



The Early Finds and Chronology of Terracotta Animal Figurines in Indian Archaeology

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***Abstract:** Terracotta animal figurines are considered as one of the primary sources for understanding the art history and archaeology of India. The earliest records of terracotta animal figurines are found from the pre-Harappan contexts. During the later phases large numbers of terracotta animal figurines were found without any clefts. The constant discovery of terracotta animal figurines in archaeological contexts indicates the long and continuous relationship of human society with the animal world as well as the origin and development of Indian art. A large variety of terracotta animal figurines have been yielded in the Indian archaeological context; however research highlighting their importance is limited. The current research is an attempt to document the finds of terracotta animal figurines in the Indian archaeological context through a critical assessment of the available reports and literary records. This study provides new information regarding the early emergence and chronological evolution of Indian terracotta art.*

***Keywords:** Chronology, Harappan Culture, NBPW Culture, PGW Culture, Terracotta.*

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Introduction

Large varieties of terracotta animal figurines are recorded from numerous archaeological sites of India from various cultural phases. These findings have great importance in human history and culture. It plays a key role to understand the socio-economic, religious and cultural life of past human societies. The association of terracotta provides detailed information about the origin and development of the symbolic representation of human belief system with their surrounding animal world. In the long course of association with the society, men produced different types of animal figurines. This practice to produce figurines over time gave the origin of the terracotta art and craft industry. Moreover, it proffers information regarding the long and continuous human-animal relations and terracotta art history of India. In archaeological context the earliest records of terracotta animal figurines found

beginning of Neolithic-Chalcolithic-Harappan/Chalcolithic culture (Dhavilkar and Sankalia 1969: 34). Terracotta objects measured as a dominant source to understand the religious history and art history of India (Coomaraswamy 1927: 96).

Early Finds of Terracotta Animal Figurines in India

The terracotta finding characterizes the development art in the society and gave an equal preference to the every strata and status of the Indian society which help to show their socio-religious life pattern (Dhavilkar and Sankalia 1969: 34). India has a rich and highly developed form of terracotta art industry in the past contemporary time period. A number of preliminary excavated and explored reports of different archaeological sites provide us the direct sources of reference about the terracotta records.

Neolithic and Chalcolithic Period

The Neolithic culture of South Asia yielded the records of the terracotta animal figurines from the various archaeological sites such as; Chirand dated Period I- Neolithic culture (IAR 1972-73: 8), Eran (Ancient Airikina), 2nd millennium BCE (IAR 1960-61:17-18), Senuwar; Period I- Neolithic period (IAR 1986-87: 28), Taradhi; Period I- Neolithic Culture (IAR 1984-85: 10). These sites provide information regarding the finding of terracotta figures of humped bull and animals. These materials are associated with other archaeological materials such as burnt lumps, beads, hopscotches and miniature rectangular cakes. The findings show the primitive records of terracotta animal figurines with human culture. Similarly, certain archaeological sites *i.e.* Akorhi belongs to Neolithic-Chalcolithic period (IAR 1985-86: 12) and Churmuliadih and Daindih; Chalcolithic culture (IAR 1985-86: 13-14) are also yielded the shreds of evidence of terracotta animal figurines.

Chalcolithic Culture

During the Chalcolithic period, large number of terracotta animal figurines are recorded from various archaeological sites such as; Balathal (IAR 1996-97: 98), Besnagar; (IAR 1976-77: 33), Mandasor (IAR 1981-82: 95), Chandoli (IAR 1960-61: 27) Daimabad (IAR 1958-59: 17), Dangwada (IAR 1989-90: 53-55), Ekalbara (IAR 2000-2001; 86-89), Eran, (IAR 1960-61: 17-18, IAR 1963-64: 15) Kabra-kala (IAR 1999-2000;15), Nagda (IAR 1957-56:14), Ramapuram (IAR 1983-84: 4, IAR 1981-82: 3-4), Taradhi (IAR 1983-84: 12, IAR 1985-86: 8) and Tekkalakota (IAR 1963-64: 25). Mostly from these entire sites terracotta toy-bull figurine are reported with other cultural artifacts.

Harappan Culture

Extensive amount and verities of terracotta animal figurines are recorded in the various phases of Harappan culture. In Early Harappan phase of archaeological sites comprises Balakot (Singh 2009:140), Rohira (IAR 1982-83: 67), Rehman Dheri (Singh 2009:140), Harappa (Singh 2009: 144), Kalibangan (Singh 2009: 144), Rakhigarhi (Singh 2009: 144), Bhirrhana (Singh 2009: 145) and Dhalewan (IAR 1999-2000: 125) and Mohenjo-Daro (Singh 2009: 145) are yielded terracotta animal figures.

In the additional phase especially in the Mature Harappa phase the findings are continued in various archaeological sites such as; Bagasra (IAR 1995-96: 17), Argaon (IAR 1963-64: 57), (IAR 1999-2000; 28), (Banawali (IAR 1983-84: 28, IAR 1986-87: 33-34, IAR 1987-88: 27), Kunal (IAR 1998-99:12, IAR 1985-86: 25), Harappa (Singh 2009: 144), Rakhigarhi (IAR 1998-99: 15, IAR 1997-98: 59, IAR 1999-2000; 31-33), Nagwada (IAR 1983-84: 19) (IAR 1985-86: 21), (IAR 1996-97: 25), Balu (IAR 1978-79: 69, IAR1989-90: 31), Desalpur (Gunthli) (IAR 1963-64:12, IAR 1972-73: 61),

Rakhigarhi (Singh 2009: 144), Manda (IAR 1976-77: 19), (IAR 1970-71: 14), Balu (IAR 1984-85: 22), Shikarpur (IAR 1988-89: 10, IAR 1987-88: 15), Kalibangan (IAR 1960-61: 32, IAR 1961-62: 43, IAR 1962-63: 27-30, IAR 1963-64: 31) and Shikarpur (IAR 1988-89: 10, IAR 1987-88: 15).

Furthermore, in the late Harappan phase a extensive amount of terracotta figurines are recorded in various sites such as; Alamgirpur (IAR 1958-59: 52), Bhagwanpura (IAR 1975-76: 16-17), Balu (IAR 1984-85: 22), Dadheri (IAR 1976-77: 43-44), Daimabad (IAR 1978-79: 46), Brass (IAR 1990-91: 59), Daulatpur (IAR 1976-77: 19, IAR 1977-78: 23), Kalibangan (IAR 1960-61: 32, IAR 1961-62: 43, IAR 1962-63: 27-30, IAR 1963-64: 31), Shikarpur (IAR 1988-89: 10, IAR 1987-88: 15), Sanghol (IAR 1977-78: 43, IAR 1986-87: 71) Lothal (IAR 1957-56: 7, IAR 1962-63: 6, IAR 1959-60: 18, IAR 1958-59: 15), Banawali (IAR 1987-88: 27), Ambakheri (IAR 1963-64: 56), Chandigarh (IAR 1970-71: 7), Dholavira (IAR 1989-90: 19, IAR 1991-92: 30) Hulas (IAR 1978-79: 60, IAR 1982-83: 102), Karoti, Raja Karna KaQila Mirzapur Mound (IAR 1975-76:18), Rangpur (IAR 1956-57:12) and Surkotada and Vadagaon Madhavapur (IAR 1976-77: 24).

