

Ochre Coloured Pottery

गैरिक मृद्भाण्ड

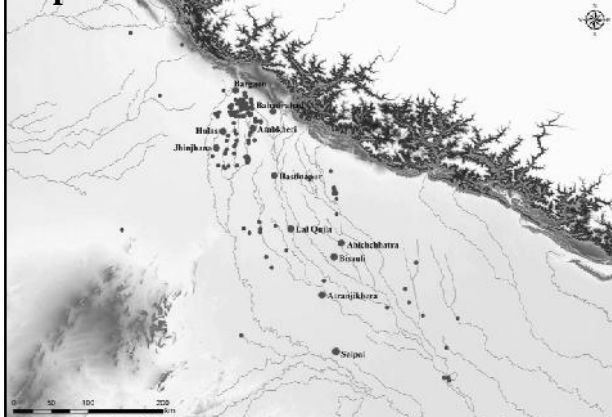


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- The term **Ochre Coloured Pottery Culture (OCP)** was coined by B.B. Lal after he excavated the site Hastinapur in the year 1951-52.
- This type of pottery was first discovered at Bisauli in Badaun district & Rajpur Parsu in Bijnour district by B.B. Lal in 1950-51.
- This culture was seen to be concentrated in the Ganga-Yamuna *Doab* regions, the chief of them being Bahadrabad (Hardwar), Ambkhera (Saharanpur), Atranjikhera (Etah), Lal Qila (Bulandshahar) and Saipai (Etawah).
- But its presence sought in other States as Haryana, Rajasthan, and Punjab.
- Apart from these above mentioned regions it seems to have been traced in **mid-Ganga regions also**.
- However, regarding its authorship and identification any decisive consensus has not yet been reached.
- B.B.Lal states, "Then there is the problem of Ochre Coloured Ware, is it late Harappan? Or, is it an altogether different industry dominating the Ganga Valley (independent or indigenous Culture), there being, however, interactions between these wares and the Harappan?"

Important Excavated Sites



- The three **key elements of pottery analysis** are **fabric, form and decoration**.
- The form or **morphology** of a pot consists of **four main elements**: its **base, body, neck and rim**.
- If a whole pot is found, all four elements can be used to describe its shape or form but most pottery is recovered in the form of fragments.
- Recognising pottery types on fabric is extremely important.
- Fabric is the outer physical surface of the pottery which is a combination of factors such as clay used, degreasant mixed, firing technique (i.e. oxidation and reduction) etc.
- It was the observation of the fabric by B.B. Lal of certain sherds from Hastinapura that led to him proclaiming OCP as a different pottery type.
- Another aspect of the physical form of pottery is decoration and surface treatment.

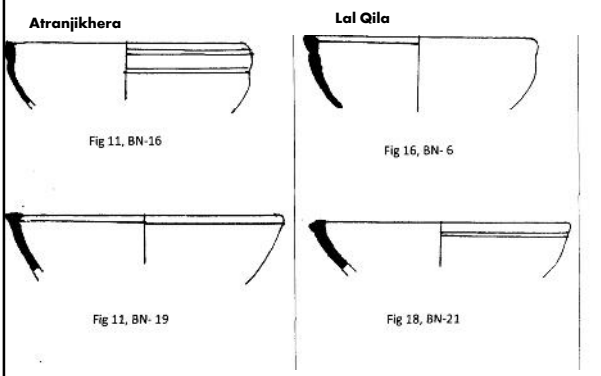
➤ As its name implies, its main distinguishing feature is its ochre colour, which gives the appearance of being badly fired.

