



**TOURISM, CULTURE AND
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**HINDU RELIGIOUS
AND CHARITABLE
ENDOWMENTS**

**POLICY NOTE
2023 – 2024**

DEMAND No. 47

P.K. SEKARBABU
**Minister for Hindu Religious and
Charitable Endowments Department**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2023**

**Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments
Department**

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**Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments
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INTRODUCTION

“யாவர்க்குமாம்இறைவற்கொருபச்சிலை

யாவர்க்குமாம்பசவுக்கொருவாயுறை

யாவர்க்குமாம்உண்ணும்போதொருகைப்பிடி

யாவர்க்குமாம்பிறர்க்கின்துரைதானே”

-திருமூலர்

Every scripture, whatever is prevalent in the religions world over, what sways as the upshot is only love and compassion and nothing else. That is why it is proverbially said without any aberration that Love is God.

It is through Love, one must attain the bliss of God which is very well expressed by

Thirumoolar in the above hymn in Thirumantiram. The hymn emphasizes that pleasant and soft speeches are nothing else but a manifestation of God.

And, the manifestation of loving God transmuted from thought abstract to forms as cynosure are the temples which are preponderantly rampant all over Tamil Nadu which is evidenced in the emblem of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The temples standing stately are the root of the culture.

1.1 Temples are not only places of worship but also repositories of ancient culture, heritage, arts, architecture, dance and music. The Government is taking several measures for improving the divine experience of devotees in temples, by enabling the conduct of poojas,

celebrating festivals, and ensuring the safety and security of devotees.

1.2. The conservation, repair, renovation and maintenance of temples are given due importance by ensuring regular maintenance and the periodical performance of kumbhabishegams. Safeguarding the temple properties, evicting encroachments and providing amenities to devotees are being done regularly. Tamil archanai is being done in temples to enable devotees to better understand the chants. Thevaram and Divya prabantham are sung in temples.

Origin and Role of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department

2. The grand temples of Tamil Nadu have a hoary past and were built by the kings of yore with generous contributions from the treasury. The Pallavas, Cholas, Cheras, Pandiyas and Nayakar kings built maintained and endowed

temples. In recent times the kings of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin were actively involved in the construction and endowment of temples.

2.1. The kings of Travancore ruled in the name of the Lord and were called 'Padmanabha Dasa'. Kings endowed places of worship of other religions also. The Maratha ruler of Tanjore Ekoji and Thulajaji endowed land for mosques and dargahs. Kazis and Mutawallis were appointed by Kings.

2.2. The temples were endowed with huge landed properties to ensure that the rituals and upkeep of the temples did not suffer from a lack of funds. Some endowments were meant for providing services to the temple for Archakas and Poosaris. It also provided for activities like lighting lamps, providing garlands, carrying the Lord in procession, conducting festivals and for dancers and musicians to perform in temples.

Many devotees have endowed temples by donating their properties in the form of lands, buildings, gold, silver and many other precious assets to be spent on the maintenance of these. As temples played a very important role in the lives of people and controlled priceless assets, their management was overseen by kings or sovereigns from time immemorial. In many instances, the spiritual heads were either appointed by the kings or endorsed by them.

2.3. After the monarchy gave way to rule by the East India Company, many temples went into the hands of private individuals and families who appropriated them and started running them as private institutions. There were many complaints from devotees to the East India Company about temple properties being misused, sold and used for private benefit.

Regulations were issued in the presidencies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay in the years 1810, 1817 and 1827 respectively for supervision of temples and endowments. The idol of the temple was treated as a perpetual minor and a legal person.

2.4. During 1817, the Board of Revenue was vested with the power of general superintendence under the Madras Endowments and Escheats Regulation No. VII, 1817 to protect, ensure and maintain the endowments of temples and not take them away by the Government. It provided for the appointment of local agents to oversee the expenditure incurred by the temples. After repeated representations by Hindu leaders that the regulation was not effective, this regulation was repealed and was substituted by the Religious Endowments Act -1863 (Act XX of 1863) after 46 years. This Act provided for the

appointment of local committees to supervise temples. Members of this committee were appointed for life. This act was also found to be ineffective.

2.5. After that, a series of enactments including section 92 of the Civil Procedure Code 1908 was made. Civil courts became the central agency in all temple-related litigation. Since the process was slow and difficult in courts, it was seen that many temple properties had gone into private hands. No documentation was maintained about valuable temple assets. Many private bills were introduced in the Madras Legislative Council and the Imperial Legislature seeking executive supervision of temples to prevent and redress abuses in the management of temples.

2.6. The Justice Party pioneered the enactment of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act - 1927 which provided for the

constitution of the 'Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Board' and provided for the appointment of Executive Officers to temples. There was a lot of opposition to this legislation from entrenched groups. The then premier of Madras Presidency, the Raja of Panagal – Sir Panangatti Ramarayananar convinced the then Viceroy Lord Irwin and got his approval for the same.

2.7. Subsequently, various Acts viz., Act 1 of 1928, V of 1929, IV of 1930, XI of 1931, XI of 1934, XII of 1935, XX of 1938, XXII of 1939, V of 1944, X of 1946, V of 1947 were enacted. The law commission in 1950 under the Chairmanship of Thiru.C.R.Das also mentioned that a number of citizens complained to the law commission about the misuse of funds and properties of temples and endowments. Although not within its purview the law commission suggested that a suitable

enactment may be passed to regulate the misappropriation.

2.8. The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act - 1951 was enacted and provided for the creation of a Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments headed by a commissioner and assisted by a hierarchy of officers. It had the power to regulate the secular affairs of Hindu temples and Mutts. The system of hereditary employees was abolished and the system of authority, duties and responsibilities at various levels was laid down. Many interested groups challenged the Act. After prolonged litigation in various courts, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Act in the Shirur Mutt case but struck down certain sections of the Act.

2.9. Finally, after repealing all the earlier enactments, The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and

Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 was passed by the Tamil Nadu Government. While introducing the bill, the Chief Minister mentioned that more than 600 cases were pending in Courts regarding the illegal transfer of temple properties to the names of trustees or their wards.

Hindu Religious Endowments Commission (1960-1962)

3. The Government of India constituted the Hindu Religious Endowments Commission to enquire into matters connected with Hindu Public Religious Endowments. The Commission consisted of

Chairman

Dr.C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar

Members

1. Shri Sankar Saran, Retired Judge, Allahabad High Court

2. Shri Mahabir Prasad, Advocate General, Bihar
3. Swami HarinarayanAnand, General Secretary, Bharat Sadhu Samaj
4. Shri P. Kameswara Rao, Retired Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, Madras.

Shri K. Venkataswami Naidu, Advocate, Madras and Thiru. K.C. Sen, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court were appointed as Additional Members.

In its report, the Committee recommended that,

- (i) States which did not have acts governing Hindu religious endowments namely Assam, Punjab, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh should speedily undertake suitable legislation in this behalf.

- (ii) The Central Government should bring into operation a uniform pattern of legislation for the administration and management of religious endowments of all communities in India
- (iii) Every state should set up schools or institutions where archakas and pujaris are given instructions in Agamas, Archana, puja paddhati, rituals, etc.
- (iv) In all States not having acts with regard to religious endowments, well-defined statutory machinery should be set up to exercise effective control over trustees, similar to the pattern existing in states which possess such Acts.
- (v) A common good fund on the lines of that provided for in section 97 of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, 1959 might be created.

As of date, enactments relating to Hindu Religious Endowments are present in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir. Abroad Malaysia has its Hindu Endowments Act of 1906 and Singapore has its Hindu Endowments Act of 1968

STATUTE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959

4. The department has a hierarchy of officers with defined jurisdiction and is headed by the Commissioner. The provisions of this Act were extended to Jain Religious institutions and Charitable Endowments.

4.1. The Act and Rules framed there under define the rights and duties of the Commissioner

and other subordinate officers of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. It provides the legal framework for the administration of Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments. It also provides for various measures to be taken for improving their financial viability and ensuring their sustained development.

Hindu Religious Institutions

5. There are 45809 Religious institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The Geo-coordinates of the religious institutions with Latitude and Longitude have been earmarked and the places where religious institutions exist have been fixed with the aid of the Geographic Information system. (Annexure-I)

5.1. The inclusion of sub-temples, incorporated and un-incorporated temples under

the management of Kanyakumari Devaswom Board and temples formerly under the management of Pudukkottai Samasthanam, Thanjavur Palace Devasthanam, Sivagangai Samasthanam and Ramanathapuram Samasthanam along with the above-mentioned religious institutions has increased the total number of religious institutions.

Classification of the Religious Institutions

6. Religious institutions have been classified as listed and non-listed institutions based on their annual income. The Classification of Religious Institutions is provided in Annexure II.

6.1. Sub-temples, temples of Kanyakumari Devaswom Board, temples under the management of former Pudukkottai Samasthanam, Thanjavur Palace Devasthanam, Sivagangai Samasthanam and Ramanathapuram

Samasthanam are collectively taken into account for the above classification.

Contribution and Audit Fees

7. The Contribution under Section 92(1) and Audit Fees under Section 92(2) of the Act are collected from religious institutions by the Assistant Commissioners of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and credited to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund. The quantum of contribution and audit fees are provided in Annexure III.

Administrative Structure

8. The Commissioner is the administrative head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and is vested with powers to regulate and supervise the administration of the religious institutions by the

Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

8.1. The Commissioner is assisted by various officers in the performance of activities such as general administration, establishment, management of movable and immovable properties of religious institutions, thiruppani, court cases, etc. The lists of Departmental Staff at the Commissioner's Office are provided in Annexure-IV.

8.2. The details of the Officers on Deputation from other departments working in the Head Office are provided in Annexure-V.

8.3. 4 posts of Deputy Collector and 4 posts of Taluk Deputy Surveyor have been created in the office of the Commissioner to undertake the work of reconciling the land details of the religious institutions and mutts with the land details available in "Tamil Nilam" of revenue

department with the help of NIC and to get the computer chitta entries corrected in the name of the temple and to prefer an appeal before the appropriate authority for patta transfer in the name of the religious institution if the entries are wrong. Permission has been accorded to the commissioner to fill up the above posts of the Deputy collector and the Taluk Deputy Inspector of Survey on deputation from the Revenue Department and the Survey and Land records Department respectively.

8.4. To protect and retrieve temple lands, Special Tahsildar along with support staff of one Typist and one Office Assistant are functioning in all Assistant Commissioners' Offices in the State.

Administration at Regional and Divisional Levels

9. The administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been organized into 20 Regions and 36 Divisions. The religious institutions are supervised by Joint Commissioners at the regional level and Assistant Commissioners at the divisional level. The details of the territorial jurisdiction of Regional Joint Commissioners and Divisional Assistant Commissioners are provided in Annexure-VI.

Functions of the Joint Commissioner

10. The Joint Commissioner of the department is a Regional Level Officer with supervisory control over the Religious and Charitable Institutions published under Section 46 of the Act. He is empowered to appoint non-hereditary trustees and approve the budgets for religious institutions assessed under Section 46(i) of the Act.

10.1. The Joint Commissioner has the powers to inquire into and decide certain disputes and matters under Section 63 of the Act and settle the scheme of administration on religious institutions under Section 64 of the Act. He has revision power over the orders passed by the Assistant Commissioner under Section 21A of the Act. Under Section 53 of the Act, he is competent to suspend, remove or dismiss erring trustees of religious institutions covered under Section 46(i) of the Act.

10.2. He is competent to recognize and record the legal heirs of the Hereditary Trustee as the next in the line of succession under Section 54 of the Act for the reasons mentioned therein. The Joint Commissioner is empowered to inquire and pass orders for eviction of encroachments on land or buildings belonging to religious institutions under Section 78 of the Act. He shall discharge

such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commissioner from time to time.

Functions of the Assistant Commissioner

11. The department's Assistant Commissioner is a District Level Officer, with supervisory control over religious institutions not covered under Section 46 of the Act. He is empowered to approve budgets and appoint non-hereditary trustees. On receipt of complaints about religious institutions, he enquires and submits preliminary reports to bring the religious institutions under the supervisory control of the department.

11.1. The Assistant Commissioner assesses religious institutions for levying and collecting contributions and audit fees under section 92 of the Act and reports to the Commissioner. He also collects the costs and expenses incurred in legal proceedings under sections 93 and 102 of the Act

and remits the same to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund. He shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commissioner from time to time.

Functions of the Inspector

12. The Regional Joint Commissioners and the Divisional Assistant Commissioners of this department are assisted by 264 Inspectors at the Taluk Level. 29 Suit Inspectors exclusively handle the court cases pertaining to the department. To strengthen the administrative setup in the head quarters, 10 Inspector posts have been shifted to the Commissioner Office from the Divisional level.

12.1. Whenever complaints are received about the administration of religious institutions, the same are enquired into by the Inspectors. They submit their preliminary report to the Assistant Commissioner for bringing a said

religious institution under the purview of the Act. The religious institutions are periodically inspected by the Inspectors. They collect contributions, audit fees, centage charges and costs awarded by the Courts.

12.2. They obtain and verify the Property Registers, Dhittam Registers and Tree Registers prepared by the religious institutions and submit them for approval to the Assistant Commissioner. They inquire and report on petitions and all references received from various authorities and verify the applications received for the appointment of trustees. They supervise auctions, tenders and hundial openings. They verify and submit the receipts and charge statements of religious institutions for assessment purposes and collect the dues as per demand. They discharge such other duties as may be assigned to them by their superior officers from time to time.

Verification Officers

13. There is one Verification Officer in the cadre of Joint Commissioner at Headquarters to scrutinize the reports regarding the verification of jewels and other valuable articles of religious institutions. There is a Verification Officer in the cadre of Deputy Commissioner attached to the office of the Regional Joint Commissioner to verify and appraise jewels and other valuable articles and prepare an appraisal report for approval. The Verification Officer is assisted by a Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialist and a Junior Technical Assistant. The Verification Officers are also responsible for any special work assigned to them.

Conservation Wing

14. The Engineers and Draughting Officers are in charge of scrutinizing the estimates for carrying out the temple renovation and civil

works, as well as supervising works, apart from checking the measurements. The Renovation and Conservation Wing of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been constituted with 226 posts. The list of Renovation and Conservation Wing is provided in Annexure-VII.

(i) 19 retired officials from the Archeological Survey of India have been appointed as Consultants on a contract basis to provide advice on the Conservation and Renovation of Heritage Temples.

(ii) Retired PWD personnel have been appointed as Temple Tank Consultants on a contract basis for providing advice on temple tank maintenance and upkeep.

Augmenting new vehicles for the use of officers of the department

15. Following the announcement made on the floor of the assembly for the financial year 2021-2022, 108 vehicles at a cost of Rs.8 crore have been purchased and distributed to the officers by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tami Nadu to ensure better services.

Temple Administration

16. Each Religious Institution and Charitable Endowment is a separate legal entity and is administered by its trustees who are empowered to appoint its employees. However, the Commissioner is authorized to appoint Executive Officers under section 45(1) of the Act and as per the rules framed there-under.

Executive Officers

17. Based on the significance, revenue, assets, workload and other activities of the temples, 668 posts of Executive Officers of different grades are working at present Department, vide Annexure-VIII.

