Supplementary Material

1. Kotumsar NK Record

Sample: The sample was removed from Kotumsar cave by Physical Research Laboratory (PRL, India). It was cut into a slab ~2 inches thick in PRL and shipped to the University of Oxford.

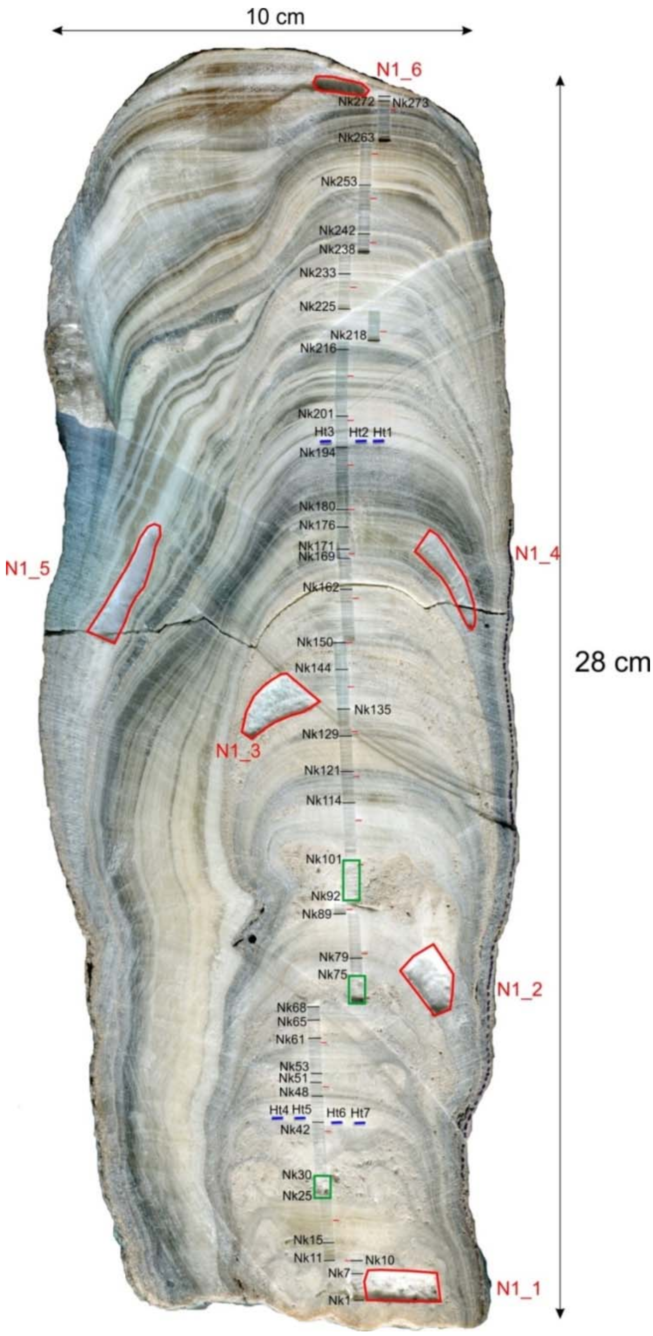

Figure S1. N1_1 to N1_6 in red mark the 6 subsamples milled for U-Th dating. Subsamples for stable isotopes were milled at 1 mm resolution. Sample numbers that mark significant changes in texture or growth axis are marked on the figure in black. Red lines on the trench mark every 10th sample. The blue lines indicate subsamples milled for 'Hendy' tests. The green boxes indicate zones of texturally disturbed growth.

Mineralogy: Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) measurements of three subsamples indicate that the sample is dominantly composed of calcite [1].

Age Model: Six subsamples were dated using the U-Th method. ~ 300 mg of powder from each dating site on the stalagmite was extracted using a Dentist's drill and spiked with a ^{229}Th-^{236}U mixed spike. The U and Th aliquots were separated broadly following the ion-exchange method of other carbonate samples handled at Oxford which is a modified version of the chemistry originally described by [2]. The samples were analysed by a Nu Instruments MC-ICPMS at Oxford. Details of the instrument have been discussed in [3]. U concentrations were measured using a bracketing standard approach [4]. Th was measured against in-house Th standards [5](*Mason and Henderson, 2010*). The resulting U-Th concentration data was reduced to ages using an in-house software called Donkey created by Andrew Mason at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford. Half-lives, as assessed by [6], were used for calculations. The age data was further corrected for the presence of detrital Th using bulk detrital value of (5.38E-06, +5.38E-06, -4.84E-06; [7]. Error propagation was done using Monte-Carlo simulations. The error has been calculated on 95% of the total number of measurements lying within a 2σ confidence interval. StalAge software was used to construct an age model for the sample [8]. Results indicate that the sample grew for a period of ~1200 years between 3449 and 1964 years BP.

