



Kerala Archaeology : Vision 2031-  
**Kerala Tourism and Heritage  
Management and Education: World  
Heritage Status for The Triad of Edakkal  
Cave, Teyyam and Early Sangam Poems**

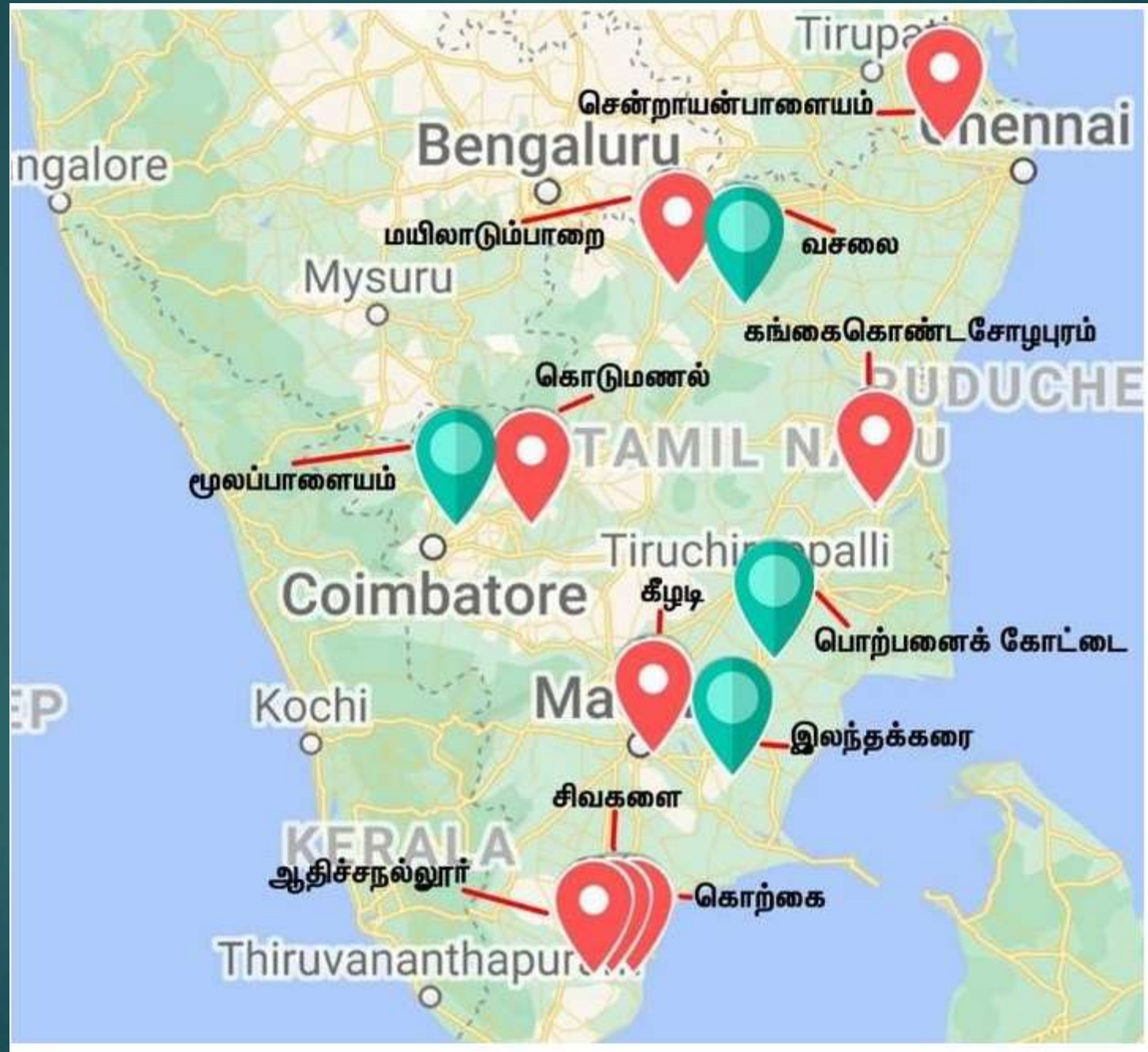
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# Heritage Hotspots and Telling Finds



## KODUMANAL

Finds include a sword that can be approached from two directions, as well as inscribed potsherds, beads and tumulus.



