



## Menhirs

[Source: IE](#)

The **Mudumal megalithic menhirs** in Telangana's Narayanpet district have been added to **UNESCO's tentative list for [World Heritage Sites](#) in 2025**.

- A **megalith** 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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