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Q3(b)

Enumerate the evidence of animal domestication in Indian microlithic industry

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Meaning, Scope and development of Anthropology.

1.1 Meaning, Scope and development of Anthropology.

Core demand of the question

- Enumerate the evidence of animal domestication in Indian microlithic industry
- Write about 200 words for 15 marks

Revision summary

Microliths are tools; domestication is a faunal and dung argument.

Bagor shows sheep and goat with a microlithic camp.

Adamgarh and **Bhimbetka** mix hunt with later stock.

Ganga Mesolithic bone is still largely wild.

Harappan villages complete the domestication story.

Introduction

Indian microlithic sites are mainly Mesolithic. Some of them already show managed animals beside hunt. The evidence is bone, dung, and settlement, not the bladelet alone.

Body

What counts as evidence

- A microlith is a small backed tool. Domestication needs age-sex profiles of fauna, pathology, dung, and a shift from wild size-ranges.
- **Bagor** (Rajasthan), excavated by **V. N. Misra**, yielded sheep and goat with microliths and copper in later levels, a pastoral overlay on a hunting camp.
- **Adamgarh** and **Bhimbetka** shelters mix hunted deer and boar with later herded stock in the sequence.
- **Sarai Nahar Rai**, **Mahadaha**, and **Damdama** in the **Ganga plains** show wild cattle, hog deer, and turtle. Claims of early cattle must stay cautious where bones are wild aurochs-size.
- **Langhnaj** in Gujarat and **Birbhanpur** add microliths with fauna that later Holocene villages clearly herd.

Reading the phase

- **Meadow** and Harappan work show full domestication in the Indus tradition. Microlithic India is a mosaic: foragers, herder-foragers, and contact with village stock.
- Rock art of herding at **Bhimbetka** supports the bone, but art alone is not a domestication date.

Flow diagram

Microlith sites -> Bagor sheep goat
Microlith sites -> Shelters Adamgarh Bhimbetka
Microlith sites -> Ganga Mesolithic wild heavy

Conclusion

Animal domestication in the Indian microlithic is patchy. Bagor sheep-goat and shelter sequences are the strongest field files. The bladelet industry does not by itself prove a herd.

Facts & figures

Bagor

Mewar site with microliths and evidence of sheep-goat pastoralism in later occupation.

Misra

Excavated Bagor and framed the Rajasthan Mesolithic as a hunting-to-herding sequence.

Damdama

Ganga plain Mesolithic cemetery and fauna, used with caution for early cattle claims.

Bhimbetka

Painted herding scenes sit above hunting layers on the same walls.