

Regarding need for publication of Keezhadi excavations in Tamil Nadu-Laid

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): I wish to draw the attention of the Hon?ble Minister of Culture to the continued neglect of the Keezhadi archaeological site in Tamil Nadu?s Sivaganga district. This site has revealed evidence of a highly urbanised Tamil civilisation dating back to the 8th?5th centuries BCE, including Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, industrial activity, and civic planning. These findings place Tamil Nadu within the early Iron Age and Sangam-era continuum. Yet, the excavation has faced repeated disruptions. The Archeologist, who led the discovery, has been transferred multiple times, allegedly under pressure to alter the dating. Reports mention internal efforts to revise the conclusions. The current ASI Director firmly stood by the truth, defending scientific methods like stratigraphy and accelerator mass spectrometry. The Archeologist?s integrity deserves recognition and protection. While the Union Government often highlights the Indus Valley, Vedic, and Mauryan periods, there is troubling silence on Tamil Nadu?s Sangam age? one of the oldest cultural traditions in India. Keezhadi is not just Tamil pride ? it is a national treasure. I urge the Government to publish the full report with its original version, protect scientific autonomy, and ensure that no ideological bias rewrites India?s diverse civilisational history, especially Tamil history.

Thank you.