Quaternary Sediments and Prehistoric Cultural Remains of Dulung River Valley, Eastern India: A Report

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Abstract: The present article is an outcome of three years of exploration in the Dulung river valley of Eastern India. It is comprised of detailed reporting of 28 newly discovered prehistoric sites in this region. In the course of exploration, discovered archaeological and geological sites were mapped and their relative locations were recorded and analysed by using various GIS tools. In each site, the context of the exposed archaeological materials was recorded along with natural and artificially exposed Quaternary sedimentary sections in and around them. In this article, discovered prehistoric sites have been described along with their cultural materials, relative locations, geomorphological contexts and litho-stratigraphic features. Preliminary analyses of the recovered artifacts were done in the laboratory and some of their results have been presented in this article also. Field observation of the present study reveals that Lower Palaeolithic artifacts were mainly found from the ferricrete deposits and Microlithic artifacts were found from calcrete bearing silt deposits of the study area. This study establishes the Dulung river valley as one of the several important geographical and environmental places of eastern India where prehistoric man's activity took place atleast since the early-middle Pleistocene.

Key Words: Quaternary Sediments; Lithostratigraphy; Lower Palaeolithic; Microlithic; Dulung River Valley; Eastern India.