



**TOURISM CULTURE AND  
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**ART AND CULTURE  
MUSEUMS  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**POLICY NOTE  
2015 – 2016**

**DEMAND No.29**

**K.C.VEERAMANI  
MINISTER FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ART AND CULTURE**

**POLICY NOTE**

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**Introduction**

1. Art and Culture is not only mingled with the life style of a society, culture and development but also acts as an essential factor to identify man as human being. Art adores life; Music, Dance, Painting and Sculpture gives joy and bliss in our life. Art and Culture represent the finesse of a civilization. Art portrays human values and acts as a media to create an impact regarding our ancient tradition and culture.

A separate Department namely Department of Art and Culture was formed in December 1991 by bringing the fine arts institutions and cultural organisations that functioned under the various departments under one umbrella to develop Music, Drama, Dance, Painting and Sculpture and to exhibit the traditional cultural heritage to the younger generation.

### **Objectives of the Department**

1.1 The main objectives of Department of Art and Culture are encouraging the artistes and troupes by providing opportunities for their cultural performances thereby enhancing the economic status of artists, preserving and promoting the dying classical and folk arts bringing all art forms to the public by conducting art functions, taking the music

education and fine arts education to the next generation, documenting the various dying arts forms and providing financial assistance to the indigent artistes thereby preserving the arts forms and artists.

### **Functions of the Department**

1.2 The Department of Art and Culture is effectively engaged in preserving and promoting the Traditional Arts of Tamil Nadu, encouraging the artistes involved in such arts, bringing the traditional arts to the younger generation and giving arts training, conduct of cultural programmes for creating awareness among the public, giving training through fine arts institutions and performing arts institutions to the students in the field of Music, Dance, Drama, Folk arts, Painting and Sculpture,

conduct of functions to showcase our culture to other States and Foreigners, conferment of District level Awards and State Level Awards to artistes, providing financial assistance to the aged indigent artistes for their economic upliftment, revival of the dying art forms and taking the Tamil Isai and culture to the nook and corner of our State.

1.3 Under the control of this Department, Six Regional Cultural Centres are functioning to carry out the cultural activities throughout State. Four Government Music Colleges, 17 District Government Music Schools, One Government Aided College namely Kalai Kaveri Fine Arts College, Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University are functioning to carry the music education to younger generation, Two Government College of

Fine Arts and One Government College of Architecture and Sculpture are functioning for creating the Painters, Sculptors and artistes, 40 Jawahar Bal Bhavan Centres are functioning to promote art education to children, District Art Society in each District headed by the District Collectors are functioning to confer District level Awards and for conduct of art functions, the Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu is functioning to encourage painters and sculptors, the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram is functioning to encourage the artistes involved in fostering of Traditional Tamil Arts and conducting art functions and the Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board is functioning for the economic upliftment of Folk Artistes. The Department of Art and Culture is

headed by the Commissioner and is assisted by one Joint Director, one Deputy Director, six Regional Assistant Directors, one Accounts Officer, one Executive Officer and other staff for co-ordinating the works of the Department.

### **Regional Cultural Centres**

1.4 The Regional Cultural Centres are functioning in six places namely, Kancheepuram, Thanjavur, Salem, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirapalli and are headed by the Assistant Directors.

1.5 The Regional Cultural Centres were established with a view to co-ordinate the cultural activities and to carry out the cultural schemes of the Government in districts and to create awareness among the people about the rich cultural



heritage of Tamil Nadu. The Regional cultural centres are carrying out the task of conducting art functions in districts, conferring District level awards on artists, encouraging the artists involved in the classical arts and Folk arts of Tamil Nadu, giving art training to younger generation in dying art forms, imparting training and conduct of exhibitions in the field of painting / sculpture. Further with proper co-ordination of District Art Societies, District Music Schools, Jawahar Bal Bhavans and Folk Artiste's Welfare Board, the Regional Cultural Centres implement various schemes of the Government in districts. The Regional Cultural Centres also liaise with Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram and South Zone Cultural Centre by organizing and conducting various local art festivals of the districts namely,

Tamil Isai Vizha, Karthigai Oli Vizha, Vaigunda Ekadesi Vizha, Paavai Vizha, Saaral Vizha, Sirkazhi Moovar Vizha, Kattabomman Birthday Celebration, Aruvi Thiruvizha, Kumari Thiruvizha, Sadaya Vizha, Aazhither Vizha, Kodai Vizha, Aadi Perukku Vizha and Matha Nallinakka Vizha.

1.6 The Art and Cultural Complex at Salem has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 107.81 lakhs and Art and Cultural Complex at Tirunelveli has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 113.15 lakhs by the Public Works Department.

### **District Art Societies**

1.7 The District Art Societies headed by the District Collector in each district are functioning with a view to promote, preserve and improve the ancient art forms of Tamil Nadu, to spot out artistic

talents at District level and conferring awards on them and to provide opportunities for their exposition and dissemination of arts in districts.

1.8 From the year 2002-2003, the Government is implementing the scheme of giving awards to 5 eminent artistes in each district according to their age and eminence in arts.

Below 18 years of age	-	Kalai Ilamani Award
Between 19 – 35 years of age	-	Kalai Valarmani Award
Between 36 – 50 years of age	-	Kalai Sudarmani Award
Between 51 – 60 years of age	-	Kalai Nanmani Award
For those above 60 years	-	Kalai Mudumani Award

1.9 The scheme of issuing identification cards to encourage the artistes in Districts is implemented by this Department from the year 2002-2003. The identification cards issued to the artistes through the District Art Societies are useful to the artistes to avail of financial assistance from the Government, for getting priority in cultural programmes conducted by the Government.

### **Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board**

1.10 The Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board was started with a view to preserve the folk arts, to encourage the artists involved in such arts and to provide social security and welfare schemes to the folk artists in Tamil Nadu. So far 31,145 folk artistes have become members of the Board and a sum of Rs.1,18,58,612/- has been sanctioned

towards providing various welfare schemes to 7,115 folk artistes.

## **ART EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **Music Educational Institutions**

1.11 Music gives mental peace and joy to man, sharpens the brain and provides stable health. The ancient Tamil Isai is reflecting the culture and traditional Tamil Culture. In order to carry the objectives to make the young talented artistes as eminent musicians and to take the Tamil Isai to younger generation and to propagate the Tamil Isai to nook and corner of the State and the entire world, the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University, the Government Music Colleges and the Government Music Schools were established.