Conservation Wings in Temples

18. Major temples have Engineers of their own to carry out conservation, repairs, renovation and restoration and undertake new construction works.

Mutts

19. Previously there were 56 Mutts under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. At present, there are only 45 Mutts under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department as 11 Mutts have lost

their character of Mutts. These 11 Mutts which have lost their character of Mutts are now treated as temples. Among Mutts, Madurai Aadheenam (alias) Thirugnana Sambanthar Swamigal Mutt, Thiruvavaduthurai Aadheenam, Dharmapuram Aadheenam, Kundrakudi Aadheenam, Perur Aadheenam, etc., propagate Saivaite philosophy. Ahobila Mutt, Vanamamalai Mutt, Thirukurunkudi Mutt, Embar Jeeyar Mutt propagate Vaishnavaita Philosophy and Sankara Mutt, Kancheepuram propagates Advaita philosophy, since ancient times.

19.1. The contribution of Mutts to the development of the Tamil language, which is the renowned medium of devotion, is invaluable. The mutts have diligently preserved Tamil palm leaf manuscripts enabling generations to read and enjoy Sangam Literature. The Mutts further play an important role in preserving the heritage of

the religious community by preserving palm leaves which hold the tenets of the oldest language in the world i.e., Tamil which would otherwise be lost to posterity.

19.2. The most important service rendered to the society by these Mutts are the publication of 12 Thirumurais of Saivite hymns which have run into several editions now.

19.3. Moreover, the Mutts are Caretakers of religion and have an important role in propagating the values and morals inculcated in people's minds which in turn lead to a morally responsible society. The Mutts run educational institutions which are leaders in the field of education. They help in evolving an educated and highly cultured society. Their contribution to the nurturing of educated and cultured future generations is immeasurable.

19.4. The heads of Mutts Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, Srimath Varaha Mahadesikan, Srilasri Ambalavana Desigha Paramachariya Swamigal and Dr. Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Maruthachala Adigalar are members of the Advisory Committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and plays a vital role by providing valuable advice for the improvement and management of various temples in the State.

Audit of Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions

20. Under section 87(3) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, all religious institutions whose annual income is not less than Rs.5 lakh shall be subjected to concurrent audit and all religious institutions with income not less than Rs.1,000/- shall be audited annually and under section 88, audit reports have to be submitted to the appropriate authorities

under the Act. For this purpose, an audit fee from 1.5 per cent to 4 per cent of the assessable income is collected under section 92(2).

20.1. To give more independence to the Auditors and to speed up the settlement of Audit Objections, it was decided to detach the Audit Wing from the Department and create a separate Wing to function under the control of the Finance Department of the Government. In G.O (Ms) No.181, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE2.2) Department, dated 25.11.2021 the Audit Wing was separated from this department.

20.2. A three-tier Audit Committee is being periodically constituted fixing a specification to settle audit objections as is done in the Local Fund Audit. For this, suitable Amendments have been made in the rules appended to section 87 of

the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act.

Advisory Committee

21. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for the constitution of an Advisory Committee to advise the Government in matters relating to Hindu Religious Institutions. The Advisory Committee is constituted as follows vide G.O (Ms) No.04, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE4.2) Department, dated: 06.01.2022: -

Official Members

Sl. No.	Designation	Name
1.	Chairman Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu	Thiru M.K. Stalin

2.	Vice Chairman Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments	Thiru P.K. SekarBabu
3.	Member The Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department	Dr. Chandra Mohan.B, I.A.S.,
4.	Member-Secretary The Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department	Thiru K.V. Muralidharan, I.A.S.,

Non-Official Members

Sl.No.	Name
1.	Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar
2.	Srimath Varaha Mahadesikan

3.	Srilasri Ambalavana Desigha Paramachariya Swamigal
4.	Dr. Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Maruthachala Adigalar
5.	Justice Thiru T. Mathivanan (Retired)
6.	Thiru. Suki Sivam
7.	Thiru. Karumuthu T. Kannan
8.	Sr. Dr. M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar
9.	Thiru. N. Ramasubramaniam
10.	Thiru. Tharanipathi Rajkumar
11.	Thiru. Mallikarjun Santhanakrishnan
12.	Thirumathi Srimathi Sivasankar
13.	Thirumathi Desa Mangayarkarasi

21.1. In the Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20.01.2022 chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the following 9 resolutions were passed. The Officials from the Department,

Experts in the relevant field and Non-Official Members from the Advisory Committee have been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the resolutions in temples: -

Sl. No.	Subject	Member
1	Appointment of three Advisory Committee Members for the State Level Committee constituted for selection of Trustees to the Religious Institutions.	1.Thavathiru Kuntrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar 2.Thiru. Dharanipathi Rajkumar 3.Tmt. Desa Mangaiyarkarasi 4. Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)
2.	Documentation and Publication of Thalapuranam/ Thalavaralaru	1. Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar 2. Srimath Varaha Mahadesikan

Sl. No.	Subject	Member
		3. Additional Commissioner (Education)
3.	Protection of Palm Leaves document / Copper Plates documents / Rare Books	1.SrilaSri Ambalavana Desika Paramachariya Swamigal 2.Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenakartha 3. Additional Commissioner (Education)
4.	Upgradation of Training Schools	1. Dr. Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Maruthachala Adigalar 2.Thiru. Karumuthu T. Kannan 3. Additional Commissioner (Education)

Sl. No.	Subject	Member
5.	Recommendations of Amendments to Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959	1. Hon'ble Justice (Retd) Thiru T. Mathivanan 2. Joint Commissioner (Legal)
6.	Documentation and Publication of Agamas Books	1.Thiru. Suki Sivam 2.Sr.Dr.M.P.Sathiya vel Muruganar 3.Additional Commissioner (Education)
7.	Conducting Spiritual Discourses / Spiritual Classes	1. Thiru. N. Rama Subramanian 2.Tmt.Desu Mangaiyarkarasi 3.Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)

Sl. No.	Subject	Member
8.	Computerization of temple services.	1.Thiru. Dharanipathi Rajkumar 2. Tmt. Srimathi Sivasankar 3.Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)
9.	Upgradation of Financial Management in temples	1. Thiru. Mallikarjun Santhana Krishnan 2. Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)

Constitution of District Committee

22. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act empowers the Government to constitute a District Committee under section 7A for non-listed categorized temples under section 49(1) and listed temples categorized under sections 46(i) and 46(ii) in each Revenue District

consisting of not less than three and not more than five non-official members. This Committee will prepare a panel of persons qualified for appointment as non-hereditary trustees for the religious institutions as per provisions of the Act. The term of office of the District Committee is two years. Till now, a District committee has been constituted for 28 Revenue Districts.

Appointment of Trustees

23. To administer the religious institutions as per section 47 of the act, non-hereditary trustees are to be appointed to the religious institutions. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees consists of three to five members is constituted for each religious institution. Of these members, one shall belong to Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes and one shall be a Woman. The tenure of the Board is two years. Till now, Trust Board has been constituted for 780 temples.

Qualifications for appointment of Trustees

24. The following qualifications have been prescribed under Section 25A for a person to be appointed as a Trustee: -

- a) He must have faith in God;
- b) He must possess good conduct and reputation. Also, he must command respect in the locality in which the religious institution or endowment is situated;
- c) He must have sufficient time and interest to attend the affairs of the religious institution or endowment.

Power to appoint Trustees

25. The Assistant Commissioner is empowered to constitute the Board of Trustees consisting of three non-hereditary Trustees for

the religious and charitable institutions under Section 49(1) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act having an annual income of less than Rs.10000/- based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

25.1. The Joint Commissioner is empowered to constitute the Board of Trustees consisting of three non-hereditary Trustees for the religious and charitable institutions under section 46(i) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act having an annual income of not less than Rs.10,000/- but less than Rs.2 lakh, based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

25.2. The Commissioner is empowered to constitute the Board of Trustees consisting of three non-hereditary trustees for the religious and charitable institutions under section 46(ii) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of not less than Rs.2

lakh but less than Rs.10 lakh, based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

25.3. The Government is empowered to constitute the Board of trustees consisting of five non-hereditary trustees for the religious and charitable institutions falling under section 46(iii) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above.

25.4. The Government may nominate two more qualified members to the said Board of Trustees of the religious institutions in addition to the persons appointed by the Commissioner, the Joint Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner.

Appointment of Fit Person

26. The appropriate authorities under the Act may appoint a fit person to discharge the

duties and perform the functions of the Board of Trustees till the Board of Trustees is constituted.

State Committee

27. To ensure transparency in the procedure of appointing non-hereditary trustees to the temples falling under section 46(iii) a State Committee has been constituted by the Government under the chairmanship of Thavathiru Kuntrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar for scrutinizing the applications and preparing a panel of names for appointment of trustees to the religious institutions vide G.O. (Ms) No.49, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE3-1) Department, Dated 30.03.2022.

MANAGEMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Land Details

28. Religious and Charitable Institutions own a large extent of agricultural lands, plots and buildings.

The details of the lands are as given below: -

Temple Lands Classification and Extent

Classification	Temple Lands (In lakh Acres)	Mutt Lands (In lakh Acres)	Total Extent (In lakh Acres)
Wet	1.83	0.21	2.04
Dry	2.18	0.35	2.53
Maanaavari	0.21	Nil	0.21
Total	4.22	0.56	4.78*

* As some discrepancies have been noticed in the classification and extent, the "Verification and Reconciliation Committees" were formed to verify and

reconcile the landed properties belonging to the Religious Institutions, throughout Tamil Nadu and the above reconciliation work is going on.

29. The landed property belonging to the religious institutions which are under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is compared and reconciled with the landed property uploaded on the "Tamil Nilam" website. This is being carried out by the subordinate officials of the Department. Out of the above total extent of landed property, 3.43 lakh acres of land are fully matched with the "Tamil Nilam" website and these figures were released on the website of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments on 09.06.2021 to the general public.

29.1. Further, details of lands which are partially matching with the Tamil Nilam Portal and

items which are not available in the Tamil Nilam Portal are also being collected/ reconciled and the religious institutions are preferring appeals before the competent authority of the Revenue Department for making suitable corrections to modify the partially matched cases into fully matched cases.

29.2. The above reconciliation process between the database of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and the Revenue Department's "Tamil Nilam" Website, is currently ongoing. Any changes as a result of this reconciliation will be updated in due course.

29.3. To maintain/ safeguard the enormous extent of landed properties belonging to various religious institutions, as per the announcement made in the Assembly by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments during 2021-2022, 36 posts of Tahsildars have

been created and staffed in each Assistant Commissioner's Division. 2 Tahsildars were posted on deputation from the Revenue Department in the Commissioner's Office. These officers will help to safeguard the landed properties, remove the encroachments and retrieve the properties from private individuals and restore them to the religious institutions. They will monitor the collection of lease rent from the lessee/tenant and supervise the survey work carried out by the Licensed Surveyors. The above-mentioned Tahsildars are working under the direct supervision of the 4 District Revenue Officers working in the Commissioner's Office.

29.4. There are 21,933 buildings, 70,738 vacant sites and 39,191 agricultural lands of the religious institutions and they have been leased out. During the fasli year 1432, from 01.07.2022

to 21.03.2023, Rs.117.63 Crore has been collected as rent.

Fixation of Fair Rent

30. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for the fixation of fair rent for the buildings and sites belonging to religious and charitable institutions under Section 34A of the Act. Accordingly, a committee consisting of the Regional Joint Commissioner, Executive Officer or Trustee or Chairman, Board of Trustees and the District Registrar of the Registration Department is engaged in the process of fixing fair rent for the buildings and sites used for commercial and residential purposes.

Revenue Courts

31. 10 Revenue Courts are functioning at Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Mayiladuthurai,

Tiruvarur, Cuddalore, Madurai, Lalgudi, Mannargudi, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli. Revenue Courts on camp are also functioning at Kumbakonam, Salem and Tenkasi.

31.1. These Revenue Courts are presided over by Special Deputy Collectors who settle the cases filed before them regarding the collection of arrears of land lease, fixation of fair rent for agriculture lands and eviction of the lessees, who refuse to pay the lease amount under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation and Administration of Agricultural lands) Act, 1961.

31.2. A total of 7192 cases are pending before the Revenue Courts, out of which 3463 cases have been disposed of as of 28.02.2023.

31.3. A sum of Rs.781.31 lakh of arrear amount was decreed and a sum of Rs.266.12 lakh has been collected.

Retrieval of Lands

32. During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), lands belonging to religious institutions were wrongly transferred in the name of the individuals. To rectify these mistakes and to restore the lands in the name of the institutions, appeals were preferred before the concerned District Revenue Officers. Since this Government came into power from 07.05.2021 to 28.02.2023, orders have been obtained for 932.40 acres of land belonging to 162 temples and the lands were retrieved and restored to the respective temples.

32.1. Appeals were preferred before the concerned Revenue Divisional Officers for the rectification of the mistakes that occurred at the time of the preparation of the computerized Chitta by the Revenue Department. Accordingly, till 28.02.2023, 1123.70 acres of land belonging

to 185 temples have been restored to the name of the temples.

Engaging the services of Retired Revenue Officials

33. To safeguard the landed property belonging to the religious institutions, to identify and retrieve the encroachments, speed up the collection of arrears of fair rent and lease amount and co-ordinate with the Revenue Department, 4 Deputy Collectors, 13 Tahsildars, 7 Surveyors and 8 Village Administrative Officers retired from service have been engaged on consolidated pay.

Removal of Encroachments

34. From 07.05.2021 to 19.03.2023, encroachments in the immovable properties belonging to 502 religious institutions have been removed and 4501.82 acres of agricultural lands, 809.2102 grounds of vacant plots, 156.1246

grounds of buildings and 134.0414 grounds of temple tank bunds were restored. It is estimated that these properties are worth Rs.4236 crore.

34.1. Penal provisions for offences in connection with encroachment have been prescribed under 79(b) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959. Furthermore, to enforce the provisions more effectively sub-clause 3 of section 79(b) has been amended by the Government under Amended Act 29 of 2021 prescribing the punishment as cognizable and non-bailable one and the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act 2 of 1974) concerning cognizable and non-bailable offences shall apply to that offence. Complaints may also be lodged by anyone including the trustee, authorities under the Act and even by the public and persons having interest.

Regularization of group encroachments

35. Various steps have been taken to give tenancy rights to the encroachers who are part of group encroachments of temple lands, using them for residential purposes, and have been living there continuously for a long period. As per this provision, from 01.04.2022 to 05.03.2023, group encroachments by 150 persons in the land admeasuring 9.85 acres extent belonging to 3 temples have been regularized and the occupants have been treated as tenants.

Survey of Temple Lands (From 08.09.2021 to 31.03.2023)

36. On 08.09.2021, the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments launched the scheme of "Measuring the lands belonging to the religious institutions throughout the State with Modern instruments of DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System)", at

Arulmighu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.

36.1. In the initial stage, 150 Licensed Surveyors were engaged and formed into 56 groups and allotted to 20 regions to measure the temple lands by using 56 DGPS devices.

