

Need to expedite publication of Keezhadi Excavations Report.-laid

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The excavations at Keezhadi in Tamil Nadu has brought to light over 20,000 ancient artifacts. The ASI had made every possible attempt to stall and shunt the publication of excavations report. The excavations by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) have uncovered an "undeniable evidence of an existence of a secular, sophisticated, scientifically advanced culture in Tamil Nadu" dating back to 6th Century BC. The Keezhadi excavations has yielded significant artifacts, wall structures, drainage systems and wells, Iron Smelters and pottery with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions all evidence of a well advanced urban society that thrived and potential links to a secular civilization. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has directed the officials of State Department of Archaeology to establish a Site Museum at Keezhadi. The radio carbon dating of samples from Keezhadi have been scientifically proved that the archaeological evidences are over 2,560 years old. An archaeological excavation, if not published, is a recorded destruction of evidences. If the publication is not done properly in time, it amounts to destruction of the archaeological evidences. The lackadaisical approach of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the inordinate delay of final report publication of excavation report has become a focal point of controversy and the ongoing debates over its findings have not only hindered the full recognition and celebration of the Dravidian Civilization but render injustice to the whole Tamil Nadu and its people. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to expedite the publication of reports on Keezhadi excavations compiling all the evidences brought to the light by Archaeologists from Archaeological Survey of India in a transparent manner without any further delay.