

In the history of 'rock-art', present discovery has revealed landmark-evidence of 'Petroglyphs', the intended creation by early man, with predominance of 'cup-marks'. The petroglyphs is a sub discipline of rock-art, the work of engravings. The cup-marks also called cupules, as acclaimed internationally (Bednarik 2000), has been defined to be, “- a hemispherical percussion petroglyph, which may occur on a horizontal or vertical surface.” Here an attempt is to redefine the 'cupule', “-a bowl-shaped engraving on top of the rock/ stone surface, which may have been intended on its horizontal or vertical surface.” The horizontal surface is invariably sloping or dipping down or can be moderately plunging surface. In addition, the sloping surface may also be sloped in a curved manner equally divided or the one end dipping more than the other sides. Of course as is stated vertical, the word by itself is self-explanatory. Though the 'cupules' are being discovered and reported from across the continents since about two centuries but these continue to be a mystery, as yet. At the same time the cupules form an important entity of rock-art, considering it got originated in the Old World. Therefore, it can also be seen as a necessitated segment of expression/ communication for our ancestors, still there are many unanswered questions. However, the spread of petroglyphs do confirm man of the Old World trotted in Delhi-Aravallis, to its length and breadth. Throughout, the presence of dominating 'cupules' further more draw attention for their variety of formations, combinations and independent existence. These have played greater role in the life-ways of early man, authenticating their presence in Delhi-Aravallis. To add to it the presence of palaeoliths is already established sporadically and the fact is further strengthened by finding cruder and well-formed Stone-Age tools from the same and recently explored additional (new) sites.



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ROCK-ART WALK

A walk on
Evidence of Early man in Delhi Aravallis



Nearly four dozens of localities of petroglyphs are explored mainly with cupules and associated Paleolithic finds. The cupules alone count to be around 7000 in numbers. But, the only site – at the JNU campus is seen equally rich with other petroglyphs. The area around the administrative block is the most concentrated with variety of petroglyphs in stylistically representations, cupules' formations, and combinations, independently executed and at places with associated finds.

Cupmarks had different meanings or purposes in various cultures and locations throughout the world and through time. The fact that cup-marks are found in many different positions—including on vertical surfaces such as walls—is evidence that they mostly of practical significance such as storage.

Petro-glyphs

Petroglyphs are rock carvings made by pecking directly on the rock surface using a stone chisel and a tool. Mostly anthromorphs and peculiar figures are seen.