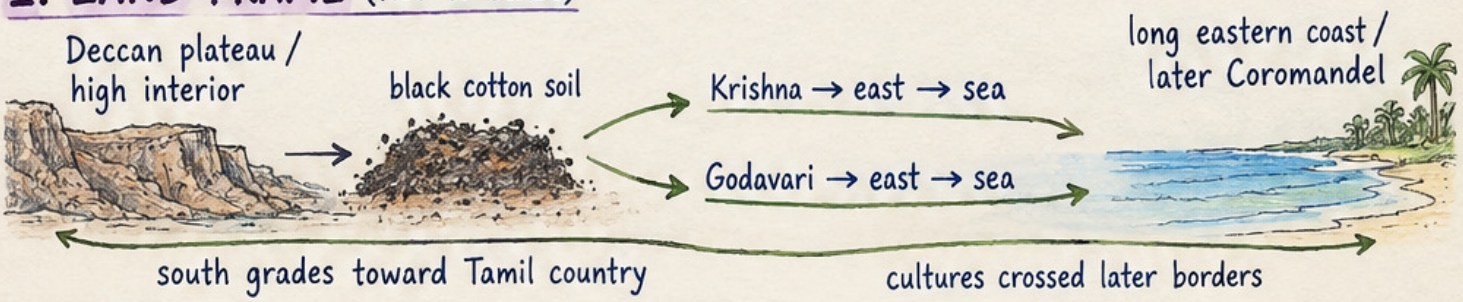
FOUNDATIONS — LAND → FOOD → METAL

Prehistory to early Iron Age | Andhra-region evidence

1. LAND FRAME (NOT TO SCALE)



2. CENTRAL CHANGE SPINE (chronology)

PALEOLITHIC | Old Stone Age → **MESOLITHIC | Middle Stone Age** → **NEOLITHIC | New Stone Age** → **CHALCOLITHIC | Copper + Stone** → **IRON AGE / MEGALITHIC**

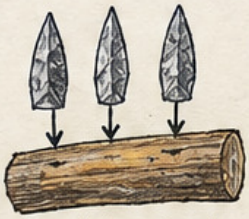
- larger stone tools
- hunting + gathering

FOOD-GATHERING



chipped hand-axe

- MICROLITHS
- tiny specialised blades
- hunting / cutting
- fitted into wood
- transition



microliths set into wooden handle

- settlements + cattle + cultivation

FOOD-PRODUCTION



hut + cattle + sprout (cultivation)

- copper beside stone
- finer pottery
- BLACK-AND-RED WARE
- larger villages
- some fortified edges
- 2nd millennium BCE horizon



copper tool beside stone tool

Black-and-Red Ware

- iron + organised communities
- large burial architecture

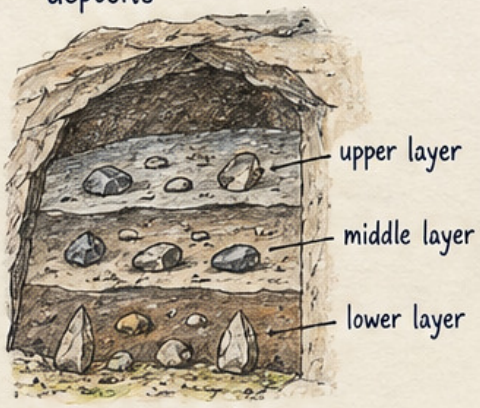


continued on C01-02

3. KEY EVIDENCE FROM ANDHRA-REGION

KURNOOL CAVES

- layered stone-tool deposits



layered stone-tool deposits

PAIYAMPALLI

- Neolithic Andhra-Tamil overlap
- prehistoric cultures ≠ later borders



Neolithic settlement (Paiyampalli)

Andhra ⟷ Tamil overlap

UTNOOR — MAHABUBNAGAR

- huge ash mounds
- burnt cattle dung
- settled pastoralism / cattle wealth
- Carbon-14: c. 2000 BCE



historic Andhra-Telangana cultural zone; not present-AP claim

4. TRAPS (common exam errors)

- ! Microliths = Mesolithic
- ! Food-gathering → food-production = Paleolithic → Neolithic
- ! Chalcolithic = copper AND stone; not full iron
- ! Utnoor = Mahabubnagar

RAKSHASIGULLU → ANDHRA IDENTITY

Iron-Age structures + earliest textual markers

MATERIAL EVIDENCE

Things we can see, build and study

South Indian Megalithic span:
c. 1000 BCE–300 CE (site-dependent)