In the Indus culture, various types of terracotta animal figurines are recorded from the excavated and explored sites. The very common finding of this period cover the terracotta animal figurine of bull in complete and fragmentary form, humped bull (Figure I (A) and (B)), terracotta bull-headed toy-carts, unbaked terracotta animal clay figurine, terracotta horn of a bull, painted bull, bear (Figure II (A)), tortoise (Figure II (B)), terracotta dog, terracotta image of ting bulls, boars, camels, elephant heads, dogs, horses, elephant, horns of a bull and an erect tail looking like a snake, bird, dogs, lions, leopard and rabbits, monkey (Figure III (A)), toy cart frame and wheel, rattle, wheel terracotta ram, ram figurine (Figure III (B)), fragmentary terracotta bull figure (Figure IV (A) and (B)), wheeled bird, painted terracotta figurines of snake, deer (Figure VI (A)), birds (Figure V (A) and (B)), elephants (Figure VI (B)), anthropomorphic figure, water buffalo (Figure VII (A)), bull (Figure VII (B)).

Most frequently, terracotta animal figurines are associated with other archaeological assemblages such as; terracotta cakes and carts, cart-wheel, central hub projected wheel toy-cart, toy, wheel, ball, toy-wheel, bangles, toy-cart frames, toy-cart wheels, terracotta sealing, terracotta wheels with pronounced hub, terracotta cakes, goblets, terracotta beads, balls, bangles, discs, cart-wheel with raised central hub, toy cart-wheel with single-sided hub, beads, disc, a solid wheel of a toy-chariot and moulded triangular cakes, a variety of lamps, terracotta toy frame, ear-studs, skin rubbers, stamp with handles, rattle, female lamp-bearers, other archaic type of figurines and spindle-whorls.

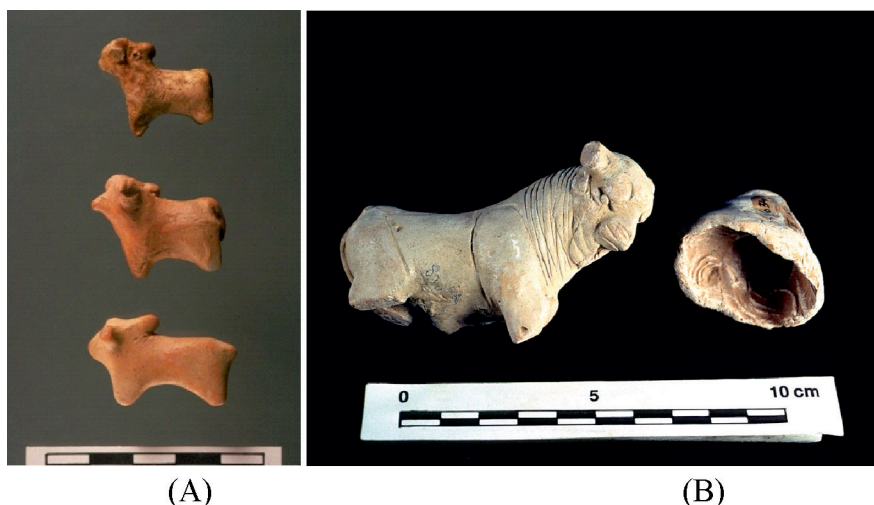


Figure I (A) and (B): Terracotta zebu of Harappa and humped bull with mould of Mohenjo-Daro (Courtesy: www.Harappa.com)



(A)

(B)

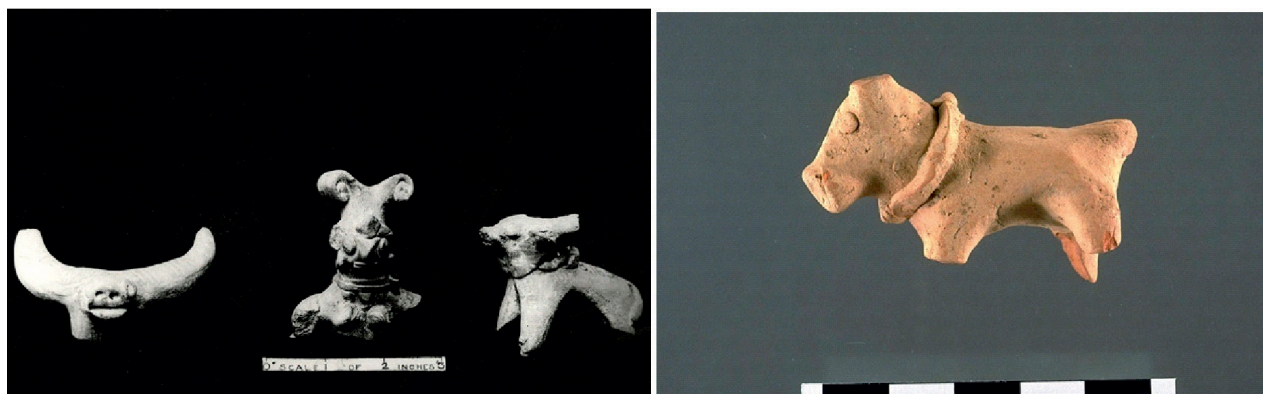
Figure II (A) and (B): Terracotta monkey and tortoise of Harappa (Courtesy: [www. Harappa.com](http://www.Harappa.com))



(A)

(B)

Figure III (A) and (B): Terracotta monkey and ram of Harappa (Courtesy: [www. Harappa.com](http://www.Harappa.com))



(A)

(B)

Figure IV (A) and (B): Terracotta bull figure, bull head, female figurine and terracotta dog of Harappa (courtesy: [www. Harappa.com](http://www.Harappa.com))

