

## World's Oldest Cave Art

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### Why in News

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Recently, archaeologists have discovered the **world's oldest known cave art** which is a life-sized picture of a **wild pig** that was painted at least **45,500 years ago in Indonesia**.



### Key Points

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- **Location:**

The picture was found in the **Leang Tedongnge cave in a remote valley on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia**.
- **Sulawesi Warty Pig Painting:**
  - It dates to at least **45,500 years ago**.
  - It **shows a pig with a short crest of upright hairs and a pair of horn-like facial warts in front of the eyes**, a characteristic feature of adult male Sulawesi warty pigs.

**Sulawesi warty pigs** were the most **commonly portrayed animal in the ice age rock art of the island**, suggesting they have long been valued both as food and a focus of creative thinking and artistic expression.
  - Painted using **red ochre pigment**, the pig appears to be observing a **fight or social interaction between two other warty pigs**.

- **Previous Oldest Painting :**
  - The previously oldest dated rock art 'scene' at least 43,900 years old, was a depiction of **hybrid human-animal beings hunting Sulawesi warty pigs and dwarf bovids.**
  - It was discovered by the same research team at a nearby limestone cave site.
- **Some of the Caves with Paintings in India:**
  - **Ajanta :**
    - This cave is located in **Aurangabad district of Maharashtra.**
    - Famous fresco paintings of Ajanta are dying princesses, flying apsara and preaching Buddha.
  - **Ellora :**
    - It is located in the **Aurangabad district of Maharashtra.**
    - It is famous for the **largest monolithic excavation** in the world- the great Kailasa.
  - **Elephanta :**
    - It is located on **Elephanta Islands in Mumbai.**
    - There are seven cave excavations in the Elephanta group.
  - **Bhimbetka :**
    - It is located between Hoshangabad and Bhopal, in the foothills of the Vindhya Mountains.
    - It has one of the **oldest paintings in India and the world.**

**Source: IE**