## MAYILADUMPARAI

Three-legged pots discovered in the excavation. Findings suggest the inhabitants had begun agricultural activities as early as 4,000 years ago.



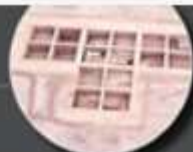
## ADICHANALLUR

A red-ware urn with a lid recovered at the site. In recent excavations carried out between 2019 and 2022, a habitation area was studied. Some 841 objects, artefacts and numerous examples of pottery have been found. Potsherds inscribed with writing in the Tamil script and more than 300 potsherds with graffit markers have been found here. Recoveries include copper and iron rings, gamesmen, ivory beads, rare and precious gemstones, glass and terracotta bangles and terracotta drainage pipes.



## SIVAGALAI

The urn burial site has been dated to around 1156 BCE. Considerable number of tools blades (as shown above) have been found here.



## DANGAIKONDACHOLAPURAM

A huge brick structure found here was probably part of the palace of Rajendra Chola I. He is well known in legends for sea expeditions to conquer several southeast Asian countries.



## KEELADI

Finds include huge brick structures, burial urns and offering pots (above). Dark inscribed potsherds, semi-precious stones, silver punch-marked coins and northern black polished ware of the Gangetic Valley. A silver coin found recently, adorned with symbols of the Sun, the Moon, the Taurus constellation and a few geometrical designs, has been dated to before the 4th century CE.



## KORKAI

High-quality recovered from the site. Northern black polished ware older than 5th century BCE has also been found here. This site may have served as an important port even before the 5th century BCE. There is ample evidence for a flourishing conch-shell bangle-making industry at the site.



# 7 இடங்களில் அகழாய்வுகள்

- முதலமைச்சர் அறிவிப்பு



தமிழ்நாட்டில் 7 இடங்களில் அகழாய்வுப் பணிகள், பிப்ரவரி முதல் வாரத்தில் தொடங்கி செப்டம்பர் இறுதி வரை நடைபெறவுள்ளது.

1. கீழடி மற்றும் அதனைச் சுற்றியுள்ள இடங்கள் (கொந்தகை, அகரம், மணலூர்), சிவகங்கை மாவட்டம் - எட்டாம் கட்டம்
2. சிவகலை, தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டம் - மூன்றாம் கட்டம்
3. கங்கைகொண்ட சோழபுரம், அரியலூர் மாவட்டம் - கிரண்டாம் கட்டம்
4. மயிலாடும்பாளையம், கீரத்தூர் மாவட்டம் - கிரண்டாம் கட்டம்
5. வெம்பக்கோட்டை, கீரத்தூர் மாவட்டம் - முதல் கட்டம்
6. துணைக்காப்படி, கீரத்தூர் மாவட்டம் - முதல் கட்டம்
7. பெரும்பாளையம், தர்மபுரி மாவட்டம் - முதல் கட்டம்



# Keeladi



# Archaeology Economic development and Education

- ▶ Archaeology and Local Development
- ▶ Preservation of Megalithic Burial Sites
- ▶ Development of Site Museums
- ▶ Community as custodians
- ▶ More large scale excavations of Archaeological Sites
- ▶ Maritime Heritage Museum at Kodungalur

# Edakkal-Teyyam/Komaram-Brahmi/Tamil Brahmi-Sangam Poems as world Heritage

- ▶ World Heritage Convention of UNESCO
- ▶ No World Heritage Site in Kerala
- ▶ Tangible and Intangible Heritage Link
- ▶ Triangulation of 1) Edakkal Engravings Tangible Heritage
- ▶ 2) Teyyam/Komaram – Intangible Heritage
- ▶ 3) Sangam Tamil texts –Memory of the World Register 4) natural heritage
- ▶ **1972 World Heritage Convention which provides the basis for protecting outstanding cultural and natural sites;**
- ▶ **2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which foregrounds oral traditions, knowledge systems, and ritual practices**
- ▶ **2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, which safeguards submerged archaeological remains of ships, ports, and trade networks;**
- ▶ **UNESCO Programs and Initiatives such as Memory of the World Program**