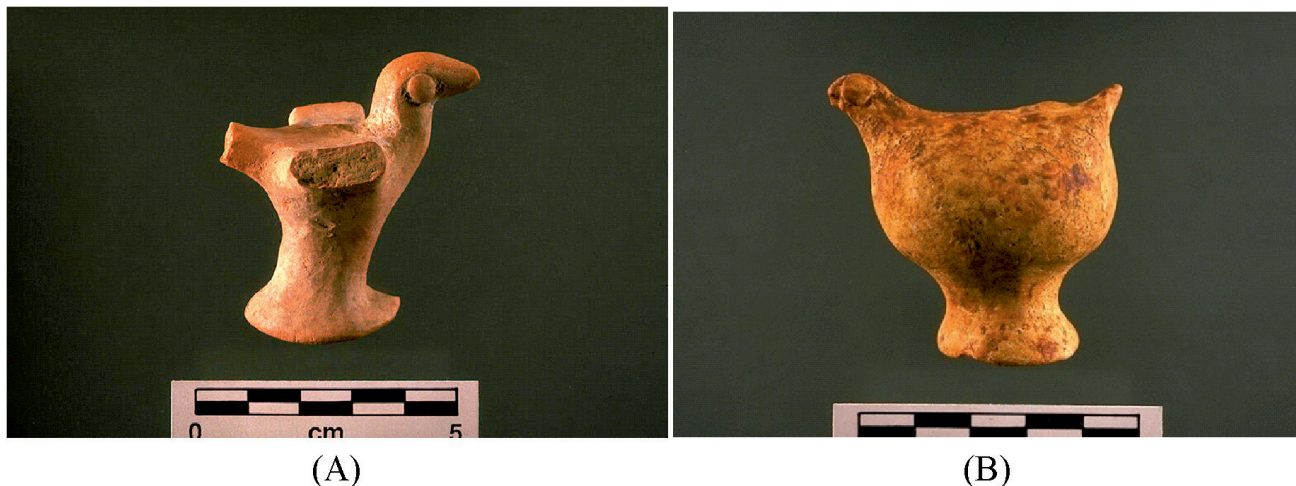


Figure V (A) and (B): Terracotta bird with pedestal and bird figurine whistle of Harappa (courtesy: www. Harappa.com)



Figure VI (A) and (B): Terracotta deer of Harappa and elephant figures of Harappa (Courtesy: www. Harappa.com)



Figure VII (A) and (B): Terracotta water buffalo and bull figurines of Harappa (courtesy: www. Harappa.com)

Megalithic Culture

A number of Megalithic sites dated 2000 BCE to 1000 BCE yielded a fair amount and varieties of terracotta animal figurines such as; Adam dated (IAR 1988-89:55-59), Ahar (IAR 1961-62: 50), Antichak (IAR 1960-61: 4), Antichak (IAR 1965-66:7), Arni (IAR 1978-79: 71), Banahalli (IAR 1983-84), Bhagwanpura (1975-76:16-17), Chirand (IAR 1968-69:5-6), Guntur (Megalithic culture; IAR 1981-82: 1), Eran (Ancient Airikina) (IAR 1960-61:17-18, IAR 1962-63: 11), Khairadhi (IAR 1982-83: 94), Kotra (IAR 1988-89: 41), Nagal (IAR 1961-62: 12), Narhan (IAR 1984-85: 90), Peddamarrur (IAR 1977-78: 13), Ramapuram (ASI 1980-81: 7, IAR 1981-82: 3-4), Sonpur (IAR 1959-60: 14), (IAR 1971-72: 18), Kallupatti (IAR 1976-77: 47), Taradhi/Bodh Gaya Bihar) (IAR 1985-86: 8), Tirukkambuliur (IAR 1962-63: 14).

The material finding of terracotta in the megalithic phase included the terracotta head of a bird, ram and large-horned bull, terracotta plaques of boars, lions, elephants and peacocks, miniature animal figurines, terracotta anthropomorphic figures, birds, fish, caparisoned horse, elephant, cow, bull, buffalo, dog figurine, terracotta painted bulls figurines, and terracotta horse figurine. All these figurines were recorded along with other material assemblages such as; terracotta toys, chariots and wheels, spindle whorls; fragment of a square tank, cart frames, miniature and toy pots.

Painted Grey Wear Phase of Culture

During the PGW culture dated from 1100 BCE to 400/300 BCE, several archaeological sites reveal terracotta animal figurines such as; Adam (IAR 1988-89:55-59), Ahichchhatra (; IAR 1963-64: 43-44), Antichak (IAR 1963-64: 6, IAR 1965-66: 6, IAR 1974-75: 8, IAR 1976-77: 11), Atranjikhhera (IAR 1961-62: 103), Balathal (IAR 1999-2000; 147, IAR 1993-94: 95), Banahalli (IAR 1983-84), Bhagwanpur (IAR 1980-81:51), Bhita (IAR 1996-97: 109), Brass (IAR 1990-91: 59), Chandravalli (IAR 1977-78: 27), Chhat (IAR 1999-2000; 127), Chirand (IAR 1962-63: 6), Dak Bungalow area (IAR 1991-92: 6), Darau (IAR 1985-86: 79), Daulatpur (IAR 1976-77: 19), DhimaKhera: Kashipur (IAR 1986-87: 81), Puri (IAR 1984-85: 60), Rajgarh (IAR 1982-83: 40), Eddavegi (IAR 1984-85: 8), Eran/Ancient Airikina) (IAR 1961-62: 25, IAR 1987-88: 77), Fatehpur-Sikri (IAR 1987-88: 105, IAR 1988-89: 82), Ghuram (IAR 1976-77: 44), Agra (IAR 1975-76: 57), Hamirpur and Jhansi (IAR 1960-61: 37), Hampi (IAR 1985-86: 40), Harnol (IAR 1997-98: 32), Harsh-Ka-Tila (IAR 1990-91: 19-21), Honnuduker (IAR 1978-79), Hulas (IAR 1981-82: 74), Hulas Khera (IAR 1978-79: 74), Jakhera (IAR 1985-86: 80, IAR 1986-87: 78), Karvan (IAR 1976-77: 18, IAR 1977-78: 22), Khokhra-kot (IAR 1986-87: 34-35), Lachhura (IAR 1998-99:139), Manamunda (IAR 1991-92: 86), Mangalkot (IAR 1986-87: 97), Nadner (IAR 1986-87: 56), Nagar (IAR 1976-77: 42).

The PGW phase of culture reveals various forms of terracotta figurines. Terracotta head of bird, terracotta figurines of an elephant, horse, cattle, dog, and bull, large tortoise, fragmented piece of the animal figurine, anthropomorphic figures, humped bull, terracotta mother goddess, unfinished horse figurine, mother and child, male figurines, ram, bull of black colour with punch design, animal figures along with heads, dog, lion, bird, rattle, terracotta bull figure toy cans cart, handmade decorated elephants, horses, bulls, dogs and birds within toy wheels, terracotta *nagas* are the most common finds.

The other archaeological assemblages associated with the findings included; terracotta wheels, toy pots, dabber, skin rubber, gamesmen, toy cart, terracotta beads, balls, toy cart-wheels, wheels, balls, discs, bangles, terracotta lamps, decorated discs, gamesmen, terracotta wheel and whorls, ear-ornaments, bird wheels, ear-studs, toy-can frames, skin rubbers, stamp with handles, hubbed toy cart-wheels and toy wheel with projected hubs.

