

Keeladi that Changes the History

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Abstract: The Keeladi archaeological excavation, a significant site in Tamil Nadu, India, is presented in detail historically in this study. The discovery's significance, historical significance, and effect on our comprehension of ancient Indian civilizations are all covered in this article. To understand the site's urban nature, well-designed streets, drainage systems, and residential structures, the research recounts the site's discovery in 2015 and following methodical excavations. The results disprove prior theories regarding the age and cultural sophistication of South Indian prehistoric communities and close the gap between literary texts and archaeological evidence. Additionally, the study covers the items, ceramics, and inscriptions discovered, offering insights into trade connections, social and cultural activities, urban design, and language growth throughout the Sangam era. Overall, the Keeladi excavation has been an important step in understanding Tamil Nadu's and India's pasts, adding to our knowledge of early Indian history and the interconnectedness of ancient civilizations. For the benefit of future generations, India's cultural heritage is being preserved and honoured via continuous research at Keeladi.

Keywords: *Keeladi, archaeological, excavation, Historical, significance, Cultural heritage.*

Introduction

Located on the south bank of the Vaigai River, about 20 km from Madurai, the historic village of Keeladi is located in the Sivagangai district. This is the largest excavation in Tamil Nadu. More than 40 pits have been dug here and the ancient remains of Tamil people have been found.

The history of a country is reconstructed only based on inscriptions, coins, and literature found there. It is no exaggeration to say that archaeological artefacts contribute greatly to the writing of history. In that way, the artefacts found in the underground excavations have answered various questions. The brick structures unearthed in the series of excavations from Keeladi were sent to leading laboratories

for archaeological scientific studies. The research results obtained from those laboratories have had a great impact on historians and the public.

Buildings are generally rare in excavations. But more than ten ancient buildings have been found in Keezhadi, more than those found in places like Arikamedu, Kaveriboompattinam, Vrayyur, Kanchipuram and Alaghankulam. For the first time, three types of drainage systems have been found in Keeladi. line canals, large tanks at its front, tank inlet and outlet systems, slightly larger furnaces along the canal course, circular wells at the beginning of the canal, closed drains, and open and flint pipe drains. Keeladi Underground excavations have completely changed the claim that there were no buildings in the ancient period. Also included are styluses, arrows, seals, casing wells, flint and pearl beads, ivory amulets and earrings, flint dolls, copper iron and bone weapons, merchant's weight stones, letters bearing North Indian Prakrit names, ancient names inscribed in ancient Tamil script (Disan, Chandan, Uthiran, Aathan, Madisi, Eravadan), beads made of black coral from Afghanistan and pottery from Romapuri have been found in the excavations of a rich Sangam period.

Likewise, an industry and countless technical tools have been discovered, starting with the weaving loom. Rare beads and ornaments like chalcedony, carnelian, and agate are found in Baluchistan. These accessories have come here through barter. While it has been argued that there is no evidence of an urban civilization for the Tamils, the underground excavations reveal the urban civilization of the Tamils.

Many eminent historians in India have defined the Palembang as an ethnic group society. The basis of their view is that there was no city civilization like the Indus Valley Civilization. Literary commentaries alone cannot be taken as historical sources. Hence, in the absence of sources beyond the literature, the understanding of Tamil civilization was lacking. But the data found below debunk that theory. They prove that urban civilization flourished in Tamil Nadu during the Sangam period.

We can understand its reliability because the six types of material found in the underground excavations were sent to the Beta Analytics laboratory in Florida, USA for accelerated mass spectrometry analysis, and the information was completed in the best possible way. One of the most important pieces of information in this regard is the ideological variable that has prevailed so far. The Sangam period is considered to be the golden age of Tamil Nadu's literature. Not only men but also many women poets lived in that period. Until now it was believed that the Sanga period began three centuries before the birth of Jesus. However excavations have confirmed that our civilization is much older than that. Based on available evidence, it seems certain that the Sangam period started six centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ!

