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Ancient Settlement Pattern of The Beso River: Special Reference to District Ghazipur, U.P.

Abstract

Ghazipur is a district of eastern Uttar-Pradesh which western border touches Varanasi district. The extension of this district is towards both sides of river Ganga. There three small rivers are flowing like Mangai, Gangi and Beso. Among this Beso River is small tributary of river Ganga. I have explored along the lower reach of this river from its confluence with river Ganga to the western border of Ghazipur district. The exploration yielded encouraging results bringing to light a good number of sites of different cultural periods. The study area comprised parts of Ghazipur, Jakhaniya and Saidpur tehsils of Ghazipur district along the Beso River. The area is covered by the unconsolidated alluvial deposits of lower Pleistocene to recent age with its favourable climate, soil, water and terrain conditions. The highest concentration of population is found in area called bhangar tracts, which are well drained and are generally free from floods. The economy of the study area is under–developed and is overwhelmingly dominated by agriculture which is mainly subsistence arable farming. In fact, it is not only a means of livelihood but also a tradition and way of life. The general land use pattern is clearly influenced by suitability of terrain with the availability of water for agriculture. Before I give a brief

description of explored sites and material remains collected from the ancient settlements, a brief account of the previous study of the region is called for.