

Tiru-ksvaram & the Eelam Observational Record — UNESCO MoW audit — MP Evidence Pack

A heritage-archive audit pack for the 1622 Portuguese destruction of Tiru-ksvaram at Trincomalee, reframed as an epistemic-archival loss. Six policy asks to UK FCDO, DCMS, APPG for Tamils, and the UNESCO National Commission UK. Tier-A primary (de Queyroz 1687; Pathmanathan 2006; Abeyasinghe 1966) plus the UNESCO 1972 Convention and the OHCHR Right to Truth framework.

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Audience

- UK MPs
- Lords
- FCDO
- DCMS
- APPG for Tamils
- UNESCO National Commission UK

Best used for

- Written questions on UK alignment with UNESCO Memory of the World principles for Tamil documentary heritage
- Letters to DCMS on the heritage-archive audit pathway for sites destroyed before the 1972 Convention
- APPG roundtables on the Right to Truth applied to epistemic-archival destruction

Tier-A evidence anchors

- aivam · Cosmos · Eelam — cluster spine (TLTE) — <https://docs.tlte.cloud/cosmos>
- Dossier 10 · Tiru-ksvaram, 1622 (TLTE) — <https://docs.tlte.cloud/cosmos/dossier/10-tirukonesvaram-1622>
- Dossier 09 · Eelam as an Observational Landscape (TLTE) — <https://docs.tlte.cloud/cosmos/dossier/09-eelam-as-observatory>
- de Queyroz, F. (1687). The Temporal and Spiritual Conquest of Ceylon
- Pathmanathan, S. (2006). Hindu Temples of Sri Lanka
- Abeyasinghe, T. (1966). Portuguese Rule in Ceylon, 1594–1612
- UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention
- OHCHR — Right to the Truth
- UNESCO Memory of the World — <https://www.unesco.org/en/memory-world>

Policy asks

- UK Government (DCMS): Confirm UK alignment with UNESCO Memory of the World principles for diaspora-prepared nominations of Tamil documentary heritage, including absent sites such as Tiru-ksvaram.
- UK Government (FCDO): State HMG's position on the application of the OHCHR Right to Truth framework

to pre-1948 epistemic-archival destruction in former Portuguese and Dutch colonial spheres.

- UK Government (DCMS): Identify UK institutions qualified to carry a consolidated heritage-archive audit dossier for the 1622 destruction of Tiru-ksvaram, assembling Portuguese-era documentation in Lisbon, Goa, and Colombo archives with the reconstructible inscriptional record from neighbouring temples.
- APPG for Tamils: Convene a roundtable on Right-to-Truth framing for epistemic-archival loss in the Eelam record, with the Tiru-ksvaram 1622 case as anchor.
- UNESCO National Commission UK: Support the inclusion of Eelam Tamil-aiva astronomical-calendrical documentary heritage in candidate Memory of the World nominations, with Tiru-ksvaram's absence documented as part of the dossier.
- UK Government (FCDO): Reaffirm UK support for the international principle that documentary heritage destroyed by colonial-era state action is a matter of continuing heritage concern, regardless of the date of destruction.

Draft parliamentary questions

- [DCMS] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment has been made of the UK's role in supporting UNESCO Memory of the World nominations for Tamil documentary heritage prepared by diaspora civil-society organisations.
- [FCDO] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what HM Government's position is on the application of the OHCHR Right to Truth framework to epistemic-archival destruction in former colonial spheres.
- [DCMS] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which UK institutions are qualified to carry a consolidated heritage-archive audit dossier for the 1622 destruction of the Tiru-ksvaram temple complex at Trincomalee.

Civic remembrance

On Easter Sunday 1622, the Tiru-ksvaram temple complex at Trincomalee was pushed over the cliff above Koneswaram Bay by Portuguese forces under Constantino de Sá de Noronha. Its stones were repurposed for the Portuguese fort. Religious destruction is also archival destruction. The Pack names the second loss explicitly and proposes only audit, framing, and Memory-of-the-World pathway support — never operational restoration by TLTE.

Pack rules

- Never proposes TLTE operate any restoration, excavation, or heritage-site management work.
- Never names individual present-day temple administrators, restoration architects, or heritage officials.
- Always cites Tier-A primary (de Queyroz 1687; Pathmanathan 2006; Abeyasinghe 1966) before any secondary or diaspora source.
- Always routes operational heritage work via accredited partners (UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, Sri Lankan Department of Archaeology).
- Lobbying Act 2014 transparency note on every printed brief.

Transparency

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