

PANEL TO CONSERVE EDAKKAL CAVES

Relevant for: null | Topic: Promotion and Preservation of Culture Incl. UNESCO

Priceless squibbles: The Edakkal caves in Wayanad district.

The government has constituted a nine-member expert committee to conduct a detailed study on the present state of the renowned Edakkal caves on the Ambukuthi hills in Wayanad district.

The Director of the Archaeology Department had asked the government two months ago to constitute a committee consisting of experts in archaeology, history, geology, rock mechanics, and conservation to conduct a detailed study on the present state of the archaeological site and suggest measures for its conservation.

M.R. Raghava Warriar, historian and Director General, Centre for Heritage Studies, is the chairman of the committee. G. Shankar, former scientist, National Centre for Earth Science Studies; K.P. Sudheer, Ex.officio. Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department; V. Selvakumar, associate professor, Department of Archaeology and Maritime History, Tamil Nadu University, Thanjavur; Vidya Bhushan Maji, associate professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-Madras; Nidhin Kumar Maurya, Senior Conservator, Regional Conservation Laboratory, Mysore; and Sekhar Kuriakose, Secretary, Disaster Management, are the members. Director, Department of Archaeology, is the convener and Conservation Officer, Department of Archaeology, is the joint convener.

The neolithic petroglyphs on the cave walls still await protection from illegal constructions, mining, and urbanisation.

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