Megalithic sword unearthed in Kannur village

105 cm sword found by Archaeology Department is believed to be 2,500 years old

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The State Archaeology Department in Kozhikode has unearthed what it calls a Megalithic era iron sword, a chisel and a few decorated pottery from a rock-cut cave at Pothuvachery in Kannur district.

The 105-cm sword, believed to be 2,500 years old, was found during a scientific clearance at the historical site. “However, the discovery of the cave by the side of the unpaved road leading to the Manikkiyil temple road in Mavilayi village, 12 km from Kannur city, was fortuitous,” said K. Krishnaraj of the Archaeology Department, who is supervising the project.

About a month ago, he said, local people had spotted a hole that had developed on the gravel road. They dug out a few pieces of pottery from the hole and kept them in their possession. Only later did some of them inform the Archaeology Department about the hole and turn over the Megalithic artefacts to it.

The semi-spherical shaped cave has a diameter of 2.5 m and a height of 90 cm. Investigations would continue for a week, he said.

Mr. Krishnaraj said the sword was not a rare one. “Previously, a sword was discovered from a similar rock-cut cave from a site at Kuruvattur in Kozhikode. The implements indicate the technological advancement of the Megalithic people,” he said.

The materials will be shifted to the Pazhassi Raja Archaeological Museum at East Hill in Kozhikode soon, he said.