

Report on



**Multidisciplinary Documentation of
Rock Art and its Allied Subjects in Kerala**
(IInd Phase of Field Documentation)
29th October - 3rd November, 2016



**INDIRA GANDHI CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
NEW DELHI**



First phase of ‘Multidisciplinary Documentation of Rock Art and its Allied Subjects in Kerala’ was conducted in Wayanad district of Northern Kerala from 24th – 28th October 2015. The team documented Edakkal, Tovari and Kappikunnu / Veliyambam Kotta rock art sites and Megalithic monuments of the area.

The second phase of field documentation was conducted from 29th October to 3rd November, 2016 in the districts of Kasargod, Kannur, Palakkad and Ernakulam. Expert team members consisted of Dr. Jenee Peter, State Coordinator (UC College, Aluva), Dr. Justin R Nayagam and Dr. Thara K Simon (U C College, Aluva), Praveen C.K. (IGNCA, New Delhi) and Mr. Abu Joseph.

The state Kerala divided into three natural divisions commonly such as coastal plains, mid land and eastern high lands. The districts of Kasargod, Kannur and Ernakulam districts are similar in physiographic division. The eastern belt or high land represented an undulating terrain with series of hills and valleys intersected by rivers and streams. The districts of Kasargod and Kannur are geologically formed in same period and they are Pleistocene laterite rocks and Archaean granites while Palakkad contains mainly Precambrian metamorphic rocks and Archaean crystalline rocks.

I. Rock Art Sites

1. Bengalam (N 12°17’02.3” E 075°08’44.2”)

The site is located almost 9km away from Nileshwar town and an engraving found here on open air laterite bed of a seasonal pond in the outer area of Kakkat Govt. Higher Secondary School, Madikkai Panchayath Hosdurg taluk of Kasargod district. The engraving seems to be is a tiger/ lion tailed macaque. Physical features strongly suggest image of a tiger kind of animal. The animal is standing with its tail raised upward in a moving pose. Its height is 180 cm including upward tail and length is 148 cm. This is the lone engraving in the area. The pond is seasonal and during the rainy season it is covered

with water and the engraving is submerged. This area is considered to be as cattle rearing region and cattle herd were brought here for drinking water.



Engraving of tiger / lion tailed macaque (?)

2. Erikulam (N 12°18'01.3" E 075°09'57.1")

The site is located about 13 km north-east of Nileshtar town, Hosdurg taluk of Kasargod. The engravings are located on a table land to open air laterite bed near to a seasonal pond. The pond/water source is locally known as *pallam* in the region. Engravings are not clear, but some tally marking like engravings, geometrical signs and cup marks are visible. Cup marks are in a pattern and local people say that it is probably used for playing some games. Iron slag pieces are also found from this site.



Tally marking and cup marks



Marking similar to fish

3. Ettukudukka (N12°12'24.1" E 075°14'06.3")

The site with engravings is located 14 km north east of Payyannur town, Kannur district. Engravings are figurines of humped bulls facing east on a laterite bed rock. Ten bull engravings are visible from the site and some of them are worn out as it is situated in the middle of motorable road. A Shiva temple nearby which is under renovation and a water tank are few meters away from the depiction. It is believed that cattle rearing area and tank used as a source of water for grazing animals.



Humped bulls at Ettukudukka

4. Chathiyodu para (N 10°35'28.3" E 076°43'14.3")

Chathiyodu para is located in Kollamkodu panchayat, Chittur taluk towards south from Palakkad town of Palakkad district. An engraved figure of decorated cattle, probably a bull is found on granite rock surface which is 79 cm in length and 50 cm in width. This engraving is found on the same platform of an open air living temple of Goddess Mahakali. Many post holes are also seen on the same rock. These post holes may be a part of the paddy agriculture activities which are practiced in the area from long time.



Decorated cattle / bull



Mahakali temple, Chatiyodu para

5. Ezhuthala (N 10°09'00.5" E076°49'04.3")

The site is located in Pooyamkutty reserve forest, Kuttanpuzha panchayath 32 km away from Kothamangalam taluk of Ernakulam district. The engravings are in a granite rock and a cup mark also found in the shelter. Engravings are depicted on the left wall from the entrance. Theme of the engraving is geometrical signs, cross hatching pattern and various forms of sun motifs. Superimpositions are found in three phases. Phase I, cross hatching pattern; phase II, sun motifs and some horizontal lines and phase III, small thick lines in different patterns including tree pattern without leaves. Human vandalism is highly seen at the site and some parts of the engravings are destroyed by writing their name and year of visit. Tribes like Muthuvan, Malarayan, Mannan inhabited in this region. The shelter is situated in the middle of Bamboo forest and these tribes habited in these areas till recent past.