This is a piece of information that has not yet been proven in any study and thus becomes more important. By this, it is confirmed that the Tamil community was literate before 2600 years ago and they were the best in knowledge. Kaldonri Mandonra Kaalate, Vikhakudi who came forward with a sword, Tamilkudi is not just a word. It has now been scientifically proven that it is compatible with consciousness and life.

Indus Valley and Keeladi

Indus Valley Civilization is the oldest civilization. Hence it is called the first urban civilization. Subsequently, it was discovered that there was a second city civilization in the Ganga plains. The period of the Second City Civilization was the sixth century BC. Parallel to that, no urban civilization has been discovered in Tamil Nadu so far. A city civilization was identified in Tamil Nadu during the

first Keezadi, the second city civilization period. So, there on the Ganges, during the Second City Civilization, here on the banks of the Vaigai, the Tamil civilization existed.

Another important piece of information found in the Keeladi survey is the close connection between the Indus Valley Civilization and the Keeladi Civilization. Similar to the Indus Valley taxonomy, about a thousand types of taxonomy have been found so far in the Keeladi. Most of these line patterns correspond to lines found in the Indus Valley Civilization.

Another important piece of information found in the Keezhadi study is that during that period, the Tamils had trade relations with the people living in the northern and northwestern parts of India. An even more interesting piece of information is that the ancient Tamils had trade relations even with places like Rome. Scientific evidence for this has also been found in this regard.

Beads made of agate and carnelian stones, which are widely found in present-day Maharashtra and Gujarat in northwestern India, have been found in Keeladi. An Aridian pot from Rome was found at the bottom of the shell. This type of pot was in circulation in Rome in the second century BC. So the Tamil people who lived in the lower reaches did not stop with agriculture and animal husbandry. They are certainly involved in business across the seas as well. These three important information are seen as the most important records not only in the history of Tamil Nadu but also in the history of the world.

The most notable of the animal evidence found at Keeladi is that of the horse. Archaeologically significant is the evidence of the domestication of horses by the people of the East Side. Not only in Tamil Nadu but also in South India, there is very little evidence of the domestication of horses at archaeological sites. (An archaeological excavation at Kottiprolu, an early prehistoric archaeological site in Andhra Pradesh, has recently yielded evidence of the presence of the horse.) Against this background, horses may have been imported from foreign countries, as mentioned in the Sangam-era literature- Pattinapalai.

In Keeladi, bones of rabbits and birds have also been found. But no fish bones were found. Freshwater cones are available. Snails may have been food then as of now. Overall, livestock plays a very important role in the economy of the Keeladi.

Farming is the industry that saves people's lives. There have been many messages related to bottom tillage. The animal bones found in the excavation were sent to the Deccan College in Pune for analysis and were identified as the bones of bull, cow, buffalo, goat, reindeer and wild boar. Most of these bones were found to belong to bulls, cows, buffalo and goats. Therefore, it can be known that Tamils raised these animals for ploughing and livestock. The Tamils may have used these animal bones for food as they have cut marks on deer, goats and pigs.

Weaving

Ancient Tamils gave importance to weaving after agriculture. Because clothing is what protects a man's dignity. Weaving is the industry of weaving clothes. A bone brush used for weaving yarns in tomato cloths, a bone brush used to draw patterns on a loom, and a copper needle, a bone needle, have been found in this study. Therefore, it can be known that the weaving industry excelled here in ancient times.

Business

Maritime trade was prominent in Tamil Nadu. The reason is that it has a long coastline. The east coast of Tamil Nadu is convenient for ships to come and go and anchor. Alagankulam port was located in

ancient times where the river Vaigai meets the sea. Conch bangles, glass bangles, pearl beads, textiles, pepper and perfumes were exported from Keeladi situated near the Vaigai River through Alagan Kulam port. Besides glass beads, agate and agate beads, agate and agate beads were also sent to Rome. Gold, liquor, perfumes and horses were imported from Rome. Roulette Aritan pottery was made here using Roman technology. The products produced in Keeladi were exported to Egypt, Rome, Southeast Asian countries, Sri Lanka and the Gulf countries through the Alagankulam port through the Vaigai River.

