Sivakalai (Sivagalai) Excavations – Porunai Valley Urn Burials, 1155 BCE Paddy, Antiquity of Iron Report (3345 BCE) & Porunai Museum | TNPSC Notes

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Sivakalai (also spelt **Sivagalai**) is an **Iron Age habitation-cum-burial site** in **Thoothukudi district**, in the **Tamiraparani (Porunai) river** valley, excavated by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** in three seasons from **2019–20 to 2021–22**. It became famous twice: in **September 2021**, when the Tamil Nadu government announced that **paddy (rice) from a burial urn** had been dated to **1155 BCE**, and in **January 2025**, when the State released the report **"Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu"**, which announced, on the basis of Sivakalai samples, that iron was in use in Tamil Nadu by about **3345 BCE**. Both dates are presented here strictly as **announced by the Tamil Nadu government**.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on this topic. Sivakalai belongs to the unit **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu** (archaeological discoveries in Tamil Nadu, the Porunai civilisation, Iron Age burials) and to **History, Culture of India and Indian National Movement** (prehistory, the Iron Age and the megalithic culture of South India). Because the 2021 and 2025 announcements were major news, it is also a likely question under **Current Events**. Read each section, then use the tables, the quick revision table and the key points at the end. Neighbouring sites such as Adichanallur, Keeladi, Kodumanal and Korkai have their own notes; here they appear only for comparison.

Location and Setting

- **Village and district:** Sivakalai village, **Thoothukudi district**, southern Tamil Nadu.
- **Distances:** about **10 km from Srivaikundam** and about **30 km from Thoothukudi town**.
- **River:** it lies on the **northern side of the Tamiraparani river**, which Tamil literature calls the **Porunai**. The sites of this valley are together described as the **Porunai (Tamiraparani) civilisation**.
- **Neighbouring sites:** the famous urn-burial site **Adichanallur** is about **15 km** away, and the ancient Pandya port **Korkai** is in the same region.
- **Type of site:** a **habitation-cum-burial site** – it has both habitation mounds (where people lived) and a large burial ground (where the dead were buried in urns). One of its burial localities is known as **Sivakalai Parambu**.

Exam tip: **Sivakalai is in Thoothukudi district**. Do not confuse it with **Sivaganga district**, where **Keeladi** lies on the Vaigai river.

Discovery: How Sivakalai Came to Light

- A local history teacher, **A. Manickam**, collected ancient objects from the surface of the village and brought them to the notice of the government and the State Department of Archaeology.
- The department then took up Sivakalai, close to Adichanallur, along with its work at Adichanallur.

Excavation Phases (2019–2022)

The excavation was carried out by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** (TNSDA), not by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Phase / season	When	Key points
Phase 1 (2019–20 season)	Digging began in **May 2020**	It was planned for March 2020 but was delayed by the COVID-19 lockdown. Work began in the burial ground and in a habitation mound; Sivakalai was one of the 2019–20 sites along with the Keeladi cluster, Adichanallur and Kodumanal.
Phase 2 (2020–21 season)	**2021**	The paddy date of 1155 BCE was announced in September 2021.
Phase 3 (2021–22 season)	Began in **2022**	The third season of digging at the site, completing the three seasons covered in the 2025 report.

Across these seasons, the department dug at **eight localities** (three burial grounds and five habitation mounds), opening **24 trenches** with **63 quadrants**. About **160 urns** were exposed and **more than 85 iron objects** were recovered.

Key Finds

Find	Details
Burial urns	About 160 urns were exposed. The dead were buried in large pottery urns placed in pits – the urn-burial custom of the South Indian Iron Age (megalithic culture).
Iron objects	More than 85 iron objects – **knives, arrowheads, rings, chisels, axes and swords** – found both inside and outside the urns.
Paddy (rice) grains	Found inside an intact burial urn, with its lid in place, that also held **skeletal remains** and **iron objects**. This paddy gave the 1155 BCE date.
Pottery	Pottery vessels were placed with the dead as grave goods.
Tamil-Brahmi potsherd	A potsherd inscribed in **Tamil-Brahmi** (Tamili) was found at a habitation mound; charcoal from that context was dated to **685 BCE**.