## **Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University**

1.12 In order to propagate the richness of Music and Fine Arts education to younger generation at National Level and World Level and to enlighten them about the cultural values of Music, Sculpture, the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University was established, as per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule No.110, and subsequently "Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University Act-2013" was enacted on 14.11.2013. The University was established with the Hon'ble Chief Minister being the Chancellor. The University is presently functioning at Tamil Nadu Government Music College Campus, Chennai. Kalaimamani

Tmt. Veena E. Gayathri was appointed as First Vice Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University. The post of Registrar, Finance Officer and Controller of Examination were created for carrying out the administrative works of the university and the officials were appointed.

1.13 From the academic year 2014-2015, the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University conducts Post-Graduate Courses in the field of Vocal, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Bharathanatyam, flute, Nadhaswaram and Post Diploma Courses in the field of Digital Photography and Visual Communication Design.

1.14 Four Government Music Colleges functioning at Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Thiruvaiyaru, Two Government Fine Arts Colleges

functioning at Chennai and Kumbakonam, Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram and Kalaikaveri Fine Arts College at Triuchirappalli, totally 8 colleges were brought under the academic control of this Music and Fine Arts University.

1.15 For the smooth functioning of the University, Syndicate, Board of Studies, Academic Council and Finance Committee have been constituted and periodical meetings are being conducted by the University and policy decisions are implemented. The University has introduced new syllabus. The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.05 crore as grants for the functioning of the University in the year 2014-2015.



1.16 In G.O. (Ms) No 194, Revenue Department Dated 9.6.2014, an extent of 12.72.0 hectare land in Sozhinganallur Village and Taluk, Kancheepuram District has been transferred to the Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department for the construction of new building to Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University and the above land has been handed over to the University.

In order to create awareness among the younger generation, cultural programmes were conducted in three fields namely Inter College Competition, Folk Arts Programmes and Carnatic Music by the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University in a grand manner on 23.2.2015, 24.2.2015 and 25.2.2015 in the open air auditorium situated in the University campus.

### **Government Music College, Chennai**

1.17 The Government Music College at Chennai is functioning in the heritage building namely “**Brodie Castle**”. The Government Music College at Chennai conducts Three-Year Diploma courses in the field of Vocal, Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Flute, Ghatam, Kancheera, Morsingh, Nathaswaram, Thavil, Folk arts, Bharathanatyam, Two-Year Post Diploma Courses in Vocal, Music (Muthukalai Isai Kalaimani), Two-Year Diploma Course in Nattuvangam and One-Year Diploma Course in Music Teachers Training.

1.18 From the academic year 2014-2015, three year Degree Courses have been started in the Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai in the field of Vocal, Violin, Veena and

Degree Courses in the field of Vocal and Veena in evening hours and weekends for the willing housewives and to those who opt to have additional degree.

1.19 The Electronic Musical Instruments were purchased for the use of students at a cost of Rs.10.00 lakhs for the Tamil Nadu Government Music College at Chennai towards introduction of innovative teaching methodology in violin and keyboard music.

1.20 A sum of Rs.13.00 lakhs has been sanctioned towards establishment of a New Digital Recording Studio for Government Music College at Chennai and the same is being carried out by the Public Works Department.

1.21 New Audio Visual Library has been established at a sum of Rs.2.00 lakhs in the Government Music College at Chennai

### **Government Music College, Madurai**

1.22 The Government Music College at Madurai is situated in the beautiful hills of Pasumalai. The College offers Three-Year Diploma Courses in Vocal, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Flute, Nathaswaram, Bharathanatyam, Folk Arts and One-Year Diploma Course in Music Teachers Training.

1.23 From the Academic year 2014-2015, Degree Courses has been started in the field of Vocal in Government Music College at Madurai.

## **Government Music College, Coimbatore**

1.24 The Government Music College at Coimbatore offers Three-Year Diploma Courses in Vocal, Violin, Veena, Bharathanatyam and One-Year Diploma Course in Music Teachers Training.

1.25 From the Academic year 2014-2015, Degree courses has been started in the field of Vocal, Violin, Veena in the Government Music College at Coimbatore.

1.26. Ground Floor and First Floor Buildings for the Government Music College at Coimbatore has been constructed at a cost of Rs.189.72 lakhs by the Public Works Department at Malumichampatti in Coimbatore District. The Music College is going to function in the new building shortly.

### **Government Music College, Thiruvaiyaru**

1.27 The Government Music College is functioning at Thiruvaiyaru, a place famous for Carnatic Music. The College offers Three-Year Diploma Courses in Vocal, Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Bharathanatyam, Nathaswaram, Thavil and Three-Year Degree Course and Two Year Post Graduate Degree Course in Vocal Music and research degree leading to Ph.D.

1.28 The Electronic Musical Instruments were purchased and given to students at a cost of Rs.10.00 lakhs for the Tamil Nadu Government Music College at Thiruvaiyaru towards introduction of innovative teaching methodology in violin and keyboard music.

1.29 A s.

um of Rs.15.00 lakhs has been spent for purchase of musical instruments and repair of musical instruments to Government Music Colleges at Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Thiruvaiyaru.

1.30 A sum of Rs.500/- per month is being given as stipend to the students of four Government Music Colleges functioning at Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Thiruvaiyaru.

### **Evening Music College Centres**

1.31 Evening Music College Centres are functioning at Chennai and Madurai. Two-Year Certificate Courses are offered in Vocal, Veena and Violin in Chennai Thiyagarayanagar Centre; Vocal, Veena, Violin and Mridangam in Chennai Music College Campus Centre; Vocal, Veena, Violin,

Mridangam and Bharathanatyam are offered in Madurai Centre.

### **Government District Music Schools**

1.32 With a view to encourage the youth who are interested in learning music and to popularise the music throughout Tamil Nadu, Government District Music Schools were started in 17 places namely Tirunelveli, Triuchirappalli, Thiruvarur, Salem, Pudukkottai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Thoothukudi, Karur, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Krishnagiri, Seerkazhi, Erode and Ramanathapuram. Three-Year Certificate Courses in Vocal Music, Bharathanatyam, Nathaswaram, Thavil, Thevaram, Violin and Mridangam are offered in District Music Schools.



1.33 A sum of Rs. 400/- per month is being given as stipend to the students of seventeen District Government Music Schools.

### **Fine Arts and Architecture Educational Institutions.**

1.34 Art gives mental relaxation and rejuvenates us amidst our hectic schedule. Apart from imitating nature they high-light the subtle nuances of human existence. The ancient and rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu is being reflected through Paintings and Sculptures. Eminent artists in the field of Painting and Sculpture constitute the alumni of the Government Colleges of Fine Arts and Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, who have carved a place in history for themselves.