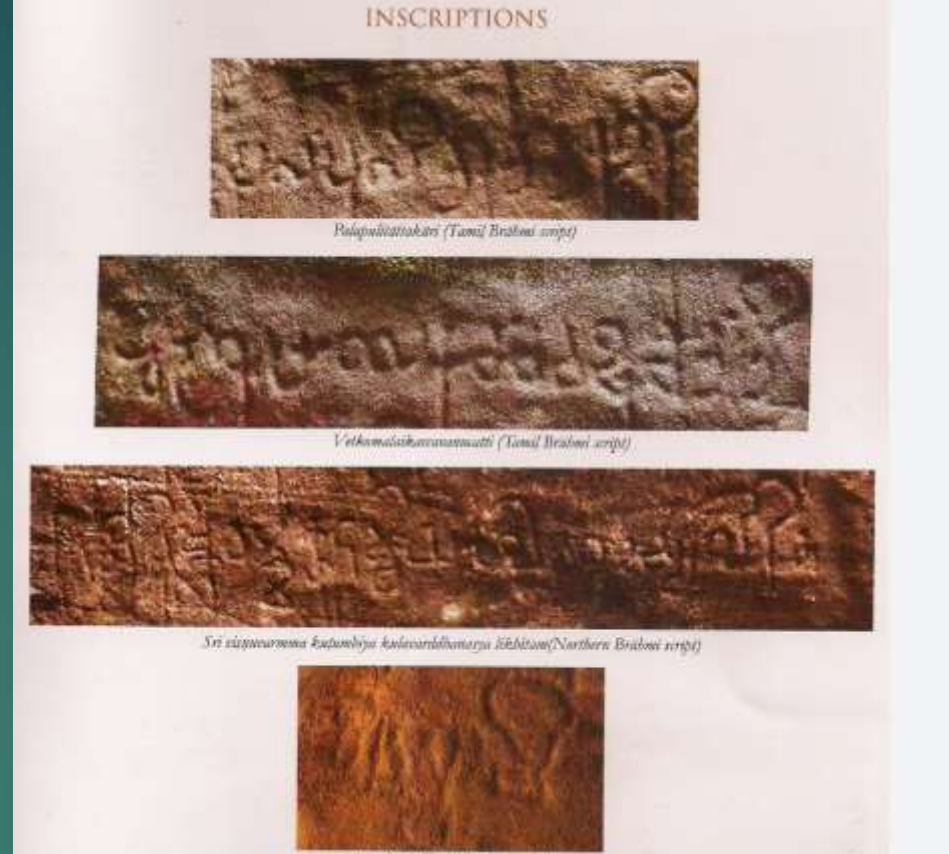




# Sangam literature: Velan Veriyatal

- ▶ Many poems
- ▶ An interesting parallel for such images occur in the *Velan Veriyadal* of the early historic period occurring in the early Tamil texts. *Purananuru* 292: 3 mentions that Velan performs possessed dance and wants the sacrifice of young, tender goat; he dances with garlands on his neck.

# Brahmi/Tamil Brahmi and later Scripts



# 2031 vision

- ▶ Target oriented Plan for Kerala Archaeology
- ▶ Excavation of two archaeological Sites every Year
- ▶ Institute of Archaeology, Museum and Archives
- ▶ Collaboration with State Agencies : Universities, Colleges, KCHR, CHS
- ▶ Offering Financial Support for Survey and Research
- ▶ Offering Doctoral and Post Doctoral Fellowships
- ▶ Creation of Excavation sites for Five Years in Kerala
- ▶ Research on Local history
- ▶ Research on Prehistory
- ▶ Research on Historical Period
- ▶ Creation of Archaeological Team

# 2031 Vision

- ▶ Training Programmes on Archaeology and Sciences
- ▶ Salvage Excavation Team : Development and Destruction of Archaeological sites
- ▶ Creation of Site Museums
- ▶ Modernizing Museums
- ▶ Digitization
- ▶ Museum Public and Student Outreach activities: Workshops
- ▶ Integrate Archaeology in History in the colleges and Universities (Interdisciplinary –Archaeoanthropohistory”
- ▶ Annual Conferences and workshops
- ▶ Workshops for School and College Teachers on Kerala History
- ▶ Public Archaeology and the public interest “History of India should begin in Tamiraparani river valley”



# Proposed work of capacity building

- ▶ Scientific analysis : training
- ▶ Retraining
- ▶ Internship