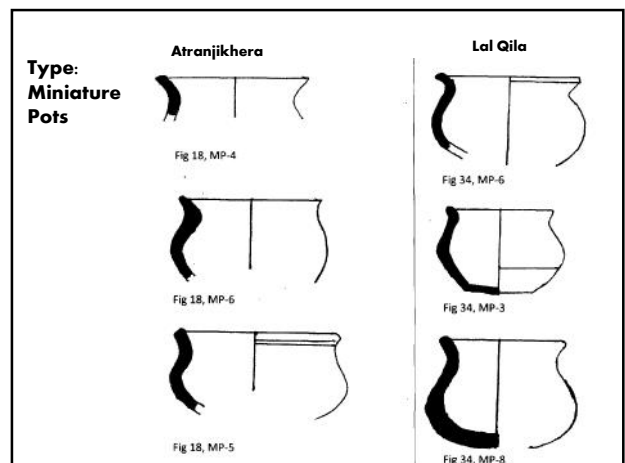
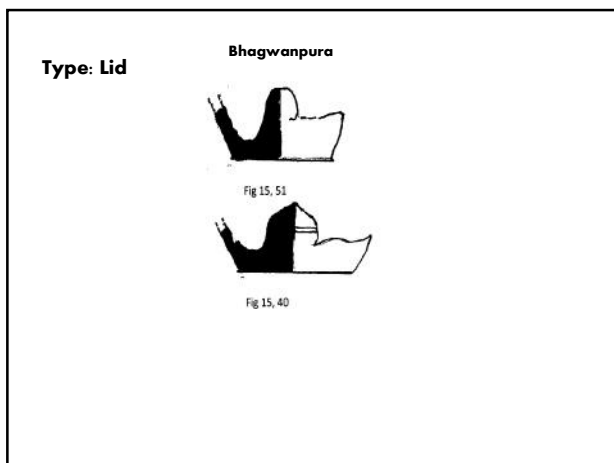
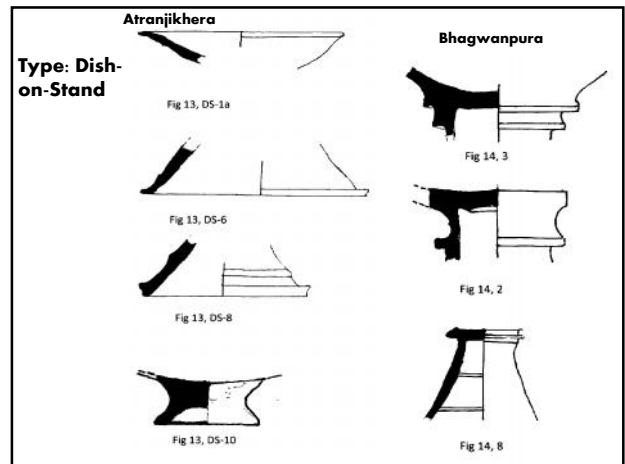
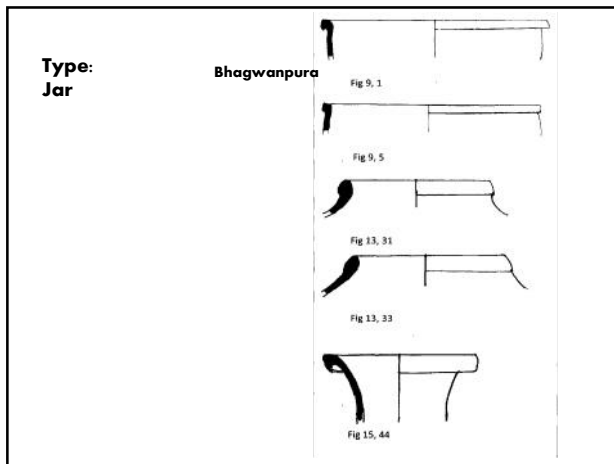
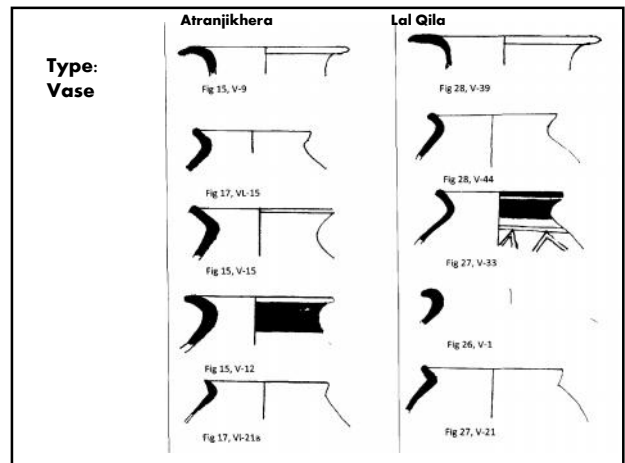
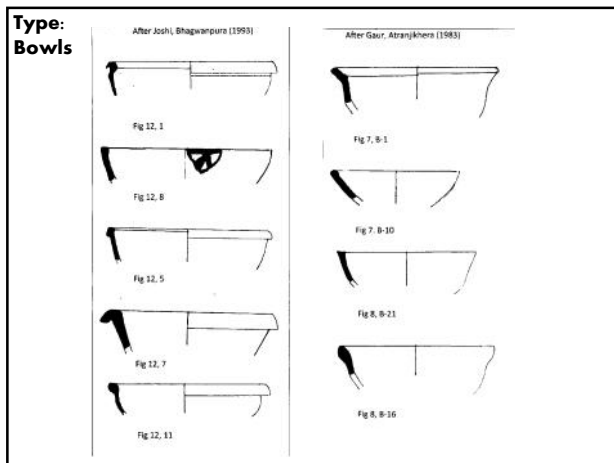
➤ Its other characteristics are a porous texture and a weathering out of the edges of sherds.