General view of the Pooyamkutty rock shelter



Engraving inside the shelter



Sun symbol at Ezhuthala



Cup mark inside the shelter

II. Megalithic Monuments

The whole area is rich in Megalithic monuments which including dolmens and pit burials. But most of them are destroyed by people for construction as well as agriculture and a few portions are remained in the sites. The monuments are made of predominantly from Pleistocene laterite rocks.

1. Ezhilode (N 12°05'17.1" E 075°14'41.7")

Umbrella stone or *Toppikkal* locally known as Aduppukutti para situated in Ezhilode, Cheruthazham panchayath 7 km away from Payyanur town, Kannur district.



Umbrella Stone

2. Eravil, Pilicode (N 12°11'53.3" E 075°10'01.9")

There are three rock cut burial chamber were reported earlier inside the compound of Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pilicode, Kasargod district. But currently one is remaining and other two were destroyed for cultivation.



Burial chamber, Pilicode



Inside portion of the burial chamber, Pilicode

3. Varakkottuvayal

1. (N 12°11'35.8" E 075°09'48.9") 2. (N 12°11'36.3" E 075°09'48.8")

There are two rock cut cave burials found in the same area with a distance of three meters at Varakkottuvayal, Pilicode, Kasargod district.



Burial chamber I



Port hole of the burial chamber II

2. Thirumeni (N 12°15'10.0" E 075°24'54.6")

Rock cut burial chamber located near to Govt. Higher Secondary School, Thirumeni-Cherupuzha, Payyannur, Kannur district.



Burial chamber

III. Historical Monuments

Rock Cut Chamber (N 11°59'01.0" E 075°19'04.1")

This chamber is few meters away from the Kannapuram Railway station in Taliparamba taluk in Kannur district. Located in the premises of an old Sri Krishna temple now is under the renovation. There are two chambers on a laterite rock resembling *girbhagriha* of the temples. Chamber opening is facing towards a pond on the south. Chisel mark is clearly visible on the rock and one side of the roof is fallen. Remains of medieval tiles along with *sivalinga* also seen in the premises.



Rock cut chamber



Hero stone (N10°35'35.0 E 076°42'57.6")

Hero stone is located in Kollamkodu panchayat, Chittur taluk south of Palakkad town of Palakkad district. Hero stone is locally known as *Veerakallu* in the region. It is believed that king Veera Mannadiyar fighting with tiger. It is situated in the premises of an old Shiva temple.



Hero stone

Press Coverage

Press clipping: Mathrubhumi Malayalam daily dated 1st November, 2016 Page No. 13
about field work at Thirumeni Megalithic burial chamber

70 മുന്നോടിയായാണ് ഇത അപേക്ഷിച്ചു മുഴുവൻ പേരും വൈദ്യുതി കണകൾ വൈദ്യുതി കണക്ഷൻ കൊടുത്തു.

**മഹാശിലായുഗ സ്മാരകങ്ങൾ
സംരക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടുന്നില്ല -പഠനസംഘം**

ചോദ്യം: മനാലിശമായതാണ് അതിന്റെ ചരിത്രപരകാണക്കണ്ണുനിന്റെ പല ഭാഗങ്ങൾ. ഉത്തരവ്, അനുപാദികൾ, വ്യക്തികൾ, അനുയോജ്യമായ, മനാലിശകാലം, സിദ്ധിക്കുകയാണെന്നും, സർവ്വീസ് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം നാഷണൽ സെൻട്രൽ ഫോർട്ട് ആർട്ട് പാർക്കിലെ പാർക്കും.

മേലയയക്കുന്ന ചരിത്രപരമായതും സാമൂഹികമായും, മുതിർന്നവർ, പരിശീലിച്ച്, നാഷണൽ സെൻട്രൽ ഫോർട്ട് മനാലിശമായ സാമൂഹികതയ്ക്കും പ്രാധാന്യം ചൂണ്ടിക്കാട്ടുകയും അനുയോജ്യമായ ചരിത്രപരകാണക്കണ്ണുനി പാർക്കും നാഷണൽ ഫോർട്ട്.

സർവ്വീസ് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം നാഷണൽ സെൻട്രൽ ഫോർട്ട് ആർട്ട്. ആദ്യം യു.ഡി.

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തിരുമേനി ഗവ. ഹയർ സെക്കൻഡറി സ്കൂളിന് സമീപം മൂന്നിയറ പരിശോധിക്കുന്ന പാമ്പാശ്ശി

താലൂക്ക് ലൈബ്രറി കൗൺസിൽ അംഗം വി.എൻ.ഗോപി, സാമൂഹിക പ്രവർത്തകനായ എം.വി.രാഘവൻ പാടിയോട്ടു

ചാൽ, സുനിൽ ആമ്പിലേരി,
പി.എം.സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ, ജോർജ്ജ്
അമ്പാട്ട് തുടങ്ങിയവർ പഠന
സംഘത്തെ സഹായിച്ചു.

വംബര മൂന്നു സമർപ്പിക്ക ചലാൻ ഏണും.

എം.എ.

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