

A Journey into Past

*-A Digital Gallery of Images and Maps related to Palakkad's Past
dating from Palaeolithic to Historic Periods -*

**A Project aiming for Inspiring Social Science Students to Explore
Regional Level Field Researches Using ICT Application**



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MARCH 2014

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A Brief Summary of the Project:

Most of our tangible cultural evidences such as archaeological sites, monuments, artifacts, textual sources are in ruins today in a cultural landscape due to the lack of awareness, proper identification and digitalised documentation. The intangible treasures like memories, traditional knowledge, time-honoured skills are also being neglected. To address these growing threats to our regional level culture and heritage, occasional village to village level field visit conducted in my native district of Palakkad especially at the tributary zone of the Perar (present Bharathapuzha) river valley along the foothill region of Vencatamala/ Thenmala. A large number of cultural sites, monuments of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Megalithic/ Iron Age and Historical sites and remains were identified from these field exploration along the tributary zone of the Periyar River bank of Palakkad District were considered for this project. The evidences comprises Paleolithic quarts (above 10,000 B.C), Mesolithic Microliths (4000 B.C -10,000 B.C), Neolithic Post holes on granite flat surface and rock shelter (4000 B.C- 1000 B.C) Megalithic burial monuments of granite slab cists, granite dolmenoid cist and Urn burials (1000 B.C- 300 A.D), rock engravings (300 B.C-800 A.D), stone inscriptions of vattezhuthu, ancient Tamil and Grantha Scripts, Sculptures, hero stones, and ruined shrines (800 -1200 AD) within a limited area and so on of varied periods (1200-1800 AD). Modern Digitalised and evaluation tools with ICT application have been adopted for this purpose to reconstruct the past culture of the area with the preparation of a Digital Gallery of Images, Graphics and Maps.

Dr. V. SANALKUMAR

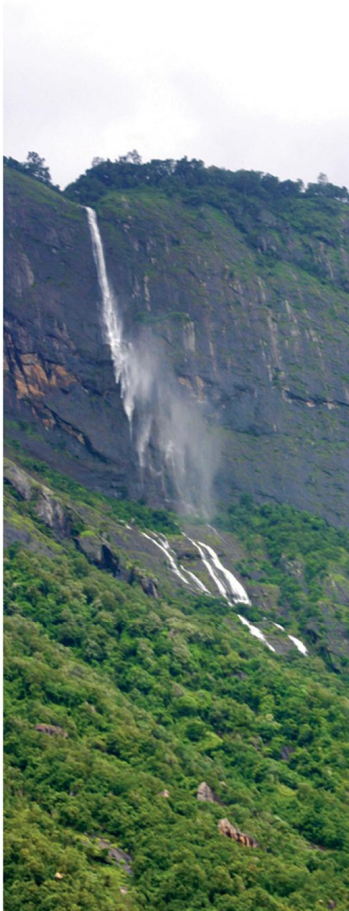
VENCATAMALA (THENMALA) & STREAMS



(a) Thenmala (Vencatamala) valley view



(b) Palakapandy stream



(c) Ninnuthootti stream



(d) Seetharakundu stream



(e) Ikshumadipuzha



Manchikkal Kotta, Natural Rock Shelter, Vencatamala / Thenmala, Kollamkodu



Manchikkal Kotta, Natural Rock Shelter, Vencatamala / Thenmala, Kollamkodu



Kokkipara Rock Sheltter



Cave, Kosavankodu porai,.Kollamkodu



Cave, Kosavankodu Porai.



