



**TOURISM, CULTURE AND
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**HINDU RELIGIOUS
AND CHARITABLE
ENDOWMENTS**

**POLICY NOTE
2024 – 2025**

DEMAND No.47

P.K.SEKARBABU

Minister for Hindu Religious and
Charitable Endowments Department

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2024**

**Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments
Department**

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**Tourism, Culture and Religious
Endowments Department**

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INTRODUCTION

நன் கடம்பனைப் பெற்றவள் பங்கினன்
தென் கடம்பைத் திருக்கரக்கோயிலான்
தன் கடன் அடியேனையும் தாங்குதல்
என் கடன் பணி செய்து கிடப்பதே

நாவுக்கரசர்

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is diligently implementing various projects for the benefit of all the temples in Tamil Nadu, namely cleanliness, safety, restoration, renovation, consecration, improvement of basic amenities for devotees and the annadhanam

scheme under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in tandem with the cause espoused by Navukarasar that the devotee's duty is to be of service.

The temples are the root of the cultural repositories.

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

Tamil Archanai is being done in Tamil to enable devotees to better understand the chants. Thevaram and Divyaprabantham are regularly sung in temples. 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.

2. Origin of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department

The grand temples of Tamil Nadu have a hoary past. Inscriptions and Palmscripts reveal the history of temples from the time of ancient regime and its ancient culture. The temples were built by the kings of yore with generous contributions from the treasury and endowments by the devotees. The Pallavas, Cholas, Cheras, Pandiyas and Nayakar kings built maintained and endowed temples.

The temples were endowed with huge landed properties to ensure that the rituals and upkeep of the temples did not suffer from lack of funds. Temple's inscriptions reveal informations on endowments made for providing services to the temple for archakas and Poosaris, activities like lighting lamps, providing garlands, carrying the Lord in procession, conducting festivals and for the 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 for the upkeep and maintenance of the temple. The kings paid special attention since time immemorial to properly maintain the temple properties and its administrations. 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. The kings directly monitored it and in many instances, the spiritual heads were appointed by the kings in the administrative committees.

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.

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 to be

taken 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 this regulation was not effective, it 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.

After that, a series of enactments were made including section 92 of Civil Procedure Code 1908. 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 immense temple resources had gone into private hands.

Documents were not maintained in respect of 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.

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 Panangati Ramarayananar convinced the then Viceroy Lord Irwin and got his approval for the same.

Subsequently, various Acts viz., Act I 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. The law commission even if not within its jurisdiction suggested that a suitable enactment may be passed to regulate the administration of temple and to prevent acts of misappropriation.

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. This department was conferred with the powers 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 were 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 and struck down certain sections of the Act.

Finally, after repealing all the earlier enactments and taking into consideration the observations of the Supreme Court in Shirur Mutt case, the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 was passed by the Tamil Nadu Government. While introducing the Bill, in the legislative Assembly the then Chief Minister mentioned

that more than 600 cases were pending in the High Court regarding the illegal transfer of temple properties to the names of trustees or their wards.

3. Hindu Religious Endowments Commission (1960-1962)

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 Harinarayan Anand, General Secretary, Bharat Sadhu Samaj

4. Shri P.Kameswara Rao, Retired Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, Chennai.

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

In its report, the Commission recommended that,

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. A common good fund on the lines of that provided for in section 97 of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 may be created.

As on 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. In foreign countries Malaysia has its Hindu Endowments Act of 1906 and Singapore has its Hindu Endowments Act of 1968.

4. STATUTE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959

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.

The Act and Rules framed thereunder 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.

5. Hindu Religious Institutions

There are 46,159 Religious institutions under the administrative control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, as below:-

1.	Temples	43,631
2.	Mutts	45
3.	Temples attached to Mutts	69
4.	Specific Charitable Endowments	1,129

5.	Charitable Endowments	1263
6.	Jain Temples	22
	Total	46,159

The Geo-coordinates of the religious institutions with Latitude and Longitude have been earmarked and the place where religious institutions exist have been fixed with the aid of Geographic information system.

The inclusion of sub-temples, incorporated and un-incorporated temples under the management of Kanyakumari Devaswom Board and temples 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.

5.2 Classification of the Religious Institutions

Religious institutions have been classified as listed and non-listed institutions based on their annual income as below:

Sl. No.	Classification	Annual Income	Number of Institutions
1.	Non-listed Institutions		
	Under Section 49(1)	less than Rs.10,000/-	34,660
2.	Listed Institutions		
	Under Section 46(i)	Rs.10,000/- to less than Rs.2 lakh	3,795
	Under Section 46(ii)	Rs.2 lakh to less than Rs.10 lakh	620
	Under Section 46(iii)	Rs.10 lakh and above	586

4.	Sub-Temple	-	6,453
5.	Mutts	-	45
		Total	46,159

Sub-temples, temples of Kanyakumari Devaswom Board, temples under the management of Pudukkottai Samasthanam, Thanjavur Palace Devasthanam, Sivagangai Samasthanam and Ramanathapuram Samasthanam are collectively taken into account for the above classification.

5.3 Endowments

The properties are endowed by the devotees as Kattalais for the maintenance of temples, pujas and conducting festivals. Properties were bestowed to the temples for continuous functioning of the kattalais.

Aalavandar Arakattalai

Important kattalais are as follows:

In 1814, Aalavandar Swami known as Ayeeramkani Aalavandar, formed an

arakkattalai by donating properties through his will to Thiruvudanthai Arulmigu Nithiyakalyana Perumal Temple, Mamallapuram Arulmigu Sthalasayana Perumal Temple and for Bhagavata Dathiarathanai at the time of Tirumala Tirupati Brahmotsavam. The Trust owns Wet 71.24 acres, Dry 1057 acres and Manavari 2.24 acres of Lands.

Medai Thalavai kattalai

The role of Thalavai Ariyanatha Mudaliar in the rule of Viswanatha Nayakar during the reign of the Nayak king of Madurai was immense. He endowed the properties of 1176.16 acres/ cent Wet and Dry lands in 31 villages in the four districts of Thenkasi, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar for conducting daily, weekly, monthly and annual festivals in 19 temples situated in the above four districts.

Pillaiyan Kattalai

The feudal king Thiruvada malaiyappa pillayan created a kattalai and endowed the properties to the extent of 986.37.03 hectares of Wet and Dry lands in the present Districts of Thenkasi, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi. From the income of the above lands, daily, weekly, monthly and yearly festivals for 10 temples in the districts of Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi are being conducted in grand manner.

6. Contribution and Audit Fees

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 contribution and Audit fees are fixed as below:

Contribution under section 92(1)

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

7. Administrative Structure

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.

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.

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 (Headquarters)	1
6.	Joint Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1

7.	Joint Commissioner (Thiruppani)	1
8.	Joint Commissioner (Verification)	1
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

Officials of revenue for land safety and
Officials of Public welfare and Rural
Development on Deputation from other
departments are working in the Head Office.

Staff on Deputation at Commissioner's Office

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Posts	Parent Department
1.	Chief Engineer	1	Public Works Department
2.	Superintending Engineer	2	Public Works Department
3.	Special Officer (Temple Lands) (District Revenue Officer Cadre)	4	Revenue Department
4.	Executive Engineer (Civil)	3	Public Works Department / Water Resources Department
5.	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	1	Public Works Department
6.	Assistant Divisional Engineer (Civil)	6	Water Resources Department/ Rural Development

			and Panchayat Raj Department
7	Assistant Divisional Engineer (Electrical)	1	Public Works Department
8	Deputy Collector	4	Revenue Department
9	Special Tahsildar	2	Revenue Department
10	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	12	Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited/ Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
11	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	2	Public Works Department
12	Senior Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department

13	Draughting Officer	6	Public Works Department
14	Junior Draughting Officer	6	Water Resources Department
15	Senior Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
16	Assistant Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
17	Joint Director/ Public Relation Officer	1	Information and Public Relations Department
18	Deputy Inspector of Survey	4	Land Survey and Settlement Department

8. Administration at Regional and Divisional Levels

The administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been organized into 20

Regions and 36 Divisions. The religious institutions are being 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 hereunder.

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,		Mylapore, Amainthakarai,

	Chennai-II		Maduravayol, Mambalam, Guindy, Velachery, Alandur and Sholinganallur Revenue Taluks of Chennai District
3.	Joint Commissioner, Kancheepuram	2.Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District
		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
		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 Thiruvudai 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 Thiruvudai marudur and 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
		24. Assistant Commissioner, Theni	Theni District, Usilampatty and Peraiyur Revenue Taluks of Madurai District
15.	Joint Commissioner, Sivagangai	25. Assistant Commissioner, Paramakudi	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, Nagercoil	Kanniyakumari District
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
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8.2 Functions of the Joint Commissioner

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. The Joint Commissioner is empowered to appoint non-hereditary trustees and approve the budgets for religious institutions assessed under Section 46(i) of the Act.

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 of religious institutions under Section 64 of the Act. The Joint Commissioner has revisionary

power over the orders passed by the Assistant Commissioner under Section 21A of the Act. Under Section 53 of the Act, The Joint Commissioner is competent to suspend, remove or dismiss erring trustees of religious institutions covered under Section 46(i) of the Act.

The Joint Commissioner is competent to recognize and record the legal heirs of the Hereditary Trustee under Section 54 of the Act. 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, the Joint Commissioner shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commissioner from time to time.

8.3 Functions of Deputy Commissioner/ Verification Officer

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 Commissioners 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.

8.4 Functions of the Assistant Commissioner

The Assistant Commissioner is a District Level Officer, with supervisory control over religious institutions covered under Section 49(i) of the Act. The Assistant Commissioner is empowered to approve budgets and appoint non-hereditary trustees. On receipt of complaints about the religious institutions, the Assistant Commissioner enquires and submits preliminary reports to bring the religious institutions under the supervisory control of the department.

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

102 of the Act and remits the same into the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund. The Assistant Commissioner shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Commissioner from time to time.

8.5 Functions of the Inspector

The Regional Joint Commissioners and the Divisional Assistant Commissioners of this Department are assisted by 264 Inspectors at the Taluk Level and 29 Suit Inspectors are in the Department to deal with the court cases of the department.

