

Keeladi Water Reservoir System

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The exposure of the open water channel, strainer attached to the terracotta pipes and spiral shaped terracotta pipes at the keeladi excavation site on the banks of Vaigai river in Sivaganga district suggest that the Sangam Age people had the critical knowledge and technology of the water management system. The people of those times are far more urban and tech driven than thought of.

Excavation Part

- The rich find indirectly indicate the existence of well developed and structured society.
- The available evidences indicate the existence of urbanization in Keeladi.
- The size of the settlement, internal and external trade contacts, advanced technology, factories and industries, existence of multi ethnic social groups ,usage of multiple languages and scripts, level of literacy, arts, brick structures and other cultural items are considered as characteristic features are exposed at Keeladi says commissioner of Archaeology T. Udayachandran.
- The findings during fifth phase of excavation at keeladi that was wrapped up on oct 13 after 4 months of intense digging, indicate the presence of advanced town planning and infrastructure including water management practices.
- According to the department of archaeology, Tamilnadu which is carrying out the excavation at keeladi located near Madurai.
- Over 900 artefacts were unearthed during the phase from about 51 pits that were dug up.



- Pots of different sizes , ceramic shells with inscriptions and semi precious, engraved stone were among the artefacts unearthed during fifth phase of excavation.
- During the excavation, an object having a rim like portion of a pot was found at a depth of 47 cm in trench.
- The rim portion is of red slipped ware and beautifully furnished one.
- It is found to be a beautifully made 2 terracotta pipes well fitted with each other and the pipes well fitted with each other and the pipes measure 60 cm in length and 20 cm in diameter at the mouth.

History of Terracotta Pipes

- Each terracotta pipe had a five spiral like projections at regular interval on its outer surface and looks like spiral shaped terracotta pipes.
- The pipes are fixed perfectly mouth to mouth suggest that they might have used to drain water “says TN Archaeology Department Deputy Director R.Sivanandam.
- The mouth of the pipe had 3 holes probably to tie some objects at the mouth. The excavation extended horizontally close to terracotta pipes.
- Few roof tiles vertically piled up were also exposed at depth of 52 cm.
- Besides a brick structure also found close above said objects.
- Deeper dig gave an idea for archaeologists to found the terracotta pipes met with 3 more barrel shaped terracotta pipes placed below the said pipes, which vary in shape and size, suggesting that they were used for different purposes.



- A terracotta strainer looks like a perforated dish was found at mouth portion of barrel shaped terracotta pipes.
- Only three fourth of the strainer at the mouth of the pipe clearly suggests that it might have been used to filter the unwanted material of the liquid that flow through these pipes.
- Interestingly, another end of pipe met at the mouth portion of 2 pots clearly indicates that some kind of liquid items or water would have passed through these pipes and collected in the pot.



- Further an open water channel made of brick was unearthed at the same site at a depth of 50 cm.
- This brick structure measuring 5.80 m in length and 1.60 m in breadth that has been dexterously dug out has eleven courses.
- The floor of the water channel is paved with roof tiles which facilitate the flow of water.
- The significance of these structures is that the water channel and brick structure were exposed to the south of brick tank and water channel unearthed in the second seasons of the excavation carried out by Archaeological survey of India.
- It suggests that the water channel is extending further south and its final position would be known in the future excavations.

Conclusion

At present vacate yourself from the place to excavate the concealed things in the world.

Reference

1. <https://www.deccanchronicle.com>