

Digital mapping of the ancient port city of Kaverippumpattinam and its trade routes

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Kaverippumpattinam is one of the celebrated ports of ancient India and was active around the early centuries of the Common Era. According to the texts, the port was destroyed by marine incursions. The cultural activities of the port that were connected with the regions of the Indian Ocean, Buddhism and the activities of the early historic Cholas (the Chozhas) have been documented in the early Tamil texts of *Pattinappalai* and other Sangam Tamil compositions, and the early medieval texts of *Cilappatikaram* and *Manimekalai*. Archaeological surveys, excavations and underwater explorations have exposed some of the vestiges of the ancient city. We explored the region and studied the textual and archaeological sources of the ancient city of Kaverippumpattinam and the associated landscapes and trade routes, and have mapped them using geospatial technology. The present article presents the results of the study (part of PUHAR-ETAR project) that sought to map the city and its links.

associated with the Buddhist landscape stretching from eastern India to Sri Lanka through Andhra Desa. In this research paper, we present our attempts at digital mapping of the archaeological remains associated with the ancient city of Kaverippumpattinam and the trade routes based on archaeological and literary sources, using geo-spatial technology.

Archaeological data serves as the main source of information for the prehistoric period, whereas for the historical period, it offers complementary and corroborative sets of data to the textual sources and ethnographic and oral-tradition datasets.

The Lower Kaveri Valley

The Lower Kaveri Valley is a fertile deltaic region in Tamil Nadu. The River Kaveri rises in the Coorg (Kodagu) region of Karnataka and flows through Salem, Erode and Karur districts of Tamil Nadu and the delta formation is noticed from Tiruccirappalli district towards the east. The Kaveri river has many distributaries in the Lower Kaveri Valley, and the river and land resources were efficiently utilised by the Cholas of the early his-

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