Whenever complaints are received about the administration of religious institutions, the same are enquired into by the Inspectors and submit preliminary reports to the Assistant Commissioner for recording the said religious institution to be

a public religious institution. The inspectors are duty bound to inspect the religious institutions periodically, collect contribution, audit fees, centage charges and also the costs awarded by the Courts.

The Inspectors have to obtain and verify the Property, Dhittam and Tree Registers prepared by the religious institutions and submit them for approval to the Assistant Commissioner. Enquire and report on petitions and all references received from various authorities, verify the applications received for the appointment of trustees, supervise auctions, tenders and hundial openings. Further verify and submit the receipts and expenditure statements of religious institutions for assessment purposes and collect the dues as per the demand. They also discharge such other

duties as may be assigned to them by their superior officers from time to time.

9. Renovation and Conservation Wing

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 322 posts, under the head of Chief Engineer:-

Sl.No.	Post	Nos.
1.	Chief Engineer	1
2.	Superintending Engineer	2
3.	Executive Engineer (Civil)	23
4.	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	3
5.	Assistant Executive Engineer / Assistant	44

	Divisional Engineer (Civil)	
6.	Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical)	7
7.	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	88
8.	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	14
9.	Chief Head Draughtsman	2
10.	Draughting Officer	26
11.	Junior Draughting Officer	42
12.	Chief Sthapathi (In the cadre of Executive Engineer)	1
13.	Regional Sthapathi (In the cadre of Assistant Executive Engineer)	21
14.	Assistant Sthapathi (In the cadre of Assistant Engineer)	38
15.	Typist	6
16.	Driver	2
17.	Office Assistant	2
	Total	322

(i) Service Rules are framed for the Renovation and Conservation Wing. In continuation of framing of Service Rules, the posts earmarked for direct recruitment will be filled up through Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

(ii) 18 retired officials from the Archeological Survey of India have been appointed as Consultants on a contract basis to advice on the Conservation and Renovation of Heritage Temples.

9.2 Procurement of new vehicles for the use of officers of the department

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 Tamilnadu for the better services in the Department.

10. Temple Administration

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.

10.2 Executive Officers

Based on the significance, revenue, assets and their workload and other activities of the temples, 668 Executive Officers of different grades are working in the Department.

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

10.3 Engineering Wing in Temples

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

11. Mutts

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 as 11 Mutts have lost their character of Mutt. These 11 Mutts which have lost their character and they are now treated as

temples. Among Mutts, Madurai Aadheenam (alias) Thirugnana Sambanthar Swamigal Mutt, Thiruvavaduthurai Aadheenam, Dharmapuram Aadheenam, Kundrakudi Aadheenam, Perur Aadheenam, Mailam Bommapura Aadheenam, Coimbatore Siravai 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.

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

religious community by preserving palm leaves in Tamil which hold the tenets of the oldest language in the world.

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

The heads of Mutts Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, Srimath Varaha Mahadesikan, Srilasri Ambalavana Desigha Paramachariya Swamigal, Dr.Theneekayilaya Paramparai Perur

Adheenam are members of the Advisory Committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and play a vital role by providing valuable advice for the improvement and management of temples in the State.

12. Audit of Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions

Under section 87(3) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959, all religious institutions whose annual income is not less than Rs.5 lakhs shall be subject to concurrent audit and all other religious institutions with income of not less than Rs.1,000/- shall be audited annually. Further 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 percent to 4 percent of

the assessable income is collected under section 92(2).

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 to create a separate Wing to function under the control of the Finance Department of the Government and in G.O (Ms) No.181, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated.25.11.2021 the Audit Wing was separated from this Department and functions under a direction in Finance Department.

A three-tier Audit Committee has been constituted to settle audit objections as done in the Local Fund Audit. Accordingly, Amendments have been made in the rules appended to section 87 of the Hindu

Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

13. Advisory Committee

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 vide G.O (Ms) No.04, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated: 06.01.2022 and G.O.(Ms) No.287, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 01.08.2023.

Members of the Committee at present are as follows:-

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. Sekar Babu
3.	Member	The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department Dr. K. Manivasan, I.A.S.,

4.	Member-Secretary	Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Thiru. K.V. Muralidharan, I.A.S.,
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Non-Official Members

1.	Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar
2.	Srimath Varaha Maha Desikan
3.	SrilaSri Ambalavana Desigha Paramachariya Swamigal
4.	Dr. Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Maruthachala Adigalar
5.	Justice Thiru T. Mathivanan (Retired)
6.	Thiru. Suki Sivam
7.	Thiru. Harithiyagarajan
8.	Sr. Dr. M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar
9.	Thiru. N. Ramasubramaniyan
10.	Thiru. Tharanipathi Rajkumar

11.	Thiru. Mallikarjun Santhana Krishnan
12.	Thirumathi. Srimathi Sivasankar
13.	Thirumathi. Desa Mangayarkarasi

In the Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20.01.2022 chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, 9 resolutions were passed and in the Advisory Committee Meeting held on 27.02.2024 chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, 10 resolutions were passed. Necessary steps are being taken to implement the above resolutions.

14. District Committee

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 section 7A empowers the Government to constitute a District Committee in each Revenue District consisting of not less than three and not more than five non-official members to

prepare a panel of non-hereditary trustees for religious institution. 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, District Committees have been constituted for 38 Revenue Districts.

15. State Committee

Based on the recommendation of the State Committee, the Government is empowered to constitute the Board of trustees consisting of five non-hereditary trustees for the religious and charitable institutions having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above falling under section 46(iii) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

To appoint non-hereditary trustees, a State Committee has been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Thavathiru Kuntrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar for scrutinizing the applications and preparing panel of names for appointment of trustees to the religious institutions vide G.O.(Ms) No.49, TC&RE (RE3-1) Department, Dated 30.03.2022.

16. Appointment of Trustees

As per section 47 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 non-hereditary trustees have to be appointed to administer the religious institutions. The board of Trustees shall consist of not less than 3 and not more than 5 members for each religious institution. Of these members, one shall belong to Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe and one shall be a woman. The tenure of the Board is

two years. Till now, Board of Trustees has been constituted for 6814 temples.

16.2 Qualifications for appointment of Trustees

For a person to be appointed as a Trustee, the following qualifications have been prescribed under Section 25A of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959: -

- a) He must have faith in God;
- b) He must possess good conduct and reputation. Also, he must have commandable 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.

16.3 Power to appoint Trustees

The Assistant Commissioner is empowered to appoint 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, 1959 having an annual income below Rs.10,000/- based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

The Joint Commissioner is empowered to appoint 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, 1959 having an annual income of not less than Rs.10,000/- but less than Rs.2 lakhs, based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

The Commissioner is empowered to appoint 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, 1959 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.

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.

16.4 Appointment of Fit Person

The appropriate authorities the Government, Commissioner, Joint Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner under the Act may appoint a Fit Person as an

intermediate arrangement to discharge the duties and perform the functions of the Board of Trustees when the tenure of the Board of Trustees expires or if any vacancy arises.

17. MANAGEMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES OF HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Land Details

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

Temple Lands Classification and Extent

Land Classification	Temple Lands	Mutt Lands	Total Extent
	Acres in lakh		
Wet	1.83	0.21	2.04
Dry	2.18	0.35	2.53
Maanavari	0.21	Nil	0.21
Total	4.22	0.56	4.78*

- * "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.

The landed property belonging to the religious institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is compared and reconciled with the landed property uploaded in the "Tamil Nilam" website. Out of the above total extent of landed property, 3.43 lakh acres of lands are fully matched with the "Tamil Nilam" website and these figures were released in Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Website for the view of general public.

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.

The above reconciliation process between the data base 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 from time to time.

In order to maintain / safeguard the enormous extent of landed properties belonging to various religious institutions, 36 posts of Tahsildars have been created and posted in each Assistant Commissioner's Division. Two 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.

There are 22,529 buildings, 75,482 sites and other agricultural lands belonging to the religious institutions have been leased/rent out. From 01.07.2023 to 31.03.2024, Rs.310.32 crore has been collected as income.

17.2 Fixation of Fair Rent

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/Trustee/Chairman, Board of trustees and the District Registrar of the Registration Department are engaged in the process of fixing fair rent for the buildings and sites used for commercial and residential purposes.

17.3 Revenue Courts

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.

These Revenue Courts are presided over by Special Deputy Collectors who settle the cases filed before them regarding the collection of arrears regarding 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.

A total of 4108 cases are pending before the Revenue Courts, out of which 2113 cases have been disposed off as on 31.03.2024. A sum of Rs.692.30 lakhs of arrear amount was decreed and a sum of Rs.327.42 lakhs has been collected and efforts are being taken to recover the remaining amount.

17.4 Retrieval of Lands

During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), certain 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. From 07.05.2021 to 31.03.2024, 4840.92 acres of land belonging to 542 temples were retrieved and restored to the respective temples.

Appeals were preferred before the concerned Revenue Divisional Officers for the rectification of the mistakes that occurred at the time of the preparation of computerized Chitta by the Revenue Department, and till 31.03.2024, 4043.38

acres of land belonging to 641 temples have been restored to the name of the temples.

17.5 Development of Land Administration

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, 14 Tahsildars, 6 Surveyors, 1 Revenue Inspector and 4 Village Administrative Officers who have retired from service have been engaged on consolidated pay.

17.6 Removal of Encroachments

From 07.05.2021 to 31.03.2024, encroachments in the immovable properties belonging to 740 religious institutions have been removed. 6324.71 acres of agricultural lands, 1216 grounds of vacant plots, 187 grounds of buildings and 137 grounds of

temple tank bunds were restored to the respective temples. It is estimated that the worth of these properties is Rs.5813.35 crores.

Penal provisions for offences in connection with encroachment have been prescribed under section 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 under Amendment, 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) shall apply to that offence. By this Amendment, complaints may be lodged by anyone including the trustee, authorities under the Act and even by the public and persons having interest.

17.7 Regularization of group encroachments

Various steps have been taken to regulate 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 without prejudice to the interest of the Temple.

17.8 Survey of Temple Lands

The scheme of “Measuring the lands belonging to the religious institutions throughout the State with DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System)”, at Arulmigu Karpagambal Udanurai Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai was launched on 08.09.2021. From 08.09.2021 to 31.03.2024 an extent of 1,63,612.46 acres of land in 73,997 survey number/ subdivision numbers

in 650 Villages have been measured using this modern instrument.

