

Ancient Pravra River in Ahmednagar of Maharashtra in India

Prabhat Sunil Mhaske

Author Affiliation: B.A.(Economics), B.A.(Public Administration), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, Delhi 110068, India.

Corresponding Author: Prabhat Sunil Mhaske, A/P-Rahuri, Tal-Rahuri, Dist-Ahmednagar,-5, Maharashtra 413705, India.

E-mail: sunilmhaske1970@gmail.com

Abstract

In Maharashtra state of India Ahmednagar district is one of largest geographical district. Pravra River originates in Akole Taluka in the Deccan Hills on Harishchandra Harh. Pravra River is also known as "Amrutvahini" name related to mythological "Amrutmanthan ceremony". This Pravra River has three tributaries - Mhalungi, Mula, Adhula. After journey of 208KM Pravra River merges with Godavari River at Pravra sangam. Pravra river is one of the ancient river near about 4500 years old shown by excavation sites at Jorvey, Daimabad, Newasa and very recently in Chandegaon three skeletons found whose study is going on [1].

Keywords: Culture; Daimabad; Jorvey; Newasa; Pravra River.

Archeological duration [1]

1. Stone age: 3.4 million yrs- 8700BC
 - A. Paleolithic-handmade tools-axe
 - B. Mesolithic-mow/arrow
 - C. Neolithic-polished stone tools-plough, hook
2. Bronze age: early- 3300-2100 BC, middle-2100-1550 BC , Late- 1550-1200 BC
 - A. Chalcolithic age-copper tools
 - B. Bronze age- bronze tools
3. Iron age: iron tools (1200-200 BC)

Paleolithic	(2,500,000–250,000 BC)	Neolithic	(10,800–3300 BC)
Chalcolithic	(3500–1500 BC)	Bronze Age	(3300–1300 BC)
Iron Age	(1500–200 BC)	Middle Kingdoms	(230 BC - AD 1206)
Late medieval period	(1206–1526)	Early modern period	(1526–1858)
Colonial states	(1510–1961)		

On the left bank of Pravra river all these ancient cultures are located which represents different ages starting from stone age to charcolith age. Mainly three sites are archeologically important are- Daimabad, Nevasa and Jorve.

In 1950, Jorwe excavation site was one of the first site in Maharashtra of chalcolithic period had pushed cultural life to one millennium years back [2].

I. Daimabad culture

Daimabad an ancient village (?City) is existing from 2300 yrs BC on left bank of Pravra river in shrirampur tahsil in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra in India. Daimabad is one of the most important sites for the study of Proto-historic culture of India. The excavation at Daimabad made significant made significant contribution in our knowledge [2].

Daimabad coordinates with 19°30'37"N 74°42'3" and time zone is UTC +5.30 (Indian Standard time). At present Daimabad is totally desert with small hills on left banks of Pravra River surrounded by thorny plants. One can visit the Daimabad in all

seasons via Shrirampur-Belapur route also via Rahuri-Malunje- Ladgaon route. From Daimabad railway line of Ahmednagar-manmad passess [1].

Daimabad excavations [3]

In Daimabad three excavations done by Archeological society of India.

First: 1958-59: under guidance of M.N. Deshpande

Second: 1974-75: under guidance of S. . Rao

Third: 1975-76 and 1978-79: under guidance of S. A. Sali

Discoveries of Daimabad suggested that the late Harappa culture extended into the Deccan plateau in India.

Daimabad cultures [4]

The excavations carried out in five meters thick deposits exposed of five distinct chalcolithic cultural phases based on their characteristic painted ceramics.

Phase I - Savalda culture (c. 2300/2200 BCE)

Phase II - Late Harappan culture (c.2300/2200-1800 BCE)

Phase III - Daimabad culture (c. 1800-1600 BCE)

Phase IV - Malwa culture (c. 1600-1400 BCE)

Phase V - Jorwe culture (c. 1400-1000 BCE)

Phase I- Savalda culture [2,4]

- c. 2300/2200 BCE
- Houses: mud walls with rounded ends, trilateral of 1, 2, 3, rooms with hearths, storage pits, jars and sometimes courtyards.
- Plants: barley, lentil, common peas, grass pea, black or green grass.
- Excavation: copper bronze rings, beds of shell, terracotta, microliths, arrowheads of bones, stone mullers, and slow wheel made, light brown, chocolate, red and pink colored wares.

