



EXCAVATION AT KEELADI, TIRUPPUVANAM TALUK SIVAGANGA DT (T.N)

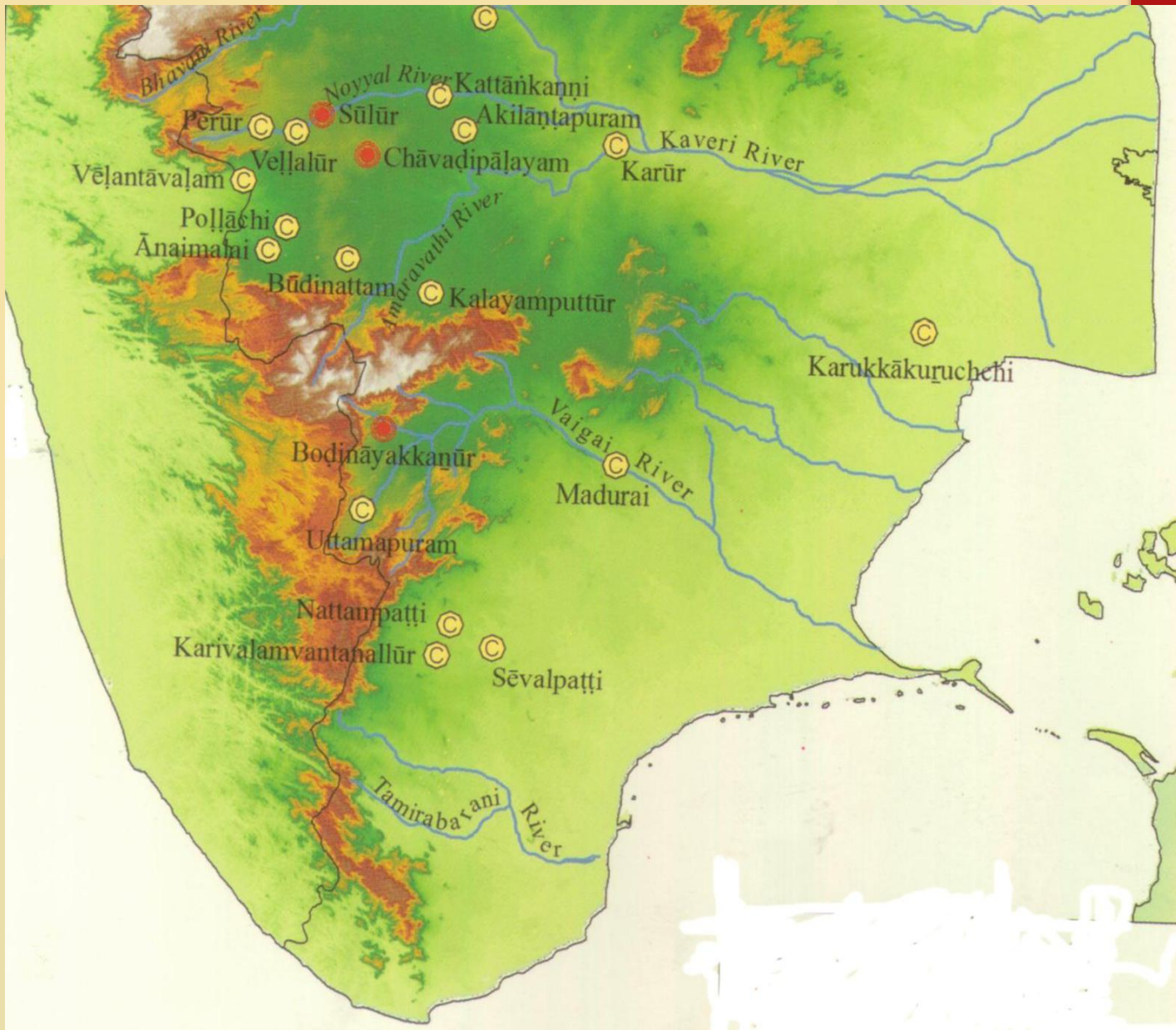
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AIMS & OBJECTIVES