Together, the finds show a community that cultivated **rice**, used **iron tools and weapons**, made pottery and buried its dead in urns with offerings.

The 2021 Announcement: Paddy Dated to 1155 BCE

- **Date and place: 9 September 2021**, in the **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly**, in a statement by Chief Minister **M. K. Stalin** under **Rule 110**.
- **What was dated: paddy (rice) from a burial urn** at Sivakalai.
- **Laboratory and method: Beta Analytic** laboratory, **Florida, USA**, using **AMS (accelerator mass spectrometry) radiocarbon dating**.
- **Result: 1155 BCE** – about **3,200 years** before the present.
- **Government's conclusion:** the **Porunai (Tamiraparani) civilisation** is at least about 3,200 years old. News reports set this beside the Vaigai valley (Keeladi) civilisation, then dated to about 2,600 years.

- **Other announcements in the same statement:** a museum at **Tirunelveli** to display the Porunai valley finds (the future **Porunai Museum**), and plans for the State Department of Archaeology to study sites linked to Tamil history outside Tamil Nadu – the first phase at **Pattanam (Kerala)**, followed by sites such as **Vengi (Andhra Pradesh)** and **Palur (Odisha)**.

Exam tip: **1155 BCE is the date of the paddy**, not of the iron. The 2021 announcement is about **rice cultivation and the age of the Porunai civilisation**.

The 2025 "Antiquity of Iron" Report

- **Full title: "Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu"**; Tamil title **"Irumbin Thonmai"**.
- **Released: 23 January 2025**, in **Chennai**, by Chief Minister **M. K. Stalin**. At the same function he laid foundation stones for museums at Keeladi and Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- **Authors: Prof. K. Rajan** (academic adviser to the State Department of Archaeology) and **R. Sivanantham** (Joint Director, State Department of Archaeology).
- **Publisher and size:** Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, 2025; **73 pages**.
- **Methods: AMS radiocarbon dating** (of charcoal and paddy) and **OSL – optically stimulated luminescence** (of urn pottery).
- **Laboratories: Beta Analytic** (Florida, USA), **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP)**, Lucknow, and **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, Ahmedabad.

Sivakalai dates given in the report

Sample	Method / laboratory	Date (BCE)
Charcoal from a burial context with iron objects	AMS radiocarbon – Beta Analytic	**3345** (earliest)
Charcoal from an urn with iron objects	AMS radiocarbon – Beta Analytic	3259
Charcoal associated with iron objects (Trench C3)	AMS radiocarbon – Beta Analytic	2953
Pottery of the same urn as the 3259 BCE charcoal	OSL – BSIP, Lucknow	2459
Pottery of the same urn	OSL – PRL, Ahmedabad	2427
Paddy from a burial urn	AMS radiocarbon – Beta Analytic	1155
Charcoal, habitation mound (context of a Tamil-Brahmi potsherd)	AMS radiocarbon – Beta Analytic	685

What the government announced

- On the basis of the three charcoal dates between **2953 and 3345 BCE**, all associated with iron objects, the report concluded that **iron was introduced in Tamil Nadu by the first quarter of the 4th millennium BCE** – that is, more than **5,300 years ago**.

- The Chief Minister announced that **the Iron Age began on Tamil soil**. The report suggested that the Iron Age of South India was probably **contemporary with the Copper Age** of North India.
- Senior archaeologists whose comments were reported at the time of the release, including **Prof. Dilip K. Chakrabarti** (Professor Emeritus, Cambridge) and **Rakesh Tewari** (former Director General, ASI), welcomed the findings.