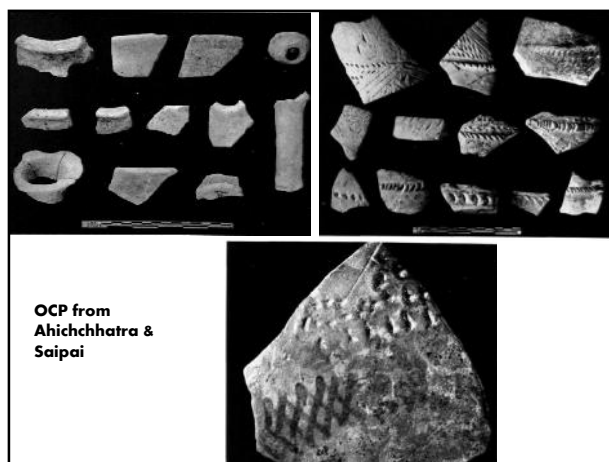
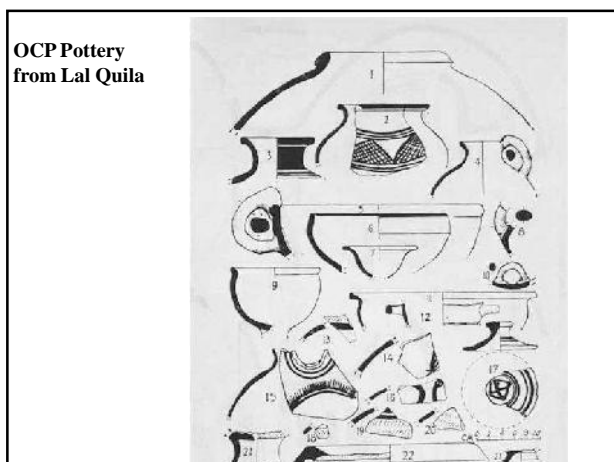
➤ The entire pottery complex may be broadly classified into seven types:

- Storage jars
- Vases
- Basins
- Bowls
- Lids
- Dishes-on-stand
- Miniature pots

Type: Basin







EVIDENCES FROM EXCAVATED OCP SITES

At Saipai

- OCP associated with Copper Hoards
- A hooked spearhead in OCP bearing deposit
- A harpoon in OCP bearing deposit

At Atranjikhhera (a multi-cultural site with its earliest occupation from the OCP period)

- A piece of copper and broken pieces of terracotta crucibles containing copper granules were found in OCP bearing deposit

Lal Qila (considered to be a single culture OCP site and a prominent habitation site)

- An copper arrowhead
- A copper pendant
- A copper bead and broken pieces of a celt
- A few pieces of terracotta crucible

