

Petroglyphs

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Petroglyphs Latest News

Researchers recently found two ancient rock carvings (petroglyphs) on a flat rock inside a rock shelter on a hill behind Beerappa Temple in Manchirevula, Telangana.

About Petroglyphs

- Petroglyphs (also known as **rock engravings**) are **symbolic images sculpted or engraved on the surface of rocks** by **removing material from its surface layer** with instruments of superior hardness.
- The **techniques used** to create these images include **pecking, incising, abrading, sculpting, polishing, drilling, and scratching**.
- These processes **remove part of the rock** and therefore are **different from images simply painted or drawn on rock**, which are **called petrographs**.
- The word "petroglyph" is **derived from two Greek words, "petros" meaning "stone," and "glyphein" meaning "to carve."**

- Petroglyphs took **two primary forms**, as **images either appear as scratches or deeper visible indentations on rock**.
- Petroglyphs are typically **associated with prehistoric populations** and can be **found on every continent** throughout the world, **except Antarctica**.
- However, they are **especially concentrated in Africa, South America, North America** (mainly in the southwestern United States), **Siberia, Australia, and Europe** (Scandinavia, Spanish Galicia, Ireland and Italy).
- **Example of Petroglyph Site in India: Edakkal Caves** in Wayanad, **Kerala**.

Significance of Petroglyphs

- They are among the **earliest forms of art** to have existed and are therefore considered the **foundation of art**.
- Ancient peoples also used petroglyphs as a **form of communication or writing**.
- For example, some petroglyphs clearly indicated the borders between tribal lands, and others were **astronomical markers and maps**.
- Additionally, **some petroglyphs served as musical instruments** and were known as **“rock gongs.”**

Source: **DC**

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

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