

NEOLITHIC SITE DIMA HASAO : HISTORY

NEWS: Neolithic habitation found in Assam's Dima Hasao

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The 2025 archaeological survey at Daojali Hading, Assam, has revealed a settled Neolithic habitation with early metallurgical activity, enhancing knowledge of prehistoric life in Northeast India. The site provides key evidence of advanced tool-making, pottery, and community living during the Neolithic period.

Context

- A recent (2025) archaeological survey has confirmed Neolithic habitation at Daojali Hading, Dima Hasao district, Assam.
- Discovery of a furnace and iron slag suggests early metallurgical activity over 2,700 years ago.
- This finding enhances understanding of prehistoric community life and technological advancement in Northeast India.

About Daojali Hading

- **Location:** Situated in the Langting-Mupa Reserve Forest, Dima Hasao district, Assam.
- It is one of the most significant Neolithic sites in Northeast India.

Key Artefacts Found

- **Furnace and iron slag** indicating early metallurgical activity, one of the earliest evidence of metal use in the region.
- **Cord-marked pottery** — handmade pottery with distinct impressions, a typical feature of Neolithic culture.
- **Polished celts** — finely ground and polished stone axes.
- **Grinding stones** — used for processing grains and food preparation.
- **Hafted celts** — tools where the stone blade is attached to a wooden handle.
- **Arrowheads** — evidence of hunting and tool-making.
- **Jadeite tools** — indicating long-distance trade or exchange as jadeite is not locally available in Assam.
- **Charcoal and limestone deposits** — suggestive of domestic activities and use of fire.
- **On-site lithic tool production observed** — evidence of a settled Neolithic habitation, not just a transient tool-making site.

Significance

- Daojali Hading is not just a tool workshop but represents a settled Neolithic habitation.
- Provides crucial evidence of technological sophistication and early metallurgy in Northeast India.
- Bridges gaps in understanding the spread of Neolithic culture into the Eastern Himalayan foothills.

Other Important Neolithic Sites in India

Region	Site	State
North India	Burzahom	Jammu & Kashmir
South India	Paiyampalli	Tamil Nadu
Eastern India	Chirand	Bihar
Central India	Mahagara	Uttar Pradesh
Northeast India	Daojali Hading	Assam

Neolithic Period: Last Stage of the Stone Age

Period in India

- Approximately 7000 BCE to 1000 BCE.

Key Features

- **Polished stone tools** — advanced tool-making techniques.
- **Pottery** — handmade, low-fired, often cord-marked pottery.
- **Domestication of plants and animals** — emergence of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- **Settled life** — establishment of permanent village settlements.

Agriculture

- Beginning of cultivation of crops such as wheat, barley, and rice.
- Marks the transition from a food-gathering to a food-producing economy.

Tools

- **Celts** — polished stone axes.
- **Adzes** — woodworking tools.

- **Grinding stones** — used for grain processing and food preparation.

Pottery

- Handmade and low-fired.
- Often decorated with **cord-marked** patterns.

Housing

- Circular or rectangular huts constructed using locally available materials.
- Suggests community life and permanent settlements.

Economy

- **Food-producing economy** — based on subsistence farming and herding.
- Complemented by hunting, fishing, and gathering.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/assam/neolithic-habitation-found-in-assams-dima-hasao/article69641093.ece>