

**Mitochondrial Haplogroup Analyses of the Madia Gond Tribe:
Tracking the Past Events of Prehistory of India**Mumtaz Baig^{1*}, Ismail Kellelu², Syed Obaid Qureshi³ and Ganesh Halkare⁴*1 Department of Zoology, Govt. Vidarbha Institute of Science & Humanities,
Amravati 444 604, Maharashtra, India
E mail: mumtazbaig@gmail.com**2 Department of Ancient Indian History Culture and Archeology,
R.T. M. Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
E-mail : ikellelu@gmail.com**3 Department of Zoology, Adarsh Mahavidyalaya, Dhamangaon Rly 444 709,
Maharashtra, India
E mail: drsoqureshi@gmail.com**4 21, Indrayani Colony, Badnera Road, Amravati 444 607, Maharashtra, India
E-mail: ganeshhalkare@gmail.com***KEYWORDS** Demic Expansion. Fertile Crescent. mtDNA. Madia Gond. Phylogenetic

ABSTRACT The origin and spread of agriculture in India is poorly understood. To address this, we analyzed mtDNA sequences of some ethnic groups from Eurasia to check for the support for the two most prevalent models of agricultural diffusion that is, "Demic expansion" Vs "Cultural diffusion". Presence of haplogroup T1 in the Madia Gond and Baluch, and its exact identity with population inhabiting in and around Mediterranean region points towards Neolithic linkages between these populations. Further, occurrence of rare haplogroup N1a in one of the Baluch individual and its identity with 7500 old Neolithic farmer sequences from Europe further reinforce dispersal of human from the Fertile Crescent region. Our phylogenetic analysis indicates clustering of Madia Gond and Baluch sequences in the distinct T1 and N1a Neolithic clusters. Application of molecular clock to this cluster yields a time depth of ~10,000 which further reconfirms its Neolithic origin. Though upper Paleolithic origin of majority of Indian population is well established, but presence of T1 and N1a haplogroup in Madia Gond and Baluch respectively supports Neolithic Demic expansion model.