## **Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai**

1.35 The Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai which is functioning in heritage building offers Four-Year Degree Courses in Industrial Design in Ceramic, Industrial Design in Textile, Visual Communication Design, Painting, Sculpture, Print Making and Two-Year Post Graduate Degree Courses in Painting, Visual Communication Design, Industrial Design in Ceramic, Industrial Design in Textile and Sculpture.

1.36 Computers, Software and Accessories were purchased for the use of students at a cost of Rs.15.00 lakhs for the Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai towards introduction of innovative teaching methodology in animation in painting branch.

**Government College of Fine Arts,  
Kumbakonam**

1.37 The Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam is functioning in the Temple city, offers Four-Year Degree Courses and Two-Year Post Graduate Degree Courses in Visual Communication Design, Painting and Sculpture.

1.38 Portrait stand and full figure drawing stand, basic furniture and board for drawing relief sculptures and Armature stand for clay were purchased at a cost of Rs.4.00 lakhs for the use of students at Government college of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam.

## **Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram**

1.39 Mamallapuram is a museum for showcasing Indian Rock Architecture and occupies a prominent place in the history of Sculpture. The Government College of Architecture and Sculpture is functioning in the historic town of Mamallapuram. The College conducts Four-Year B.Tech Degree courses in Traditional Architecture, B.F.A Degree in Traditional Sculpture and B.F.A Degree in Traditional Drawing and Painting.

1.40 Auto Cad Computer training were provided to the fourth year students of Government College of Architecture and Sculpture at a cost of Rs.1.00 lakh.

1.41 The Public Works Department is taking steps for the construction of Auditorium in the premises of Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram at a cost of Rs.7.75 lakhs

**Kalai Kaveri College of Fine Arts,**

**Tiruchirappalli**

1.42 Kalai Kaveri College of Fine Arts in Tiruchirappalli is an aided College for which grants to this College are being released through the Directorate of Collegiate Education and the administration of this College is under the control of Department of Art and Culture. For the growth of Fine Arts, Five-Year Integrated Degree Courses, Three-Year Degree Courses and Two-Year Post Graduate Degree Courses in Bharathanatyam,

Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Mridangam and research course leading to Ph.D., are offered in this College.

### **Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram.**

1.43 To carryout the objectives of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi at State Level and also for the development and fostering of Traditional Tamil Arts, Tamil Nadu Sangeet Nataka Sangam was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1955. For the purpose of felicitating the Muthamizh, It was renamed as Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram in the year 1973. This organisation is implementing several schemes for the benefit of artists such as promoting arts, encouraging the artistes involved in such arts, popularizing the Traditional Tamil Arts not only in

India throughout the globe from the grants sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

### **Cultural Activities of Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram**

1.44 The main activities of the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram includes exchange of cultural troupes between the States, sanctioning of monthly financial assistance to the indigent artistes, sanctioning of family maintenance grant to the families of deceased famous artistes, encouraging talented budding artistes by providing opportunities for their performances through various cultural organizations of Tamil Nadu, conferring "Kalaimamani" awards to the artistes for their yeomen service to the enrichment of performing arts, conferment of All India Level Awards for the

artistes in the name of Bharathiar, M.S.Subbulakshmi and Balasaraswathi, extending grants to professional drama troupes for production and staging of Tamil dramas depicting our ancient culture and heritage, sanctioning grants to Dance-drama troupes, sanctioning grants for publication of rare books in the field of art and culture, releasing of grants to voluntary cultural organizations towards the commemorative festival of savants, conducting various cultural festivals for the benefit of the artistes, documentation of rare forms of traditional arts to enable the future generation to know about them, recording and preserving of music programmes of the senior artistes and encouraging research on our folk arts and traditional classical fine arts.



### **Financial Assistance to Indigent Artistes**

1.45 Under the scheme of Financial Assistance to the aged famous artistes and men of letters who have rendered services in the field of arts throughout their life time and who are now in indigent circumstances, the assistance paid was increased from Rs.1,000/- per month to Rs.1,500/- per month from 1.4.2013 and the assistance given at the enhanced rate. Under this scheme, so far 12,563 artistes have been sanctioned financial assistance. The Government have issued orders enhancing Annual income ceiling limit for grant of Financial assistance to indigent artists from Rs. 12,000/- to Rs.60,000/-.

### **Family Maintenance Grant to the Families of Deceased Famous Artistes**

1.46 The bereaved families of the deceased artistes are given family maintenance grant. So far, 414 bereaved families of the deceased artistes were given financial assistance of Rs. 18.20 lakhs.

1.47 The one time family maintenance grant given to the families of deceased artistes is now increased from Rs.6000/- to Rs.10,000/- for which a sum of Rs.9.26 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government.

### **Inter State Cultural Exchange Programme**

1.48 With a view to promote the sense of National Integration and to create opportunities for the outsiders to know about the arts and cultural

heritage of Tamil Nadu, a scheme known as Inter-State Cultural Exchange Programme is being implemented by the Mandram with the co-ordination of Sangeet Natak Akademi to achieve this objective. Under this scheme, 82 cultural troupes from other States have visited Tamil Nadu and 85 cultural troupes of Tamil Nadu have also visited to other States.

### **Conduct of Cultural programmes abroad**

1.49 Nowadays, Tamilians are spreaded all over the world and with a view to make foreigners aware of our Tamil Culture and to fulfill the wishes of the Tamilians living there and the Cultural programmes conveying our Cultural richness are conducted in which the traditional arts namely Bharathanatyam, folk arts and music

programmes are performed abroad. The cultural troupes from Tamil Nadu comprising of 20 artistes are staging Tamil Cultural Performances in Australia in Sydney city, Adelaide city, Melbourne city and in Thailand.

### **Encouragement of Talented Young Artistes**

1.50 In order to provide an avenue to the budding artistes in Eyal, Isai, Natyam, Natakam, the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram extends grants in the range of Rs.2000/- to Rs.5000/- based on the programmes to Voluntary Cultural Organizations of Tamil Nadu. So far, 1941 young artistes were benefitted under this scheme.

