



Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Seminar Series
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Early Agricultural Village Settlement at Sanganakallu, Ballari District, Karnataka

Prof. Ravi Korisettar

Date: Wednesday, 18 January 2017

Time: 4 pm

Venue: Seminar Room, HSS

Recent years have seen increased interest in the Southern Neolithic amongst archaeologists. Recent investigations at Sanganakallu area was aimed at investigating the emergence of Neolithic societies in the south Deccan plateau. The research focused on studying the multitude of prehistoric sites that are concentrated on a group of hills north of the town of Bellary in Karnataka. The project, which has come to be known as the Sanganakallu-Kupgal Project, derives its name from the two modern-day villages that bracket this extraordinary set of sites. While a number of the sites had been investigated by earlier researchers, the importance of the sites, and the threat to them as a result of industrial quarrying of the granite hills on which they sit, was deemed sufficient to demand renewed work in the area. The findings from this research have been important in revising and adding to our understanding of Neolithic processes and the origins of complex societies in the southern Deccan plateau.

The Neolithic period in the south Deccan plateau of south India seems to have begun sometime in the 3rd millennium BC. It is therefore not one of the world's earliest Neolithic transitions, nor indeed the earliest Neolithic culture in South Asia. Nonetheless, the Southern Neolithic, as it is known in India, is of significant interest to Neolithic scholars worldwide because it appears in many significant ways to represent a largely indigenous transformation. This lecture will explore the evidence for gradual development of Neolithic society in south India based on recent studies at the site of Sanganakallu in the Ballari District of Karnataka.

About the Speaker

Ravi Korisettar is currently Senior Fellow of the Dr. V.S. Wakankar Archaeological Research Institute, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. He retired in 2013 as professor of History and

Archaeology at Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka, India. He was subsequently appointed as the chair professor of Dr. D.C. Pavate chair for Art and Archaeology at Karnatak University. He has conducted a series of investigations into the Palaeolithic and Neolithic cultures of southern India and excavated lower Palaeolithic landscapes in the Kaladgi Basin of Karnataka, a group of Later Pleistocene open air, rock shelter and cave sites at Jwalapuram in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh. With Dr. D.Q. Fuller and Nicole Boivin he has conducted a series of investigations into the origins of agricultural economies in south India and excavated a large Neolithic site at Sanganakallu in Karnataka. His successful collaborative work is well attested by a number of learned articles and edited books published in India and abroad. He is co-editor of Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology of India (Geological Society of India, 1995), The Rise of Early Human Behaviour in Global Context (Routledge, 1998), Indian Archaeology in Retrospect (ICHR and Manohar [4 volumes], 2001/2), and a special issue of Quaternary International (vol. 258, 2011) and currently he is engaged in editing a two volume work on current debates in Indian archaeology entitled No More 'Stone and ore Stones'.