CHAPTER IV
MEGALITHIC PERIOD

Introduction:

As it will be too long to describe the thousands of megalithic monuments scattered in South India, I restrict my study mainly to north Telangana comprising the districts of Nizamabad, Medak, Karimnagar, Nalgonda and Varangal. I have also included few megalithic sites in districts of Hyderabad and Mahboobnagar which I have personally explored and felt they are important for this study.

Much work was done in Telangana by some European scholars such as Wakefield, Hunt, Taylor etc. But, to our regret, no detailed reports of systematic work have been brought out subsequently. The Department of Archaeology and Museums during the recent years protected a large number of megalithic burial sites under A.P. Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960 (A.P. Act VII of 1960). Excavations were conducted by the Department at Yeleswaram (1962-65) in Nalgonda district, Pochampad (1965-66) in Nizamabad district, Kadambapur (1974-75) in Karimnagar district, Agiripalli (1966-77) in Krishna district, Paddamarur, Uppalapadu and Chagatur (1977) in Mahboobnagar district. But for the preliminary reports included in the Annual Administration Reports of the Department no detailed reports could be brought out, due to various reasons.
Distribution pattern of Megaliths:

In archaeology the term "Megalith" denotes a tomb built of huge stones either dressed or undressed. These monuments have interested scholars and the general public from the beginnings of antiquarian research of the 16th century, although it was not until the middle of the 19th century that these great rude and rough stone structures were grouped together under the name "Megaliths".

The megalith builders of South India represent a distinctive cultural phase which succeeded the primitive neolithic culture. The succession from neolithic to megalithic appears to be sudden and peaceful. Whether the new culture entered South India along the west coast or by sea, spread rapidly far and wide into the peninsula and became characteristic of the region. Much of the region in which the monuments are found is marked by granitic gneiss. They are found in groups varying in number from place to place.

Besides South India these are found in Makran, Baluchistan, Mesopotamia, Egypt, North Africa, Spain, Brittany to Cornwall, Wales, Northumberland, Scotland and Ireland. In North India the burials are found over an extensive area from Sindi in the West to the Assam hills in the east and from Vidarbha to Kashmir.
Distribution pattern in North India:

The distribution pattern of megalithic remains in Maharashtra shows that they are concentrated mainly in the eastern Vidarbha region, with sporadic occurrences in Khandesh at Ranjala and Tekwada and Central Deccan as at Bhosari near Poona. Near Khairwara and Dongargoan in Wardha District and Chak Vittalwada and Kukutchinda in Chanda District, at Mahurjhar, 14 km west of Nagpur at Junapani 12 km from Nagpur, large number of stone circles were found. Junapani was considered to be an important megalithic burial site due to its situation at the northern boundary of the megalithic zone of South India containing a vast burial complex.

In district Durg at Dhanora, 90 km from Raipur in Madhya Pradesh an extensive megalithic site with more than 500 burials was located. These monuments have special features and are distinct by themselves. They are apsidal stone enclosures with a massive cap stone lying flush with the Cairn. Similar monuments are found near Amarabad in Mahboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

Many dolmenoid cist burials were found near Chunar on the banks of river Ganga in Mirzapur district. A large number of cairn circles and cist burials were noticed at Kokri in the Varanasi district of U.P. In Rajasthan these monuments were found near Khera, Satmas, Deosa, etc. In Kashmir near Burzaham were noticed a large group of menhirs in different states of preservation.
TYPES OF MEgalITHIC MONUMENTS: -

Glyn Daniel\textsuperscript{12} divided the megalithic monuments of Western Europe into five types (a) the menhir or single standing stone, (b) groups of standing stones set in rows or alignments (c) the circular setting of large stones, (d) the chamber tombs walled and roofed with megaliths and (e) the apsidal temples as at Malta.

In the past several scholars used different terms for the same type of burials such as cairns, cromlechs, and kistavaens. Meadows Taylor\textsuperscript{13} has divided the monuments in South India in three general classes: 1) cromlechs - erections of large slabs of stone open at one side 2) kistavaens or structures smaller than the cromlechs constructed on the same principal but closed on all sides 3) cairns or small tumuli surrounded with single, double or triple circular rows of large stones.

Krishna Swamy\textsuperscript{14} described several types of monuments in Chengalpat district as of two distinct types. They are broadly styled as a) the dolmenoid cist (b) the cairn circle symbolised by the letters D and C.

a) The dolmenoid cist is a burial chamber of stone circumscribed by single or double stone circles. Various forms of dolmenoid cists were categorised as D\textsubscript{1}, D\textsubscript{2} and D\textsubscript{2}.

b) The cairn circle symbolised by letter C, comprises of a stone circle surrounding a cairn. Beneath the cairn is found
a single urn, multiple urns, or a legged terracotta sarcophagus. The varieties were classified by symbols as CU1, Cu2, etc.

The same author described a large variety megalithic and associated monuments in Cochin as follows:

1) domenoid cist with or without port-hole,
2) urn-burial indicated by a cap stone,
3) hood-stone or umbrella stone or Kodaikkallu consisting of a large dressed hemispherical slab of laterite and flat bottom.
4) topikallu or hatstone stone consisting of a dressed circular stone resting upon four quadrilateral clinostatic stones joining up together into a square at the base on the outside and bevelled in such a way as to close-up along the diagonals of the square.
5) menhirs are monolithic rude granitic slabs standing high above the ground.
6) rock-cut caves excavated underground in lateritic sub-soil and found in association with megaliths as at Porkalam, Ayyal, Chevvanur, Kattakampal, Kandanasseri and Kakkad.

K.R. Srinivasan and N.R. Benjarjce have classified the monuments of the Chengalpat district as 1) cairn circles
2) dolmenoid cists made of dressed slabs of stones and covered by a cap stone
3) dolmenoid cist of rough unhewn boulders
4) dolmenoid cist lying flush with a heap of cairn
5) barrows or cairn-mounds marked by quartzite.

Guru Raja Rao has classified them as 1) rock-cut caves,
2) hood-stones
3) pit burials
4) menhirs, alignments and avenues
5) dolmenoid cists 6) cairn circles 7) stone circles 8) barrows.

In the course of my exploration around Amarabad I discovered a huge complex of dolmens near Rayalagandi on the road to Padara from Amarabad. This complex is situated on a granitic out-crop extending over an area of more than 300 sq. mt. A nullah locally known as Manda Vagu bisects the complex. On the north about 200 mt. away is the Rayalagandi, a hiatus, between the hills. On one of the hills is a temple dedicated to Channakesava, constructed during the mediaeval period.

The area at the foot of the hills is now under dry cultivation, at which a few nullahs originating from the hills flow towards south and merge into the Manda Vagu. In the beds of these nullahs I collected many palaeolithic tools such as hand-axes, cleavers and choppers of Late Acheulian coeval with Middle Palaeolithic flake industry.

There are about 20 to 25 dolmens in the complex with intervening space running between 10 to 15 mt. The dry masonry walls were constructed by piling-up of flat cut slabs, about 40 cm. wide and 80 cm. long and 15 cm. in thick. The roof was covered by a roughly circular or rectangular granite slab with a thickness of 15 to 20 cm. The height of the walls below the roof slab never exceeded 1 mt. The plan of the room enclosed by the wall is sometimes apsidal and some times
roughly rectangular. Outside the walls a filling of cairn or small rubble was packed up to the roofing slab to make the room cozy and for protection from reptiles etc. A single entrance always facing north with an average width of 60 to 80 cm. with a threshold slab about 10 cm. higher than the outside surface as if to obstruct reptiles entering into the room are noticed.

It is rather difficult to assign these dolmens to any particular period. The flooring consisted of the bed rock without any possibility of excavation. Dolmens of this are also noticed at Tumas in Egypt, Dhanora in the Durg district of Madhya Pradesh, and Palani hills in Coimbatore district of Tamilnadu where the pits inside these dolmens consisted of a few bits of bones, beads, glass bangles but without any pottery. One dolmen at Dhanora contained a copper vessel of the late neolithic or chalcolithic periods.

The village is about 6 km. from Alampur in the same taluk in Mahboobnagar district and in between the rivers Tungabhadra and Krishna. The doab between the two rivers from Alampur to Sangameswaram is studded with pre-historic and historical sites. Middle Stone Age and neolithic stone tools are noticed at many places. Due to periodic flooding by the rivers no chipping floors of the stone ages were noticed.
Gondimalla is a small hamlet with an extensive megalithic burial complex. One group is situated over the lime stone formations abutting the river Krishna, which may be termed as Site I for the sake of convenience. Site II is about a km. away from the village in between Gondimalla and Uppalapadu. Site III nestles on the slopes of the hills spreading over the bank of the river Tungabhadra.

The megalithic types found here are similar to those found in the north Karnataka region, as at Raichur, Bijapur, Dharwar, Bellari, Bidar and Belgaum districts.

The district of Mahbodnagar is mostly covered by archeans, the oldest of the geological formations. The Purana sedimentary rocks are found along the bank of the river Tungabhadra, which consist of Cuddapah and Kurnool formations. The Cuddapah rocks extend from Kolhapur - Somasila area eastwards and extends upto the eastern boundary of the district. The Kurnool formations which begin roughly west of Kolhapur extends westward into Alampur taluk and beyond, upto Sangameswaram. These formations rest on granites at plain levels. Besides, Banaganapalli type of basal conglomerates abounds in this region. These conglomerates consist of quartz pebbles with feldspar-matrix, cherts and jaspery fragments derived from the Cuddapah rock. The soils of the area are black cotton, red and calcareous loam.

SITE - II- This is a cist complex situated on the slopy shale formations on the right bank of the river Krishna.
CIST - I: The plan of the cist is an exact square with the orthostats made of shale slabs planted in an anti-clock-wise Swastika pattern. The inner space measured 1.50 x 1.50 mt. with a 65 cm. diameter the port-hole opening towards south into a passage, vertically lined with shale slab. The passage is 2 mt. long and 60 cm. broad. The circle enclosing the cist with a diameter of 7 mt. is a dry circular wall of picking shale slabs.

CIST - II: It is a huge cist measuring 2.00 x 2.25 mt. with a port-hole carved in the southern orthostat leading to a passage chamber (150 x 60 cms). The port-hole was closed with a single slab. The total length of the northern orthostat is 2.80 mt. with a thickness of 10 cm. and a present height of 90 cm. The cist is enclosed by a circular dry wall of shale slabs and provided with vertically planted casing slabs as in the case of a Buddhist stupa.

Most of the burials in this complex are passage graves and may belong to the Konnur group of North Karnataka with passages towards south. Some of the burials have passages narrowing towards south. Another notable feature is that the burials are found in rough alignments.

SITE - II: This site extends for more than 200 sq. mt. and consist of nearly 100 burials, over rocky barrn slopes studded with conglomerates and quartz. All the burials are cists and none of the tombs now retains a cap stone.
CIST - II - Instead of a boulder circles, the cist is encircled by a double circle of horizontally placed shale slabs; each is roughly wedge-shaped and rounded at the outer end. The diameter of the inner circle is 3.80 mt. and that of the outer circle being 4.70 mt. with a gap of 35 cm. between the two. The cist consists of 4 vertically planted Cuddapah slabs to form a perfect square of 1.95 sq. mt. The orthostats were arranged in anti-clockwise Swastika pattern. A 68 cm. diameter port-hole is found in the eastern wall opening on to a passage. The passage is 1.10 mt. long and lined with vertical shale slabs which are lower in height than the cist and provided with 40 cm. door at the eastern end. The cist was filled-up with small rubble and broken Cuddapah slabs probably of the cap stone.

CIST - III - This is also provided with a double circle of horizontally paved slabs. The outer circle measured 5mt. in diameter and the inner circle 3.30 mt. The cist is erected with shale slabs planted on edge in anti-clock-wise pattern. It is rectangular in plan and measures 1.85 x 1.38 mt. A 45 cm. diameter port-hole is carved in the eastern orthostat. No passage chamber is provided.

CIST - IIII - It is an oblong cist (175 x 0.50 mt.) in the north-south direction, neither enclosing circle nor packing of cairn is noticed.
SITE-III: This complex is situated on the sloping plains of the hills on the bank of the river Tungabhadra. Most of the burials have circles of conglomerate stone boulders available nearby. The burials are mostly pit circles, occasionally interspersed with oblong cists.

BURIALS 1: This is provided with a circle of 19 boulders of conglomerate stone with an inner diameter of 5.80 mt. There is a tight cairn packing of shale chips, sandstone, and conglomerates.

BURIALS 2: A small burial have 16 closely planted boulders with a diameter of 3.25 mt. There is tight cairn packing of cuddapahs and other types of stones in the middle.

BURIAL 3: This is an interesting burial with a circle of 36 boulders. The circle has a projection towards north in the shape of an ayaka platform of a stupa. The projection is 2.80 mt. broad and 1.15 mt. long. The diameter of the circle is 7.66 mt. The cairn filling in the middle consisted of rubble and shale. A curvaceous alignment of boulder extends from southern end of the boulder circle which possibly encloses an adjacent platform.

BURIAL 4 is enclosed by a double circle of conglomerate boulders with an oblong cist in the middle. The southern orthostat appearing like a headstone is higher than the other three.

BURIAL 5 is enclosed by a circle of 19 huge oblong boulders. In the middle of the circle is an oblong cist (1.80 x 1.10 mt.).
A port-hole is at the bottom of the southern orthostat opening on to a passage (1.10 x 60 cm.).

It is interesting to note that the megalithic burials at Gondimalla have architectural similarities with the Buddhist stupas. The circle of horizontally paved shale slabs around some of the cists is similar to the one found around the Buddhist stupa at Kesanapalli.21 The circular dry wall of horizontally piled-up shale slabs around the cist and vertically planted casing slab for the dry wall is another similarity. Thirdly the projections at the cardinal direction in the shape of an ayaka platform22 is another feature. The ayaka platforms at the 4 cardinal directions is a characteristic feature of Andhra stupas.

MUDUMALA: (Pl. 4. & lower portion)

A large number of stone circles, huge stone alignments were previously reported along the north bank of the Krishna from Thengady23 near the Krishna-Bhima confluence to beyond Mudumula and Angunda. Numerous stone circles were noticed to the west of Thengady south of Gudabelur, one mile north of Muraridoddi. The surrounding area often associated with stane alignments measuring 14 to 16 ft. high and 6 to 11 feet in girth and there were 31 of them when Krishna Murthy visited.

Later Rama Krishna Rao24 (1977) reported that at Mudumula in Maktal taluq of Mahboobnagar district, the alignments are
locally known as "Banthirallu" and "Nilurallu", which consist of blocks of stone of 14 to 16 feet in height without any marks of chisel or drill. They must have been quarried by means of fire setting. These huge blocks of stone are arranged in a diagonal fashion i.e. the stones of even numbered rows are set in the centre of the square. In other words, if a line is drawn from one row to another a beautiful criss-cross pattern is found. The even numbered rows seem to contain 6 stones while the odd numbered rows contain 7 stones. Many of these stones are not intact. There are altogether 7 rows in all, covering an approximate area of about 200 sq. ft. Many of the stone have tumbled down.

On the south-west of the village are found some rock incised over huge boulders. These consist of a crudely carved humped bull with an upraised tail, a human figure possibly a female (mother goddess) with outstretched and upraised hands and outstretched legs. Another figure is a curvilinear trident over a circle. In another similar figure the side prongs are oblique and the middle one which is longer bisects the circle. In the third such figure the side prongs are oblique and the middle prong appears like a arrow-head and bisects the ovoid circle below.

