



## Thamirabarani Civilisation: Tamil Nadu

### Why in News

The **Thamirabarani civilisation in Tamil Nadu** is at least **3,200 years old**, reveals **carbon dating** done on organic material retrieved from archeological excavations in **Sivakalai, Thoothukudi district**.

- **Carbon Dating:** The determination of the age or date of organic matter from the relative proportions of the carbon isotopes carbon-12 and carbon-14 that it contains.



### Key Points

- **Thamirabarani River:**
  - The **shortest river in the state (Tamil Nadu)**, the Thamirabarani starts in **Pothigai**

**hills of the [Western Ghats](#) in the **Ambasamudram taluk**, flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and **empties at Korkai** (Tirunelveli district) **into the [Gulf of Mannar](#)** (Bay of Bengal).**

▪ **Significance of the Findings:**

- It could **lead to evidence** that there was a **city civilisation (Porunai River (Thamirabarani) civilization) in south India as long back as 3,200 years ago**, the later part of the [Indus Valley Civilisation](#).
- Also, **archaeological excavations** would be carried out **in other States and countries in search of Tamil roots**.
  - In the first phase, studies would be undertaken at the [ancient port of Muziris, now known as Pattanam, in Kerala](#), to establish the ancientness and culture of the **Chera empire**.
  - Research would be conducted at **Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke in Egypt**, which were once part of the Roman empire, as well as in **Khor Rori in Oman**, to establish the Tamils' trade relations with these countries. Potsherds bearing Tamil scripts have been found in these countries.
  - Studies would also be conducted in Southeast Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, where **King Rajendra Chola had established supremacy**.
    - The three ruling houses of Tamil India, the **Pandys, Cheras, and Cholas**, fought for supremacy of southern India and Sri Lanka. These dynasties promoted early literature on the Indian subcontinent and built important Hindu temples.
    - [Sangam literature](#), which was written over a period of six centuries (3<sup>rd</sup> BCE - 3<sup>rd</sup> CE) contains references to various Chola, Chera and Pandya kings.

▪ **Other Recent Findings:**

- A silver punch marked coin was recently **excavated from Keezhadi** (Tamil Nadu) which bore the symbols of the sun, the moon, the taurine and other geometrical patterns.
  - Studies on this found the **coin to date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC**, which is before the time of the **ancient Maurya empire** (321-185 B.C.E).
- Archaeological excavations are **being done at numerous places** such as Kodumanal, Keeladi, Korkai, Sivakalai, in Tamil Nadu.
  - As per the carbon dating of artefacts, the [Keeladi civilisation](#) **dates back to 6<sup>th</sup> century BC**.

[Source: TH](#)

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