Northern Black Polished Ware Phase of Culture

In the NBPW culture dated 700 BCE to 200/100 BCE, evidences of terracotta animal figurines are recorded in various archaeological sites included; Adam (IAR 1990-91: 46), Aguncha (IAR 1980-81:55), Ahichchhatra (IAR 1963-64: 43-44), Akorhi (IAR 1985-86: 12), Alamgirpur (IAR 1958-59: 52), Antichak (IAR 1963-64: 6, IAR 1965-66: 6, IAR 1974-75: 8, IAR 1976-77: 11), Apsad (IAR 1973-74: 10), Arni (IAR 1978-79: 71), Atranjikhhera (IAR 1961-62: 103), Atranjikhhera (IAR 1968-69: 38), Awra (IAR 1959-60: 24), Balathal (IAR 1999-2000: 147, IAR 1993-94: 95), Balirajgarh (IAR 1972-73: 7), Banahalli, (IAR 1983-84), Batesvara, (IAR 1975-76: 43), Bhagwanpura (1975-76: 16-17), Bhita (IAR 1996-97: 109), Buxar (IAR 1965-66: 11) Champa (IAR 1971-72: 5), Champa (IAR 1972-73: 4-5), Chandahadih (IAR 1977-78: 14), Chandravalli (IAR 1977-78: 27), Chirand (IAR 1962-63: 6), (IAR 1968-69: 5-6, IAR 1981-82: 14, IAR 1980-81: 9), DhimaKhera: Kashipur (IAR 1986-87: 81), Farrukhabad (IAR 1974-75: 43), Puri (IAR 1984-85: 60), Rajgarh (IAR 1982-83: 40), Rewa (IAR 1996-97: 66), Saran (IAR 1961-62: 9), Eddavegi (IAR 1984-85: 8), Eran/Ancient Airikina (IAR 1997-98: 99, IAR 1987-88: 77), Ganwaria (IAR 1961-62: 103), Ghuram (IAR 1976-77: 44), Agra Uttar Pradesh (IAR 1975-76: 57), Hamirpur and Jhansi (IAR 1960-61: 37), Hampi (IAR 1985-86: 40), Harnol (IAR 1997-98: 32), Honnuduker (IAR 1978-79), Hulas (IAR 1980-81: 76), Hulas Khera (IAR 1978-79: 74), Jajmau (IAR 1976-77: 53), Jodhpura (IAR 1972-73: 29), Karvan (IAR 1976-77: 18, IAR 1977-78: 22), Katragarh (IAR 1975-76: 3, IAR 1977-78: 15), Khairadhi (IAR 1985-86: 78, IAR 1980-81: 70, IAR 1981-82: 68), Khokhra-kot (IAR 1986-87: 34-35), Kohra (IAR 1986-87: 89-91), Kotasur (IAR 1986-87: 95), Lachhura (IAR 1998-99: 139), Manamunda (IAR 1991-92: 86), Maner (IAR 1984-85:12, IAR 1984-85: 12, IAR 1985-86: 11-12, IAR 1991-92: 6, IAR 1992-93: 4, IAR 1997-98: 17), Mangalkot (IAR 1986-87: 97), Manjhi (IAR 1983-84: 16), Masaon (IAR 1965-66: 51, IAR 1965-66: 47, IAR 1967-68: 47, IAR 1970-71: 39), Mathura (IAR 1956-57: 15, IAR 1974-75: 48-49, IAR 1975-76: 54, IAR 1976-77: 54), Nadner (IAR 1986-87: 56), Nagardhan (IAR 1981-82: 96), Nagda (IAR 1957-56: 14), Nalanda (IAR 1981-82: 12), Narhan (IAR 1984-85: 90) Noh (IAR 1963-64: 29, IAR 1965-66: 31-38, IAR 1966-67: 31-32, IAR 1968-69: 26, IAR 1970-71: 32, IAR 1971-72: 42), Pataliputra (IAR 1957-56: 22), Raja Karna KaQila, Mirzapur Mound (IAR 1961-62: 58, IAR 1962-63: 41, IAR 1963-64: 59), Rajgir (IAR 1974-75: 10, IAR 1956-57: 16, IAR 2000-2001: 19), Rajpuri (IAR 1984-85: 150), Ramachaura, Hajipur (IAR 1997-98: 28, IAR 1996-97: 9, IAR 1995-96: 6), Ranihat (Period II A- 4th century to 2nd century BCE; IAR 1978-79: 75), Sanghol (IAR 1986-87: 71), (IAR 1988-89: 72, IAR 1989-90: 91, IAR 1985-86: 87), Sankisa, (IAR 1995-96: 95, IAR 1996-97: 95), Sapura (1998-99: 185), Sarai-Mohana (IAR 1965-66: 48, IAR 1967-68: 49), Sohagaura (IAR 1974-75: 47), Sonpur (IAR 1960-61: 6, IAR 1961-62: 4), Sooron (IAR 1986-87: 49), Sravasti (IAR 1995-96: 81, IAR 1996-97: 172), Sugh (IAR 1965-66: 36, IAR 1993-94: 53, IAR 1995-96: 22-25, IAR 1998-99: 24), Takiaper (IAR 1971-72: 49), Taradhi (Bodh Gaya) (IAR 1982-83, IAR 1997-98, IAR 1984-85: 11), Ujjain (IAR 1957-56: 19) and Vadagaon Madhavapur (IAR 1961-62: 6).

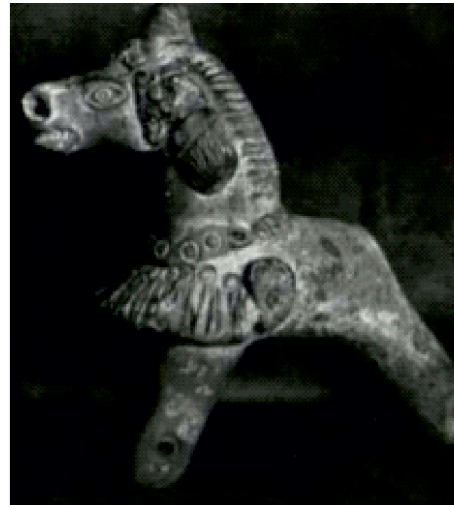
During NBPW cultural phase, various form of terracotta animal figurines is recorded such as; terracotta animals figurines of horse (Figure VIII (A)), bull, cow, cattle, dog, elephant, ram, birds, dog, mother goddess, wheeled terracotta toys of bull, miniature animal figurines, terracotta bull with a perforated wheel, large tortoise figurines, humped bull, anthropomorphic figures, terracotta *nagas* figurines, terracotta human, image of *garuda*, unfinished horse figurine, mother and child, male, decorated horse figurine (Figure VIII (B)), terracotta monkey head, ram-cart, terracotta bull of black color with punch design, camel, goat figurine, painted figurines of snake, hand-made and moulded figurines, lion, decorated elephant, bird within toy wheels, moulded broken *naga* figurine, tortoiseshell and terracotta snake.