Phase II- Late Harappan culture [2,4]

- c. 2300/2200-1800 BCE
- Houses: blue clayed walls of 30 to 50 cms thick
- Wares: fine red wares with linear and geometric designs painted in black color
- Excavations found:

- Two terracotta buttons shaped seals with Harappan writings and four inscribed pot shreds.
- Microlithic blades, beads of gold, stone and terracotta, bangles of shells and terracotta measuring scale.
- Plants same as Savalda culture with hoarse gram

Phase III- Daimabad culture [2,4]

- c. 1800-1600 BCE
- There was a break in occupation for half a century in phase II and III
- Excavation-microliths blades, bony tools, elephant tusk, beads, terracotta rings
- Pottery- black on buff and cream ware.
- Wheel made ceramics, fast wheel turned wares
- Plants: as above from Harappan culture with Hyacinth bean
- Copper melting furnace found along the river side of residence. In this furnance one opening was used as a stroke hole and other connected with a large pot ensured easy flow of material near to river so that water from river is used for cooling of molted metal-cooper. Such types of ten cooper furnance were found nearby riverside.
- Three burials found- 1-pit burial, post cremation urn burial,3-vsymbolic burial

Phase IV- Malwa culture [2,4]

- c. 1600-1400 BCE
- Houses: spacious mud houses, rectangular, mud plastered floors, wooden posted in thick walls and steps at outer side of doorway.
- Pottery: handy type vase with tubular spout, lotta and incurved bowl
- Coppersmith workshops, furnance, razor, religious structures and fire alters found
- 16 burials found in pit and urns.
- Artifacts of microliths, cooper objects, faience beads, terracotta, bony objects.
- Plants: barley, three types of wheat's, finger millets, lentils, pulses. For perfumes plant Sugandha bela (Pavonia Odorata) was used.

Phase V – Jorwe culture [2,4]

- c. 1400-1000 BCE)
- 25 houses uncovered of butcher, lime maker, potter, bead maker and merchant
- Houses: mud fortification of wall with bastions
- Wares: painted designs with deep red color, Horse drawn cart, deer looking majestically at the back and in front of an animal with long neck (?Camel)
- Found: microliths, cooper objects, beads and terracotta figurines.
- Plants: same as above cultures in addition millets, kodon millets, foxtail millet and jawar.
- Total 48 burials found out of 44 were in urn burials, 3 in extended pit burials and one in extended burial in urn.

*Daimabad language- Indus script [2, 5]**Objects found in Daimabad [1,2,4]*

In 1974 local farmer Mr. Chabu Laxman Bhil while digging found following four bronze objects which he handover to Mr. Lal Hussain Patel. Mr. Patel informed to Archeological society of India and whod kept all these objects in Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalay, Mumbai. Later on these objects were shifted to National museum, new delhi. As per study of Mr. M.N. Deshpande, S. R. Rao and S.A. Sali these four objects belongs to the late Harappan period.

*Description of objects [1,2,4]**1. sculpture of Chariot-*

45 cm long and 16 cm wide

Yolked to two oxes

Driven by a man of 16 cm height standing on it

2. a sculpture of water buffalo-

31 cms height and 25 cm long standing on a platform attached to four solid wheels.

3. Sculpture of an elephant-

25 cms height and 27 cms length, 14 cms wide, But axles and wheels are missing.

4. Sculpture of Rhinocerus-

Height 19 cms and 25 cms length standing on two horizontal bars, each attached to axle of two solid wheels.

Chunm Embankment [2]

Very interesting thing which gives indication civilization standard in Daimabad 4000 years before is chunam embankment.

During phase II on the Pravra River from western, southern and eastern periphery of residence the chunam embankment was constructed in order to prevent residence from flood of Pravra and also to get benefit of water for farming and metallurgy of cooper. This embankment sloped eastwards, towards habitation which measures 10 meters wide and two meters height. Today this embankment is still theater on which our government constructed small dam known as : LAKH BANDHARA" [2].

Daimabad well

A very small diameter well is existing till today near the Gaibinath peer. The depth of well is near about 30-40 ft and diameter approximately 5-8 ft.

The well is constructed by bricks only with size of 1:2:4, i.e. 28 *14*7cms.

