

Anthropology Case Studies

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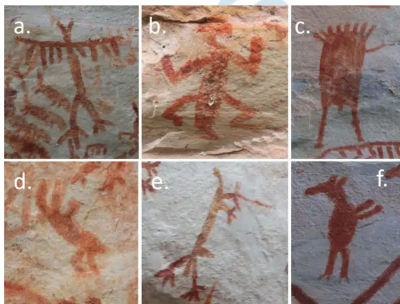
ANCIENT ROCK ART FILLED WITH SHAMANS SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMING INTO ANIMALS

Source: *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*

Dated: Dec 11, 2024

Area of Focus:

Ethanoarchaeology, Paleolithic Art



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To know about the latest updates on Rakhigarhi, *scan the code.*



Mark Robinson *et al.*, *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*

- The Serranía de la Lindosa, a 12-mile-long sandstone outcrop in Colombia's Guaviare department, is covered with thousands of red ochre paintings, some believed to date back over 11,000 years.
- Through collaboration with local Indigenous communities such as the Tukano, Desana, Matapí, Nukak, and Jiw, the archaeologists found the rock motifs convey a hidden spiritual dimension that shamans navigate by transforming into animals.
- It is the first time that the views of Indigenous elders on their ancestors' rock art have been fully incorporated into research in this part of the Amazon,
- This interpretation of ritual transformations is supported by multiple scenes depicting therianthrope figures — humans transforming into snakes, jaguars, or birds

PREVENTING MALARIA USING GENETICALLY MODIFIED MALARIA PARASITES

Source: www.theHindu.com/

Dated: Dec 9, 2024

Area of Focus:

Epidemiological Anthropology



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To learn about sub lethal genes and their impact on diseases, *scan the code.*



- Genetically altered parasite in the liver stage primes the immune system
- The genetic modification kills the parasites by completely arresting its growth on day one (early-arresting) or day six (late-arresting) during the liver stage
- Nine participants were bitten by mosquitoes carrying late-arresting parasites, eight by early-arresting parasites, and three belonged to the placebo group
- All participants were exposed to controlled human malaria infection three weeks after the third immunisation session
- The late-arresting parasite group had 89% immune protection compared with 13% for the early-arresting arm. The amount of antibody produced was the same immaterial of parasites being killed on day one or day six in the liver.
- Parasites killed on day six produced certain T cells that were not seen in participants bitten by mosquitoes carrying parasites that died on day one

PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN NEOLITHIC SOCIETY IN MOROCCO DISCOVERED

Source: <https://phys.org/>

Dated: Sept 23, 2024

Area of Focus:

Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology.



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To learn how to select the
relevant news for archeology,
scan the code



Broodbank *et al.*, *Antiquity*

- Archaeological fieldwork in Morocco has discovered the earliest previously unknown farming society from a poorly understood period of northwest African prehistory.
- This study reveals for the first time the importance of the Maghreb (northwest Africa) in the emergence of complex societies in the wider Mediterranean.
- Gap in knowledge of the archaeology of the Maghreb between c. 4000 and 1000 BC, a period of dynamic change across much of the Mediterranean.
- Importantly, contemporaneous sites with similar pits have been found on the other side of the Strait of Gibraltar in Iberia, where finds of ivory and ostrich eggs have long pointed to African connections.
- This suggests that the Maghreb was instrumental in wider western Mediterranean developments during the fourth millennium BC.

APES UNDERSTAND REASONS BEHIND EACH OTHER'S ACTIONS

Source: <https://phys.org/>

Dated: Sept 18, 2024

Area of Focus:

Primate Behaviour & Adaptations



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To understand about
taxonomy of HOMINOIDEA,
scan the code



Richard Moore *et al.*, *Biological Reviews*

- Jane Goodall first observed apes gesturing to each other in the 1960s,
- Dr. Richard Moore at Warwick, has proposed a fresh perspective. Their view suggests that apes use parts of their bodies or familiar actions to communicate. "These aren't random gestures—they're using what they already know about their bodies to get a message across."

This new "Recruitment view" of great ape gestures aims to replace two historically influential views.

- the "Leipzig View," suggests that apes learn gestures through repeated interactions, leading to differences between groups.
- the "St Andrews View," argues that these gestures are universal across all great apes, meaning they don't need to be learned.



MOTA

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By Vaid Sir

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NICOBARESE LINKED TO SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Source: *European Journal of Human Genetics*

Dated: Dec, 2024

Area of Focus:

Tribal situation in India— Bio-genetic variability,



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To learn about the reality of Tribals' situation in India, scan the code



- The genomic analysis of 1,559 people from Nicobarese tribe linked the Nicobarese people's genetic proximity with the Austroasiatic language-speaking Htin Mal communities living along Thailand-Laos's Nan province.
- They have, so far, lived and survived without admixtures and thereby been able to preserve their genomic origins, language and maintain a remarkable ethnic distinctness over thousands of years.
- As these tribes have stayed isolated for thousands of years, we could obtain and study these stable DNA markers," said Thangaraj.
- At present, there is a 25,000 member community thriving amidst thick forests, living largely by rearing pigs, goat and hen along with being dependent on forest-produce like coconut palm.

TRIBAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

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from Jan 26*



WHERE MODERN HUMANS AND NEANDERTHALS BECAME ONE

Source: *Scientific Reports*

Dated: Sept 3, 2024

Area of Focus:

Human phylogeny, Neanderthal



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To know the reason behind extinction of *Giagantopithecus*, scan the code



Guran et al., Scientific Reports

- New research suggests the Zagros Mountains of Iran is where Homo sapiens and Homo neanderthalensis interbred, changing the fate of at least our species, as we still carry Neanderthal DNA millennia later.
- Archaeologists Guran et al. used a combination of genetic, archaeological, topographical, and ecological data to narrow down the location.
- “Archaeological and fossil evidence indicates that [modern humans] entered southwestern Asia, between around 120 and 80 thousand years ago,” the researchers say.
- The timing, coincides with the second wave of interbreeding that’s still written in our genes.
- Curiously, while we have ample evidence of Neanderthal DNA in humans, we have yet to find an example of modern human DNA in Neanderthals.

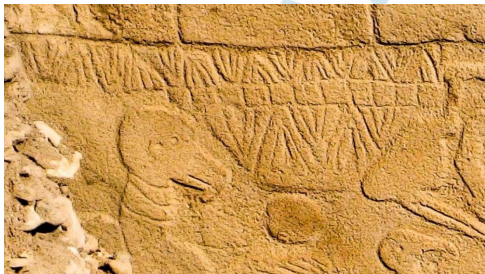
WORLD'S OLDEST CALENDAR FOUND AT 13,000-YEAR-OLD TEMPLE IN TURKEY

Source: *Time and Mind*, 2024

Dated: Aug, 2024

Area of Focus:

World Archeology



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Struggling with Archeology,
start with definition of
PreHistory, *scan the code*



Martin Sweatman *et al.*, *Time and Mind*

- Carvings chiseled into a large stone pillar in Turkey nearly 13,000 years ago may be the world's oldest sun-and-moon calendar. And the calendar may have been carved to mark a catastrophic comet strike.
- Archaeologists discovered the markings at Göbekli Tepe, an archaeological site in southern Turkey that's known for its abundance of temples with elaborately etched drawings, according to the study, which was published July 24 in the journal *Time and Mind*.
- The newly studied pillar contains 365 V-shaped symbols. Researchers think each "V" represents a single day, with the entire calendar encompassing "12 lunar months in addition to 11 extra days,"
- The drawings, which were likely made in about 10850 B.C., were a way to record a comet strike that took place during that time.

ODISHA ST LIST GETS TWO NEW ENTRANTS AND OFFERS RELIEF TO AT LEAST 50 SUB-TRIBES

Source: <https://hindustantimes.com/>

Dated: Feb 9, 2024

Area of Focus:

Exploitation and deprivation of STs



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To constitutional details of Scheduled Tribes, scan the code



- Two communities listed as SCs — Tamadia and Tamudia — will be removed from the SC list and included in the ST list under the Bhumij tribes.
- The inclusion helps bring similarity in the facilities available to tribal groups.
- AB Ota pointed out, the Konda Reddy community was recognised as ST in Andhra Pradesh, but treated as a socially and educationally backward class in the Malkangiri district of Odisha.
- “Same was the case of Muka Doras who were regarded as tribals in Andhra Pradesh, but not in Odisha,” said Ota. The inclusion of these groups in the ST list was long overdue, he added.

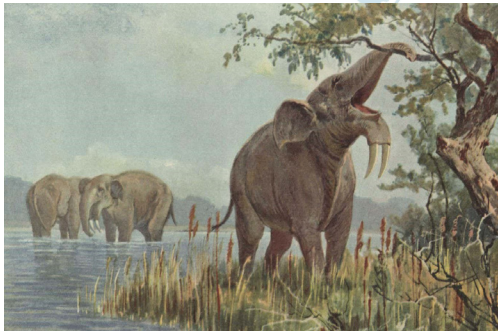
EARLY HUMANS BEGAN WIPING OUT ELEPHANT RELATIVES 1.8 MILLION YEARS AGO

Source: *newscientist.com/*

Dated: July 24, 2024

Area of Focus:

Homo erectus Geographical Distributions



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To understand basic terminology of Evolution & Genetics, *scan the code*



- There were around 30 species alive 1.8 million years ago when their territories started to overlap with those of early humans
- Human hunting was the key factor in the loss of dozens of elephant-like species in the past 2 million years.
- The extinction rate of these animals increased fivefold around 1.8 million years ago.
- The number of species of elephant-like animals, known as proboscideans was rising in the millions of years before the arrival of humans, says Hauffe,