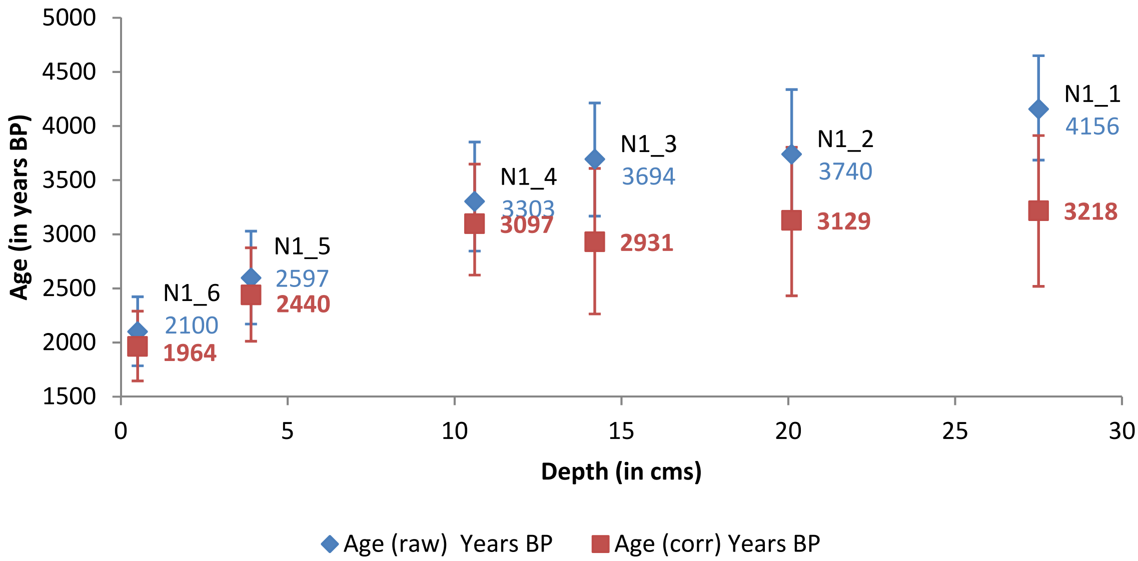

Figure S2. Raw and corrected ages plotted against depth in the stalagmite, with 95% confidence limits.

Table S1. U and Th concentrations and isotopes ratios, and derived age data for subsamples N1_1 to N1_6. The age data was further corrected for the presence of detrital Th using bulk detrital value of (5.38E-06, +5.38E-06, -4.84E-06; [7]). Ages are given in years BP i.e. relative to 1950.

Sple	Depth	^{238}U	^{232}Th	^{230}Th	$\delta^{234}U$	$^{230}Th/^{232}Th$	$^{230}Th/^{232}Th$	$^{230}Th/^{238}U$	Age (raw)	+	-	Age (corr)	+	-
	cm	ppb	ppb	ppb		atomic	activity	activity	Years BP			Years BP		
N1_1	27.5	79.5	3.9	7.3E-05	481.2	1.9E-05	3.5	5.6E-02	4156	494	471	3218	694	699
N1_2	20.1	58.1	1.8	4.9E-05	487.8	2.7E-05	4.9	5.1E-02	3740	597	600	3129	675	697
N1_3	14.2	71.3	2.8	5.9E-	479.4	2.1E-05	3.9	5.0E-02	3694	519	526	2931	677	667

				05										
N1_4	10.6	75.7	0.8	5.6E-05	479.0	7.0E-05	12.9	4.5E-02	3303	549	458	3097	551	474
N1_5	3.9	78.5	0.6	4.6E-05	488.6	7.2E-05	13.4	3.6E-02	2597	432	426	2440	435	428
N1_6	0.5	109.7	0.8	5.2E-05	467.7	6.8E-05	12.6	2.9E-02	2100	323	315	1964	326	319

