

CCT Weekly Practice English

Keeladi



In the last week of September 2019, Keerthi Jeyaraj, Director of EduRight Foundation, flew from Texas, the U.S., to Pallichandai Thidal, a nondescript mound at the far end of Keeladi, a tiny hamlet located 12 km southeast of the historic city of Madurai in Tamil Nadu. The next week, three Sri Lankan Tamils arrived at the same spot. It was their second visit to the excavation site. Also on his way by rail was Chennai-based documentary filmmaker Amshan Kumar. To accommodate these **visitors and thousands more**, a temporary parking lot was created in Keeladi. A stall selling snacks and coffee sprung up at what looked like a new picnic spot.

An astonishing 1.16 lakh people visited the site between September 20 and October 10. The visitors flocked to the hamlet in curiosity and fascination following the **publication of a report by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (SDA)** on September 18. Earlier, carbon samples from Keeladi had been sent to the Beta Analytic Lab in Miami, Florida, for carbon dating, a widely accepted tool to ascertain the age of archaeological and historical remains. The Lab had found that the cultural deposits unearthed during the fourth excavation at Keeladi in Sivaganga district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE. These place Keeladi artefacts about 300 years earlier than previously believed.

Source: *The Hindu*, <https://bit.ly/3325TDT>

Read the article given above to answer the questions that follow.

Question 1

What can you infer about what happened in Keeladi by the usage of the word ‘flocked’ in the second paragraph?

- a) The population of Keeladi suddenly exploded as there was a massive number of people moved into the town.
- b) There was a brief surge in the number of people who went to Keeladi to see the archaeological site.
- c) Every person who rushed to Keeladi had read the study published by the SDA.
- d) Keeladi became a major centre for tourist holidays.

Question 2

What can you say about how long ago Indian people had lived in the Keeladi excavation site?

- a) Between 300 and 600 years ago
- b) Between 600 and 1000 years ago
- c) Between 1000 and 2000 years ago
- d) Between 2000 and 2500 years ago

Question 3

Which other word in the passage is closest in meaning to the word ‘artefacts’ in the last sentence?

- a) hamlet
- b) remains
- c) site
- d) samples

Question 4

Based on the information in the passage, why do you think that carbon dating is a ‘widely accepted tool to ascertain the age of archaeological and historical remains’?

- a) It is a highly accurate dating method.
- b) It is not available in all countries, only some developed countries have it.
- c) It is perhaps the best tool that is available at present.
- d) It is a very safe method of dating historical remains.

Question 5

Which of the following phrases used in the excerpt supports the idea that Pallicandai Thidal was a ‘nondescript mound’?

- a) ‘...what looked like a new picnic spot.’
- b) ‘...a temporary parking lot was created.’
- c) ‘An astonishing 1.16 lakh people visited the site’
- d) ‘excavation site’

Source of questions:

Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA®) – m.centa.org

CCT Weekly Practice English

Answers- Keeladi

1. (b) 'flocked' in the second paragraph refers to people rushing to the site over a brief period of time.
2. (d) The carbon dating of the remains puts the range between 1st Century CE (2000 years ago) and 6th Century BC (2600 years ago).
3. (b) The word 'artefacts' refers to objects (remains) recovered from a historical site.
4. (c) This is the only inference that can be drawn from the information in the passage.
5. (a) 'nondescript' means lacking any distinctive or interesting feature. The phrase '...what looked like a new picnic spot' highlights that even a stall selling snacks and coffee made Keeladi different and hints at the place lacking any attraction.

Source of questions:

Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA[®]) – m.centa.org