

Footprints of 3 Dinosaur Species: Rajasthan

Why in News

Recently, in a major discovery, **footprints of three species of dinosaurs have been found in the** <u>Thar desert</u> in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district.

It proves the presence of the giant reptiles in the western part of the State.

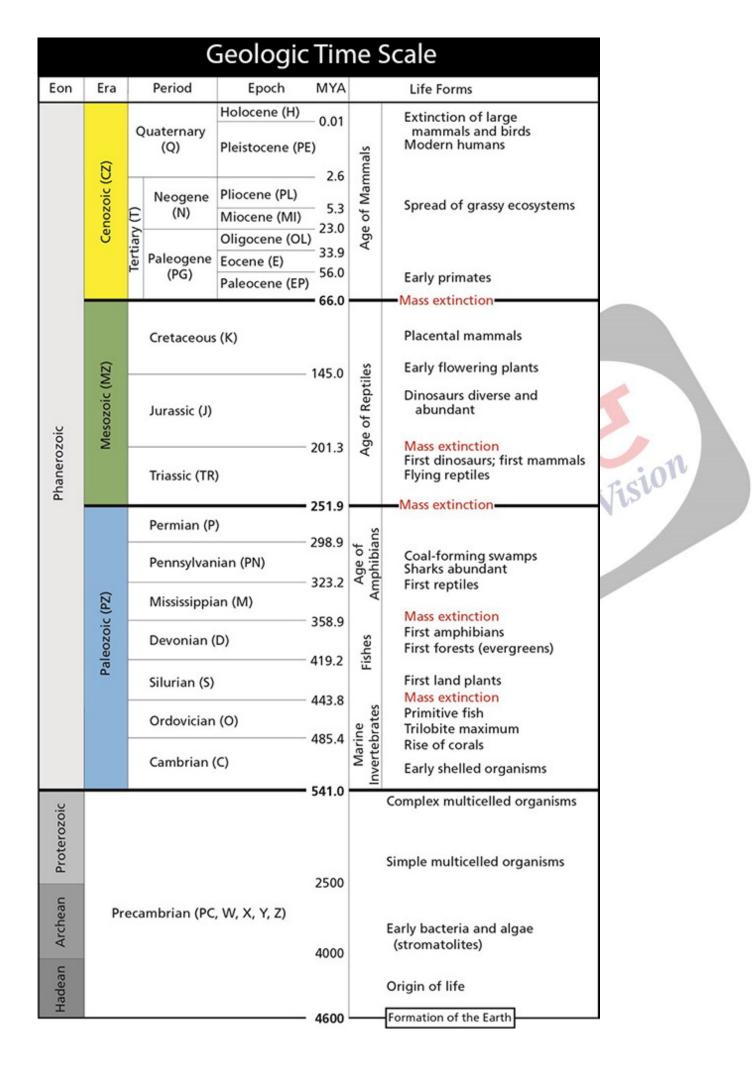


- The footprints belong to three species of dinosaurs Eubrontes cf. giganteus, Eubrontes glenrosensis and Grallator tenuis.
- The footprints were **200 million years old.**
- The **dinosaur species are considered to be of the theropod type,** with the distinguishing features of hollow bones and feet with three digits (like fingers).
 - Theropod is any member of the **dinosaur subgroup Theropoda**, which includes all the **flesh-eating dinosaurs**.
- All the three species, belonging to the **early Jurassic period, were carnivorous.**
- The 'Age of Dinosaurs' (the Mesozoic Era 252-66 Million Years Ago MYA) included three consecutive geologic time periods (the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods). Different dinosaur species lived during each of these three periods.
- Thar Desert:
 - **Naming:** The name 'Thar' is **derived from thul,** the general term for the region's sand ridges. It is also called the **'Great Indian Desert'.**

- Location: Partly in Rajasthan state, northwestern India, and partly in Punjab and Sindh provinces, eastern Pakistan.
 - It is **bordered by** the irrigated Indus River plain to the west, the Punjab Plain to the north and northeast, the Aravalli Range to the southeast, and the Rann of Kachchh to the south.
- Features:
 - An **arid region** that covers over 2,00,000 sq km.
 - The surface **consists of aeolian (wind-deposited) sand** that has accumulated over the past 1.8 million years.
 - Presents an undulating surface, with high and low sand dunes separated by sandy plains and low barren hills, or *bhakars*, which rise abruptly from the surrounding plains.
 - **Barchan**, also spelled **Barkhan**, **crescent-shaped sand dune** produced by the action of wind predominately from one direction.

the Vision

- Several **playas (saline lake beds),** locally **known as dhands,** are scattered throughout the region.
- The desert supports a relatively **rich biodiversity** with several large mammals, notably the blue bull, blackbuck, and Indian gazelle or chinkara.





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