It suggests a Link of OCP and Copper Hoards

CONCLUSION

On the basis of Artifacts recovered from OCP sites like Lal Qila, Atranjikhhera, and Daulatpur from the Ganga-Yamuna doab and also from other culture sites like Mitathal IIB and Bhagwanpura IA, certain conclusions have been drawn:

- R.C Gaur categorized the 'OCP culture' of the Ganga-Yamuna doab into three categories- genuine OCP sites, Harappan sites with OCP influences and OCP sites with Harappan influences, he put Lal Qila, Atranjikhhera and Daulatpur in the first category.
- After comparing the OCP sites in term of their assemblages, Lal Qila artefacts were made of four materials *i.e.* stone, terracotta, bone, and copper while Atranjikhhera and Daulatpura were devoid of artefacts made of bone and copper.
- Atranjikhhera and Daulatpur may not have had access to copper, it is hardly possible that bone was not available.
- Were the inhabitants of Atranjikhhera and Daulatpur unaware of the technologies to make artifacts out of copper and bone?
- Was it only based on the ceramic likeness and fabric or other artifacts as well?

- Bangles and beads of terracotta are some of the most common ornaments found.
- Lal Qila not only yielded terracotta bangles and beads but also some of semi-precious stones.
- Unfortunately, neither terracotta nor stone bangles and beads have been reported from Atranjikhhera.
- In contrast, five to six terracotta beads have been recovered from Daulatpur, even while the excavated area of Daulatpur is a smaller than that of Atranjikhhera.
- Limited beads made of carnelian and shale were recovered from Lai Qila.
- This may suggest contact with other areas which had resource to these materials.
- A single potter's terracotta dabber has been recovered from Atranjikhhera. It is absent from other OCP sites. It is an indicator of pottery production.
- As far as other crafts are concerned, crucible fragments have been found from Atranjikhhera and Lai Qila. Miniature querns and pestles were only recovered from Lai Qila.
- These specimens are intact and are not in less number. Certainly these may have had some special function, perhaps for medical purposes.

- Faience as a material is entirely absent from OCP sites.
- In contrast Late Harappan levels at Mitathal yielded for more faience bangles than terracotta.
- As far as beads are concerned, nine faience beads and three paste beads were found out of a total thirty-four from Mitathal IIB.
- Similarly, at Bhagwanpura too, faience bangles outnumber those of terracotta, with twenty faience bangles found out of a total twenty-four. And four beads out of twenty-five were made of faience at this site.
- The link between the Harappan and the Late Harappan at these sites clearly seen through the presence of faience being used as a raw material to make ornaments.
- A fragmentary ivory pin found from Mitathal IIB also indicates the continuation of Late Harappan levels at the site from preceding II A.
- Such a material is absent at OCP sites.
- Similarly the two shell bangles found from Mitathal IIB may represent 'souvenirs' from the preceding Harappan period.

- Some of the scholars tend to associate typical copper hoard implements of Western U.P with the OCP but except for the site of Saipai, nowhere have copper hoard implements and OCP been found from the same stratum.
- Some of the prominent OCP sites so far could not able to show a conspicuous affinity between the OCP sherds and the copper hoard implements.
- R. C. Gaur mentioned a terracotta crucible with copper granules, probably for smelting purpose at Atranjikhhera.
- On the other hand, Lai Qila excavation yielded five copper objects but none of the copper specimens has any affinity with the typical copper hoard implements of western U.P.
- Likewise Mitathal IIB reported seven copper objects in which three of them are fragmentary and indeterminate in shape; out of the rest two ring and celt show, affinities with the copper hoards of Ganga-Yamuna doab

- Good evidence of hunting related activities is shown by the people of Lai Qila through their copper and bone implements like points, arrowheads, points, celt etc.
- Thus, in the absence of such evidence from Atranjikhhera and Daulatpur, we may say people might have not been practicing hunting related activities.
- Yet, Daulatpur in Bulandshahr District has been considered to be a camp site of the OCP people.
- However, excavated area of Daulatpur shows a variety of artefacts of which have not been found from the habitation of Atranjikhhera, like animal figurines, grinders, terracotta cakes, sling balls, and weights.
- Thus, even while the area excavated at Atranjikhhera was larger than at Daulatpur, there are categories of artefacts not found at the former site.
- As far as copper working or OCP sites is concerned, only if metallographic studies of OCP metal artifacts are done can one know whether these belonged to a different metalworking tradition or not.
- D. P. Agrawal on analysis of Copper Hoard artefacts had found an absence of alloying.

