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Prof.K.P.Rao is specialised in Ancient Indian History and Archaeology. He teaches Ancient history, Field archaeology, Pre and Proto historic culture related papers. He has more than 31 years of University Teaching experience. He is an active field archaeologist and conducts archaeological explorations and excavations regularly. His research interest includes megalithic culture, ancient trade, Buddhist art, prehistoric cultures and GIS. Before joining the University service, he has served in the Archaeological Survey of India (1987 – 1989). He also has served as the Director, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh (2013).

Publications

BOOK

Deccan Megaliths, Sundeep Prakashan, Delhi (1988).

Research Articles

- “A Unique Iron Age Grave Complex from South India”, *East and West*, published by Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente, Rome, Vol.41, 1991, pp.363-369.
- “Beginnings of Sculptural Art in South India”, published in the *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 53 Session, 1993, 664-671.
- “Chinese Coin Found at Kottapatnam, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh”, Jointly with Joe Cribb, Dept. of Coins and Medals, the British Museum, London, in *Numismatic Digest*, Volume 23-24 (1999-2000), pp.133-137.
- “Kottapatnam: A South Indian Port Trading with Eastern Lands”, published in *Ancient and Medieval Commercial Activities in the Indian Ocean: Testimony of Inscriptions and Ceramic-sherds*, Noboru Karashima (Ed.), Published by Taisho University, Japan 2004, pp. 11-15.
- “Early Trade and Contacts Between South India and Southeast Asia (300 BC. – AD. 200)” presented in the XVth International Conference on South Asian Archaeology, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands, 5-9 July 1999. Published in the *Proceedings volume*, Ellen M. Raven (Ed.), Groningen, Netherlands, 2008, pp.353-361.
- “Megalithic Anthropomorphic Statues: the Meaning and Significance”, presented in the 16th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA), held at Melaka, Malaysia, 1-7 July 1998. Published in the *IPPA Bulletin* 2000, Vol.3, Australian National University, pp. 111-114.

- “Astronomical Relationship of South Indian Megaliths” presented in the 7th International Conference on Archaeoastronomy held at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. Published in Proceedings volume ‘*Viewing the Sky through Past and Present Cultures*’, Todd W. Bostwick and Bryan Bates (Ed.), City of Phoenix, 2006. pp.421-432.
- “Megalithic Culture in India” in the International Symposium on “Megalithic Culture (Dolmen) in Korea.” Organized by the Dolmen Research Centre of Northeast Asia, Hwasun-gun, Jeollanam-do, South Korea (2007) Published in the Proceedings, pp.175-195.
- “Cult of the Dead: Evidence from the South Indian Megaliths” in the International Symposium on ‘Megalithic Monuments and Cult Practices’ organized by the South West University Neofit Rilski, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, Published in the Proceedings volume *Megalithic Monuments and Cult Practices*, Vasil Markov, et al (Eds.), 2016, pp.65-73.
- ”The Production Landscapes of Southern Andhra Pradesh: The Swarnamukhi River Valley Survey 2013-2014”, in *South Asian Archaeology and art 2014*, (with Praveena Gullapalli, Shinu Anna Abraham) Proceedings of the Twenty-Second International Conference of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art Stockholm, Sweden, Eva Myrdal (Ed.), Dev Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi, 2020, pp.153-168.

Research projects completed/ongoing

International Project(Completed)

Member of the Project co-ordinated by Prof. Noboru Karashima on ‘Commercial Activities in Medieval Indian Ocean as revealed from Inscriptions and Ceramic Sherds’ carried out by the **Taisho University**, Tokyo, Japan (1997-2002).

International Project (Completed)

Collaborator of the International Project supported by the **National Geographic Society** with Exploration Grant for the project on “Investigating Premodern Production Landscapes of Southern Andhra Pradesh, India.” with Dr. Shinu Anna Abraham, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617 USA and Dr. Praveena Gullapalli, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908 USA (2013-2014).

International Project(Ongoing)

Collaborator with the **University of Cambridge** in the Project Titled” *Transforming India’s Green Revolution by Research and Empowerment for Sustainable Food Supplies (TIGR2ESS)*” Project. The Multinational and Multi Institutional Project is supported with a grant of UK £7,035,022 by the Research Council, UK.

UGC Minor Research Project:(Completed 1994)

Archaeological Investigations in Swarnamukhi and Ponneri River Valleys.

UGC Major Research Project:(Completed)

Maritime Activity in Early Andhra: an Archaeological Investigation (1996 – 2001)

ISRO Supported Major Research Project: (Completed)

Remote Sensing for Identification and Study of Palaeochannels and Archaeological Sites (2004 – 2007).

National/International Invited lectures

- Delivered Presidential Address for the Historiography and Maritime History Section, XXVII Annual Session of the **South Indian History Congress**, 2-4, February, 2007 held at Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu.
- Delivered Presidential Address for the Section on Ancient Andhra Pradesh History and Archaeology of the Andhra Pradesh History Congress, 33rd Annual Session held at Kurnool during 4-5 January, 2009. Published in the Proceedings volume, pp.4-6.
- Delivered Presidential Address for the Ancient Section in the Telangana History Congress, 5th Annual Session, 2020, held at Munagala, Telangana.
- Delivered Invited lecture in the Taisho University, Japan on Megalithic Culture in India (2003).
- Invited Lecture on ‘Arhaeological Evidence of Maritime History of India’ at Mokpo National Maritime University, Mokpo, South Korea, 5th December, 2007.
- Invited Lecture on ‘Indus Civilization’ in the Department of History, Mokpo National University, Mokpo, South Korea, 6th December, 2007.
- Invited Lecture on ‘Megalithic Culture of India and Indian Ocean’ in the Institute of Korean Culture, Seoul, South Korea, 11th December, 2007.
- Invited Lecture on ‘Buddhist art and Architecture’ in the Gyeonggi Provincial Museum, Gyeonggi-Do, South Korea, 12th December, 2007.

Important Discoveries

1. Discovered the earliest sky chart of Ursa Major Constallationfrom South Asia at Mudumal, in Mahbub Nagar District, Telangana, datable to about 500 BCE.
2. Discovered an important ancient sea port at Kottapatnam in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh datable from 300 BCE to 1500 CE.
3. Brought out the earliest stone carving tradition in ancient India, assignable to 1000 BCE from Northern parts of Telangana State.

