

fine art creations belong to the reign of Sheosingh, the local chieftain, who got them executed in vs 1804 (AD 1747).

66. EXPLORATION AT KISHAN BILAS AND KAPILDHARA, DISTRICT KOTA.—Narayan Vyas and S. C. Saran, accompanied by M. M. Hadapad and R. J. Indora of the Western Circle of the Survey, explored the banks of the river Bilas, a tributary of the Parvati, and brought to light one hundred and twenty-eight rock-shelters (pl. XXI B), of which thirty-six contain paintings. While some of these paintings could perhaps be of the prehistoric period, others are of historical times. Most of the paintings (pls. XXII A and B) are drawn on the wall-surface and projected ceilings of the rock-shelters. The paintings are executed in monochrome, in red and dark-red colour, depicting bear, monkey, deer, rhinoceros, dog, ox, buffalo, horse, fox, scorpion, camel, antelope, elephant, humped bull and peacock. There are also paintings representing the sun and the moon, circle, square, intersecting circles, dancing human figures, man with an arrow, man with a bow and an arrow, running animals, male drummer, standing male wearing mask, etc. Particularly noteworthy is a painted single-lined Brahmi inscription, assignable to *circa* second century BG.

A large number of Palaeolithic implements comprising handaxes and cleavers and Mesolithic tools like triangles, trapezes, lunates and blades were also collected along the banks of the river Bilas.

On the right bank of the river in the Kishan Bilas village, over the upgraded slope of the hillock, extensive remains of a medieval town including Brahmanical and Jaina temples and remains of a fort-wall were also noticed. The roads and streets with houses on either sides and fortification indicate that Kishan Bilas was a planned settlement.

Kapildhara is situated 17 km south-east of the village Kishan Bilas, on the bank of the river Barni, a tributary of the Parvati. On the right bank of the river, fifty-eight rock-shelters were documented; of these seventeen contain paintings. The paintings are generally similar to those in the Kishan Bilas rock-shelters.

On the banks of the river Barni crude handaxes and cleavers were also collected. On the basis of lithic implements and paintings, the site may be considered to have been inhabited by the early man up to the historical times.

67. EXCAVATION AT DIDWANA, DISTRICT NAGAUR.—In continuation of last year's {1980-81, pp. 57-63} work on the project 'Early man and his environment in the north-west India with special reference to Luni basin in Rajasthan', a team consisting of V. N. Misra, S. N. Rajaguru, M. D. Kajale, D. R. Raju, C. Gaillard, Makkhan Lai, Hema Raghavan and Hema Abhyankar of the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune, carried out further exploration and excavation in and around Didwana. The objectives of the excavation were : (i) to explore a detailed stratigraphy of dune building phases; (ii) to ascertain the relationship between aeolian and fluvial deposits; (iii) to locate archaeological material within the dune; and (iv) to find out the nature of the evolution of the stone industries from Amarpura to Didwana Formation. A trench 30 X 2 m, was dug to a depth of 16.5 m, in the fossil sand-dune in the eastern cliff of the Bangur canal at 16 R point on the western margin of Didwana salt lake. The lithological units exposed by this excavation are as under :

<i>Litho Unit depth below surface (in m)</i>	<i>Description of Lithological Unit</i>	<i>Approximate age and cultural contents</i>
IA 0-4.90	Brown well-sorted, weakly pedogenized sand, with distinct development of carbonate pellets, root casts in lower part	Microliths on top 16,000 years BP(TL date)