The entire red ware belonging to the OCP as found be divided into three groups:

1. Genuine OCP as found Atranjikhhera, SaiPai, Lal Qila, Noh, etc.
2. OCP with Harappa influence as found at Bahadradab, Ambkhera, etc.
3. Late Harappa ware with OCP influence as found at Alamgirpur, Bargaon, etc.

Date:

A dozen sherds from four sites, Atranjikhhera, Lal Qila, Jhinjhana and Nasirpur, were examined in the **Research Laboratory for Archaeology, Oxford** and were dated by **thermoluminescence method between (2600-1200) B.C.**

TABLE 1: A COMPARISON OF ARTIFACTS OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS FROM OCP SITES AND LATE HARAPPAN SITES.

S. No	Type of object	Lal Qila	Atranjikhhera	Daulatpur	Mitathal IIB	Bhagwanpura IA
Ornaments (T.C)						
1	Bangles (T.C)	27	X	X	Few	3
	Bangles (Faience)	X	X	X	137	17
	Bangles (Shell)	X	X	X	62	X
2	Ear-stud	01	X	X	X	X
3	Beads	25	X	05	17	20
Figurines (T.C)						
1	Anthropomorphic	02	X	X	X	03
2	Male figurine	X	X	X	X	X
3	Female figurine	02	X	X	X	X
4	Animal figurine	04	X	02	04	Few
5	Bird figurine	02	X	X	X	X
House hold objects						
Toys (T.C)						
1	Wheats (Fatal)	14	X	02	20	03
	a) Plain	12	X	01	X	X
	b) Decorated	02	X	01	X	X
	c) With	X	X	X	20	03

2	Balls (Total)	18	X	02	01	07
	a) Plain	14	X	02	01	07
	b) Decorated	04	X	X	X	X
3	Gamesmen	02	X	X	X	X
4	Pottery Disc (Total)	12	02	05	01	X
	a) Decorated	X	X	X	01	X
	b) Perforated	X	02	X	X	X
	c) Unperforated	12	X	05	X	X
Miscellaneous (L.C.)						
1	Tablets	02	X	01	Few	X
2	Crucibles	02	01	X	X	X
3	Stamp	01	X	X	X	X
4	Bead or Pendant	X	01	X	X	X
Ornaments (Stone)						
1	Beads (Total)	04	X	X	17	05
	a) Carnelian	03	X	X	02	X
	b) Shale	01	X	X	X	X
	c) Agate	X	X	X	03	01

	d) Paste	X	X	X	05	X
	e) Inlaid	X	X	X	09	04
House hold object (stone)						
1	Pestle	23	05	01	10	X
2	Grinder	16	X	02	X	X
3	Quern	29	07	Fragment	15	X
4	Minutary Quern	03	X	X	X	X
5	Sharpener	04	X	X	X	X
6	Shin rubber	01	X	X	Few	01 (L.C.)
7	Not-sinker	01	X	X	X	X
8	Pebble	03	X	X		
9	Weight	X	X	03	06	X
10	Sling ball	02	X	01	06	Few
11	Miniature Pestle	01	X	X	X	X
	Indeterminate Stone	27	01	X		
Base Object						
1	Arrow heads	06	X	X	X	X
2	Stylus	04	X	X	X	X
3	Point	07	X	X	X	X
Copper objects						
1	Pendant	02	X	X	X	X

2	Bead	01	X	X	X	X
3	Bangle	X	X	X	01	X
Household Object. (Implements and Miscellaneous objects)						
1	Arrowhead	01	X	X	X	X
2	Celt	01	X	X	01	X
3	Ring	X	X	X	01	X
4	Parasu	X	X	X	01	X