18. THIRUPPANI

Thiruppani (Renovation, Restoration and Conservation)

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 has ordered to maintain these monuments without impairing their heritage value by giving priority to historical, ancient temples which include those religious institutions which have been glorified in the hymns of the Azhwars and Nayanmars with special attention to the village temples also.

18.2 Financial sources for Thiruppani and other Civil Works

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
- Renovation fund for the temples in Adi Dravida and Tribal habitations
- Tourism Department Funds
- Government Fund

18.3 Government Grant

Government provides Rs.6 crore as grant for renovation and restoration of temples.

18.4 Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund

Financial assistance for temple renovation is provided from the surplus funds of the Hindu Religious Endowments Administrative Fund established under section 96 of the Act. Rs.152.68 crore has also been provided to 1749 temples for the 1st phase for constructing Strong Rooms for idols.

18.5 Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund

“Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund” was created under Section 97 of the Act, for undertaking thiruppani works of temples that are financially weak and in need of assistance. From this fund Rs. 337.10 crore has been provided for temple renovations from 07.05.2021 to 31.03.2024.

18.6 Temple Development Fund

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.

18.7 Diversion of surplus funds of other Temples

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

18.8 Village Temples Renovation Fund

“Village Temples Renovation Fund” has been created to provide 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 diversion of surplus funds from Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple.

Under this scheme, now, financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh each is given to 1250 village temples. For the financial year 2023-2024, financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh each for 1250 temples, totaling Rs.25 crores had been given. As decided by the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2024 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, this financial assistance has been increased from Rs.2,00,000/- to Rs.2,50,000/ to each village temple from the financial year 2024-2025, vide G.O.(Ms.) No.193, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 11.06.2024.

18.9 Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

“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.9.60 crore. This fund is administered by the Government.

18.10 Donations and Donor Works

It has been 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.

18.11 Renovation Fund for the temples in Adi-Dravida and Tribal habitations

The temples which are not under the control of the Department and situated in the Adi-Dravida and Tribal habitations are provided financial assistance of Rs.2,00,000/- per temple for renovation.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh each is given to 1250 temples. For the financial year 2023-2024, financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh each for 1250 temples, totaling Rs.25 crores assistance had been given. As decided by the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2024 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, this financial assistance has been increased from Rs.2,00,000/- to Rs.2,50,000/ to each village temple from the financial year

2024-2025, vide G.O.(Ms.) No.194, Tourism, Culture & Religious Endowments Department, dated 11.06.2024.

18.12 Tourism Department Fund

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 centers, approach roads, high mast lamps, cloakrooms and parking facilities.

18.13 Government Fund

Conservation and renovation of temples of more than 1000 years old without disturbing their heritage value is one of the

prime responsibilities of the Department. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Government is providing a financial assistance of Rs 100 crores per year to restore the ancient temples.

In the financial year 2022-2023, 113 temples are being renovated and protected at an estimated cost of Rs 157.99 crore.

In the financial year 2023-2024, 84 temples are being renovated and protected at an estimated cost of Rs 149.30 crore.

19. Conservation Manual

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 sthapathi and engineering works.

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.

20. State Level Expert Committee

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 previously.

Now, the State Level Heritage Screening Committee and the High Court Committee have been merged and the State Level Expert Committee of 12 members has been formed. Conservation and Renovation are carried out in temples based on the advice of this Committee.

21. Drawing Committee

The principal, Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram is the Chairman of this Committee. The Professor/Assistant Professor of the above college, Regional Sthapathi of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, approved Woodwork Sthapathi are members and the Joint Commissioner (Thiruppani), is the co-ordinator of this Committee. This Committee is offering advice based on Shilpa Sastra for construction works inside the temples, scrutinising and countersigning the drawings of new temple car and Rajagopuram works.

As per G.O. (Ms) No.169, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 16.03.2024, permission has been granted to get proper advice for carrying out works on the basis of Shilpa

Shastra in temples, scrutinising and countersigning the drawings related to thiruppani works and drawings related to new temple cars and Rajagopurams from the present Chief Sthapathi of the Department and in case of vacancy in the post of Chief Sthapathi, the Drawing Committee of the Department will take care of the above works.

22. Restoration and Maintenance of Murals

For the conservation, restoration and maintenance of Murals found in temples, one conservation artist has been engaged on contract basis for conserving them without disturbing the heritage value.

So far the said conservation artist has examined Mural paintings of 43 temples and submitted a report.

23. Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting

There are 2,372 temple tanks in 1,634 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.

In the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.32.23 crore has been allocated for the renovation of 51 temple tanks belonging to 43 temples.

24. District Panel Engineers approved by Collector

To avoid delay in the preparation of estimates for conservation works of temples, it has been proposed to use PWD approved Chartered Engineers empanelled by the 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.

24.2 Empanelment of Sthapathis

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 either with formal education or traditional knowledge are being approved as Sthapathi / Sirpi for taking up works. 441 Sthapathis / Sirpis have been empanelled so far.

24.3 Empanelment of Architects

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. 14 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 them.

25. Consecration (Kumbhabishegam/ Samprokshanam)

According to traditional practice, temples are to be renovated and consecrated once in 12 years.

From the date of taking charge of this Government till 12.06.2024, Consecration has been performed to 1775 temples after completion of thiruppani.

A historical achievement,

- Consecration after 400 years – Arulmigu Aathigesava Perumal temple, Thiruvattaru, Kanniyakumari district
- Consecration after 300 years – Arulmigu kariyamanikka Varatharaja Perumal Sathnacheri, Uthiramerur Taluk, Kanchipuram District
- Consecration after 150 years – Thakkolam Arulmigu Gangatheeswarar temple, Arakkonam Taluk, Ranipettai District
- Consecration after 123 years – Arikesavanallur, Arulmigu Periyamayagi

Sametha Ariyanatha Swami temple,
Thirunelveli District

- Consecration after 110 years – Arulmigu
Throwpathiyamman temple,
Vettuvanam, Vellore District
- Consecration after 100 years –5 temples
- Consecration after 90 years –3 temples
- Consecration after 80 years –1 temple
- Consecration after 70 years –2 temples
- Consecration after 60 years –7 temples
- Consecration after 50 years –8 temples
- Consecration after 40 years –10 temples
- Consecration after 30 years –5 temples

26. Wooden Temple Cars / Chariots

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 during the temple car festival to bless the devotees. There are

1097 wooden cars in 854 temples in the State.

In 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.12.894 crores has been allocated for carrying out renovation of 22 wooden cars belonging to 19 temples and the works are under progress.

26.2 Golden Chariot and Silver Chariot

It is a customary practice for devotees to pull golden or silver chariot carrying the urchavar deity to fulfill their vows. At present, in the State, 68 temples are having Golden Chariots and 55 temples are having Silver chariot. The lists of temples which have chariots are provided in Annexure-I & Annexure-II.

According to the legislative announcement 2021-2022, 2 new silver chariots have been announced in two temples namely Chennai, Arulmigu Kalikambal Kamadeshwarar Temple and Irukangudi, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, at

an estimated cost of Rs.4.46 crore and the works are in progress.

According to the legislative announcement 2022-2023, 2 new silver chariots have been announced in two temples namely Thiruthani, Arulmigu Subramaniya Swami Temple and Thirukarukavoor, Arulmigu Mullaivananatha Swami Temple, at an estimated cost of Rs.7 crore. The Chariot work in Thiruthani temple has been completed and is being used by devotees. The Chariot work in Thirukarukavoor is under progress.

27. Gold Investment Scheme

24 Carat Gold bars made from melted Gold items of different purity obtained as offerings and not used for the Deity are invested 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

supervise 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 by a Hon'ble Judge (Retired) of the Supreme Court of India.

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 (Rupees in lakh)
1	Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil, Irukkankudi	20567.890	24.09

2	Arulmigu Bhavaniamman Thirukoil, Periyapalayam	91061.098	104.00
3	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Thirukoil, Mangadu	31938.677	39.00 *
4	Arulmigu Devikaru mariamman Thirukoil, Thiruverkadu	32697.867	39.00
5	Arulmigu Subramania swamy Temple, Thiruchendur	1,68,068.889	224.49
6	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Melmalayanur	19,595.138	28.99
7	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Thiruchengodu	6,965.630	10.30

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

28. SPECIAL SCHEMES

Appointment of Archakas from all castes

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. No one shall be denied the opportunity of performing pooja in temples based on their caste alone.

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 from other castes who were trained in the 6 Archakas Training Schools run by the temples viz., further 3 persons were appointed. The 6 Archakas training schools are as below:-

1. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

2. Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani 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

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

29. 'Kalaingar Sacred Tree Sapling Planting Scheme'

Traditionally, trees symbolize the abode of deities and are considered part of various rituals. Every temple is connected to a specific tree and the tree is considered

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

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.

Till date 1,00,000 sacred tree saplings have been planted on the premises of 2,597 temples situated in 20 Joint Commissioner Regions of the department.

30. Archanai in Annai Tamizh

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

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.

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 Kaliyamman Pottri
10. Arulmigu Mariamman Pottri
11. Arulmigu Hanuman Pottri

On 12.08.2021 the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu inaugurated the scheme of making 12 pottri books available

viz., 108 Pottri books and 1008 Sivan Pottri book in all the temples. Similarly two pottri books viz., Arulmigu Thirumal and Arulmigu Navakol Pottri books have also been released.

To encourage worship in Tamil, 60% share of the service charge collected from the Devotees is provided to the priest who performs Archana in Tamil. Till March 2024, a share amount of Rs.56.98 lakhs has been disbursed to priests of 294 temples, who performed Archana in Tamil.

31. WELFARE SCHEME

Annadaanam Scheme

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 considered sacred. The

scheme was started in the year 2002 and is now operational in 771 temples.

31.2 Day Long Annadaanam for Devotees

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

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

In 2022-2023, this day-long Annadaanam scheme has been further extended to Rameswaram Arulmigu Ramanadhaswamy Thirukoil,

Thiruvannamalai Arulmigu
Arunachaleswarar Thirukoil and Madurai
Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar
Thirukoil.

In 2023-2024, this day-long
Annadaanam scheme has been further
extended to Anaimalai Arulmigu
Masaniamman Thirukoil, Melmalayanur
Arulmigu Angalamman Thirukoil and
Periyapalayam Arulmigu Bavaniamman
Thirukoil.