CHAGATUR

About a kilometre west of the village of Chagatur, there is a cluster of megalithic port-holed cist burials with
passage chambers. Some of them have double circles of horizontally paved shale slabs. One of the recently excavated cist burials has a passage chamber to the south, and was divided into two compartments in the north-south axis. These compartments were further sub-divided by another set of partition walls. In the northern half of both the compartments human sized stone benches, supported by vertical slabs were installed. The cist and the passage chambers in other burials usually have a single port-hole but this particular burial has two port-holes in the southern slab, one at the upper level and the other at the lower corresponding to the height of the bench. Evidently, the stone benches were used for exposing the dead bodies until the flesh etc. was consumed by carrion eaters and natural agencies. This view is strengthened by the elaborate arrangement of the cist which has, besides, a usual slab circle, 100 x 100 ft. enclosure wall with a single entrance in the south wall. Similar feature was noticed at Valligonda megalithic burials where a dry masonry enclosure (144 x 87 ft.) with a height of 2 ft. was noticed.

Prasad (1978) reported that in all the four quadrants fragmentary skeletal remains and typical megalithic red ware sherds were collected. Besides, four huge vertical stones as memorial columns are noticed at the cardinal points. A very significant feature of this burial is a rock brusing over a shale slab depicting a standing human figure with hands raised in anjali and worshipping a pair of foot prints.
The dressed stone circle, stone columns at the cardinal points and the worship of the foot prints may have a bearing on the evolution of the Buddhist stupa.

**Peddamarur**

Peddamarur is a small village in the Kolhapur taluk of Mahboobnagar district and situated on the left bank of river Krishna. As the village and its surroundings come under submergence area of the Srisailam Hydro-Electric project, major excavations have been conducted in the financial year 1977-78. The habitation site of the early historic period, about 10 hectares in extent, lies on the south west of the village and roughly half kilometre away. Two groups of megalithic burials were also found at Peddamarur, the first one towards the north of the village about a kilo metre away and the second about 3 kilometres south-west of the village and near the river Krishna. Excavations were concentrated at the second group of the megalithic burials and at the habitation site.

**Habitation mound**

But for a solitary potin coin of Satakarni III the excavation at the historical site has not yielded any datable object. For arriving at an absolute dating for the site we have solely to depend upon the pottery types, beads and other objects recovered from the excavation. No coins either the punch-marked or any other variety was attested to from the earlier levels.
Altogether six occupational levels were recorded of which the top two are marked by structural constructions with shale slab quarried locally. The above mentioned coin may help us to date the late levels to the Satavahana period. From the earliest occupation level up to the end of the fourth, no permanent structures were evidenced, but for post holes and paved floors. Yet, there was profuse occurrence of pottery and other cultural objects from all levels.

A comparative study of the objects recovered from the historical sites and the megalithic burials, both about 3 km. apart may help us to discern the nature of habitation. Some of the pottery types from the habitation are exactly similar to those found in the megalithic burials. The black polished pottery which was very scanty but for few ear spools in the Satavahana period was ubiquitous both in the earlier habitation level as well in the megalithic burials. The all black ware and black and red ware dishes some with typical ledged and out-turned lips, the coarse red hat-shaped lids are common. The barrel shaped hexagonal crystal beads are found both in the habitation and the burials. Similar beads were reported from Prakash\textsuperscript{28} in the iron age context.

The carnelian etched spheroid beads, with circles and dots in the middle and the long barrel circular beads with chevrons in between concentric lines found in the earlier levels disappeared in the Satavahana levels. These types have been reported from Samur\textsuperscript{29}, Maski\textsuperscript{30}, Sanganakallu\textsuperscript{31} and Porkalam\textsuperscript{32}.
In the light of the above discussion it may now be possible to arrive at a reasonable time scale of the habitation site.

Period I represented by four occupational levels from the earliest to the end of fourth is co-eval with the megalithic cist burials. Period two overlapping the fourth unto the end of the sixth is coeval with the Satavahana period.

Six occupational levels were traced. Post-holes noticed in some trenches may indicate the nature of residential houses during the earliest habitation. The houses must have had mud walls covered by some thatched roof supported on wooden poles. The second level comprising of layers 7 and 6 was also marked by post holes. The flooring inside the houses, as in the earlier level appeared to be of rammed earth, a thin line of which was noticed. The third level was marked by floors paved with shale slabs and few hearths of burnt clay. A tan ware deep bowl was noticed in the vicinity of these hearths. In the second kitchen (B) a platform paved with shale slabs was found behind the hearth, possibly for keeping vessels after cooking. About a metre east of the hearth was a huge red ware storage jar; it may break in course of usage, it was buried half into the ground. The flooring of the fourth level was rammed with small rubble and paved with shale slabs.

Level five contemporary with the Satavahana times, was marked by profuse usage of shale stone for construction. An
enclosure wall noticed in level V was laid directly over the ground without foundation.

The pottery from the megalithic levels included black polished dishes, tan-ware (dark brown) bowls some times decorated with concentric lines over the shoulder. The collection also includes hat shaped lids which have exact proto-types in Meg I and II. The pottery also consisted of red polished, black and red and black polished wares. There are also few sherds of buff-ware. The common types are vases with beaded and flanged rims, sometimes grooved at the top. Most of the deep bowls were red polished some have soot stains. Besides the black and red ware dishes, there are black polished and black and tan-ware dishes. Dark brown or tan-ware jars were common during the megalithic period. Another common type was a narrow necked vase with a flanged rim possibly used as a lota.

ANTIQUEITIES-

The collection of antiquities from the megalithic levels included beads of terracotta, horn, jasper, etched carnelian and shell. The terracotta beads are tabloid, sometimes decorated with concentric circles. Jasper beads are mainly spherical of dark-green and dark-brown hues. The etched carnelian and white painted beads were decorated with double rows of chevrons enclosed by double concentric lines on either side. There are also beads with circles and dots. Mention may be made of 3 types of quartz crystal beads - one truncated barrel with
hexagonal, the other is pyramidal hexagonal with a flat base and double vertical perforation at the base. The cutting of the second type of bead exactly resembles that of a diamond. The third type is simple spherical. There is also a solitary steatite tabloid bead. The above noted crystal and tabloid steatite beads are usually found in the chalcolithic levels as well.

Iron objects are very few which included an arrow head, a socketed spear-head, a sickle and a lamp.

MEGALITHIC BURIALS:

Two groups of megalithic burials were discovered at Peddamarur. The first group is on the north of the village, about two kilometres away, lying by the side of a cart truck leading to Chinnamma bavi village. The burials, all port-holed cists with passage chambers were erected over a high mound. Presently there are only six burials, the remaining being disturbed. The cists were constructed over made up mounds enclosed by circles of vertically planted slabs. The intervening space was reinforced by circular walls of dry masonry.

One port hole cist is exactly a square in plan and measured 2.45 x 2.45 metres. It has an oblong passage chamber (0.50 x 1.75 metres) towards south. The diameter of the enclosing circle is 8 mt. The space between the cist chamber and the circle measures 2.85 mt.
GROUP II:

About 3 km. south-east of the village and one km. north of the river Krishna, lies the second group of megalithic burials over a rocky mound scattered thickly with haematitic quartzite rubble. Presently there are 38 burials, most of them being multiple chambered cists, of which 20 are squarish or rectangular, 15 are oblong single chambered and 3 pit circles. Out of this group four burials were excavated.

MEG II:

This is a triple chambered cist burial of shale slabs, with a port hole (0.63 metres) in the southern wall slab opening into an oblong passage chamber towards south (1.70 x 1.30 metres). No capstone is noticed. The cist has a circle of horizontally placed slabs of large and medium sizes. The outer edges of the slabs were dressed in a semi-circular shape. The intervening space and the cist were filled-up with shale slab.

As already noted the cist was transepted into three chambers in the north-south orientation, the central chamber being bigger, the two chambers on either side have similar measurement with port holes for each chamber at the floor level so that there is access from chamber to chamber.

Chamber I measuring 2.36 x 0.66 metres was closely packed with small shale slabs, haematitic quartzite pieces and red clay upto a depth of 35 cm. Smaller shale chips and
rubble were used down to the level of funerary deposits. The pottery and skeletal remains were badly crushed due to the heavy weight of the filling. No skull is noticed but for a few charred bones inside urns. The pottery consisted of coarse red jars, some times incised with oblique strokes. There are more than 40 pots of black and red, all black, red and coarse red. The types included hat shaped lids of coarse red-ware, vases of black ware and red ware with thickened and out-turned rims. Some of these black ware pots have thickened rims and have four perforations above the shoulder on the four sides.

Some red ware pots were decorated with double rows of pinched design and oblique incisions below concentric bands. There is also an all black ware miniature bowl with concave body and sharp carination at the waist tending to the sagger base. The hat shaped lids sometimes have thickened and flanged rims and sometimes rolled and slightly out-turned. Another interesting feature is the occurrence of black ware funnel shaped lids, sometimes with a ledged rim and having a knobbled terminal at the top.

Iron objects are scanty but for a small knife in the shape of sickle which is still in vogue as used by shepherds for cutting small twigs. The other object is an iron ring of blade with ends bent forward to overlap in the shape of a spiral.
There are two beads of quartz crystal, one big and other small, both barrel shaped, truncated and hexagonal in cross section. Similar beads were reported in Prakash excavations in iron age context.

In chamber II, a terracotta sarcophagus was noticed adjacent to the eastern wall, a big fragment of which was lying near the western wall. Inside the sarcophagus only few splinters of bones were noticed. The pottery consisted of hat shaped lids, all black ware dishes and red ware vases etc. Some of the red ware pots contained charred bones which included fragments of calcined skull bones.

There are more than 25 pots inside the chamber, which included a red and black ware deep bowl, red at the top and black below. It appears the bowl was straight fired by piling up bowls one over the other.

In chambers I and II after removing the contents the floor slab was also removed. In the middle of the chambers it was noticed that small pits were scooped into the bed rock for depositing funerary vases, some of them containing human bones. The pottery included squatish all black ware ring stands, a red ware pot with elongated neck and tapering body, another small black ware pot, a black and red ware dish and a black ware pot in the shape of a bottle gourd. In order to keep the contents intact the gaps between the pots inside the pit were plugged with fine earth. The base of the floor slab was also
rammed with fine earth so that it would not exert pressure over the contents of the pit underneath.

In chamber III the funerary deposits were noticed at an depth of 1.33 metres, consisting of a large number pots and human bones, most of them being unidentifiable as much crushed due to the weight of top filling. The pottery consisted of red ware, black and red ware, and coarse red ware. Some of the pots were placed over the human bones.

MID II:

This is an intact burial of shale slabs erected in an anti-clock wise Swastika pattern, with a port hole in the south wall leading to a passage chamber. The port hole is 44 cm. in diameter, carved exactly in the middle of the southern wall slab and slightly above the floor for enabling free access to both the compartments. The door slab of the port hole slid down and found in the middle of the passage chamber.

The cist was divided into two compartments by a low partition slab of 20 cm. high which was tightly inserted in between the floor slabs of the two compartments. Besides some crushed skulls, bones and pottery, there was also a sarcophagus of terracotta which has six legs in two rows and decorated with an applique band of finger impressions below the rim.
The rim of the sarcophagus was luted with a terracotta figurine of possibly a buffalo, with a single sturdy horn with a backward sweep, as it was intended to be luted at the place of the second horn. The head is slightly turned aside. The sarcophagus was covered with a convex lid now crushed and contained a few human bones in a very fragile condition thickly embedded inside red clay.

In the same chamber one crushed skull was placed near the port hole slightly tilted towards west. A few long bones were found towards north of the skull. A second fragmentary skull was further north with longer bones in the north-south orientation. A maxilla with damaged teeth was found at some distance from the skull. Two iron rings constituted the other finds closely towards south of sarcophagus, about 15 cm. away; fragments of a third skull with some longer bones were placed in the north-south direction. A fourth skull along with few crushed bones was at the south-east corner of the cist with an iron spatula closeby. An iron cable type nail riveted to a copper ring was found in between the sarcophagus and the partition slab. Most of the bigger pots with lids were placed adjacent to the walls and smaller ones near the bones. A carinated red ware pot with lid was at the north-east corner. It may be noted that at every corner of the cist pots were deposited possibly as offerings to the gods presiding over the quarters.
It appears, the cist was re-used for a number of times. Initially a soft bed of earth was spread over the floor slab to a thickness of 5 to 6 cm. then the skeletal remains and offerings were deposited. Another bed of earth covered the earlier remains for interring a second set of human relics. After the entire space inside the cist was filled up the port hole was opened again and without entering into, one more skull with few collected bones were deposited near the port-hole from outside. Even the cist chamber sometimes was used for interring the remains.

CHAMBER II:

The western chamber contained a single skull seperately interred with three longer bones and two terracotta sarcophagi besides an array of pottery. A red ware sarcophagus placed at the south-west of the cist is petogonal in cross section and truncated-barrel-shaped. It was hand-made end tapers at both ends. A squarish door (30 x 17 cm.) is slightly above the base and has a door slab, lying outside. The exterior of the sarcophagus was finely polished. It contained a few fragments of charred skull bones in association with other crushed bones over a bed of red clay.

The second sarcophagus 61 x 40 cm. is fusiform and pointed at both the ends which has a door in the middle with a closing slab now lying crushed inside with the fragments of the sarcophagus and the bones. It was decorated with double rows of
multiple concentric lines at both the tapering ends. It contained a few fragmentary bones and a crushed skull possibly pertaining to a child.

MEG III:

This is a single chambered cist burial (2.30 x 1.86 metres), lying to the north-east of the cemetery. It is Swastika in plan, with a passage towards south and has a circle of horizontally placed slabs. The passage (1.30 x 1.05 mt.) is slightly towards east of the middle. A port-hole 44 cm. in diameter, is in the middle of the southern wall with a door slab (60 x 70 cm.) The cist was securely sealed with small rubble and shale to a depth of 1.20 mt. whereof the skeletal remains were noticed. No floor slab was provided, the skeletal remains being deposited directly over the bed rock spread with a thin bed of ashy silt. In all 8 skulls were found at various places inside the cist on the same level. Three skulls were close by the port hole and no single skull was intact. At times the occipital bones were dislodged and some times crushed down into the mandible. The general pattern of arrangement consisted of a skull with few longer bones on either side and miniature pots nearby. All the bigger pots were placed adjacent to the walls.

After the entire space inside the main cist was filled with several funerary deposits the passage chamber was utilised for a 9th deposit consisting of a skull, long bones and pottery.
Apart from the commonly occurring iron objects such as chisel and knives etc., one triangular blade of iron which was possibly used as an arrow-head is quite interesting.

MEG IV:

This is a pit burial with a passage to the south and enclosed by a double circle of disintegrated shale rock. The oblong passage chamber (1.87 x 0.53 mt.) of shale slabs has a door slab on the north now slid down into the pit. The skeletal remains were noticed at a depth of 1.80 mt. lying over shale bed rock. The skull was placed towards north of the pit lying on the left side and facing east. The mandible was dislodged. The other bones such as femur, tibia, radius, ulna and ribs and a part of the pelvic were much crushed. The size of the longer bones indicate a tall person. The leg bones were placed one over the other and the hand bones, the radius and ulna, were on the right of the skull.

In many aspects the burial is unique. The skeletal remains were interred in a pit, rather than a cist, but with a passage chamber towards south. A door was provided on the north of the passage which usually serves as door slab to the port-hole of a cist burial. Instead of lining the pit with slabs to build a cist it was lined with calcrete boulders. The other variation was the presence of a double circle of boulders instead of a circle of horizontally placed slabs. Pottery was also very scanty but for a much damaged black miniature pot. In view of this, it is likely that burial may be the arch-type of cist burials with passages.
Jonnavada:

A very interesting Megalithic site situated near Jonnavada, on the left bank of river Penner, in Kovur taluk in Nellore district, was excavated by the Department of Archaeology. The site lies in between the village and a low hillock standing on a jeepable road leading to the village. The burials are covered by wind blown river sand to a thickness of 10 cm. to 1 m. Below this is a deposit of morrum covering the bedrock composed of soft laterite. The burials were carved into the bed rock in the shape of a jar with an elongated narrow neck, bulbus body and a flat base. The vertical section appears like an inverted funnel. At the base of the cutting a sarcophagus was placed invariably in the eastern side of the chamber. Even among the disturbed burials the position of sarcophagus could be located from the shallow cutting made for placing the sarcophagus on the eastern side of the floor, the adjacent wall of the chamber to the sarcophagus was also scooped in an oblong oval shape so that the sarcophagus can rest firmly on its base.