Stable isotope measurements: Subsamples were milled from a trench ~3 mm in width using a New Wave Micromill. A total of 273 subsamples of ~1.5 mg were taken using a 0.8 mm drill bit at a resolution of 1 mm. Each subsample of 1 mm was taken in 4 increments of 0.25 mm each to reduce edge bias from the drill bit. This gives a subsampling resolution of 1 to 13 years per mm based on the variable growth rate of the sample. Aliquots of the subsample powders were sent to PRL for stable isotope analysis, where $\delta^{18}O$ and $\delta^{13}C$ values of carbonates were measured on Delta-plus Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer (IRMS) attached to Gas Bench II. For internal calibration, laboratory standard MMB (Makrana marble = 99.9% purity) was used. The values of MMB are $\delta^{18}O$ = -10.7‰ and $\delta^{13}C$ = 3.9‰. Several repeat measurements of random samples gave reproducibility of 0.04‰. The external precision of measurements were $\delta^{18}O$ = 0.06‰ and $\delta^{13}C$ = 0.04‰.

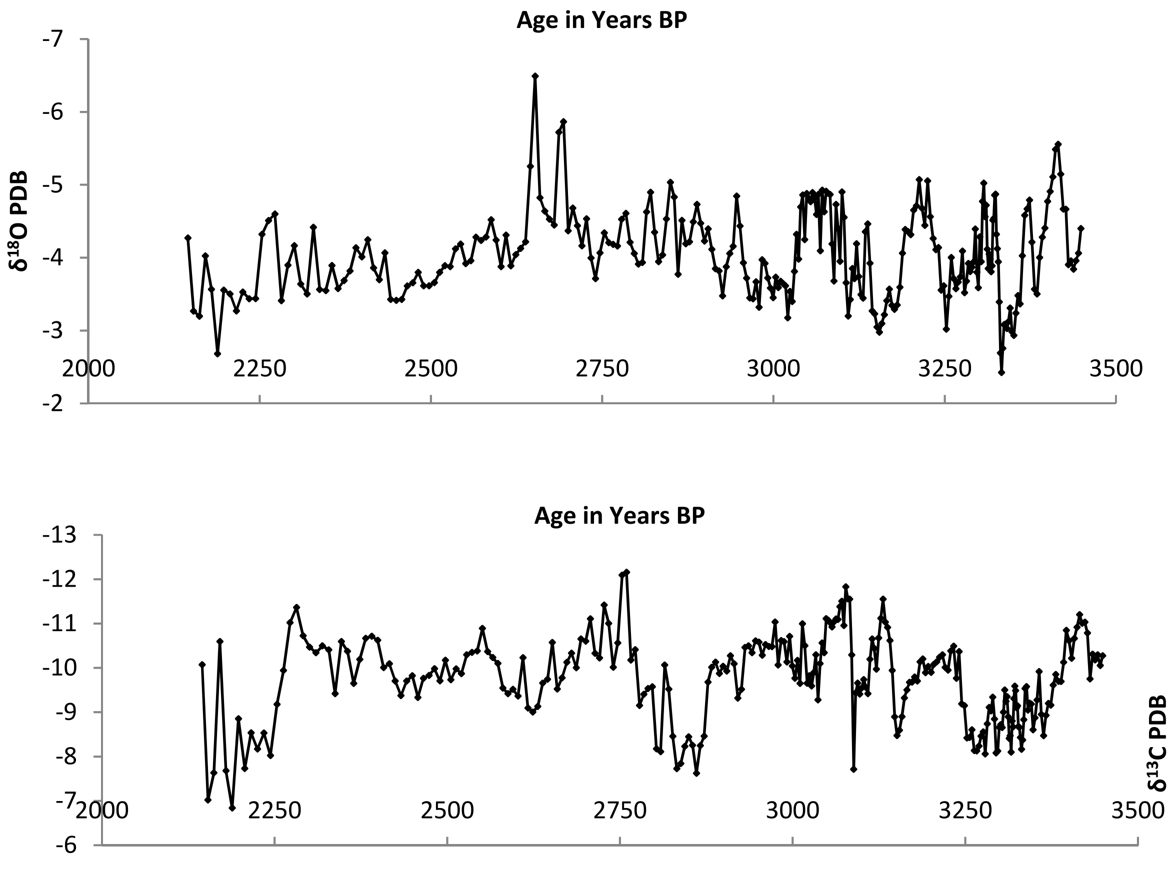

Figure S3: $\delta^{18}O$ and $\delta^{13}C$ in ‰VPDB versus Age in years BP.

