

Menhirs

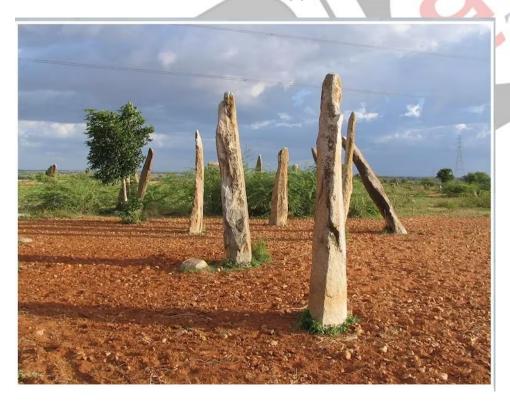
Source: IE

The **Mudumal megalithic menhirs** in Telangana's Narayanpet district have been added to **UNESCO's** tentative list for <u>World Heritage Sites</u> in 2025.

- A <u>megalith</u> is a large stone used in **prehistoric structures**, serving as either a **burial site or a** commemorative monument.
- Menhirs in Europe date back to 7,000 Before Present (BP), with the Grand Menhir Brisé in France being the tallest, originally 20.6 meters high.

Menhirs:

- About: Menhirs are large, upright stones, often tapered at the top, erected by humans. Mudumal's menhirs are India's oldest menhirs, dating back 3,500-4,000 BP, and are located near the banks of the Krishna River.
 - BP is a time scale counting years before 1950 CE.



- The Mudumal menhir site is well-preserved megalithic burial sites.
- They are precisely aligned with solar events like equinoxes and solstices, with a stone featuring cup-marks of Ursa Major (Saptarshi Mandal), the earliest known star representation in South Asia.
- Locals worship the menhirs as "Niluralla Thimmappa," with one revered as Goddess

Yellamma, preserving ancient traditions.

Different from Hero Stones: Hero stones (*Veeragallu* in Kannada, *Natukal* in Tamil) are **memorials honoring warriors who died in battle.** Found across India, especially in the South, they were erected between the 1st millennium BCE and the 18th century CE to commemorate heroic sacrifices.

Read More: Megalithic Burial Sites

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