News1:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-102598930,imgsize-471206,width-400,resizemode-4/102598930.jpg>

Rare Tamil Brahmi script found on potsherd near Oragadam

CHENNAI: A potsherd with a Tamil Brahmi script, ‘Mththi’, in three letters, considered a rare finding, was found in the Vadakkupattu archaeological site, near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district where excavation has been taken up for the second consecutive year by the Archeological Survey of India. ASI superintending archaeologist M Kalimuthu, heading the excavation team, said 42 potsherds with Tamil Brahmi scripts on them had been discovered in Tamil Nadu so far from the various archaeological excavation sites.

News2:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-102576564,imgsize-689364,width-400,resizemode-4/102576564.jpg>

Snake figurine, crystal stone found in Keeladi

CHENNAI: A fragmented terracotta snake figurine and a crystal stone, which is polished and glittering, were discovered in Keeladi, where the ninth phase of excavation is being undertaken by the Tamil Nadu state archaeological department. Archaeological department officials found the fragmented snake head when they were sorting out pottery pieces which were unearthed from a depth of 90cm. The eyes and mouth of the snake are intricately carved. It measures 6.5cm in length, 5.4cm in width and 1.5cm thickness.

News3:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-101352241,imgsize-1101034,width-400,resizemode-4/101352241.jpg>

Terracotta seal, Chinese ware unearthed in Tamil Nadu's Ariyalur district

TRICHY: A terracotta seal, a coin mould and fragments of Chinese are three notable archaeological findings made by the state archaeology department in the third phase of archaeological excavation underway at the Maaligaimedu archaeological site near Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district Officials say the discoveries shed light on the trade links between the Cholas and China.

The terracotta seal found at the site is particularly noteworthy as it is the first-of-its-kind discovered there. This site is known for its Chola-era palaces, including that of emperor Rajendra Chola. Excavations are being conducted in two areas within Maaligaimedu, with a total of 18 quadrants created in 10 trenches to facilitate the study. According to state archaeology department officials, the fragment of a coin mould suggests its use in coin casting while the terracotta seal likely served as an administrative imprint in ancient times. A coin mould was previously discovered at the same site during an excavation in the 1980s, along with Chinese ceramics.

News4:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-98687457,imgsize-105426,width-400,resizemode-4/98687457.jpg>

Archaeological experts discover rock scribbles near Vazhapadi in Tamil Nadu's Salem district

SALEM: A team of archaeological experts and enthusiasts from Salem district recently discovered rock scribbles believed to be at least 300-years-old at Pungamaduvu village near Vazhapadi in Salem district. They said that the scribble looked like an alien. A team from Salem Historical Research Centre-led by Aragalur Pon Venkatesan, Vazhapadi Periyar Mannan, C Ponnammbalam and S Jeeva Narayanan went to Pungamaduvu village in the first week of March, this year for research.

News5:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-97791230,imgsize-1420378,width-400,resizemode-4/97791230.jpg>

How hill cave hunt led researchers to ancient inscriptions

COIMBATORE: It was while inspecting a cave in Thiruparankundram hillock in Madurai – known for its rock-cut temples dating to the Pandya era — that archaeological researcher V Balamurali stumbled upon ancient inscriptions that could be the oldest of its kind to be found here. “I have validated the findings with a retired archaeology officer and a senior epigraphist,” says Balamurali.

News6:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-94407243,imgsize-1052170,width-400,resizemode-4/94407243.jpg>

Tamil Nadu: Third phase of excavation at Sivagalai to end next week

CHENNAI: Curtains will come down on the third phase of excavations at Sivagalai in Tuticorin district next week. More than 700 artefacts have been discovered at site, which has thrown light on an ancient civilization that thrived here more than 3200 years ago. It was a demand made by a local history teacher, who discovered ancient artefacts in a 2000 acre mound in Sivagalai, following which the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, took up excavation at this site.

News7:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-94407243,imgsize-1052170,width-400,resizemode-4/94407243.jpg>

Tamil Nadu: Third phase of excavation at Sivagalai to end next week

CHENNAI: Curtains will come down on the third phase of excavations at Sivagalai in Tuticorin district next week. More than 700 artefacts have been discovered at site, which has thrown light on an ancient civilization that thrived here more than 3200 years ago. It was a demand made by a local history teacher, who discovered ancient artefacts in a 2000 acre mound in Sivagalai, following which the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, took up excavation at this site.

News8:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-99569317,imgsize-1077482,width-400,resizemode-4/99569317.jpg>

Craters on a hill tell neolithic tale of grain and game

How old do you think the traditional board game of ‘Pallankuzhi’ is? If this new discovery on a hillock is any indication, it could date as far back as the neolithic period, say archaeologists. Indications of the Mancala game were found on top of a hillock near Thirumangalam in Madurai. “There were 18 pits arranged in three rows of six per row, which is typical of the ancient board game,” says V Rajaguru, president of the Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Foundation, who was part of the discovery team.

News9:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-103626435,imgsize-50786,width-400,resizemode-4/103626435.jpg>

ASI to study less-known heritage temples in TN

CHENNAI: Which of these inspired Pallava kings to sculpt the rock temples of Mamallapuram -- Jain beds or the Pandya-era caves in today's south Tamil Nadu or Chalukya’s Badami? You may soon have the answer as researchers from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are planning to undertake a survey of less-known, historically important temples in Tamil Nadu to trace the evolution of the architecture there.

