

INCAA Invited Lecture Series 2024-25



Indian National Confederation
and Academy of Anthropologists

THE MID-HOLOCENE TRAILS IN THE EASTERN HILLS AND VALLEYS OF INDIA



Prof. Sukanya Sharma

Professor of Archaeology,
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.

SYNOPSIS

Across Northeast India, sites associated with ground tools and potteries have generally been designated as 'neolithic.' The authors of this assemblage were probably incipient cultivators, a proto-type of the present-day swidden cultivators of the area. It was an expedient tool technology dominated by utilized flakes followed by edge ground tools, bifaces and pottery. Hunting, fishing and gathering for sustenance was equally important. It is a tropical rainforest zone and the region where the tropical rainforest zone meets the monsoonal tropics. Squeezed between two different environmental systems the regional ecology had a major role to play in the growth and development of human culture in the area. Adaptability conditions unique to the region have been identified in the prehistoric archeological record of the area. Abundant resources which can be seasonally exploited were available in the hills and the valley's of NE India from approximately 6000 years ago, for which suitable residential spots were repeatedly used.



18 April 2025 | 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm IST

Please join via Google Meet

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Sukanya Sharma is a Professor of Archaeology at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, with over two decades of academic and research experience in prehistoric archaeology, cultural heritage, and ethnoarchaeology. She holds a Ph.D. from Deccan College, Pune, focusing on the cultural affinities between Southeast Asia and Northeast India. Her work explores the archaeological landscapes of the Himalayan region, megalithic traditions, indigenous knowledge systems, and material culture. She has authored four books and over 40 research articles in esteemed journals including Current Science, Journal of Archaeological Science, and Economic and Political Weekly. She has led several national projects on heritage documentation, scientific analysis of archaeological materials, and GIS mapping. Dr. Sharma has delivered invited lectures across premier institutions and serves on academic and advisory councils including NIT Agartala, Cotton University, and Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture. Her interdisciplinary approach integrates archaeology with heritage policy, sustainability, and cultural identity—making her a leading voice in shaping the discourse on Northeast India's past and its contemporary resonances.

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

7.00 pm to 7.10 pm	Welcome and Introductory Remarks Prof. Subho Roy, Member Secretary, INCAA
7.10 pm to 7.15 pm	Chairperson Remarks Prof. Ranjana Ray, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta
7.15 pm to 8.00 pm	Speaker: Prof. Sukanya Sharma Professor of Archaeology, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati. Title of Lecture: <i>The Mid-Holocene trails in the Eastern Hills and Valleys of India.</i>
8.00 pm to 8.20 pm	Q&A - Discussion All Participants
8.20 pm to 8.25 pm	Chairperson Concluding Remarks Prof. Ranjana Ray, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta
8.25 pm to 8.30 pm	Thanks and Way Forward Prof. Thanuja M, Joint Secretary, INCAA