In April 2022, 16 DGPS devices have been obtained additionally from Survey and Settlement Department. In September 2022, 22 licensed Surveyors have also been appointed additionally. At present, 132 Surveyors are attending the land measurement work by using 66 DGPS devices, 38 surveyors are attending the record works at the offices of the Assistant Commissioner and 2 Surveyors are attending the office work at the office of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Chennai. Totally 172 Licensed Surveyors have been engaged in the temple land measurement work.

36.2. The Department has engaged a retired Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Survey and Settlement as Principal Consultants to monitor and advise the surveyors in carrying out the survey works.

36.3. Along with the measurement work of temple lands, pegging of cement pillars in the boundary and bends of the fields are being undertaken. After the completion of temple lands measurement work in villages, field measurement sketches are prepared by the concerned surveyors using the COLLABLAND SOFTWARE.

36.4. In G.O. (Ms) No.266, Tourism, Culture and Charitable Endowments (RE2-1) Department, dated 04.11.2022, the Government has accorded sanction to appoint 4 Deputy Collectors and 4 Deputy Inspectors of the survey on deputation basis. At present, one

Deputy Collector and 4 Deputy Inspectors of Survey are attending the works.

36.5. From 08.09.2021 to 18.03.2023 extents of 1,08,000 acres of land in 43,427 survey numbers/subdivision numbers in 1432 Villages have been measured.

THIRUPPANI

Thiruppani (Renovation, Restoration and Conservation)

37. In ancient times, the rulers built and patronized temples. The successive rulers maintained and made improvements to those heritage structures. The Hon'ble Chief Minister is keen on maintaining these living monuments without impairing their heritage value. Thiruppani work includes construction, repair, conservation, preservation, restoration and renovation of temples and buildings. Priority is given to

historical, ancient temples which include those religious institutions which have been glorified in the hymns of the Azhwars and Nayanmars. Special attention is given to village temples also.

Financial sources for Thiruppani and other Civil Works

38. Temple conservation, restoration and renovation (otherwise known as Thiruppani) works are carried out with the following financial sources: -

- Government Grants
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund
- Temple Development Fund

- Diversion of surplus funds of other Temples
- Village Temples Renovation Fund
- Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund
- Donation
- Tourism Department Funds
- Government Fund

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund

39. The contribution, under section 92(1) of the Act and Audit fees, under section 92(2) of the Act collected from the religious institutions and credited to this fund as per section 96(2), the administrative expenditure of this department under various heads including pension contribution is debited from this fund.

39.1. The financial transactions of the funds are being reconciled by this department regularly and it is being monitored by the Accountant General (A&E), Chennai. The Government may transfer the sum required by the Commissioner from this fund for temple renovation.

39.2. No tax of any time was levied by or was made payable to the government by any religious institution falling under the Act.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund

40. "Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund" was created under Section 97 of the Act. The contributions voluntarily made by the religious institutions from their surplus funds or donations from individuals are credited to this Fund for undertaking thiruppani works of temples that are financially weak and in need of assistance.

Temple Development Fund

41. A corpus fund of Rs.8.00 crore was created from the surplus funds of affluent temples for the development of financially weak temples in need of assistance. The interest accruing from this corpus is used for undertaking Thiruppani in temples of ancient and historical significance.

Diversion of surplus funds of Temples

42. Section 36 of the Act, enables the diversion of surplus funds from affluent temples for undertaking renovation works of temples that are financially weak and in need of assistance.

Village Temples Renovation Fund

43. "Village Temples Renovation Fund" has been created for providing financial assistance to village temples under the control of the department for repairs, renovation and restoration. A corpus of Rs.2 crore was created by

the diversion of surplus funds from Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple, Palani.

43.1. Under this scheme, now, financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh is given to 1250 temples. For the financial year 2022-2023, financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh each for 1250 temples, totalling Rs.25 crore assistance has been planned.

Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

44. "The Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund" was created on 5th August 1991. Donations were thereafter received from Philanthropists, Industrialists and the General Public. This fund is now called the 'Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund' and now has Rs.8.93 crore. This fund is being managed by the Government.

Donations and Donor Works

45. It is a common practice for donors to voluntarily carry out the temple conservation, renovation and restoration with their funds under the guidance and supervision of the department. In addition, there is an online portal created for donors to make donations.

Renovation for the temples in Adi-Dravida and Tribal habitations

46. The temples which are not under the control of the department and are situated in the Adi-Dravida and Tribal habitations are provided financial assistance of Rs.2,00,000/- per temple for taking up Thiruppani to 1250 temples.

46.1. Under this scheme, now, financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh is given to 1250 temples. For the financial year 2022-2023, financial

assistance of Rs.2 lakh each for 1250 temples, totalling Rs.25 crore assistance has been planned.

Tourism Department Fund

47. The temples in Tamil Nadu are major tourist attractions. For the welfare of the devotees and tourists visiting the temples, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and the Tourism Department jointly provide basic amenities such as toilets, bathrooms, drinking water, dormitories, information centre, approach roads, high mast lamps, cloakrooms and parking facilities.

Government Fund

48. Conservation and renovation of temples more than 1000 years old without disturbing their heritage value is one of the prime responsibilities of the department. To discharge these responsibilities conservation and renovation of

these temples are carried out getting grants from the Tamil Nadu Government.

Conservation Manual

49. To guide the department to carry out the conservation, renovation, restoration and preservation of heritage structures in ancient temples without damaging their unique heritage value, this department has prepared a comprehensive "**Conservation Manual**" covering both sthaphathi works and engineering works.

49.1 The manual draws inspiration from the manual written by Sir John Marshal in 1923. An appendix has also been added for ready reference for users.

49.2 Translation of this manual to Tamil is in process.

State Level Expert Committee

50. Earlier renovations were carried out in the temples following the advice given by the Regional Level Expert Committee, State Level Heritage Screening Committee and the High Court Committee.

50.1. The State-Level Heritage Screening Committee and the High Court Committee have been merged and the State-Level Expert Committee of 11 members has been formed. Conservation and Renovation are carried out in temples based on the advice of this Committee.

Drawing Committee

51. The Drawing committee is chaired by the Principal, of the Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram. The other members of the committee are an expert, Professor/ Assistant Professor, Government

College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram and the Regional Sthapathi of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The Joint Commissioner (Thiruppani) performs the role of coordinator of this Committee. This committee scrutinizes and countersigns drawings related to new structures inside temple premises and the drawings of new Temple Cars.

Restoration and Maintenance of Murals

52. For the conservation, restoration and maintenance of Murals found in temples, 2 conservation artists have been engaged on a contract basis for conserving them without disturbing their heritage value.

Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting

53. There are 2,359 temple tanks in 1,586 temples across the State. Repairs and renovation of temple tanks are being carried out periodically by getting advice from the Experts/Consultants.

The features of temple tank renovation include,

- Clearing of encroachments in and around the temple tanks.
- Construction of compound wall around the tanks.
- Deepening and de-silting the temple tanks.
- Re-laying the steps of the temple tanks.
- Providing facilities for the inflow of rainwater into temple tanks and overflow channels for surplus water.

53.1. In the year 2022-2023, sanction has been accorded to form new temple tanks at an estimated cost of Rs.49.95 lakh, out of Common Good Fund, for the following 2 temples: -

1. Arulmigu Sargunanatha Swamy Thirukoil, Idumbavanam, Thiruthuraipoondi taluk, Thiruvarur district.
2. Arulmigu Somanathaswamy Thirukoil, Achuthamangalam, Nannilam taluk, Thiruvarur District.

53.2. In the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.35 crore has been allocated for the renovation of 40 temple tanks.

Panel of Engineers approved by the District Collector

54. Empanelment of Chartered Engineers to prepare estimates was done by Commissioner till 2021. To avoid delays in the preparation of

estimates for conservation works of temples, it has been proposed to use PWD approved Chartered Engineers empanelled by the District Collector as district panel Engineers. These Engineers can be approached by temples to prepare drawings and estimates necessary for the conservation of temples as well as civil works at the rates prescribed by the Commissioner.

Empanelment of Sthapathis

55. To ensure that the temple conservation works (Thiruppani) are carried out following the standards prescribed in Agama and Shilpa Shastra, traditional experts and qualified personnel with formal education are being approved as Sthapathi/ Sirpi for taking up works. 241 Sthapathis/ Sirpis have been empanelled so far.

55.1. Steps have been taken to empanel more number of qualified Sthapathis / Sirpis.

Empanelment of Architects

56. For preparing master plan to carry-out developmental works in and around the temples and the premises adjoining the temples, a panel of agencies which are equipped and qualified in architecture and designing has been prepared. 12 agencies have been empanelled in the above list, so far. The temples can select any one of the agencies from the list for preparing master plan for their respective temples.

Consecration

57. According to Agama Shastras (texts), temples are to be renovated and consecrated once in 12 years.

57.1. From 07.05.2021 to 31.03.2023, Consecration has been performed to 615 temples after completion of thiruppani.

57.2. It is proposed to conduct consecration for 14 temples between 01.04.2023 and 01.06.2023.

Consecration of Arulmigu Adhikesava Perumal Thirukoil, Thiruvattar after completing Tiruppani

57.3. Arulmigu Adhikesava Perumal Thirukoil, Thiruvattar is a famous Vaishnavite temple, which is the 68th of 108 Divyadesams. Nammazhwar has sung pasurams on the Deity. The previous Consecration was held 400 years ago, in the year 1604. Tiruppani was carried out with the aid of Rs.50 lakh from 12th finance commission, fund transfer from affluent temples, Common Good Fund, Temple Development Fund, Donor Fund and Temple Fund. The total expenditure incurred for Thiruppani of the temple is Rs.7.50 crore. Consecration of this temple was performed on 06.07.2022.

Wooden Temple Cars/Chariots

58. Car festivals have great significance during the annual festivals of temples. Aazhi-Ther of Arulmigu Thiayagaraja Swamy Thirukoil, Tiruvarur is the biggest temple car in Asia. It is believed that the deity comes out of the temple to bless the devotees. There are 1097 wooden cars in 854 temples in the state.

58.1. In 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.20.24 crore has been allocated for carrying out renovation to 34 wooden cars belonging to 32 temples.

Golden Chariot and Silver Chariot

59. It is a customary practice for devotees to draw golden chariot or silver chariot carrying the urchavardeity to fulfill their vows. At present, in the state, 68 temples are having Golden Chariot and 57 temples are having silver chariot. The list

of temples which have chariot are provided in Annexure-IX & Annexure-X.

59.1. Based on the Government Order, work order has been issued to Tami Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar) to make a silver chariot by using 301.563 kgs of silver at an estimated cost of Rs.2.29 crore for Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil, Irukkankudi and work is under progress.

59.2. Based on the Government Order issued, Silver Chariot making work with the use of 277.530 kgs of silver at an estimated cost of Rs.2.17 crore for Arulmigu Kalikambal Kamadeswarar Thirukoil, Chennai is under progress. Wood work is nearing completion.

59.3. The following Golden cars have been put into use now after inspection and instruction of the Hon'ble Minister.

Sl. No	Temple	Date on which the procession started
1.	Arulmigu Masaniamman temple, Aanaimalai, Pollachi, Coimbatore	20.01.2021
2.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Thiruvannamalai	27.01.2021
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur	14.12.2021
4.	Arulmigu Mariamman temple, Samayapuram, Trichy	15.12.2021
5.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariyamman temple, Bannari, Erode	15.12.2021
6.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman temple, Siruvachur, Perambalur	11.07.2022
7.	Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy temple, Thiruchendur, Thoothukudi	23.10.2022
8.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy temple, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram	31.10.2022

9.	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar temple, Vadapalani, Chennai	20.11.2022
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Gold Investment Scheme

60. Gold items of different purity obtained as offerings and not used for the deity are converted into 24-carat bars to invest the same in the State Bank of India under the Gold Investment Scheme. The interest accrued from the investment is used for the development of the concerned temple. To oversee the implementation of this scheme, three committees headed by Retired Judges have been constituted, one each for the 3 Regions in the State. Two committees are headed by Hon'ble Judges (Retired) of Madras High Court and one committee is headed by a Hon'ble Judge (Retired) of the Supreme Court of India.

60.1. The details of the gold bars obtained on melting in the mint of the Government of India

from the unused gold offerings belonging to the temple are as follows: -

Sl. No.	Temple	Pure gold obtained in grams	Approximate interest amount accruing per year (Rs in Lakh)
1.	Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil, Irukkankudi	20567.89	24.09
2.	Arulmigu Bhavaniamman Thirukoil, Periyapalayam	91061.098	104
3.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Thirukoil, Mangadu	31938.77	39 *
4.	Arulmigu Devi karumariamman Thirukoil, Thiruverkadu	32700.00	39

(*Since, there is increase in Gold rate amount similar to S.No.4)

SPECIAL SCHEMES

Appointment of Archakas from all castes

61. The Government, in 2006, resolved to implement the policy of social justice in temples and to ensure that all are treated equally in the service of God. Nobody shall be denied the opportunity of performing pooja in temples only based on their caste alone.

61.1. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued appointment orders on 14.08.2021, to 56 persons as archakas out of whom 24 beneficiaries are the persons who were trained in the 6 Archakas Training Schools run by the temples viz.,

1. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar
 Temple, Madurai
2. Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy
 Temple, Palani

3. Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple,
Tiruchendur
4. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple,
Tiruvannamalai
5. Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple,
Srirangam
6. Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple,
Triplicane

61.2. Sanction has been accorded to start one more Archaka Training School at Arulmigu Adikesava Perumal and Bhashiyakara Swamy Thirukoil in Sriperumbuthur.

'Kalaighnar Sacred Tree Sapling Planting Scheme'

62. Traditionally, trees symbolize deities and are considered part of various rituals. Every temple is connected to a specific tree and the tree is considered sacred. **'Kalaighnar Sacred Tree**

Sapling Planting Scheme' was introduced in memory of the former Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Dr. Kalaingar**. Under this scheme, the Planting of one lakh sacred tree saplings (Thalamarakandru) in the temples throughout the State was planned.

62.1. On 07.08.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the scheme by planting a 'Nagalinga' (cannonball) tree sapling on the premises of the Office of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

62.2. To date 99,970 sacred tree saplings have been planted on the premises of 2,597 temples situated in 20 Joint Commissioner Regions of the department.

Archanai in Annai Tamizh

63. Tamil Saints of yore propitiated God by chanting verses in Tamil. Devaram, Thiruvasagam, Thirumandiram Naalayira Divya prabandham, Thirupugazh, etc., rendered by the Saints have not only enriched the Tamil language but also contributed to its growth.

63.1. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 03.08.2021 released a placard announcing the performance of 'Archanai in Annai Tamizh' in temples. In the first phase, this has been implemented in 48 senior-grade temples. On the placard, the name of the Archaka and the contact number are mentioned. To ensure and encourage the performance of Annai Tamizh Vazhipadu Nodal officers have been appointed.

63.2. The Government has added strength to the scheme 'Annai Tamizh Archanai' by ensuring

the publication of the following Tamil archana books.