Stone slabs – megalithic factory site, Kosavankodu porai, Kollamkodu



Stone slabs – megalithic factory site, Kosavankodu porai, Kollamkodu



Stone slabs – megalithic factory site, Kosavankodu porai, Kollamkodu



Cave, Kosavankodu Porai



Cave, Kosavankodu Porai

NEOLITHIC POST HOLES



Post Holes, Chathiyodu Para, Kollamkodu



Post Holes, Chathiyodu Para, Kollamkodu

MEGALITHIC SITES



Megalithic Slab cist Thekkuchira Megalithic Urn Burial – Thekkuchira



Megalithic Urn Burial site, Thekkinchira



Megalithic Slab cist, Kollanchalla, Kollamkodu



Dolmenoid Cist, Kollanchalla, Kollamkodu



Dolmanoid Cist, Kollanchalla



Dolmanoid Cist, Kumbalakodu

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*OPEN AIRED SHRINES,
STONES & TERRACOTTA
SCULPTURES*



Banyan Tree with offerings, ChingenChira, Kollamkodu



Stone Sculptures, Chinganchira, Kollamkodu



Mural painting, Kasyapa Shrine / Kachamkurichi Shrine, Kollamkodu



Herostone, Anjumoorthi Shrine, Vithinassery



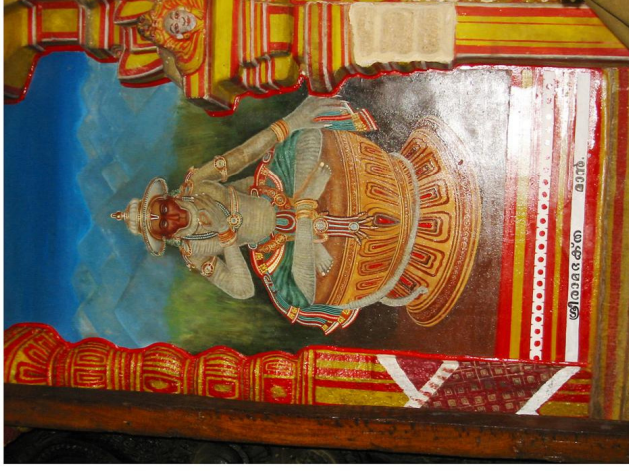
Athani/ Load Bearer, Viruthi



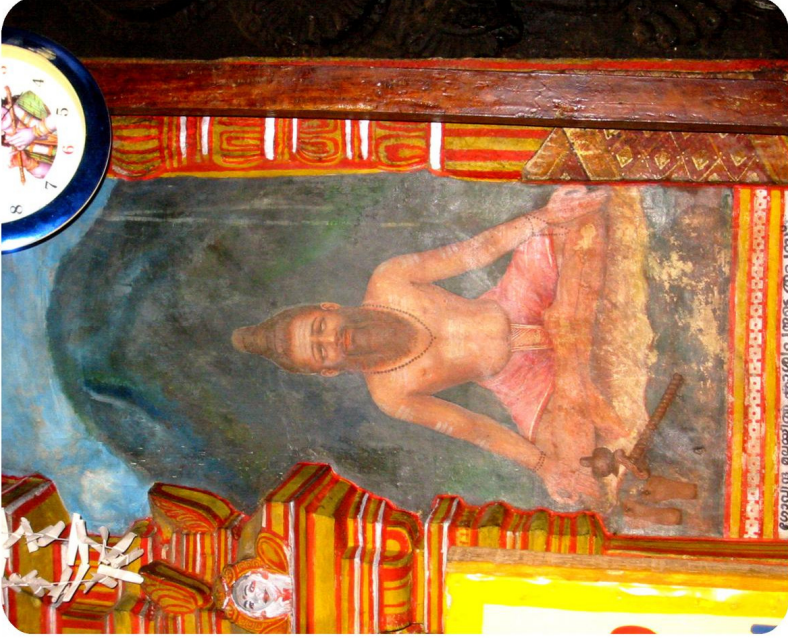
Hero Stones, Nallepilly



Mural painting, Kasyapa Shrine /
Kachamkurichi Shrine, Kollamkodu



Mural painting, Kasyapa Shrine / Kachamkurichi Shrine, Kollamkodu



**Mural painting, Kasyapa Shrine /
Kachamkurichi Shrine, Kollamkodu**



Nenmeni Yaka

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Saptha Mathruka, Thathamangalam



Ruined Sculptures, Kallukoottiyal

STONE INSCRIPTIONS



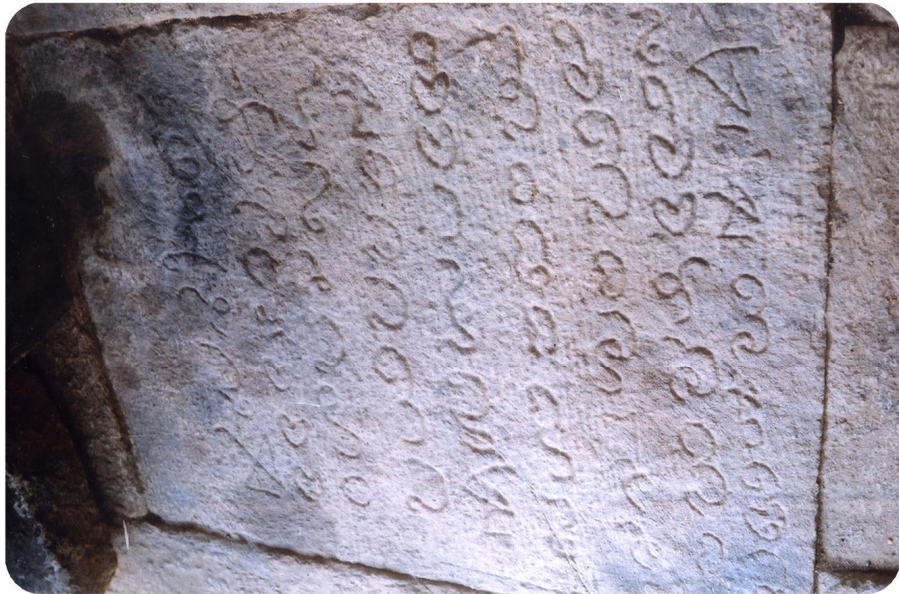
**Copying the Chera period Vattebhathu stone Inscription, Kombankadu
– (Dr. M.R. Raghava Varier and Sanal Kumar)**