There might have been other structural appendages like a stone circle, cap-stone and cairn packing. But it is learnt that the villagers have removed the stones and carried away.

Burial No. 11

The Burial was excavated into the lateritic bedrock with a diameter of 80 cm. at the neck. The lower edge of the neck where the shoulder takes a wider curve having diameter of 90 cm.
The total length of the neck is 60 cm. The chamber was cut deeper towards eastern side where a sarcophagus consisting of beads was placed. The other funerary assemblage consisted of bowls of black and black and red wares with funnel shaped lids of black ware, big red ware vessels etc. Neither iron objects nor skeletal remains were noticed. This appears to be a post-cremation burial.

**BURIAL No. 31**

This burial lying exactly south of the Burial No. 1 was dug-out by the villagers. Fragments of a sarcophagus and an iron arrow-head came to light during the excavations. The diameter of the neck is 60 cm. and that of the body is 180 cm.

**BURIAL No. 32**

This was also disturbed by the villagers leaving only fragments of sarcophagus, an arrow-head and human teeth. The neck of the burial was very narrow with a diameter of 45 cm. and a total depth of 90 cm.

Similar rockcut tombs were noticed in Kerala. The rock-cut-tombs at Channapparambu near Feroke Railway Station had stone circles, none of which however was to be seen. Each cave tomb had top opening big enough for an adult to lower himself into the cave and the top holes were covered on the surface with a granite square slab. The top hole in the form of a hallow cylinder superposed itself on the hallow half sphere which constituted the cave proper. As in the case of Jonnavada burial
the floor was also circular and the walls arched-up to the top opening to form a domed vault. Another cave tomb near Peroke Fly. station had a small rectangular entrance on the north­east, leading on to a rectangular pit also cut into the rock but open to the sky and provided with a flight of 3 steps.

The tombs at Jonnawada yielded iron tripod stand, a trisula and lamp. The tombs at Parambanakali also in Kerala yielded similar iron trident, tripods, daggers and some objects with forked edges.

Tenneru

Tenneru situated 23 km. east of Vijayawada is connected by Vijayawada-Machilipatnam Railway line. On the east of the village there is a megalithic site in which legged sarcophagus urn-burials were seen side by side. In all the cases north-south orientation was noticed. Most of the adult burials were noticed in earthen ware sarcophagi having 8 to 12 perforated legs.

Most of the tubs are in matt red ware. The entire body of the tub was hand made. In some cases there are decorations of rope design on the exterior of the earthen ware tub and two perforation in the front side.

The excavation of the burials at Tenneru brought to light a new aspect in the method of disposal of the dead. It appears that a regular potter's industry making these earthen ware tubs was in vogue. This was substantiated by the presence of standard
size of tubs made in two halves. In case of shortage of a suitable size for an abnormally tall adult, a gap is seen at the centre which is plugged by placing pot sherds. The custom of depositing pottery such as lid-cum-bowls and tumbler jars inside the tubs is also common. The largest earthenware tub measured 6'-3" x 1'-8" x 1'-3" having 12 perforated stands and contained the skeleton of an adult in complete articulation. The associated finds consisted of knives, blades, two beads of carnelian besides a bunch of shell beads.

AGIRIPALLI-

Agiripalli a famous pilgrim centre in the Nuzvid taluk of Krishna district is about 30 km. from Vijayawada. The village nestles on the south of the hill, Sobhanagiri. At the top of the hill is the famous temple dedicated to Laxminarasimha. Flight of steps are provided up to the top of the hill.

The Sobhanagiri with an approximate height of 600 ft. is of the khondalite rock group. On the western foot of the hill is an extensive cist burial complex. Most of the burials are devoid of boulder circles. Presently the burials can only be located by the cairn packing found hither and thither. Many burials have been dug out by the villagers for finding-out allegedly hidden treasures.

The entire area is deeply cut by the several nullahs emanating from the hill, exposing a few of the burials. In many burials even traces of boulder circles are absent. It is likely
that the burials never had boulder circles due to non-availability of granite or such rock, in the vicinity.

The burial site is covered by rubble and red soil but the lower reaches of the hill and the extensive plains have deposit of red-alluvium to a thickness of 3 to 4 mt.

**BURIALS:**

The cairn packing is visible in many burials which kept most of the burials intact. Three types of burials are noticed in the group.

1) Cist 2) Sarcophagus 3) Urn

All the burials so far excavated are secondary in nature and many are of post-crematory in nature. Few splinters of calcined bones are found in many cists. The pottery is not prolific. Iron is also scarce.

**CIST I:**

It is situated about 60 mt. from the foot of the hill and oriented in the north-south direction. There was a cairn packing to a height of 15 cm. around the cist. The longer orthostats of granite measured 1.80 mt. Neither port-holes nor cap stones were noticed. The smaller orthostats on the north and south are just kept to plug the gap between the longer ones. They were thin and crumbled. The space inside the cist measured 76 cm. broad. The slabs were arranged so that the tops slightly tilt inwards to avoid falling back. The crevices at the floor level were plugged with rubble. The total height of the longer
orthostat (north-south) is 1.15 mt. The floor slab, also granite, was broken due to pressure of weight from above.

On the north-east, outside the cist a red ware globular pot was placed. Inside, at the south-west corner was one more globular vase of red ware. Adjoining it was a small pot and a dish.

In the middle of the cist near the western orthostat is a small pot with straight sides and carinated at the base. It has a thin red slip and burnished surface. There is a finger impressed design between two concentric bands over the shoulder. The pot consisted of red soil and few calcined bones at the bottom. Nearby, were four miniature pots, three of them are red ware, made on slow wheel, with thickened and everted rims. The fourth one is a black and red ware miniature pot with nail-headed rim. Also there are two lids, one bigger with a deeply grooved rim and the second one with an internally thickened rim.

There is a solitary iron find of doubtful shape appearing like a lamp much corroded and disintegrated.

CIST-II:

While excavating Cist-I, another cist was noticed at a distance of 1.60 mts. away towards the west, and at its floor level tightly capped by four rectangular granite slabs. The longer orthostats measured 1.45 mt. The northern orthostats, longest of all, stands to a height of 1.45 mt. possibly to serve as a head stone.
The cist contained four skulls, two placed lying one over the other and adjacent to the western wall. Two other skulls were near the eastern slab. In between these two pairs were the longer bones such as femur, tibia and fibula. Another set of bones were found underneath the second pair of skulls.

In the ceramic assemblage was a red ware pot about 10 cm. in height with a thickened and slightly everted rim, with a thin pale red slip. The other is an ill-fired black and red ware bowl with a featureless rim. The shining burnished surface is crackled. The collection also included a lid-cum-bowl of pale red ware. No iron object was noticed.

CIST-III-

The longer orthostats of this cist measured 3.30 mt. long and 1.50 mt. high. As in the other cist, the slabs were arranged to tilt inside at the top. The northern orthostat was very small (0.55 mt. broad and 1.50 mt. high) now broken into fragments. The floor slab was intact.

The contents of the cist were two black-and red ware globular pots with narrow bottle-necks and nail headed rims. There was also a black and red ware deep bowl with a featureless rim. The burnished shining surface is crackled. There were three other red ware carinated vases of similar shape with flanged rims. Close by are three red ware lids with grooved rims. But for a few calcined bones and the above pottery no other find was noticed.
SARCOPHAGUS (A):-

While exposing the south-west quadrant of cist-I about 4 mt. west of it, a terracotta sarcophagus was exposed at a depth of 10 cm. It has 6 legs and is much crushed and oriented in the north-south direction. It measured 1.37 mt. long 0.45 mt. broad, 0.47 mt. high includng legs. The thickened rim was decorated with thumb impressions. The sarcophagus was narrow at the rim and broader at the base. The contents were a few calcined bones, cemented under a compact red soil. No metal object were found.

SARCOPHAGUS (B):-

This is found to the north-east of Cist-I at a depth of 0.15 mt. from the surface. It is well burnt and has six legs. The thickness of the fabric varied between 1 1/2 to 3 cm. It measured 1.12 mt. long and 0.45 mt. broad inside and 0.50 mt. high, and consisted of two black and red ware pots of medium size with narrow bottle necks and flared out thickened rims. The third pot is a red ware straight sided beaker with a featureless rim. A few splinters of calcined bones were found towards the northern side. No metal object was noticed.

URN BURIALS: -

At a distance of 3.60 mt. from the Sarcophagus (B) towards west, 2 urns were exposed at a depth of 0.40 mt. The two urns were planted side by side. Urn (A) is a red ware jar with globular body, rounded base and slightly everted rim. It has a thin red wash and decorated with concentric bands. At the bottom of the pot are a few calcined bones.
The 2nd Urn is almost similar in shape and colour as Urn (A). The rim is damaged and missing. But for a few bone fragments no other object was found.

It is interesting to notice the various burial practices at one place, such as stone cist, terracotta sarcophagus and urn burials. Both cremation and excarnation were practiced but stratigraphically excarnation was earlier. But for the cairn packing no boulder circles were present. Granite is not available in the vicinity and the slabs used for erection of the cists must have been carted from a considerable distance. This may also explain the absence of boulder circles.

**MUKTYALA:**

It is a prominent Zamindari village in the Nandigama taluk of Krishna District. About 2 km. from Muktyala, there is a dilapidated village by name Bhogalapadu near the Krishna river with an extensive historical mound close by. The mound was flooded by the river many times in the past. About 1 km. towards north of Bhogalapadu and adjacent to the Jagayyapet-Muktyala road, there is a rocky knoll studded with a large number of megalithic cist burials with passage chambers. The mound is locally known as Virulabodu (mound of heroes) and the burials are known as the temples of "Rakasis".

Out of curiosity, Veturi Sankar Sastry dug out two of the cist burials. One cist had a port-hole leading to a passage.
chamber. The passage chamber consisted of skeletal remains of a horse and the main chamber, of human bones. It appears the mandible with teeth and vertebral column of the horse were intact. The bones were identified by V. Ramachandra Rao, Prof. of Anatomy, Guntur medical College. Interestingly there is an illegible brahmī inscription above the port hole. The letters are considerably big and probably read as "LOUVISHI". There is also one more letter below, which was identified as 'JA'.

In the proximity of the burial, there is a figure of a galloping horse bruised over a whitish shale slab.

HASHMATPET:

The megalithic burials at Hashmatpet about 8 km. from Hyderabad have been first noticed by Dr. Walkor and reported by Meadows Taylor. During the 19th century, Bell and Captain Doria as reported by Taylor opened two tombs and found chains of iron and a bell of brass with iron tongue. In the year 1935 excavation of two more burials was undertaken under the supervision of D.G. Mackenzie. The bigger circle was 26 ft. in diameter having 24 boulders. The orthostats were 10 ft. long and 7 ft. broad and 4 in thick. The floor slab was found at a depth of 7 ft. below the surface. Pottery and iron implements were placed inside and also outside the cist, with the smaller vessels inside and the larger ones outside. The smaller vessels consisted of bowls, dishes and small pots mostly of the highly polished black-and red variety. The iron implements included
knife or dagger, sickle, ring of an axe and the prong of a hayfork (flail) or ploughing implement. Three bronze ferrules of walking-stick-like objects were also found. Fragments of human skulls, four teeth of a middle aged man and leg bones of a calf were found in a highly disintegrated condition.

Again in 1971 M.L. Nigam\(^4\) has excavated 2 more burials. One of them being completely disturbed yielded some stray pieces of broken pottery of red ware and an iron piece. The second burial which is a cairn pit circle had a double circle of 22 boulders in the outer and 20 in the inner. The diameter of the outer-circle is 10 mt. and that of the inner is 8 mt. The burial pit measures 4.20 x 3.25 mt. its orientation being north-south. The pottery consisted of black and red, polished black, bright red and dull red wares. The chief types are the funnel shaped lids, bowls, dishes, pots with sagger base and ring stands etc. The iron objects recovered were \(\text{a beautiful}\) sickle and an iron stirrup.

**MOULA ALI**

At Moula Ali\(^4\) 4 to 5 miles north-east of Secunderabad, was found a very extensive field of cairn circles and dolmenoid cists occurring in groups. One such group, the northern one, extended over 30 to 40 acres of land. The excavations were confined to this region. The circles varied in diameter from 2.40 to 10 mt. with the cairn heap rising to a height of 0.60 to 1.20 mt. above surface. The boulders of the circles
were roughly dressed and in most of the examples there were 24 boulders. In the case of circles, too small to have 24 boulders, the excess ones were deposited inside the circles. Loose earth and stones filled up the interior of the circle up to the level of the capstone which occurred generally at a depth of 1 to 1 1/2 mt. No pottery and other antiquities occurred above the capstone except in one case, where a number of 'surehis' or water jugs, small pots, bowls and dishes and an iron ring of a hatchet occurred in the loose filling above the capstone. The water jugs were all of black polished ware, closely resembling their modern counterparts.

The cists had four orthostats, one floor slab and a capstone of a greenish trap rock. The orthostats projected on both ends and the end slabs were placed between the side slabs, which varied in dimension from 2 to 3 mt. long by 1.60 to 2.20 mt. broad. The internal measurements of the cists ranged from 2 to 1 mt. long x 1.20 to 0.60 mt. broad and 3 mt. to 1.20 mt. deep, oriented north-south often with a slight inclination towards east-west. At the floor level 2.40 to 3 mt. below surface, in the pit but outside the cist, were placed large and small pots including ring stands, bowls, dishes, platters, and incense-burners or chalices, identical with similar vessels from the burials in other parts of South India. The largest pots were 1.70 mt. in diameter, 0.85 mt. in height, while the smallest were only a few inches in circumference. The rims were either plain or decorated with various designs and most of the small
Vessels were black and red in colour and were well polished. The pottery was arranged sometimes in groups or in rows of single pots. The smaller vessels like bowls, dishes and vases were sometimes deposited inside the cists. The excavators felt that the cists were filled internally with a fine soft earth, often not available in the locality. Yazdani felt that its occurrence was due to percolation and its mixing up with the contents was responsible, in many cases, for their disintegration.

The iron objects consisted of knives, daggers, hatchets, axes, spears, links of a chain and a lamp supported on three bars. These were generally placed near the right hand of the corpse. Hatchets occurred usually outside the cist on the left or near the head slab. A copper or bronze bell occurred inside another cist, which also yielded an iron lamp with legs. Similar bells had been found earlier at Moura Ali, Naratapalli, Kunnattur and many other sites.

The burials, according to Yazdani, belong to various periods. The largest ones were the oldest, where the skeletons were more disintegrated though their outlines could be traced out. The corpses were laid in contracted position. The height of the bodies ranged from 1.60 to 1.50 ft. One of the smaller burials contained a comparatively better preserved skeleton.

Janampet:

At Janampet, some 20 miles south-east of Nungapet, in Burgampahad taluk of Khammam district, existed an extensive burial ground extending over several miles and locally known as the
burial ground of 'Rakshasas'. The burials occurred from the forest to the summit of the neighbouring hillock, characterised by great circles of stones, with the central uprights or the orthostats supporting the enormous capstones. This site was in the same general locality as that from which William King and Mulheran studied the dolmenoid cist tombs associated with cruciform monoliths but it was a separate group a few miles away from the Kaperlaguru group. No crosses were present in this group. But at some distance away from the burials were two wedge-shaped pillars of stone with rounded projections like a human head placed above the shoulders, planted side by side. The larger one had a pointed bottom 2.10 mt. in tall 0.90 in broad at the shoulders and 0.40 mt. at the head and 0.25 mt. from shoulder to top of the head. One of them, the shorter one, had two concentric circles placed side by side, being 0.15 mt. from centre of the one to the other, resembling the female breasts. Thus, the two pillars represented the effigies of a man and a woman.

