

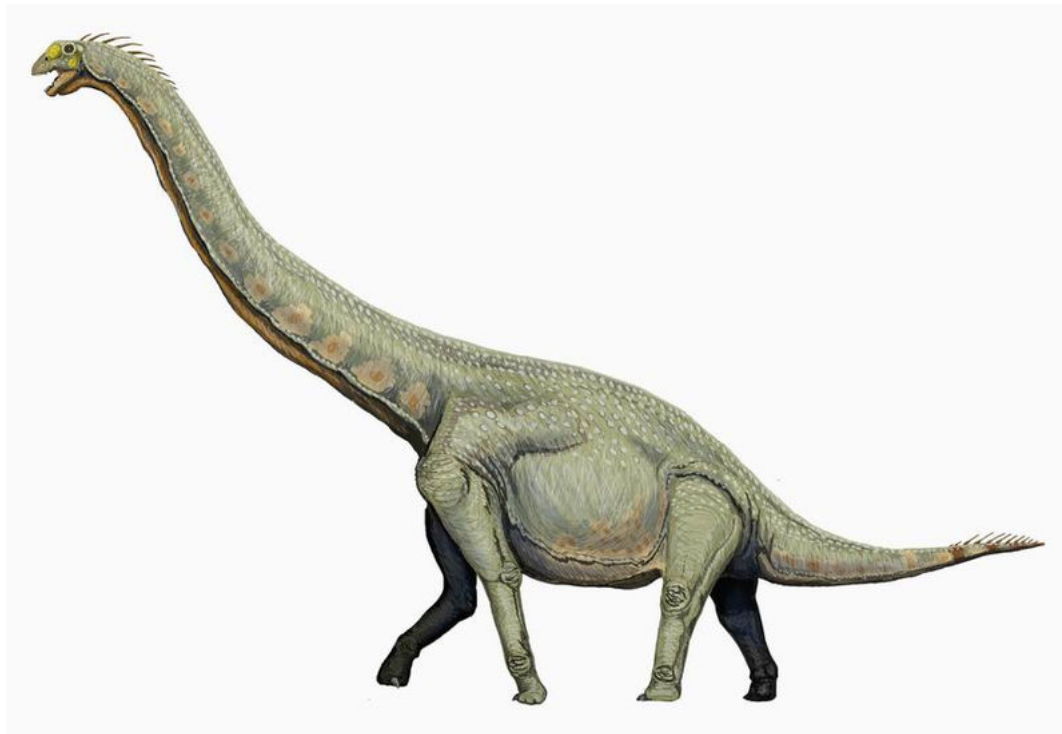
## Tharosaurus indicus

By IASToppers | 2023-08-10 15:50:00



### ‘Tharosaurus indicus’

Scientists from **Geological Survey of India** (GSI) have recently discovered the **oldest fossil** remains of **Tharosaurus indicus** in **Jaisalmer**, Rajasthan.



[ref-physics.org]

### **About the 'Tharosaurus indicus':**

- It is a new species of dinosaur that has the **long-neck** and are **plant-eating dicraeosaurid** dinosaur.
  - **Dicraeosaurid** dinosaur is a **long-necked, plant-eating** dinosaur species.
- Its first name refers to the '**Thar desert**' where the **fossils** were found, and the **second** after its country of **origin**.

### **Fossils of dicraeosaurid dinosaur:**

- The fossil found in Jaisalmer are **167 million years old**.
- Fossils of **dicraeosaurid dinosaurs** were previously found in **North, South Americas, Africa and China**.
- A **systematic fossil exploration** and excavation programme was initiated by **GSI** in **2018** in the **Middle Jurassic rocks** of the **Jaisalmer**.

### **Significance of the findings:**

- India was a major centre of **dinosaur evolution**.
- This new Indian **sauropod** is only the oldest known **dicraeosaurid** and the oldest **diplodocoid**.
  - **Diplodocoid** is broader group which includes **dicraeosaurids** and other closely related sauropods.
  - **Sauropod** is the **largest known dinosaur** that has **long neck, tail**, a **four-legged stance**, and a **herbivorous** diet.
  - **Dicraeosaurid** is a sister group to **Diplodocidae**.
- Until now, the **oldest dicraeosaurid** belonged to China of about 166-164 million years old.

