

September - 23

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ World Cleanup Day is a global social action program aimed at combating the global solid waste problem, including the problem of marine debris. The Day coincides in 2019 with Peace Day and the global climate strike (20-27 September).
  - The inaugural World Cleanup Day was 15 September 2018.
- ❖ World Car Free Day was observed on September 22 across the World Cities. It encourages motorists to give up their cars for a day.

## TAMIL NADU

### Keeladi Excavations

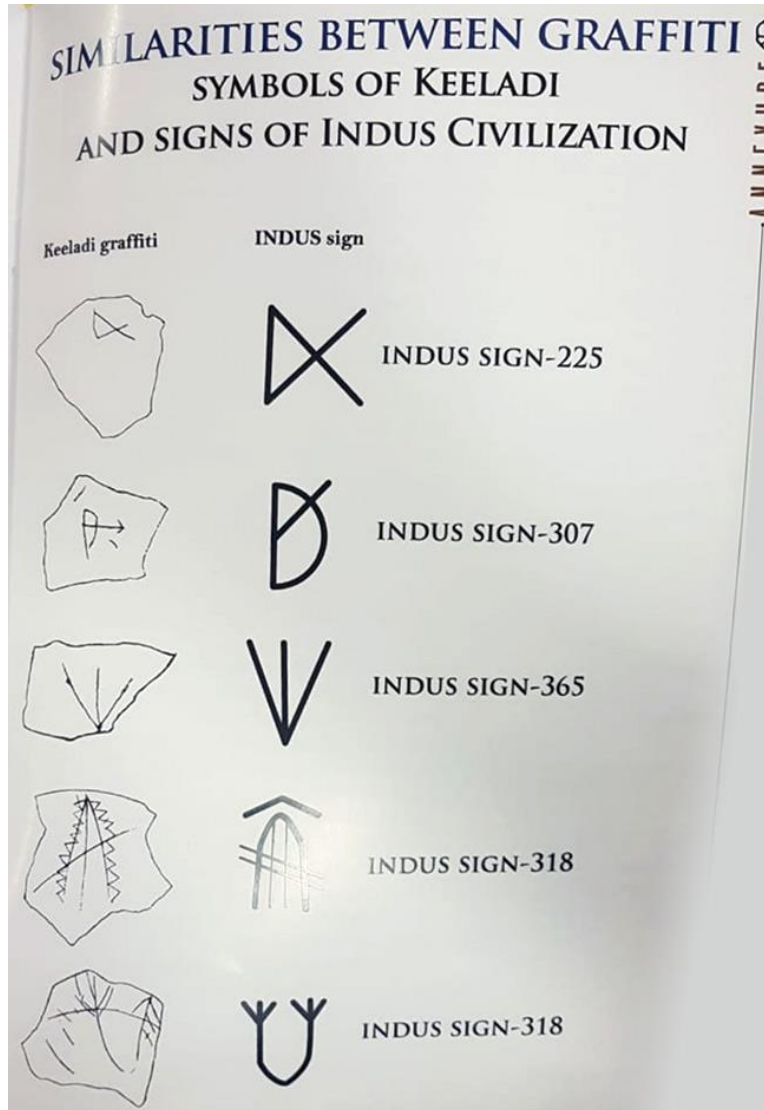
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivagangai district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE that is 2600 years ago.
- ❖ This is the first time the date has been officially announced by the TNAD.
- ❖ Moreover, this is the first time a book on Keeladi has been brought out after it began excavation on the site in 2017.
- ❖ The report titled, 'Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai', was published by the TNAD.
- ❖ The new findings in the report place Keeladi artefacts about 300 years earlier than previously believed — 3rd century BCE.
- ❖ The Sangam age is considered to be between 300BC and AD300.
- ❖ But a new report after determining the age through carbon dating of materials unearthed shows the Sangam period could be dated between 600BC and 100 AD.
- ❖ The results from the fourth excavations suggest that the “second urbanization [the first being Indus] of Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in Gangetic plains.”
- ❖ The new findings prove that an advanced urban habitation existed in Keeladi from 600 BC.
- ❖ The study also say that the Tamils of the Sangam period were literate, as early as 6th century BCE.



- ❖ Six carbon samples collected from the fourth season (2018) of excavations at Keeladi were sent to Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S., for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating.
- ❖ One of the six samples collected at the depth of 353 cm and sent for carbon dating test in the U.S. “goes back to 580 BCE,”.
- ❖ Skeletal fragments were sent to Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute in Pune, and it identified them of species such as cow/ox, buffalo, sheep, goat, nilgai, blackbuck, wild boar and peacock.
- ❖ But there was no trace of big animals like elephant.
- ❖ This finding suggests that the society in Keeladi had used animals predominantly for agricultural purposes.
- ❖ Fifty-six Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds were recovered from the site of excavation conducted by the TNAD alone.
- ❖ Pottery specimens from Keeladi sent to the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy, through Vellore Institute of Technology for mineral analysis, confirmed that water containers and cooking vessels were shaped out of locally available raw materials.
- ❖ While three excavations were undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India, the fourth excavation was undertaken by the TNAD.
- ❖ The fifth excavation by the latter is under way.
- ❖ The graffiti marks on the artefacts obtained from the excavation site point to a link between the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilization and Tamil-Brahmi.
- ❖ Fifth century BC is considered the date of Tamil (Tamil-Brahmi) based on radiometric dates recovered from archaeological sites like Kodumanal, Alagankulam and Porunthal.
- ❖ The recent dates obtained for Keeladi findings pushback the date to 6th century BC.

