

The Mundari Dialects: An Archeological View

by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)

Hindus (DNA F) voluntarily left Somalia 100,000 years ago and followed the Indian monsoon winds to India. They were on the west side of the Aravalli Ridge 60,000 years ago. At that time, the current Thar Desert was a fertile valley. Hindus on the north side of the ridge were J2b and O, and the ones on the south side were H and L.

O were the Mundaries. They followed the Yamuna River to the Bay of Bengal that stretched from Bangladesh to Australia, called Sunda. At that time, the seawater was 500 feet below the current levels. The glaciers started to melt 20,000 years ago, and Sunda was submerged. O retreated to India and lived along the Sone River on the west side of the Satpura Ridge.

Four thousand years ago, the monsoon winds reversed direction, and the west side of the Satpura turned into a wasteland; all the people were forced to move to the east side, which turned into a fertile land. Mundaries lived only along the Sone River and in the current state of West Bengal on the east side of the Satpura.

Mundari was a family of dialects. Each dialect was a distinct signature of a subgroup of the O. The 2011 Census collected data on Mundari dialects that help us identify the migration path of the O from the Sone to the East Coast.

The map shows pockets of Mundari, Kui, and Agni dialects as recorded in the 2011 Census. The white space represents synthetic languages with man-made rules of syntax and grammar. Only the natural dialects, not languages, are DNA samples.