Table S2. Stable isotope measurements for NK sample stalagmite from Kotumsar cave.

Sample code	Depth (cm)	Age	+	-	$\delta^{18}O$	$\delta^{13}C$	Sample code	Depth (cm)	Age	+	-	$\delta^{18}O$	$\delta^{13}C$
NKS1	27	3449	4000	2987	-4.40	-10.27	NKS137	13.4	3040	3613	2664	-4.70	-10.10
NKS2	26.9	3445	3993	2986	-4.06	-10.05	NKS138	13.3	3037	3613	2660	-3.98	-9.28
NKS3	26.8	3442	3986	2985	-3.96	-10.29	NKS139	13.2	3034	3613	2657	-4.32	-10.29

NKS4	26.7	3438	3979	2983	-3.84	-10.18	NKS140	13.1	3031	3613	2653	-3.81	-9.89
NKS5	26.6	3434	3972	2982	-3.96	-10.31	NKS141	13	3027	3613	2650	-3.40	-9.59
NKS6	26.5	3431	3964	2980	-3.91	-9.75	NKS142	12.9	3024	3613	2646	-3.54	-9.82
NKS7	26.4	3427	3956	2979	-4.67	-10.79	NKS143	12.8	3021	3613	2642	-3.18	-9.65
NKS8	26.3	3423	3952	2977	-4.67	-11.03	NKS144	12.7	3018	3613	2639	-3.62	-10.50
NKS9	26.2	3419	3947	2976	-5.15	-11.01	NKS145	12.6	3014	3612	2636	-3.65	-10.99
NKS10	26.1	3416	3943	2974	-5.56	-11.20	NKS146	12.5	3011	3611	2632	-3.68	-9.65
NKS11	26	3412	3938	2973	-5.49	-10.92	NKS147	12.4	3007	3610	2629	-3.59	-10.17
NKS12	25.9	3408	3934	2971	-5.11	-10.66	NKS148	12.3	3003	3609	2626	-3.73	-9.76
NKS13	25.8	3404	3929	2969	-4.91	-10.22	NKS149	12.2	3000	3608	2623	-3.45	-10.04
NKS14	25.7	3400	3924	2968	-4.77	-10.61	NKS150	12.1	2996	3606	2620	-3.58	-10.71
NKS15	25.6	3396	3919	2966	-4.41	-10.85	NKS151	12	2992	3601	2617	-3.72	-10.13
NKS16	25.5	3392	3914	2964	-4.28	-10.13	NKS152	11.9	2988	3596	2615	-3.92	-10.59
NKS17	25.4	3389	3909	2962	-4.00	-9.69	NKS153	11.8	2983	3591	2612	-3.97	-10.61
NKS18	25.3	3385	3904	2960	-3.50	-9.70	NKS154	11.7	2979	3584	2610	-3.32	-10.06
NKS19	25.2	3381	3899	2958	-3.57	-9.85	NKS155	11.6	2975	3578	2607	-3.67	-11.03
NKS20	25.1	3377	3894	2956	-4.22	-9.61	NKS156	11.5	2970	3570	2605	-3.44	-10.48
NKS21	25	3374	3890	2954	-4.79	-9.16	NKS157	11.4	2965	3562	2603	-3.45	-10.48