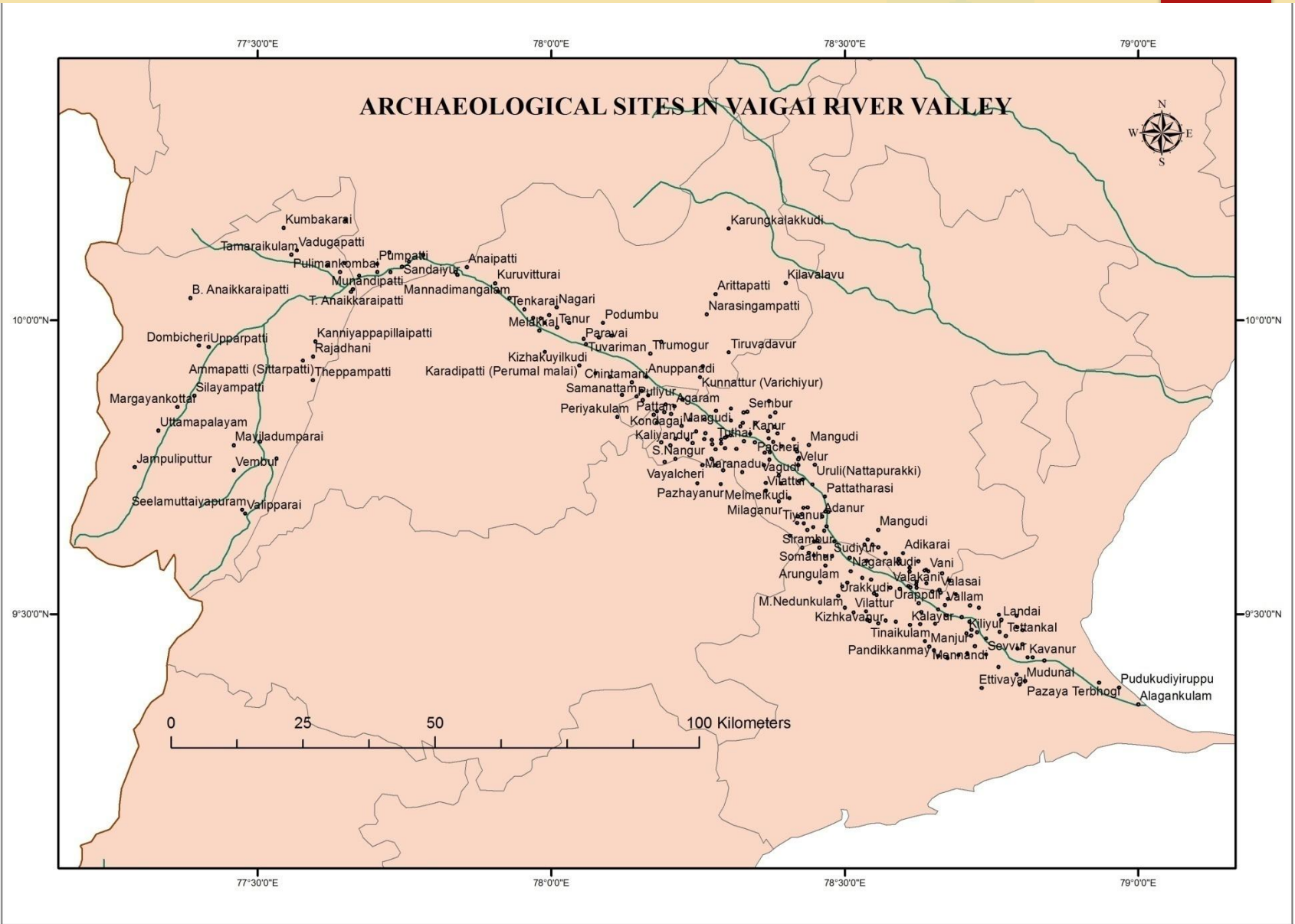
- Archaeological Survey of India after a long gap (1965) carried out detailed exploration / large scale excavation work in Tamil Nadu particularly in Vaigai river valley
- No systematic and large scale excavation has been conducted in the Vaigai river valley except few limited diggings like **Paravai, Anuppanadi (1888), T. Kallupatti (1976), Kovalan Pottal (1980), Alagankulam (1986) & Mangulam (Meenatchipuram) 2006**
- Sporadic explorations were conducted by Prof. K.V. Raman in and around Madurai (1970).
- Prof. K. Rajan explored Vaigai river valley more particularly in its upper reaches (2005).
- Besides, no major scientific exploration / excavation has been conducted in Vaigai river valley and more particularly within **Madurai city** and its environs to ascertain its antiquity.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- To fulfill the gap, the Archaeological Survey of India, Excavation Branch – VI, Bangalore has conducted detailed Exploration in the year 2013-14 in the Vaigai river valley comprising **Teni**, part of **Dindigul**, **Madurai**, **Sivaganga** and **Ramanathapuram** districts.
- It originates near Vellimalai in the Western Ghats and traverse through the above districts before debouching itself into the Bay of Bengal near the historic port city of Alagankulam (Attangkarai)
- About **293** were identified with various forms of antiquarian remains and documented till date.
- About **170** sites have been newly discovered comprising both the **habitation**, **burial sites**, and other form of antiquarian remains like **loose sculptures**, **inscriptions**, **hero-stones** and **ruined temples**, etc.



