

Keeladi Excavation Findings

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Keeladi Findings Latest News

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has stated that the report on the Keeladi excavations, submitted by archaeologist Amarnath Ramakrishna, is not yet “technically well-supported” and requires further scientific studies

About Keeladi Findings

- **Location:** Keeladi is a village in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu, situated along the Vaigai River, about 12 km southeast of Madurai.
- **Excavation History:** Excavations began in 2015, initially led by the ASI and later by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology after a period of administrative dispute.
- **Artefacts Unearthed:** Over 18,000 artefacts have been discovered, including pottery, inscribed potsherds, gold ornaments, copper articles, semi-precious stones, shell and ivory bangles, glass beads, spindle whorls, terracotta seals, and weaving tools.

- **Pottery and Inscriptions:** The site has yielded heaps of pottery and over 120 potsherds with Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, indicating the long survival of the script and literacy in the region.
- **Urban Settlement:** Findings suggest Keeladi was a well-planned urban settlement with evidence of industries such as pottery, weaving, dyeing, and bead-making.
- **Trade and Lifestyle:** Artefacts like agate and carnelian beads indicate trade networks, while items such as dice and hopscotch pieces reveal leisure activities.
- **Chronology:** The findings have pushed the Sangam Age in Tamil Nadu back to around 800 BCE, suggesting a much older and advanced civilization than previously thought.
- **Link to Other Civilisations:** Some symbols on Keeladi artefacts resemble those of the Indus Valley Civilization, though a cultural gap of about 1,000 years remains. Scholars hope further studies will clarify these connections.

Sangam Age

- The Sangam Age, often referred to as the Tamil Sangam period, marks an important chapter in South Indian history.
- Named after the assembly of Tamil poets and scholars known as the Sangam, this era witnessed a rich cultural and literary flourishing in the southern regions of India.
- It is broadly estimated to have spanned from around 300 BCE to 300 CE.

Keeladi Findings FAQs

Q1. What did they find in Keezhadi?

Ans: Ancient urban settlement remains, including pottery, ornaments, tools, and Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds.

Q2. What are the things found in Keezhadi?

Ans: Artefacts like pottery, gold and copper ornaments, beads, tools, figurines, coins, gamesmen, and inscribed potsherds.

Q3. What is the importance of the findings in Keezhadi?

Ans: They prove an advanced urban civilization with literacy, industry, and trade existed in Tamil Nadu during the Sangam age.

Q4. What names were found in Keezhadi?

Ans: Names in Tamil-Brahmi script, such as 'Sathan Esiri Kathiran Ilabu', were found inscribed on potsherds.

Source: TH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/keeladi-excavation/>

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