

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](#)

