

Tuesday Colloquium**The Megalith Builders of South India
by Srikumar Menon**

Scattered all over south India are found strange stone constructions loosely called megaliths. Archaeologists believe that they were erected during the Iron Age in the Indian subcontinent (1500BC - 200AD). Through nearly two centuries of investigation, archaeologists are beginning to understand who the prehistoric people were who built these enigmatic monuments. We have been trying to understand the knowledge systems of these megalith builders for the last three years and in this talk an overview of megalithic culture as well as our results will be discussed.



Srikumar Menon did his schooling in Cochin before joining the T. K. M. College of Engineering for undergraduate education in Architecture. His desire to combine passion for astronomy with academics

was fulfilled when he took up the design of an observatory as the topic for the final year thesis. He got an opportunity to work as a research associate on observatory design at IUCAA, Pune, immediately after graduation.

Later he worked for conventional architectural practices in Bangalore before returning to IUCAA to deal with a 2m telescope observatory project. After 6 years in industry, he joined the Faculty of Architecture, MIT, Manipal, as a lecturer. Currently, he is working on a research project to study the architecture of the megaliths of south India and examine them for any possible connections with astronomy.

Other than teaching and practicing architecture, he loves trekking (in the Western Ghats and the Himalaya), watching wildlife and keeping wickets for the faculty cricket team!

Tuesday, 2nd November 2010 at 4.30 p.m.**Seminar Room, Prefabs, Near Annabhau Sathe Bhavan
University of Mumbai, Vidyanagari Campus
Kalina, Mumbai 400098**