NKS22	24.9	3370	3886	2952	-4.67	-9.20	NKS158	11.3	2961	3554	2601	-3.72	-10.53
NKS23	24.8	3367	3882	2950	-4.58	-8.93	NKS159	11.2	2956	3545	2598	-3.93	-10.28
NKS24	24.7	3363	3879	2948	-4.03	-8.47	NKS160	11.1	2951	3536	2596	-4.44	-10.58
NKS25	24.6	3360	3876	2946	-3.37	-8.95	NKS161	11	2946	3526	2594	-4.85	-10.61
NKS26	24.5	3357	3873	2944	-3.48	-9.92	NKS162	10.9	2941	3516	2592	-4.16	-10.34
NKS27	24.4	3354	3871	2942	-3.24	-9.27	NKS163	10.8	2936	3506	2589	-4.06	-10.50
NKS28	24.3	3351	3870	2940	-2.94	-8.87	NKS164	10.7	2931	3495	2587	-3.88	-10.46
NKS29	24.2	3348	3869	2938	-2.98	-8.60	NKS165	10.6	2926	3485	2584	-3.48	-9.52
NKS30	24.1	3346	3869	2936	-3.31	-9.18	NKS166	10.5	2921	3474	2581	-3.82	-9.32
NKS31	24	3343	3869	2933	-3.12	-9.21	NKS167	10.4	2915	3463	2579	-3.85	-10.09
NKS32	23.9	3341	3869	2931	-3.03	-9.05	NKS168	10.3	2910	3452	2576	-4.12	-10.27
NKS33	23.8	3339	3869	2929	-3.09	-9.58	NKS169	10.2	2905	3441	2573	-4.40	-9.93
NKS34	23.7	3337	3869	2927	-3.08	-9.53	NKS170	10.1	2899	3430	2569	-4.23	-10.03
NKS35	23.6	3335	3869	2924	-2.76	-8.83	NKS171	10	2894	3419	2566	-4.47	-9.87
NKS36	23.5	3333	3869	2922	-2.43	-8.37	NKS172	9.9	2888	3407	2562	-4.73	-10.13
NKS37	23.4	3331	3869	2920	-2.69	-8.16	NKS173	9.8	2883	3396	2558	-4.49	-10.01
NKS38	23.3	3330	3869	2918	-3.39	-8.43	NKS174	9.7	2877	3386	2554	-4.22	-9.68
NKS39	23.2	3328	3869	2916	-3.94	-8.66	NKS175	9.6	2872	3375	2549	-4.19	-8.46
NKS40	23.1	3327	3869	2913	-4.12	-8.67	NKS176	9.5	2866	3364	2545	-4.51	-8.25
NKS41	23	3325	3869	2911	-4.32	-9.15	NKS177	9.4	2861	3353	2540	-3.77	-7.62
NKS42	22.9	3324	3869	2909	-4.87	-9.10	NKS178	9.3	2855	3342	2535	-4.83	-8.25
NKS43	22.8	3323	3869	2907	-4.86	-9.49	NKS179	9.2	2849	3332	2530	-5.04	-8.45
NKS44	22.7	3322	3869	2905	-4.54	-9.59	NKS180	9.1	2844	3321	2525	-4.53	-8.23
NKS45	22.6	3320	3869	2903	-4.51	-9.31	NKS181	9	2838	3311	2520	-4.04	-7.84

