

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY EDAKKAL CAVE PROTECTION
COMMITTEE, WAYANAD PRAKRITHI SAMRAKSHANA SAMITHI,
HISTORIANS, SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS
OF WAYANAD DISTRICT, KERALA STATE.

Sub: Protection of Edakkal Cave and Cancellation of Pattayam issued by Administrative Officer, Ambalavayal over the Edakkal Cave.

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Respected Sir,

Edakkal cave is the most ancient one in the World which depicts a civilization referring back to stone age. The cave is full of ancient writings, and carvings. The Historical researchers of the world know its value.

The History of Edakkal cave refers back to the stone age. Sri. F.Fawcett who was the Superintendent of Police Malabar, a Historian and an archeologist visited the cave during 1896 and discovered stone implements of stonage from the Edakkal cave. In fact Sri. F.Fawcett had brought to the notice of the existence of the Edakkal Cave to the Public. Thereafter, famous national and international historians had visited the Edakkal cave and exposed the historical importance of the place. Edakkal Cave finds a Place in Indian Antiquery edited by Lt. Colonel R.C.Temple in 1899 and Archeological Survey of Indian in 1961. Even though we made many attempts for the protection of this place, the attempts were in vain due to the lack of interest from the authorities. A daily wage Watcher was put on guard which is quite insufficient for the due protection of the cave. This cave is situated in an altitude of 4,100 feet above the Sea level without easy approach. The Watcher is not even provided with a quarters to stay in. Hence anti social elements are in control of the place. It is seen that the writings and carvings are partially destroyed by these anti-social elements.

Further, license were issued in favour of some quarry owners during 1986 to quarry stones from adjacent places of the Cave. Strong protests were made by us and due to the timely intervention by the Central Government, the quarrying work was discontinued.

The quarrying work had caused threat to the cave and great damages to the houses nearby. It had resulted in causing scarcity of Water and blockage of traffic to the Cave. This matter was brought to the notice of the Kerala Government which deputed Dr. Rajendran, the then Director of Archives, Kerala and Dr.K.K. Ramachandran of the Centre for Earth Science Studies to visit the place and study the problems. The report submitted by the afforesaid committee has recommended that the Edakkal Cave should be declared as a protected area. This recommendation is based on the historical importance of this place.

Now it is learnt that the Administrative Officer-cum-Deputy Collector, Ambalavayal has issued pattayan No. 86/93 granting ownership and possession over this historically important place to a quarry owner. The issue of Pattayam is illegal and against the interest of the public and the Govt. of India.

Since there is no responses to the strong protest made by us in this connection, from the concerned authorities, We crave that your Hon'ble Office may intervene in this matter immediately and necessary directions may be issued to all concerned authorities to protect this valuable national assest. It is also requested to prevent the High handed action of antisocial elements in the place.

We submit this Memorandum before the highest office of this country, with the fervent hope that it will open a new chapter in the History of Edakkal Cave.

The Honourable Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Respected Sir,

I am sending herewith the resolution on the protection of the invaluable historic monument in Edakkal Cave, passed by a Seminar on the History of Wayanad, held at Kalpetta on 2.4.1994, for urgent necessary action.

Yours respectfully,

(Thomas, Ambalavayal)
Secretary
Edakkal Cave Protection Council

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary General, UNESCO, Paris.
2. The Prime Minister of India, New Delhi.
3. The Secretary, Indian History Congress, New Delhi.
4. The Chief Minister of Kerala, Trivandrum.
5. The Revenue Secretary, Govt. of Kerala, Trivandrum.
6. The District Collector, Wayanad.
7. Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan, Kozhikode.

RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF EDAKKAL CAVE PASSED BY A SEMINAR
ON THE HISTORY OF WAYANAD HELD AT KALPETTA ON 2 APRIL, 1994.

The well-known pre-historic rock-shelter at Edakkal, in Wayanad District of Kerala State, South India, with unique engravings and early inscriptions is again under danger of total obliteration. Well-planned moves are afoot to start quarrying for granite from the rock mountain called Ambukuthy on which the Edakkal cave is situated.

Archaeologists who studied the Edakkal engraving are unanimous that they are the works of the neolithic period. The lines forming innumeral figures of humans, animals, plants, etc. on the cave walls have not been cut out or chipped out, but scrapped in. Stone implements used for the laborious scrapping have also been discovered from inside the cave itself.

In 1986 the revenue authorities concerned gave permission for quarrying for granite from Ambukutty hill. The cave shelter is actually the space beneath a huge rock supported by two other inclined rocks and any shock to the complex rock system may cause their collapse and obliteration of the cave. Thanks to the interference by the Indian History Congress, eminent historians of Kerala, and concerned citizens of Wayanad, Sri. Rajiv Gandhi, then the Prime Minister of India appointed a committee of experts, including Dr. Harsh Gupt, former Vice-chancellor of the Cochin University, to study the impact of quarrying on the safety of Edakkal cave. On the recommendation of the experts committee, the Prime Minister banned quarrying in Ambukuthy hill.

Now it is learnt that a quarry contractor have obtained title deed (No.86/93 of the Deputy Collector, Ambalavayal) for a portion of the Ambukuthy rock. Clearly his intension is to start quarrying again.

We, all the participants in the Seminar on the History of Wayanad held in Kalpetta on 2 April, 1994, request the Honourable Prime Minister of India, other concerned authorities and National and international organization to take urgent steps to protect this invaluable historic monument for ever from unscrupulous contractors and officials.