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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### THIRUTHANGAL – AN ADOBE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

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#### Abstract

According to evidence dating from the microlithic era to the 13th century, Thiruthangal was one of the most significant and prosperous settlements in Tamilagam's history. The social rank and way of life of the inhabitants in Thiruthangal were highly enhanced, according to the archaeological evidence and inscriptions. Overall, Tamil Nadu, an Indian state, has Virudhunagar as one of its top tourist destinations. It is not just a significant historical location.

#### Introduction

Thiruthangal, which is near to Sivakasi from Virudhunagar and has a large number of microlithic tools and black and red ware pottery, is located at Latitude: 9.4807463, Longitude: 77.8081363. Geographically, Thiruthangal looks to have a plain landscape. The main drainage source for it is the river "Arjuna," which drains into a tributary of Vaippar. The black and red surface dirt that is present throughout the whole sea will be visible to anybody passing this neighborhood. One of Tamilagam's most well-known learning centers was born in this town.

#### Name Reason

Parasaran, a Vedic scholar who was making his way after collecting his award issued by the Chera Emperor reached Thangal which was later named as Thiruthangal.

#### Background of Thiruthangal Village

In numerous ditches of Thiruthangal village, microlithic implements were discovered. There were several famous poets from this region throughout the Sangam era. This settlement is located along a bygone route that connected Thiruthangal village in Chera with the Pandyas region (Madurai, the Pandyas capital), according to historians. Due to its depiction in the Silapadhikaram as the resting place of Parasaran, a learned Brahmin who was returning from the Chera Nadu, Thiruthangal was undoubtedly a well-connected town during the time of Buddhism. Historical Prime

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Minister Jawaharlal Nehru called "Kutti Japan" which means "Small Japan". It also has Granite quarries namely Standard Granites and PRP Granites.

### ***Microlithic Tools***

In a trench, there were microlithic tools, flakes, and cores. These basic minerals were found in the trenches together with chert, quartz, and jasper. By the methods that small rocks were utilized for household purposes, the microlithic tools are categorized. The majority of man's livelihood at the period was derived from fishing, and he preferred to live near riverbanks. The inhabitants also participated in other types of activity including farming and hunting. Rocks rich in minerals were used as the primary raw material for the production of tools as far back as the antiquity discovered at the microlithic sites.

In and around Sawyer Puram, which is now the Tuticorin district, Tamil Nadu has a large number of microlithic sites. An excellent example of defining microlithic civilization based on artifacts discovered is the excavation of the Thiruthangal hamlet. The objects found are datable to megalithic period (1000 BCE to 300 CE).

The findings at the Thiruthangal excavation site have been discovered in various stages of manufacture, namely;

- Probably an arrow point, chert
- Microlithic flake, chert
- Microlithic tool, probably a blade, chert
- Microlithic flake, quartz
- Core material, jasper

### ***Societal Sequence***

Two stratigraphic strata have been clearly shown by the excavation. The second layer, which was brownish in colour, included pottery dated to period I (microlithic period), whereas the top layer produced black and red pottery dated to period II, which is the megalithic period. Various small artifacts, including beads, iron pieces, bangles, dupakalagam, terracotta objects, grooved tiles, etc., were discovered.

### ***Archaeological Evidences***

During the study of this town, archaeological artifacts including microlithic cores, flakes, decorative shell bangle pieces, black and red pottery, black polished pottery, and russet coated pottery were discovered. In 1994 and 1995, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology explored this location with the aid of exploration. Additionally, Sangam era pottery and microlithic tools were discovered.

### ***Pottery***

The excavation has yielded various types of potteries namely;

- Black and red ware
- Black ware
- Red slipped ware
- Coarse red ware

### ***Black and Red Ware***

In the village of Thiruthangal, only fragments of black-and-red pottery have been discovered; the majority of these fragments are in the form of bowls and dishes, but one complete black-and-red pot has also been discovered.

### ***Black Ware***

This pottery has a black colour on both the inside and the outside that was revealed to be connected to black and red clay. These sherds were collected in large numbers. Distinctive forms and sizes may be seen in the plates, bowls, jars, and small-mouth pots.

### ***Coarse Red Ware***

It is just improper to compare it to the red slid and black and red ware. It is a ceramic object that is dull red and formed of sand and unclean clay. It has an unevenly burnt, rough surface. Dishes, small-mouth pots, and storage jars are the most common forms in the collections.

### ***Red Slipped Ware***

The excavation turned up a limited quantity of red slipped pottery sherds from small and large-mouth pots. The most common ceramic shapes among the

samples discovered during this examination were dishes and small-mouth pots.

## **Minor Antiquities**

### ***Beads & Iron Pieces***

Beads, iron parts, and pieces from broken bangles were among the little antiques gathered. At a 48 cm depth, a glass bead was discovered. It has a truncated edge, is blue in colour, and has a bi-hexagonal form. the bead's 1.5-centimetre length. Only one iron object possibly a bit of a tiny knife has been discovered in this dig. Quite rusted, that point.

### ***Bangle***

In the Thiruthangal dig, three pieces of glass jewellery and a shell bracelet were found. The glass bangle pieces are black in colour and have thin, decorative grooved lines on them.

### ***Miscellaneous***

Other antiquities are included under miscellaneous objects like grooved tiles, dupakalasangam and a unique terracotta material.

### **Dupakalasangam**

A terracotta object which may be identified as dupakalasangam (incense burner).it appears to be like a dish fastened to a stand. The total height of this object is 14.5 cm. the rim of the dish portion is moderately thick. The inner diameter and the depth are 14.5 cm and 4 cm respectively.

### ***Terracotta Object***

A unique coarse red rectangular terracotta object was unearthed at 34 cm depth. The length, breadth, and height of the object are 3.5, 3.5, and 4 cm. the upper surface of the object with a slight engraving of lines resembles Srivatsangam.

### ***Grooved Tile***

Few pieces of grooved tile of coarse red variety found with a hole, probably for nail insertion were unearthed.

## ***Economy of Thiruthangal***

People in the Chera and Pandya kingdoms had a very successful economic situation since they could afford to donate a lot of money to the temples and buy livestock, land, and wells. This demonstrates both their adherence to their culture and level of independence. Literature from the Sangam period mentions that, in addition to charitable contributions, their economy was booming and growing. Trade balances, exports, imports, hunting, and draining out were just a few of the many economic activities that the people of the Sangam era engaged in. The residents of Thiruthangal practiced horticulture when it came to farming, growing crops like onion, tomato, chillies, and coriander as well as fruits and vegetables like mango, banana, guava, and jackfruit.

## **Conclusion**

According to evidence dating from the microlithic era to the 13th century, Thiruthangal was one of the most significant and prosperous settlements in Tamilangam's history. The social rank and way of life of the inhabitants in Thiruthangal were highly enhanced, according to the archaeological evidence and inscriptions. Overall, Tamil Nadu, an Indian state, has Virudhunagar as one of its top tourist destinations. It is not just a significant historical location.

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