1. Arulmigu Vinayagar Pottri
2. Arulmigu Murugavel Pottri
3. Arulmigu Umaiammai Pottri
4. Arulmigu Natarajar Pottri
5. Arulmigu Thenmuga Kadavul Pottri
6. Arulmigu Kothandaramar Pottri
7. Arulmigu Thayar Pottri
8. Arulmigu Durgaiamman Pottri
9. Arulmigu Kaliamman Pottri
10. Arulmigu Mariamman Pottri
11. Arulmigu Hanuman Pottri
12. Arulmigu Sivan Pottri
13. Arulmigu Thirumal Pottri
14. Arulmigu Navakolgal Pottri

63.3. On 12.08.2021 the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tami Nadu inaugurated the scheme of making 12 Pottri books available viz., 108 Pottri books, 1008 Arulmigu Sivan Pottri books in all the temples. Similarly, Arulmigu Thirumal and Arulmigu Navakol Pottri books have been released. To encourage worship in Tamil, 60% share of the service charge collected from the devotee is provided to the priest who performs Archana. Till March 2023, a share amount of Rs.24.51 lakh has been disbursed to the priests who performed Archana in Tamil.

Annadaanam Scheme

64. The scheme provides a wholesome meal to the devotees who visit the temples for darshan. In line with the belief and thoughts of devotees the food provided at the temple under this scheme is sacred. The scheme was started in

the year 2002 and is now operational in 764 temples.

Day Long Annadaanam for Devotees

65. From 13.09.2012, in Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Thirukoil at Srirangam and Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Thirukoil at Palani, Annadaanam is being provided throughout the day.

65.1. In the year 2021-2022, this day-long Annadaanam scheme has been extended to Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy Thirukoil, Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil, Samayapuram and Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy Thirukoil, Tiruttani.

65.2. In the year 2022-2023, this day-long Annadaanam scheme has been further extended to Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Thirukoil, Rameswaram, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar

Thirukoil, Thiruvannamalai and Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Thirukoil, Madurai.

Breakfast Scheme for Students

65.3. Providing free breakfast to the students studying in the educational institutions run by Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Thirukoil, Palani is implemented following the announcement made in the year 2022-2023. More than 4000 students benefitted from this scheme.

BHOG Certification

66. To ensure quality and to maintain hygiene in preparing and serving the Prasadam/ Annadaanam, all major temples have obtained Blissful Hygienic Offering to God (BHOG) Certification from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). So far, 511 temples have obtained BHOG Certification in the State.

Vasthira Mariyathai

67. Following the announcement made in the year 2022-2023, to promote religious exchanges with the temples in other states by the temples in Tamil Nadu, temple honours have been sent by the temples in Tamil Nadu to temples in other states. Vasthira Mariyathai was exchanged

1. Between Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Thirukoil and Arulmigu Chamundeeswari Temple, Mysore, Karnataka.
2. Between Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Thirukoil and Arulmigu Mallikarjuneswarar Temple, Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh.
3. Between Arulmigu Yoga Narasimhar Thirukoil, Sholingur and Arulmigu Agobilam temple, Andhra Pradesh.
4. Between Arulmigu Oppiliappan Thirukoil, Kumbakonnam and Arulmigu Ragavendra

Brindhavanam, Manthralayam, Andhra Pradesh.

5. Between Arulmigu Embar Swamigal Thirukoil, Kanchipuram and Arulmigu Cheluva Narayana Perumal temple, Melkote, Karnataka.

Spiritual and Moral Classes

68. Spiritual and Moral classes are being conducted in all important temples to help children imbibe moral and ethical values enshrined in ancient Tamil literature through stories embodying our cultural heritage and traditions.

Special Pooja and Feast

69. 'Special Poojas' is being conducted in temples every year on Independence Day and 'Perarignar' Anna Memorial Day and special lunch

is served at the temples by inviting people from all communities.

Elephant Rejuvenation

70. There are 29 Elephants belonging to 27 temples. Medical check-ups twice a month and special natural foods are provided to the Elephants maintained by the temples.

70.1. Now the Elephants in the temples are being maintained well in a natural environment with provisions of a splash pool, earth surface and walking track. (Annexure-XI)

Monuments for deceased Elephants

70.2. For the elephants, which served in the temple and attained Mukthi, the construction of monuments on the premises belonging to the temples was announced on the floor of the Assembly. The list of temples where monuments have been planned is as follows:

1. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
2. Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Ramanathapuram.
3. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Thiruvannamalai.
4. Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram.
5. Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Tiruverkadu.
6. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur.
7. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple. Tiruttani.
8. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruparankunram.
9. Arulmigu Rajagopalaswamy Temple, Mannargudi.
10. Arulmigu Thiruthalinatha Swamy Temple, Tirupathur, Sivagangai.

Pasukkal Kaappagam

71. Integrated 'Pasukkal Kaappagam' was formed in 4 places viz., Palani, Thiruchendur, Srirangam and Rameswaram to maintain cattle offered as 'Kaanikkai' (offerings). Surplus cattle received by the temples are being given free of cost to the Women Self Help Groups and 'Archakars and Poosaris'. Special efforts are being taken to maintain the Pasukkal Kaappagam as well. (Annexure-XII)

71.1 It has been planned to form an integrated Pasukkal Kaappagam in the premises belonging to Arulmigu Sundhararaja Perumal Temple, Koilpathagai, Avadi Taluk at an estimated cost of Rs.12crore.

Battery Cars

72. For the benefit of devotees visiting temples, Battery Cars are operated in temples.

The details of temples with battery cars are furnished in Annexure-XIII.

Rope Cars

73. To facilitate quick access to the hilltop by the devotees visiting Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Thirukoil rope car is being operated. At Arulmigu Rathnagireeswarar Thirukoil, Ayyarmalai, Karur District and at Arulmigu Yoga Narasimmar Thirukoil, Sholingur arrangement to provide a rope car facility is nearing completion.

73.1. A feasibility report has been obtained to provide rope cars for the temples at Thiruneermalai, Thirukazhukundram and Anuvavi.

73.2. Similarly, a report on feasibility has been obtained to provide a rope car connection between Palani hill temple and Idumban hill temple.

'Oru Kaala Pooja' Scheme (Scheme for one-time 'pooja' in needy temples)

74. This scheme was launched in 1986 to provide for at least one-time Pooja every day in temples which were not financially endowed to conduct pooja even once a day. A corpus of Rs.2 lakh for each temple has been created for 15,000 temples to enable the performance of one-time Pooja from the interest earned.

74.1. In a move to support the livelihood of Archakars serving in the above 15,000 temples, a monthly incentive of Rs.1,000/- is being paid from September 2021.

Government Grants

Grant for incorporated and un-incorporated temples of Kanyakumari District

75. The Government was providing an annual grant of Rs.3 crore for the administration of 490

Temples, one College for Women, one Higher Secondary School and two High Schools in Kanniyakumari District. Considering the inflation and increase in administrative expenses, the above annual grant has been enhanced from Rs.3 crore to Rs.6 crore.

Grant for Pudukkottai Devasthanams

75.1. The Government provided an annual grant of Rs.1 crore for the administration of 225 temples formerly under the control of Pudukkottai Samasthanam. Considering the inflation and increase in administrative expenses, the above annual grant has been enhanced from Rs.1 crore to Rs.3 crore.

Grant for Thanjavur Palace Temples

75.2. During the financial year 2022-2023, as the first instance, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has given a cheque of Rs.3 crore as a

Government grant for the administration and maintenance of 88 temples falling under the management of Thanjavur Palace temples, considering the need for financial support. This grant will be continued.

Annual Grant for Thiruppani

75.3. A Government Grant of Rs.6 crore has been sanctioned for Temple Thiruppani (conservation/renovation/restoration) every year for preserving heritage temples.

Manasarovar and Muktinath Pilgrimage

75.4. Every Hindu believes that he/she should go on a 'Holy Pilgrimage' to Manasarovar and Muktinath at least once in their lifetime. A grant of Rs.40,000/- each is provided to eligible 500 devotees who are Hindus domiciled in Tamil Nadu to perform a pilgrimage to Manasarovar in China every year. Similarly, a grant of

Rs.10,000/- each is provided for eligible 500 devotees who are Hindus domiciled in Tamil Nadu to perform a pilgrimage to Muktinath in Nepal every year. Both these grants are provided to those who have applied for a grant after they completed the pilgrimage and this has been granted once in their lifetime.

Pilgrimage from Rameswaram to Kasi

75.5. For the year 2022-2023, the announcement was made on the floor of the assembly to take 200 persons on pilgrimage from Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Thirukoil, Rameswaram to Arulmigu Viswanathar Thirukoil, Kasi by incurring an expenditure of Rs.50 lakhs Government Grant. 200 persons performed the pilgrimage successfully.

Special Grant for Conservation Works in Heritage Temples

75.6. A special grant of Rs.100 Crore has been announced by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance during the presentation of the Budget for the year 2022-2023 for taking up conservation works in temples that are more than 1,000 years old. The identification of temples is in process.

FACILITIES FOR DEVOTEES

Preparation of 'Vibuthi' and 'Kungumam' in the temples

76. 'Special Abishega Vibuthi' is being prepared in Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple, Palani. Further, Vibuthi is now being prepared in Thiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Thiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple and Thiruvanikkaval, Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple by using

Modern Technology and distributed to other temples.

List of Temples preparing Vibuthi by using Modern Technology

S. No.	Temples	Regions to which distributed
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayudhapaniswamy Temple, Palani	Salem, Dindigul, Erode, Coimbatore, Thanjavur
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple, Tiruchendur	Sivagangai, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Tirupur
3.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Thiruvannamalai	Chennai-1, Chennai-2, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai
4.	Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikkaval	Tiruchirappalli, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Villupuram, Cuddalore

76.1. Kungumam is also being prepared with modern machinery in Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundraeswarar Temple, Madurai, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram and Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu and distributed to other temples as well.

List of Temples preparing Kungumam by using Modern Technology

Sl. No.	Temples	Regions to which distributed
1	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundraeswarar Thirukoil, Madurai	Madurai, Sivagangai, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi
2	Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil, Samayapuram	Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai
3	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Thirukoil, Bannari	Salem, Erode, Coimbatore, Tirupur
4	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman	Chennai-1, Chennai-2, Kancheepuram,

	Thirukoil, Thiruverkadu	Vellore, Villupuram, Thiruvannamalai Cuddalore
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Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis

77. In temples, cotton sarees and dhotis received as offerings are distributed to the devotees who are elderly persons and destitute on 'Independence Day' and 'Peraringnar Anna Memorial Day'.

77.1. During this year 2022-2023, 26771 Sarees and 3239 Dhotis were distributed during Independence Day and 19148 Sarees and 3356 Dhotis were distributed during Peraringnar Anna Memorial Day.

Libraries at Temples

78. 114 Libraries are maintained in temples to nurture the spirituality of the devotees visiting temples.

78.1. Of these 114 libraries, 87 libraries were refurbished and renovated. More devotional books and magazines were also added to the original collections.

Control Room at Commissioner's Office

79. As a surveillance measure, 2,064 CCTV cameras were installed in the 48 senior-grade temples and connected to the Control Room in the Office of the Commissioner.

79.1. This was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 20.01.2022. The temples are monitored by the Assistant Security Officer and Planning Officer in the office of the Commissioner through CCTV cameras.

Developmental works as per Master Plan

80. In Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Thirukoil, Tiruchendur, developmental works including the construction of the Queue complex,

Annadaana mandapam, Soorasamhara mandapam, lodgings and Toilets apart from various developmental works are being carried out for the benefit of the devotees at an estimated cost of Rs.305 crore.

80.1. In Arulmigu Bhavaniamman Thirukoil, Periyapalayam developmental works including the construction of lodging with modern facilities, a Queue complex, Marriage Hall attached to Annadaana Koodam apart from various developmental works are being carried out for the benefit of the devotees at an estimated cost of Rs.170.11 crore.

80.2. In Rameswaram, Tiruppani works and providing of basic amenities for the devotees at Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Thirukoil, Tiruppani and other works at Arulmigu Godhandaramar Thirukoil and Tiruppani works and other works at

Ramar Padham are being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs.146 crore.

International Center for Vallalar

80.3. To make the tenets of Saint Vallalar known to the world at large, an announcement was made on the floor of the assembly to form an International Center. Following this, an estimate has been prepared for a cost of Rs.100 crore to construct a Meditation Hall, Digital Library, Paada Salai, Auditorium, Museum and Amenities in one complex in the premises where Sathya Gnana Sabai, Jothi-darisanam and Sathya Dharma Salai, are situated and to construct a Senior Citizens' home, Herbal Park, Cottages and Restaurant in another complex.

Pilgrims' Rest Houses

81. To provide accommodation for devotees, Pilgrims Rest Houses have been constructed at

Srirangam Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Tiruvannamalai Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Rameswaram Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Alangudi Arulmigu Abathsahayeswarar Temple and Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple.

81.1. Construction of 'Pilgrims Rest Houses' is in progress in the following temples: -

1. Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Thirukoil, Tiruchendur at an estimated cost of Rs.29.16 crore
2. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Thirukoil, at an estimated cost of Rs.35 crore

81.2. For the financial year 2022-23, to construct 8 rest houses and mandapams for the

benefit of the devotees at 7 temples a sum of Rs.9.15 crore has been allocated.

Special amenities for devotees

82. Drinking water scheme, Annadaana koodam, Elevator facility at rope car upper station and Nadhamani mandapam are provided for the benefit of the devotees at Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Thirukoil, Palani by incurring an expenditure of Rs.23.81 crore.

Free Tonsuring in Temples

83. Earlier Tonsuring fee was being collected from devotees. Considering the difficulties faced by the devotees in paying this fee, the fee is now being borne by the temple administration and tonsuring is done free of cost to the devotee.

83.1. At present, for each tonsure Rs.30/- is paid to the person who performs tonsure and

additionally an incentive of Rs.5,000/-per month is given to him by the temple administration.

The scheme of providing a monthly incentive of Rs.5,000/- to the person who performs tonsure from the funds of the respective temples was inaugurated on 05.10.2021 and it is being implemented.

Free Marriage for Differently-Abled

84. Free Marriage scheme has been announced for differently-abled in temples. Even if one of the couples is differently-abled, no fee will be collected for the performance of marriages in temples. 88 marriages have been performed under this scheme.

Free Marriage scheme

85. Following the announcement made in the year 2022-2023, to perform 500 free marriages,

till date marriages to 434 couples have been performed.

CLEANLINESS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN TEMPLES

Uzhavarappani

86. It is a customary practice for volunteers to clean temples. The activity which is popularly known as 'Uzhavarappani' is performed on the first Wednesday of every month under the scheme "திங்கள்தோறும் தூய்மைப்பணி". To facilitate volunteers and Social Organizations taking up this work, an online registration facility has been launched in 48 senior-grade temples on 27.07.2021.

86.1. To date, 35,781 'Uzhavarappani' in 18,215 temples have been undertaken.

Prohibiting the usage of Plastic on Temple Premises

87. To maintain the temple premises hygienically without damaging the environment, the usage of plastic and polythene bags is prohibited and the usage of bags made of cloth and plates made of the areca-nut leaf are being encouraged.

SECURITY MEASURES

Security of Temples

88. Safety Electronic Devices like Burglar Alarms, Metal Detectors, Digital Video Recorders, CCTV and Strong Grill Gates have been installed to enhance the safety and security of the temples. Day / Night Watchmen are being deployed by temples.

