

Shaligrams

August 7, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About Shaligrams

- For more than 2,000 years, **Hinduism, Buddhism and the shamanic Himalayan religion** of Bon have venerated Shaligrams.
- These are **ancient fossils of ammonites**, a class of extinct sea creatures related to modern squids.
- Originating from a single remote region in northern Nepal in the **Kali Gandaki River Valley of Mustang**.
- These stones are viewed primarily as manifestations of the Hindu god Vishnu.
- Because they are not human-made, but created by the landscape, they are believed to have an intrinsic consciousness of their own.
- As a result, Shaligrams are kept in homes and in temples, where they are treated as both living gods and active community members.

Impacts of Climate Change

- Climate change, faster glacial melting, and gravel mining in the Kali Gandaki are changing the course of the river, which means **fewer Shaligrams are appearing each year.**
 - This is mainly because the **Kali Gandaki is fed by meltwater from the Southern Tibetan** Plateau.
 - But with the glacier disappearing, the river is becoming smaller and shifting away from the fossil beds that contain the ammonites needed to become Shaligrams.
-

Q1) What is a river valley?

A river valley is a geographical landform created by the erosion and deposition of water over time. It refers to the low-lying area that surrounds and is shaped by a river. River valleys are diverse and can vary greatly in size, shape, and characteristics based on factors such as the type of rock, climate, and the river's flow dynamics

Source: [Shaligrams, worshipped by Hindus and Buddhists for over 2,000 years, are becoming rarer because of climate change](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/shaligrams/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.