### About

- ❖ Keeladi excavation site is a Sangam period settlement
- ❖ This excavation site is located 12 km southeast of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, near the town of Keeladi (also spelt as Keezhadi) in Sivagangai district.
- ❖ This is a large-scale excavation carried out in Tamil Nadu after the Adichanallur archaeological site.
- ❖ The settlement lies on the bank of the Vaigai River and it reflects the ancient culture of Tamils.



## INTERNATIONAL

### **Tiger Deaths at Thailand Temple**

- ❖ More than half the tigers rescued three years ago from a Buddhist temple in Thailand have died of disease.
- ❖ Tiger Temple, or Wat Pha Luang Ta Bua Yanasampanno, was a Theravada Buddhist Temple at Thailand.

## States

### Year of Artificial Intelligence

- ❖ The Telangana government has decided celebrate the year of 2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ The state government has signed up with NITI Aayog, which has come out with 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' to run pilot projects in Telangana.
- ❖ Telangana was 1st State to sign up with NITI Aayog when they prepared 'AI for All' document.
- ❖ Recently the IT industry body Nasscom had announced the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in AI and Data Sciences in Hyderabad.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Red panda Day – September 21

- ❖ It is being celebrated to create the awareness about the declining population of Red Panda species in the World.
- ❖ Red panda is a mammal native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.
- ❖ These rust-colored creatures are experiencing a loss of nesting trees and bamboo, leading to a decline in the population.
- ❖ These animals spend most of their lives in trees and even sleep aloft.
- ❖ It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.



### **Zero Emissions Day– September 21**

- ❖ September 21st is Zero Emissions Day (ZeDay). ZeDay was created to “give the planet one day off a year.”
- ❖ The ZeDay movement is extremely important when it comes to raising awareness for the enormous amount of fossil fuels our planet uses on a day-to-day basis.
- ❖ This specific day was chosen because the day and nights are equal, with equal light in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.



**ZeDay**  
**Sept 21**  
[zeroemissionsday.org](http://zeroemissionsday.org)

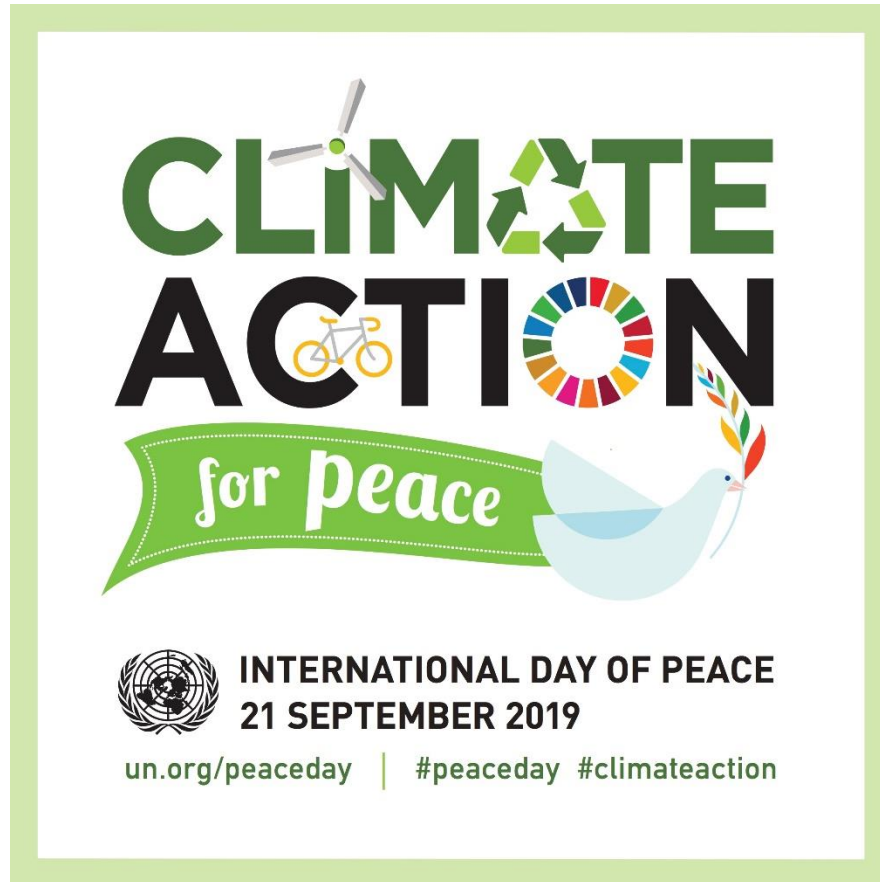
### **World Alzheimer's day – September 21**

- ❖ Since 2012, September is being observed as World Alzheimer's Month meant to spread awareness about the disease, while September 21 is observed as World Alzheimer's Day.
- ❖ The "World Alzheimer Report 2019: Attitudes towards Dementia", was released by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that usually appears in individuals who are in their mid-60s.
- ❖ Dementia is a syndrome and not a disease, which Alzheimer's is.
- ❖ Dementia is most commonly caused by Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ Dementia can be caused by other diseases such as Parkinson's and Huntington's disease as well.



### **International Day of Peace - September 21**

- ❖ The International Day of Peace, sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day, is observed annually on 21 September.
- ❖ It was established by adopting UN resolution on the culture of peace in 1981.
- ❖ To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City).
- ❖ United Nations has declared "Climate Action for Peace" as a theme for International Day of Peace-2019.
- ❖ This year's celebrations are comparatively unique, as the United Nation's this year's theme is completely unrelated to war, conflict, or peace.



### **World Rose Day – September 22**

- ❖ World Rose Day is observed in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer.
- ❖ On World Rose Day, hand-made roses, cards and gifts are offered to cancer patients.
- ❖ Rose, a symbol of love, tenderness and concern, is offered to cancer patients to give them strength as they face the cancer battle.
- ❖ World Cancer Day is observed on February 4.