Safety of Icons and other Valuables

89. To safeguard the icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as icon centre, strong rooms, installation of burglar alarms, inner locking systems, fixing iron gates, installing closed-circuit Televisions, the appointment of day/night Watchmen and appointment of Personnel from the Temple Protection Force are being implemented. In addition, documentation and registration of idols and icons are being implemented.

Icon Centre

90. To protect the priceless Icons of the temples, 34 Icon Centres have been built. Icons of temples located in remote areas without adequate safety measures are being safeguarded by keeping them in these centres. Provision has been made to take out the icons of temples from the centre for conducting festivals and bring them

back to the Icon Centres for safe custody after the festivals.

90.1. There are 8,693 icons kept in the 23 Icon Centres. These icon centres are fully equipped with CCTVs, Burglar Alarms, and Armed Security Guards. The lists of Icon Centres are provided in Annexure-XIV.

90.2. Further, 11 more Icon Centres have been constructed. A request letter has been sent to the Police Department for 24x7 Police protection in these 11 Icon Centres. The lists of new Icon Centres are provided in Annexure XV.

Strong Rooms

91. A sum of Rs.308.70 crore has been allotted from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund for the construction of high-security strong rooms with

burglar alarms and CCTV facilities to safeguard the icons of temples.

91.1. In the first phase, a strong room has been constructed at a cost of Rs.22.57 lakh at Arulmigu Pasupatheeshwarar Temple, Pandanallur, Thiruvudaimaruthur Taluk, Thanjavur District.

91.2. Strong rooms at 4 temples including Arulmighu Barathwajeswarar Temple, Puliyur and Chennai have been constructed at a cost of Rs.29.11 lakh. Administrative sanctions have been issued for the construction of strong rooms in 1793 temples and the works are in progress.

Scheme for installation of Burglar Alarms

92. Under the Burglar Alarm Installation Scheme, a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore was created to provide financial assistance to needy temples. So far, Rs.2.05 crore grants have been given to

1,645 temples and burglar alarms have been fixed.

Temple Protection Force

93. A separate wing named "**Temple Protection Force**" was formed for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and valuables in the temples. The sanction was accorded by Government for appointing 1,000 Grade-II Police Constables and 3,000 Ex-Servicemen. The Government has raised the monthly consolidated pay to the Ex-Servicemen in the Temple Protection Force from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.5,000/-.

Fire Safety Measures in Temples

94. Adequate safety measures are taken by the Temples to avoid fire accidents and disasters. Fire audit is performed six months once regularly in the temples under the control of the department which are coming under section

46(iii) of the Act. More fire safety equipment, buckets filled with sand/water, power breakers, and fire tenders are provided in the temple at vantages.

Training is provided to the temple staff for taking immediate action when they encounter a fire accident.

To date, a fire audit has been done in 286 temples, which come under section 46(iii) of the Act.

FESTIVALS FOR TAMIZH HOLY SAINTS

Mupperum Vizha for Saint Vallalar

95. Following the announcement made on the floor of the Assembly for the year 2022-2023, a special committee has been constituted with ardent followers of Saint Vallalar and from October 2022, for 52 weeks Mupperum Vizha is being celebrated in all important cities of the state commemorating 200th Birth anniversary of

Saint Vallalar, 156th year of starting Dharma Salai and 152nd year of Jodhi dharisanam. Rs.3.25 crore has been sanctioned for this purpose. Apart from the celebrations, Annadaanam is provided wherever celebrations are going on.

Siddhar Vizha

95.1. 18 Siddhars as per Tamil mythology made invaluable contributions to the Hindu Saivite philosophy and Siddha medicine through the hymns sung by them.

To felicitate the Holy saints, a celebration for 3 Saints namely Kamalamuni Siddhar on 04.06.2022 on behalf of Tiruvarur Arulmigu Thiyagaraja Swamy Temple, Tiruvarur, Sundaranandha Siddhar on 12.09.2022 on behalf of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai and Pambbati Siddhar on 19.12.2022 on behalf of Arulmigu Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple, Sankarankoil was performed.

Sekkizhar Festival

95.2. Sekkizhar is a holy saint who authored 'Periya Puranam' a treatise on Lord Shiva. He lived a virtuous and pious life. His birthday is celebrated as a festival on the day of his star.

Sekkizhar Festival was being celebrated as a Government function every year for one day at his birth place, Kundrathur near Chennai by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Every year financial assistance is given from the interest accrued out of the corpus fund created for the purpose. From 2022-2023, this festival is celebrated for three days. Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple at Mylapore in Chennai celebrates the 'Panniru Thirumurai Festival' (sacred Saivite hymns) and the 'Sekkizhar Festival' for 12 days every year during August.

Thirugnanasambandar Music Festival

95.3. Thirugnanasambandar Music Festival is celebrated every year on 'Moolam' Star day of the Tamil month 'Vaigasi' at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram at Chengalpattu District to honor saint Thirugnanasambandar, who is one of the religious saints. (One of the celebrated four Saivite saints) The expenditure for the festival is met by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund.

Avvaiyar Festival

95.4. A temple for the Tamil Poetess and Saint Avvaiyar is situated at Thulasiyapattinam Village, Vedaranyam, Nagapattinam District in the temple premises of Arulmigu Viswanathaswamy Temple. Avvaiyar Festival is celebrated every year on 'Sathayam' Star Day of the Tamil month 'Panguni'. For the festival conducted in

Thulasiyapattinam, financial assistance is given every year from the interest accrued on the corpus fund created for this purpose. At present, the festival is celebrated for 3 days at a stretch as per the announcement made on the floor of the assembly.

Thayumanavar Festival

95.5. Every year Thayumanavar Festival is celebrated at Arulmigu Thayumanaswamy Temple at Malaikkottai, Tiruchirappalli. This is an honour for Thayumanavar, a tamil poet and scholar who sang Tamil Devotional songs.

Thiruvalluvar Day

95.6. Saint Thiruvalluvar is the author of Thirukkural which has been translated into the most known languages of the world. The book in the format of 1,330 couplets is well known for its deep understanding of human life and is divided

into 3 parts Righteousness, the Material world and Love.

'Thiruvalluvar Day' is celebrated in Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple, Mylapore every year on the 2nd day of Tamil month 'Thai' believed to be the birthday of the Divine Poet Thiruvalluvar. On this occasion oratorical, recital and essay competitions are conducted among the school students and prizes are distributed.

Arunagirinathar Festival

95.7.'Saint Arunagirinathar's attainment of wisdom (Mukthiperu) festival is being celebrated in Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai to honour Saint Arunagirinathar on 'Kettai' star day of Tamil month 'Avani' every year. Arunagirinathar 'Mani Mandapam' (Memorial Hall) is being constructed at Tiruvannamalai at an estimated cost of Rs.75 lakh with donor funds. This saint has sung many hymns on Lord Muruga

which are famous for their scale, meter and rhyme.

Kochenkat Chozha Nayanar Festival

95.8. 'Kochenkat Chozha Nayanar Festival' is celebrated at Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli District every year on the day of the 'Sathayam' star of Tamil month 'Masi', the birthday of Kochenkat Chozha Nayanar, one among the 63 Nayanmars

Mangaiyarkarasiyar Vizha

95.9. Arulmigu Somanathaswamy temple, Pazhaiyarai, Kumbakonam is a Heritage temple attached to Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy temple, Swamimalai. Saint Mangaiyarkarasiyar, who is venerated as one among the 63 Nayanmars, was born in the Tamil month of Chithirai on Rohini star to Manimudichozhan at Pazhaiyarai. There is a shrine for Mangaiyarkarasiyar in Arulmigu

Somanathaswamy temple, Pazhaiyarai and every year on the date of her birth star special worship at the shrine, recitation of Tamil hymns, processions etc., are being performed by the temple in a grand manner.

Azhwargal Festival

95.10. Azhwargal are 12 saints who attained the lotus feet of Vishnu and sang the four thousand spiritual hymns called Nalayira Divya Prabhantham.

'Azhwargal Festival' for 12 Azhwars is celebrated in Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli District on the days of their respective birth star days every year.

Paavai Festival

95.11. One of the 12 Azhwars, Saint Andal has sung 30 hymns called 'Thiruppavai' which is sung through the Tamil month of Margazhi.

Thiruvempavai is a collection of hymns extolling the virtues of Lord Shiva and is also sung through the Tamil month of Margazhi.

During the Tamil month of Margazhi, recitation, competitions in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai are conducted in temples every year. Paavai Festival is conducted every year at the district level. Competitions are being conducted in reciting / essay writing in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai for different categories of students studying up to 5th standard, 6th to 8th standard and 9th to 12th standard.

Notified Festivals of Temples

96. The following are the well-known notified festivals conducted in major temples.

Sl. No	Name of Festival & Temple	Place	Tamizh Month
1.	Meenakshi Thirukalyanam at Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple	Madurai	Chithirai
2.	Kallazhagar entering the Vaigai River at Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple	Madurai	Chithirai
3.	Chithirai Ther at Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple	Srirangam	Chithirai
4.	Chithirai Ther at Arulmigu Mariamman Temple	Samaya puram	Chithirai

Sl. No	Name of Festival & Temple	Place	Tamizh Month
5.	Adi Kiruthigai at Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple	Tiruttani	Aadi
6.	Dasara festival at Arulmigu Mutharamman Temple	Kulasekara pattinam	Purattasi
7.	Kandasashti, Soorasamharam at Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple	Tiruchendur	Iyppasi Karthigai
8.	Karthigai Deepam at Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple	Tiruvanna malai	Karthigai
9.	Vaikunda Ekadesi at Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple	Srirangam	Margazhi
10.	Poochorithal Festival at Arulmigu Mariamman Temple	Samaya puram	Masi

Sl. No	Name of Festival & Temple	Place	Tamizh Month
11.	MasiKodai Festival at Arulmigu Bagavathiamman Temple	Mandaikadu	Masi
12.	Kundam festival at Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple	Bannari	Panguni

Celebration of Maha Sivarathri

97. In the year 2021-2022, the Maha Sivarathri festival was grandly celebrated in Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Thirukoil, Mylapore with events like Dance, Drama, Debate, folk arts, etc. For the year 2022-2023, the Maha Sivarathri festival was celebrated similarly with events in the following 5 temples: -

Sl.No.	Temple		
1.	Arulmigu Mylapore	Kapaleeswarar	Thirukoil,

2.	Arulmigu Pateeswarar Thirukoil, Perur, Coimbatore
3.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Thirukoil, Tirunelveli
4.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Thirukoil, Thiruvannamalai
5.	Arulmigu Peruvudaiyar Thirukoil, Tanjavur

Performance of 108 Thiruvilakku Poojai on Full Moon Day

98. 108 Thiruvilakku Poojai on full moon days is practiced in Amman temples in some places. This worship is, now, streamlined and performed regularly in Amman temples on all full moon days with the participation of women devotees on a large scale.

EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

Educational Institutions

99. Section-36 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Act, 1959 provides certain

means to utilize the surplus funds of the Religious Institutions for the purposes mentioned in section 66(1) of the Act. Under the above provisions to inculcate and develop the Religious and traditional values of the younger generation, religious and general education is being imparted in the educational institutions run by the temples (Annexure-XVI).

The classification of Educational Institutions is as follows: -

Classification of Educational Institutions

Sl. No.	Institution	No.
1.	Arts, Culture and Science Colleges	9
2.	Polytechnic College	1
3.	Higher Secondary Schools	11
4.	High Schools	5

5.	Elementary Schools	6
6.	Matriculation Schools	2
7.	CBSE School	1
8.	Schools run by Mutts	6
9.	Archagar Training Schools	6
10.	Odhuvar Training Schools	3
11.	Nadhaswaram and Thavil – Musical Training Schools	2
12.	Veda Agama Training Schools	3
13.	Nalayira Dhivya Prabhantham Training Schools	1
	Total	56

Colleges	Numbers	Students	Teachers
Arts and Science Colleges	9	12240	493
Polytechnic College	1	826	31
Total	10	13066	524

Schools	Numbers	Students	Teachers
Higher Secondary Schools	11	6581	215
High Schools	5	1426	39
Primary Schools	6	606	25
Matriculation Schools	2	1846	57
CBSE School	1	1206	56
Total	25	11665	392

Schools run by Mutts

99.1. There are two Schools run by Dharmapuram Aadheenam one Primary School and one Higher Secondary School and there are Four Schools run by Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam, one Primary School, Two Middle Schools, one Higher Secondary School and one

Higher Secondary School run by Perur Aadheenam.

100. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College, Kolathur, Chennai on 02.11.2021 and Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Arts and Science College, Thiruchencode, Arulmigu Palani Dhandayudhapani Swamy Arts and Science College, Ottanchattram and Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Arts and Science College, Tiruchendur on 01.12.2021. Of the announced opening of 10 new colleges, the above 4 colleges have been started.

Basic amenities at schools and colleges

101. A corpus fund of Rs.10.00 crore has been created to provide basic facilities to the schools run by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department by drawing surplus funds from financially sound temples. Facilities such as

buildings, laboratories, computers, drinking water and toilets are being provided with the interest amount accrued from this corpus fund.

In the year 2021-2022, for providing and improving basic amenities of schools and colleges Rs.25 crore was allocated.

Providing and improving basic amenities in schools and colleges are in progress. In the year 2022-2023, also, Rs.13 crore has been allotted for carrying out the development works in schools and colleges.

Academic Year	Number of Works	Amount (in Crore)
2021-2022 Colleges Development Works	23	10.66
2022-2023 Colleges Development Works	6	10.87

Academic Year	Number of Works	Amount (in Crore)
2021-2022 Schools Development Works	52	14.47
2022-2023 Schools Development Works	4	1.78

Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation School, Chennai

101.1. Land measuring 32 grounds belonging to Kancheepuram, Arulmigu Ekambaranathar temple in which Seetha Kingston House Matriculation Higher Secondary School was functioning has been taken possession on 13.06.2021. Since the school had stopped functioning abruptly, considering the welfare of the students, teachers and other employees, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ordered to take over the management of the temple itself. The School has been renamed "Kancheepuram

Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation Higher Secondary School". The school is running with 1173 students and 49 teachers at present. It is being run by the temple efficiently. The Government has accorded sanction for a sum of Rs.1.43 crore for the development works to be carried out in this school.

TRAINING SCHOOLS

Archagar Training School

102. The Government, in 2006, resolved to implement the policy of social justice in temples and to ensure that all are treated equally in the service of God. Nobody shall be denied the opportunity of performing pooja in temples only based on their caste alone. To train the students from all communities 6 archaka training schools are being conducted on behalf of 6 temples as detailed below: -

1. Arulmigu Parthasarathy Temple, Triplicane
2. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
3. Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple, Palani
4. Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur
5. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
6. Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Srirangam

100 students are being imparted training in the above schools. The schools are run in the Gurukulam pattern with free food and stay. The students are given a stipend of Rs.3000/- every month for the one-year training course.

Veda Agama Training School

102.1. Veda Agama Training Schools are being conducted on behalf of 3 temples as detailed below: -

Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple,
Palani

Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple,
Tiruchendur

Arulmigu Naganatha swamy Temple,
Thirunageswaram, Kumbakonam.

Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Veda Agama Training School is being run as Gurukulam with 19 students. The other 2 schools impart part time training. In total, 35 students are getting trained in the above 3 schools. They are provided with free boarding and lodging with Rs.3000/- per month stipend during their 5 years training period.