Various terracotta objects are also found in the associated form of these figurines which includes; hopscotch, pottery, terracotta perforated wheels, toy pots, fragments of miniature incurved rimmed bowls, discs, lamps, wheels, beads, whorls, toy cart, wheels, and cartwheels exquisitely decorated with pierced dots, spindle-whorls and toy cartwheels, terracotta ram-carts (Figure IX), toy-cart frames, cakes, toys, balls, bi-hubbed, stamps, animal-headed spouts, toy cart-frame wheels, Pottery, toy carts and gamesman and toy wheel with projected hubs.

The political unification and establishment of monarchical system found in the Mauryan time period onwards. The art and craft received special royal patronage. Particularly the usage of stone for the artistic purpose was reintroduced in this phase onwards. However the terracotta art did not lost its importance and new features and techniques were applied by the artist for the production purpose of the animal. The uses of mould for the production of figure are profusely found in this period and later on also. Due to the application of this mould the figures are more accuracy in physical features and ornamented respectively.



(A)



(B)

Figure VIII (A) and (B): terracotta horse figurines of Patna and Bulandibagh (After Shere 1961)



Figure IX: terracotta animal toy cart of Vaishali (After Shere 1961)

Historical Period (Dated from 100 BCE to 600/700 CE)

In the historical period date cover from 100 BCE to 600/700 CE, enormous amount of terracotta animal figurines are yielded in various archaeological sites such as; Adam (IAR 1988-89:55-59, IAR 1990-91: 46, IAR 1989-90: 65), Agroha (IAR 1978-79: 68, IAR 1989-90: 30), Aguncha (IAR 1980-81:55), Ahichchhatra (IAR 1963-64: 43-44), Alirajgarh (IAR 1974-75: 10), Allahabad (IAR 1961-62: 52), Apsad (IAR 1977-78: 17), Arni (IAR 1978-79: 71), Atranjikhhera (IAR 1965-66: 46, IAR 1967-68: 46), Aunahan -Dehat (IAR 1995-96: 99-103), Balirajgarh (IAR 1972-73: 7), Banarsihankalan (IAR 1991-92: 110), Batesvara (IAR 1975-76: 43), Besnagar (IAR 1963-64: 17, IAR 1975-76: 31), Bhairwa and Taulihawa (IAR 1961-62: 72), Bhokardan (IAR 1972-73: 20), Brass (IAR 1994-95: 64), Champa (IAR 1970-71: 5), (IAR 1971-72: 5), (IAR 1972-73: 4-5), (IAR 1974-75: 9), (IAR 1982-83: 15), Chandahadih (IAR 1977-78:14), Chandraketugarh (IAR 1959-60: 51, IAR 1960-61: 40), (IAR 1961-62: 62, IAR 1963-64: 64), (IAR 1965-66: 60), Churmuliadih and Daindih (IAR 1985-86: 13-14), Dangwada (IAR 1978-79: 70), (Kushana-Saka period; IAR 1989-90: 53-55), (IAR 1982-83: 51), Dat-Nagar (IAR 1992-93: 36), Daulatpur (IAR 1976-77: 19), DeorKothar, Rera (IAR 2000-2001; 91), Deoria and Gorakhpur (IAR 1963-64: 45), Dihar, (IAR 1993-94: 121), Midnapore (IAR 1974-75: 52), Mirzapur (IAR 1975-76: 56), Eran (Ancient Airikina) (IAR 1960-61:17-18, IAR 1963-64: 15, IAR 1987-88: 77, IAR 1997-98: 99), Erich (IAR 1989-90), Fatehpur-Sikri (IAR 1977-78: 51), (IAR 1987-88: 105, IAR 1988-89: 82), Ganwaria (IAR 1975-76: 50), Gilaulikhera (IAR 1981-82: 34, IAR 1983-84: 52), Gudnapur (IAR 1989-90: 45), Hampi (IAR 1982-83: 35), Hanumandnagar (IAR 1997-98: 45), Hari-narayanpur, Chandraketugarh (IAR 1961-62:106), Harsh-Ka-Tila, Thanesar (IAR 1988-89: 22-23, IAR 1989-90: 28-32, IAR 1989-90: 28-32, IAR 1990-91: 19-21), HellaBajpur, (Layer IAR 1999-2000; 16), Hulas (IAR 1981-82: 74), Irla (IAR 1989-90: 69), Issopur (IAR 1977-78: 84), Jafar-Chak (IAR 1998-99: 49), Jajmau (IAR 1974-75: 47, IAR 1976-77: 53, IAR 1975-76: 53), Jhusi (IAR 1994-95: 70-71), Kadarganj (IAR 1991-92: 105-106), Kanchipuram (IAR 1971-72: 43), Karnachaura (IAR 1989-90: 13), Katragarh (IAR 1975-76: 3), Kaveripattinam (IAR 1973-74: 24), Khairadhi (IAR 1996-97: 112), (IAR 1980-81: 70), Khokhra-kot (IAR 1986-87: 34-35), Kiramchi (IAR 1989-90: 35), Kotilingala (IAR 1980-81: 2), Lalitagiri (IAR 1988-89: 66), Mahet (IAR 1993-94: 104), Manda (IAR 1976-77: 21), Maner (IAR 1986-87: 24-26, IAR 1991-92: 6), (IAR 1992-93: 4), (IAR 1993-94: 11), (IAR 1995-96: 5, IAR 1997-98: 17), Masaon (IAR 1965-66: 51, IAR 1965-66: 47, IAR 1967-68: 47, IAR 1970-71: 39) Mathura (IAR 1956-57: 15, IAR 1974-75: 48-49, IAR 1975-76: 54, IAR 1976-77: 54), Midnapur (IAR 1980-81: 77), Moradhwaj (IAR 1978-79: 73), Nandur (IAR 1981-82: 37), Noh (IAR 1965-66: 31-38, IAR 1966-67: 31-32, IAR 1968-69: 26, IAR 1970-71: 32, IAR 1971-72: 42), Ojiyana (IAR 1999-2000; 132), Orai (IAR 1996-97: 135), Pagara (IAR 1980-81: 31), Pauni (IAR 1993-94: 77), Peddabankur (IAR 1974-75: 4), PipilyaLorka (Period III- Mauryan period; IAR 1983-84: 54), Piprahwa and Ganwaria (3rd Century CE; IAR 1974-75: 40), Pokharna (Ancient Pushkarana) (Kushana Period; IAR 1966-67: 45), Prakash (Period III -1st century BCE to 4th century CE; IAR 1956-57: 13), Raja Karna KaQila (IAR 1970-71: 14), Rajbadidanga (IAR 1965-66: 47, IAR 1968-69: 43, IAR 1972-73: 38, IAR 1966-67: 47), Rajghat (IAR 1961-62: 58, IAR 1963-64: 59), Rajgir (IAR 1974-75: 10), Rajmahal, Jhimjhimia-Kalasthan (IAR 1987-88: 13), Ramachaura-Hajipur (IAR 1997-98: 28, IAR 1996-97: 9, IAR 1995-96: 6), Runija (IAR 1980-81:39), Sanchi (IAR 1993-94: 71), Sanghol (IAR 1977-78: 43, IAR 1987-88: 96-98, IAR 1988-89: 72, IAR 1989-90: 91, IAR 1985-86:87), Sirpur (IAR 1999-2000; 98), Siswania (IAR 1996-97: 122, IAR 1995-96: 85) and Sooron (IAR 1986-87: 49)