31.3 Prasad throughout the day

After this government took charge, the
program of offering prasadam to all the
devotees visiting the temple is being
implemented in 15 temples (Palani, Madurai,
Thiruchendur, Samayapuram, Tiruthani,
Thiruverkadu, Thiruvarangam, Vadapalani,
Marudamalai, Bannari, Mylapore,

Melmalayanur, Irukkankudi, Anaimalai, Namakkal).

Also, the scheme has been extended to 5 more temples in 2023-2024 (Thiruvannamalai, Madurai Alagarkoil, Rameswaram, Tiruvallikeni, Tiruparangundram).

31.4 Breakfast Scheme for Students

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

31.5 BHOG Certification

To ensure quality and to maintain hygiene in preparing and serving the Prasadham/ 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, 523 temples have obtained BHOG Certification in the State.

32. Vasthira Mariyathai

Following the announcement made in the year 2022-2023, to promote religious exchange with the temples in other states, temple honors from our state have been sent to temples in other states. Vasthira mariyathai program is being carried out.

1. Between Bannari, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Thirukoil and Mysore, Arulmigu Chamundeeswari Temple, Karnataka.
2. Between Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Thirukoil and Srisailam, Arulmigu

Mallikarjuneswarar Temple, Andhra Pradesh.

3. Between Sholingur, Arulmigu Yoga Narasimhar Thirukoil and Ahobilam, Arulmigu Ahobilam temple, Andhra Pradesh.
4. Between Kumbakonam, Arulmigu Oppiliappan Thirukoil and Manthralayam, Arulmigu Ragavendra Brindhavanam, Andhra Pradesh.
5. Between Kanchipuram, Arulmigu Embar Swamigal Thirukoil and Melkote, Arulmigu Cheluva Narayana Perumal temple, Karnataka.
6. Between Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil and Ujjaini, Mahakaleswarar Thirukoil, Madhya Pradesh.

33. Spiritual and moral Classes

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. 855 students are benefited from Spiritual and Moral classes conducted on weekends in all the 48 senior grade temples. Temple prasadam is offered to encourage the students.

Also, a common syllabus book titled Spiritual Discipline will be prepared and sent to the Senior Grade Temples for the spiritual classes.

34. Special Poojas and Common Feasts

'Special Poojas' are being conducted in temples every year on Independence Day and Peraringnar Anna Memorial Day and

special lunch is served at the temples inviting people from all communities.

35. Elephant Rejuvenation

In 27 temples, 29 elephants are being maintained. For their well being regular medical check-up is done twice a month and organic food is being provided.

Now the Elephants which served in the temples and mutts are being maintained well in a natural environment with provisions of a splash pool, mud bath and walking track. (Annexure-III)

35.2. Monuments for deceased Elephants

For the elephants, long served in the temples and attained mukthi, construction of monuments in 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. Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple.
2. Ramanathapuram, Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple.
3. Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple.
4. Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple.
5. Tiruverkadu, Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple.
6. Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple.
7. Tiruttani, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple.
8. Tiruparangunram, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple.
9. Mannargudi, Arulmigu Rajagopalaswamy Temple.

10. Tirupattur, Arulmigu Thiruthalinatha Swamy Temple, Sivaganga.

11. Bavani, Arulmigu Sangameswarar Temple.

36. Shelter for Cows

Integrated 'Pasukkal Kappagam' were established 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 for proper maintainance of the Pasukkal Kappagam as well. The details of cow shelter are in Annexure-IV.

It has been planned to form an integrated Shelter for Cows in the premises

belonging to Koilpathagai, Arulmigu Sundararaja Perumal Temple, Avadi Taluk at an estimated cost of Rs.20 crore.

As per the Announcement for the year 2023-2024, a Government Order has been issued and steps are being taken to establish a Pasukkal Kappagam at Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple at an estimated cost of Rs.2.95 crore.

37. Battery Cars

For the benefit of devotees visiting temples, battery Cars are being operated in the temples. The details of temples with battery cars are furnished in Annexure-V.

38. Rope Cars

To facilitate quick access to the hilltop by the devotees visiting Palani, Arulmigu

Dhandayudhapani Swamy Thirukoil rope car is being operated.

At Sholingur, Arulmigu Yoga Narasimhar Thirukoil, rope car facility is provided at a cost of Rs.20.03 crore and inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 08.03.2024 and is being used by the devotees.

The works of Rope car at Arulmigu Rathnagireeswarar Temple, Aiyarmalai is nearing completion at a cost of Rs.20.03 Crore.

After a feasibility study, estimate is being prepared and under consideration to provide a rope car connection between Palani hill temple and Idumban hill temple.

39. 'Oru Kaala Pooja' Scheme

This scheme was launched in 1986 to enable at least one-time Pooja every day in temples that were not financially sound to conduct pooja even once a day. A corpus of Rs.2 lakh for each temple has been created for 17,000 temples to enable the performance of one-time Pooja from the interest accrued.

In a move to support the livelihood of Archakars serving in the above 17,000 temples, a monthly incentive of Rs.1,000/- is being paid to them from September 2021.

40. GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Grant for temples at Suchendram, Kanyakumari District

The Government is providing an annual grant of Rs.6 crore for the administration of 490 Temples, one Women's College, one

Higher Secondary School and 2 High Schools under the administrative control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department in Kanyakumari District.

Considering the increase in administrative expenses, the above annual Government grant has been enhanced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister from Rs.6 crore to Rs.8 crore on 24.11.2023

40.2 Grant for Pudukkottai Samasthanams

The Government provided an annual grant of Rs.3 crore for the administration of 225 temples formerly under the control of Pudukkottai Samasthanam. Considering the increase in administrative expenses, the above annual grant has been enhanced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister from Rs.3 crore to Rs.5 crore on 08.03.2024.

From this amount, the expenses like salary of temple employees, pension, electricity bill, puja expenses, renovation, festival expenses etc. are carried out.

40.3 Grant for Thanjavur Palace Devasthanams

During the financial year 2022-2023, for the first time, an annual grant of Rs.3 crore was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 04.02.2023 for the administration and maintenance of 88 temples falling under the management of Thanjavur Palace Devasthanams. The grant of Rs.3 crore will be released every year.

40.4 Annual Grant for Thiruppani

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

40.5 Special Grant for Conservation works in Heritage Temples

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. Accordingly in 47 temples that are more than 1,000 years old a special grant of Rs.99.86 crore was given and the works are in progress.

A special grant of Rs.99.84 crore has been given for the renovation of 73 temples in the year 2023-2024 and the works are in progress.

41. PILGRIMAGE

Manasarovar and Muktinath Pilgrimage

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.50,000/- 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.20,000/- each is provided for eligible 500 devotees who are Hindus domiciled in Tamil Nadu to perform a pilgrimage to Mukthinath 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 life time.

Accordingly, Rs.60,40,000/- was disbursed to 302 eligible devotees at the rate of Rs.20,000/- each in the year 2023-2024 who performed Mukthinath pilgrimage in the year 2022-2023.

41.2 Pilgrimage from Rameswaram to Kasi

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

In the year 2023-2024 it has been expanded to 300 persons by incurring an expenditure of Rs.75 lakhs through Government fund.

41.3 Arupadai Veedu Spiritual Tour

Following the announcement that 1000 devotees will be taken to Arupadai Veedu temples spiritual journey during 2024, the 1st journey from Kandakottam, Arulmigu

Kandaswamy temple, Chennai on 28.01.2024 with 207 devotees was inaugurated. The 2nd journey with 200 devotees started on 06.03.2024 from Palani. The third journey with 202 devotees started on 07.06.2024 from thiruchendur and they completed Arupadaiveedu spiritual tour.

42. FACILITIES FOR DEVOTEES

Preparation of 'Thiruneeru' and 'Kunkumam' in the temples

Thiruneeru is now being prepared with modern techniques in the following temples for its usage and distributed to other temples as well.

S. No.	Temples
1.	Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani swamy Temple
2.	Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple
3.	Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple

4.	Thiruvanikkaval, Jambukeswarar Temple	Arulmigu
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Kunkumam is also being prepared with modern technique in the following temples for its usage and distributed to other temples as well.

Sl. No.	Temples	
1	Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Thirukoil	
2	Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil	
3	Bannari, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Thirukoil	
4	Tiruverkadu, Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Thirukoil,	

43. Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis

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

During 2023-2024, 12566 sarees and 3905 dhotis on the occasion of Independence Day and 8245 sarees and 905 dhotis on the occasion of 'Peraringnar Anna Memorial Day' were distributed.

44. Libraries at Temples

198 Libraries are being maintained in temples to nurture the spirituality of the devotees visiting temples. Further, devotional books and spiritual magazines were also added to the original collections.

All the spiritual books published by the publishing section of the Department are kept in the libraries maintained by the temples.

45. Control Room at Commissioner's Office

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. The control room was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 20.01.2022. The 48 senior grade temples are monitored through CCTV cameras by the Assistant Security Officers and the Project Officer in the Control room.

46. Master Plan for Developmental works

In Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Sumbramaniya Swamy Thirukoil developmental works including the construction of the Queue complex, Annadaana mandapam, Soora samhara mandapam, lodgings and toilets are being carried out for the benefit of the devotees at an estimated cost of Rs.305 crores.

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

In Rameswaram, Tiruppani works and basic amenities for the devotees at Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Thirukoil and tiruppani in Arulmigu Kodhandaramar Thirukoil and at Ramar Padham and other developmental works are being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs.146 crore. Development works as per Master Plan are being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs.99.98 crore in alani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple, in Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariyamman temple at an estimated cost of

Rs.64.65 Crore, in Thiruverkadu Devi Karumariyamman temple at an estimated cost of Rs.52.80 crore and in Irukkankudi Arulmigu Mariyamman temple at an estimated cost of Rs.65.80 crore. These works are carried out from the temple fund.

47. International center for Vallalar

To spread the spiritual 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 at vadalur.

Following this, an estimate has been prepared at a cost of Rs.99.90 crore to construct a Meditation Hall, Digital Library, Paada Salai, Auditorium, Museum and basic Amenities in one complex in the premises where Sathya gnana Sabai, Jothi-darisanam and Sathya Dharma Salai are situated and to

construct Senior Citizens home, Herbal Park and Restaurant in another complex. Tender has been approved and the works are in progress.

48. Pilgrims Rest Houses

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.

