

MULKI SUNDER RAM SHETTY COLLEGE, SHIRVA
Ecosystem Innovations and Creation and Transfer of Knowledge

Archaeological Exploration and Discovery

Rock Art

Avalakki Pare, 2019.

Unique! Rock art of 10,000 BC discovered at Kollur village

GURURAJ A PANIYADI | DC
UDUPI, FEB. 24

A petroglyph site with over 19 unique rock art dating back to about 10,000 BC has been discovered near Kollur in Udupi district.

These carvings at Avalakki Pare, about 15 km from Kollur, were discovered on February 17 by a team headed by Prof T. Murugeshi of the History and Archaeology Department, MSRS College- Shirva. A detailed study is being conducted by the team.

As per preliminary studies, the rock art is about 12,000 years old (around 10,000 BC) and carved by people of the Mesolithic age who basically were involved in hunting. The carvings include images of human beings, bison and other animals. An image clearly shows a person hunting an ani-

The carvings at Avalakki Pare, 15 km from Kollur, were discovered on February 17 by a team headed by Prof T. Murugeshi of the History and Archaeology Department, MSRS College, Shirva

mal indicating that the carving was by those belonging to the hunter gatherer culture.

"This site dating back to the Mesolithic age is the oldest petroglyph site found in the Western Coast. There are other petroglyph sites in the region but of a later age. At present we have found 19 rock art and more are expected to surface when we clear the nearby stones," Prof Murugeshi told *Deccan Chronicle*.

The team has decided to start the study of the region after April. During the vacations, Prof. Murugeshi plans to bring his students to the site and clear the wild growth, grass and the soil on the rocks and try to find more such images.

"This proves Kollur and nearby areas had a population over 12,000 years ago. In later days, more habitats might have developed in the region," he added.



<https://www.mangalorean.com/petro-glyphs-of-avalakki-pare/>

Pre-historic Discoveries

Iduru-Kunjadi and Avalakki Pare, 2020.

Microliths belonging to Mesolithic age have been found in Iduuru-Kunjadi near the prehistoric rock art site of Avalakki Pare.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/mesolithic-site-discovered-at-karnatakas-iduru-kunjadi-847406.html>

Proto-historic Discoveries

1. Kallembi Megalithic cave, 2022.



Visit of Director, State Archaeology Department and Curator of Government Museum, Mangalore to Kallembi.

A rock cut cave was found in Kadaba Taluk which yielded burial remains including pottery sherds.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/081122/megalithic-era-cave-found-in-karnatakas-dakshina-kannada-district.html>

2. Ninthikal Menhir, 2020.

A rock of local religious significance was identified as a menhir belonging to Megalithic era.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/menhir-of-megalithic-era-discovered-in-dakshina-kannada-1139485.html>

3. Atur-Kundaje Megalithic cave, 2022.



Team of students clearing the surface of the megalithic burial.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/megalithic-era-cave-discovered-in-karnatakas-dakshina-kannada-1104159.html>

<https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/news/state/karnataka-megalithic-rock-cut-cave-found-at-sooda/articleshow/61744253.cms>

Epigraphical Discoveries

1. Haladi, 2022.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/050123/rare-inscription-belonging-to-alupaking-basava-shankara-alupendra-fou.html>

2. Teggarse Hero Stone, 2021.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/271121/vijayanagar-period-hero-stone-discovered-in-karnataka-village.html>

3. Bukka I inscription at Kadali, 2020.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/vijayanagara-era-stone-inscription-found-in-kundapur-812521.html>

4. Kulashakara I Tulu inscription at Mangalore, 2019.



Looking for roots of King Kulashakra

Archaeology students of MSRS college, Shirva has been looking at some 12th century inscriptions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

ON Sunday four students studying archaeology at Mulki Sundar Rama Shetty (MSRS) college, Shirva were busy taking the estampage (copying of a stone inscription) of a 12th century stone inscription inside Veera Narayana temple at Kulashakra. The temple has a legacy dating back to the age of Alupa king Kulashakra Alupendra I.

According to Archaeology Professor T Murugeshi, Alupa rulers ruled from three places - Udyavara and Burkur in Udupi district and Mangaluru. Kulashakra should have ruled from his palace in Kulashakra area of Mangaluru. "The remnants of his palace, known as 'Bhuvanashraya' are still found in Kulashakra, including a 'Vijayasthamba' (Victory Pillar) in the area," he claimed.

Locally, palace remnants are still called palace grounds. Vishwajith, one of the locals, showed the remnants of the palace found inside the Kulashakra church premises. There is a cave-like structure and another pillar on church premises. After their dynasty ended, the palace may have been abandoned, he said.

