Discover India gallery: the first Internet site on Indian archaeology

This is India's first internet site on Archaeology and associated disciplines. In spite of rapid advances made in various fields of Indian archaeology, a considerable body of valuable data remains inaccessible to researchers in various parts of the world; locked as it is in Indian journals, newsletters, unpublished theses, excavation reports and the like. DIG was established in August 1997 with the aim of providing Indian archaeologists and foreign scholars working on Indian themes with a free web site where they can publish and access results of ongoing research. While the site aims to become the definitive reference base for Indian archaeology, it also strives to generate an interest in archaeology among the general public. DIG publishes articles, short notes and news items, book reviews, abstracts of papers, excavation/exploration updates, information on conferences and workshops, abstracts of articles published in Indian journals, information on new books, etc. Topics covered encompass Prehistory and Protohistory, Historical archaeology, Geoarchaeology and Quaternary studies, Anthropology, Ancient Indian history and culture, Art and Architecture, and much more. Almost all articles are supplemented by photographs, maps and illustrations. In addition to this, our Archaeo-Profile section, speeds up research by featuring the biographies of scholars along with their contact addresses and publications. Our Archaeo-Vision section is in the process of creating a database of images, supplemented by short notes providing glimpses into different aspects of Indian archaeology. DIG features popular articles and is soon setting up a section for children as well.

Among other contributions, we have at present articles on excavations at Balathal, Budihal, Isampur and Padri; on prehistoric research in Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Karnataka, on Megalith building in Vidarbha, on research in Physical Anthropology at the Deccan College; on the river Saraswati and on Sir William Jones. Abstracts of articles from the journal 'Man and Environment' are featured as also proceedings of the latest conferences of major Indian archaeological societies. Biographies of more than thirty archaeologists are also online.

This is the first attempt of its kind in India and we hope that through this site we can usher in a new era for the dissemination of information on Indian archaeology.

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News and reviews

December 1997 saw the launch by the Museum Documentation Association of two publications at the British Museum: The MDA Archaeological Objects Thesaurus and The British Museum Materials Thesaurus. These will be available in both printed and digital format. These publications are the result of collaboration between the MDA and other cultural organisations to promote the production and dissemination of terminology resources.