Construction of Pilgrims Rest Houses are in progress in Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Thirukoil, at an

estimated cost of Rs.29.16 crore and in Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Thirukoil, at an estimated cost of Rs.35 crore.

For the year 2022-2023 for the construction of 8 rest houses at a cost of Rs. 9.15 crore has been allotted for 7 temples and the works are being carried out.

In the financial year 2023-24, Rs.44 crore had been allotted for the construction of rest houses and mandapams for the benefit of the devotees in 9 temples and the works are in progress.

49. Special amenities for devotees

Drinking water scheme, Annadhana koodam, Elevator facility at rope car upper station and Nadhamani mandapam have been provided for the benefit of the devotees at Arulmigu Dhandayudhapani Thirukoil,

Palani by incurring an expenditure of Rs.23.81 crores.

50. Free Tonsuring in Temples

Earlier Tonsuring fee was 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.

At present, Rs.30/- per tonsure is paid by the temple administration to the person who performs tonsure in addition to the monthly incentive of Rs.5,000/-

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.

51. Free Marriage for Differently-Abled persons

Free Marriage scheme has been implemented in temples for differently-abled Persons. Even if one of the couple is differently-abled, no fee will be collected for the performance of marriage in temples. So far 137 marriages have been performed under this scheme. Further new dress and 4 gram gold for "Thali" are also given to them on behalf of the temples.

52. Free Marriage scheme

Following the announcement made in the year 2022-2023 to perform 500 free marriages, free marriages to 500 couples have been performed on behalf of the temples.

Further as per the announcement made in the year 2023-2024, free marriages to

600 poor couples have been performed on behalf of the temples. As per G.O (Ms)No. 189, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 09.05.2023 and 03.07.2023 marriage gift worth of Rs 30000/- and thali worth 4 Grams of gold are being given.

53. Cleaning Works in Temples (‘Uzhavarappani’)

Cleaning works are being undertaken in all the temples under the control of the department on first Wednesday of every month under scheme of ‘Thingaldhorum Thooimaipani’. Volunteers, Charity institutions, Social Welfare Organizations who are interested in doing Uzhavarappanigal are permitted to do the same with the prior permission of the temple. To facilitate the volunteers taking up this work, an online registration facility has

been launched in 48 senior-grade temples on 27.07.2021 and is being implemented. Till date, 36,615 'Uzhavarappani' have been undertaken in 18,227 temples.

53.2 Prohibiting usage of Plastic in Temple Premises

To maintain the temple premises hygienically without damaging the environment, the usage of plastic and polythene bags in and around temples is prohibited and usage of cloth bags and arecanut leaf plates are being encouraged.

54. SECURITY MEASURES

Security of Temples

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 for security service in the temples.

54.2 Safety of Icons and other Valuables

To safeguard the icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as icon center, 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/icons are being implemented.

54.3 Icon Centre

To protect the valuable Icons of the temples, 34 Icon Centres have been built. Icons of temples located in remote areas and

idols of temples are being safeguarded by keeping them in these centers. Provision has been made to take out the icons of temples from the center for conducting festivals and bring them back to the Icon Centres for safe custody after the festivals.

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

Further, 11 more Icon Centres have been constructed. A request 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 VII.

54.4 Strong Rooms

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.

Administrative sanctions have been issued for the construction of strong rooms in 1858 temples. So far 535 strong rooms were constructed and remaining 1323 strong rooms construction is in progress.

54.5 Temple Protection Force

A separate wing named "**Temple Protection Force**" was formed for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and valuables in the temples. 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 of the Ex-Servicemen in the Temple Protection Force from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.5,000/-.

54.6 Fire Safety Measures in Temples

Adequate safety measures are taken by the Temples to avoid fire accidents and disasters. Fire audit is performed once in six months regularly in the temples under the control of the Department which are categorised under section 46(iii). Moreover fire safety equipments, buckets filled with sand/water, power breakers, fire tenders are provided in the temples at vantage Points.

Training is provided to the temple staff for taking immediate action, when they encounter fire accidents. Till date fire audit

has been done in 286 temples, categorised under section 46(iii).

55. FESTIVALS FOR TAMIZH HOLY SAINTS

'Mupperum Vizha for Saint Vallalar'

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. From October 2022 for 52 weeks Mupperum Vizha was being celebrated in all important cities of the State commemorating the 200th Birth Anniversary of Saint Vallalar, 156th year of starting Dharma Salai and 152nd year of Jodhi Dharsan. Annadaanam was also provided during the celebrations.

This Mupperum Vizha which started on 05.10.2022 has come to an end on

05.10.2023 at Vadalur in a very grand manner.

55.2 Siddhar Vizha

A special Siddhar festival is held every year for Kamalamuni Siddhar on the day of Poosam star of Tamizh month Vaikasi at Tiruvarur, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, for Sundarananda Siddhar on the day of Revathi star of Tamizh month Avani at Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and for Pambatti Siddhar on the day of Mirugaseeridam star of Tamizh month Karthigai at Sankarankoil, Arulmigu Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple

55.3 Sekkizhar Festival

Sekkizhar is a Holy Saint who authored 'Periya Puranam' a treatise on Lord Shiva, which is a collection about 63 Nayanmars.

Sekkizhar Festival is celebrated as a Government function every year at his birthplace, 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. 'Panniru Thirumurai Festival' (sacred Saivite hymns) and the 'Sekkizhar Festival' for 12 days every year during the month of August is celebrated in Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple.

55.4 'Thirugnanasambandar Music Festival'

Thirugnanasambandar Music Festival is celebrated every year on 'Moolam' Star day of the Tamizh month 'Vaigasi' at Thirukazhukundram, Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, at Chengalpattu District to honour saint Thirugnana

Sambandar, who is one of the religious saints. The expenditure for the festival is met by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund.

55.5 Avvaiyar Festival

A sannathi for the Tamizh 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 in the Tamizh 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.

55.6 Thayumanavar Festival

Every year Thayumanavar Festival is celebrated at Malaikkottai Arulmigu

Thayumanaswamy Temple, Tiruchirappalli to do a honour for Thayumanavar, a Tamizh poet and scholar who sang Tamil Devotional songs.

55.7 Thiruvalluvar Day

'Thiruvalluvar Day' is celebrated in Chennai, Mylapore, Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple every year on the 2nd day of Tamizh 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.

55.8 Arunagirinathar Festival

'Saint Arunagirinathar's attainment of wisdom (Mukthiperu) festival is being celebrated in Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleshwarar Temple to honour Saint Arunagirinathar on 'Kettai' star day of Tamizh month 'Avani' every year.

Arunagirinathar 'Mani Mandapam' (Memorial Hall) is constructed at Tiruvannamalai at an estimated cost of Rs.75 lakh and consecration to Arunagirinathar shrine in Mani Mandapam was performed on 20.10.2023.

55.9 Kochenkat Chozha Nayanar Festival

'Kochenkat Chozha Nayanar Festival' is celebrated at Tiruvanaikaval, Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruchirappalli District every year on the day of the 'Sathayam' star of Tamizh month 'Masi', the birthday of Kochenkatchozha Nayanar one among the 63 Nayanmars.

55.10 Azhwargal Festival

Azhwars are 12 saints who sang the four thousand spiritual hymns called Nalayira Divya Prabhantham.

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

55.11 Mangaiyarkarasiyar Vizha

Pazhaiyarai, Arulmigu Somanathaswamy temple, Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district 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 Tamizh month of Chithirai on Rohini star day to Manimudicozhan at Pazhaiyarai. There is a shrine for Mangaiyarkarasiyar in Pazhaiyarai Arulmigu Somanathaswamy temple and every year on the date of her birth star special worship at the shrine, recitation of Tamil hymns, processions etc., are being conducted by the temple.

55.12 Paavai Festival

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

Thiruvempavai is a collection of hymns extolling the virtues of Lord Shiva and is also sung through out the Tamizh 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.

55.13 Notified Festivals in Temples

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	Samaya	Chithirai

	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple	puram	
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 Arunachaleswar ar Temple	Tiruvanna malai	Karthigai
9.	Vaikunda Ekadesi at Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple	Srirangam	Margazhi

10.	Poochorithal Festival at Arulmigu Mariamman Temple	Samaya puram	Masi
11.	Masi Kodai Festival at Arulmigu Bagavathiamman Temple	Mandaikadu	Masi
12.	Kundam festival at Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple	Bannari, Sathiyamangalam	Panguni

55.14 Celebration of Maha Sivarathri

In the year 2022-2023, the Maha Sivarathri festival was celebrated in Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Thirukoil, Mylapore in a grand manner with events like Dance, Drama, Debate, folk arts, etc. For the year 2023-2024, the Maha Sivarathri festival was

celebrated similarly with events in the following 7 temples:-

Sl. No	Temple
1	Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Thirukoil
2	Coimbatore, Arulmigu Pateeswarar Thirukoil, Perur
3	Tirunelveli, Arulmigu Nellaippar Thirukoil
4	Thiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Thirukoil
5	Thanjavur, Arulmigu Peruvudaiyar Thirukoil
6	Thiruvanaikaval, Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Trichy
7	Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundaeswarar Temple

55.15 Navaratri festival

55.14. A grand Navaratri festival was held on behalf of the temples at Arulmigu Kapaleeshwar Karpakambal Kalyana Mandapam, Mylapore, Chennai.

55.16 Performance of 108 Thiruvilakku Poojai during full moon day

This worship is in practice in Amman temples in some places. This worship is, now, streamlined and performed regularly on all full moon days with the participation of women devotees.

Thiruvilakku Poojai is now being performed in the following 17 temples on full moon day every month as per the announcements made in the Assembly in the year 2022-2023.

2022-2023

1. Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple.
2. Tiruverkadu, Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple.
3. Melmalayanur, Arulmigu Angalamman Temple.
4. Bannari, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple.
5. Kanyakumari district, Mandaikadu, Arulmigu Bagavathiamman Temple.
6. Kulasekarapattinam, Arulmigu Mutharamman Temple.
7. Dindugul, Arulmigu Abirami Amman Temple.
8. Mangadu, Arulmigu Kamatchi Amman Temple.
9. Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple.

10.Karaikudi, Meenakshipuram, Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple.

11.Chennai, Arulmigu Kalikambal Temple.

12.Punnainallore, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Tanjore.

