

# South Indian Megalithic Culture: Database and its Applications

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## Introduction

The Indian subcontinent is divisible into five geographical regions.

1. In the north, the great Himalayan mountain range and the sub-Himalayan zone run from Peshawar in the west to Assam in the east,
2. The Indo-Gangatic, the alluvial plains cover Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Sindh and Bihar,
3. Central Indian table land (Windhyan plateau),
4. The Deccan plateau and
5. The Kaveri delta.

The Peninsular part of India comprises the Kaveri delta, the Deccan plateau and the Vidharba. This peninsular part of India has been referred to as »South India« in this paper - which is the region of study.

The term »megalith« applies to tombs built with large stones either in natural forms or dressed or a grave marked with rude stone or an excavation in rock cave containing remains of the dead. In various parts of the Old World, the practice of erecting megaliths on a large scale began from the Neolithic times and continued into the Bronze Age and Late Iron Age and survives till today with the hill tribes of northeast India. Where, when and how the ideas of megalithism originated and diffused is still a vexing problem (Childe, 1957; Smith, 1913 and Peake, 1916). The megalithic culture was the earliest known culture responsible for introducing a full-fledged agricultural economy based on irrigation in South India. Iron made rather a sudden but widespread appearance either with megalithic culture or closely followed it.

In India, ever since the first notice of megaliths in Kerala was made by Babington (1923), a vast body of evidence has reported from various sectors of South India. In February 1958, a Seminar on Indian Megaliths was organised under the auspices of the Banaras Hindu University, the proceedings of which are published. Dr .B.K. Guru Raja Rao (1972) surveyed all the published material on the Megaliths of South India and has given

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7. Number of non-sepulchral burials
8. Zone
9. Serial number
10. Estimated population.

Record D:

In this record the published references are incorporated giving all the details, such as: author(s), title, year of publication, publisher, pages and source.

### Remarks

The total number of sites reported so far is more than 1933. However, sometimes the data is not available and the available data is either incomplete or incorrect or in inappropriate form. Therefore, before incorporating the data in the database it is necessary to spend more time in collecting the data and arranging it in a suitable format.

The applications and scope will vary according to the requirement of the user. But the scope will be clear from the database structure. Record A, Record B, Record C and Record D can be processed independently according to the aim of the user and report can be generated. Or any combination of the Records or all the Records together can be processed independently or interactively and report can be formed.

### References

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# DATABASE - STRUCTURE