One of the circles, 10 mt. in diameter, was excavated. In its centre was an oblong cist, 1.20 mt. high, covered by a capstone some 1.50 mt. x 2.35 mt. and 0.60 mt. thick. The cist was filled with earth and some 0.40 mt. below the top of the cist was found an oblong stone sarcophagus chiselled out of solid rock and placed on the floor slab of the cist. The cist and the sarcophagus were both oriented north-south. The sarcophagus, placed by the side of the eastern orthostat,
contained two iron objects. Outside the sarco in the cist occurred the remains of a monkey and a mongoose along with some pot sherds.

**DONGATOGU:**

At Dongatogu 43 7 miles west of Janampet, was located an extensive cemetery with more than 1500 dolmenoid cists, out of which one was excavated. The stone circle had a diameter of 11 mt. in the midst of the cairn filling was a cist, having 11 orthostatic slabs, three each on the east, south and west and two on the north, supporting a massive capstone, 3.50 mt. by 2.50 mt. with thickness of 0.50 mt. It did not contain a sarcophagus but on the floor of the cist were found iron objects and pottery pieces.

The above burials appeared to be family vaults, as some of them contained more than one sarcophagus, some of them being smaller, probably meant for children or members of lesser status. They were generally constructed of the local coarse sandstone slabs often embedded with pebbles. The iron objects included stirrups and hoos, spears, some 0.90 mt. long and knife blades. The pottery was of a bright red colour. The bounding circles, with the boulders dressed sometimes into an arc were perfectly circular.

**POLICHETTICHERUGUDA:**

Further excavation was conducted by Khaja Md. Ahmed 44 in the year 1940-41 at Polichetticheruguda. Cromlech A,
situated at the highest point of the hill has got a ring of stones around it measuring 10.50 mt. in diameter. The cromlech is in the middle of the ring, the capstone slab measured 3 and 2 mt. with a thickness of 0.45 mt. The slab rests upon 12 smaller slabs 4 each on the western and eastern sides and 2 each on the northern and southern sides. The upper slab was carefully removed but neither antiquities nor skeletal remains were found in it.

In cromlech B, the capstone slab was supported by 10 smaller slabs. The inside of the cromlech was filled with soft sand and it contained no sarcophagus. The bottom slab was exposed which measured 2.40 mt. north-south and 1.10 mt. east-west and 0.42 mt. in thickness. On the north eastern side the slab was rounded. The finds in the grave consisted of iron objects like stirrups, hoes and spear and a gold ring. The pottery was of light red colour.

The architecture of these graves is plain and simple. They consist of a small chamber looking like a table raised above the ground. The table top is invariably a monolithic slab of varying dimensions, the greatest length, width and thickness of the slab being 3.60 x 2.40 x .90 mt. The slab is supported and held above the ground by smaller slabs (0.60 x 0.60 x 0.20 mt.) which generally vary in number, the maximum number being twelve and the minimum being four. The chamber has been constructed on a sheet of rock and where it is not available, a slab of rock
equal to the size of the interior of the chamber has been fitted in. The thickness of one bottom slab is 0.45 mt.

Majority of the chambers have got a ring of stones around them which has got a diameter even of thirty five feet. The stones of the rings have been in some cases dressed into the shape of an arc so skilfully that they form a complete circle. The area between the chamber and the ring in some cases slopes towards the ring and is paved with rubble. This was done probably for draining away rain water from the chamber.

**Explanations in the Karimnagar Region**

**Valigunda**

At Valigunda on the left bank of the Musi river, 14 miles from Bhongir on the Nalgonda road to the west of the granite hill, occurred about 500 cairns over an extensive area. These circles sometimes had cairn heaps. They had an average diameter of about 11 metres. Two of the cairn circles had a menhir north of them, about 2 mt. tall from the ground. There was a rectangular dry masonry enclosure 46 mt. north-south by 26 mt. east-west with a height of 0.60 mt. At the middle of the southern wall, occurred a semi-circular structure about 3 mt. in radius and divided into two equal halves by an east-west wall. A menhir, 3.20 mt. high stood in the centre of the northern compartment. This curious construction was a new feature not observed in other sites of this region. Yazdani reported extensive megalithic sites from this region also.
Singapur

Singapur is situated at a distance of 6 km. from Husurabad a taluk headquarters in Karimnagar district. The megalithic site lies at the foot of the hillock, abutting a huge tank. There were at about 50 stone circles found in groups of small and large circles by the road side. The number of stones in the circles varies from 10 to 20 and many stones were missing. Invariably there is a cist in each circle but not a single cap stone is left. Some of the side slabs of the cists show above ground and others are flush with the surface. The internal diameter varies from 4.50 to 7.00 mt. One of the burials had 16 boulders in the circle with an inner diameter of 7 mt. In average each boulder measured 1.50 x 0.90 mt. In a few pit circles cap stones are visible. On the surface a few sherds of black and red ware could be picked.

The orientation of the cist is peculiar as its long axis was seen to be placed east and west instead of north and south. The circle round a cist was formed of 19 big boulders, its outer diameter 8.22 mt. and inner 7.30 mt. The cist was opened which consisted of hard soil at the top and the below was soft earth or silt. Next came sandy soil to a depth of 1.30 mt. and below that was found clay like earth. Potsherds were found at various depths. Near the eastern end of the cist two big pots had been placed which were totally crushed. The other finds included a bone fragment and a piece of iron appearing like a spear or arrow-head.
KOLAKONDA:

Kolakonda possibly a shortened form of Kolanukonda derived from the Ramaswamudram tank abutting a range of hills. A megalithic burial complex consisting of more than 200 graves lies in an area of one square kilometer near the hill, Peddagutta. The entire area marked by mango grooves and other fruit bearing trees, is now under cultivation.

The boulders encircling the burials must have been brought from the neighbouring hill lying at a distance of 100 mt. They consist of 17 to 21 lateritic boulders with diameters ranging from 7 to 9 mt. Many are disturbed by removing the boulder stones and planting them as demarcating lines between the fields. Most of them are pit circles, but there are a few cist burials with damaged slabs. On the surface a few sherds of Black and Red ware dug out from the burial could be collected.

The early historical site coeval with the megalithic period at Kolakonda covers an area of 50 hectares and lies over a sloping plain between the Chinnagutta and a rivulet, a tributary of the river Maneru. The surface collection included Black and Red; Red; Dull Red and Black wares, besides a few neolithic celts. The entire mound covered by black alluvial clay with a profuse admixture of ash, is now almost dug up and carried away by the villagers to manure the fields.

POLAKONDA:

Polakonda in the Jangoan taluk of Warangal district can be approached from Mondrai, a small village on the road from
Jangoan to Suryapet. Polakonda, about 14 km from Mondrai, is a small hamlet under the revenue jurisdiction of Ramavaram.

**GROUP-A:**

A huge megalithic complex consisting of 60 to 70 burials is located on the south-east of the tank. Most of the burials are cairn circles with or without cap stone. A few burials have double circles of boulders. Five burials out of the above complex were measured to get an idea of their dimensions.

**MEGALITH-I:**

It has a double circle of boulders, 32 in the inner and 35 in the outer; the inner diameter measured 13 mts

**MEGALITH-II:**

It consisted of a single circle of 25 huge boulders and was provided with a cap stone measuring 2.70 x 1.70 mt.

**MEGALITH-III:**

It has a single circle of 14 boulders having an inner diameter of 4.40 mt.

**MEGALITH-IV:**

It has 26 boulders in the inner circle and 30 boulders in the outer circle and has a cap stone measuring 3.30 x 0.60 mt.

**MEGALITH-V:**

It has 12 boulders measuring 5.60 mt. in diameter. A cap stone was provided but it is now disturbed.
At the south face of the Peddagutta hill and about 200 mt. away is a sprawling megalithic cist burial complex. There are more than 100 burials, most of them are bereft of boulder circles. The orthostats of many burials are missing but a few burials still preserve their identity jutting out of the sandy soil.

The orthostats were cut-out of white granite brought from the Peddagutta hill. The longer orthostats of one of the burials measured 2.60 mt. and the shorter 0.56 mt. The lengthwise space inside the cist is 1.70 mt. The slabs are 10 cm. thick. The cist is oriented north-south.

Another cist situated on the bank of a nullah was recently opened by the villagers and the pottery thrown out. The collection included some miniature vases with elongated necks and slightly everted rim, a dull red ware lid-on-bowl and a few sherds of a black polished ring stand.

It is a small village about 8 km. from Husnabad. The village is surrounded by ring of hills locally known as Valasagattu, Sanjivarayanigattu and Venkayagattu. At the base of Sanjivarayanigattu is a huge megalithic burial complex, all cist burials, most of them damaged. One of the burials is encircled by 16 boulders. The cist inside the circle is in the shape of a Swastika, and measured 1.70 mt. long 75 cm. broad.
Another burial has a circle of 24 boulders. A third burial with a rectangular cist in the middle was enclosed by 12 boulders. The cist was packed with cairn. Burial No. 4 was enclosed by 22 boulders and the cist was 2 1/2 ft. high above the surface.

The biggest circle of the complex consisted of 34 boulders with inner diameter of 14 ft. The burial pit was covered with a capstone of squarish granite slab measuring 2.70 x 3 metres and with a thickness of 20 cm. The capstone was broken.

The cist complex at the foot of Sanjivarayanigattu consisted of more than 50 burials. In between Valasagattu and Sanjivarayanigattu a huge bund was constructed to collect rain water from the hills, thereby a deep tank known as Kalkicheruvu had formed. Apparently this tank must have been constructed during megalithic period itself.

About a mile away from the burial complex towards north is a tank in the vicinity of a village known as Regonda. On the western bank of the Regonda tank and inside the fields many ancient iron working spots were noticed. Iron slag was scattered all over the fields. I was told that iron ore was mined from the slopes of Valasagattu.

Adjacent to Valasagattu is a historical mound enclosed by a mud rampart with an existing height of 10 ft. above the surface. Surface exploration revealed matt red ware conical bowls, deep bowls of well levigated clay, sherds of chocolate
Some of the potsherds had nail tip and floral designs. I examined two deep rain gullies. At the lower levels I collected a broken mace head with diameter of 10 cm. and two neolithic stone axes. The total thickness of the cultural deposit ranged between 2 and 2.50 mt.

**GHINNA TOORGU:**

It is situated 7 km. from the Falakurthi village in Jangoan taluk of Warangal district. There is a large megalithic complex consisting of 40 to 50 burials lying on the road side and over the southern slopes of a huge tank. There is a hillock known as Bodagutta about a furlong south of the megalithic complex. Most of the burials are cists of granitic slabs. Some of the orthostats of the cists are projecting outside the land surface due to erosion of the soil which slopes into the tank.

**BOOMERA:**

Boomer a small village in Jangoan taluk of Warangal district is considered to be the birth place of the celebrated Telugu lyric poet, Bommera Pothana, who wrote the Telugu version of Bhagavatham.

To the east of the village is a megalithic cist complex. Most of the boulder circles were removed by the villagers, only a few orthostats are visible projecting outside. I was informed by the villagers that the famous poet lived in the
vicinity of the burial site. The seat shown to me by a villager where Pothana is believed to have composed his verses appears to be a megalithic cist rearranged like a seat.

**RUMUNIPATLA:**

The village Ramunipatla is 3 km. away from Siddipet in Medak district. Towards south of the village and half km. away there is a megalithic burial complex which consisted of 60 burials of pit circle type having single and double boulder circles. The complex lies on the southern slopes of the hill. Due to active cultivation the boulder circles were mostly removed. The total area of the complex is approximately two hectares. One of the burials which is intact had a single circle of 15 boulders with an internal diameter of 4.56 mt. and an external diameter measuring 6.40 mt. Just 9 mt. away from the above megalithic burial, is another pit circle with an internal diameter of 3.30 mt. and an external diameter of 4.35 mt. The average height of each boulder is 40 cm. and 1.50 mt. wide. There are 12 boulders in all. The other structural appendages such as cap stone and rubble packing are absent. Another megalith had 12 boulders in the circle with an internal diameter of 4.30 mt. and an outer circle of 6.48 mt.

(b) **THUMMANAPALLI:**

The village Thummanapalli is 4 km. south of Hazarabad on the Karimnagar - Narangal high way. There are traces of megalithic circles scattered with boulders and rubble packing. The total area of the site is half a hectare. There are presently 6 intact burials. One burial had an internal diameter
of 6 mt. with 14 boulders in the circle. The average distance between burial to burial is not more than 2 mt.

(c) CHILPUR:

The village lies 10 km. away from Huzurabad. On the outskirts of the village a small group of megalithic burials extending over an area of one acre on the slopes of a small hillock. By the side of the burials is a small rivulet. The average distance between burial to burial is 2 mt. Only 2 burials have capstones, one of which measured 1.50 x 2 mt. and a thickness of 75 cm. The number of boulders around the burials varies from 14 to 22.

(d) SRIGIPALLI:

It is about 7 km. from Chilpur in Huzurabad taluk. A huge burial complex with 40 numbers lies towards north-west. Two burials with double circles were noticed. One of them had 16 boulders in the inner circle and 9 in the outer circle. The inner circle has a diameter of 6 mt. and that of outer the being 7.50 mt. The second has a circle of 19 boulders inside and 21 outside, with diameters of 8 and 9 meters respectively.

MANDAPALLI:

Mandapalli in Medak district is situated a kilometer away on the east of Siddipet-Karimnagar road. There are about 45 megalithic circles here. There is another burial complex with 16 burials to the north-east of the village. The complex
contains besides pit circles, cist burials the slabs of most of which have been removed by the villagers.

PALAMKUL:\-

Palamkula is situated on the Siddipet-Husnabad road, about 14 km. from Siddipet. To the north-east of the village there is an extensive megalithic complex with only 30 burials remaining. Most of the burials have been disturbed by the villagers.

HARMAT:\-

It is about 3 miles away from Palamakula. There is no proper conveyance to the village and the approach is by a narrow cart track. The village and its surroundings are covered by black soil, mostly uneven and cultivated by wells. There is a megalithic burial complex towards south of the village. Most of the cist burials have been disturbed by the villagers for the sake of the stone slabs; most of the circle stones also have been removed and utilised for demarcation of field boundaries.

FULLUR:\-

It is a small village about a mile away from the Siddipet-Kamareddi road. At present there are about 40 megalithic burials on either side of the Siddipet-Kamareddi road, many being disturbed by the local people.
The Department of Archaeology and Museums conducted excavations at Pochampad on the right bank of river Godavari in Nizamabad district, for two field seasons, at an extensive megalithic burial site. The three km. long stretch along with bank of the river Godavari is marked with several megalithic burials in the form of single and multiple cairn circles.

**MEQ-1**

It consisted of a single circle of untrimmed massive granite boulders number 14 and measuring 3.6 mt. in diameter. The space in between boulders had a very thick scattering of rubble which extended to the centre. It appears the burial was partly disturbed by treasure hunters. However, the funerary assemblage remained undisturbed. At the bottom of the pit measuring 6 x 4.6 ft. pottery was huddled-up consisting mainly red-ware pots and black and red ware bowls and dishes. The bottom of the pit was levelled up by a deposit of loose earth to a thickness of 5 cm. as a sort of cushion to the overlaid pottery. The black and red ware bowls were seemed to have interred first than the red ware. In the middle of the pit was seen two crushed skulls besides a few bones deposited over the red ware pots. The skulls were completely crushed leaving no traces of identification. The mandibles were seen dislodged from their sockets. The whole pit was filled-up with dug out earth and alluvial clay clods up to the brim level.
MEG-II:

It consisted of 19 closely planted unhewn granite boulders with an external diameter of 34 ft. and had a very heavy packing of rubble. The excavation revealed a central pit measuring 7'-1" in length and 5'-6" broad and had its orientation in the east-west direction. The pottery consisted of black and red ware, red and all black ware comprising mostly of pots, dishes, and hour-glass type stands. To the extreme left of the pottery were seen 4 skulls in a crushed state. One of the skulls faced upwards with the frontal region and mandibles intact, and the bones laid in an extended position. The iron objects consisted of a sickle, a chisel and a few animal bones seen lying by the side of the pottery.

