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Title: Need to declare Madurai as the World Heritage City.

\*SHRI S. VENKATESAN (MADURAI): Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. I urge upon the Union Government to declare Madurai as a World Heritage City of historical importance. Madurai is not only a city, it is the Capital of Tamil culture and the motherland of Dravidian civilization. Madurai is a living City which existed even before 2000 years ago. The recent excavation work carried out in Keezhadi of Tamil Nadu by the Archeological Survey of India and the State Archeological Department of Tamil Nadu stand as a testimony to the prosperity and progress of Madurai city. As many as 15000 particles found during excavation of Keezhadi is again a testimony to the existence of a great civilization. Nowhere in the world, except the one and only Madurai city, inscriptions dating back to 2000 years have been found in 12 places at the excavation site. within a radius of 20 kilometers, Madurai city retains a special place in the cultural history of India by extending an extraordinary contribution to human development. I therefore request the Union Government to declare Madurai as the World Heritage City. Thank you.