### **Grants to Folk Artistes / Troupes for Purchase of Musical instruments and Costumes**

1.51 The Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram extends grants to folk artistes and troupes for purchase of musical instruments and costumes. Under this scheme, the grants provided to folk artistes for the purchase of musical instruments, costumes is now raised to Rs.2000 from Rs.750/- and for cultural troupes amount is raised to Rs.6000/- from Rs.2500/-. So far, 1437 folk artistes / troupes have been benefited.

### **Grants for the Production of New Dramas / New Dance Dramas**

1.52 Under this scheme the mandram extends grants to Drama troupes / New Tamil

Dance Dramas for the production and staging of new Tamil Plays based on Tamil literature, Tamil art and culture.

1.53 In order to encourage the dying drama art forms and drama artistes, five Historical and Epic dramas based on Tamil Culture, Tamil Literature have been selected by the Mandram and staged from 8.3.2015 to 12.3.2015 in Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai at a cost of Rs.7.50 lakhs, each drama at the rate of Rs.1.50 lakhs. So far 47 Dramas were staged.

1.54 In order to encourage the dance artistes and to make the younger generation appreciate the values of Traditional Tamil Dance arts, five dance dramas based on Tamil literature,

have been selected and staged by the Mandram from 16.3.2015 to 20.3.2015 in Vani Mahal, Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha, Chennai at a cost of Rs.7.50 lakhs, each dance drama at the rate of Rs.1.50 lakhs. So far 27 Dance Dramas were staged.

### **Grants for the Publication of Rare Books on Arts**

1.55 Under this scheme Financial assistance is sanctioned to publish books on art.

### **Grants for Training the Youth in Folk Arts, Music, Dramas and Documentation of Art forms for the benefit of Younger Generation**

1.56 With a view to preserve and promote the dying 100 folk art forms to younger generation which were identified by the Government of Tamil Nadu and to make the younger generation know about the plays written by

Thavathiru Sankaradoss Swamigal and to give training through experts in the respective field an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs is being spent towards purchase of musical instruments, training equipments and for giving training the youth through senior experts.

1.57 With a view to promote the dying folk art forms from folk experts to the next generation and to document the art forms, a sum of Rs.10.00 lakhs has been sanctioned and documenting the art forms are being carried out by the mandram.

### **Cultural Programmes of Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram**

1.58 With a view to make the younger generation appreciate the cultural values of arts forms and to give programme opportunities to the



folk arts, the Mandram is organizing various cultural programmes.

1.59 The Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram conducted cultural programmes in Courtralam Saral Festival, Muthukrishna Swami Gurupooja celebration and Car Festival held at Sripothai, Valliyur, Tirunvelveli District, and Panchamoorthy music dance drama festival at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium, in which totally 350 Artistes participated and gave various performances.

The Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram has also conducted Cultural programmes outside Tamil Nadu namely Kullu Dasara festival, Himachal Pradesh, Lokrang art festival at Jaipur, Rajasthan, Pongal Festival at Kolkatta Bharathi Tamizh

Sangam in which totally 170 Artistes participated and gave various performances. Cultural programmes were conducted in locations in Tamil Nadu, other States and abroad.

### **Conferment of All India Level Awards for the Artistes in the field of Literature, Music and Dance**

1.60 With a view to felicitating the artistes in the disciplines of literature, music and dance who have contributed at the National level, three awards each carrying Rupees one lakh have been instituted in the name of "**Bharathiyar**", "**M.S.Subbulakshmi**" and "**Balasaraswathy**" respectively.

1.61 Air conditioning the Art Gallery at Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram campus has been carried out at a cost of Rs.4.00 lakhs and

Audio –Visual facilities to the open air Auditorium at the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram has been provided at a cost of Rs.3.00 lakhs.

### **TAMIL NADU OVIA NUNKALAI KUZHU**

1.62 The Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu was established in the year 1975 for promoting and propagating the fine arts relating to creative cultural works and to encourage the artistes involved in the field of fine arts such as Painting, Sculpture and Graphics.

### **Scheme of conferring 'Kalaichemmal' Awards**

1.63 With a view to encourage the eminent artists of Tamil Nadu in recognition of their meritorious service in the fields of Paintings and Sculpture in Traditional and Contemporary Arts,

“Kalaichemmal” awards are given. A cash award of Rs.20,000/- each and a citation plaque are given to them. 11 eminent artists of Painting and Sculpture in traditional field and 42 artists of Painting and Sculpture in contemporary field have been conferred with this title so far.

**Scheme of conducting State Level Exhibition of Traditional Art / Contemporary Art and giving Awards**

1.64 The Traditional Art / Contemporary Art exhibitions are conducted for developing the painting and sculpture arts and encouraging the artistes involved in such arts. The Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu conducts State level Exhibition of Traditional Art/Contemporary Art and the Painters and Sculptors of these arts are encouraged by receiving Painting / Sculpture / Art

works from them and the selected work pieces are exhibited. For outstanding creations in painting and sculpture, Exhibition Awards are given by encouraging the Traditional / Contemporary artists. These Exhibition awards are totally given 40 artistes @ Rs. 9000/- to 20 senior artists (Traditional Art / Contemporary Art) who are above 30 years of age and Rs.3,500/- for 20 Junior artists (Traditional Art / Contemporary Art) who are below 30 years of age.

1.65 In the financial year 2014-2015, 40 awards were given and an exhibition of painting and sculpture was conducted at a cost of Rs.4.00 lakhs at Chennai Egmore Museum from 19.3.2015 to 23.3.2015 in which 181 art works were exhibited .

**Scheme of financial assistance to artists for conducting one-man shows or group shows**

1.66 For encouraging the talented and eligible upcoming artistes of Tamil Nadu in the field of Paintings, Sculpture and to encourage them, financial assistance of Rs.7,500/- per exhibition is given to the artists in Tamil Nadu to conduct their exhibitions either individually or financial assistance of Rs.15,000/- is given for collectively as a group. This scheme paves the way for encouragement of painters, sculptors and creates an awareness about fine arts.

**Scheme of awarding scholarships to young artist**

1.67 In order to encourage the students of Government Colleges of Fine Arts at Chennai and

Kumbakonam, a scholarship of Rs.5,000/- each is given to outstanding final year Post Graduate Students and Rs.3,000/- each to outstanding final year Degree students. Till now, 568 Degree students and 78 Post Graduate students have been given scholarships.

### **Art Galleries in Districts**

1.68 Three Art Galleries of Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu with creative pieces of eminent artistes of Tamil Nadu are functioning at Udhagamandalam, Madurai and Art Gallery at Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai.

