Chola-Era Nataraja and Sivakami Bronzes Unearthed in Nagapattinam

The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology unearthed Chola-period bronze alloy idols of Lord Nataraja and Goddess Sivagami during excavations in Nagapattinam.

An archaeological discovery of 12th-century Chola bronze sculptures providing vital insights into medieval metal craft and religious iconography in Tamil Nadu.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** discovered bronze alloy idols of Lord Nataraja and Goddess Sivagami in **Nagapattinam**.
- The artifacts were unearthed at a depth of **one metre** along with their respective pedestals during ongoing excavation work.
- These metal sculptures belong to the imperial **Chola period** and date back to the **12th century**.
- The discovery provides crucial archaeological evidence regarding the religious practices and history of metal sculpture in **Nagapattinam**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Nataraja bronze sculptures cast during the **Chola period** typically feature **four hands** representing cosmic energy and divine dance.

The cire perdue or **lost-wax casting technique** was masterfully employed by **Chola artisans** to create intricate bronze alloy deities.

Nagapattinam served as a prominent Buddhist and maritime trade centre during the **Chola dynasty**.

The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** (TNSDA) was established to preserve and protect the historical monuments and archaeological sites in the state.

Bronze casting in South India reached its zenith under the patronage of imperial Chola rulers such as **Rajaraja I** and **Rajendra I**.

Archaeological excavations at **Tamil Nadu** sites frequently unearth punch-marked coins, Roman pottery, and medieval bronzes linking local trade with global networks.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Chola-era bronze Nataraja and Sivakami idols were unearthed by TNSDA at a depth of one metre in Nagapattinam.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Unit 8 questions on Chola art, architecture, bronzes, and Tamil Nadu archaeological excavations.

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