NKS46	22.5	3319	3869	2901	-3.89	-8.67	NKS182	8.9	2832	3301	2515	-3.95	-7.73
NKS47	22.4	3318	3869	2900	-3.81	-8.80	NKS183	8.8	2826	3290	2510	-4.35	-8.45
NKS48	22.3	3316	3869	2898	-3.98	-8.10	NKS184	8.7	2821	3280	2504	-4.90	-9.52
NKS49	22.2	3315	3869	2896	-4.05	-8.47	NKS185	8.6	2815	3270	2499	-4.63	-10.06
NKS50	22.1	3314	3869	2895	-3.85	-8.41	NKS186	8.5	2809	3260	2493	-3.94	-8.11
NKS51	22	3312	3869	2893	-4.12	-8.90	NKS187	8.4	2803	3251	2488	-3.91	-8.17
NKS52	21.9	3311	3869	2892	-4.72	-9.35	NKS188	8.3	2797	3241	2483	-4.06	-9.57
NKS53	21.8	3309	3869	2890	-4.56	-9.24	NKS189	8.2	2791	3231	2477	-4.21	-9.53
NKS54	21.7	3307	3869	2889	-5.02	-9.50	NKS190	8.1	2785	3222	2472	-4.61	-9.40
NKS55	21.6	3305	3869	2888	-4.77	-9.00	NKS191	8	2778	3212	2467	-4.53	-9.15
NKS56	21.5	3303	3869	2887	-3.95	-8.65	NKS192	7.9	2772	3203	2461	-4.16	-10.41
NKS57	21.4	3301	3868	2885	-4.29	-8.72	NKS193	7.8	2766	3194	2456	-4.18	-10.18
NKS58	21.3	3299	3867	2884	-3.59	-8.66	NKS194	7.7	2760	3185	2451	-4.21	-12.16
NKS59	21.2	3297	3866	2883	-3.80	-8.12	NKS195	7.6	2753	3176	2446	-4.34	-12.09
NKS60	21.1	3295	3864	2882	-4.40	-8.08	NKS196	7.5	2747	3167	2441	-4.07	-10.56
NKS61	21	3292	3862	2881	-3.95	-8.84	NKS197	7.4	2740	3158	2436	-3.71	-10.01
NKS62	20.9	3290	3859	2879	-3.87	-9.34	NKS198	7.3	2734	3150	2431	-4.00	-11.00
NKS63	20.8	3287	3857	2878	-3.81	-9.03	NKS199	7.2	2727	3141	2426	-4.53	-11.42
NKS64	20.7	3285	3853	2877	-3.92	-9.11	NKS200	7.1	2720	3132	2421	-4.16	-10.22
NKS65	20.6	3282	3850	2875	-3.68	-8.73	NKS201	7	2714	3124	2416	-4.44	-10.33
NKS66	20.5	3279	3847	2874	-3.52	-8.06	NKS202	6.9	2707	3115	2411	-4.68	-11.10
NKS67	20.4	3276	3843	2872	-4.09	-8.56	NKS203	6.8	2700	3107	2406	-4.37	-10.60
NKS68	20.3	3273	3839	2870	-3.74	-8.46	NKS204	6.7	2694	3099	2401	-5.87	-10.65
NKS69	20.2	3270	3835	2868	-3.67	-8.23	NKS205	6.6	2687	3090	2396	-5.72	-10.00
NKS70	20.1	3266	3831	2866	-3.58	-8.13	NKS206	6.5	2680	3082	2391	-4.45	-10.33
NKS71	20	3263	3827	2864	-3.71	-8.14	NKS207	6.4	2673	3074	2385	-4.53	-10.12
NKS72	19.9	3260	3822	2861	-4.00	-8.60	NKS208	6.3	2666	3066	2380	-4.64	-9.77
NKS73	19.8	3256	3818	2859	-3.47	-8.43	NKS209	6.2	2659	3057	2374	-4.82	-9.52
NKS74	19.7	3252	3814	2856	-3.02	-8.42	NKS210	6.1	2652	3049	2369	-6.49	-10.57
NKS75	19.6	3249	3810	2853	-3.61	-9.15	NKS211	6	2645	3041	2363	-5.25	-9.74
NKS76	19.5	3245	3805	2850	-3.56	-9.19	NKS212	5.9	2638	3032	2357	-4.22	-9.65
NKS77	19.4	3241	3801	2847	-4.14	-10.37	NKS213	5.8	2631	3024	2351	-4.13	-9.13
NKS78	19.3	3237	3797	2844	-4.11	-9.76	NKS214	5.7	2624	3016	2345	-4.04	-9.00
NKS79	19.2	3233	3792	2841	-4.26	-10.49	NKS215	5.6	2617	3008	2339	-3.89	-9.10
NKS80	19.1	3229	3788	2838	-4.56	-10.38	NKS216	5.5	2610	3000	2333	-4.31	-10.23
NKS81	19	3225	3784	2834	-5.05	-9.95	NKS217	5.4	2602	2992	2326	-3.88	-9.36
NKS82	18.9	3221	3777	2831	-4.44	-10.01	NKS218	5.3	2595	2984	2320	-4.24	-9.51
NKS83	18.8	3217	3768	2827	-4.68	-10.29	NKS219	5.2	2588	2977	2313	-4.52	-9.42
NKS84	18.7	3213	3760	2824	-5.07	-10.24	NKS220	5.1	2581	2970	2306	-4.28	-9.55
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NKS86	18.5	3205	3744	2817	-4.65	-10.08	NKS222	4.9	2566	2956	2292	-4.28	-10.23
NKS87	18.4	3200	3737	2813	-4.32	-9.90	NKS223	4.8	2558	2950	2285	-3.96	-10.37

