

Title : Need for publication of the report on excavation undertaken at Keezhadi in
Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu

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DR. D. RAVI KUMAR (VILUPPURAM): From 2013 to 2016 an ASI archaeologist led the excavation at Keezhadi, Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu, unearthing over 5,000 artifacts of historical significance. The archaeologist had already submitted reports on the first and second phases of excavation to the Union Government, Radiocarbon analysis revealed that the artifacts were approximately 2,600 years old. The Tamil Nadu Government conducted subsequent excavations (Phases 4-9) and published reports on them. However, the ASI has yet to release the report on the first two phases of excavation. The 982-page report prepared by the archaeologist holds crucial historical insights. Consequently, a case was filed in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, seeking a directive for the Union Government to publish the report. During the proceedings, the Government's counsel assured the Court that the report would be released within nine months. Accepting this, the Court, in its judgment on 27 February, 2024, directed the Union Government to publish the Keezhadi excavation reports within nine months. The deadline lapsed in November 2024, yet the report remains unpublished. This constitutes contempt of Court. In light of the above, I urge the immediate publication of the Keezhadi excavation report without further delay.