MEG-III:

It is bounded by a circle of 14 unhewn granite boulders. The little space in between the boulders is filled by a tight packing of rubble brought from the river bed. The rectangular pit measured 2.85 mt. x 2.09 mt. On the pit floor was placed a large bulk of pottery consisting mainly of 14 red-ware pots. Along the western edge of the pit over the red ware pots was placed a heap of skeletal remains in a disarticulated state. The crushed skull, separated from the mandible is placed towards north and turned to west. On the right side of the skull a lump of an animal bone at a fairly higher level was noticed.
KADAMBAPUR:-

The extensive excavations at Peddabankur have not yielded any human skeletal remains. Kadambapur is the nearest burial site to Peddabankur and it is reasonable to presume that the people lived at Peddabankur buried their dead at Kadambapur.

Kadambapur exactly north of Peddabankur in Peddapalli taluk at a distance of 8 km. has a huge burial complex consisting of more than 500 burials, perched on the western and eastern slopes of the hills. The river Maneru, a tributary of Godavari, is abutting the burial complex towards south. The Andhra Pradesh Dept. of Archaeology and Museums excavated 6 burials under the supervision of the author.

MEGALITH-I: -

It is situated at about 100 m. from Pavuralabodu and appears to be an important burial, prominently marked by a double circle of 21 large sized boulders in the inner circle with diameter of 7.60 m. and 25 boulders in the outer with a diameter of 9.75 m. The boulders were firmly packed with cairn filling consisting of basaltic and granitic pebbles. The filling rose to a tumulus of 1 m. high from the surface. The pit was covered by a huge cap stone measuring 7 x 4 m. with a thickness of 40 cm. weighing approximately 10.15 tons. It must have been slide down to the burial pit by constructing a ramp. The burial pit, cut to a depth of 2 m. from the cap stone
was filled up with loose brownish earth with a mix-up of small kankar and granitic morrum that was dug out from it.

The pit contained a badly crushed skull, with parietal and occipital bones broken into small fragments. The mandible and maxilla were missing. A few fragments of longer bones such as femur, tibia, fibula were placed in a rough alignment.

The funerary pottery was arranged at varying levels. The bigger red ware vases were placed at a higher level which were subsequently pressed-down and broken. At a slightly lower level was a ring stand with a black ware shallow dish over it. At a still lower level were the smaller pots and bones.

A javelin, 1.25 mt. long with a shouldered head and tip slightly broken was placed parallel to the skeletal remains. Another copper hilted curved dagger was near the skull at a corner of the pit. A second smaller javelin was placed by the side of the bigger one.

MEGALITH-II:

It is situated about 10 mt. west of Meg-I and consisted of double circle of boulders, 21 in the inner with a diameter of 6.50 mt. and 25 boulders in the outer, 7.50 mt. in diameter.

The two circles were provided with a firm packing of basaltic and granitic pebbles. A small cap stone, 1.30 mt. long and 42 cm. broad, covered the burial pit. The pit was cut to a depth of 1.50 mt. from the cairn and oriented in the east-west direction.
This is a secondary burial with two badly crushed skulls placed at the northern end of the pit with a bottom cut-out conch near one skull and another placed near the chest of the second skull. A single mandible and a few longer fragmentary bones, femur and tibia, were placed in a rough articulation.

A small dagger was found near one of the skulls and a pair of javelins each about 85 cm. long were placed over the pottery. Leaving out the skulls, all the other bones were covered up with funeral pottery.

The interesting feature of this burial was the absence of black and red ware. The other wares included dull red ware, black ware and red ware. The bigger vases are of red ware and hour glass type ring stands are of black ware and the smaller vases of red ware. The total number of pots were twelve, mostly crushed.

MEGALITH-III:

It is located about 50 at. north of Meg.II, has a single circle of 19 granitic boulders with an inner diameter of 7.00 mt. and a huge cap stone measuring 3.35 x 1.83 mt. with a thickness of 0.46 mt. half of it being visible before excavation. A tight packing of rubble between the cap stone and the boulders rises to a height of 60 cm. from the surface level. The pit 2.30 x 1.00 mt. was found 1.10 mt. deep below the cap stone. It was roughly
rectangular in plan and oriented exactly in the north-south direction. It was filled up with morrum and disintegrated rock that was dug out from it.

The skeleton with complete articulation was placed in the middle of the pit over a bed of soft clay with a thickness of 8 cm. The skull was badly crushed and was placed towards north with two small stones an either side. On both the flanks of the mandible were found two spiralled wire ear rings with much encrustation, apparently made of gold. A dagger 28 1/2 cm. long, 5 cm. broad was found thrust into the clavical which was slightly dislodged from the original position. The phalange bones of both the hands were pushed into two bottom-cut conches. A few of the ribs were slightly damaged and the pelvic bones also crushed. The left femur was broken. Interestingly the right tibia and fibula were found cut in oblique fashion and the heel bones were missing. The truncated tibia and fibula were placed over two stones.

This strange custom was also noticed at Diamabad where the part below the knees was cutt off. There were 14 port holes all round which suggest the existence of a canopy. It is therefore suggested as a case of 'lying in state' before the burial. At Inamgoan in case of adults the part below the ankle was found missing.

On the right side of the pit were two hand made, flat based, ill-fired, dull red ware jars. There is an applique
cord design over the hand made vases. The smaller black and red ware pottery such as the bowls, funnel shaped chalices, ring stands, etc. were arranged over the body below the shoulders leaving the skull open. The total number of pots were more than 33 in number. Just over the pelvic portion, seven dull red ware ring stands with funnel shaped chalices were placed.

MEGALITH-IV (Dolmenoid Cist):

Meg-IV is a disturbed cist burial with a single concentric circle of 21 boulders. But for the northern orthostat, the other three were removed and thrown-out in pieces by the treasure hunters. The cist was provided with a floor slab measuring 2.30 x 1.30 mt. with a thickness of 6 cm. The northern orthostat with a height of 1.25 mt. and 1.70 mt. broad was provided with a big port-hole chiselled almost in the middle with a diameter of 50 cm. It was firmly sealed with a granitic door slab (0.75 x 0.65 mt.) After closing the door a tight packing of rubble was given behind the door to avoid its falling back. A shallow ramp was provided to enter the port-hole through which a man could conveniently enter the cist so as to arrange the funerary offerings.

The floor slab (10 cm. thick) was found at a depth of 1.30 mt. from the present surface. The cist was filled up with funerary wares and earth over the skeletal remains to a height of 80 cm. Fortunately, the hand of the robbers did not touch deep into the deposit.
Two skulls much pressed and crushed were at the northern end of the pit. The maxilla and mandible were displaced. A single clavicle was placed parallel to ulna and radius. A pelvic, also crushed was below tibia and fibula. Evidently this was a secondary burial with longer and important bones placed in a rough extended articulation. The skull on the right was badly crushed and sutures dislodged. The other skull is also pressed heavily against the floor and features distorted. A single clavicle was placed vertically under the mandible of the 1st skull. The ulna and radius were bundled-up below a pelvic, found in the middle. Most of the bones were in a very fragile condition.

The skeletal remains and the funerary ceramics were placed over a bed of morrum mixed up with clay to a thickness of 5 cm. No preservatives such as lime or ash were used. At the south-eastern corner inside the cist a fragment of an animal bone was found. There was no evidence of cremation. Most of the bones were fragmentary.

A crescentic tanged battle axe was on the right side of the skull. Another pointed knife was also near the head.

Lots of black and red ware with elongated neck were placed towards south. The entire pottery was wheel-made. One of the red ware vases found in this burial has an incised design in the form of a square with loops at the corners. The same design was found over a garnet button seal found at
Peddabankur with a Brahmi inscription of early Mauryan characters reading as \textit{KAMASA}.

**MEGILITH-Y**

It is a double circle consisting of 21 inner boulders and 25 outer with an inner diameter of 6 mt. The ovoid burial pit (2.46 x 1.35 mt.) was covered with a huge cap stone 4 x 2.55 mt. and 37 cm. thick. The total depth of the pit was 1.98 mt. from the cairn filling. The floor was paved with 8 cm. thick deposit of ashy clay.

The skeletal remains were simply huddled without proper arrangement. Two skulls were found side by side with a dislodged mandible. A femur bone was placed over a skull across the left ear socket. A mandible with molars dislodged was near a pelvic. The humerus, ulna and femur etc. were kept in an oblique position to the skull. The second skull was much crushed and flattened. The occipital bone of the first skull was broken into small fragments. A single vertebra was found near a pelvic. A phalange bone was placed into the left eye socket. At the four corners were found four small stones.

At the floor level is an iron javelin (1.55 mt. long and 2 cm. thick) provided with a shouldered point (41 cm.). In the vicinity is a tanged spear head and a 12 cm. long barbed arrowhead. Another 11 cm. long arrowhead is at a distance of 10 cm. from the javelin. In total seven iron implements such as javelin, spear-head, arrow-head, dagger and knife, etc., are found.
The funeral offerings were arranged in different levels. At the same level as the bones are the black and red ware pottery such as dishes, placed over hour glass type ring stands. An all black ware vase, a funnel shaped chalice, a black and red ware dish, a black and red ware carinated deep bowl are found near the skulls. Most of the pots are at the eastern side of the pit. At a height of 40 cm. above the floor two red ware storage pots slightly tilted towards the pit were found at the north-eastern corner. The skeletal remains occupied a total space of 58 x 66 cm.

In between the dagger and javelin a half broken terracotta annular bead evidently, an ear ring with 1 cm. diameter perforation was found.

It is very interesting to note that no agricultural implements were noticed in any of the burials excavated.

**GRAVE GOODS**:

The megalithic burials contained a large variety of pottery, iron objects, few stone objects and ornaments such as beads of terracotta, semi-precious stones, gold or copper, shell etc. Sometimes ear or nose ornaments, armlets or bracelets, and diadems were noticed. Very often grains of paddy and other cereals were offered. Some burials also contain skeletons of domesticated animals such as horse etc.

The most important among the burial furnishings is the pottery, which consisted mainly of the black and red; the
black polished, and red polished, coarse red wares etc. The russet coated painted ware, which was reported from some South Indian burials is totally absent in the burials at the Karimnagar region. Gururaja Rao classified the megalithic pottery into two groups, the coarse and unpolished receptacles like the burial urns, the sarcophagi and their lids and secondly the well fired finely polished smaller vessels.

The burial urns are also mainly of two categories, the sarcophagi and the pot burials. The sarcophagi ware generally made of coarse grainy clay and mostly hand made.

They are shaped into thick sectioned large vessels of pyriform or fusiform urns with elongated body, pointed or truncated bottom as found at Adichanallur in Tirunelveli district, Madurai district and Amruthamangalam in Chengalpat district, Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda in Guntur district. In one of the burials at Nagarjunakonda two huge red ware urns, one hand made with flaring rim, elliptical body tapering to a disc base with a mat design was noticed. It has a light-red slip. The other urn was cruder than the above. It has finger tip decoration in double rows on the shoulder and a loop on the lower. From Bayyaram megalithic burials three-legged pyriform pot of dull-red ware was extracted. It has three legs shaped like teats of cow, but for the legs, the entire pot was wheel made. At Amaravati Alexander Rea excavated 17 dru-
burials below a minor stupa. The urns contained earth and pottery. An urn-burial was excavated below a Buddhist stupa at Yeleswaram. It is a large red ware pot containing human skeletal remains covered by an inverted bowl serving as lid. The pit in which the pot was deposited was sealed with a cap stone.

The other type, the sarcophagi were noticed in cairn circles, in cist burials and as well as separately. They were sometimes provided with flat or convex terracotta lids. Some sarcophagi have rows of legs at the bottom. Some aberrant types of sarcophagi are the zoomorphic types like the ram shaped sarcophagus from Sankhavaram or a cow shaped sarcophagus from Kerala, or elephantoid urns from Perambair.

The sarcophagi either in pit circles or cist burials are found from South Arcot, Chenglepat and North Arcot districts of Tamilnadu, Kolar district of Karnataka and Cuddapah, Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Krishna and Guntur districts in Andhra Pradesh. The commonest types are oblong cists with apsidal ends, vertical walls, and thickly grooved rims. The walls slightly bend inwards resulting in a bulging body. Sometimes they are found with two or three rows of legs ranging from 4 to 21 or more in number, often hollow and pierced with holes as at Emner, Kumattur, Sanur and Peddamarur.

A unique terracotta sarcophagus was excavated in the past, at Maski. It is long cylindrical in section with a flat bottom and rounded top and has a squarish door in the middle with a convex door slab.
A unique ram-shaped sarcophagus from Sankavaram in Cuddapah district has an oblong chamber and has 6 legs. It was decorated on its upper border with rope designs all round. The lid was in two pieces, the front one rising up in the form of the animal's neck terminating in a socket into which fitted a detachable head of a ram like animal with entwining or curling horns. The back part was rounded and without a tail. It contained uncalcined human skeletal remains.

The sarcophagi excavated at Tenneru in Krishna district appear like huge bath-tubs each about 2 mt. long. They were made into two halves and in case of shortage of a suitable size for any abnormally tall individual the two halves were pulled apart and the gaps between the halves were plugged by a package of pot sherds. The sarcophagi were covered with convex lids. The largest earthenware sarcophagus measured 1.94 x 0.50 x 0.50 mt. It has 12 perforated legs into 2 rows. Some have a thin red-slip and decorated with an applique design of chevrons over the shoulder. Some have two perforations in the front side either representing a visage type or port-holes.

Three types of sarcophagi were recently excavated by the author at Peddamarur in Mahaboobnagar district. All the three came from megalithic cist burials with single, double or triple chambers. The cists have invariably port-holes and passage chambers towards south. In Mag-2 a double chambered cist with two sarcophagi were found in the western chamber and one in the eastern. Out of the two one is of red ware and the
other coarse red, both placed in the north-south orientation.

The first sarcophagus, the red-slipped one, is barrel shaped and pentagonal in cross-section and truncated at both the narrowing ends. A door 20 x 17 cm. was provided slightly above the base, with a door slab. \[\text{pl 6}\]

The second sarcophagus, of coarse red ware, wheel-made, is fusiform and pointed like a spindle at both the ends. The body was wheel-made and the pointed ends hand-made. It has a faint red wash and decorated with double rows of multiple concentric lines over both the tapering ends. The door in the middle has a closing slab.

The third sarcophagus, hand made, is oblong and rounded at both the ends. It has 6 legs in two rows and decorated with an applique band of finger impressions below the rim. At one side of the rim a matt-red terracotta figurine of a bovine animal, was luted. As it was intended to be luted to the sarcophagus in the place of the second horn, it has only a single sturdy horn with a backward sweep. The head is slightly turned aside. Bulls or cows, if they are long horned ones usually have horns curving forward and, if they are of short horned type they are stumpy and pointed. But the horn of the above terracotta figurine is sturdy and rounded like that of a bull or cow but is long with a backward sweep resembling that of a buffalo.

The buffalo is believed to be the vehicle of Yama the God of Death and presiding over the southern quarter. The cist
burials with passage chambers at Peddamarur and the neighbouring sites, Uppalapadu and Chagatur, have the passage and the port-holes invariably towards south. The elliptical houses excavated at Peddabankur in Karimnagar region possibly contemporary with the megalithic period have doors facing south.

The typical black and red ware is invariably associated with all the megalithic sites in South India. It is characterised by uniformly fine fabric, burnished and always plain without much decoration. It is generally burnt in low temperatures so that it withers away if kept under wet conditions for long. The clay of the black and red ware or black ware was well levigated and does not usually have any sand particles in the paste. It is wheel turned and the fabric ranges from medium to fine. It was fired under reducing conditions possibly by inverted method. The vessels have a glossy slip on both sides and a few were salt glazed by throwing salt into the fire in the later stages of firing. The crackling noticed over some pots was due to salt glazing. Krishna Murthy suggested that the pottery was fired on open platforms with slots provided at equal distances.