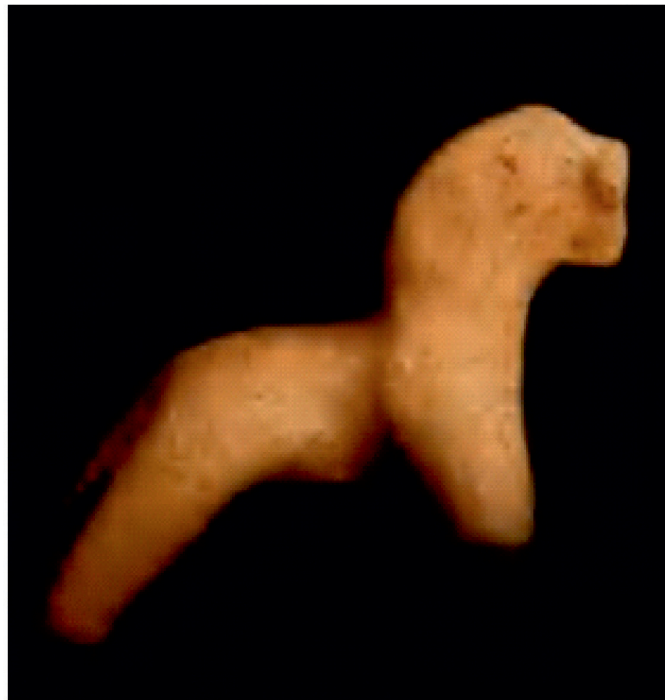
The terracotta findings of this period included terracotta figure of *Indra* mounted on elephant *Airvata*, headless *naga* figure (Figure X (A)), bird rattle, ram toy-cart, terracotta bull, horse, elephant-rider figures, unfinished horse figurine, miniature bull figure, appliqué and incised decorated bull

figures, hump bull and crouched *Nandi* over a pedestal, black couchant bull over a pedestal, decorated ram, horse, camel, monkey, tortoise, terracotta horse (Figure X (B)), handmade and moulded terracotta animal figurines, bulls (Figure XI (A)), cows, dogs, elephants, rams toy birds (Figure XI (B)), caparisoned horses, birds (Figure XII (A)), humped bull (Figure XII (B)), female torso, rattle figurine, couchant dog, dancing peacock, terracotta horse figure with saddle, terracotta wolf and monkey.

All these materials are associated with various archaeological assemblages such as; terracotta lamps, bowls, potter's stamp, terracotta toy pieces, hopscotch, moulds, terracotta toy cart frames, toys, toy cart-wheels, toy carts, discs, game objects, wheels, bi-hubbed, wheel-cart, beads, balls, stamps, animal-headed spouts and toy cart-frame wheels.



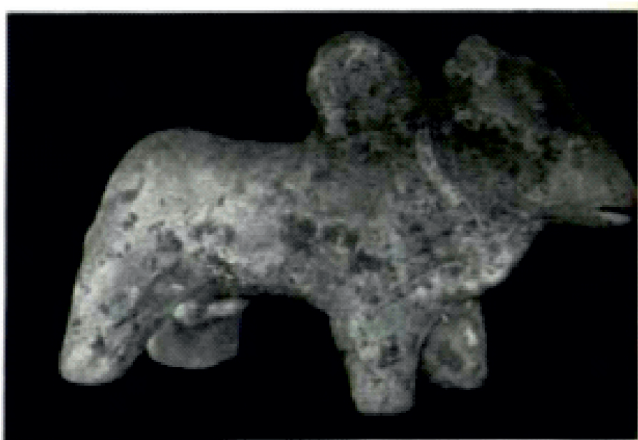
(A)



(B)

Figure X (A): Terracotta figure of *naga* of Patna (After Shere: 1961)

Figure XI (B): Terracotta horse figurine of Rajghat (After Mani and Banerji 2012: 114)



(A)



(B)

Figure XI (A) and (B): terracotta bull of found of Belwa and toy of bird form of Kumrahar (After Shere 1961)

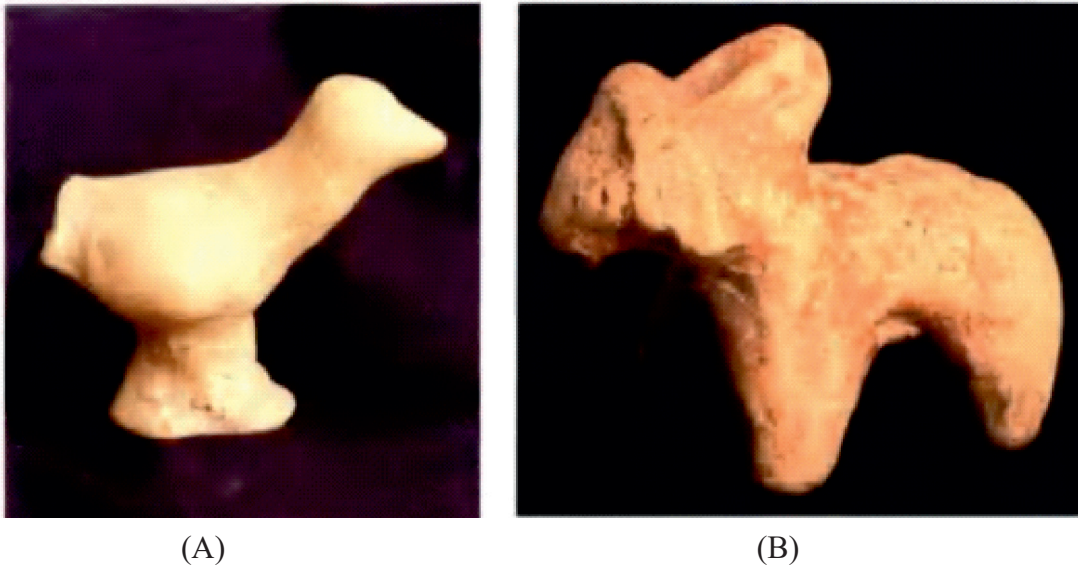


Figure XII (A) and (B): Terracotta Pedestalled bird and humped bull (After Mani and Banerji 2012:112 -117)

