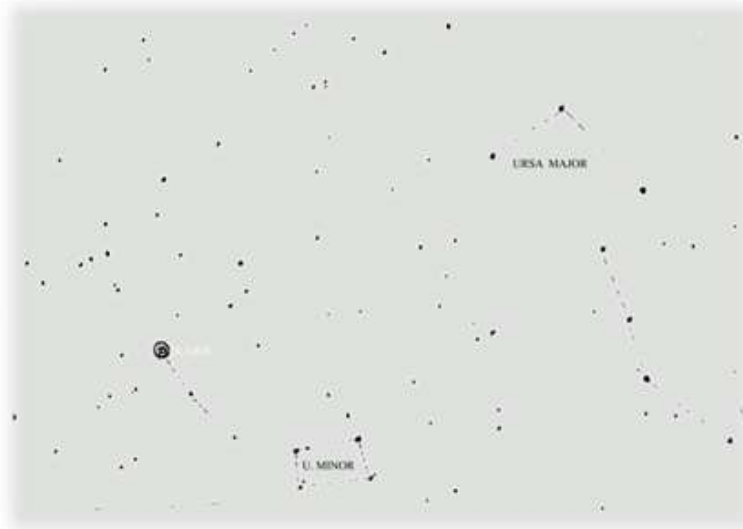


Rock Carvings at Usgalimal, Goa

A Possible Model of the Cosmos



The night sky as seen at Usgalimal, the stars circumbulating the North Star

THE SKY OR THE HEAVENS



At the top along the grassy area is the SKY; in middle section, EARTH; and the river, the NETHERWORLD.



BULLS, as sun gods, are lined up the very top section along northern edge of the rocky bed.
(Sunset) *(Sunrise from the East)*



The peacock is the carrier of souls to heavens.

THE EARTH



The new farmer and his tools (An iconic figure seen from different angles)



Human activities under the starry skies



Animal world (only a few are shown of the many that helped and sustained them)



**The Labyrinth at the very center
(likely a coiled snake), nature's driving force**

THE NETHERWORLD



The underworld represented by the Kushavati River and the carved pools of water.

In order to understand their visible world, humans everywhere have attempted to model their vision of the space surrounding them. It appears that from the location, the layout of the site and the many carvings on a rocky bed at the bend of the river at Usgalimal, may have served as their model of the cosmos.

From close observations of the movements of the heavenly bodies - the sun and the moon, and particularly the fixed North Star (Polaris) - easily visible at 15⁰N every cloudless night from the banks of the River Kushavati, the early settlers were familiar with the directional concept of their space.

This liminal site therefore may have served as the sacred space to conduct their periodic festivals, such as, the change of seasons, to offer gifts and for ritual sacrifices to their gods and for rites of passage and initiation.

The bull was associated with a variety of Mesopotamian gods. For the Sumerians, *Enkidu* was the Bull of Heaven; in Egypt, *Apis* was also symbol of the sun god *Ra*. The zebu bull also features in many of the Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro seals. It is therefore reasonable to assume that bulls may also have ruled the earthly model of the sun at Usgalimal.

For additional insight embodied in the carvings also visit. <https://goaprehistory.wordpress.com/>