

Stone carvings found in Gurugram

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In news– Stone carvings that archaeologists say date back to the Paleolithic period or the Stone Age. have been discovered in Gurugram, Haryana.

Key findings-

- The findings include graffiti, and hand and footprints of humans and animals engraved on quartzite rocks.
- **Most of the carvings are of animal paws and human footprints.** There are some basic symbols, which had presumably been kept for some special purpose.
- These can be territorial, or used for ancient games or record-keeping
- The **site is atop a hillock and just 6km from Mangar,** where **cave paintings believed to be from the same period were discovered in 2021.**
- A team of archaeologists confirmed that the rocks indeed dated back to the Paleolithic period.
- The Paleolithic era spans from about 25 lakh years to 10,000 BP (before present, the carbon dating marker that archaeologists use with 1950 treated as the base year).
- These **findings are remarkable examples of Indian prehistory. They mark the progress of human civilisation.**
- **Among the items that were found were pebbles and flake-based tools, hinting at a site where stone tools were manufactured – this 'Acheulean' industry** was the first tradition of standardised tool-making.
- Archaeologists also believe that the stone paintings could be the largest in the Indian subcontinent.
- The Aravalis have been a subject of pre-historic research for several decades.

- In 1986, stone paintings were discovered in Anangpur area of Faridabad. A total of 43 sites were traced then, prompting researchers to start surveys of the area every now and then.