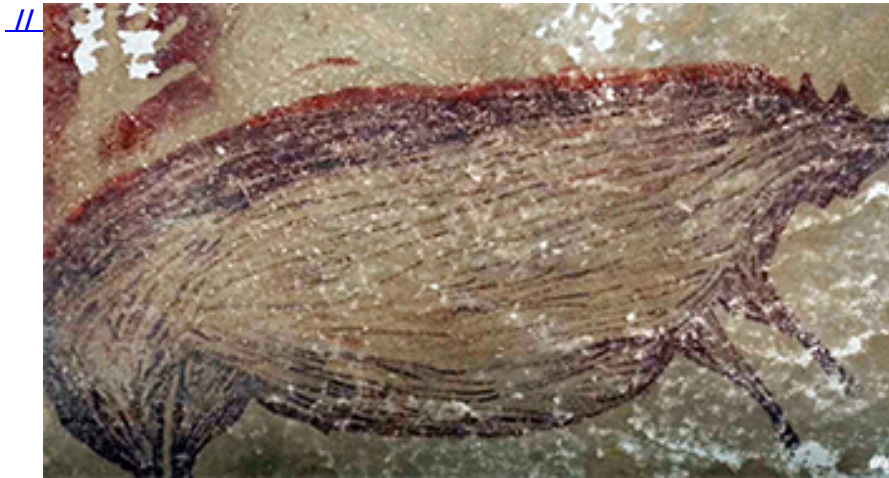




World's Oldest Cave Art

Why in News

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

- **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

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