



Prehistoric Artifacts Found in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, a discovery was made in [National Fossil Park at Ghugwa](#), Madhya Pradesh, where a team of **archaeologists** from **Ashoka University in Sonapat**, conducting research in **Bandhavgarh National Park and Tiger Reserve**, found **prehistoric artifacts** made from **fossil wood**.

Key Points

- This finding indicates that [prehistoric nomadic people](#) **utilized the petrified tree logs as resources** for crafting their tools and objects.
- **Tools crafted from fossil wood are not common in India** and are a rarity, with only a few instances **found in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Tripura**.
 - While the age of the artifacts discovered at Ghugwa remains uncertain, researchers estimate they are at least 10,000 years old.
 - These artifacts consisted of mid-sized flakes measuring about five cm in length.
 - Additionally, some [microliths](#), approximately two cm long, were also unearthed in the vicinity.
- Madhya Pradesh has many ancient locations, such as **Bhimbetka**, a [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\) World Heritage site](#), **Hathnora**, where the skull fragment known as the **Narmada woman** was discovered, in addition to sites like **Neemtone, Pilikarar, and Mahadeo Piparia**.
 - These areas mainly showcase **tools made from** materials such as **quartzite, chert, and sandstone**.
- However, a recent finding in the fossil park indicates that **our predecessors also made use of fossil wood**, indicating that they did not rely solely on stone resources.

Ghugwa National Fossils Park

- It is situated 70 km from **Dindori in village Ghugwa**.
- It is nestled in an area of 75 acres of land where attractive and rare fossils of leaves and trees are waiting to be explored.
- This **National Park has plants in fossil form** that existed in India anywhere **between 40 million and 150 million years ago**.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

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- **About:** In 1968, it was notified as a national park and in **1993** was declared a tiger reserve under the [Project Tiger](#) Network at the neighbouring Panpatha Sanctuary.
- **Geographical Aspect:** It resides on the extreme **north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpura** mountain ranges.
- **Climate:** Tropical monsoon climatic zone.
- **Biodiversity:** There is a large number of tigers in the core zone. There are more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of birds.
 - Species Found: Asiatic Jackal, Bengal Fox, Sloth Bear, Striped Hyena, Leopard and Tiger, Wild Pigs, Nilgai, Chinkara and Gaur (a herbivore and the only coarse feeder).

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