

Thamirabarani civilisation in Tamil Nadu

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In news- Recently, an excavation by archaeologists showed that the Thamirabarani River (Porunai) civilization dates back to 3,200 years.

Key findings-

- A carbon dating analysis of rice with soil, found in a burial urn at Sivakalai in **Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu**, by the Miami-based Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory has yielded the **date of 1155 BC**.
- It has indicated that the Thamirabarani civilization dates back to 3,200 years.
- It is found that the Thamirabarani civilization is **older than the Vaigai civilization** which is believed to be 2,600 years old.
- It is 600 years **older than the samples found in Keeladi in Sivaganga district** where ongoing excavation has been throwing up exciting findings.

Plan for excavations by the state government in other sites-

- To establish the ancientness of Chera country and culture, the state government will conduct excavations at Chera era port city Musiri (now Pattanam) in Kerala.
- The studies will be conducted at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Talakadu in Karnataka and Palur in Odisha and in Keeladi.
- The state archaeological department would conduct research in Quseir al-Qadim in Egypt, which was once part of the Roman empire as well as in Khor Rori in Oman, to establish Tamils' trade relations with these countries.
- The government would also conduct similar studies in

south east Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam (conquered by Tamil king Rajendra Chola).

Thamirabarani river-

- The shortest river in the state of Tamil Nadu, the **Thamirabarani starts in Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats** in the Ambasamudram taluk.
- It flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and empties at Korkai (Tirunelveli district) into the Gulf of Mannar (Bay of Bengal).
- It was **called the Tamraparni River in the pre-classical period**, a name it lent to the island of Sri Lanka.
- The old Tamil name of the river is **Porunai**.

It is about 128 kilometres (80 mi) long & is the **only perennial river in Tamil Nadu**.