NKS88	18.3	3196	3729	2810	-4.36	-10.03	NKS224	4.7	2551	2944	2278	-3.92	-10.89
NKS89	18.2	3192	3722	2806	-4.39	-9.89	NKS225	4.6	2543	2939	2270	-4.19	-10.38
NKS90	18.1	3188	3715	2803	-4.06	-10.20	NKS226	4.5	2536	2934	2263	-4.12	-10.35
NKS91	18	3184	3708	2799	-3.60	-10.14	NKS227	4.4	2528	2930	2255	-3.88	-10.29
NKS92	17.9	3181	3702	2796	-3.35	-9.70	NKS228	4.3	2520	2926	2247	-3.89	-9.87
NKS93	17.8	3177	3695	2793	-3.29	-9.79	NKS229	4.2	2513	2923	2239	-3.80	-9.98
NKS94	17.7	3173	3689	2790	-3.35	-9.68	NKS230	4.1	2505	2920	2231	-3.66	-9.73
NKS95	17.6	3169	3684	2786	-3.57	-9.67	NKS231	4	2497	2918	2223	-3.62	-10.17
NKS96	17.5	3165	3678	2783	-3.41	-9.50	NKS232	3.9	2489	2917	2214	-3.61	-9.71
NKS97	17.4	3162	3673	2780	-3.22	-9.32	NKS233	3.8	2481	2916	2206	-3.80	-9.98
NKS98	17.3	3158	3668	2777	-3.10	-8.90	NKS234	3.7	2474	2916	2197	-3.66	-9.83
NKS99	17.2	3155	3663	2774	-2.98	-8.59	NKS235	3.6	2466	2916	2189	-3.61	-9.77
NKS100	17.1	3151	3658	2772	-3.05	-8.47	NKS236	3.5	2457	2916	2180	-3.43	-9.33
NKS101	17	3148	3654	2769	-3.23	-8.90	NKS237	3.4	2449	2916	2171	-3.41	-9.82
NKS102	16.9	3144	3650	2766	-3.27	-9.94	NKS238	3.3	2441	2916	2162	-3.43	-9.70
NKS103	16.8	3141	3646	2763	-3.93	-10.61	NKS239	3.2	2433	2915	2153	-4.07	-9.37
NKS104	16.7	3138	3642	2760	-4.46	-10.91	NKS240	3.1	2425	2915	2143	-3.70	-9.70
NKS105	16.6	3134	3639	2758	-4.36	-11.03	NKS241	3	2416	2914	2134	-3.86	-10.09
NKS106	16.5	3131	3635	2755	-3.45	-11.55	NKS242	2.9	2408	2912	2125	-4.25	-10.01
NKS107	16.4	3128	3632	2752	-3.50	-11.12	NKS243	2.8	2399	2910	2115	-4.01	-10.62
NKS108	16.3	3125	3629	2750	-3.74	-10.67	NKS244	2.7	2391	2907	2105	-4.14	-10.71
NKS109	16.2	3121	3627	2747	-4.19	-9.97	NKS245	2.6	2382	2903	2095	-3.82	-10.67
NKS110	16.1	3118	3624	2744	-3.71	-10.44	NKS246	2.5	2373	2897	2086	-3.69	-10.19
NKS111	16	3115	3622	2742	-3.85	-10.65	NKS247	2.4	2364	2891	2076	-3.58	-9.65
NKS112	15.9	3112	3619	2739	-3.43	-10.20	NKS248	2.3	2356	2883	2066	-3.89	-10.37
NKS113	15.8	3109	3618	2736	-3.20	-9.42	NKS249	2.2	2347	2874	2055	-3.55	-10.60
NKS114	15.7	3106	3618	2734	-3.66	-9.56	NKS250	2.1	2338	2863	2045	-3.56	-9.42
NKS115	15.6	3103	3617	2731	-4.55	-9.74	NKS251	2	2328	2850	2035	-4.42	-10.41
NKS116	15.5	3100	3616	2729	-4.90	-9.55	NKS252	1.9	2319	2835	2024	-3.50	-10.49
NKS117	15.4	3097	3615	2726	-3.95	-9.41	NKS253	1.8	2310	2819	2014	-3.64	-10.34
NKS118	15.3	3094	3615	2723	-4.40	-9.66	NKS254	1.7	2301	2801	2003	-4.17	-10.47
NKS119	15.2	3091	3614	2721	-4.73	-9.44	NKS255	1.6	2291	2782	1993	-3.90	-10.73
NKS120	15.1	3088	3614	2718	-3.68	-7.71	NKS256	1.5	2282	2762	1982	-3.41	-11.36
NKS121	15	3086	3613	2715	-4.19	-10.29	NKS257	1.4	2272	2740	1971	-4.60	-11.02
NKS122	14.9	3083	3613	2712	-4.87	-11.55	NKS258	1.3	2263	2718	1960	-4.51	-9.94
NKS123	14.8	3080	3613	2709	-4.89	-11.56	NKS259	1.2	2253	2696	1949	-4.32	-9.18
NKS124	14.7	3077	3613	2707	-4.91	-11.83	NKS260	1.1	2244	2673	1938	-3.44	-8.02
NKS125	14.6	3074	3613	2704	-4.63	-10.96	NKS261	1	2235	2649	1926	-3.44	-8.53
NKS126	14.5	3071	3613	2701	-4.93	-11.50	NKS262	0.9	2225	2626	1915	-3.53	-8.17
NKS127	14.4	3068	3613	2698	-4.10	-11.38	NKS263	0.8	2216	2603	1904	-3.27	-8.54
NKS128	14.3	3066	3613	2694	-4.87	-11.09	NKS264	0.7	2207	2580	1892	-3.50	-7.73
NKS129	14.2	3063	3613	2691	-4.59	-11.10	NKS265	0.6	2198	2558	1880	-3.56	-8.85