Dates from other Tamil Nadu sites in the same report

Site (district)	Date reported (BCE)	Note
Sivakalai (Thoothukudi)	3345 (earliest)	Charcoal associated with iron objects
Adichanallur (Thoothukudi)	about 2517	Charcoal from a habitation-mound trench
Mayiladumparai (Krishnagiri)	2172	Announced in 2022 as the earliest Iron Age date in India at that time
Kilnamandi	1769–1615	Sarcophagus burial with iron objects
Mangadu	1604–1416	Iron sword from a burial

How Scholars Have Received the Claim

The Sivakalai iron dates are an **announcement of the Tamil Nadu government and its archaeology department**. News reports at the time recorded that the claim is being discussed by scholars:

- News reports noted that, at the time of release, the dating studies had **not yet been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal**.
- Reports noted that **metallurgical analysis of the iron objects** and **further excavations** are still needed for stronger confirmation; the report's authors said more samples would be sent for dating.
- Some archaeologists said that **one or two sites cannot settle the question** and that evidence from more sites is needed; co-author K. Rajan agreed that archaeologists would rightly demand further evidence.
- The dates are of **charcoal and pottery associated with iron objects**, not of the iron itself; the same site has also given much later dates (1155 BCE paddy, 685 BCE charcoal).

For exams, write: "**As announced by the Tamil Nadu government in the report Antiquity of Iron (January 2025), iron was in use in Tamil Nadu by about 3345 BCE.**" Do not write it as a settled world-wide consensus.

Porunai Museum, Tirunelveli

- **Announced:** in the Chief Minister's Rule 110 statement of **9 September 2021**, along with the Sivakalai paddy date.
- **Inaugurated:** by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on **20 December 2025**; opened to the public on **23 December 2025**.
- **Location: Reddiarpatti, Tirunelveli**, on about **13 acres**.
- **What it shows:** finds from **Sivakalai, Adichanallur, Thulukarpatti and Korkai** – burial urns, iron objects, inscribed potsherds and other antiquities of the Porunai valley.

Key People

Person	Role
A. Manickam	Local history teacher of Sivakalai who collected surface finds and brought the site to official notice
M. K. Stalin	Chief Minister; announced the 1155 BCE paddy date (9 September 2021), released the Antiquity of Iron report (23 January 2025) and inaugurated the Porunai Museum (20 December 2025)
Prof. K. Rajan	Academic adviser to the State Department of Archaeology; co-author of Antiquity of Iron
R. Sivanantham	Joint Director, State Department of Archaeology; co-author of Antiquity of Iron
T. Udhayachandran	Commissioner of Archaeology at the time of the 2025 report
Dilip K. Chakrabarti, Rakesh Tewari	Senior archaeologists who welcomed the 2025 findings

Sivakalai and Adichanallur Compared

Point	Sivakalai	Adichanallur
District	Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi
River	Tamiraparani (Porunai), northern side	Tamiraparani (Porunai)
Type	Habitation-cum-urn-burial site	Urn-burial site with habitation area
Fame	Paddy date 1155 BCE (2021); iron-related dates up to 3345 BCE (2025)	One of the best-known urn-burial sites of South India
Distance	About 15 km apart	–
Museum	Porunai Museum, Tirunelveli	Porunai Museum, Tirunelveli

Significance of Sivakalai

- **Agriculture:** rice in a burial urn dated to 1155 BCE is direct evidence that paddy was known in the Porunai valley about 3,200 years ago.
- **Iron technology:** more than 85 iron tools and weapons show that iron was central to the life of this community; the 2025 report uses Sivakalai to argue for a very early, local start of iron use in Tamil Nadu.
- **Burial customs:** urn burials with pottery, iron objects and food grains show belief in an afterlife and care for the dead.
- **Writing:** a Tamil-Brahmi potsherd from the habitation mound links the site with the early history of the Tamil script.
- **Regional history:** along with Adichanallur and Korkai, Sivakalai builds the picture of the Porunai (Tamiraparani) valley as an old centre of settlement.

