



# Bhimbetka

## Why in News?

Chairman of the **16th Finance Commission**, along with his members, visited [the UNESCO World Heritage Site Bhimbetka](#). During the visit, he closely examined the **state's historical heritage and India's rich cultural legacy**, appreciating its grandeur.

## Key Points

- **About the Visit:**
  - He observed the **artistic and historical significance of the themes of the Bhimbetka rock paintings** (mass dance, hunting, war, etc.) and the **mineral colours** used in them (ochre, red, white).
  - The Commission was also informed about the proposed '**Rock Art Eco Park Museum**'.
- **Bhimbetka:**
  - **Location:**
    - It is **situated south of Bhopal in the Vindhya mountain range** of Madhya Pradesh, where there are rock shelters with more than **500 rock paintings**.
    - Bhimbetka caves were **discovered by V.S. Wakankar in the year 1957-58**.
    - It was declared a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) in the year 2003.
  - **Time period:**
    - The oldest paintings are estimated to be 30,000 years old and are still preserved due to their location inside caves.
    - The paintings of Bhimbetka date back to the Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Chalcolithic, Early Historic and Medieval periods.
    - However most of the paintings are from [the Mesolithic era](#).
  - **Painting Technique:**
    - It uses various colours obtained from natural resources like **red ochre, purple, brown, white, yellow and green etc.**
  - **Themes of the paintings:**
    - Everyday life of prehistoric men is often depicted in **stick-like human figures**.
    - Various animals such as [elephants](#), [bison](#), [deer](#), [peacocks](#) and **snakes** are depicted.
    - Hunting scenes and battle scenes with men at arms.
    - Simple geometric designs and symbols.

## Finance Commission

- Introduction
- **About:**
  - The Finance Commission is a **constitutional body**, constituted under **Article 280** of the Constitution.
  - Its main objective is to **ensure equitable allocation of revenue resources between the Union and the States**.
  - It is a **quasi-judicial body**, which provides **fair and balanced recommendations in financial matters**.

▪ **Constitution and tenure:**

- The Finance Commission is **constituted by the President every five years or mid-term as required** .
- The Commission works to **maintain fiscal balance and strengthen cooperative federalism**.
- Its **recommendations are helpful in establishing financial coordination** at all levels of government .

▪ **Historical perspective:**

- The **first Finance Commission was constituted in 1951** .
- Till now 15 Finance Commissions have been constituted and currently the 16th Finance Commission is functioning.

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