

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2905
ANSWERED ON- 13.08.2026

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY IN THAILAND

2905. SHRI CONSTANDINE RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the recent archaeological discovery in Thailand of an ancient gold ring bearing an early Indian inscription, which has renewed interest in the maritime trade and cultural links between ancient Tamilakam and Southeast Asia;
- (b) the initiatives introduced by Government to undertake archaeological, epigraphic and maritime research on the historical trade routes connecting the Tamil region with Southeast Asian countries; and
- (c) the collaborative projects implemented by Government with foreign museums, universities and archaeological agencies for documentation, conservation and study of artefacts associated with ancient Tamil maritime heritage?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) No such official information has been received by ASI till date.
- (b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under Project Mausam has undertaken the study of maritime routes, monsoon patterns, ancient ports, coastal landscapes, and cultural, commercial and religious exchanges across the Indian Ocean, including the connections between the Tamil region and Southeast Asia mainly Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia.

The Proceedings of National Conference christened Jaladhipurayatra held in 2022 has already been published which includes four Research paper exclusively dealing with the links between southernmost India and Southeast Asia, during different periods of history.