Terracotta Finding from 8th to 1700th Century CE

The continuity of the occurrence of terracotta recorded in 8th to 1700th Century CE, in the various archaeological sites such as; Agroha (IAR 1989-90: 30) Antichak (IAR 1971-72: 4), Aunahan-Dehat (IAR 1995-96: 99-103), Aurangabad (IAR 1984-85: 149), Barabati Fort (IAR 1995-96), Bhagwanpur (IAR 1980-81: 51), Bhairwa and Taulihawa (IAR 1961-62: 72), Brass (IAR 1994-95: 64), Champaner (IAR 1974-75), Chandel (IAR 1987-88: 69), Daulatabad (IAR 1984-85: 51, IAR 1985-86: 57, IAR 1986-87: 60, IAR 1988-89: 46), Dharapat (IAR 1974-75: 71), Mirzapur (IAR 1974-75: 51), Ekalbara (IAR 2000-2001: 86-89), Fatehpur-Sikri (IAR 1977-78: 51), Fatehpur-Sikri (IAR 1978-79: 55, IAR 1984-85: 85), Golconda (IAR 1970-71:1), Harsh-Ka-Tila, (IAR 1988-89: 22-23, IAR 1989-90: 28-32), Honnuduker (IAR 1978-79), Jafar Chak (IAR 1998-99: 49), Jajmau (IAR 1976-77: 53, IAR 1975-76: 53), Juna Khera, (IAR 1990-91: 61), Kanchipuram (IAR 1971-72: 43, IAR 1972-73: 30), Karnachaura (IAR 1989-90: 13) Kaveripattinam (IAR 1970-71: 33, 1973-74: 24), Khalkatapatana (IAR 1994-95: 62), Kudavelli (IAR 1978-79: 41), Lal-kot (IAR 1994-95: 9-11, IAR 1992-93: 9, IAR 1993-94: 25, IAR 1991-92: 15), Mahet (IAR 1993-94: 104), Makhdum Sahib's Mosque (IAR 1973-74: 11), Maner (IAR 1986-87: 24-26) (IAR 1991-92: 6, IAR 1992-93: 4, IAR 1993-94: 11), Morkha (IAR 1981-82: 100) () Nanath (IAR 1984-85: 8), Pachkheri (IAR 1992-93: 69), Pipilya Lorka (IAR 1983-84: 54), Rajbadidanga (1965-66: 47, IAR 1968-69: 43, IAR 1972-73: 38, IAR 1966-67: 47), Sanchi (IAR 1993-94: 71) Satanikota (IAR 1977-78: 9), Sravasti (IAR 1986-87: 76, IAR 1987-88: 108, IAR 1988-89: 83, IAR 2000-2001; 151), Sringaverapura (IAR 1981-82: 67, IAR 1997-98: 5), Thaneswar (IAR 1987-88: 29-30), Uraiur (IAR 1965-66: 27) and Vadagaon Madhavapur (IAR 1973-74: 17).

In the medieval time the antiques include; terracotta bull, horse, elephant, tigers figurines, handmade terracotta animal figurine, large hollow horse figurine, terracotta parrot, human figurine, elephant having small ledges for lighting wicks, appliqué and incised decorated bull figures, bird figurines, black couchant bull over a pedestal, decorated ram, camel, monkey, tortoise, couchant dog, dancing peacock, couchant lion, bulls with prominent hump, rams, lion, mythical figures and scenes from the *Krishna* episodes, terracotta mother goddess, humped bull are the found respectively. These figurines are found with other archaeological material assemblages such as; terracotta balls, ear-studs, gamesmen and terracotta pallets, toy-cart wheels, lamps, smoking pipes, lime boxes, potter's stamps,

toy carts, wheels, terracotta toy wheels, terracotta beads, discs, hopscotch and terracotta trees, wheel, discs, game objects and gamesmen.

Chronology of the Terracotta Animal Figurines

Detailed studies related to the terracotta figurines (both human and animal) have been carried out by various prominent scholars and art historians. They have classified Indian terracotta art and its technological development according to its chronological appearance (Tab. 1). The chronological classification of terracotta art and craft by different scholars gives a clear idea about technological development as well as its artistic presence in human life. The study related to the chronology of Indian terracotta and its reconstruction is always a matter of controversy because various scholars have given diverse opinion. They have classified Indian terracotta art in different chronological sequences which described in tabulation form (Table 1).

To begin, the pioneering work on terracotta art had carried out by Ananda Coomaraswamy (1927). His work divided terracotta art based on the technological and physical appearance of the figurine as well its respective archaeological phases. Additionally, detailed study of terracotta art in overall cultural phases of Indian history has found in the research work of M.K. Dhavilkar and H. D. Sankalia (1969). This study provides comprehensive reference to the terracotta art of India along with its major and minor technological and artistic aspects. Furthermore, the work of Sachidanand Sahay (1975) divided the art more elaborately. His work has given stress to the stratigraphical and contextual association of terracotta objects. However, the division of terracotta art by Stella Kramrisch (1939) and S. K. Saraswati (1957) is more applicable to understand the study related to terracotta animal figurines.

Table 1: Chronological Classification of Terracotta Art in Indian Archaeology

Ananda Coomaraswamy (1927)	Stella Kramrisch (1939)	S. K. Saraswati (1957)	M.K. Dhavilkar and H. D. Sankalia (1969)	Sachidanand Sahay(1975)
Indo-Sumerian Terracotta Art	Time variation associated with molded specimen	Primitive form and experience	Harappan Terracotta Art	Pre historic Terracotta Art
Second stage cover from 3000 BCE to 1000 BCE	Ageless category included the figurine found in pottery and the handmade terracotta figurine	Technological development of terracotta art by showing its artistic impression	Post Harappan (Chalcolithic) Terracotta Art	Harappan Terracotta Art
Sunga/Early Andhra Period Terracotta Art			Pre Mauryan Terracotta Art	Pre Mauryan Terracotta Art
The Saka, Kushana, Gupta, Pala and Later Terracotta Art			Mauryan Terracotta Art	Mauryan Terracotta Art
			Sunga Terracotta Art	Sunga Terracotta Art
			Satavahana Terracotta Art	Kushana Terracotta Art
			Gandhar Terracotta Art	Gupta Terracotta Art
			Gupta Terracotta Art	Pala Terracotta Art
			Mediaeval Terracotta Art	

Discussion and Conclusion

The earliest record of terracotta comes across from the North-western part of the Indian sub-continent. The food producing societies of Zhob and Kulli cultures were produced terracotta objects with their

regional form of style. During the pre-Harappan context, advance techniques were applied in the production of the terracotta objects. A large variety of terracotta objects found, which considered as the most significant characteristics feature of this phase. The artifacts include hand-made terracotta animal and human figurines dated to 3000 BCE. Terracotta bull figurines painted with black stripes on the whole body and panted circles painted to make eyes are considered the most fascinating occurrences. Similar varieties of objects were also recorded in Mehi, Kulli and Shahi Tump. These findings probably connote a certain form of votive offering in ritual practice (Dhavalikar and Sankalia 1969: 34).