- **Heritage policy:** it shows the State Department of Archaeology's use of scientific dating in foreign and Indian laboratories, and the building of site museums such as the Porunai Museum.

Writing Mains Answers on Sivakalai (Group 1 / Group 2)

Descriptive papers may ask about recent archaeological discoveries in Tamil Nadu. Use these frameworks and support each point with a fact from the notes above.

Significance of the Sivakalai excavations (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** Iron Age habitation-cum-burial site in Thoothukudi district, Tamiraparani (Porunai) valley; excavated by the TN State Department of Archaeology, 2019–20 to 2021–22.
- **Finds:** about 160 urns, more than 85 iron objects, paddy with skeletal remains in an intact urn, Tamil-Brahmi potsherd.
- **Dating:** paddy 1155 BCE (announced 9 September 2021); iron-related charcoal dates up to 3345 BCE (Antiquity of Iron, January 2025).
- **Meaning:** rice cultivation, iron technology, urn-burial customs, early writing.
- **Heritage:** Porunai Museum, Tirunelveli (December 2025).
- **Conclusion:** Sivakalai has made the Porunai valley central to the early history of Tamil Nadu; further dating and publication will strengthen its place.

Evaluate the claim that the Iron Age began in Tamil Nadu (about 150 words)

- **Claim:** as announced by the TN government (Antiquity of Iron, 23 January 2025), iron was in use in Tamil Nadu by about 3345 BCE.
- **Basis:** three AMS charcoal dates (2953–3345 BCE) associated with iron objects; OSL dates of urn pottery (2459 and 2427 BCE) from two laboratories.
- **Support:** three laboratories, two methods; welcomed by senior archaeologists.
- **Points under discussion:** not yet peer-reviewed at release; iron itself not directly dated; need for metallurgical study and more sites.
- **Conclusion:** an important claim that can reshape the Iron Age chronology of India if confirmed by further research.

Role of the State Department of Archaeology in recent years (about 100 words)

- Excavations at Sivakalai, Adichanallur, Keeladi, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai and other sites.
- Scientific dating in Indian and foreign laboratories (Beta Analytic, BSIP, PRL).
- Publication of reports such as Antiquity of Iron (2025).
- Site museums such as the Porunai Museum, Tirunelveli (2025).

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Sivakalai	Thoothukudi district
Keeladi	Sivaganga district
1155 BCE	Paddy in a Sivakalai burial urn
3345 BCE	Earliest iron-related charcoal date at Sivakalai
685 BCE	Charcoal from the context of a Tamil-Brahmi potsherd
Beta Analytic	Florida, USA
BSIP	Lucknow
PRL	Ahmedabad
Mayiladumparai	Krishnagiri district; 2172 BCE
Porunai Museum	Reddiarpatti, Tirunelveli

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **District:** Sivakalai is in **Thoothukudi**, not Sivaganga or Tirunelveli. The museum that displays its finds is in **Tirunelveli**.
- **1155 BCE vs 3345 BCE:** 1155 BCE is the **paddy** date (2021); 3345 BCE is the **charcoal associated with iron** (2025).
- **What was dated:** the iron objects themselves were not dated; charcoal and pottery found with them were.
- **Agency:** the excavation and the report are by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology**, not the ASI.
- **Where announced:** 2021 – in the **Assembly under Rule 110**; 2025 – **report release in Chennai**.
- **Spelling:** Sivakalai and Sivagalai are the same place; Porunai and Tamiraparani are the same river.
- **Methods:** AMS = radiocarbon (for organic material such as charcoal and paddy); OSL = luminescence (for pottery).