In Indian history, Alupa dynasty was one among the longest ruling one, lasting for more than 1,000 years, starting from 4th Century to 14th century, finally succeeded by Vijayanagara kingdom. Among the rulers of Alupa dynasty, Veera Kulashakra Alupendra was prominent, ruling from 1155 AD - 1205 AD, one of the longest rules of an Alupa king. After him, there were Kulashakra II and Kulashakra III ruling the dy-



Prof Murugeshi studying the stencil imprint of the inscription collected by students | Pics: Rajesh S Ballalbagh



History students from MSRS college display the imprint of 12th century stone inscription at Veera Narayana temple



An ancient pillar located inside the premises of Kulashakra church



Presiding deity Veera Narayana's statue belongs to 12th century

nasty Though they remained vassals to Kadambas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas and Hoysalas, they were mostly independent, ruling coastal Karnataka like emperors,

influencing the region for nearly 1200 years.

Prof Murugeshi said that they have found two inscriptions at the temple, one in Kannada and an-

Significant inscriptions

Though Murugeshi and team are doing further study on the estampages taken out of the inscriptions, deciphering the message in the stone inscriptions in Kannada and Tulu are significant findings. "In the Kannada inscription, the top portion has been thoroughly worn out, which makes the reading difficult. One work keeps reporting, Devashom - meaning donation. Another inscription is written in Tulu language using Tulu lipi which we will be studying in detail," he said. Preliminary observation says that the temple and the deity were established during the rule of Kulashakra Alupendra I, he added.

other in Tulu. "Palaeographic features indicate that they should be of 12th century. The presiding deity, locally known as Veera Narayana and iconographically Janardhana, also belong to 12th century," he stated.

S K Sudhakar, Inspector with Religious and Charitable Endowment Department, (MUZRAI), said that Veera Narayana temple was left out in the 2013 list. He said they are now making efforts to bring all the left out temples under endowment department and it was an exercise to document the history of Veera Narayana temple.

The remnants of Alupa king Kulashakra's palace, known as 'Bhuvanashraya' are still found in Kulashakra, including a 'Vijayasthamba' (victory pillar) in the area.
Prof Murugeshi, Archaeology expert

A momentous series of discoveries related to Alupa monarch Kulashakra I starting with a rare Tulu inscription, which sheds light on

<https://www.mangalorean.com/1159-a-d-tulu-stone-inscription-discovered-at-veeranarayana-temple-kulashakra/>

1512AD Jain inscription found in Chikkamagaluru

Deepthi.Sanjiv@timesgroup.com

Mangaluru: Historians have recovered an unpublished Jain inscription belonging to the medieval period from a Jain Basadi in Kalasa, Chikkamagaluru district.

Prof Murugeshi T, associate professor, ancient history and archaeology, MSRS College, Shirva in Udupi, said that the Jain inscription recovered is in Kannada script and Kannada language. Researchers found the script on the back of the 6-inch Chandranatha Tirthankara idol. "It is a 10-line inscription," said Prof Murugeshi.

The inscription reads: "Angirasa SavatsaraAushada Suddha Dasami Murara Vivaradalu", indicating that it was written on Friday, July 2, 1512 AD. On that specified day, Devachandra Deva, a Jain teacher of Panasoge Balli, a small village in KR Nagar in Mysuru, installed the idol. Panasoge was a famous Jain centre in 11th-12th century.

Devachandra hailed from the district and was the disciple of Lalita Keerti, a famous Jain teacher of Panasoge. It is learnt that in the 11th century, there were nearly 60 Jain temples in Panasoge. "Today only one temple exists in the area," said Prof Murugeshi.

It is believed that Devachandra installed the idol of Chandranatha Tirthankara



Historians recovered the Jain inscription from a Jain Basadi in Kalasa, Chikkamagaluru district

as an act of repentance after he witnessed an unfortunate event in Jain Basadi.

'Shaiva and Jain conflicts'

Chandranatha Tirthankara was the eighth among 24 Tirthankaras and Jwalamalini is his consort. Jwalamalini is the presiding deity of Simhanagade Jain temple near Kalasa. The areas, including Kalasa-Karkala, were under the Bhirarasa's Jain rulers. "This inscription may be small in nature, but has great

significance. It indirectly indicates Shaiva and Jain conflicts in the Mysuru region. Due to religious conflict, Jains migrated to the Malnad region, following which they build a base in Malnad region and then moved towards the coastal region. They took shelter in the deep forests," said Prof Murugeshi.

The study was supported by Sushmitha K Kalasa, a PhD student of Kannada University, Hampi, and Aith, priest of Jain temple in Kalasa.