This well is not mentioned in any phase of excavation but it is thought that all these cultures vanished suddenly without any reason. So it is postulated that it may be the flood or draught. That's why in order to prevent water scarcity they may have constructed this well. And mainly two things supports for ancient Daimabad culture witness of this well is that-

1. The brick size is similar to Harappa civilization
2. Same type of well found in Harappa excavation

II. Jorwe culture [6]

- Chalcolithic archaeological culture at left bank of Pravra river
- Reference goes back to middle of the second millennium (c.1500 BCE), the Jorwe culture, a Deccan Chalcolithic culture, derived from the name of this site in Ahmednagar district where it was first discovered
- Jorwe culture was a Chalcolithic archaeological culture
- early phase of the culture is dated to c. 1400-1000 BCE,
- late phase is dated to c. 1000-700 BCE
- 200 settlements of the Jorwe culture have been found

- largest settlement was Daimabad,
- The Jorwe culture was preceded by the Malwa culture and succeeded by the Iron Age megalithic culture of the Deccan, and the Northern Black Polished Ware culture.
- site was excavated in 1950-51 under the direction of Hasmukh Dhirajlal Sankalia and Shantaram Bhalchandra Deo
- Most dwellings were small, single-room dwellings
- People of Jorwe lived in large rectangular houses with wattle and daub walls and thatched roofs. stored grain in bins and pit silos
- Multiple houses that have been found at the Jorwe have been larger, rectangle shaped houses with some even featuring a courtyard
- Cooked food in two armed chulas (hearths).
- Interred the dead inside the house under the floor.
- chiefs lived in large houses with multiple rooms,
- Granaries to store grain.
- Pottery is red and orange, painted with geometric patterns in black.
- Pottery was made of clay, and painted with a maximum of two colors, including black paint.
- Pottery had a spout.
- Artifacts found in the Jorwe sites include bangles with intricate designs.
- Agriculture - wheat, barley, and legumes, new kinds of millet.
- Practiced crop rotation - clear evidence of that has been unearthed at Inamgaon, near Pune.
- people traded with for gold and ivory, and with coastal India
- Deads were typically buried with the feet cut off, in urns which were placed under house floors or courtyards.
- Sites of the Jorwe culture include Jorwe, Daimabad, Inamgaon, Prakashe, Navdatoli (near Maheshwar), and Walki (in Pune District).
- Economy was based on agriculture, stock-raising, hunting and fishing.
- Children were buried in two urns that were joined mouth-to-mouth

- Adults were placed in a supine position with the head towards the North.

III. Nevasa culture

- Nevasa is located on Ahmednagar to Aurangabad Road near the border of the district in north-east corner of the district.
- Old name of this place are Nidhinivas and Mahalaya.
- This place is near Pravra river also called Amrutvahini, a tributary of Godavari River.
- Excavations were conducted by H.D. Sankalia in the 1950s and by G. Karve-Corvinus in 1967
- Flake blade is supposed to mark the Middle Palaeolithic stage in India. Such stone blades are found in the 'Nevasa culture'
- Remains of a multilevel settlement dating from the Paleolithic period to the Middle Ages have been discovered at Navasa.
- Nevasa's Aeneolithic layer reveals a settled agricultural culture characterized in the second millennium B.C. by implements (elongated plates) similar to those of the Harappa civilization.
- Newasa culture corresponds to Early stone age
- Discovery at Nevasa of ancient and middle Paleolithic cultures was of great importance.
- It attested to the development of material culture in India.
- The various periods in the history of ancient and medieval states of this region of India are dated by coins.

Summary

By seeing above description and findings of excavation it is very clear-cut that Daimabad, Jorwe, Nevasa were an ancient city where balutedars, coppersmith, beeder, farmer's and metallurgy industries of copper and other metals were living since long back. For all purpose they have constructed chunam dam on Pravra River along with Harappan type well. Economically all these peoples were very well with good socioeconomic status of peoples. The citizen had very comfortable life and business communications with each other also with Sawalda, Inamgaon, Harappa, Karnataka,

Prakasha, Dholvira etc.

In short all these places were in ancient India. Because of inability to read Indus script no one is yet to identify the language of this all the cultures. One question is still unanswered is that what happened suddenly that all this cultures suddenly disappeared- flood, water scarcity, intercommunity war, intra community war, or attack for other planet?.

In 1947 and 1956 there was a big flood to Pravra River which had vanished all the excavation sites of Daimabad, Jorwe and Nevasa. Today there is no one stays in Daimabad, its name is only there but still those who are really a lover and fond of archeology and old civilization they must visit and smell the Daimabad, Jorwe, Nevasa from distance because now there is fence and entry is prohibited as per order of archiological society of india.

Courtesy

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