



ASI Excavates Gupta Era Site in Madhya Pradesh to Find Relics

Why in News?

Recently, the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) is excavating the site in Nachne village of Madhya Pradesh's **Panna district** to find relics of one of the oldest temples of India and to study the condition of ancient temples.

Key Points

- The site is in close proximity to two ancient temples- a **Gupta-Era Parvati Temple** and **Chaumukhi Temple**, built by the **Kalachuri Dynasty**.
- The excavation work is underway on Chaumukh Nath Temple premises, which houses an **8th-century four-faced Shiva Linga**.
 - As per ASI, the Shiva Linga has been carved out with remarkable vitality, especially the **fierce open-mouthed face of the god on its south side**.
 - As of now, ASI excavated two mounds and after brushing off centuries of earth, layers of bricks have been undiscovered.
- The **objective of excavation** in Nachna is to see the **condition of ancient temples in India** and how temples evolved and developed.
- The site has **eight archaeological mounds** and the **excavation team has got permission to dig two mounds**.

Chaumukhi Temple

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- It is located in the **Panna district** of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is dated to the **9th century Kalachuri Dynasty** era.
- These temples illustrate a North Indian style of Hindu temple architecture.

Parvati Temple



- Parvati temple of Nachna is dated back to the **Gupta period**. It was built in the **5th century**.
- This temple is Constructed on a terrace, 35 feet wide, this temple is composed of a small square sanctum, 15 feet side.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the **premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation**.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national

importance.

- Its activities **include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance** of protected monuments etc.
- It was **founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham**- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the **“Father of Indian Archaeology”**.
- It oversees all archaeological undertakings within the nation by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, of 1958**.

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