Kurukop Echo Art

Why in News?

A recent study by the researchers in South Africa suggested a distinct echo attracted the ancient artists to one site, Kurukop.

Kurukop
• It is an *archaeological site*. • **Located in** - Nama Karoo region of *South Africa*. • **Geological formation** – Began to accumulate from about 300 million years ago, before the breakup of super continent Gondwanaland. • **Historical formation** – It is an *eroded sandstone hill*, transformed by volcanic activity. • **Signs of human evidence** – It is marked by *112 petroglyphs* and other signs of human presence, such as ostrich eggshell fragments and pottery, dating from c. 11 500 before present. • **Petroglyphs** – It depicts images of Eland, elephants, zebra, ostriches, wildebeest, rhinoceros and animal-human hybrids. • The depiction were made by *hunter-gatherer San and Khoe herder people* who visited Kurukop repeatedly.

***Petroglyphs** engraved on rocks, have an obvious visual attraction.*

- **Kurukop echo –** This place *provides a distinctive echo* that ensured the hunter gatherers to repeatedly visit this place.
- **Echo Art** – Evidence shows that those people created rock art combined with performances like clapping, singing, dancing, which in this case was enhanced by echoes.

***Echo** refers to the repetition of sound caused by the reflection of sound.*

- It also provides a reference point for a mythological story from the region that speaks about the relationship between echo, wind, mountain and breath.
- **Cultural relevance** – Petroglyph distribution data and Echo pattern, shows *60% of the petroglyphs created directly in the echo zone*.
- This suggests that Kurukop people were most likely to create images in the area that echoed strongly.



Reference

The Hindu| Kurukop Echoed Art

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