Beneath the platform entrances for feeding the flames were provided. The pots were kept with the rims inserted into these grooves and the rest of the pot exposed. In the interior portion of the pot was always filled or pasted with combustible material. When the pots come into contact with the flames the
exterior portion of the pot which is exposed turns red and the rim portion turns black due to indirect contact with the flames. As a rule the interior portion turns black due to its concealment with the combustible material. The black slipped ware was fired under completely reducing condition.

In Meg-I, a triple chambered cist burial at Peddamarur, there is a unique red and black bowl, which is red at the rim and black below and inside. It appears that the pot was straight fired by piling up one bowl over the other. As the top portion, about 2 cm. long was fired under oxidising condition it turned red and the lower portion fitted into another bowl in reducing condition and turned black.

While the black and red ware and black slipped ware are characterised always by smaller pots of various shapes the red ware includes besides few small pots like ring stands, globular pots which sometimes contain skeletal remains, some carinated handies, but majority of the shapes are globular pots, storage jars etc.

The coarse red ware is marked by some ring stands, lids, miniature pots besides the urns and the sarcophagi etc. Among the red ware are included medium sized vessels with out-turned externally thickened rims, concave neck and bulging profile. There are also typical tulip shaped lid-ou-bowls - a common type in most of the megalithic sites. There are basins with externally cut thickened rims sometimes sharply or bluntly
carinated; pot bellied vases with out-turned featureless or
spalayed-out and externally grooved, thickened rims; jars with
externally thickened and under-cut rims sometimes decorated with
tchevrons. The black ware types included ring stands, mostly of
squattish type with an hour-glass section, conical bowls,
gourd-shaped flasks, lids, dishes, platters, straight-sided or
concave-sided miniature pots, perforated globular pots with
thickened rims, etc.

The more common shapes in black and red ware from the
megalithic burials include deep bowls with round, flat, or
pointed bottoms, with straight, flaring or bulging sides, often
carinated at the shoulder and having sharpened rounded, everted,
or featureless rims, dishes with round, flat or sagger bases,
straight or convex sides with featureless, sharpened, everted
or nail-headed rims, deep or shallow vessels with rounded base,
globular body, carinated or rounded shoulders, occasionally
sharp or long, straight or concave necks, globular bodied pots
are also found.

The rare types of black and red ware included, chalices
or bowls on hollow pedestals, with or without slits on the
hollow pedestal, or the pedestalled vases as from Maski, tulip
shaped vessels, lid-cum-bowls, funnel shaped lids with convex top,
ing terminal top or flat knobbled top, three or four legged jars,
conical or long tapering bodied and carinated shoulder, vases
and spouted bowls etc. From Gajjalakonda in Kurnool district a
unique ladle with a solid handle was found under a sarcophagus.
It is buff-coloured 9 1/2 inches long and 6 inches tall.

Mention may be made of the long funnel-shaped black and red ware vessels found in many megalithic sites as at Brahmagiri (Type-100 p.234-235) Sanur (Type-77 p.28) Maski; (Type B(V) 2; p.62) etc. and Piklihal. Similar types also occurred at Kadambapur and Pochampad in Karimnagar region. In Meg.III a pit burial in Kadambapur seven black and red ware funnel shaped vases with rounded finial tops placed over seven ring stands of coarse red ware were deposited over the belly of a skeleton noticed with complete articulation. They were previously designated in the excavations mentioned above as lids, but their rims are thin and slightly out-turned without ledge or groove to cover a pot. Evidently these are goblets or chalices and their placement over the ring stands in situ strengthens the above view.

A slightly bigger all black ware funnel-shaped vase with rounded bottom was recovered at Pochampad. The other type is a black and red ware vase with a flat base, a thin featureless rim decorated with concentric grooves below the rim.

The rare types from the megalithic burials in the Karimnagar region included deep bowls with featureless slightly out-turned rims and a ledge near the flat bottom. It looks as if the red portion of the lower half of the bowl and the black portion of the upper half were made separately and luted before firing. Similar bowls were reported from Sanur. The bowl from
Kadambapur has a graffiti of circle with a bisecting line across and another spiral like incision.

There is an all black conical lid from Pochampad in Nizamabed district with a deep groove inside the rim so that it will sit securely over the vessel intended to be covered. This type was also noticed at Samur.60

Four varieties of funnel shaped lids all in black ware are usually noticed, one is a dish tooped lid sometimes decorated with concentric bands below the neck and deep groove inside the mouth. This type was reported from Yelleswaram and Jadigenahalli.61 The second variety is recovered from Pochampad. The lids have deep channels under the mouth and terminals at the top in the shape of horizontally projecting double pointed knobs for easy grip. The terminal of one lid has flat double knob, one side slightly raised probably to suggest the head of an animal. The third type comes from Kishtapuram cairn circles which has a ringed terminal. Similar types were reported from Sanur,62 Brahmagiri63 and Arikamedu64 Nagarjunakonda65 and Yeleswaram66.

In one of the Yeleswaram67 pit circles a burnished black ware dish on stand covered with a lid is unique. The lid has a ring terminal. The circular stand has triangular perforations in the lower half and rectangular perforation in the upper half. A dull red ware ring stand with triangular projections at the top was reported from Pochampad.68
The fourth variety has a knobbed terminal with a ledge below. This type was found from Peddamarur and Yeleswaram and Kaumdinyapura, all cist burials. Similar knobed lids come from Khapa. The knobbed terminals from Peddamarur and Khapa resemble a human phallus. If it was really made to resemble as such we have to examine whether the ring and knobbed terminals may represent the sex symbols of the dead. According to Asvalayana Grihyasutra IV.5 the urn containing the bones of women had special marks but not the urns with bones of men. Narayana, the commentator, called the former as Stanavathi and the latter as Stanarahita. Aiyappan draws attention to the opinion of Dr. Heddon who commented that the pot forms are modelled on natural objects and that the pottery shapes in India seem to have derived from natural objects.

Mention may be made of hat shaped lids found at Peddamarur. Some lids have ledge under the mouth and hallow in side. Some are coarse red and others have a thin pale red slip. They were found both in the habitation and as well in the cist burials. Some of the lids resemble a female breast with indication of even the nipple.

An all black ware bowl from Virabhojinkunta, Yeleswaram is bluntly carinated at the shoulder and has a groove around the rim and rounded base. When the pot is inverted it appears like a tumulus.
In Meg I at Peddamarur a pit was scooped into the bed rock under the floor slab of the cist to deposit some funerary ceramic assemblage consisting of a squattish ring stand, gourd-shaped black ware pot etc. The pot has a bottle neck opening to a splayed out mouth which has a groove inside. It is bluntly carinated above the flat base. Similar pots were found at Viraboyinikunta, Lohimancheruvu both at Yelleswaram and Moulali\textsuperscript{74} and Hashmathpet\textsuperscript{75} near Hyderabad.

Also from Peddamarur there is a coarse red ware medium sized pot with three perforations, two above in one line and one below possibly representing a visage type. The pot was kept exactly at the north-eastern corner of the cist, which is still known as the \textit{Lakshmi Sthana}. It is likely that the pot may symbolise a Mother Goddess. Visage urns were previously noticed in the Swat Valley\textsuperscript{76} graves at Timer garha (106).

A black ware dish in Meg I at Peddamarur was decorated with a Sun symbol with a circle in the middle enclosed by triangular radiating lines. These radiating lines are again enclosed by a chevron pattern in between two concentric lines. In the later Buddhist art we find Yakshas or Yakshinis enclosed in a lotus medallion, as found at Dhulikatta\textsuperscript{77} in Karimnagar region.

From Pochampad pit burials is found a rare type of red ware vase with a squattish or bulging body and a long cylindrical neck narrowing towards a featureless rim. Some vases have bulges in the middle of the neck.
IRON OBJECTS:

In South India iron objects constitute besides pottery, the other important feature of the megalithic burials. The repertoire of iron objects found in the megaliths display a wide variety pertaining to household, agriculture, and war. They include daggers, knives, wedge shaped blades, lances or javelins, spear-heads often with barbs on one or both sides; arrow-heads both socketed and tanged; swords of single or double edged. Besides, there are objects of household utility and agricultural implements such as flat-axes often with ring-fasteners, hatchets, chisels, tripods to support pointed bottomed vessels, lamps, hooks, knives, sickles, bill-hooks, spades, hanging saucer lamps, rods with rounded heads resembling the beams of weighing scales, hoe-blades, horse-bits, ferrules, bangles, nails, frying pans, ladles with long handle and bells etc.

In the Karimnagar region the megalithic burials at Pochampad have yielded a crop of iron objects. These include a number of daggers of various sizes, the biggest measuring near 35 cm. They have copper or bronze ferrules at the top of the blade at the junction of the tang. The ferrules have holes in the middle to be inserted through the tang, the purpose of which may be two-fold, as a decorative piece and to avoid backward jerk of the sharp iron blade. Similar daggers with copper ferrules were noticed at Kadambapur burials and with iron ferrules at Nagarjunsukonda.
The other object is a goad or *ankush* with a massive rod handle and a horizontal curving spike. The weapon is usually found in Hindu sculptures carried by the Gods and Goddesses. It was probably used as an elephant goad and also as a weapon of warfare. A similar bronze weapon from Mohenzodaro was described as a hook.

There are also good number of chisels with sometimes curved or flat cutting ends. Arrow-heads are both tanged and socketed. They were found at Nagarjunakonda, Yelleswaram, Sanur, Sisupalgarh, Brahmagiri, Takalghat, and Maski in the megalithic context. Two unique types of arrow-heads came from Peddamarur cist burials. Both are blades in the shape of an isosceles triangle. The arrow head was possibly hafted at the base of the triangle. A lenticular arrow-head was recovered from Peddabankur in the megalithic level with pointed ends at both the sides. It was probably hafted at the shorter point.

The other objects to mention are horse-bits and stirrups. The stirrup from Pochampad has a flat horizontal leaf shaped plate attached to two vertical blades at the back. Both the blades were riveted together at the top to be fastened to the leather strap. Stirrups were previously recorded at Adichanallur, Sanur, Kunnattur in Tamilnadu, Janampet, Pochampad, Uppalapadu, and Guntakal in Andhra Pradesh, Junapani, and Takalghat in Maharashtra besides the skeletal remains of horse itself at Pochampad and Junapani. It is a
clear proof that the horse and its saddlery were quite in
vogue during the megalithic period. The animal must have been
put to various purposes. Gururaja Rao suggested that the
use of horse may indicate cultural indebtedness to the Baluchi
cairn builders. The other interesting bit of saddlery are the
curb-chains to which the reins are fastened at the two ends and
the chain inserted into the mouth of the horse. Such chain with
two separate links was recorded from the megalithic level at
Peddabankur. Each of the links were pressed together in the
middle.

The other interesting tool is an axe or celt with crossed
fasteners. A clefted wooden handle was possibly hafted through
the crossed-straps. Similar axes were noticed at Takalghat
Junapani, Sanur Brahmagiri and Adichanallur.

A similarly fastened adze came from the megalithic occupation
level at Peddabankur. The iron strap is wound into a double
ringed shaft hole around a thick adze blade which has a blunted
butt end and straight cutting edge. A nail was driven into the
haft through the back ring for securing the adze blade which is
16 cm. long (No. 12 PBK 68). There is an iron plate casing
inside the crossed fasteners. Similar crossed fasteners with
casing but without the adze blade was found in the same level
in other trench.

Mention may be made of two battle-axes (Parasa) from a cist
burial at Kadambapur and a pit circle at Pochampad. The
Kadambapur axe resembles a mushroom in shape with a convex cutting edge, 28 cm. long. The concave butt-end was possibly hafted to a clefted wooden handle with metal rings above and below to prevent the wood from splitting. The axe from Pochampad has a convex cutting edge and flat butt end. Battle or double headed axes of iron are very rare, but of bronze or copper, were previously recorded at Dunra1, Gungeria, Sarthouli and Hallur. One miniature axe from Hallur 103 has a splayed out cutting edge and narrow convex butt end. The other axe looks like a brooch or bow. (pl 5 d top portion)

Sickles were found in many of the megalithic burials such as Pochampad, Brahmagiri104, Sanur105 etc. They were also reported from Nilgiri Hills106 and the burial urns at Adichanalur and Perumbair. 107

In the recently excavated cist burials at Paddamarur a screw object possibly used as a drill bit was recorded, the purpose which is intriguing. A few perforated pots in the excavation may indicate that the drill bit might have been used for perforating the pots. It might also have been used for trepanning but there is no evidence as such. It is a long thin wire of iron with the body cabled or screwed. Analogies of such drill-bits come from Takalghat108, Adichanalur and Jadigenahalli.

(Plate 9 d)

Two mattocks (adze-cum-axe) without shaft holes found in the megalithic occupation level at Polakonda in Warangal district,
were perhaps hafted with a clefted wooden handle at the thin portion in the middle. A mattock of copper found at Mohenjodaro has a shaft-hole. Mackay\textsuperscript{109} was disinclined to accept it as a product of Indus Valley culture, it being the only socketed implement found there. He preferred to regard it as of a later date perhaps even as late as Kushan period. As such the mattocks of Polakonda may probably the earliest specimens. At Peddabankur it was noticed that for the first time the shaft holes were provided for the adzes, as no axe with a shaft hole was found either in the megalithic or later level. All the axes from Peddabankur are flat celts.

The other interesting and unique object is an inverted trident from Pochampad with a projecting spike or spear-head at the top. The weapon was to be carried in the reverse direction so that the projecting spike of the central massive rod acts like a spear while the side sprongs as shield. This is a unique object with no known parallel so far. At Yeleswaram\textsuperscript{110} in a pit burial was found an iron lance with four spikes at the butt end which probably served a similar purpose. Common tridents with long shafts were found at Adichanallur and Raigir etc.

**COPPER OBJECTS:**

Copper or bronze objects are rare in the megalithic burials of the Karimnagar region. They are found only in the form of ferrules or casings for weapons like daggers, bells, cups, or ferrules of walking sticks. In a cairn circle at Moulali\textsuperscript{111} a
copper bell with an iron tongue which was still insitu and movable was found. In the further excavations conducted by Yazdani a metal cup (79 per cent copper 21 per cent tin) was discovered at the northern extremity of a cairn circle. Another find was a fragmentary copper bell. A copper bell was also reported from Khapa. At Hashmatpet Yazdani recovered 3 bronze articles, all of them being ferrules of walking sticks. A copper band to be tied around neck of a calf came from Raigir.

The other objects of copper consist of household utensils like bowls from Kunnattur and other places in Tamilnadu, rattles, collyrium rods, bangles, rings etc. used for ornaments, toilet objects and rarely for utensils. From Khapa a dish with convex sides and flat base has a lid with a circular base and the tapering sides are crowned with finial depicting four birds perching and facing each other. Another dish similar to the above but bigger in size has lid with a motif of four birds. Deo suspects a southern inspiration behind those motifs.

GOLD OBJECTS:

Gold objects were found in a few of the megalithic burials. A pit burial from Kadambapur contained two spiralled ear rings. At Nagarjunakonda (in Meg.No.XIV) two spiralled ear rings and 53 small cylindrical beads, 35 of gold and 18 of silver spacers were recovered. At Polichetty Cheruguda near Janampet a gold ear ring probably spiralled, was found from Cromlech-3 excavated by Kwaja Mohammad Ahmed in 1940-41. At Brahmagiri gold beads
of disc, cylinder of circular cross-section and long cylindrical, were recorded from pit-circles.

**BEADS:**

Variety of beads were noticed from burials and habitation excavations. These include beads of gold, silver, copper, besides different types of semi-precious stones such as carnelian, jasper, agate, onyx, serpentine, lapis lazuli, milky quartz, amethyst, glass, terracotta, shell, bone etc. Beads of terracotta, annular in shape are common from Kadambapur and Pochampad burials. Analogies occur at Brahmagiri, Maski, Kesarapalli, Nagarjunakonda, etc. The megaliths at Raigir yielded 108 beads, 73 of which were of lapis lazuli, 15 of quartz crystal, 3 of milky quartz, 2 of granulite, one each of agate and jasper and two or variegated jasper. Of them 59, had circular transverse section while the other 49 were not so. The graves at Moulali near Hyderabad yielded small gold annular beads of large, medium and small sizes. While the small and medium sized beads are of high quality gold, the three larger ones are whitish in colour due to admixture of silver, probably added to produce the electrum.