2023-2024

13.Tiruvettriur, Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Chennai.

14.Irukkankudi, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Virudunagar.

15.Patteeswaram, Arulmigu Thenupurisarwar Temple, Thanjavur.

16.Periyapalayam, Arulmigu Bhavaniamman Temple, Tiruvallur.

17.A.K.Padavedu, Arulmigu Renugambal Temple, Tiruvannamalai.

The approved cost for 108 Thiruvilakku Poojai is Rs.800/- out of this only Rs.200/- is collected as fee from the devotees. The other expenditure is met out by the temple.

Bronze Kamatchiamman lamp, kunkumam Chimizh, Saree and blouse are given to the participating devotees.

56. INTERNATIONAL MUTHAMIZH MURUGAN CONFERENCE

As per the decision of the Advisory meeting held on 27.02.2024 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the International Muthamizh Murugan Conference will be held at Palani on 24th and 25th of August 2024, so that all the devotees of the world will know the glories of Lord Muruga.

57. EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

Educational Institutions

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. The list of Educational Institution of Arts and Science Colleges are in Annexure – VIII.

The classification of Educational Institutions is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Educational 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 School	2

7.	CBSE School	1
8.	Nadhaswaram and Thavil - Musical Training Schools	3
9.	Archagar Training Schools	6
10.	Veda Agama Training Schools	3
11.	Odhuvar Training Schools	3
12.	Nalayira Dhivya Prabhantham Training Schools	1
	Total	51

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College at Kolathur, Chennai on 21.10.2021 and Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Arts and Science College, Thiruchencode, Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy Arts and Science College, Ottanchattram and Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Arts and Science College, Vilathikulam on 01.12.2021. Of the announced establishment of 10 new

colleges, the above 4 colleges are functioning.

57.2 Basic amenities at schools and colleges

A corpus fund of Rs.10 crores has been created to provide basic facilities to the schools 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 2021-2022, for providing and improving basic amenities of schools and colleges Rs.26.26 crore was allocated. Providing and improving basic amenities in schools and colleges are under progress. In 2022-2023 also Rs.30.44 crores has been allotted for carrying-out the development

works in schools and colleges. In 2023-2024 Rs 21.85 crore has been allotted for the development work in schools.

Academic Year	Number of Works	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2021-2022 Colleges Development Works	27	13.41
2022-2023 Colleges Development Works	7	28.11
Academic Year	Number of Works	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2021-2022 Schools Development Works	83	12.85
2022-2023 Schools Development Works	7	2.33
2023-2024 Schools Development Works	3	21.85

57.3 Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation School, Chennai

Land measuring 32 grounds belonging to Kancheepuram, Arulmigu Ekambaranathar temple in which lessee 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 school itself. The School has been renamed "Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation Higher Secondary School". The school is running with 1069 students and 49 teachers at present. It is being run by the temple efficiently. In this school development of basic amenities at a cost of Rs.1.43 crore

and construction of additional class rooms at a cost of Rs.11.50 crore are in progress.

58. Training Schools

Archagar Training School

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 based on their caste alone. To train the students from all communities 6 archaka training schools are being run on behalf of 6 temples as detailed below:-

- I. Triplicane, Arulmigu Parthasarathy Temple
- II. Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple
- III. Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple

IV. Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramania
Swamy Temple

V. Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu
Arunachaleswarar Temple

VI. Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganatha
Swamy Temple

111 students are being imparted training in the above schools irrespective of caste. The schools are run in the Gurukulam pattern with free food and stay. The students are given a stipend of Rs.4000/- every month for one-year training course.

58.2 Veda Agama Training School

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

I. Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani
Swamy Temple

II. Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramania
Swamy Temple,

III. Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar
Temple,

In total, 36 students are getting trained in the above 3 schools which are run as Gurukulam. During their training period they are provided with free boarding and lodging with a stipend of Rs.4000/- per month for full-time students and Rs.2,000/- per month for part-time students.

58.3 Odhuvar Training School

To facilitate the sound recitation of Tamizh Thirumurai in temples in the language of the Lord, Odhuvar Training Schools were established.

1. Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi
Sundareswarar Thirukoil

2. Thiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Annamalayar Thirukoil
3. Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil

45 students are getting trained in the above schools. During their training period they are provided with free boarding and lodging with a stipend of Rs.4000/- per month for full-time students and Rs.2,000/- per month for part-time students.

58.4 Thavil and Nadaswara Training School

Thavil and Nadaswaram is 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 functioning since 1957 at Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple.

At present, 44 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 Thirunageswaram, Arulmigu Naganatha Swamy Thirukoil, Kumbakonam. It has been upgraded and it is currently functioning with 24 students and Thavil and Nadaswara training school run by Tiruttani Arulmigu Kotta Arumugaswamy Thirukoil has been upgraded and it is currently functioning with 7 students.

In total 75 students are getting trained in the above schools. During their training period they are provided with free boarding and lodging with a stipend of Rs.4000/- per month for full-time students and Rs.2,000/- per month for part-time students.

58.5 Nalayira Dhivya Prabhantha Paadasala

Nalayira Divya Prabhantham is the set of Tamil hymns 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.

In the year 2021-2022, construction of a new building for vainava Prabandha Paadasala in Alavandar Charities, Mahabalipuram at Rs 96 lakhs has been sanctioned and the work is completed.

The training school (part-time) announced in the year 2022-2023 is being run in the Madhavapandhal Mandapam of Srivilliputhur, Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Thirukoil. The number of students trained is 25 and the training period is 4 years.

59. Social Welfare Institutions

Temples are not only functioning as places of worship but also as charitable institutions running old age homes, hospitals, Karunai Illams, Mental asylum, etc. with social responsibility. At present, 7 Karunai Illams, 6 Siddha Hospitals and one Mental Asylum are run by the temples.

59.2 New Siddha Hospital

In order to start a New Siddha Medical College at Palani on behalf of palani, 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. So for 33,807 patients were treated.

59.3 Establishment of medical centres in Temples

Following the announcement of establishment of first aid medical centers with necessary medical and medical staff in temples with high number of devotees during the demand of Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments Department for the year 2021-2022, Medical centres in 10 temples were opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 31.12.2021 through video conferencing.

Following the announcement that medical centers will be set up in additional 5 temples in the financial year 2022-2023 in the demand for grants, medical centers in the said 5 temples were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 02.12.2022 through video conferencing. Further in the financial year 2022-2023 additionally 2

medical centres were announced and established. These centres were inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister on 06.03.2024 through video conferencing. As on date Medical Health Centers with sufficient medical equipments were opened in the 17 temples with doctor for each health center and also Medical assistants. So for 4.68 lakh have been benefitted by these centres.

1. Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani swamy temple
2. Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariyamman temple
3. Thiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple
4. Thiruthani, Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple
5. Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple,
6. Rameswaram, Arulmigu Ramanatha swamy temple

7. Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganatha swamy temple,
8. Maruthamalai, Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple
9. Sholingar, Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimma Swamy temple
10. Melmalaiyanur, Arulmigu Angala parameshwari temple
11. Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundaeswarar temple
12. Irukkankudi, Arulmigu Mariyamman temple
13. Bannari, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman temple
14. Azhagarkoil, Arulmigu kallazhagar temple, Madurai.
15. Sankarankoil, Arulmigu Sankara Narayana Swamy temple,
16. Kandakottam, Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Chennai
17. Anamalai, Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Coimbatore

60. PUBLICATION

Thalavaralaru and Thalapuram

As per the 2021-2022 announcements in the Assembly and the Resolutions of the Advisory committee headed by 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. Through the publication of 'Thalavaralaru' (History of Temples) and 'Thalapuram' (Legends of Temples) of ancient temples will enable 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 Tamizh Books were republished by the Department and released by the Hon'ble

Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. Some of the books republished in the first phase are Shilpa Shastra books, Alaya Nirmana Bhimbalakshana Shilpa Nool, Sirpa Sennool, Indhu Madha Inaippu Vilakkam, Saivamum Vainavamum etc.108 books in the first and second phase each were printed and being sold in the 103 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.

60.2 "Thirukoil" Monthly Magazine

A monthly magazine namely "Thirukoil" is being published since 1958 with note-worthy articles, news clippings along with devotional questions and answers by eminent writers, spiritual leaders. For the benefit of the subscribers, a new facility has

been introduced wherein this magazine can be subscribed online.

60.3 Palm leaf Manuscripts

Tamil language registers temples as treasure trove of traditional values. Tamil language is a renowned medium of devotion, which is invaluable. The temples hold and protect the ancient idols, icons, jewellery, etc., As a matter of fact; ancient temples remain as the repositories of palm leaf manuscripts which are used for writing purposes before the invention of papers. 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., Steps are being taken to digitalize 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. Field inspection was conducted in 979 temples. A total of 2,12,585 palm leaf manuscripts along with 22 copper sheets, 67 copper plates, 2 silver plates, 1 gold plate and 365 literary manuscripts have been found from 31 temples across Tamil 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.

60.4 Palm leaf Manuscript Preservation Centre

Steps are being taken to setup a research centre at an estimate of Rs.3.20 crore at Head Office to preserve the murals in temples and to digitalise and publish palm leaf manuscripts found in temples.

61. TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Refresher Training Course

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.

It is proposed to extend refresher training courses for the Department and

temple staff. For that purpose, an Administrative Training Centre is being built at an estimated cost of Rs.5 crore at Tiruttani Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple.

62. WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE EMPLOYEES

Details of Welfare Schemes

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

62.2 Family Benefit Fund Scheme

This scheme was introduced to help the legal heirs of temple employees who die in harness. A corpus fund of Rs.15 crore has been created from the surplus funds of the affluent temples. In this scheme, Rs.3 lakh is being granted to the legal heirs of the deceased, who died in harness.

62.3 Temple Employees Welfare Fund

“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 lakh, is being disbursed out of the interest accrued from this corpus.

Besides, for the employees working in temples having an annual income of Rs.1 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.

Incentive of Rs.10,000/- is given to 400 students of son/daughter of Orukala Pooja priest for their higher education. A sum of Rs 40 lakhs has been met out from schools and colleges development fund.

62.4 Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

"Appointment orders on Compassionate Grounds" are being issued to the legal heirs of temple employees who die while in service. 109 legal heirs of temple employees have been given appointments on compassionate grounds from the date of this government taken over charge.