News 10:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-93339167,imgsize-565755,width-400,resizemode-4/93339167.jpg>

Coimbatore: Archaeological digs can shed light on Kongu culture, says expert

COIMBATORE: Archaeology enthusiasts have urged the state government to conduct a detailed survey to throw light on the megalithic civilization that existed in the villages in Thadagam valley. A large quantity of potsherds, which are more than 2,000 years old, are found in the villages, said S Ravi, professor and head of Tamil department of the Central University of Tamil Nadu. A group of researchers led by Ravi inspected Solaiyur panchayat in Palakkad district of Kerala, located close to Tamil Nadu border on Sunday. “We collected hundreds of potsherds in no time. They are russet coated painted wares, which are found across the Kongu region. Archaeologists of the Kerala government who inspected the site have confirmed that the remnants found there date from megalithic age and are more than 2,000 years old,” he said.

News 11:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/imgsize-123456,msid-93972203,width-300,resizemode-4/93972203.jpg>

TN state archaeology dept starts searches in sea for ancient port city Korkai

MADURAI: The state archaeology department with the support of National Institute of Ocean Technology and Indian Maritime University will take out a reconnaissance mission for the ancient port city Korkai off Tuticorin coast. Ministers Geetha Jeevan, Anitha Radhakrishnan and Thangam Thennarasu flagged off NIOT’s maritime research vessel Sagar Tara from Tuticorin port on Saturday. Equipped with multibeam echo sound, sub-bottom profiler and side-scan sonars, Sagar Tara will study the ocean floor. The ship will be operating 3 to 10 kilometers off the shore to Tiruchendur coast for the next seven days. Korkai was the port city of early Pandyas situated on the banks of the river Thamirabarani near the Bay of Bengal. Trade with Ganges Valley civilization as well as ancient Roman civilization flourished in the Panday’s port city.

News12:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-102175045,imgsize-1631073,width-400,resizemode-4/102175045.jpg>

Remains of Pandya era temple found near Tenkasi

CHENNAI: The remains of a temple, which was completely destroyed in spite of being reconstructed in the 13th century AD, and a 35-line stone inscription pertaining to the period of Pandya king Sundarapandian have been found near Sankarankoil in Tenkasi. Archaeological researcher V Narayanamoorthy said that it was not known why the Kunamaalai Eswaramudaiya Nayanar temple near Paaraipatti did not exist today though the stone inscription spoke of it being restored. The stone inscription found near the temple was inscribed in the fourth year of the Pandya King Maravarman Sundarapandian II. As the temple had been destroyed, land was donated to reconstruct the entrance of the temple. The boundaries of land were also been marked. The names of the people who donated the land and the tax exemptions for the same were given in detail on the stone inscription. The stone was signed by some people, including Umayan and Moovendervelan.

News13:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-100926069,imgsize-19562,width-400,resizemode-4/100926069.jpg>

Weapon made of dolostone found in Dharmapuri dist

Dharmapuri: The Tamil Nadu state department of archaeology on Saturday discovered a stone weapon at Poothindham village in Dharmapuri district. The department director R Sivanandham told TOI that the weapon belonged to the new stone age and was made of dolostone. The weapon is 22cm long while its maximum breadth measures 7.74cm, the minimum measures 1.7cm. Its maximum thickness is 4.7cm and the minimum is 3.2cm. Sivanandham said, “The stone weapon could have been used to plough the land or used as an axe to attack animals.” The stone was discovered during an excavation by the department at Poothindham village near Pennagaram. Officials discovered the weapon from the C9 pit, situated on the eastern side of the main excavation point, at a depth of 36cm. Officials have sent the weapon to Chennai.

News14:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-84852319,imgsize-242505,width-400,resizemode-4/84852319.jpg>

Silver coin found at Keeladi archaeological site

MADURAI: A punch-marked silver coin has been found at Keeladi archaeological site in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu. The coin has the figures of the sun, the moon, a bull and a dog on one (front) side and a half circle and a sign -- which looks like the Tamil letter ``Ta’’ – on the other (rear) side. It weighs 2.20 gram. Minister for industries, Tamil development and archaeology Thangam Thennarasu has said that this coin show that the inhabitants of Keeladi were a trading communityThis coin may be proof of the trading that the people of Keeladi had with the north Indian communities, the minister said. “The design of the coin has made the archaeologists believe that the Keeladi civilization preceded the time of the Maurya empire,” the minister said.

News15:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-101585790,imgsize-711096,width-400,resizemode-4/101585790.jpg>

Tamil Nadu iron age finds dated to Indus Valley period

CHENNAI: An iron age civilisation existed in Tamil Nadu parallel to the Indus Valley civilisation, new evidence shows. Recent dating has established that objects excavated from Sivakalai in Tuticorin district are from 2,500 BCE to 3,000 BCE. Indus Valley civilisation lasted from 3,300 BCE to 1,300 BCE. A previous dating of samples from Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district showed them to be from 2,172 BCE. "Multiple labs including Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleo Sciences, Lucknow, and Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, have yielded the same dates between 2,500 BCE and 3,000 BCE, which points to a contemporary civilisation of Indus Valley in Tamil Nadu," said professor K Rajan, senior academic and research adviser to Tamil Nadu state archaeology department while presenting the paper on recent archaeological investigations and their impact on Tamil culture at the 11th World Tamil Research Conference on Friday.

News16:

<https://static.toiimg.com/thumb/msid-86357983,imgsize-52224,width-400,resizemode-4/86357983.jpg>

Tamil Nadu: Archaeology department to set up museum in Chengalpet

CHENNAI: Chengalpet will have a museum of its own at the district headquarters, 60km south of Chennai, showcasing discoveries from the region such as a few bronze idols now with the government museum at Egmore. This is as part of an initiative to have a museum in every district. Chengalpet was carved out of Kancheepuram in 2019 and the archaeology department will set up the museum. Among the exhibits would be artefacts from Alamparai Fort off the East Coast Road, about 100km south of Chennai. British-era porcelain ware now kept at the archaeology department’s headquarters in Chennai would also be put on display.