Odhuvar Training School

102.2. Odhuvars are persons trained in Thevaram (Tamil hymns) who sing verses from it during Kala pooja in the Saivite, Ambal and Murugan temples. In the temples, Tamil Devaraceremonies are conducted regularly. The students are being trained with Thevaram, Thiruvagasam and Thirumuraigal so that they could be appointed as Odhuvars in the temples.

Following 3 temples run Odhuvar training school: -

1. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar
Thirukoil, Madurai
2. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Thirukoil,
Thiruvannamalai
3. Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil,
Samayapuram

The school run by Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil, Samayapuram was started in the year 2022-23 and it is functioning now, with 9 students.

21 students are getting trained in the above schools. They are provided with free boarding and lodging with Rs.3000/- per month stipend during their 3 years training period.

Thavil and Nadaswara Training School

102.3. Thavil and Nadaswaram must be played during Kala Poojas and the festivals in the temples. It is a part of Religious custom and usage. Hence Thavil and Nadaswara training school was started in 1957 at Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple, Palani. At present, 19 students are being trained in the school.

Following the announcement made on the floor of the assembly for the year 2021-2022, Thavil and Nadaswara training school run by Arulmigu Naganatha Swamy Thirukoil, Thirunageswaram, Kumbakonam has been upgraded and it is currently functioning with 5 students.

24 students are getting trained in the above schools. The students are provided with free boarding and lodging with Rs.3000/- per month stipend during their 3 years training period.

Nalayira Dhivya Prabhantha Paadasala

102.4. Nalayira Divya Prabhantham is the Tamil hymn sung by 12 Azhwars of the Vaishnava sect. Whenever the Urchavamurthi is taken in procession or kept in a mandapam for pooja and festivals these hymns are sung.

102.5 This training school (part-time) announced in the year 2022-2023 is being run in the Madhavapandhal Mandapam of Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Thirukoil, Srivilliputhur. The number of students trained is 31 and the training period is 4 years.

In the year 2021-2022, construction of a new building for Prabandha Paadasala in the premises belonging to Alavandar Charities, Mamallapuram at Rs. 96lakh has been sanctioned and the work is in progress.

Social Welfare Institutions

103. Temples are not only functioning as places of worship but also as charitable institutions running Homes for Senior citizens, Hospitals, Karunai Illams, Mental asylum, etc. with social responsibility. At present, 4 temples run Karunai Illam. 6 Siddha Hospitals, 2 Allopathy

Hospitals and a Mental Asylum are run by the temples.

In addition to that as per 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 assembly announcements, 15 Medical Health Centers with sufficient medical equipment are run by the big temples with 2 doctors for each health centre with Medical assistants, Nurses and ward boys.

1. Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani swamy temple, Palani
2. Arulmigu Mariyamman temple, Samayapuram
3. Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple, Thiruchendur
4. Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple, Thiruthani
5. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Thiruvannamalai

6. Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy temple,
Rameswaram
7. Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy temple,
Srirangam
8. Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple,
Maruthamalai
9. Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimma Swamy
temple, Sholingar
10. Arulmigu Angalaparameshwari temple,
Melmalaiyanur
11. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple,
Madurai
12. Arulmigu Mariyamman temple, Irukkankudi
13. Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman temple,
Bannari
14. Arulmigu Kallazhagar temple, Azhagarkoil,
Madurai
15. Arulmigu Sankara Narayana Swamy temple,
Sankarankoil

New Siddha Hospital

104. To start a New Siddha Medical College at Palani on behalf of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple as per the announcement made in the assembly in the year 2021 – 2022, the pre-condition of running a new Siddha Hospital for 2 years was complied with and the Siddha Hospital was inaugurated on 25.12.2022 with sufficient Doctors and Nurses.

PUBLICATION

Thalavaralaru and Thala Puranam

105. As per the 2021-2022 budget speech and the Resolutions of the Advisory committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the publication wing of the department was formed to republish the old rare Religious books which are not readily available for the public and devotees for reading, relating to 'Thalavaralaru' (History of Temples) and 'Thalapuranam'

(Legends of Temples) of ancient temples enabling the public to know the heritage, history, importance, legends, Puranas, architecture, inscriptions and importance of worship of the temples concerned.

On 19.01.2023, 108 rare old Religious Tamil Books were republished by The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tami Nadu. Some of the books republished in the first phase are Books on Shilpa Shastra, Alaya Nirmana Bhimbalakshana Shilpa Nool, Sirpa Sennool, Indhu Madha Inaippu Vilakkam, Saivamum Vainavamum etc., and all the 108 books will be mass printed for selling in the temple book-stalls and also in the newly constructed book stall in the office of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department for the benefit of the public.

“Thirukoil” Monthly Magazine

106. A monthly magazine namely "Thirukoil" is being published since 1958 with note-worthy articles along with devotional questions and answers by eminent writers. For the benefit of the subscribers, a new facility has been introduced wherein this magazine can be subscribed to online.

Palm Leaf Manuscripts

107. The Tamil language is a renowned medium of devotion, which is invaluable. The temples are a treasure trove of traditional values. The temples hold and protect ancient idols, icons, jewellery, etc. Ancient temples remain as repositories of palm leaf manuscripts which are used for writing purposes before the invention of paper. Considering the importance of the palm leaf manuscripts which are the mirrors of the culture of the olden days, depicting details of the

day-to-day administration of the temples, the properties gifted to the temples by the ancient kings, etc., the Government ordered for the restoration, preservation, digitalization and to convert the content of the manuscripts' into contemporary Tamil to be published as books for the benefit of the future generation.

The International Institute of Tamil Studies has been entrusted with the above work by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department and a total of 1,76,469 palm leaf manuscripts along with 21 copper plates have been found from 21 temples across Tami Nadu till now. The process of preservation is under progress and so far 26,734 palm leaf manuscripts have been properly preserved and conserved using scientific methodology by the International Institute of Tamil Studies. The above mission is in process.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Refresher Training Course

108. To perform their duties efficiently a "Refresher Training Course" has been started for the 'Archakars', 'Bhattachariars' and 'Odhuvars' in the year 1991. It is also proposed to train all the employees of temples including Archakars to practice the ideal of humaneness respecting the religious sentiments of the devotees.

108.1. It is proposed to extend refresher training courses for department and temple staff. For that purpose, it is planned to construct an Administrative Training Centre at Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani.

'Yoga' Classes

108.2. 'Meditation' and 'Yoga' classes are being conducted at 52 temples in hygienic and well-ventilated places by trained and qualified

persons every morning to enhance the physical and mental health of the devotees.

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE EMPLOYEES

109. Different categories of employees are working in temples and the following welfare schemes are implemented for them.

Family Benefit Fund Scheme

109.1. This scheme was introduced to help the legal heirs of temple employees who die in harnesses. A corpus fund of Rs.15.00 crore has been created from the surplus funds of the affluent temples. In this scheme, Rs.3.00 lakh is being granted to the legal heirs of the deceased, who died in harness.

Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme

109.2. "Temple Employees Welfare Fund" is having a corpus fund of Rs.6.50 crore derived from the surplus funds of affluent temples. The salary arrears of temple employees whose monthly income is less than Rs.750/-, and who are working in temples which are having an annual income of less than Rs.1.00 lakh, is being disbursed out of the interest accrued from this corpus.

109.3. Besides, for the employees working in temples having an annual income of Rs.1.00 lakh and above, Rs.5,000/- is being given towards Special Provident Fund at the time of retirement along with the subscription amount paid by them during their service. Moreover, the salary arrears for Musicians employed in temples are also being paid from the interest accrued from this corpus.

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

109.4. "Appointment orders on Compassionate Grounds" are being issued to the legal heirs of temple employees who die in harness while in service. 95 legal heirs of temple employees have been given appointments on compassionate grounds from the date of inception of this Government.

Appointment of Musicians and Odhuvars

109.5. It is customary to play auspicious music in temples during festivals. For this purpose, a sufficient number of Musicians are appointed by the respective temples.

Pension Scheme

110. Archakars, Odhuvars, Veda parayanars, Arayars, Divya prabandham Reciters and Isai Kalaigars who have served 20 years in temples

and have attained 60 years of age were being paid a monthly pension of Rs.1,000/-.

In the year 2022-2023, the monthly pension has been enhanced to Rs.3,000/-. In this scheme, 100 pensioners are benefitted.

Pension Scheme for Other Temple Employees

110.1. Two types of pension schemes are being implemented since March 2006, for temple employees.

(i) Employees Provident Fund Scheme

This scheme applies to all employees working in affluent temples. As per this scheme, employees who have more than ten years of service and subscribed to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme from 13.02.2006 will receive benefits like pension and family pension under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme.

(ii) Departmental Pension Scheme

For employees who have less than ten years of service on the date of implementation of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme (01.01.2006) and all employees working in the temples who are not affluent enough to subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, a Departmental Pension Scheme was implemented in 2006. So far, 5059 employees are benefitting from this scheme.

(iii) Family Pension

A Family Pension Scheme is being implemented from the year 2015 onwards for the benefit of the direct legal heirs (Wife / Husband) of the deceased departmental pensioner up to their lifetime. The family pension amount is 50% of the pension amount. 303 persons were benefitted so far.

In the year 2022-2023, family pension orders were issued to the spouse of 56 deceased departmental pensioners.

Distribution of New Dresses to Archakas and Uniforms to the Temple Staff

110.2. New dresses for Archakas and Uniforms for temple staff have been distributed for the occasion of Tamizhar Thirunal of Thai. Totally 17,655 temple staff benefitted, under this scheme.

Revised Pay Fixation for Temple Employees

110.3. Following the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission to the Government servants, pay revision has been implemented for the temple employees also. Until now, 2,293 employees of 48 senior-grade temples benefitted from this revised pay fixation.

Increase in Dearness Allowance

110.4. Following the Dearness allowance increase given to the Government servants, an increase to the dearness allowance from 34% to 38% by giving a 4% increase to the employees who are serving in temples, whose annual income of more than Rs.1 lakh has been given.

12 thousand temple employees got benefitted from this announcement.

Enhancement of Pongal ex-gratia

110.5. Similar to the Pongal ex-gratia announcement for Government servants, an increase is given in the Pongal ex-gratia of Rs.3000, by increasing the ex-gratia from Rs.2000. The ex-gratia has been given to all the employees who are working full time, Part-time, on consolidated pay and daily wages basis. 15000 employees got benefitted.

Regularisation of Temporary Temple Employees

110.6. The temple employees are appointed by the Trustees of the respective temples. Many temple employees are recruited temporarily by the trustees and some of them have been working for more than 10 years as well. The Government has issued a Government Order permitting temples to regularize the services of employees who have worked continuously for 5 years. The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed regularisation orders to 33 persons on 25.04.2022.

To date, the service of 1173 employees has been regularized.

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIS

Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board

111. For 'Poosaris' performing poojas in the village temples which are not under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a separate Board namely 'Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board' has been constituted and welfare benefits are being distributed to those poosaris.

The Government has increased the financial assistance to the legal heirs to perform the last rites of the deceased member from Rs.2,000/- to Rs.5000/- Free Spectacles, Marriage Assistance, Educational Assistance and Women's Welfare Assistance are provided to the members of the Board. The financial assistance provided to the legal heirs of the deceased member has been increased from Rs.15,000/- to Rs.50,000/.

Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme

111.1. The monthly pension of Rs.3,000/- was given to the retired Poosaris who have attained 60 years of age and served for more than 20 years in village temples that are not directly falling under the control of this Department.

In the year 2021-2022, the monthly pension has been enhanced from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.4,000/- and under this scheme, 5450 Village Poosaris benefitted.

COMPUTERISATION OF DEPARTMENT AND TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

112. The 'Integrated Temple Management System' was commissioned in 2021 to usher the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department into the digital age to bring all the advantages of the digital world like robust

security, transparency and accountability. The aim of ITMS is the enhancement of the devotees' temple experience in the digital age. The various services offered by every temple in the State have now been mapped onto this platform and their respective payment links with banks have also been established.

Temples are given independence to decide what services to map onto ITMS, what services to offer to devotees, update idol/icon information and updating of land records. With the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), modules covering all major aspects of temple administration and activities have been created. Modules in current use include Land reclamation, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Court Cases, Temple property, E-Tenders, Mobile applications, Annadaanam, Temple and Icon

information, Demand Collection Balance (DCB) and online temple e-services.

Administrative Modules include

- Property Registers
- Approved Budget and Audit Reports
- Land Property Information
- Thiruppani
- Court Module
- GIS Integration
- Temple Property DCB
- E-Tenders
- Temple Receipts & Payments
- Pension Disbursement
- Trustees Information

- Poosari Welfare

Devotee Related Modules include

- Temple Information
- Online Booking Service
- Mobile App Integration
- Online Grievance Redressal
- Annadaanam

The objective of the ITMS includes the enhancement of the devotees' spiritual experience and convenience in using digital transactions while preserving the temples' ancient traditions, customs and agamic rules. Complementing this is the administrative aspect of the ITMS that enhances the department's regulatory abilities in preserving temple records, monitoring finances, ensuring the halting of possible pilferage of temple wealth, creating a repository to store the

legal judgments about temples, creating a repository of the temples' spiritual assets (idols/icons), facilitating the electronic monitoring of temples land and land revenue, and facilitate donations to renovations of temples. The seamless integration of the public interfacing and the administrative aspects of Tamil Nadu's temple ecosystem rests on the backbone of the ITMS.

The DCB module was launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department on 8th October 2021. Since then, Rs.362.96 crore has been collected. The online temple services launched on 11th April 2022 have so far seen a total of 33,394 online transactions amounting to Rs.2.75 lakh.

Incidentally, the Department is actively exploring avenues to constantly improve the ITMS system and ease the pilgrims' experience of

darshan. Equally, important to the department is the ensuring of transparency and accountability of temple services by ushering in the practical aspects of the digital age in both administration and spiritual promotion.

TOLL-FREE HELPLINE

113. A Toll-Free Helpline number has been provided by the department in the commissioner's office to vent the grievances of the devotees visiting temples.

The Toll-free number is **1800-425-1757**. The Toll-Free number is in operation since 04.01.2023. A total of 270 complaints have been registered and transferred to the concerned, for action, till 24.03.2023.

CONCLUSION

'கொடையளி செங்கோல் குடியோம்பல் நாண்கும்
உடையானாம் வேந்தர்க் கொளி '

- திருவள்ளுவர்

Benevolence, Grace, Infallible spectre of Justice, Keen always for the welfare of the people, it is portrayed above, as the four cardinal values of a ruler, true to the meaning of the term.

True, all four cardinals are amply endowed in and evinced by the present Government of Tamil Nadu; which is not an overstatement. In so far as the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department are concerned, a new fillip has been thrust forward with foresight and vision.

Yes, benevolence - is evinced in various allotments of funds for improvisation on all fronts and renovation of temples, grace - in conducting hundreds of consecrations of temples, infallible justice - in the appointment of Archakar

irrespective of Caste and activities in the renaissance of Tamil worship and various welfare schemes like the publication of relevant religious literary laden books and feeding of poor and needy all day by Annadaanam in temples.