5. Kalasa Jain inscription, 2019.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/jain-inscription-discovered-in-kalasa-760555.html>

6. Devaraya II inscription at Kalavara, 2018.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/content/659330/inscription-devaraya-ii-found-kalavara.html>

7. Kolapu Vishnumurthy Temple, Alevooru, 2018

<https://www.deccanherald.com/stone-inscription-found-near-710513.html>

8. Soukuru Durgaparameshwari Temple, 2018



9. Self-sacrifice stone, Kodagu, 2017.

<https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/karnataka-self-sacrifice-hero-stone-discovered-in-coorg/articleshow/61757660.cms>

Art and Architecture

1. Nagabhairava, 2022.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/bengaluru-news/rare-nagabhairava-sculpture-found-in-karnataka-s-udupi-101665585598949.html>

2. Alembi, 2021.



Miniature sculpture of Sarnath Buddha found

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/miniature-sculpture-of-the-buddha-found/article34644984.ece>



Vishnumurthy

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/ancient-idol-of-vishnumurthy-found-near-udupi/article33743933.ece>

3. Uma-Maheshwara, 2021.
<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/130921/idol-of-sri-uma-maheshwara-dating-back-to-the-11th-century-found-in-ud.html>
4. Anjaneya, Bhogamakki, 2019.
<https://www.mangalorean.com/a-rare-anjaneya-sculpture-found-on-dated-inscription-in-kundapur/>

Conferences, Workshops and Webinars

Sl. No.	Date & Place	Theme	Institution	International/National/Regional level
	10 th August 2019	The History and Culture of South India	Dept of Ancient History & Archaeology, MSRS College, Shirva and Mangalore University History Teachers' Association	National level Seminar

1	5 th June 2021	Gleaning the past: Tamil-Tulu Connections	Dept of Ancient History & Archaeology, MSRS College, Shirva	National level webinar
2	26 & 27 th December 2022. Avalakki Pare	International Rock Art Fest	Dept of Ancient History & Archaeology, MSRS College, Shirva	International level

Publications

Sl. No.	Type	Name	Language(s)	Year
1	Book	Tulunadina Sthalanamadhyayana (Study of Place Names of Tulunadu)	Kannada	2017
2		Introduction to Epigraphy	Kannada	To be published
3		Archaeology of Coastal Karnataka and Coorg	Kannada	To be published (Hampi University)
4	Brochure	Pre-History of Tulunadu	English, Kannada	2022

Museum, MSRS College, Shirva

The Department of Ancient History and Archaeology has established the Museum in order to house the various artifacts found during exploration as well as those antiquities donated by individuals and families in the district. From prehistoric stone tools spanning different archaeological periods to pottery shards, idols, inscriptions and Bhuta cult objects, the Museum encourages students to engage in historical thinking through preservation of historical artifacts.

Report on donation to the Museum:

<https://thecanarapost.com/2022/06/11/moodumane-family-donates-antiques-to-msrs-college/>



Visit of art historians Erwin and Christine Neumayer to the Museum

Transfer of Knowledge through Incubation

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Remarks	Phone Number
1	Shruthesh Acharya	Pleach India Foundation	Budding epigraphist	8722612692
2	Subhas Nayk	Independent Researcher	Tulu epigraphist	7760407808
3	Shreyas	Student	Pursuing MA in Archaeology, Mangalore University	8792778077
4	Gowtham	Student	Pursuing MA in Archaeology, Mangalore University	8762870154
5	Shreyas K	Student	Pursuing MA in History, MAHE	9480102247
6	Pradeep B	Clerk	Interested in field archaeology	7975490477
7	Muralidhar Hegde	Civil Engineer	Interested in field archaeology	9945070326
8	Sridhar Bhat K	Retd. Teacher	Interested in field archaeology	9901732121

Testimonial

“... I must tell you, that rock art researchers in India did take engravings on the brittle surfaces of laterite devoid of any considerable age, and therefore neglected reports about it for long time. Even when information from Kerala, South Kanara, Goa and the Konkan were published, along with the photographs, official archaeology took hardly any notice of these finds. Archaeologists were slow in taking notice of this finds and the potentials this art held for the study of the prehistory of the region.

... After 2010 there was a sudden new momentum in rock art research. It was about this time that engravings were noticed in Buddhana Jeddu by professor Murugeshi as well as near Konnonur in Kerala, and many more laterite cuts were reported from the Konkan in Maharashtra.

... I therefore congratulate the Mulki Sunder Ram Shetty College, Shirva, to support professor Murugeshi's projects in studying this ancient remains of rock art, so that many young students and many more people and institutions will join hands in supporting and protect these subtle, but nonetheless important prehistoric remains. In that way the laterite engravings will be part of a long and recognized heritage, of which the Indian people will be proud of...”

- Dr. Erwin Neumayer, Art Historian, Austria
from Presidential Address, 26th December 2022,
International Rock Art Fest, Avalakki Pare, Udupi District.