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ASI to start exploring Mizoram necropolis

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Guwahati: Archaeologists are all set to start the search for, what they believe to be the site of one of the world's biggest necropolises in Mizoram's Champhai district.

An ASI team will start the two-month-long exploration from the first week of January.

Vangchhia, a sleepy village in Champhai, bordering Myanmar, is home to mysterious megalithic structures that have long captured the imagination of archaeologists. Experts believe these structures could throw light on the existence of one of the world's largest necropolises or hold clues to a greater civilization that may have existed on this side of the world.

The ASI will now explore



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other potential sites over an area of 10 to 12 square kilometres in the deep jungles of Champhai. The team will assess if the new proposed sites are connected to one another and related to Vangchhia.

"This could be one of the biggest discoveries in the world. But to establish it as one of the largest necropolis sites

we have to establish the facts first. The onus now lies on the upcoming exploration-cum-search drive. Earlier, we had done an excavation drive at Vangchhia. The new sites that we will be looking at may have a deep connection with Vangchhia. This is what we have to establish," said Sujeet Nayan, assistant superintendent

of the ASI Delhi, who led the excavation drive at Vangchhia.

The ASI had come across burial sites, what seemed to be a water pavilion, terraces or retaining walls, remains of what could be a palatial building, a 20-foot-wide road and others in an excavation conducted a year ago. Over 50 structures were documented and charcoal samples collected. Two charcoal samples were sent to Beta Analytic, a Florida-based laboratory that specializes in carbon dating, while two others are being dated at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany in Lucknow.

"Champhai may hold traces of a lost city or a greater lost civilization. We need more time and research to come to a final conclusion," Nayan said.