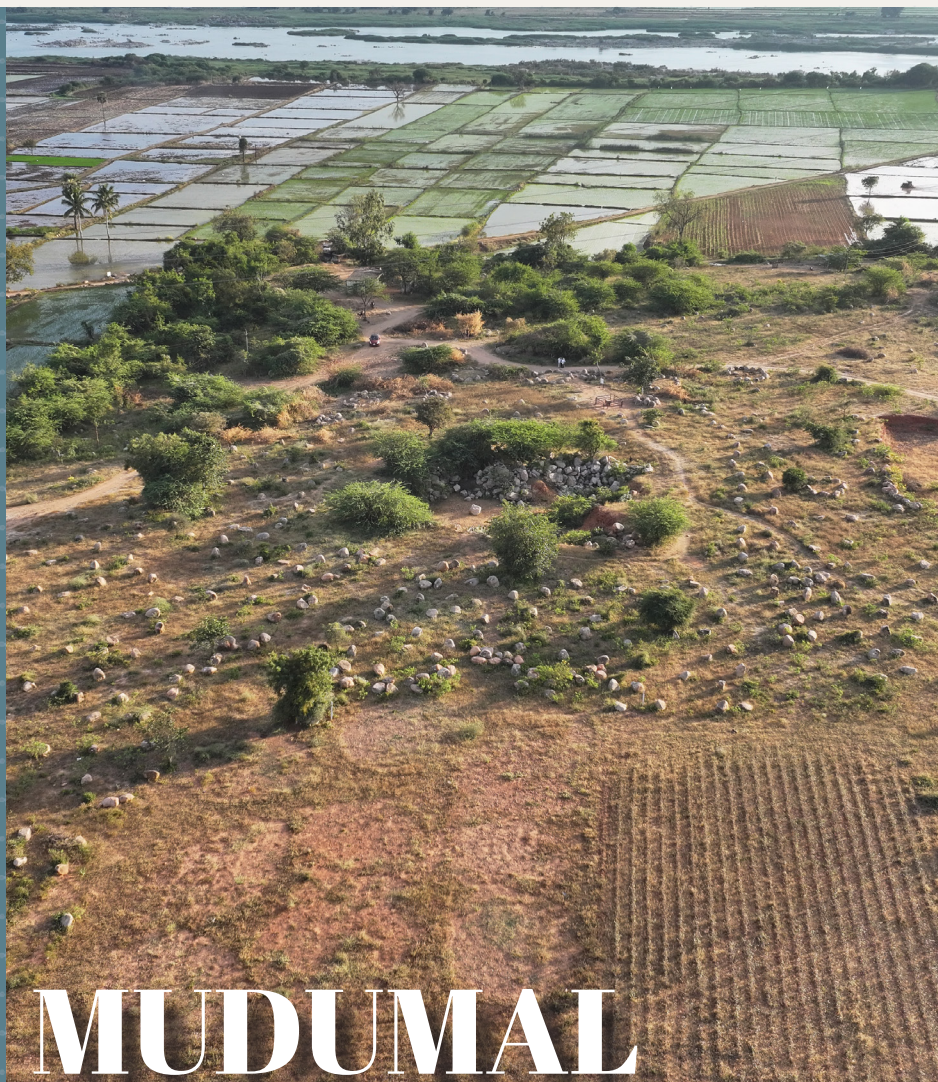




MUDUMAL MENHIRS

HERITAGE PARTNER SCHEME

The Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs, near the banks of the Krishna River, approximately 4 kilometres southwest of Mudumal village, are present over 80 acres of gently rolling terrain, including a small hillock. The menhirs are positioned in alignment with celestial bodies, marking the solstices, equinoxes, and star patterns, thereby establishing the Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs site as an ancient observatory.

Dating back approximately 3500 to 4000 years, the menhirs are part of a broader megalithic landscape that includes burial sites, stone circles, and inscribed rocks. Over time, local communities have associated these stones with their cultural heritage, incorporating them into their beliefs and practices. The menhirs are considered sacred by the local population, who refer to them as “Niluralla Thimmappa” (Thimmappa of the Standing Stones), with one particular menhir being worshipped as Goddess Yellamma.

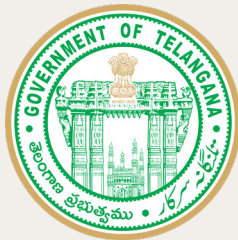




Physically, the site is divided into distinct sections. In one part, the menhirs are concentrated in a relatively lower-lying area, forming an alignment that correlates with the solstices. Some menhirs are aligned with the rising and setting sun during the summer and winter solstices, suggesting their use as an ancient observatory.

On the summit of this hillock, there is a remarkable cuboid-shaped rock bearing cup marks that replicate the constellation of Ursa Major. This careful depiction of the night sky reveals the advanced astronomical knowledge of the site's builders and points to the site's function as a place of celestial observation. The Ursa Major constellation is particularly significant, as it has been revered in various cultures for its link with the North Star. for centuries.

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