62.5 Appointment of Musicians and Odhuvars

It is customary to play auspicious music in temples during festivals. For this purpose, a sufficient number of Musicians and

odhuvars are appointed by the respective temples.

62.6 Pension Scheme

Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divyaprabandham 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 2021-2022, the monthly pension has been enhanced to Rs.3,000/- and 84 pensioners were benefited from this scheme.

62.7 Pension Scheme for Other Temple Employees

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 scheme (01.01.2006) and all employees working in the temples with more than 10 years of service who are not affluent enough to subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, a Departmental Pension Scheme was

implemented in the year 2006. So far, 5091 employees benefitted 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. 359 persons have received family pension so far.

In the year 2023-2024, family pension orders were issued to the spouse of 110 deceased employees.

62.8 Distribution of New dhoti to Archakas and Uniforms to the Temple Staff

New dhoti for Archakas and Uniforms for temple staff have been distributed to commemorate the occasion of Tamizhar

Thirunal of Thai. Totally 13,059 temple staff have been benefited under this scheme in the year 2023-2024.

62.9 Revised Pay Fixation for Temple Employees

Following the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission to the Government servants, pay revision has been implemented for the temple employees also. Until now, 2,826 employees of 48 senior-grade temples have been fixed revised pay fixation.

62.10 Increase in Dearness allowance

Following the Dearness allowance increase given to the Government servants, from 01.01.2024, 4% increase to the dearness allowance from 46% to 50% is given to the employees who are serving in temples, which get an annual income of Rs.1 lakh and above

62.11 Enhancement of Pongal ex-gratia

Similar to the Pongal ex-gratia announcement for Government servants, an increase is given in the Pongal ex-gratia from Rs.2000/- to Rs.3000/- to all the employees who are working full time, Part-time, on consolidated pay and daily wages basis in the temples.

An ex-gratia of Rs. 1000/- was given for the retired temple employees.

62.12 Regularisation of Temporary Temple Employees and Recruitment of Employees.

In order to improve the livelihood of the employees working in the temples under the administrative control of Hindu Religious And Charitable Endowments Department on daily wages/consolidated pay, it has been announced during the year 2021-2022 that the services of 1500 eligible temporary

employees, working for five years, would be regularised.

In G.O.(Ms)No.121, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated .18.10.2021, permission was accorded to the commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department to regularize the services of eligible temporary employees, working more than 5 years in daily wages/consolidated pay, against the vacant sanctioned posts in the temple, subject to the conditions prescribed, by examining case to case basis.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister issued regularisation orders for 33 persons on 25.04.2022.

As per G.O. (Ms) No.128, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated.21.06.2022, the period of

regularisation has been extended upto 31.07.2021. Till now 1289 employees have been regularised.

63. WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIS

Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board

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/.

63.2 Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme

A 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, 5919 Village Poosaris are benefited.

64. Computerisation of Department and Temple activities

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.

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 System (GIS), Court Cases, Temple property, E-Tenders, Mobile applications, Annadaanam, Temple and Icon information, Demand Collection Balance (DCB) and online temple e-services.

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 to facilitate donations for renovations of temples. The seamless integration of the public interfacing and the administrative aspects of Tamil Nadu's temple ecosystem rest on the backbone of the ITMS

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.

Administrative Modules include

- Property registers
- Approved budgets and audit reports
- Land property information
- Demand collection Balance
- Thiruppani

- Court module
- Idols and icons
- GIS Integration
- Oru Kala Pooja Scheme
- Temple Protection
- E-Tenders
- HRCE mobile App

Devotee Related Modules include

- Temple Information
- Online Service – Booking, donation, payment of rent, postal prasatham
- Temple Mobile App
- Online Grievance Redressal
- Annadaanam
- Membership of village Temple Poosari Welfare Board
- Applications for trutees appointment
- Live telecast of Temple Festival

- Publication of Books
- Temple land Retrieval
- 3 D view

The DCB module was launched on 8th October 2021. So far, Rs.728.39 crore has been collected. The online temple services launched on 11th April 2022 have so far seen a total of 577121 online transactions amounting to Rs.22,76,69,613/-.

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.

65. Toll-free helpline service

A Toll-Free Helpline number has been provided by the Department in the Commissioner's office to meet 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 412 complaints registered and transferred to the concerned officers till 14.5.2024 for rectifying the grievances

66. CONCLUSION

"முறைசெய்து காப்பாற்றும் மன்னவன் மக்கட்கு
இறையென்று வைக்கப்படும்"

-திருவள்ளூர்

If the person who sits on the highest seat, rules with infallible sense of justice,

draws welfare schemes and rules with reasonable council of Ministers giving good governance to the people, they will hail the ruler as equal to God.

In tandem with the above couplet, Conservation, renovation and restoration of temples, conducting festival, safeguarding the properties of temples, appointment of archakas irrespective of caste and understanding the importance of restoring Tamil culture, introducing Tamil archanai, release of spiritual books of literary value, feeding the devotees by providing day long annadanam, conducting free marriage scheme are schemes implemented by the department.

Everyone is aware that thousands of acres of temple lands under encroachment

for several years have been retrieved by legal means by the department.

By the steps taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu the temples wherever one kala pooja was not being performed have been identified and the Government has granted assistance to conduct oru kala pooja without fail. The devotees wish has contentedly been fulfilled.

Survey equipment necessary to survey the encroached land for retrieval and additional surveying equipments have been obtained and the temple lands are being surveyed and corner stones laid.

More than thousand year old temples are being identified and with Government grant conservation, renovation and restoration works are being undertaken.

Under the benevolent guidance of the Honourable Chief Minister in just three years of forming the Government, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Departments has implemented a lot of beneficial Schemes and grown by leaps and bounds. In the future this department will continue to walk the path of Victory with head held high.

P.K. SEKAR BABU
MINISTER FOR HINDU RELIGIOUS
AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Annexure - I
Temples having Golden Chariots

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani 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
11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple, Sankarankovil
12.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri (Sapparam)
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
22.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari
23.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
24.	Arulmigu Marundeeswarar Temple, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai
25.	Arulmigu Velayuthaswamy Temple,

	Thindalmalai, Erode
26.	Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabha 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 Aanjaneyaswamy Temple, Namakkal
36.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettipalayam
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliyamman Temple, Ariyakurichi
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathi amman Temple, Tirunelveli
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal
41.	Arulmigu Vekkaliyamman Temple, Uraiyyur, 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
49.	Arulmigu Kondathukaliamman Temple, Pariyur, Erode
50.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple,

	Tiruporur, Kancheepuram
51.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Anaimalai, Coimbatore
52.	Arulmigu Tirumalai Kumaraswamy Temple, Panpozhi, Tirunelveli
53.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur
54.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Katha Iyanar and Bathra kaliyamman 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 Poonga Murugan Temple, Thallakulam, Madurai
60.	Arulmigu Valasubramaniya Swamy Temple, Virudhunagar
61.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha Swamy Temple, Kundrakudi (Kedagam / Sapparam)
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 Thenupureeshwara temple, Patteswaram, Coimbatore

Annexure - II
Temples having Silver Chariots

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani 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
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

23.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Natarasankottai
24.	Arulmigu Koppudaya Nayagiamman Temple, Karaikudi
25.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan (A) Meenakshi Sundaeswarar 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
36.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dhandayuthapani 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 Kaligambal Kamadeswarar Temple, Chennai
47.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Saidapet, Chennai
48.	Arulmigu Bragathambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai
49.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Koilkandhankudi, Tiruvarur
50.	Arulmigu Kanniga parameshwarai Temple, Kadaivethi, Selam

51.	Arulmigu Kambareshwarar Temple, Thirubuvanam, Tanjavur
52.	Arulmigu Mahalingaswamy Temple, Thiruvaidaimaruthur, Tanjavur
53.	Arulmigu Parimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruinthlur, Myladuthurai
54.	Arulmigu Valaroleswarar Temple, Nagaravairavanpatty, Sivagangai
55.	Arulmigu Maikandanathaswamy Temple, Piraanmalai, Sivagangai
56.	Arulmigu Balasubramania Swamy Temple, Uthiramerur
57.	Arulmigu Aathinam Srimath sivanayana Balayaswamygal Thirumadam, Bommaiyarpalayam, Villupuram

Annexure-III

Facilities available for the Elephants

S. No	Temple Name	Name and age of the elephant
1	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani	Kasthuri 57
2	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.	Parvathi 27
3	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.	Ramalakshmi 22
4	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur.	Deivaanai 26

5	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanawamy Temple, Sankarankoil.	Gomathi 30
6	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruparangunram.	Deivaanai 14
7	Arulmigu Kallaghar Swami Thirukoil, Alagharkoil.	Sundaravalli 17
8	Arulmigu Thayumanaswamy Temple, Malaikotta	Lakshmi 33
9	Arulmigu Venkatasalapati Swamy Temple, Oppiliyappan Temple.	Booma 26
10	Arulmigu Pattiswararswamy Temple, Perur.	Kalyani 32

11	Arungmiku Aranganatha Swami Temple, Thiruvarangam.	1.Andal 43, 2.Lakshmi alias Premi 23
12	Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikkal	Akila 20
13	Arulmigu Adhikesava Perumal and Bhasyakaraswamy Temple, Sriperumbudur	Kodhai 25
14	Arulmigu Renukampal Amman Temple, Patavedu.	Lakshmi 28
15	Arulmigu Mayuranathaswamy Temple, Mayiladuthurai.	Abhayambikai 57

16	Arulmigu Amirthakadeswarars wamy Temple, Thirukkadaiyur.	Abhirami 18
17	Arulmigu Adikumbesvararswa mi Temple, Kumbakonam.	Mangalam 57
18	Arulmigu Rajagopalaswamy Temple, Mannargudi.	Chenkamalam 36
19	Arulmigu Panchanatheeswaras wamy Devasthanam, Thiruvaiyaru (Dharumapura Atheenam).	Dharmambal 39
20	Arulmigu Sornakaliswarar Temple, Kalaiyar Temple	Sornavalli alias Gandhi 30

21	Arulmigu Nachiyar Temple, Srivilliputhur.	Jayamala alias Jayamalyatha 21
22	Arulmigu Shanmuganathaswamy Temple, Kundrakudi.	Subulakshmi 60
23	Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Temple, Tirunelveli.	Gandhimati 53
24	Arulmigu Adinatha Alwar Temple, Alwar Thirunagari.	Adinayaki 23
25	Arulmigu Vaitamanithi Perumal Thirukoil, Thirukkolaour.	Kumadavalli 27

