

Dolmens of Kodaikanal

Prelims: Current event of national and international importance | History

Why in news?

Measures are needed to preserve dolmens of Kodaikanal dating back to 5,000 years as it is disappearing fast.

- The Dolmen Circle in Kodaikanal is a **Megalithic prehistoric site.**
- It is believed to be an area where pre-historic humans lived and were buried.
- It is also a monastic place for meditation and rejuvenation of the spirit for Jesuit priests.
- **First recorded by** - Jesuit priests Rev. A. Anglade S.J. and Rev. L.V. Newton S.J. in the early 20th century.
- **Features** - Dolmens are constructed out of two large erect stone slabs with a larger flat stone slab over them as a roof.
- It is believed that the pre-historic humans used the dolmens in this locality as a hideout and as a spot where they stashed their valuables.
- The large cap-stone that was placed on top of the four vertical slabs had a gentle slope. This led rainwater to flow away from the dolmens.
- The dolmens also had an opening at the lower end to prevent rainwater from accumulating in the chambers.
- Most of the dolmens are invariably erected on rocky ridges or slopes or immediately below a large expanse of rock.
- The builders would have been entirely dependent on the natural quarries nearby.
- **Discovered Artefacts** - Black and red ware and beads of carnelian that have been excavated from some of these megalithic structures.
- The archaeologists infer that the pre-Iron Age graves may have been located at the highest point of the burial complex.

Reference

[The Hindu | Dolmens of Kodaikanal](#)



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