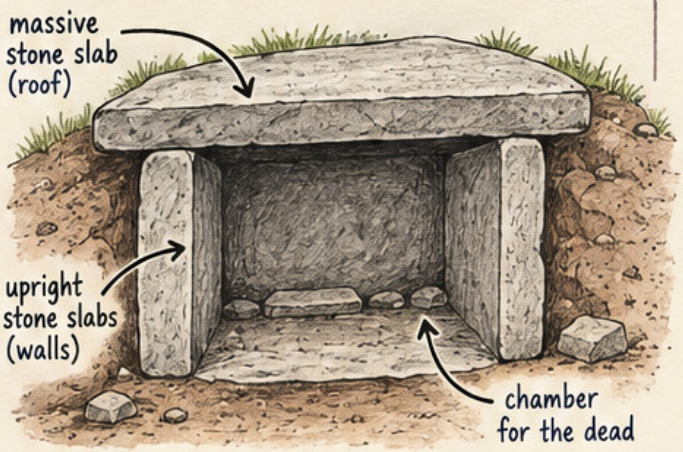
Andhra examples: c. 500 BCE

RAKSHASIGULLU

- = Iron-Age megalithic burial chambers
- massive stone slabs
- chamber for the dead

rakshasi = demoness
gullu = houses/chambers
} folk name "demons" houses"

Typical slab-chamber (cutaway view)



How was it built?



Therefore → planning + cooperation + leadership

Exam line:
"first built structures of the Andhras"
burial chamber **BEFORE** palace / temple

organised community → named community

IDENTITY EVIDENCE

What texts tell us

ANDHRA

- = older name recorded in literature
- Andhras as a distinct "jati" (from texts)

TRILINGA

- = later name
- traditional three-linga link:



origin / etymology debated

Evidence ladder from texts:

1 AITAREYA BRAHMANA

- earliest literary mention
- Andhras as distinct "jati".
- Date dispute:

Hanumantha Rao: c. 1500 BCE
Raghunath Rao: c. 1000 BCE
another H. Rao passage: c. 800 BCE
} Safe range: c. 800–1500 BCE

2 MAHABHARATA tradition

- Andhras on KAURAVA side
- epic memory ≠ precise historical date

COMMON EXAM TRAPS ⚠

1. Rakshasigullu = burials, not temples
2. 1000 BCE–300 CE = broad S. Indian span; c. 500 BCE = Andhra cluster
3. Trilinga link = tradition; origin debated
4. Aitareya date = range, not one fixed year

FOREIGN RECORD → MAURYAN EDGE → FIRST KING

Andhras around c. 300 BCE

1. SOURCE TRANSMISSION CHAIN

Seleucus I Nicator (Hellenistic ruler) → sends ambassador → MEGASTHENES (Mauryan-court ambassador) → Chandragupta Maurya's court → c. 300 BCE

Megasthenes at the Mauryan court c. 300 BCE

Megasthenes writes INDICA → original LOST ✗ → details transmitted through → Pliny the Elder (1st c. CE, later preserver) / Arrian (later transmitter)

Pliny's rendering:

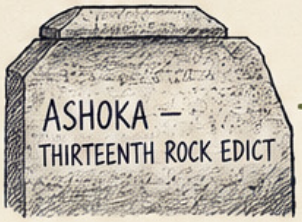
- Andhras = military strength + THIRTY FORTIFIED TOWNS



30 fortified towns show strength, not unity.

Inference: multiple mature power centres **BUT** NOT proof of one unified Andhra kingdom

2. MAURYAN EDGE



→ Andhras among PRATYANTA (frontier peoples) → edge of Mauryan sphere

YERRAGUDI – KURNOOL DISTRICT



Rock inscription (at Yerragudi)

+ Ashoka's MINOR ROCK EDICTS
+ Mauryan-era inscription on Andhra soil

Physical evidence of Mauryan presence in Andhra region.

3. EVIDENCE STACK BY c. 300 BCE

named people	+ literary / epic memory	+ fortified centres	+ Mauryan frontier acknowledgement
• Andhras mentioned by foreign writer	• present in literary / epic tradition	• THIRTY FORTIFIED TOWNS (Pliny) • indicates military strength	• 13th Rock Edict (pratyanta) • Yerragudi Minor Rock Edicts

Together, these show Andhras were an important people with multiple centres by c. 300 BCE.

4. KEY GAP (c. 300 BCE)

still missing: ONE KING + ONE COURT + ONE CAPITAL → evidence shows presence and power but not a single unified Andhra kingdom.

5. FIRST KING – THE PIVOT

3rd century BCE → SRIMUKHA → first Satavahana → state formation begins → C02

6. BOTTOM TRAPS (COMMON MISTAKES)

- ⚠ Indica lost; detail transmitted by Pliny / Arrian
- ⚠ Megasthenes = Mauryan-court ambassador; Pliny = later preserver
- ⚠ 13th Rock Edict = pratyanta reference
- ⚠ Yerragudi = Minor Rock Edicts
- ⚠ 30 towns ≠ one unified kingdom