The above are not vacuous statements but strict to proof as follows.

It is the talk of the entire State and also world over resounding that many thousands of acres of land, statistics having been given ibid, usurped and misappropriated for long by malevolent vested interests have been redeemed successfully without onerous travails and troubles thereof.

Further, there were temples, not fortunate for even a-phase-a-day poojas and now, efforts made by the Government of Tami Nadu to restore poojas in them have come to fruition promisingly

and they are glistening having been face-lifted with bright illumination.

To redeem the lands misappropriated, strategic steps are being taken to bring them under effective surveying with necessary implements and troops.

Indomitable efforts and steps thereto are on, the fast tempo activities like identifying the dilapidated temples needy of renovation and revamping are getting momentum more than thought ever.

In the circumstances, anyone cognizant equanimously of the fortes and feats of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department described *ibid*, vouch, for sure, beyond doubt that the temples and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department thereof are under the special personal care and protégé of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, marching ahead

with steps of triumph to the heights of hall-mark in just two years of power.

And, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department hopes sanguinely and ventures to declare that the achievements will pace ahead steadily much more than the erstwhile glories in the years to come with promising projects on the anvil, ready to blossom now and then.

P.K. SEKAR BABU

MINISTER FOR HINDU RELIGIOUS
AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Annexure - I

Institutions under Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department

1.	Temples	43,283
2.	Mutts	45
3.	Temples attached to Mutts	68
4.	Specific Endowments	1,127
5.	Charitable Endowments	1264
6.	Jain Temples	22
	Total	45,809

Annexure - II

Classification of the Religious Institutions

Sl. No.	Classification	Annual Income	Number of Institutions/ Percentage (%)
1.	Non-listed Institutions – Under Section 49(1)	less than Rs.10,000/-	34,436
2.	Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i)	Rs.10,000/- to less than Rs.2 lakh	3,770
3.	Under Section 46(ii)	Rs.2 lakh to less than Rs.10 lakh	595
4.	Under Section 46(iii)	Rs.10 lakh and above	578
5.	Sub-Temple	-	6,385
6.	Mutts	-	45
		Total	45,809

Annexure – III

Contribution Fees under Section 92(1)

Sl. No.	Annual Income	Percentage (%)
1.	Less than Rs.5,000/-	NIL
2.	More than Rs.5,000/- but not exceeding Rs.20,000/-	4 %
3.	More than Rs.20,000/- but not exceeding Rs.60,000/-	5 %
4.	More than Rs.60,000/- but not exceeding Rs.2,00,000/-	6 %
5.	More than Rs.2,00,000/- but not exceeding Rs.5,00,000/-	7 %
6.	Rs.5,00,000/- and above	12 %

Audit Fees under Section 92(2)

Sl.No.	Annual Income	Percentage (%)
1.	Less than Rs.5,000/-	NIL
2.	More than Rs.5,000/- but not exceeding Rs.5,00,000/-	1.5 %
3.	Rs.5,00,000/- and above	4 %

Annexure-IV
Departmental Staff at
Commissioner's Office

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Posts
1.	Additional Commissioner (Admin)–[I.A.S]	1
2.	Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)	1
3.	Additional Commissioner (Education and Religious Institutions)	1
4.	Additional Commissioner (General)	1
5.	Joint Commissioner (Head quarters)	1
6.	Joint Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1
7.	Joint Commissioner (Thiruppani)	1
8.	Joint Commissioner (Verification)	1

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Posts
9.	Assistant Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1
10.	Assistant Commissioner / Administrative Officer (Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board)	1
11.	Assistant Commissioner	8
12.	Editor, "Thirukoil" Monthly Magazine	1

Annexure – V

**Staff on Deputation at
Commissioner's Office**

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Posts	Parent Department
1.	Chief Engineer	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
2.	Superintending Engineer	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
3.	Special Officer (Temple Lands) (District Revenue Officer Cadre)	4	Revenue Department
4.	Executive Engineer	2	Public Works Department / Highways Department
5.	Assistant Divisional Engineer	3	Public Works Department / Highways Department

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Posts	Parent Department
6.	Deputy Collector	4	Revenue Department
7.	Special Tahsildar	2	Revenue Department
8.	Assistant Engineer	1	Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited
9.	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	3	Public Works Department / Highways Department
10	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	2	Energy Department
11.	Senior Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department/ Highways Department
12.	Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department / Highways Department

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Posts	Parent Department
13.	Junior Draughting Officer	4	Water Resources Department(WRD)
14.	Senior Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
15.	Assistant Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
16.	Joint Director/ Public Relation Officer	1	Information and Public Relations Department
17.	Taluk Deputy Inspector of Survey	4	Land Survey and Settlement Department

Annexure - VI

Jurisdiction of Officers

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
1.	Joint Commissioner, Chennai - I	1. Assistant Commissioner, Chennai	Thiruvottiyur, Tondiarpettai, Madhavaram, Perambur, Purasaiwalkam, Egmore, Ambattur and Ayanavaram Revenue Taluks of Chennai District
2.	Joint Commissioner, Chennai-II		Mylapore, Amainthakarai, Maduravayol, Mambalam, Guindy, Velachery, Alandur and Sholinganallur Revenue Taluks of Chennai District
3.	Joint Commissioner, Kancheepuram	2. Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		3. Assistant Commissioner, Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu District
4.	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	4. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur District
		5. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore	Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet Districts
5.	Joint Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai	6. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvanna-malai	Tiruvannamalai District
		7. Assistant Commissioner, Krishnagiri	Krishnagiri District
6.	Joint Commissioner, Salem	8. Assistant Commissioner, Salem	Salem District
		9. Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri District
7.	Joint Commissioner, Erode	10. Assistant Commissioner, Erode	Erode District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		11. Assistant Commissioner, Namakkal	Namakkal District
8.	Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore	12. Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore	Coimbatore and the Nilgris Districts
9.	Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	13. Assistant Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	Mayiladuthurai District
		14. Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam	Kumbakonam and Thiruvilai maruthur Revenue Taluks of Thanjavur District
10.	Joint Commissioner, Nagapattinam	15. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam District
		16. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur District
11.	Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur	17. Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur	Thanjavur District (Except Thiruvilai marudur and

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
			Kumbakonam Revenue Taluks)
		18. Assistant Commissioner, Pudukkottai	Pudukkottai District
12.	Joint Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli	19. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli District (Except Lalgudi and Thuraiyur Revenue Taluks)
		20. Assistant Commissioner, Perambalur	Perambalur District, Lalgudi and Thuraiyur Revenue Taluks of Tiruchirappalli District
13.	Joint Commissioner, Tiruppur	21. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruppur	Tiruppur District
		22. Assistant Commissioner, Karur	Karur District
14.	Joint Commissioner, Dindigul	23 Assistant Commissioner, Dindigul	Dindigul District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		24. Assistant Commissioner, Theni	Theni District, Usilampatty and Peraiyur Revenue Taluks of Madurai District
15.	Joint Commissioner, Sivagangai	25. Assistant Commissioner, Ramanathapuram	Ramanathapuram District
		26. Assistant Commissioner, Sivagangai	Sivagangai District
16.	Joint Commissioner, Madurai	27. Assistant Commissioner, Madurai	Madurai District (Except Usilampatty and Peraiyur Revenue Taluks)
		28. Assistant Commissioner, Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar District
17.	Joint Commissioner, Tirunelveli	29. Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli District
		30. Assistant Commissioner,	Kanniyakumari District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		Nagercoil	
18.	Joint Commissioner, Thoothukudi	31. Assistant Commissioner, Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi District
		32. Assistant Commissioner, Tenkasi	Tenkasi District
19.	Joint Commissioner, Villupuram	33. Assistant Commissioner, Villupuram	Villupuram District
		34. Assistant Commissioner, Kallakurichi	Kallakurichi District
20.	Joint Commissioner, Cuddalore	35. Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore	Cuddalore District
		36. Assistant Commissioner, Ariyalur	Ariyalur District

Annexure VII
Renovation and Conservation Wing

Sl. No.	Post	Nos.
1.	Chief Engineer	1
2.	Superintending Engineer	1
3.	Executive Engineer	8
4.	Assistant Executive Engineer / Assistant Divisional Engineer (Civil)	22
5.	Assistant Executive Engineer/ Assistant Divisional Engineer (Electrical)	7
6.	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	40
7.	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	13
8.	Senior Draughting Officer	2
9.	Draughting Officer	22
10.	Junior Draughting Officer	40
11.	Chief Sthapathi (In the cadre of Executive Engineer)	1

Sl. No.	Post	Nos.
12.	Regional Sthapathi (In the cadre of Assistant Executive Engineer)	21
13.	Assistant Sthapathi (In the cadre of Assistant Engineer)	38
14.	Typist	6
15.	Driver	2
16.	Office Assistant	2
	Total	226

Annexure VIII

Classification of Executive Officers

Sl. No.	Grade of the Executive Officers	Post
1.	Joint Commissioner	11
2.	Deputy Commissioner	9
3.	Assistant Commissioner	27
4.	Executive Officer – Grade I	100
5.	Executive Officer – Grade II	117
6.	Executive Officer –Grade III	250
7.	Executive Officer –Grade IV	154
	Total	668

Annexure - IX

Temples having Golden Chariots

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple, Palani
2.	Arulmigu Muthukumara Swamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai
3.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai
4.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
5.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu
6.	Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai
7.	Arulmigu Vaidyanatha Swamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil
8.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Temple, Echanari, Coimbatore
9.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
10.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple, Sankarankovil
12.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri
14.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri
16.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Sivanmalai
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Mangadu
19.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram
20.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur
21.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Maruthamalai
22.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari
23.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple		
24.	Arulmigu Marundeeswarar	Temple,	Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai
25.	Arulmigu Velayuthaswamy	Temple,	Thindalmalai, Erode
26.	Arulmigu AnanthaPadmanabha	Swamy	Temple, Adyar, Chennai
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinatha	Swamy	Temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi
28.	Arulmigu Mundagakanni	Amman	Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi	Temple,	Oppiliappankoil, Kumbakonam
30.	Arulmigu Subramania	Swamy	Temple, Tiruparankundram
31.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Karur		
32.	Arulmigu Dhandumariamman	Temple,	Coimbatore
33.	Arulmigu Chandrachudeswarar Temple, Hosur		
34.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari	Samedha	Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval
35.	Arulmigu Aanjaneya	swamy	Temple, Namakkal

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
36.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettipalayam
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliamma Temple, Ariyakurichi
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal
41.	Arulmigu Vekkaliamman Temple, Uraiyur, Tiruchirappalli
42.	Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Temple, Salem
43.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Salem
44.	Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkoil, Madurai
45.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sholingur, Ranipet
46.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur, Chennai
47.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Dindigul
48.	Arulmigu Angalaparameswari Temple, Melmalaiyanur, Villupuram

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
49.	Arulmigu Kondathukaliamman Temple, Pariyur, Erode
50.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple, Tiruporur, Kancheepuram
51.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Anaimalai, Coimbatore
52.	Arulmigu Tirumalai Kumaraswamy Temple, Panpozhi
53.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur
54.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Katha Iyanar and Bathrakaliyamman Temple, Madapuram, Sivagangai
55.	Arulmigu Thanthondreeswarar Temple, Belur, Salem.
56.	Arulmigu Baladhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Sukkiravarapettai, Coimbatore
57.	Arulmigu Vishwanathaswamy Temple, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar
58.	Arulmigu Aamaruvi Perumal Temple, Therezhandur, Nagapattinam
59.	Arulmigu PoongaMurugan Temple, Thallakulam, Madurai

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
60.	Arulmigu Valasubramaniya Swamy Temple, Virudhunagar
61.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha Swamy Temple, Kundrakudi
62.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Thiruvappur, Pudukkottai
63.	Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Nagapattinam
64.	Arulmigu Bhagavathi Amman Temple, Mandaikkadu, Kanyakumari
65.	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Kalvidangam, Sangagiri Taluk, Salem
66.	Arulmigu Varasakhi Temple, Adaiyar, Chennai
67.	Arulmigu Vanjiyamman temple, Mulanoor, tharapuram, thirupur
68.	Arulmigu Deanuporisehwara temple, patteswaram

Annexure - X

Temples having Silver Chariots

SI.No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple, Palani
2.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
4.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
5.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai
8.	Arulmigu Adhikumbeswarar Temple, Kumbakonam
9.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur
10.	Arulmigu Vaidyanatha Swamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
11.	Arulmigu Sattanatha Swamy Temple, Sirkazhi
12.	Arulmigu Mayuranatha Swamy Temple, Mayiladuthurai
13.	Arulmigu Mariamman, Angalamman Temple, Pollachi
14.	Arulmigu Prasanna Vinayagar Temple, Udumalpet
15.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu
16.	Arulmigu Kolanjiappar Temple, Manavalanallur
17.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram
19.	Arulmigu Muthukumara Swamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai
20.	Arulmigu Tiruvenkadamudayan Temple, Ariyakudi
21.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha Swamy Temple, Kundrakudi
22.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Keelasevalpatti

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
23.	Arulmigu KannudaiyaNayagiamman Temple, Natarasankottai
24.	Arulmigu Koppudaya NayagiammanTemple, Karaikudi
25.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan (A) Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Devakottai
26.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Konnaiyur, Thirumayam
27.	Arulmigu AruthraKapaleeswarar Temple, Erode
28.	Arulmigu Sangameswarar Temple, Bhavani
29.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Temple, Bhavani
30.	Arulmigu Balasubramania Swamy Temple, Ayikudi, Tirunelveli
31.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Thottiyam, Tiruchirappalli
32.	Arulmigu Sivasubramania Swamy Temple, Neyveli
33.	Arulmigu Veyuluku Uganda Vinayagar Temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram
34.	Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Dindigul
35.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
36.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dhandayudhapani swamy Temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur
38.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai
39.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint, Chennai
40.	Arulmigu Katchabeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram
41.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy temple, Viralimalai, Pudukkottai
42.	Arulmigu Vedhapureeswarar Temple, Thiruvathipuram, Tiruvannamalai
43.	Arulmigu Sevugaperumal Temple, Singampunari, Sivagangai
44.	Arulmigu Selliamman Temple, Palatrankarai, Vellore
45.	Arulmigu Navaneetheswarar temple, Sikkal, Nagapattinam
46.	Arulmigu KaligambalKamadeswarar Temple, Chennai
47.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Saidapet, Chennai

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
48.	Arulmigu Bragathambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai
49.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Koilkandhankudi, Tiruvarur
50.	Arulmigu Kannigaparameshwari Temple, kadaivethi, Selam
51.	Arulmigu Kambareshwarar Temple, Thibuvanam, Tanjavur
52.	Arulmigu Mahalingaswamy Temple, Thiruvaidaimaruthur, Tanjavur
53.	Arulmigu Parimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruinthlur, Myladuthurai
54.	Arulmigu Valaroleshwarar Temple, Nagaravairavanpatty, Sivagangai
55.	Arulmigu Maingainathaswamy Temple, Preaanmalai, Sivagangai
56.	Arulmigu Balasubramania Swamy Temple, Uthiramerur
57.	Arulmigu Aathinam Srimathsivanayana Balayaswamykal Thirumadam, Bommapalayam, Villupuram