Agriculture

Bones of the bulls, cows, buffaloes, goats, etc. found in Keeladi habitations show that these animals were used for agriculture. Thus, it is assumed that the ancient Tamil society may have agriculture as the primary occupation and animal husbandry as a secondary occupation. Also, pots used for storing grains have been found.

Industry

Pottery is the main industry. As far as pots are concerned, they were used to store water and also for cooking. The potsherds were sent to the University of Pisa (Universita Di Pisa) in Italy for testing, and it was revealed that local soil was used and a unique pottery technique was used. And they have made pots fired at 1100 degrees Celsius using iron ore material Hematite (red colour reason) and charcoal (black colour reason) to make pots from black and red coloured potsherds. It has been revealed that such a technique has been used for 4 centuries (BCE 6th century – BCE 2nd century) in the Pisa University report. Spinning looms, bone brushes (for drawing patterns on cloth), black stones hung on looms, flint shells and bronze needles have been found to reveal the weaving technique.

Architecture

The bricks, lime sand and roof tiles found in the basement excavations were subjected to analysis by the University of Vellore and the building technology of the Sangam people was revealed. Bricks contain up to 80% silica and 7% lime for binding. Lime mortar contains 97% lime. It is because of the subtle use of such compounds that buildings have survived for so long. Clay floors and roof tiles have been found. Also, nails have been found, suggesting that wood was also used for the roofs. The tiles also have small grooves to allow rainwater to drain away. There is also carpentry.

Sports goods

Sports and recreational facilities have also been found in Keeladi underground excavations. Currently, there are 600 round chips available for the women's game of Bandi. Dice Rounds Chess Pieces Talisman Dice for Playing Chess pieces are available for playing chess. All these items are made of clay. More than 600 items have been found, such as dice, dice and dice used in talismans. A type of game played here is still going on for 2600 years under the name of 'Bandi'. Chips were also found in the carts that the boys were pulling. Based on these, B.C. It can be concluded that the Second Urban Civilization started in the sixth century.

Importance of Keeladi

Contrary to the opinion that secondary urban civilizations did not emerge in Tamilnadu after the Indus and Ganges River Civilizations, the evidence of the Vaigai River Civilization of about 2200 years ago

has been found in the excavations. More than Six Hundred articles mentioned in ancient Tamil kinds of literature like Silapathikaram, Paribadal, Maduraikkanchi etc. have been found in Keeladi. Many objects mentioned in Sangam Tamil literature such as pearl beads, women's kondi pins, chips played by women, amulets, chess pieces, and flint toys played by children have also been found here.

Similarly, the thread and takli found here, confirm that the people of that time lived by weaving. One of the Tamil pieces of literature, Pattinappalai, Suduman Varakenis is also found here. These kennis are erected near houses built of burnt bricks. From the evidence found here, it can be felt that mostly brick houses and houses had tiled roofs.

The practice of digging wells for drinking water and other household purposes has been in existence since the Sangam period till recent times. The Sangam literature Pattinappalai mentions the existence of borewells in a part of Poombukar city. Uruthirankannan, the historian of Pattinappalai, has mentioned it as "Ura Kinertu Purcheri". A closed well dating back to the Sangam period has also been found in the underground excavation. There were bathrooms in every house.

A ton of black and red clay tiles have been found in this area alone. Many of the tiles are inscribed with "Tamil Brahmi" characters. The Tirumala Malaikolundeeswarar temple in Sivagangai district is notable for having Tamil Brahmi inscriptions. Coral beads from Gujrat and Roman Arittine pottery tiles have been found here. This shows us the commercial relations and business excellence of the people of that time. Especially the white-painted pottery found in excavations in the southeast and the russet-coated pottery found only in the Kongu area have been found here. When we see the influence of the Rasat mixture, it is revealed that there was a trade relationship with the Kongu area.

Conclusion

Keeladi is the closest area to the temple town of Madurai. With the availability of historical artefacts here, the cultural wealth of the ancient Tamil civilization is pointed out, so it is imperative to continue the work of searching for hidden cultural valuables and revealing the cultural resources of the ancient Tamil society.

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