

# Archaeological remains discovered at Bandhavgarh Forest Reserve

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**In news-** In a major find, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has unraveled remarkable archaeological remains in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Forest Reserve.

## **Key findings-**

- **During the exploration conducted by ASI, they have found more than 100 remains including 26 ancient temples/relics of Kalachuri period** (9th century CE to 11th Century CE), **caves** (2nd Century CE to 5th century CE mostly Buddhist in nature), monasteries, stupas, Brahmi inscriptions (2nd century CE to 5th century CE), sculptures, some scattered remains and water structures (c.2nd-15thCE) are recorded.
- According to Archaeologists the Varaha sculpture of 9th –13th century CE was found. **It appears to be the world's largest sculpture.**
- The time period of the findings covered the reigns of the **kings Shri Bhimsena, Maharaja Pothasiri, Maharaja Bhattadeva.**
- **Places deciphered in the inscriptions are Kaushami, Mathura, Pavata (Parvata), Vejabharada and Sapatanaairikaa.**
- An ASI team covered nearly 170 sq km falling in the area of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve over **months-long exploration of the region which was undertaken for the first time since 1938.**
- Some remains of the Gupta period, such as door jambs and carvings in caves, have also been found.

## The Kalachuri dynasty-

- **The Kalachuris, also known as Kalachuris of Mahishmati,** were an Indian dynasty that ruled in west-central India between 6th and 7th centuries.
- They are **also known as the Haihayas or as the Early Kalachuris** to distinguish them from their later namesakes, especially the Kalachuris of Tripuri.
- **The Kalachuri territory included parts of present-day Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Their capital was probably located at Mahishmati.**
- Epigraphic and numismatic evidence suggests that the **earliest of the Ellora and Elephanta cave monuments were built during the Kalachuri rule.**
- The origin of the dynasty is uncertain. **In the 6th century, the Kalachuris gained control of the territories formerly ruled by the Guptas, the Vakatakas and the Vishnukundinas.**
- **Only three Kalachuri kings are known from inscriptional evidence:** Shankaragana, Krishnaraja, and Buddharaja.
- The Kalachuris lost their power to the Chalukyas of Vatapi in the 7th century.
- One theory connects the later Kalachuri dynasties of Tripuri and Kalyani to the Kalachuris of Mahishmati.

**Further**

**reading:**

**<https://journalsofindia.com/bandhavgarh-national-park/>**