Report on

Multidisciplinary Documentation of
Rock Art and its Allied Subjects in Kerala
(II\textsuperscript{nd} Phase of Field Documentation)
29\textsuperscript{th} October - 3\textsuperscript{rd} November, 2016

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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 crystallines 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.

2. Erikulam (N 12°18’01.3” E 075°09’57.1”)

The site is located about 13 km north-east of Nileshwar town, Hodsurg 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 form 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.
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 Godess 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.
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 Aduppukuttipara situated in Ezhilode, Cheruthazham panchayath 7 km away from Payyanur town, Kannur district.

![Umbrella Stone](image)

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.

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.
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.
Press Coverage

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