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Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
Before 2019	Teacher A. Manickam brings Sivakalai surface finds to official notice
2019–20 season	Sivakalai chosen for excavation by the TN State Department of Archaeology
May 2020	Phase 1 digging begins (delayed from March 2020 by COVID-19)
2021	Phase 2 (2020–21 season)
9 Sep 2021	CM announces in the Assembly (Rule 110): Sivakalai paddy dated to 1155 BCE by Beta Analytic; Porunai civilisation about 3,200 years old; museum for Tirunelveli announced
2022	Phase 3 begins
23 Jan 2025	"Antiquity of Iron" report released in Chennai: iron in Tamil Nadu by about 3345 BCE (Sivakalai)
20 Dec 2025	Porunai Museum, Reddiarpatti, Tirunelveli inaugurated
23 Dec 2025	Porunai Museum opened to the public

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Sivakalai (Sivagalai): Thoothukudi district; about 10 km from Srivaikundam; northern side of the Tamiraparani (Porunai).
- Type: Iron Age habitation-cum-urn-burial site; about 15 km from Adichanallur.
- Brought to notice by local history teacher A. Manickam.
- Excavated by the TN State Department of Archaeology: 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22 (three phases).
- Eight localities, 24 trenches, 63 quadrants; about 160 urns; more than 85 iron objects.
- Iron objects: knives, arrowheads, rings, chisels, axes, swords.
- Paddy in an intact urn with skeletal remains – dated to 1155 BCE (Beta Analytic, Florida; AMS).
- Paddy date announced on 9 September 2021 in the Assembly under Rule 110; Porunai civilisation about 3,200 years old.
- "Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu" (Irumbin Thonmai) – K. Rajan and R. Sivanantham – released 23 January 2025, Chennai; 73 pages.
- Earliest date: 3345 BCE (charcoal associated with iron); other charcoal dates 3259 and 2953 BCE.
- OSL dates: 2459 BCE (BSIP, Lucknow), 2427 BCE (PRL, Ahmedabad).
- Tamil-Brahmi potsherd context: 685 BCE.
- Announced conclusion: iron introduced in Tamil Nadu by the first quarter of the 4th millennium BCE (over 5,300 years ago).
- Porunai Museum: Reddiarpatti, Tirunelveli; inaugurated 20 December 2025; finds of Sivakalai, Adichanallur, Thulukarpatti, Korkai.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Sivakalai and which river valley does it belong to?

Sivakalai (also spelt Sivagalai) is a village in Thoothukudi district, about 10 km from Srivaikundam and about 30 km from Thoothukudi town. It lies on the northern side of the Tamiraparani (Porunai) river, about 15 km from Adichanallur. It is a habitation-cum-burial site of the Iron Age, excavated by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology.

What was announced about the paddy found at Sivakalai in 2021?

On 9 September 2021 Chief Minister M. K. Stalin told the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, in a statement under Rule 110, that paddy (rice) found in a burial urn at Sivakalai had been dated to 1155 BCE by AMS radiocarbon dating at Beta Analytic laboratory in Florida, USA. On this basis the government said the Porunai (Tamiraparani) civilisation was at least about 3,200 years old.

What is the 'Antiquity of Iron' report?

'Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu' (Tamil: Irumbin Thonmai) is a 73-page report of the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology written by K. Rajan and R. Sivanantham. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin released it in Chennai on 23 January 2025. Based on Sivakalai samples, it announced that iron was introduced in Tamil Nadu by the first quarter of the 4th millennium BCE, with the earliest date at 3345 BCE.

Was the iron itself dated to 3345 BCE?

No. The 3345 BCE date is an AMS radiocarbon date of charcoal from a burial context that yielded iron objects. Other Sivakalai dates in the report include 3259 and 2953 BCE (charcoal), 2459 and 2427 BCE (OSL dates of urn pottery), 1155 BCE (paddy) and 685 BCE (charcoal from the habitation mound). News reports noted that the results had not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal and that some archaeologists asked for more sites, samples and metallurgical study.

Where can the Sivakalai finds be seen?

The Porunai Archaeological Museum at Reddiarpatti in Tirunelveli, first announced in the Assembly in September 2021, was inaugurated by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on 20 December 2025 and opened to the public on 23 December 2025. Spread over about 13 acres, it displays finds from Sivakalai, Adichanallur, Thulukarpatti and Korkai.

