Jakkammal Karadu

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

Why in News?

Recently, The Centre for Heritage and Ecological Research through Arts and Literature (Cheral) has urged the Tamil Nadu government to declare Jakkammal Karadu for a dual recognition.

- **Jakkammal Karadu** – It is a historically significant hill and ***archaeological site.***
- **Location –** Andipatti, Theni district, Tamil Nadu.
- **Dual recognition**
  - It is to be recognised as an ***Archaeological protected monument*** under the Tamil Nadu Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1966,
  - ***Biodiversity heritage site*** under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Archaeological Significance

- **Evidence of Human Habitation –** The hill shows continuous human presence from the Neolithic period (early stone age) up to recent times.
- **Archaeological Discoveries**
  - *Neolithic tools and Megalithic potsherds* found on the site.
  - *Megalithic cave paintings (white pigment)* on the northern side of the hill.
  - A *9^{th}-century Jain Tirthankara sculpture* on the western side.
  - A *400-year-old hero stone near the hill*.
- **Current scenario –** These relics are decaying due to lack of protection and without conservation, they face the risk of disappearing permanently.

Quick Facts

The Centre for Heritage and Ecological Research through Arts and Literature (Cheral)

• It is a ***Madurai-based*** non-profit research organization.

• The centre champions the ecological conservation of indigenous habitats.

Reference

The Hindu| Jakkammal Karadu

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