upper Palaeolithic to proto-Neolithic period.
- A **transition from hunting gathering culture to settled life** can be traced from here.
- Upper Paleolithic tools like blades, burins excavated. Mesolithic tools include-microlith blades, point scrapers, triangles & trapezes along with muller and querns.
- It provides **earliest evidence of use of pottery** in the world. Remains of **hand-made pottery** have been found from mesolithic level.
- Bones of wild cattle & sheep / goat along with pieces of burnt clay suggest the **beginning of settled life**.
- **Wild rice** is reported from late Mesolithic levels of this site.



Paleolithic Sites- MAP 2

Bihar

14. Paisra (2020)

- Near **Kharagpur hills**, Munger district, Bihar.
- Showed occupational level from **lower palaeolithic to Mesolithic period**.

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- It was a **habitation and factory site** from the lower palaeolithic age as a large assemblage consisting of both finished & un- finished early **Acheulean artefacts** and broken pieces of stone & anvils found.
- Remains of **hut-like dwelling structures** in the form of post holes and circular arrangement of stone blocks have been found from the paleolithic age.
- **Fireplaces** positioned very close to each other have been found from mesolithic level and it might be related to some rituals of mesolithic people.

Odisha

15. Dari-Dungari

- **Mahanadi basin**, Odisha.
- A large number of **lower & middle Palaeolithic tools** have been excavated from this site.
- It was a large **habitation cum factory site**.
- Tools- handaxe, cleavers, flake tools like points, scrappers.
- **Levallois technique** used in tool making.

Tripura

16. Haora and Khowai river valley:

- Tripura.
- A number of upper paleolithic tools - burins, blades etc made up of fossil wood excavated.

Maharashtra

17. Chirki-Nevasa:

- **Pravara river basin**, Maharashtra.
- Excavated by H.D. Sankalia in 1950.
- The remains of multilevel settlements from **lower Palaeolithic to middle Ages** have been excavated.
- The artefacts collection included **handaxes, cleavers and knives** as well as a **small-tool component** made up of flake-tools of chert and chalcedony.
- **Chirki** near Nevasa was a **living & factory site** during the Palaeolithic age.
- Fossil bones of wild cattle and other animals have been excavated.

18. Patne/ Chalisgaon: (2009)

- In **Tapi valley**, Maharashtra.



- It revealed a stratigraphic sequence of middle and upper Palaeolithic- **flake tools, burins, blades** and Mesolithic tools- **geometric microliths**.
- Piece of beads made of ostrich egg shells was also found showing the ornamental style of palaeolithic people.

19. Koloshi Cave, Sindhudurg: (Excavation in 2020) (Current)

- Situated on **Konkan coast** in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.
- Recently in excavation 1,500 Stone Age tools belonging to the **Upper Paleolithic period** have been found.
- Tools includes ringstones, spades, blades, core and hammer stones,
- The tool types indicate that people consumed **wild grains** along with hunted animals.

Karnataka

20. Hungsi (Isampur): (2020, 2013)

- Situated on the banks of river Hungsi, Yadgir district, Karnataka.
- Availability of water, edible plants, animals and raw material for tools made it an important Palaeolithic site.
- Among yet excavated sites, Isampur in North Karnataka has a **date of 1.2 million years**, thus is second oldest, after Attirampakkam, a prehistoric site in India.
Isampur was a major **tool manufacturing centre** in Hunsgi-Baichal valley.
- Tools types included- **Early Acheulean tools** like- chopping tools, cleavers, hand axes and scrapers.
- Tool material: Use of **Limestone** was frequent.
- A **hut-like dwelling structure** exposed through post holes.
- Isampur remains include fossilized bones of wild cattle, deer etc.

Andhra Pradesh

21. Kurnool Caves

- On the banks of Tungabhadra river, Andhra Pradesh.
- A collection of caves which acted as Rock shelter Upper Palaeolithic Site.
- Prominent caves include **Billa Surgam caves, Muchchatla Gavi**.
- **Bone tools** have been found in **upper Palaeolithic context**.
- Large faunal remains have been excavated including that of Rhinoceros, horse, tiger, leopard etc. This shows that the climate in the upper palaeolithic was **moist** and the **region was thickly forested**.



- Animal teeth with grooves have been found which suggest that they were used as ornaments.
- Evidence of use of fire in the form of hearth in the upper paleolithic period.

Tamil Nadu

22. Attirampakkam (2018, 2017)

- Situated in **Kortallayar river basin**, Tamil Nadu.
- Site was discovered in 1863 by British Geologist Robert Bruce.
- Excavations have revealed a sequence of lower, middle & upper Palaeolithic Cultures, with a break in occupation after the middle Paleolithic.
- India's **oldest stone age tools** of around **1.5 million years** old have been discovered at this site.
- Acheulian artefacts, mainly **handaxes**, made of quartzite stone have been found along with **cleavers and small flakes**.
- Set of animal footprints along with Acheulean tools were also discovered, first of its kind in South Asia.
- 3 Animal fossil teeth probably of horse, water buffalo and nilgai were also found suggesting **open & wet landscape** in early Palaeolithic times.