NKS130	14.1	3060	3613	2688	-4.82	-11.04	NKS266	0.5	2189	2536	1869	-2.68	-6.84
NKS131	14	3057	3613	2685	-4.89	-10.92	NKS267	0.4	2180	2515	1857	-3.57	-7.68
NKS132	13.9	3054	3613	2681	-4.77	-11.02	NKS268	0.3	2171	2496	1845	-4.02	-10.59
NKS133	13.8	3051	3613	2678	-4.82	-11.08	NKS269	0.2	2162	2477	1832	-3.20	-7.63
NKS134	13.7	3049	3613	2675	-4.88	-11.11	NKS270	0.1	2154	2460	1820	-3.27	-7.02
NKS135	13.6	3046	3613	2671	-4.25	-10.34	NKS271	0	2145	2445	1808	-4.27	-10.07
NKS136	13.5	3043	3613	2667	-4.86	-10.56							

2. Valmiki cave records

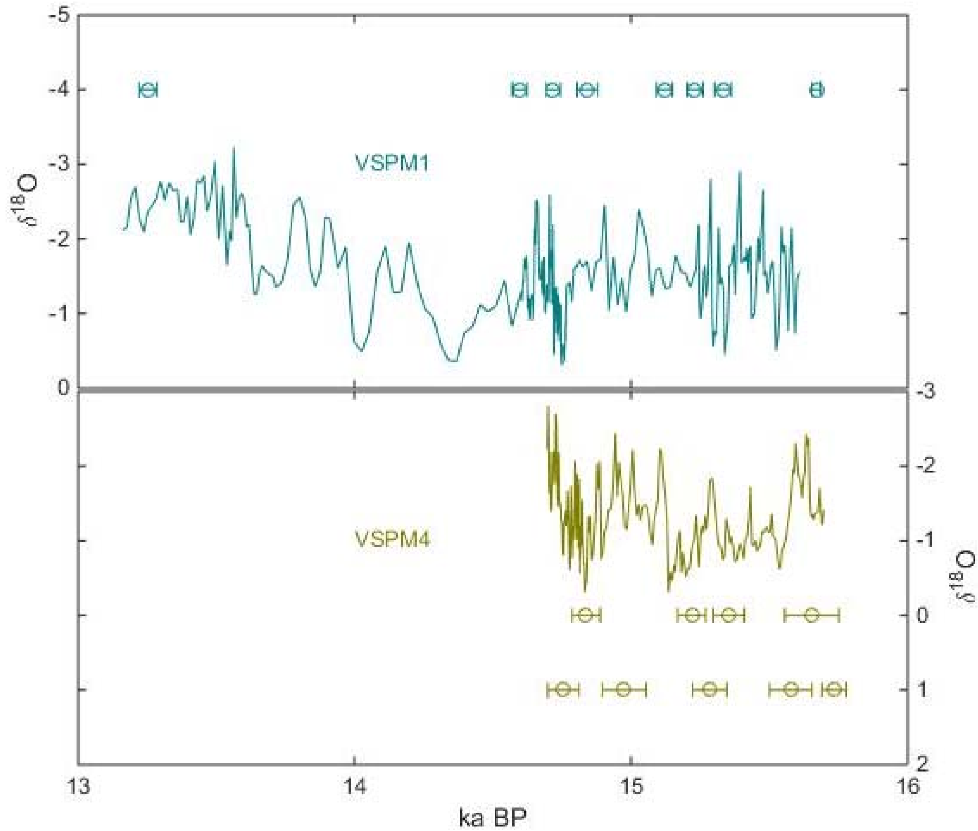

Figure S4: Valmiki cave records VSPM1 [9] and VSPM4 [10] are shown along with their U-Th age errors. Age in ka BP has been given on the x-axis versus δ^{18}O in ‰VPDB on the y axis.

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