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Practice questions

1. In which district is the Sivakalai archaeological site located?

A. Sivaganga
B. Thoothukudi
C. Tirunelveli
D. Virudhunagar

2. Sivakalai belongs to which river valley?

A. Vaigai
B. Kaveri
C. Tamiraparani (Porunai)
D. Thenpennai

3. Which agency excavated Sivakalai?

A. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
B. Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology
C. Indian Council of Historical Research
D. University of Madras

4. What date was announced in 2021 for the paddy from a Sivakalai burial urn?

A. 685 BCE
B. 1155 BCE
C. 2172 BCE
D. 3345 BCE

5. Which laboratory dated the Sivakalai paddy?

A. Birbal Sahni Institute, Lucknow
B. Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad
C. Beta Analytic, Florida (USA)
D. IUAC, New Delhi

6. Under which rule of the Assembly was the Sivakalai paddy date announced?

A. Rule 55
B. Rule 110
C. Rule 356
D. Rule 377

7. According to the 2021 announcement, the Porunai civilisation is at least how old?

A. About 2,600 years
B. About 3,200 years
C. About 4,200 years
D. About 5,300 years

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8. When was the "Antiquity of Iron" report released?

A. 9 September 2021

B. 23 January 2025

C. 20 December 2025

D. 15 August 2022

9. Who are the authors of "Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu"?

A. K. Rajan and R. Sivanantham

B. R. Nagaswamy and K. V. Raman

C. Amarnath Ramakrishna and K. Rajan

D. Dilip K. Chakrabarti and Rakesh Tewari

10. What is the earliest Sivakalai date given in the Antiquity of Iron report?

A. 2172 BCE

B. 2953 BCE

C. 3259 BCE

D. 3345 BCE

11. The 3345 BCE date at Sivakalai was obtained on which sample?

A. An iron sword

B. Charcoal associated with iron objects

C. Paddy

D. Human bone

12. According to the Antiquity of Iron report, when was iron introduced in Tamil Nadu?

A. 6th century BCE

B. Mid-2nd millennium BCE

C. First quarter of the 4th millennium BCE

D. Beginning of the 1st millennium BCE

13. Match the Indian laboratories that gave OSL dates for Sivakalai urn pottery: BSIP – PRL

A. Lucknow – Ahmedabad

B. Ahmedabad – Lucknow

C. New Delhi – Hyderabad

D. Lucknow – Pune

14. In the Sivakalai study, OSL dating was applied to which material?

A. Charcoal

B. Paddy

C. Pottery

D. Iron

15. About how many iron objects were recovered at Sivakalai?

A. Fewer than 10

B. About 25

C. More than 85

D. More than 1,000

16. About how many urns were exposed in the Sivakalai excavations?

A. 16

B. 60

C. 160

D. 1,600

17. The 685 BCE date at Sivakalai is linked with what?

A. An iron sword

B. The habitation context of a Tamil-Brahmi potsherd

C. A paddy-filled urn

D. A gold ornament

**18. Which statement(s) about Sivakalai is/are correct?
1. It is a habitation-cum-burial site.
2. It was excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India.
3. One of its burial localities is known as "Sivakalai Parambu".**

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

19. Which local history teacher brought Sivakalai to official notice?

A. A. Manickam

B. R. Sivanantham

C. T. Udhayachandran

D. K. Rajan

20. When did digging in the first phase at Sivakalai begin?

A. March 2019

B. May 2020

C. September 2021

D. January 2023

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**21. Match (site – date in the report):
a. Mayiladumparai 1. 1604–1416 BCE
b. Kilnamandi 2. 2172 BCE
c. Mangadu 3. 1769–1615 BCE**

