



Megalithic Footprints and Human Figure

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, **24 pairs of prehistoric Megalithic footprints and a human figure** have been discovered in Madikkai, Kerala which is believed to date back to the [Megalithic period](#).

What are the Key Highlights of Findings?

- **Cultural Significance:** All footprints point **westward**, potentially signifying their **symbolic importance**.
 - Archaeologists interpret them as representing the **souls of deceased individuals**, while local residents attribute them to a **goddess**.
- **Age:** It is estimated to be over **2,000 years old**, adding depth to the historical narrative of Kerala.
- **Other Discoveries:** It resembles **prehistoric rock art** found at **Avalakki Pera** in Udupi district, **Karnataka**.
 - **Prehistoric** discoveries in Kerala include:
 - Temple decorations at **Erikulam valiyapara** in Kasaragod.
 - **Running tiger** carvings in Neeleswaram.
 - **Human figures** at Cheemeni Ariyittapara.
 - **Bull figures** at Ettukudukka in Kannur.
 - **Edakkal Caves** carvings in Wayanad.

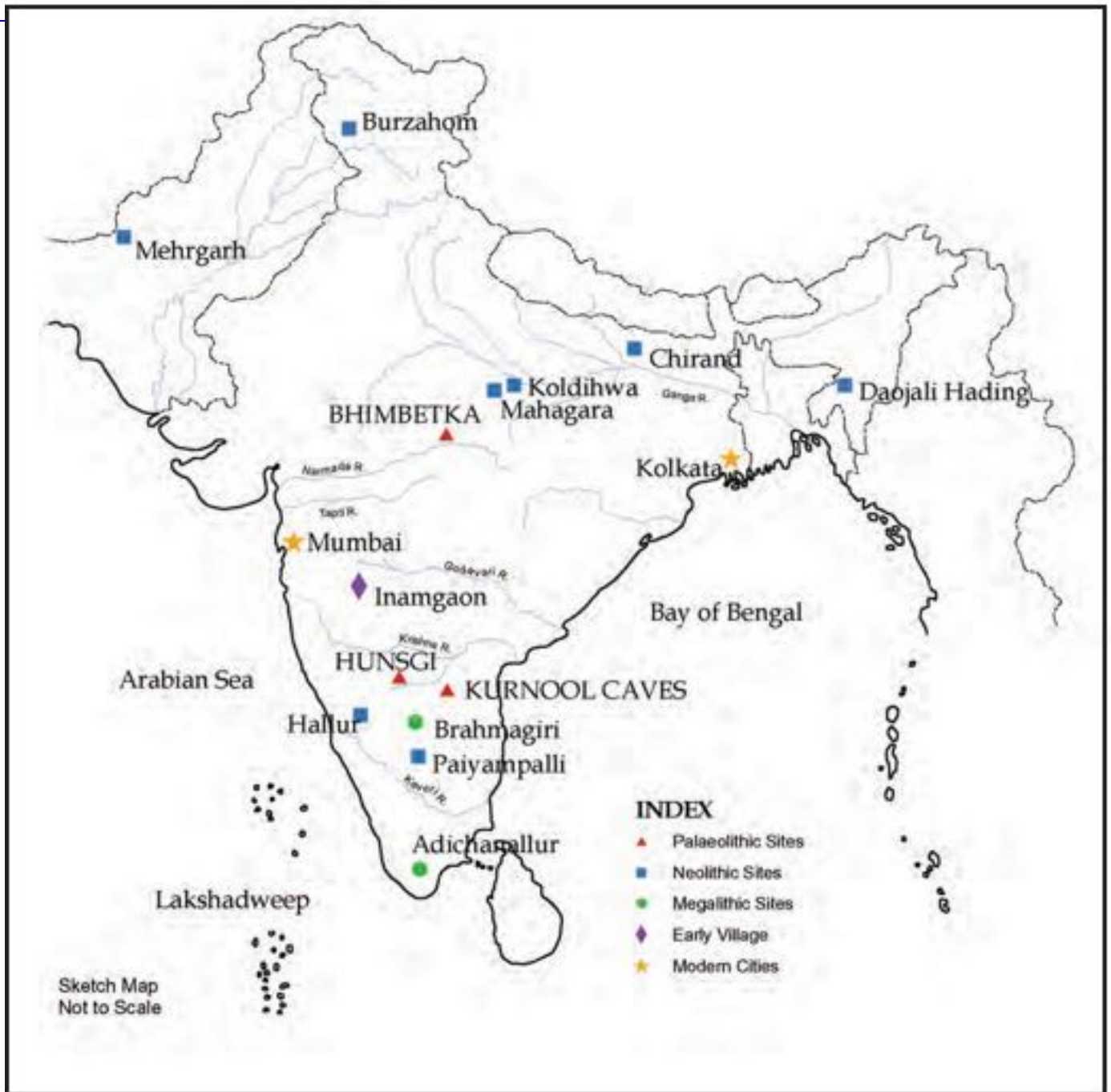
Note

Prehistoric refers to the period of human history **before** the existence of **written records**. It encompasses the time from the **earliest human existence** to the advent of writing systems, which generally predates **3000 BCE**.

What is Megalithic Culture?

- **About:** Megalithic Culture refers to a **prehistoric** cultural tradition characterized by the construction of **large stone structures or monuments**, known as megaliths.
- **Chronology of Megaliths:** The **Brahmagiri excavation** dates South India's megalithic cultures to between the **3rd century BC and 1st century AD**.
- **Geographical Distribution:** The main concentration of megalithic culture is in **Deccan**, especially south of the [Godavari River](#).
 - It has been found across the Punjab Plains, Indo-Gangetic basin, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and **Burzahom** in Jammu and Kashmir, with key sites including **Seraikala (Bihar)**, **Khera (Uttar Pradesh)**, and **Deosa (Rajasthan)**.
- **Use of Iron:** The Megalithic period in South India marked a full-fledged [Iron Age culture](#), where iron technology was **fully utilized**.

- It is evidenced by **iron weapons and agricultural implements** discovered from **Junapani** in Vidarbha to **Adichanallur** in Tamil Nadu.
- **Rock Paintings:** **Rock paintings** found at megalithic sites depict scenes of hunting, cattle raids, and group dancing.



MAP: Some Important Archaeological Sites

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Consider the following pairs: (2021)

(Historical Place)

(Well-known for)

1. Burzahom :

Rock-cut shrines

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 2. Chandraketugarh : | Terracotta art |
| 3. Ganeshwar : | Copper artefacts |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/megalithic-footprints-and-human-figure>

