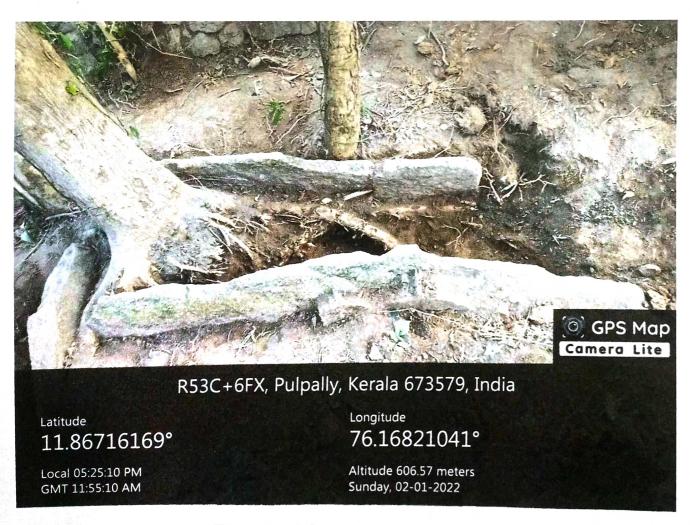
### PAZHASSIRAJA COLLEGE, PULPALLY

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

## Maintenance of Megalithic Dolmen Site

#### Megalithic Monuments in Pulpally, Wayanad

The Department of History, Pazhassiraja College, Pulpally has excavated a Megalithic Stone chamber (Dolmen) on the banks of river Kabini in place called Marakkadavu. This big stone structure is known as *Muniyara* in Malayalam. This granite structure belongs to category of 'Dolemenoid cist' because this archaeological structure is partially buried in the ground. This is a memorial or burial monument come under Iron Age(1000 BCE -500 CE) group of archaeological monumnets in South India. These types of stone chambers were erected to by prehistoric people to commemorate death or memoralise the dead in the period between 300 BEC to 500 CE in South India. Erecting Stone memorial is a worldwide phenomenon and such type of megaliths belonged to various periods and can be found in Europe (France, Britain and Scotland), the Middle East, South Asia and South East Asia.



Excavated Dolmen (Muniyara) in Marakkadavu

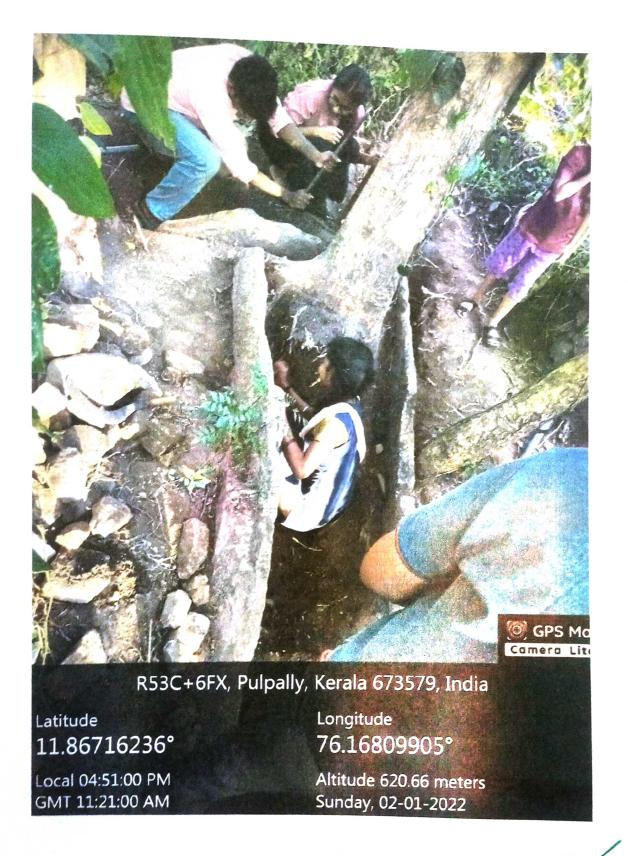
PRINCIPAL PAZHASSYRAJA COLLEGE PULPALLY 673 579 The term 'megalith' (mega: huge lith: stone) is used to describe the use of large stone blocks in the construction of Dolmen. A Dolmen is usually made of granite slabs arranged above the ground in a square or rectangular shape with a capstone. This rectangular Dolmen is one of the five Dolmens situated in a private land in Mullankolly Grama Panchayath, Wayanad District in Kerala. The excavated stone chamber has 240 cms. lenth and 80 cms. width. The depth of this monument is 170 cms. This structure is constructed in the East-West direction. At present this stone chamber has three huge granite blocks only. The capstone and one side stone slabs of west direction have lost in the ravages of time. The term Dolmen and Dolmenoid cist are sometimes used interchangeably because it is difficult to identify whether the partial burial or exposure of a monument was intentional



Megalithc Site before Excavation

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# Maintenance of Dolmen Site by Students of the Department of History



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