A. a-2, b-3, c-1
B. a-1, b-2, c-3
C. a-3, b-1, c-2
D. a-2, b-1, c-3

22. Where is the Porunai Museum that displays finds from Sivakalai, Adichanallur, Thulukarpatti and Korkai?

A. Keeladi, Sivaganga
B. Reddiarpatti, Tirunelveli
C. Thoothukudi town
D. Egmore, Chennai

23. About how far is Adichanallur from Sivakalai?

A. About 2 km
B. About 15 km
C. About 80 km
D. About 150 km

24. Which statement about the Sivakalai iron dating is correct?

A. The iron objects themselves were AMS-dated
B. Charcoal and pottery associated with the iron objects were dated, not the iron itself
C. The ASI published the report
D. Dating was done in only one laboratory

25. Besides paddy, what else was found in the intact Sivakalai urn that gave the 1155 BCE date?

A. Only gold coins
B. Skeletal remains and iron objects
C. Roman pottery
D. A copper plate

Answers with explanations

1. **B) Thoothukudi** – Sivakalai is in Thoothukudi district, near Srivaikundam.
2. **C) Tamiraparani (Porunai)** – Sivakalai lies on the northern side of the Tamiraparani (Porunai).
3. **B) Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** – Both the excavation and the Antiquity of Iron report are by the TN State Department of Archaeology.
4. **B) 1155 BCE** – The urn paddy was announced on 9 September 2021 as dated to 1155 BCE.
5. **C) Beta Analytic, Florida (USA)** – The paddy was AMS-dated at Beta Analytic, Florida, USA.
6. **B) Rule 110** – The CM announced it under Rule 110 on 9 September 2021.
7. **B) About 3,200 years** – Based on the 1155 BCE paddy date, the government said about 3,200 years.
8. **B) 23 January 2025** – CM M. K. Stalin released it in Chennai on 23 January 2025.

9. **A) K. Rajan and R. Sivanantham** – It was written by K. Rajan and R. Sivanantham; Chakrabarti and Tewari welcomed the findings.

10. **D) 3345 BCE** – Charcoal associated with iron gave 3345 BCE, the earliest date in the report.

11. **B) Charcoal associated with iron objects** – The iron was not dated directly; associated charcoal was AMS-dated.

12. **C) First quarter of the 4th millennium BCE** – The report announced this on the basis of charcoal dates of 2953–3345 BCE.

13. **A) Lucknow – Ahmedabad** – BSIP is in Lucknow (2459 BCE) and PRL in Ahmedabad (2427 BCE).

14. **C) Pottery** – OSL was used on urn pottery; charcoal and paddy were AMS-dated.

15. **C) More than 85** – More than 85 iron objects – knives, arrowheads, rings, chisels, axes, swords.

16. **C) 160** – About 160 urns were exposed in 24 trenches across eight localities.

17. **B) The habitation context of a Tamil-Brahmi potsherd** – Charcoal from the habitation context of a Tamil-Brahmi potsherd gave 685 BCE.

18. **B) 1 and 3 only** – It was excavated by the TN State Department of Archaeology, not the ASI, so 2 is wrong.

19. **A) A. Manickam** – Teacher A. Manickam collected surface finds and brought them to official notice.

20. **B) May 2020** – Planned for March 2020, it began in May 2020 after the COVID-19 lockdown delay.

21. **A) a-2, b-3, c-1** – Mayiladumparai 2172 BCE; Kilnamandi 1769–1615 BCE; Mangadu 1604–1416 BCE.

22. **B) Reddiarpatti, Tirunelveli** – The Porunai Museum at Reddiarpatti, Tirunelveli was inaugurated on 20 December 2025.

23. **B) About 15 km** – Both sites are in the Tamiraparani valley, about 15 km apart.

24. **B) Charcoal and pottery associated with the iron objects were dated, not the iron itself** – Charcoal (AMS) and urn pottery (OSL) found with the iron were dated in three laboratories; the report is by the TN State Department of Archaeology, not the ASI.

25. **B) Skeletal remains and iron objects** – That intact, lidded urn held skeletal remains, iron objects and paddy.

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