

Keeladi 11th Phase Excavation: New Brick Structures and 1,300 Artefacts Unearthed

Continuous brick structures across nine quadrants and over 1,300 artefacts were discovered during the ongoing 11th phase of Keeladi excavations.

Keeladi is a Sangam-era urban settlement archaeological site located on the banks of the Vaigai river in Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **11th phase** of excavation at Keeladi began on **March 18, 2026**, conducted by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** (TNSDA).
- Continuous **brick structures** were unearthed across all **nine excavated quadrants** during this phase.
- Over **1,300 ancient artefacts** have been recovered so far in the ongoing 11th phase of excavation.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India** (ASI) conducted the **first three phases**, while TNSDA has been executing the project from phase 4 onwards.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Keeladi archaeological site is located in **Sivagangai district** on the banks of the **Vaigai river**.

Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating by **Beta Analytic, USA**, dated Keeladi artefacts back to **580 BCE** (6th century BCE).

The first excavation at Keeladi commenced in **2015** under ASI Superintendent Superintending Archaeologist **Amarnath Ramakrishna**.

The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** (TNSDA) was established in the year **1961**.

Inscribed **Tamil-Brahmi** (Tamil) potsherds found at Keeladi establish high levels of literacy in **Sangam Tamil society**.

A state-of-the-art Keeladi Site Museum was inaugurated at **Konthagai** village near Keeladi in **March 2023**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Keeladi 11th phase excavation by TNSDA revealed continuous brick structures across 9 quadrants and over 1,300 artefacts.

Syllabus Relevance: Extremely High relevance for Group 1, 2, 2A & 4 under Unit 8 (Tamil Nadu Archaeology and History). Frequently tested topic.

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