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Parth Chauhan of Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Mohali; Jigna Desai and Mrudula Mane of Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology of Ahmedabad; Prabhin Sukumaran of Charotar University of Science and Technology of Changa; Rajendra Kerkar, a historian from Goa along with Varad Sabnis of Department of Archaeology of Goa visited the petroglyph sites of Pansaimol in Sanguem, Mauxi of Valpoi in Sattari, Bavlyanchemol of Pirla and Dudhafator of Cazor in Quepem.

The researchers conducted the basic photography of all the four sites. It was followed by onsite discussions on scientific study, documentation methods to capture engravings with topographical context and a tentative documentation schedule during the winter of 2023.

At Pansaimol, two different layers of laterite were pointed by Sabnis, and it was decided that it would require a scientific study and characterisation through sampling, significantly away from the archaeological occurrences and diverse geo-archaeological investigations, including spatial analysis using GSI and remote sensing, geochemistry, grain size analysis, assessing magnetic deflection and other necessary research aspects.

It was decided to plan possible protection measures and related infrastructure for the site of petroglyphs of Pansaimol.

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In Cazur, currently, the boulder is in a horizontal position and the engraved surface has a minor dip. As a result, the engravings are not easily visible.

At Mauxi, one of the engravings has developed several cracks, which has been identified as a system to arrest the cracks, which a humped bull is depicted, indicating the need of protection from natural elements and the fear of cracks.

The researchers agree to conduct a comprehensive survey of Mauxi and Bavlyanchemol rock shelters and petroglyphs in the areas.

In Mauxi, a recently discovered petroglyph was decided to take samples from the laterite rock, mixed with riverine sand, and send it for the study of pleistocene in the region.

All the four sites of petroglyphs have a immense potential of promoting tourism.

There was a need to conduct research on the petroglyphs, which the researchers have decided to do after getting approval from Goa government. Dr. K. S. Kerkar, while speaking to this reporter, said that the petroglyphs are very old and research of all the petroglyphs is needed to understand the different facets of the heritage after taking the approval from the government.



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