### **TAMIL NADU JAWAHAR SIRUVAR MANRAM**

1.69 The Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram was established in 1979 at Chennai with

the main objective to channelise the children in the right path away from distractions, to inculcate art training to children, to bring out the hidden artistic talents and to give art education along with general education, to identify their specific talents and aesthetic fervor in the minds of children between five and sixteen years of age. At present 40 Jawahar Siruvar Manrams have been established throughout the State and functioning in three ways namely as District Jawahar Siruvar Manrams, Extension Centres and Rural Extension Centres.

### **District Jawahar Siruvar Manrams**

1.70 District Jawahar Siruvar Manrams are functioning in 24 places namely at Chennai, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Udthagamandalam, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Cuddalore, Nagercoil,



Thanjavur, Kancheepuram, Sivagangai, Tirunelveli, Salem, Ramanathapuram, Dindugal, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Theni, Vellore, Tiruvallur, Erode, Thiruvarur, Virudhunagar and Villupuram.

### **Jawahar Siruvar Manram Extension Centres**

1.71 Jawahar Siruvar Manram Extension Centres are functioning in 10 places namely at Perambalur, Thanjavur, Kulithalai, Karur, Chennai (Dr. M.G.R Deaf and Dumb School, Ramapuram), Madurai, Thoothukkudi, Nagapattinam, Thiruvannamalai and Namakkal.

### **Jawahar Siruvar Manram Rural Centres**

1.72 Two rural centres for imparting artistic talents to children are functioning in Ponpudupatti, Pudukkottai district and Ellis Nagar at Madurai.

### **Chennai Jawahar Siruvar Manram Centres**

1.73 The Jawahar Siruvar Manrams are functioning in five centres at Chennai namely Mylapore, Vysarpadi, Villivakkam, Selaiyur and West Tambaram.

### **Part time training in Jawahar Siruvar Manrams**

1.74 Part time training in 20 disciplines, such as Vocal Music, Bharathanatyam, Folk Dance, Crafts, Drama, Gymnastics, Mridangam, Tabela, Karathe, Computer, Key Board, Veena, Drums, Bands, Tailoring, Drawing and Painting, Screen Printing, Flute, Yoga and Silambattam are given in Jawahar Siruvar Manrams.

For the benefit of the children residing in Chennai and to spread the Jawahar Siruvar

Mandram activities, five centres were started in residential areas and the training is given.

Mylapore-Chennai

Krishnamoorthy Nagar, Vysarpadi-Chennai

Selayur, Tambaram-Chennai

Villivakkam - Chennai

West Tambaram-Chennai

### **Participation of Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams in National Level Schemes**

1.75 In the National Bal Shree selection for the year 2013 held at New Delhi from 25.8.2014 to 30.8.2014, 13 children representing Tamil Nadu and selected from the South Zone Bal Shree selection camp participated.

1.76 Children's festival were celebrated from 14.11.2014 to 20.11.2014 in the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi on the eve of 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday

celebrations of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. On the inaugural day function held on 14.11.2014, the students from Chennai Jawahar Bal Bhavan performed a special Bharathanatya dance programme.

1.77 In this Children's day celebrations, 46 students of 21 affiliated Bal Bhavans of Tamil Nadu participated and received appreciation for exhibiting the traditional art dance of Tamil Nadu.

1.78 In the National Young Environmentalist Camp held at Junakutch, Gujarat from 7.1.2015 to 11.1.2015, 12 students from the Tamil Nadu participated.

## **State Level Schemes**

### **Summer / Winter Camps**

1.79 A State level summer camp was conducted at Kodaikannal in Dindigul District from 18.05.2014 to 26.05.2014 and a State level winter camp was organised at Arcot in Vellore District from 24.12.2014 to 31.12.2014. Totally 200 children were trained in the field of Bharathanatyam, Folk dance, Vocal, Drawing, Handicraft, Silambam, Yoga in the camps. In the winter camp students were given special training in Mallar Kambam art.

### **State Level Craft Workshop**

1.80 A State level craft workshop was organised at South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur from 27.09.2014 to 05.10.2014 and 100 children

were trained in Terracotta, Doll making, Batik Collage, Handicrafts and Candle making.

**District level and State level cultural competitions**

1.81 With a view to encourage the artistic talents of Children, cultural competitions were organised in all the Districts in which children in the field of Vocal, Bharathanatyam, Folk Dance and Drawing in the age group of 5-8, 9-12, 13-16 have participated. Prizes and Certificates were distributed to the District level winners.

1.82 A State level cultural competition among the first prize winners of the District level competition was conducted. The first prize winners given cash award of Rs. 10,000/-, the second prize winners given cash award of Rs. 7,500/- and

third prize winners given cash award of Rs. 5,000/- and totally a sum of Rs.1,80,000/- was spent towards distribution of Prizes, Medals and Certificates to 24 students.

### **National Bal Shree Awardees**

1.83 For the National Bal Shree Honour 2011 and 2012, 11 students selected from Tamil Nadu have received the Award from the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resources and Development, Government of India during the Bal Shree function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 29.1.2015 in which three students have received the award for Creative Performance, three Students have received the award for Creative Art, five students have received the award for Creative Writing. The awardees were given Kisan Vikas

patra for a sum of Rs.10,000/- along with citation. The Government of Tamil Nadu will be honouring those National Bal Shree awardees by giving a cash prize of Rs.10,000/- each.

1.84 For the National Bal Shree Honour 2013, National Bal Bhavan has selected 7 students from Tamil Nadu. These students are going to be honoured by the Government of India shortly.

1.85 Training materials were purchased for the students of Jawahar Bal Bhavan at a cost of Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

### **1.86 Important Developments in Art and Culture Department during 2014-2015**

Financial sanction of Rs. 25.88 lakhs was accorded by the Government for providing laptops



at free of cost to 149 students studying in 1<sup>st</sup> year Degree Courses of Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai, Kumbakonam, Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Thiruvaiyaru.

A sum of Rs. 54.26 lakhs is totally given to the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram for implementing the various announcements namely documentation of folk Art forms, dramatization of Tamil Dramas based on Tamil Culture, staging the dance dramas based on History and Tamil Literature, purchase of musical instruments and costumes to folk artists and cultural troupes, training the youth in production of music dance dramas from folk arts for creating awareness

among younger generation, sanctioning of family maintenance assistance at the enhanced rate of Rs.10,000/- from Rs. 6,000/- to legal heirs of the deceased artistes.