In the Neolithic period, certain sites yielded a primitive pattern of terracotta animal figurines. It seems to indicate the presence of ritualistic practice observed by the past contemporary society. During the Chalcolithic phase, terracotta bull figurines and terracotta bullhead are largely recorded. It is very fascinating to note that terracotta dog figurines are also found in the cultural assemblage (Bagasra; IAR 1999-2000: 28, Balu; IAR 1984-85: 22, Daimabad; IAR 1958-59:17, Kabra-kala; IAR 1999-2000:15, Karoti; IAR 1972-73:61, Rakhigarhi; IAR 1998-99:15, Ramapuram; IAR 1981-82:3-4). A few artifacts such as small pot-shreds, mother goddess figurines, terracotta oval lamps, wheels, perforated discs and a bottle in the form of a bull associated with games are also found with these images. It probably indicates that certain forms of ritualistic performance were carried out by the early farming society of South Asia.

Though, the terracotta bull figurines yielded more in form however, various types of figurines of other animals were also yielded to a large extend. Two anthropomorphic figures also came to notice at Bagwanpura. A variety of playing objects made of terracotta is also a fascinating feature which indicates the usage of the figurines for entertainment purposes (especially for playing/gaming). In the present-day context, terracotta animal figures functioned as a toy. They use for playing purposes by children in the rural part of India (on a particular day of the traditional Hindu calendar). The local folk society of various parts of India observes several rituals associated with the animal world. These folk celebrations narrate the human relation with the animal world in the past and present contemporary world.

The hefty findings of terracotta animal and female figurines of Harappan culture supported the divine mother aspects. These figurines may be considered associated ritualistic objects. It also indicates the gradual transition of the society from pastoral nomadic settlement to settled agricultural life. The occurrence of various types of animal figurines in Harappan sites shows the cultural change from agricultural life to urban settlement and civilization. Bull is the most popular and prominent findings in every phase of ancient human culture. Based on the stylistic appearance they are divided into two groups such as; naturalistic and stylized. In the early farming community of the central and Deccan regions, bull and female figurines represent the terracotta art of early human society (Dhavalikar and Sankalia 1969: 34).

During the Megalithic phase animal figurines are recorded. Terracotta horse figurines and anthropomorphic figures appeared in this cultural phase. In the later cultural phases of culture, we found continuity. The appearance of the terracotta horse figurines provides clear ideas regarding the association of horses in the megalithic society.

In the PGW and NBPW phases, terracotta figurines of the horse, tortoise, terracotta figurine of the mother goddess, unfinished horse figurine, mother and child, male figurines and *naga* are the new assemblage of findings. The figurines of horse continued to be visible in the later cultural phases. Nevertheless, terracotta images of the carrier of Hindu deities such as *garuda* and *naga* figurines are the new findings. These findings represent the earliest emergence of the art industry in the field of Hindu religion.

Terracotta was used for religious purposes by the people of PGW and NBPW culture. All these findings provide probable evidence of the observation of ritual practice related to fertility. Similarly, the occurrence of carriers of Hindu mythological deities such as *naga* and *garuda* was recorded from the PGW and NBPW phases onwards only. There was a continuation and advanced level of terracotta art recorded in the NBPW culture along with the appearance of traditional forms of terracotta animal figurines. In the PGW and pre-NBPW phases of culture, large varieties of terracotta animal figurines are recorded and in the production process, few changes were established where sophisticated forms of images appeared and the absence of decorative forms of aspect was also recorded. During the Mauryan period technological advancements recorded in the production process of terracotta and terracotta moulds were used, which left a naturalist mark and representation on the terracotta figures of elephants (Sengupta 2005:178).

Moulds were used to produce different body parts which were fixed and make a complete figure (Sharma 1991-92:65). The animal figurines of the Sunga time period found at Kausmbi, represent the excellent representation of terracotta art of ancient India (Agrawal 1989:84). In the historical and medieval periods, the continuity of the occurrences of terracotta figurines is a common phenomenon. The occurrences show the full phase of technical and artistic development in the field of terracotta art. Terracotta became a popular medium to express art and sculpture of Hindu mythology. The Hindu mythological scene such as; the terracotta figure of *Indra* mounted on elephant *Airavata*, *naga* and crouched Nandi over a pedestal, mythical figures and scenes of Hindu scripture, the Krishna episodes and the figure terracotta mother goddess are recorded.

So in conclusion the subsistence patterns of early human society are based on the surrounding ecology. The extended and constant interaction of men with the adjoining flora and fauna built up a relationship in the past phases of history. Over time, certain faunas and floras became an integral part of human life. They used them for food, medicinal, decorative and various other purposes. Later on, this long and continuous association of human society generates the cult form of belief system with the surrounding floras and faunas. And to express faith and belief, offerings were started in society. Terracotta animal figurines play a significant role to understand human culture. The study talks its emergence, evolution and continuous and connotes the socio-economic and religious life of the past contemporary society. The appearance of the terracotta animal figurine in human culture and its involved changes in course of time in craft industry indicate the long and continuous human and animal interaction. Similarly it shows the religious believe and faith towards animal worlds, importance of animal in the social life of human, as well as a progressive process of Indian terracotta craft industry.

Mostly, in India the findings are generally divided into two categories *i.e.* religious figurines and secular statues. There are certain animal figures such as bull, horse, elephant and *naga* frequently associated with terracotta female figurines, hence it seem to believe that these figures had been used for religious purposes. On the other hand enormous varieties of animal figures are appeared which association found with playing objects includes toy cart and miniature pots which clearly provides information about the secular usage by the society. The ethnographic study by different scholars related to the ongoing terracotta animal figurines provides comprehensive information related to the religious and secular practices now a day. Hence the ancient findings of terracotta animal figures provide a wider scope to understand the religious believe system, social life of the human society and the origin-evolutionary process of Indian art.

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