Chera Period Vattezhuthu Stone inscription at Kombankadu, Kollamkodu

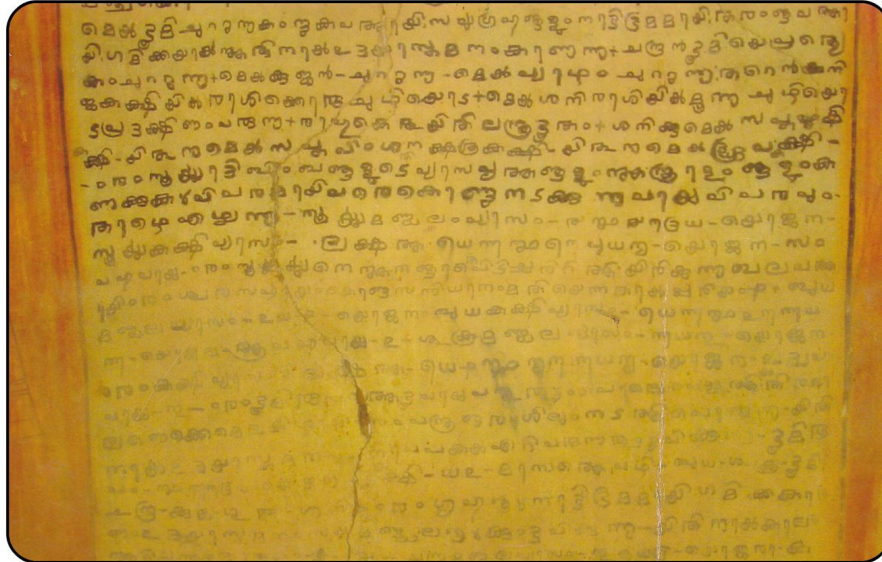


**Copying the Vattezhuthu stone inscription,
Sankaran Kudam Shrine, Kottayamadu, (14th Century A.D),**





Vattezhuthu Stone Inscription of Kulothunga Chola,
Maruthalaparambu, Peruvemba



Reduced Pallavur Shrine Complex

COINS & CANYONS

*RUINED STRUCTURES
& SHRINES*



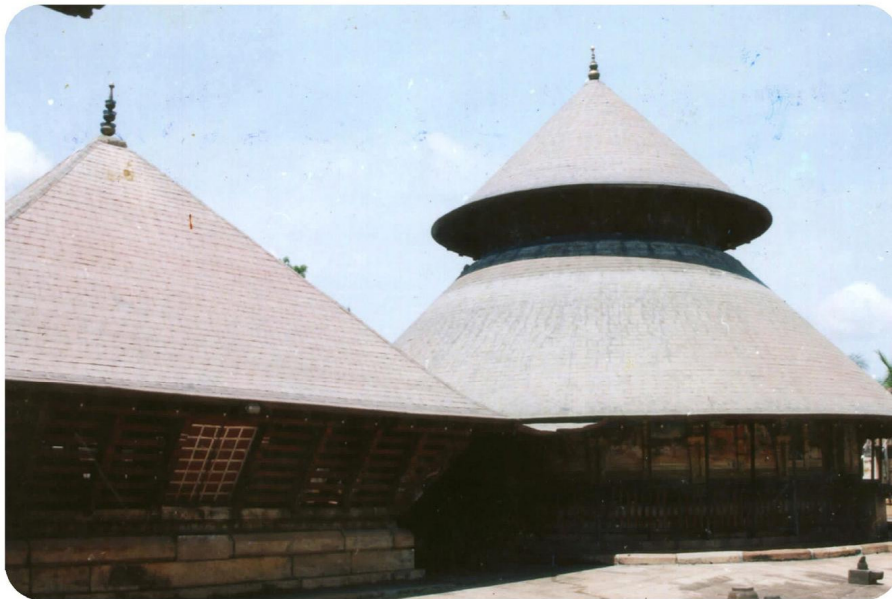
**Closed Aired Kalmandapam, Venkundraadu kovilakam parambu,
Nenmeni, kollamkodu**



**Closed Aired Kalmandapam, Venkundraadu kovilakam parambu,
Nenmeni, kollamkodu**



Ruined shrine, Kottambalam, Kollamkodu



Kasyapa shrine thirukacham kurichi, Kollamkodu



Kottambalam, Kollamkodu



Pranala and Adhithana, Ruined Renovated Shrine, Theneri



**Shrine and Namaskara Mandapa on rocky hillocks,
Ozhivupara, Pallassena**





Adhithana at a ruined shrine Kombankodu, Payyalur



Sopana at a ruined shrine Kombankodu, Payyalur



Sopana, Ruined Siva Shrine, Kombankadu



Circular, Adhithana of Chera Style Shrine after renovation – Perum thrikkovil