A sum of Rs.50.95 lakhs has been sanctioned for conducting various Cultural Programmes namely Margazhi Isai Vizha, Srirangam, Muthuswamy Dikshidhar function at Ettaiyapuram, Mahasivarathiri festival at Kancheepuram, Udhagai Tea Tourist festival, Summer festival, Yarcaud, Mahakavi Bharathiyar festival, Summer festival, Valparai, Training workshop for Fine Arts College, Chennai, Cultural festivals through Regional Cultural Centres, State Level Fine Arts Exhibition, Chennai, Melattur Bhagavatha Mela function, Tamilisai Mandram

festival, Thiruvaiyaru, Eyal Isai Nataka Natiyam folk arts programme at Sripothai, Valliyur, Thai Pongal festival, Viralimalai and Thanjavur Heritage festival .

A sum of Rs.13.20 lakhs has been sanctioned for conducting various Cultural Programmes outside the State namely Folk Arts Festival at Bhuvaneswar, Odisha, Dasara festival at Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, Jawahar Kala Kendra Lokrang festival, Jaipur, Rajasthan and Thiruvananthapuram cultural function.

A sum of Rs. 20.68 lakhs has been sanctioned for conducting various Cultural Programmes outside India namely Sri Mahamariamman Thirukovil Navarathiri Festival, Thailand and cultural performances at Australia.

**1.87 The following Schemes were carried out under Part-II Schemes for the year 2014-2015:-**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Amount (Rs. in lakhs)</b>
1	Purchase of Computer and accessories for the Directorate of Art and Culture	<b>2.00</b>
2	Purchase of Musical Instruments and Repair of Musical Instruments to Government Music College at Chennai, Madurai, Thiruvaiyaru and Coimbatore	<b>15.00</b>
3	Purchase of Lawn Movers and the Gardening Equipments for Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai	<b>1.00</b>
4	Purchase of Black Boards for Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai,	<b>1.00</b>
5	Providing Auto CAD Computer training to the Fourth year students of Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram	<b>1.00</b>

6	Purchase of Portrait stand and full figure drawing stand, basic furniture and board for drawing relief sculptures and Armature stand for clay for the use of students of Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai and Kumbakonam	<b>6.00</b>
7	Purchase of equipments (including Tailoring machine) for Textile Design, Department of Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai	<b>1.00</b>
8	Procurement of training materials for the students of Jawahar Siruvar Manram	<b>2.00</b>
9	Conduct of artist camps (Painting / Sculpture) at Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli through Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu	<b>2.00</b>
10	Air Conditioning the Art Gallery at Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram campus	<b>4.00</b>

11	Provision of Audio Visual facilities to the Open Air Auditorium at the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram	<b>3.00</b>
12	Providing folk arts training to the younger generation through Tamil Nadu Folk Artiste's Welfare Board	<b>4.00</b>
13	Providing Musical Instruments, Dress Materials and Ornaments at free of cost to folk artists through the Tamil Nadu Folk Artiste's Welfare Board	<b>3.00</b>
14	Purchase of New Bolero Vehicle for the office of Assistant Director, Regional Cultural Centre, Salem	<b>6.25</b>
15	Construction of Auditorium in the premises of Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram	<b>7.75</b>
16	Purchase of Computer and accessories for the use of Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai	<b>1.00</b>

17	Introduction of Innovative Teaching Methodology in Painting at Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai	<b>15.00</b>
18	Introduction of Innovative Teaching Methodology in Music -Violin for Chennai and Thiruvaiyaru Government Music Colleges	<b>10.00</b>
19	Introduction of Innovative Teaching Methodology in Music - Keyboard for Chennai and Thiruvaiyaru Government Music Colleges	<b>10.00</b>
20	Establishment of New Digital Recording Studio for Government Music College at Chennai	<b>13.00</b>
21	Establishment of New Audio-Visual Library for Government Music College at Chennai	<b>2.00</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>110.00</b>

## **CONCLUSION**

The Department of Art and Culture is taking steps to implement the above constructive schemes to enrich the rich heritage and traditional cultural values of the Tamilians, to encourage the skills of young and budding artistes and to document the dying rare art forms for the benefit of future generation.



**DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS**

**POLICY NOTE**

**2015-2016**

**2. Introduction**

Museum is an institution that collects artefacts and specimens of historical, natural and physical sciences and preserves them for posterity. They make the exhibits available for public viewing through permanent galleries, special and thematic exhibitions. They impart non-formal education for all walks of life through their collections. Creating a knowledge society and dissemination of knowledge through the collections are our prime motto. Museums have become a visual supplementary to the students by providing the material evidences along with interactive display. Edutainment and

infotainment have taken the visitors to the next plane. Museum exhibits communicate different perception to the layman and to the scholar. Seminars, symposiums, lectures, exhibitions, publications, signages, descriptive labels, audio guides and guide lectures in the galleries provide different types of learning experience to the visiting public and students. The Department of Museums strives hard to achieve the above goals.

### **GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI**

2.1 The Government Museum, Chennai, started in the year 1851 AD is the second oldest museum in India. It is situated in the heart of the city with six individual buildings – three heritage buildings and other modern buildings, housing 45 galleries that deal with subjects like Arts,

Archaeology, Numismatics, Anthropology, Geology, Botany, Zoology and Children's Museum; it is spread over 16.25 acres of land. Besides Education, the Design and Display sections and the Conservation Laboratory cater the needs of the public. The world famous Bronze icons, Amaravati limestone sculptures, Robert Bruce Foote prehistoric collections, Adhichanallur megalithic collections, coins of India, a Skeleton of a Blue whale, Ravi Varma paintings etc., are renowned collections of the Government Museum, Chennai. There are inter-active displays in the Children's Museum and the Geology Gallery of the Government Museum, Chennai.

## **DISTRICT MUSEUMS**

2.2 In addition to the premier Government Museum, Chennai, there are 20 district museums functioning at Pudukkottai, Salem, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Erode, Cuddalore, Udagamandalam, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, Tiruvarur, Palani, Nagapattinam, Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram, Karur and Virudhunagar under the control of Department of Museums, Government of Tamil Nadu.

### **Galleries and Schemes inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister**

2.3 Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open nine refurbished galleries and several schemes on

27.6.2014 through video conferencing from the Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009. The virtual Museum and Museum on Wheels (Museo' Bus), the later to take the museum to schools and other places are a novel initiative.

