

# TARGET 2022

## HISTORY, ART & CULTURE



Up to March 2022

### 1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

#### 1.1 Ancient Dagger Found in Tamil Nadu

*As a part of an excavation effort that seeks to shine a light on the Keeladi civilization, a rusted iron dagger preserved in a burial urn was discovered in Konthagai village, Tamil Nadu.*

- Konthagai is considered as a burial site for the Keeladi civilization, as burial urns filled with bones, weapons and other objects were discovered.
- This type of weapon was used by warriors during the Sangam period (3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE - 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE).
- Based on the archaeological evidence, some researchers now say the Sangam period began earlier than previously thought, around 600 B.C.E.

#### Keeladi Civilization

- It is also referred to as the Vaigai civilization, named after a nearby river Vaigai.
- **Came from IVC** - Discoveries at Keeladi suggest that the people who lived there may have travelled south from the Harappan or Indus Valley civilization (as it declined) to start new lives.
- The civilization was an indigenous, well developed self-sustaining urban culture with an industry and Tamil-Brahmi script, indicating that the people of that era were highly literate.
- Evidence of ancient industrial production are spinning and weaving tools, cloth dyeing operations, brick kilns, and ceramic workshops.
- **Second urbanization** - Discoveries date to around 500 B.C., when an agricultural surplus allowed people to build urban centers in what's known as the subcontinent's "second urbanization."
- [The name reflects a contrast with the much earlier "first urbanization" of the Indus Valley civilization that began 2500 BCE.]
- Previously, it was believed that the second urbanization happened along the Central Ganges Plain in northern India.
- But new evidence suggests a similar phenomenon occurred in the south as well.

#### 1.2 Porunai/Thamirabarani River Civilisation

*Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that the Thamirabarani civilisation dates back to 3,200 years (1155 BC).*

- This age was determined using carbon dating analysis of rice with soil found in a burial urn at Sivakalai, Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister said archaeological excavations would be carried out in other States and countries in search of Tamil roots.
- Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department would conduct research at Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke (Egypt) as well as in Khor Rori (Oman), to establish the **Tamils' trade relations** with these countries.