► **General view of the Vaigai river valley**



Archaeological Sites in Vaigai River Valley

Important Sites Identified During the Survey

- Dombicheri
- Sandaiyur
- Sittarnattam
- Tenur
- Keeladi
- Kaliyandur
- Enadi
- Allinagaram
- Tirupachetti
- Tuthai
- Maranadu
- Pacheri
- Vembattur
- Vagudi
- Rajagambiram
- Kattikulam
- Kalligudi
- Kallikottai
- Pandikanmay
- Arasanagari
- Valasai
- Landai

Important Sites Identified During the Survey



▶ **Keeladi – A view of the mound**

Important Sites Identified During the Survey



Allinagaram Habitation Site

Important Sites Identified During the Survey



Maranadu Habitation Site with Buddha Image

Important Sites Identified During the Survey



Rajagambiram Habitation Site

Important Sites Identified During the Survey



Pandikanmay Habitation Site



Alagapuri urn burial

Vembur stone alignment





Idayarkudiruppu urn burial

Tamil Heritage Foundation



**Uruli urn burial site with
Menhirs**

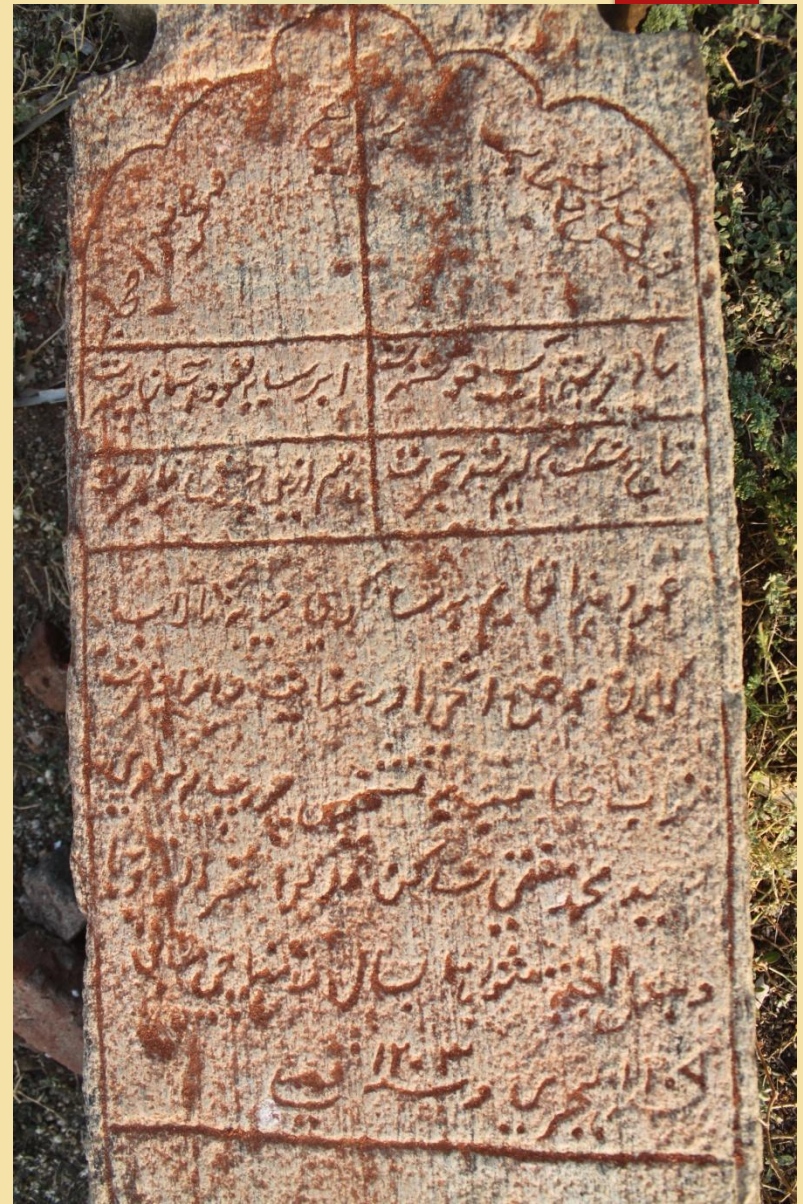


Tenur Tamil-Brahmi Inscribed Gold Bars



Kamudakudi Vattelettu Inscription

Tamil Heritage Foundation



Ananjiyur Arabic Sluice Inscription



Tutai Herostone (9th – 10th CE)

Tamil Heritage Foundation



Tutai Sculpture (early Pandya)



Arungulam Jain Tirthankara
Tamil Heritage Foundation



Kizhpartibanur Buddha sculpture



K. Puliangulam Herostone (16th – 17th CE)
Tamil Heritage Foundation



Avarangadu Herostone (16th – 17th CE)



Karungalikkudi Siva Temple (12th – 13th CE)



Kallikkottai Siva Temple (12th – 13th CE)



Kallikkottai Choultry (16th – 17th CE)



Thank You

End of Part-I

Continue reading Part-II