**Part II Schemes 2014-15, to the tune of Rs.54 lakhs**

2.4 The following schemes were executed under Part II Scheme in 2014 – 2015 :-

1. Replacement of Light Fittings for the Rock and Cave Art Gallery has been executed by incurring an expenditure of Rs.1.5 lakhs.
2. New modern showcases erected for District Museums at Nagai, Erode, Ooty and Palani at the tune of Rs.4.8 lakhs.

3. Refurbished showcases at Tiruvarur, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Nagai and Coimbatore District Museums at a cost of Rs.5 lakhs.
4. Improvements made to the display in the Contemporary Art Gallery of the Government Museum, Chennai at a cost of Rs.4.48 lakhs.
5. Display improvements at District Museums at Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Madurai and Nagapattinam, at a cost of Rs.4 lakhs.
6. Improving the Labelling and Signages at the Tiruvarur, Trichy, Erode, Nagai, Karur and Palani District Museums at a cost of Rs.3 lakhs.
7. Erection of Robotic Dinosaur at the District Museum, Pudukkottai has been completed at a cost of Rs. 18 Lakhs.

8. A Prehistoric Flying Reptile working model at the Geology Gallery of the Government Museum, Chennai at a cost of Rs. 7 Lakhs has been installed.

**Hon'ble Chief Minister's Announcement under Rule 110**

2.5 The National Art Gallery – a unique example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, which is considered as one of the land mark of Chennai is being conserved and restored. The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa under Rule 110 announced its conservation and restoration at a total project cost of Rs. 11crores. An expert Committee was constituted with Dr. R.Kannan, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government in his capacity as a subject expert and Commissioner of Museums (in charge) along with

the retired Superintending Archaeologist (Archaeological Survey of India) Thiru K.T.Narasimhan with a number of subject experts from the State Department of Archaeology and Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle, for restoring the National Art Gallery building. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the Public Works Department has started the work.

**Announcement made at the Collector's Conference 2012-2013**

2.6 As per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the Collector's Conference for the establishment of Fossil Museum at Ariyalur, selection of site has been decided and a detailed 3D CAD design has been prepared by the Public Works Department for the construction of the building. The foundation stone was laid by the



Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa, on 27.06.2014. Further action is being taken.

**Announcements - 2014-2015**

2.7(1) Rs.2 lakhs have been sanctioned to digitize the Glass negatives and dialects of tribal people of yester-years of the Madras Presidency and to publish in a separate web portal for the benefit of general public and subject experts. This work has been completed.

(2) A separate web portal for the e-publications of the Department of Museums, Government of Tamil Nadu, by digitizing nearly 24000 pages is underway. It will be completed by M/s ELCOT and uploaded by end of the year 2015.

This is a unique initiative in the whole world by a museum

**2.8 The following significant Educational activities have been conducted at the Government Museum, Chennai in 2014-15:-**

1. The International Museum Day was observed on May 18, 2014. An exhibition on 'Buddhist Images of South India' was conducted. Photographs of interesting Buddhist sculptures discovered during the past decades in different parts of Tamil Nadu were put on display.
2. A month long training course on 'Care of Museum objects' was conducted from 03.06.2014 along with 'Exhibition of the Month- Graphite and implementation of Rain Water Harvesting Scheme, at the

Government Museum, Chennai were inaugurated by Thiru K. C. Veeramani, the Hon'ble Minister for School Education (who is in charge of Culture), Government of Tamil Nadu.

3. Children's Day was celebrated on 17.11.2014. Nearly 450 children from Chennai and suburban area schools participated.
4. The International Women's Association Endowment Lecture was organized on 28.01.2015 on 'Types of Archaeological Museums in India and Abroad'. It was delivered by Tmt.K. Moortheeswari, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Fort Museum, ASI, Chennai.

## **2.9 Consultancy Services rendered to other departments**

- (1) Two Murals, damaged and vandalised with cement plaster in Sri Parthasarathy Swamy Temple, Chennai have been discovered and are now being conserved as an Out Reach Work.
- (2) The Government Museum, Chennai has offered to restore the Portrait paintings of yester year Justices of Madras High Court. Nearly 100 Portraits are being restored through the Chemical Conservation and research laboratory.
- (3) Dr. R.Kannan I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowment

Department has been inducted as a member of the Heritage Committee, constituted to restore the heritage buildings and Museum of the Madras High Court by the Government.

## **CONCLUSION**

The concept of Museums has changed from the usual 'object oriented display' to 'subject oriented display' and putting the visitors in focus instead of putting the object. Museums conduct a wide range of educational activities to cater the needs of the students and general and visiting public. In addition to the regular educational activities, the Museo' Bus reaches the nook and corner of the Chennai City, suburbs and the districts of Tamil Nadu. Modern technological

advancements have facilitated the dissemination of knowledge to the students and public by way of modern means of communication. Museums will continue to play an important role in preserving and disseminating knowledge.

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

**POLICY NOTE**

**2015-2016**

**3. INTRODUCTION**

Archaeology is a continuous search and a discovery; it is an endless journey, research has no end. Archaeology as we have known always relies heavily on the tools left behind by our ancestors and human progress is based on technological development. It is true that tools were the basis for human existence and modern computers are the devices evolved from the simple stone, wheel and other artefacts invented by our ancestors.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

**3.1** The State Department of Archaeology was started in the year **1961** with the prime intention of conservation and preservation of ancient monuments in Tamil Nadu and to conduct excavations at historical sites. Later on, its activities were expanded to copying and deciphering of stone inscriptions, and publishing them; the excavated antiquities are displayed in the **14** site museums; chemical preservation of art objects, photography of artefacts, etc. A Library as a source for material is also functioning at its headquarters, Chennai with valuable, unique and rare books for the benefit of staff members and scholars. Based on the technical activities of this department relevant schemes are being implemented.



3.2 The Department of Archaeology is functioning under the control of the Commissioner of Archaeology, assisted by Deputy Director, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Assistant Superintending Epigraphist, Assistant Executive Engineer, Assistant Director (Regional), 13 Curators, Epigraphist, Archaeological Officer, Pre-Historic Archaeologist and Exploration cum Excavation Archaeologist.

### **CONSERVATION**

3.3 So far **89** ancient and historical monuments including religious and secular buildings have been declared as protected monuments by the State Government. Under the **XIII** Finance Commission Grants **30** monuments are to be conserved for **Rs.970.70 lakhs** for the

period of **2011-2014** in which a sum of **Rs.565.70 lakhs** was allotted for the conservation works and a sum of **Rs.405 lakhs** was allotted for the infrastructure works. Out of the 30 works, 12 works were completed and the remaining 18 works are nearing completion.