Several types of beads were recovered from recent excavation at Poddamarur from the burials as well as megalithic habitation levels. These include beads of terracotta, horn, jasper, carnelian-etched, quartz-crystal and fossilized shells. Also there are a few cylindrical glass beads square in cross
section. The terracotta beads were tabloid and sometimes
decorated with concentric circles incised on the lathe itself.
Beads of jasper are mostly spherical, and of dark green and brown
hues. The carnelian etched and white painted beads are mainly
of two types, one is a long barrel circular and the other is
spherical. The long barrel type was decorated with double rows
of chevrons enclosed by concentric lines on either side. Identical
beads are noticed at Sanur, Brahmanabad, Brahmapuri,
Maski, Sanganakallu and Porkalam.

The spherical carnelian beads are decorated with circles
which have dots in the centre. In all probability the circle
with dot may represent the Sun, a symbol found in the chalco-
lithic levels as well.

The other beads from Peddamarur burials are of hexagonal
barrel shape made of quartz crystal recovered from both the
habitation and burials. Identical beads were reported at
Prakash in the iron age context.

ORIGIN OF MEGALITHS:

The problem of the origin of megaliths is still elusive
and the inferences drawn by various scholars are hypothetical.
Some writers have claimed that the black and red ware pottery
with which the megalithic culture is invariably associated is
homogeneous, owing to a common origin and the folks who made this
ware were also responsible for the introduction of iron either in
the Gangetic plains or in the peninsular megaliths. These folks are often identified with the Dravidians who moved from their nucleus in the Rajasthan area, in the Banas Valley or from the Ganga-Jamuna doab. Either after or before their exodus to the south, they picked up the megalithism and iron technology.

Benerjee suggested that apart from the basic divergence of shapes and fabrics of the ware and chronological levels which have yet to be fully worked out, it should be emphasized that pottery alone does not form a culture. The other concomitant elements have to be assessed and it would be preposterous to speak in terms of a single black and red ware culture.

There are certain striking similarities in colour, shape and fabric between the chalcolithic and the megalithic black and red wares. But Sankalia has argued that the problem of the black and red ware is not so simple as to superficially compare the types and fabrics from different places. Following Haimendorf Subba Rao suggested that the black and red ware, being the distinctive ceramic type of the megalithic folk and their dense distribution in the Deccan and the South may strongly speak in favour of a Dravidian origin, the inescapable inference would be that the black and red ware was a Dravidian ceramic. In Bikaner in Rajasthan a plain variety of black and red ware was found associated with the painted grey ware. This would imply an archaeological evident of the coexistence of the Dravidians and Aryans in the primary habitat of the Aryans in
India. Subba Rao further argued that the Dravidians should have moved eastwards and southwards and put an end to or succeeded the chalcolithic folk, meanwhile having imbibed the megalithism and iron technology and ultimately established themselves in the South.

KAMIL, ZVELEBIL of CZECHOSLOVAKIA argued that the proto-Dravidians lived somewhere between Nubia and Iran from where they migrated into the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent either before the development of the Harappan civilization or together with its mature phase. The Dravidians lived together with the Harappans and used the black and red ware pottery and became acquainted with the Harappan symbols of writing, which they may have also used. Later between 1200-800 B.C. they lived with the Aryans who used painted grey ware. They moved away from their habitat lying along side the Harappans during the above period towards the east and south-east and adopted the iron metallurgy in Central India. They also picked up some of the burial practices from the Harappans or the Deccan neolithic people and the megalithic architecture from some contact with the Mediterranean region.

Guru Raja Rao of suggested that the iron using culture with its megalithism arrived on the borders of the sub-continent and because of the great advantage of the iron technology for their economy, it was adopted immediately during the last phases of their existence by the chalcolithic people living in the
upper Yamuna basin, western and central India.

We have two strains of cultures, one is the black and red ware associated with iron as found at UJJAIN, NAGDA etc. in the Malwa region and secondly the painted grey ware associated with black and red ware and iron at Attranjikhera in the Yamuna valley and Noh near Bharatpur. He argues that every thing points to the adoption of iron in India from the Cairn Burial folk of Beluchistan, about the later half of the 9th and early 8th century B.C.

The megalithism also penetrated into India along with iron but the Aryans who are accustomed to a practice of the disposal of the dead by cremation did not like co-existence with the people who practiced megalithism. Satapatha Brahmana, XIII, 8, 2 the work of the Aryans looked upon the builders of the megaliths with contempt and in despicable terms. A clash between the cults, in the above circumstances, is inevitable and the vanquished ultimately drifted towards the south with their characteristic black and red ware, iron and megalithism.

Guru Raja Rao further suggested that the reason for the non occurrence of the megaliths between Karachi and the Deccan could be the absence of raw material for construction of megaliths and manufacturing of iron tools. Secondly the black and red ware folk could not find a happy home in the midst of chalcolithic people in the gangetic basin and the central western India.
The black and red ware people with a highly evolved and well advanced iron technology colonised the areas where plenty of iron ore and raw material for construction of megaliths were available. Right from the inception the black and red ware people were subordinates, first to the Harappan culture in Sourastra and later played a secondary role to the painted grey ware folk in the gangetic valley and chalcolithic cultures in the west-central India.

Dr. R. Subrahmanyan suggested that a ceremonial burial custom appears to be purely of an Indian origin or more precisely of Dravidian origin and it is likely that the people with the above characteristic have adopted a few peripheral traits which appealed to their imagination. The West Asian contacts, either maritime or otherwise, must have influenced those who were already accustomed to some sort of ceremonial burial. Thus the porthole in the cist burials which was possibly a Western innovation appealed to the imagination of a section of the megalith builders, who readily adopted the same.

Daily Life of the Megalithic Folk:

The megalithic period of South India represents a distinctive culture, which succeeded the primitive neolithic-chalcolithic culture. Important distinctions are noticed between the two cultures, the former being mainly the work of the proto-Australoids, while the latter of the brachy cephalic groups of people. There was a sudden jump from the crude stone axe
blade culture to a vigorous and dynamic iron culture with an array of weapons, tools and finely polished wheelmade pottery. Whether it was a sudden cultural conquest or a slow evolution, the distinction is clearly perceptible. The new culture spread rapidly and extensively in the Deccan and peninsular India and blossomed into a mode of life with basic unity.

The repertoire of the traits of the above culture is often designated as the megalithic culture and the entire span of its existence as the megalithic period. It is really a misnomer to designate a culture from the mode of burials, but our present knowledge of the social set-up during the period is so scanty that we do not have any other alternative.

LOCATION OF THE SITES AND SETTLEMENT PATTERN:

The location of the megaliths depended upon geological and climatic conditions. The burials are invariably noticed over rocky high-grounds unfit for cultivation and in close proximity to hillocks or an irrigation tank. The needs of cultivation might not have dictated the situation of the burials as presumed previously, but, the availability of raw material at hand for building such elaborate monuments might have been the main inspiration. The megalithic burials at a few places noticed in close proximity to the irrigation tanks or perennial rivers and arable lands should not lead us to presume that they were agriculturists. No where in the vicinity of the burials or the
irrigation tanks, their habitations were noticed. They lived far away from the burials but carried their dead to a place where plenty of stone was available. There is no evidence to show that they have cultivated the arable plains in the vicinity of their burials. Besides the raw material for the tombs, the availability of iron ore and other geological factors might have had a definite bearing on the location of their colonies.

In many cases no habitation was found near a burial site. The burials at Kannkula near Sultanabad were situated over plains of red sandy silt which is fertile for dry farming. The passage chamber tombs at Peddamarur lying over a rocky mound are 3 km. away from the habitation. There is no irrigation tank nearby, but the river Krishna is about a kilometre away. Even at Uppalapadu where many hundreds of megalithic tombs exist, no habitation was noticed. At Kolakonda in Warangal, the cemetery is situated over fertile plains of red soil, which is now under active cultivation. The habitation pertaining to these burials is traced about 3 km. away, situated between a granite hill and a rivulet. At Polakonda, in Warangal district, the burials are situated over plains of sandy silt and about 1 km. away from the habitation. Sundara observed that it was not clearly borne out by the available evidence that these people clustered near some water flowing hilly valleys for the purpose of rising irrigational tanks.
ARCHITECTURE:

Domestic:

Our knowledge of their domestic architecture is restricted to the evidence supplied by the excavations at a few habitation sites. Mention may be made of Brahmagiri, Sanganakallu, Maski and Kunattur. In the Karimnagar region, we have evidences from sites like Peddabankur, Kolakonda, Polakonda, Budigapalli, Yeleswaran and Peddamarur. No where permanent structures were noticed.

In Hallur a part of lime plastered floor was discovered in the overlap phase. At Brahmagiri and Maski, no stone walls were found associated with this culture, occasional post holes indicate timber construction for domestic buildings. In the excavation at Payampalli the floor of a house was made up of stone chips covered with morrum and plastered with lime. Occasionally a rubble flooring was also provided at the periphery of the house. The plans of the buildings were generally either circular, oval or oblong and the house consisted of a single room, but in one case two rooms.

At Peddabankur a number of elliptical structures exposed in the lowest strata, are assigned to the megalithic period in view of the associated characteristic finds such as pottery, beads, iron objects etc. About 10 mt. away from a Satavahana brick enclosure No. II towards north, an elliptical rubble structure with a single entrance of 1.15 mt. breadth and facing north was exposed. The orientation of the structure is
in the east and west direction and measured 10.35 mt. long and 7.65 mt. broad, including the thickness of the wall which is 40 cm. In the middle are four circular rubble basements, each 60 cm. in diameter. Also in the western end, inside the building, there are four more circular basements.

One more elliptical structure noticed inside the 3rd Satavahana brick enclosure, not related to it, measured 10.25 mt. long and 5.25 mt. broad with a south facing one meter broad entrance. The flooring in front of the entrance was rammed with hard morrum to avoid slush. Many such elliptical buildings were discovered in the course of excavations at Peddabankur which must have been used for both religious and habitation purposes.

The recently conducted excavation at Peddamarur revealed, in all, six habitation levels. These levels from the earliest to the end of the 4, were found to be coeval with the megalithic phase. The post-holes noticed in many trenches may indicate the nature of construction of the residential houses during the period of the earliest occupation. The houses must have had only mud walls and covered by some thatched roofs supported by wooden posts. Notwithstanding it is interesting to note that though, plenty of shale slabs were available and there is evidence for their knowledge of its quarrying as shown by the cist burials where mostly shale slabs were utilised, the same was not used for either the walls or even to pave the
floors, which were rammed with the earth only during the second phase. In the third phase they were paved with shale slabs and we find a little more development in the fourth level when the floors were rammed with kankar and then paved with shale slabs. Even during the succeeding Satavahana period, the shale slab was used only for enclosure walls. No plans of houses raised with either stone or brick are noticed.

**SRPULCHRAL ARCHITECTURE**:

As in all the early cultural contexts, the geological factor has a definite bearing on the megalithic constructions. With the knowledge of iron technology and its functional application for all diurnal activities quarrying of stone was a recurrent activity. The megaliths were invariably built of locally available stone and never transported from far away tracts. When granite was not available for erection of boulder circles they made use of conglomerate or shale slabs. In the lateritic regions, they carved underground cells for burying their dead. When no suitable stone was available, they made use of terracotta urns. The entire burial site at Teneru consisted of only sarcophagi burials in the shape of bath tubs. But at Agiripalli the granitic cist slabs were brought from elsewhere to the burial site. The locally available charnockite-khondalite was only used as cairn for packing.

The huge capstones and massive stone blocks used for alignments or menhirs may indicate organised mass manual labour for transporting and hoisting them.
ECONOMY:

Agriculture and to a lesser extent hunting were the main bases of their economy as attested by sickles and plough-shares. Various scholars have suggested that the megalithic folk were responsible for the introduction of advanced methods of agriculture based on irrigation. Most of the burial sites are noticed in the proximity of large irrigational tanks as at Budigapalli, Torruru, Kanukula, Kadamabapur, Polakonda, Rajagopalpeta, Ramunipatla and Kethireddypalli. These tanks must have supplied drinking water to their house-hold and as well for sustaining their crops. It appears rice and ragi served as their staple food, as noticed at Hallur, Coorg and Kunnatur. Hunting supplemented their food supply as indicated by the equipment such as the arrow-heads, spears, lances, javelins etc. They domesticated a variety of animals such as sheep, goat, swine, fowl, rat, tortoise, cattle etc. They resorted to roasting of animals for consumption. The carcass was thrown in open fire which cooked the flesh and roasted the bones. Some times the cattle and the sheep were probably killed as offerings. In Pochampad and Yeleswaram many bones of the above species were found in the burials.

The food habits of the megalithic folk at Peddabankur demonstrated that cattle mainly formed part of their diet. The dog, wolf, hyena and horse were known to them. Their knowledge of horse and its use are well attested. The skeletons of horse were found in their burials at Pochampad and Muktyala.
and may indicate that the animal had a special place in their daily life. Many contemporary paintings depict the horse with riders. In a painting from Budigapalli the figure of a horse has stripes over the body like a zebra. The figures of bulls in paintings, in terracotta (Pochampad) and its skeletal remains in habitational sites are proofs that it was regarded as a sacred animal. Bison or buffalo was possibly used as a draught animal besides a source of milk.

Pottery was the other important adjunct in their daily life. It comprised mainly of 4 types of fabrics; the red and black, the all black, red and matt red or coarse red. The vessels of these fabrics are mainly of two varieties, highly burnished and un-burnished. The black and red ware vessels were produced by a technique of probably inverted firing. Most of the pottery was wheel made, while the sarcophagi were hand made. The black and red ware, the all black ware and red wares are usually made of very fine, levigated clay. But when they are kept under wet conditions for a long time, they usually wither away. Particularly this is the case with all-black wares possibly due to illfiring. The texture of most of these vessels appear uniformly grey. Typological distinction between the domestic and sepulchral ceramics is commonly noticed as also many regional variations in the burial pottery. The gourd shaped flask is common in the north-western parts of Andhra Pradesh, which is totally present.
from the other regions. The funnel shaped lid is a common type but they are sometimes rounded or sometimes truncated. The commonest types are dishes, ring stands, globular vases, bowls, carinated bowls and such others.

Some post-firing scratches of linear designs called graffiti are found in the interior or exterior of the pottery. The significance of the graffiti can not be satisfactorily explained. They were probably incised with a pointed instrument on the pot surface after the pots were fired. They occur on different varieties of the pots, associated with burials or habitation. Foote\(^\text{150}\) suggested that they represented the ownership marks. The practice of scratching the individual graffiti on the pots to be suspended to the palmyra trees for drawing out toddy is still in vogue in the gouda community in Andhra Pradesh. But Yaadani\(^\text{151}\) collected as many as 131 such marks and linked the origin of the Brahmi script with them and further identified several of the marks to the Etruscan alphabet and also showed some similarities with the signs used by Cretans, Aegeans etc. Lal\(^\text{152}\) proved in his recent study that 89 per cent of the megalithic graffiti marks go to the chalcolithic and Harappan times which included some alphabets and auspicious symbols such as Swastika the endless loop, square with loops at the four corners and endless triangles. Most of the auspicious symbols continued in the Satavahana and later periods.
IRON OBJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY:

The iron objects were used for agriculture, hunting and day to day household needs. The evidence of iron smelting is provided by enormous deposits of iron slags. Number of ancient iron working spots were located in Karimnagar region at Regonda, Tellakunta etc. At Tellakunta in Peddapalli taluk round stone structures with plenty of slag and nodules of calcium carbonate noticed at the top of some hills is a clear proof of ancient iron smelting. The entire hill range is scattered with iron ore. Below one of these hills is a huge tank bunded up for storing water to be used for iron smelting. At Yapaldevpadu there are several mud furnaces to a height of one to one and half meters with blast holes with diameters ranging from 15 to 20 cm. all along the bank of the river Krishna on the water edge. A thick layer of calcium carbonate over some of these furnaces and iron slag nearby may indicate that these were used as blast furnaces.