26	Arulmigu Aravinthalochanar Temple, Irattai Tirupati (Srivaikundam)	Lakshmi 20
27	Arulmigu Azhagiya Nambraayar Temple, Thirukkurungudi (Jeer Mutt)	1. Kurungudivalli 28 2. Sundaravalli 18

Annexure-IV

Pasukkal Kappagam

S.No	Region Name	No. of Pasumadam	No of Cows in Pasumadam
1	Chennai 1	14	86
2	Chennai 2	12	115
3	Vellore	7	708
4	Salem	1	17
5	Coimbatore	6	46

6	Thanjavur	4	71
7	Mayiladuthurai	14	163
8	vigilance	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	135
15	Tirupur	6	66
16	Thiruvannamalai	3	85
17	Cuddalore	5	211
18	Tuticorin	12	40
19	Nagapattinam	10	89
20	Dindigul	2	640
	Total	130	3070

Annexure-V
Temples with Battery Cars

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple	No. of Battery Cars
1.	Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Srirangam	4
2.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani 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, Thiruvottiyur	1
8.	Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval	1
9.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundaeswarar Temple, Madurai	2

10.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram	4
11.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore	2
12.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Alagarkoil	3
13.	Arulmigu Patteshwaraswamy Temple, Perur	1
14.	Arulmigu Devarajaswamy temple, Kanchipuram	1
	Total	32

Annexure – VI

Icon centre

1.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple campus, Tiruvarur
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, Tiruvarur (Additional Centre)

15.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur
16.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
17.	Arulmigu Kaliamman 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 Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple)
21.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur
22.	Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramana Swamy Temple, Perundurai, Erode
23.	Arulmigu Gowmariamman Temple, Veerapandi, Theni

Annexure-VII

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 Udanurai Neelayathatchiamman Temple, Nagapattinam
8.	Arulmigu Srinivasaperumal Temple, Dindigul
9.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy Temple, Krishnapuram, Palayamkottai (Sub Temple of Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple)

10.	Arulmigu Parimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai
11.	Arulmigu Kapartheeswarar Temple, Thiruvanchuzhi, Kumbakonam

Annexure-VIII

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 Dhandayuthapani 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 Periyanyagi 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 MeenakshiSundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai
5.	Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniya swamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirupparankundram, Madurai
6.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumara swamy Devasthana Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tenkasi
7.	Devasthana 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 Sivaprakasa Swamigal Higher Secondary School, Mailam, Tindivanam, Villupuram

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, Thiruvenkadu, Mayiladuthurai
4.	Arulmigu Sundararaja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai
5.	Devaswom High School, 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, Thiruvenkadu, Mayiladuthurai
4.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani 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, Tenkasi	Courtallam,
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Release of Book "Ramanujar"



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin on 18.06.2024 at secretariat release the book "Ramanujar" published by the publication wing of the HR&CE Department to popularise the TV Serial "Madhathil Puratchi Seitha Mahan" panned by Muthamizh Aringinar Kalainginar.

1,100th Marriage



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin On 24.11.2023 at Arulmigu Kabaleswarar Karpagambal mahal on the completion of 1,100 marriage being held on behalf of the temple, presided over the conducted two marriages and presented marriage gifts to the couples.

Second Phase of publication of 108 rare devotional books



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin on 27.02.2024 at Secretariat released 108 rare devotional books reprinted in the second phase by the Publication wing of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department at the Secretariat.

Thiruppani Fund Assistance



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 10.7.2023 at Secretariat, presented Demand Draft of Rs. 50 Crore for each temple Rs. 2 lakhs, to carry out renovation works of 1250 temples situated in Adhi-Drividar and Tribal habitation and 1250 village temples, selected in the year 2022-2023

Incentives for Training School Students



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin on 24.11.2023 at Secretariat, presented 8 Demand Drafts as a token of giving Rs. 4,000/- and Rs.2000/- as incentive to 292 students of Archaga Training Institutes studying full time and part time respectively.

Appointment Orders



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin on 17.01.2024 at Secretariat gave appointment orders to the Executive Officers who were selected for the subordinate services in HR & CE Department in Grade -3.

The Day long Annadhanam Scheme



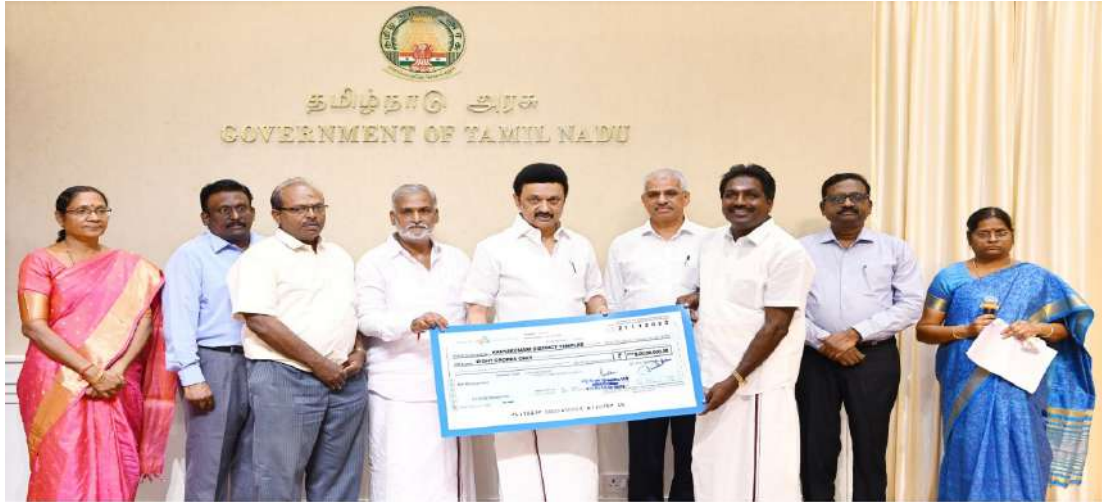
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 22.01.2024 at Secretariat, inaugurated through video conference, the day long Annadhanam scheme in Periyapalayam Arulmigu Bhavaniammam Temple, Melmalayanur Arulmigu Angala Parameswari Temple, Anamalai Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple.

Enhancing Pension/ Family Pension



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 20.9.2023 at Secretariat gave cheques to retired temple employees, enhancing the departmental pension from Rs.3000/- to Rs.4000/- and family pension from 1,500/- to Rs.2000/-.

Government Grant for Kanyakumari District Temples



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 24.11.2023 at Secretariat gave cheque for Rs. 8 Crore enhancing from Rs. 6 crore for the administrative and maintenance expenses of Kaanyuakumari District Temples.

Tuition Fees and Educational Equipments



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 31.7.2023 at Kolathur Arulmighu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College on the occasion of Foundation day of third year, gave tuition fees of Rs. 10,000 and book bags with educational equipments 685 students studying in the college.

Stipend for Higher Studies



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 24.11.2023 at Secretariat, presented Bank Demand Drafts to 8 students in token of Rs.10,000 assistance to 400 students, for high studies of son/daughters of Archagars who serve in Oru Kala Pooja temples.

Inauguration of Completed Works



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 8.3.2024, at Secretariat, through video conferencing, laid foundation stone for new schemes at a cost of Rs. 131.15 crore and opened 17 completed works at an estimated cost of Rs. 29.27 crore.

Laying Foundation Stone for New Projects



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 17.02.2024, at Secretariat, through video conferencing, laid foundation stone for 43 new projects at a cost of Rs. 592.38 Crore in 36 Temples.

Gold Deposit Bond



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 4.9.2023 at Secretariat presented the Gold Deposit Bond to Thiru R.Arulmurugan, Chairman, Board of Trustees, for the deposit of gold bars obtained from the melting of gold items of different purity, melted in Union Government Mint at Mumbai, belonging to Thiruchendur Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy Temple.

Completion of Yearlong “Vallalar – 200” Event



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K.Stalin on 5.10.2023, released the book titled “Vallalarin Irai Anubavagangal” on the occasion of the completion of yearlong spiritual event of “Vallalar 200” organized by the H.R & CE Department at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai.

Common Feast in temples



Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, on 15.08.2023, and the Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru P.K.Sekar Babu, participated in the Special Pooja and Common Feast at Triplicane Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple, in view of Independence Day.

Distribution of Dhoti and Sarees to Poor



Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, on 15.08.2023, in view of Independence Day participated in the Special Pooja and Common Feast at Triplicane Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple and gave Dhoti and Sarees to poor peoples.

Staff Quarters



Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, on 12.03.2024 at Triplicane, Chennai, opened the Staff Quarters built by Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple at a cost of Rs. 2.25 Crore.

1,000th temple Consecration



After the Government headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister took charge, 1000th Temple Kumbabishegam was performed on 10.09.2023 at Chennai, West Mambalam Arulmigu Kasi Viswanathar Temple where in Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE and religious leaders and public participated in large number.

Works on Land Survey



Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru P.K.Sekar Babu, on 14.9.2023 inaugurated, the surveying of 1,50,001st and completion of surveying 1,50,00 Acres of temple land at Dharmapuri, Gopalampatti, A/m Petaraya Swamy Temple.

Rameswaram - Kasi Pilgrimage Tour



Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru P.K.Sekar Babu on 1.02.2024 inaugurated the journey of Rameswaram – Kasi at Egmore Railway station and gave travel bags to the devotees participating in the journey.

Arupadaiveedu Spiritual Tour



Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru P.K.Sekar Babu on 28.01.2024 flagged off Arupadaiveedu Spiritual tour from Chennai Kandakottam Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy temple and gave travel bags to 207 senior citizens participating in the tour.

Appointment of Female Othuvvars



Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru P.K.Sekar Babu on 25.9.2023, at Commissioner Office, HR & CE, gave appointment orders to 15 Othuvvars including 5 female othuvvars directly appointed.

Pongal Ex-Gratia for Retired Employees



Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru P.K.Sekar Babu on 10.1.2024 at Commissioner Office inaugurated the Pongal Ex-gratia scheme to retired Archagas and temple employees and gave cheque for Rs. 1000.