Annexure-XI

Facilities available for the Elephants

S. No	Temple Name	Name and age of the elephant	Earth surface	Splash pool	Walking Track
1	Arulmigu Dhandayudhaniswamy Temple, Palani	Kasthuri 56	✓	✓	✓
2	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai	Parvathi 26	✓	✓	✓
3	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.	Ramalakshmi 21	✓	✓	✓
4	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur	Deivaanai 25	✓		✓
5	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanaswamy Temple, Sankarankoil.	Gomathi 29	✓	✓	✓
6	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruparangunram	Deivaanai 13	✓	✓	✓
7	Arulmigu Kallaghar Swami Thirukoil, Alagharkoil	Sundaravalli 16	✓	✓	✓

8	Arulmigu Thayumana swamy Temple, Malaikotta	Lakshmi 32	✓	✓	✓
9	Arulmigu Venkatasalapati Swamy Temple, Oppiliyappan Temple	Booma 25	✓	✓	✓
10	Arulmigu Pattiswarar swamy Temple, Perur	Kalyani 31		✓	
11	Arulmigu Aranganatha Swami Temple, Thiruvarangam.	Andal, 42 Lakshmi alias Premi 22	✓	✓	✓
12	Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikkal	Akila 19	✓	✓	✓
13	Arulmigu Adhikesava Perumal and Bhasyakara swamy Temple, Sriperumbudur	Kodhai 24	✓	✓	
14	Arulmigu Renukampal Amman Temple, A.K.Padavedu	Lakshmi 27	✓	✓	✓
15	Arulmigu Mayuranatha swamy Temple, Mayiladuthurai	Abhayambikai 56	✓		✓

16	Arulmigu Amirtha kadeswarar swamy Temple, Thirukkadaiyur	Abhirami 17	✓		✓
17	Arulmigu Adikumbesvarars wami Temple, Kumbakonam	Mangalam 56	✓	✓	✓
18	Arulmigu Rajagopala swamy Temple, Mannargudi	Chenkamalam 35	✓	✓	✓
19	Arulmigu Panchanathee swaraswamy Devasthanam, Thiruvaiyaru (Dharumapura Atheenam)	Dharmambal 38	✓		✓
20	Arulmigu Sornakaliswarar Temple, KalaiyarKoil	Sornavalli alias Gandhi 29	✓	✓	✓
21	Arulmigu Nachiyar Temple, Srivilliputhur	Jayamala alias Jayamalyatha 20	✓	✓	✓
22	Arulmigu Sanmuganatha swamy Temple, Kunrdrakudi	Subulakshmi 59	✓	✓	✓
23	Arulmigu Nellaiyapar Temple, Tirunelveli	Gandhimati 52	✓	✓	✓
24	Arulmigu Adinatha Alwar Temple, Alwar Thirunagari	Adinayaki 22	✓	✓	✓

25	Arulmigu Vaitamanithi Perumal Thirukoil, Thirukkolaour	Kumudavalli 26	✓	✓	✓
26	Arulmigu Aravinthalochar Temple, Irattai Tirupati (Srivaikundam)	Lakshmi 19	✓	✓	✓
27	Azhagiya Nambirayar Temple, Thirukkurungudi (Jeer Mutt)	Kurungudivalli 27 Sundaravalli 17	✓	✓	✓

Annexure-XII

Pasukkal Kaappagam

S.No	Region Name	No. of Pasukkal Kaappagam	No of Cows in Pasukkal Kaappagam
1	Chennai 1	14	86
2	Chennai 2	11	115
3	Vellore	7	708
4	Salem	1	15
5	Coimbatore	6	46
6	Thanjavur	4	71
7	Mayiladuthurai	14	163
8	Villupuram	1	23
9	Tiruchirappalli	9	179
10	Madurai	3	156
11	Sivaganga	1	24
12	Tirunelveli	3	70
13	Kanchipuram	6	146
14	Erode	11	109
15	Tiruppur	6	66
16	Thiruvannamalai	3	85

17	Cuddalore	5	211
18	Thoothukudi	12	40
19	Nagapattinam	10	89
20	Dindigul	2	640
	Total	129	3042

Annexure-XIII

Temples with Battery Cars

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple	No. of Battery Cars
1.	Arulmigu Aranganatha Swamy Temple, Srirangam	4
2.	Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple, Palani	4
3.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur	5
4.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani	1
5.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur	1
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai	2
7.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvotriyur	1
8.	Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval	1
9.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai	2
10.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram	4
11.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore	2

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple	No. of Battery Cars
12.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Alagarkoil	3
13.	ArulmiguPatteeswaraswamy Temple, Perur	1
14.	ArulmiguDevarajaswamy temple, Kanchipuram	1
	Total	32

Annexure – XIV

Icon centre in Operation

1.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple campus, Tiruvavarur
2.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli
3.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli
4.	Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Temple, Salem
5.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Gandhinagar, Vellore
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram
8.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur, Cuddalore
9.	Arulmigu Nageswaraswamy Temple, Kumbakonam
10.	Arulmigu Patteeswara Swamy Temple, Perur, Coimbatore
11.	Arulmigu Brahadambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai
12.	Arulmigu Tiruvappudaiyar Temple, Chellur, Madurai

13.	Arulmigu Sundararaja Perumal Temple, Sivagangai
14.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tirubarur (Additional Centre)
15.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur
16.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
17.	Arulmigu Kaliyamman Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri
18.	Arulmigu Aanjaneya Swamy Temple, Villupuram
19.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar
20.	Arulmigu Malaikavalar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal (Sub Temple of ArulmiguArthanareeswarar Temple)
21.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur
22.	Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramana Swamy Temple, Perundurai, Erode
23.	Arulmigu Gowmariamman Temple, Veerapandi, Theni

Annexure-XV

ICON CENTRES - CONSTRUCTED

1.	Arulmigu Naganatha Swamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, Thanjavur
2.	Arulmigu Madhanagopala Swamy and Brahmapureeswarar Temple, Perambalur
3.	Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagarcoil, Kanyakumari
4.	Joint Commissioner's Office complex, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thanjavur
5.	Arulmigu Kaliamma Temple, Thanthondrimalai, Karur
6.	Arulmigu Alanthuraiyar and Kothandarama Swamy Temple, Ariyalur
7.	Arulmigu Kayaroganaswamy Udalur Neelayathatchiamman Temple, Nagapattinam
8.	Arulmigu Srinivasaperumal Temple, Dindigul
9.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy Temple, Krishnapuram, Palayamkottai (Sub Temple of Tiruchendur, ArulmiguSubramania Swamy Temple)
10.	ArulmiguParimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai
11.	Arulmigu Kapartheeswarar Temple, Thiruvalanchuzhi, Kumbakonam

Annexure-XVI

List of Educational Institutions Arts and Science Colleges

1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts and Culture College, Palani, Dindigul
2.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani, Dindigul
3.	Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam, Tirunelveli
4.	Sri Devi Kumari College for Women, Kuzhithurai, Kanyakumari
5.	Poompuhar College, Melaiyur, Mayiladuthurai
6.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College, Kolathur, Chennai
7.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Arts and Science College, Thiruchencode
8.	Arulmigu Palani Dhandayudhapani Swamy Arts and Science College, Ottanchattram, Dindigul
9.	Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Arts and Science College, Vilathikulam, Thoothukkudi

Polytechnic College

1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Polytechnic College, Palani, Dindigul
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Higher Secondary Schools

1.	Arulmigu Periyanaayagi Amman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur
2.	Arulmigu Subramania swamy Temple Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore
3.	Arulmigu Vazhathottathaiyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalayam, Samalapuram, Somanur, Tiruppur
4.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai
5.	Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniya swamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirupparankundram, Madurai
6.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumara swamy Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tenkasi
7.	Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari
8.	Sri Kanthimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli
9.	Arulmigu Sri Parvathavarthini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram
10.	Arulmigu Swedharanyeswarar Temple Boys Higher Secondary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam

11.	Sri SivaprakasaSwamigal Higher Secondary School, Mailam, Tindivanam, Villupuram
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High Schools

1.	Arulmigu Anjuvattathamman Girls High School, Kilvelur, Tiruvarur
2.	Arulmigu Kaliyuga Varadharaja Perumal Girls High School, Kallangurichi, Ariyalur
3.	Arulmigu Swedharanyeswarar Temple Girls High School, Thiruvankadu, Mayiladuthurai
4.	Arulmigu Sundararaja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai
5.	Devaswom HighSchool, Thirparappu, Kanyakumari

Elementary Schools

1.	Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli
2.	Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple Elementary School, Sankarankoil, Tenkasi
3.	Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Thiruvankadu, Mayiladuthurai

4.	Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swamy Temple Elementary School, Palani, Dindigul
5.	Arulmigu Sundararaja Elementary School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai
6.	Anjugam Elementary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai

Matriculation Schools

1.	Palaniandavar Matriculation School, Palani, Dindigul
2.	Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation School, Chennai

CBSE School

1.	Parasakthi Vidyalaya, Courtallam, Tenkasi
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Schools run by Mutts

S.No	Educational Institutions	Mutt	Nos
1	Gurugnana Sambanthar Elementary School	Dharmapuram Aadheenam	1
2	Gurugnana Sambanthar Higher Secondary School	Dharmapuram Aadheenam	1
3	Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam Elementary School	Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam	1
4	Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam Middle School	Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam	1
5	Ambalavana Desigar Middle School	Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam	1
6	Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam Higher Secondary School	Thiruvaavaduthurai Aadheenam	1
7	Arulmigu Perur Santhalinga Adigalar Higher Secondary School	Perur Aadheenam	1



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released a Book on the Retrieval of Temple Lands on 17.05.2022.



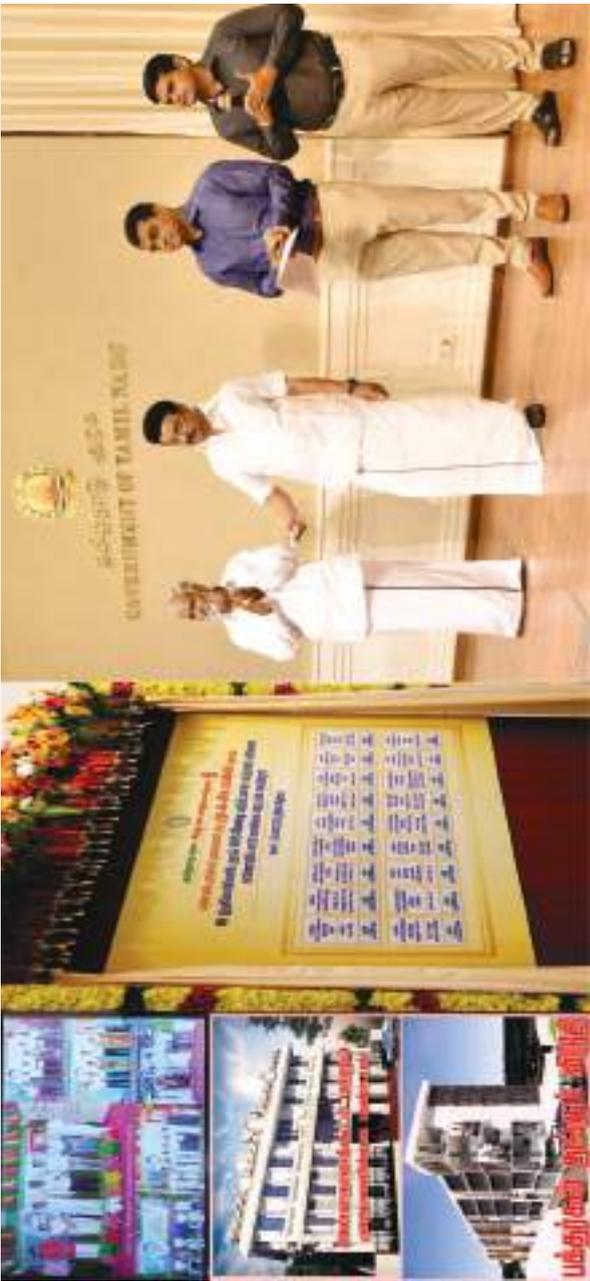
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu handed over Gold Bond issued by the State Bank of India for investing pure Gold Bars belonging to Arulmigu Mariamman Tirukkoil Irukkankudi Management in the presence of the Hon'ble Retired Judge of Madras High Court Justice Selvi R. Mala on 15.06.2022 at the Secretariat.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments handed over unused Gold items obtained as offerings by Arulmigu Bhavani Amman Thirukkoil, Periyapalayam, to the State Bank of India on 30.06.2022 in the presence of Hon'ble Retired Judge of Supreme Court of India, Justice Thiru D.Raju for the purpose of melting in the mint of Government of India



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated 9 upgraded training schools and distributed admission orders to trainees on 22.08.2022 at the Secretariat.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated 25 new construction works at 18 temples at an estimated cost of Rs.105 crore on 29.08.2022 through video conference.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments flagged – off the Spiritual tour to Vaishnavite temples during the Tamil Month of Purattasi at TTDCC headquarters in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism on 24.09.2022.



Felicitation of the followers of Suddha Sanmargam by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 05.10.2022 at Vallalar Mupperum Vizha held at Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai.



To extend Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme to 2000 more temples, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu gave the cheque for Rs.40 crore for making deposits in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation Limited.



Day long distribution of Prasadam to devotees in 5 temples was launched at Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Thirukkoil, Mylapore by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments on 01.11.2022



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 16.11.2022 Inaugurated breakfast scheme for the benefit of 4000 students in the Educational Institutions run by Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Swami Thirukkoi, Palani.



Performance of Marriage for 33 Couples on behalf of temples of Chennai region at Thiruvanniyur in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 04.12.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed vehicles to Department Officers on 17.12.2022 at the Secretariat.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department launched a 24x7 Toll-Free assistance number for devotees visiting temples at the office of Commissioner on 04.01.2023



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments inaugurated the implementation of the Annadaanam Scheme at Arulmigu Somanathaswamy Thirukkoil at Kolathur on 10.01.2023



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released 108 rare spiritual books republished by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department on 19.01.2023 at the office of the Commissioner.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu opened the stall for spiritual books at the office of the Commissioner on 19.01.2023



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inspected the ongoing Conservation work of Palm-leaf manuscripts of Temples on 19.01.2023 at the office of the Commissioner.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed orders of increase in consolidated pay to Teaching and non Teaching staff who are working in the Educational Institutions run by the Department on 21.01.2023 at the Secretariat.



Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis to the needy on 'Perarignar Anna memorial day' ie., on 03.02.2023 by the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments at Arulmigu Parthasarathy Thirukkoil, Thiruvallikkeni.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu handed over cheque of Rs.3 crore as Government grant to the Hereditary trustee of Thanjavur Palace Devasthanam for its administrative expenses on 04.02.2023 at the Secretariat.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments received and felicitated the persons who performed Pilgrimage in Government Fund from Rameswaram to Kasi on 28.02.2023



Distribution of Walkie-Talkie devices to Officers on 06.05.2022



Launching Online booking of Sevass on fee in Temples by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department on 11.04.2022 at the office of the Commissioner.