Mum 153 has suggested that the pre-historic man in peninsular India had no alternative, but to use fairly high grade iron ore for his hearth-stones. He believed that iron technology has developed indigenously but was not transmitted to India from Egypt or elsewhere. He suggested that the constant play of carbon monoxide gas on the iron stones used for kilns for burning pottery etc. would in course of time have the effect of making them malleable and thus, he believed, would be the most probable means of discovery of iron smelting.
Iron ore is extensively found in various parts of the state, in almost all the formations from Dharwar up to Deccan trap laterites. The local iron and steel industry of Nirmal in Nizamabad district assumed importance even during the proto-historic times. The iron stone found in Armoor is of high grade and the blades made of Konasamudram steel was once famous for their strength. The Karimnagar region was most probably visited by the Persian traders at the time of Voxsay for this steel as the Indian "Wootz" was known throughout the world. Iron ore extensively occur in the ferruginous quartzites in Armoor in Nizamabad district; Nirmal and Laxettipet taluks of Adilabad district. Broad stretches of Chikiyala bed in Sirpur taluk of Adilabad district constitute an extensive source of iron ore. Local smelting of iron is still carried on in the villages in the neighbourhood of Chikiyala iron hills.

ORNAMENTS:

The ornament repository of the period includes beads, bangles, rings, ear ornaments, diadems of various metals. The beads were made of different materials, terracotta, semi-precious stones like carnelian, jasper, agate, quartz-crystal and other material as shell, horn, ivory, gold, silver, copper etc. and rarely glass or paste. The annular terracotta beads with a big perforation in the middle are universal in the Karimnagar region and elsewhere as at Pochampad, Kadambapur,
Sudigapalli and Kesarapalli etc. Apparently, these could be used as ear ornaments rather than as beads. At Peddamarur beads of etched carnelian, rock crystal and glass are found.

Many bottom cut-out conch shells noticed at Kadambapur near the lower arms of a skeleton were obviously used as bangles. Some of the shell ornaments found among the megaliths are similar to those in use among the Angami Nagas and other Naga tribes inhabiting the Naga Hills district of Assam. This similarity led Hutton to believe that the Nagas contain an element which migrated from South India. Two gold spiralled wires on either side of the skull also at Kadambapur may show the poverty of skill in making ornaments with precious metals and also their availability.

**Art and Symbols:**

The artistic sense of the megalithic people is well displayed in many of the rock paintings. I firmly believe that the recently discovered paintings at Budigapalli, Regonda, and Kethavaram and the rock carvings at Mudumala might be the works of these people on several grounds.

The paintings at Budigapalli consist of many horse riders, one of these horses looking like a zebra. Behind these horsemen there is a standing figure carrying a spear in his right hand and the left hand kept in akimbo.

In the group noticed at Regonda two little men ride a disproportionately big horse. There are also tridents bisecting a circle below and simple tridents without circles. Several
such tridents bisecting circles below were indented on the orthostats of some megalithic cist burials at Chagatur. Further, at Mudumala village in the Mukthal taluk of Mahboobnagar district where the existence of alignments was reported, the rock brusings contained many identical figures of tridents on circles besides linear representations of a Mother Goddess and a bull. An auspicious symbol, the endless loop or knot could be seen on the Chagatur cist burial. The endless knot (Pl 5d.c) was first noticed on a Harappan seal of the late period. A copper tablet with a similar symbol was excavated by Mackey from DK. Area of Moheojodaro (D. Section(C). Coming to the historical period an identical symbol occurs on a terracotta stamp at Taxila ascribed to the early Christian era. The same intertwined knot design appears during the rule of Rashtrakuta kings in Gujarat region. The second symbol is a square with the intersecting lines at the corners terminating in loops. In a button-shaped seal of garnet found at Peddabankur the symbol is found with an inscription reading 'KA MA SA' in the typical Asokan Brahmi characters.

An analogous symbol was incised over a red ware globular pot recovered from a megalithic cist burial at Kadambapur. Interestingly the same is found over a painted lustrous red ware pot at Rangapur and a black and red ware pot at Navesatoli both in the chalcolithic context. The
Navadatoli specimen has two squares with loops at the corners projected one over the other, so that the loops of the one sandwiches between the two loops of the other, thereby consisting of 3 loops in all. Coming to the Karimnagar region the above two symbols are noticed in the rock paintings at Kethavaram in Kurnool district.

In all likelihood, the so called Ujjain symbol with four circles connected by a cross, also a Navdatoli pot design, must be identical with the above symbol. The Ujjain symbol was sometimes identified as representing four oceans connected by a cross. Then what would be the meaning of the eight circles of loops?

In Sumerian mythology we find mention of four directional winds. It is more likely that the circles represent the four quarters but not the oceans and the eight loops may represent the eight quarters presided over by the eight Dikpalas such as Indra, Agni, Yama, Vayu, Varuna, Niruti Kubera and Isana. The above symbol is still in vogue in some parts of Andhra Pradesh decorated as Rangavalli especially at the spot where at Hindu marriage is held. It may be a symbol to invoke the eight guardian angels mentioned above.

The third symbol, a trident with a long shaft bisecting a circle below, as already remarked, was found in the rock paintings at Regonda, the rock brusings at Mudumala and over
the megalithic cist burials at Chagatur. At Peddabankur the symbol was stamped on many red ware pots in the megalithic and later levels. In the Regonda type the trident bisects a circle below and installed over a box-like pedestal, still below the circle. The symbol noticed on Peddabankur pots consists of a trident, the side prongs curving inwards and having terminals like arrow-heads. The central prong is short and looks like a barbed arrow-head, the barbs projecting downwards on either side of the shaft. The central prong has a circular pellet in the middle. The circle below the trident metamorphosed into a circular pellet exactly in the middle of the barbed arrow-head. Sometimes the pedestal is decorated with stepped mouldings.

COINS:

Mention here may not be out of place of the coins found in Wheeler's Chandravali excavations, two of them being of silver, of which one is a Roman Dinarius and the other a rectangular punch-marked coin. Out of the remaining coins 43 were attributed to the Satavahana dynasty, while the 10 remaining coins to the feudatories of the same dynasty. The excavation exposed altogether 13 layers. Layer 13, 12 and 11 were attributed to the megalithic culture and layers 10-3 to the Andhra culture. The coins belonging to Yajna Satakarni, totalling 3 were found in strata 5 and 6. The coins of Sadakanakalalaya Maharathi come from strata 7 to 9, below the stratum assigned to their overlords.
There are some uninscribed coins recovered from strata 9 to 7, many of them from middle level that is layer 8. These coins have on the obverse a trident with a circle below and two dots on either side of the circle. The reverse has a symbol of an endless knot, as found in the megalithic context elsewhere, identified here as Srivatsa or Naga symbol, as a trident with a circle below and two pellets on either side and on the reverse an 8 arched hill crowned by a crescent.

The so-called Nandipada symbol on the obverse and the looped design identified as Srivatsa are found very commonly in the megalithic rock paintings and rock brisings. These coins were found in the lower levels than either of the Satavahana or their feudatories or of the punch-marked coin. To quote the author himself "It is further worth noting that of a total of seventeen (17) uninscribed coins from the deeper layers 7 to 9 which also yielded the majority of the Maharathi coins". Thus the uninscribed coins are definitely earlier than the above two, and may belong to the megalithic period. Coins bearing the legend "Maharathi Madhariputa Sivala kura" and "Kalalaya Maharathi" were found in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. Thus during the megalithic period, atleast later part of it, this region including the find spot of the coins, were ruled by Maharathis or Mahathalavaras.

RELIgION:

We are still in a lurch regarding the religious beliefs and objects of worship of the megalithic period. Guru Raja Rao
most ingeniously suggested that the occurrence of trident or 'trisula' and the sulaam the spike like object in the megaliths have acquired a religious significance among the later Dravidian speaking Hindus of South India. The trident is invariably associated with Siva and other deities like Durga etc. The single pronged spike, or javelin is very similar with the 'Vael' the favourite weapon of Muruga or Skhandha, another popular Dravidian deity.

In the rock brusings at Mudumala there is a figure of probably Mother Goddess with hands outstretched and upraised and the legs stretched apart. This figure may be the fore runner of the Mother Goddess figurines of terracotta found in the Satavahana and later levels. The Mother Goddess figurines of the Ikshvaku period at Nagarjunakonda and Yeleswarapu are similar to the above. Many Mother Goddess figurines found at Peddabankur are also ascribed to the Mealgithic period. Interestingly none of the excavations in South India at the early historic sites yielded any object comparable to a Siva linga which may lead to the surmise that worship of Siva in the form of Linga was a late practice.

The orientation of the megalithic burials either in the north-south direction or east-west direction is a positive indication that the people were sentimental about the directions and they must have worshipping the Ashtadikpalas. This view is corroborated by the occurrence of a terracotta buffalo figurine luted to a sarcophagus at Peddamarur, where all the
ists with passages were oriented towards south. Buffalo is considered to be the vehicle of Yama, the God of Death whose antiquity can be traced to the Rigvedic times.

T.N. Ramachandran suggested that the Pasupathi seal of Mohenzodaro is the embodiment of the Mahisha as well as the Mahadeva. In Rigvedic times the Mahisha was considered to be the most superior than all the animals but later displaced by the lion in the Puranic age. The horse skeletons found in the megalithic burials may indicate the prevalence of Vedic sacrifices such as Asvamedha, etc. At Muktyala near Jaggayapat the skeleton of a horse was found buried in a passage chamber and its owner in the main chamber. Shankara Sastry who excavated this burial suggested that it may be a case of Asvamedha sacrifice.

In one of the cist burials at Peddamarur in all black ware dish has a stamp of a solar disc with a radiating circle in the middle enclosed by tongues of flame inside two concentric bands. This may indicate that they worshipped the Sun. The sarcophagus at Sankhavaram in Kurnool district resembled a ram which was considered to be the vehicle of Agni, the guardian of south-east. In Meg III at Peddamarur a red ware medium sized vase was placed exactly at the north-east corner. The pot has 3 perforations one at the top and 2 below, and if inverted it would resemble the visage urns noticed in Swat (Santbar) Valley graves. The north-east corner presided over
by Isana is considered to be the place where Lakshmi resides (Lakshmisthana). As such the visage urn in the burial may symbolise a Mother Goddess.

**RACIAL FEATURES:**

Many of the human remains from the Megalithic burials have been subjected to anthropometric studies. The human remains from Brahmagiri came from five cist burials and one pit circle, the latter yielding 3 skeletons. According to Sarkar the Brahmagiri megalithic crania reveal an autochthonous Australoid type and more or less medium statured mesocranial type which is designated as Scytho-Iranian.

At Maski, also studied by Sarkar, the human remains were distinguished as meso-brachycranial type similar to the Brahmagiri crania and long-headed type with thick and heavy bones and larger cranial capacity which appears to be similar to the Al Ubeid type and which has also been found among the Lothal remains. A third type was characterised by smaller cranial dimensions and lesser cranial capacity which seems similar to the autochthonous Australoid type.

**RAIGIR:**

Recently Keneddy studied 6 fragmentary skulls excavated by Hunt and now lying in the British Museum, London; they indicated a Mediterranean physical type.

**YELBESWARAM:**

Gupta and Datta studied 6 skulls and long bones and later Sarkar examined 13 skulls (9 belonging to megalithic
period). The presence of brachy-cranial element in these remains has been recorded as an indication of Scytho-Iranian affinity. They also correspond with the Sialk-brachy-cranial Group-IV.

**TENNERU:**

The excavation at Tenneru was conducted by Prasad and crania examined by Bhowmik and Ghosh\(^{171}\) of the Department of Anthropology Calcutta University. Of the four skulls examined one was that of an immature female and the remaining three appeared to be those of adult males. One skull out of the adult group was identified as brachy-cranial and three skulls belong to dolico-cranial group, only one having hyperdolico tendency.

**CHRONOLOGY:**

Mortimer Wheeler\(^{172}\) suggested that the megalithic culture could be dated between 200 B.C. to circa 60 A.D. In arriving at this date range he considered the following points.

1) The proceeding stone axe culture as represented by a late urn-burial overlapped into the earliest layers of megalithic culture.

2) The terminal date was fixed by the commencement of Andhra Culture dated on the basis of Roman coins, rouletted ware, sherds etc.

3) That the duration of megalithic culture was determined by 3 to 4 feet thick habitational accumulation for which he has allowed a time lapse of about 2 centuries.
From a cist grave at Sulur in Coimbatore district in Tamilnadu a bronze coin was recovered and identified by Allan as Bran coin minted c. 3rd century B.C.

A coin of Roman emperor Augustus (27 B.C. to A.D. 14) was found from a megalithic grave in Coimbatore district.

Alexander Rea found 17 urn-burials below a subsidiary stupa at Amaravathi which in relation to the main stupa has been dated to c. 200 B.C. But the date of the main stupa has been pushed back still earlier on the basis of some fragments of an Asokan inscribed pillar.

A gold coin of Roman Aurel issued from Constantinople and assignable to the 4th century A.D. was found from a barrow in the Nilgiris.

We thus now have a date ranging between 3rd-4th century B.C. and the 4th century A.D.

We also have a set of Radio-carbon dates as follows:

<table>
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<th>Name of the site</th>
<th>T.F.No.</th>
<th>Age (half value 5730)</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hallur</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>2205</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. -do-</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>3065</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Payampalli</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>2330</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Kétia</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Halingali</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evidence from the Tekwada burials in Khandesh is very significant. These burials have been assigned to
Bahal I-B period on the basis of the funerary equipment recovered from them. The excavator traced 2 elements which are significant. The first is the presence of a Jorwe fabric pot in the Tekwada burials and the second is a connoid pot in the megalithic black and red ware with graffity. These two wares represent two distinct cultures; one the chalcolithic and other the megalithic but no megalithic burials were known in the vicinity of Bahal or Tekwada. Thus the Bahal excavations indicated a cultural link-up of the megalithic and the chalcolithic elements, and the antiquity of the megalithic culture was pushed back. The Late phase of Jorwe culture could be assigned to the earlier half of the 1st millennium B.C. The existence of the megalithic element at Bahal Tekwada in the region of East Khandesh was further confirmed by find of megalithic pottery from the surface explorations at Ranjala (IAR-1960-61).

The evidence from Vidarbha region, which is contiguous to north-western Andhra Pradesh is very significant. The excavations at Pochampad and Kadambapur have proved that the burial furniture is more in conformity with that of Vidarbha. The excavation of stone circles in eastern Vidarbha at Takalghat, Khapa, Jumapani and Mahurjhuri and evidence from the habitational sites at Kaundinyapura, Paunar and Pauni gave further evidence to the extent and date of the megalithic culture in that region. The micaceous red ware which was common in the first habitational levels at Paunar, Pauni, Takalghat and Kaundinyapura
as also in the stone circles at Junapani, Khapa and Mahurghuri, indicate that there was a large-scale colonisation by the megalithic folk in eastern Vidarbha in the pre-N.B.P. period.

The megalithic habitation at Takalghat was divided into 3 phases. The upper horizon of the mid-phase was dated between 556 B.C. and 597 B.C. This would push the 1st phase of occupation still further back by about a century or more, than the first megalithic occupation at Takalghat could be assigned around 7-8th century B.C. if not earlier. Thus it became apparent that whereas in western Maharashtra and Khandesh the Jorwe culture was in vogue, the Vidarbha region was under the cultural sway of the megalithic people in the first millennium B.C. Analysing the above information we may conclude that megalithism had a lease of more or less a thousand years.
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