3.4 In the year 2013-2014, three new monuments were declared as protected monuments and in the **year 2014-2015 one new monument has been declared as protected monument** vide G.O.(Ms) No. 95, Tourism Culture and Religious Endowments (MA-2) Department, dated 20.03.2015. The newly included monument is "Rock Painting, Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions, Jain beds, cave temple" at Tirumalai Village in Sivagangai Taluk of Sivagangai District.

**SHORT TERM SIX WEEK COURSE ON  
“HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND  
RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS” FOR THE  
HR&CE ENGINEERS**

3.5 As a first of its kind in the country, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology conducted a short term six week course on “Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments” from 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 for 22 Engineers of Temple and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. This course was very useful for the Engineers for conserving and restoration of the ancient temples in accordance archaeological principles. The second batch [22 Engineers] was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister Food and Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments

Department and Hon'ble Minister School Education and Culture Department on 19.03.2015 and the course got over on 29.4.2015.

### **Excavation in Historically Important Sites**

3.6 One of the major activities of the department is to carry out archaeological excavations in historically important sites in Tamil Nadu. So far the department conducted excavations at **37** sites, of which **36** excavation reports were brought out in book form. The excavated artefacts are preserved and exhibited for the view of the scholars, researchers and the public in the **14** archaeological site museums situated in various districts of the State. The excavation work at Srirangam of Tiruchirappalli District at a cost of Rs.2 lakhs was completed. In the excavation, bas relief sculpture of elephant figure with a man

standing in front of the elephant holding the trunk of the elephant and another person standing in the rear of the elephant and pushing the elephant back with Ankusa like weapon were excavated. The exposed sculptures are found in the Adhishtana of the mandapa.

3.7 As a sequel excavation at Srirangam of Tiruchirappalli District as per the announcement of the Hon'ble Minister, the Government had sanctioned funds for a sum of Rs. 5 Lakhs and the preliminary works are going on.

### **Archaeological Site Museums**

3.8 The valuable antiquities that have been unearthed are preserved and exhibited for the benefit of the scholars, researchers and the public

in the following **14 archaeological site museums**  
of this department:-

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Site Museums</b>	<b>Place / District</b>
1)	Danish Fort Site Museum	Tarangambadi, Nagapattinam District
2)	Marine Archaeological Site Museum	Poompuhar, Nagapattinam District
3)	Gangaikondacholapuram Site Museum	Gangaikonda- cholapuram Ariyalur District
4)	Ramalinga Vilasam Site Museum	Ramanathapuram Ramanathapuram District
5)	Arcot Site Museum	Arcot Vellore District
6)	Pre-Historic Site Museum	Poondi, Tiruvallur District
7)	Tirumalai Nayakar Mahal Site Museum	Madurai Madurai District
8)	Rajarajan Site Museum	Thanjavur Thanjavur District
9)	Maratta Site Museum	Thanjavur Thanjavur District
10)	Karur Site Museum	Karur Karur District
11)	Coimbatore Site Museum	Coimbatore Coimbatore District

12)	Courtalam Site Museum	Courtalam Tirunelveli District
13)	Tirukovilur Site Museum	Tirukovilur Villupuram District
14)	Dharmapuri Site Museum	Dharmapuri Dharmapuri District

### **EPIGRAPHY**

3.9 One of the primary functions of the department is to copy, decipher, edit and publish the inscriptions. Till date, **24,271** were copied in **27** districts out of 32 districts. Presently, the campaign is going on in Sivagangai district. So far, **14,000** were deciphered by the department Epigraphists, out of which 6,426 inscriptions were published in **44** volumes.

3.10 An Institute of Epigraphy is functioning at the Chennai head office since 1974. It conducts a one year Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Epigraphy and Archaeology for 8 students.

A sum of Rs. 2,000/- is paid as stipend to each student every month. So far, **214 students** have received Post-Graduate Diplomas in this Institute.

## **PUBLICATION**

**3.11** The Department Press is exclusively for bringing out books in Tamil and English on Epigraphy, Monuments, Excavation reports, District Archaeological Guide books, Museum Guide books and Temple Monographs. The department has so far published **267** books. A quarterly journal “Kalvettu” is also being published. The publications are available in the official website [www.tnarch.gov.in](http://www.tnarch.gov.in) of the department.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

**3.12** The photographers of the department document various temples, sculptures, murals and



antiquities. Whenever an excavation is undertaken, the stages of excavation and the details of excavated sites are well documented with adequate photographs. The conservation works of monuments are also photographed and documented.

### **CHEMICAL CONSERVATION**

**3.13** The chemical conservation section was established in Chennai and Madurai to chemically conserve the antiquities brought to light from excavations. Later its facilities were extended to carry out chemical conservation works in 14 site museums and to co-ordinate with the structural conservation section in maintenance and conservation of 89 monuments under Maintenance works and from the Finance Commission Grants.

## **GOVERNMENT ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE**

**3.14** Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre is functioning in the campus of University of Madras under the control of this department. An excellent resource centre for doing research leading to Ph.D was started in 1869. More than **72,748** rare manuscripts and **25,373** reference books in various subjects like Mathematics, Astronomy, Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani, Vedas, Agama, Architecture, Music, Fine Arts, History and many other subjects written in Tamil, Sanskrit, Marathi, Urdu, Arabic and Persian Languages are being preserved in this Library. The Library has more than **460** publications in different languages.

### **MANUSCRIPTS HOSTED ONLINE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

3.15 So far 2400 Manuscripts bundles of 3,00,000 pages have been digitalized and are available online. These resources are hosted in the [www.tnarch.gov.in](http://www.tnarch.gov.in) website by the Hon'ble Minister for school Education and Archaeology on 13.01.2015. This information will be useful to the research scholars and all other readers worldwide. **This is a first worldwide.** It will enable anybody anywhere to download, edit and publish. Rare manuscripts will be available to mankind with their meaning as deciphered by several editors. **Let a hundred flowers bloom.**

### **MANUSCRIPT RESOURCE CENTRE – MRC**

3.16 "The National Mission for Manuscripts" (NMM), in New Delhi under the Ministry of Culture,

Government of India is engaged in the process of collecting all the manuscripts available in India and it has recognized the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library in Chennai under the control of Archaeology Department as "Manuscripts Resource Centre" (MRC) for collecting the manuscripts in the State of Tamil Nadu and listing the manuscripts for conversion into digital form. The work is in progress.

3.17 Till date 42,000 manuscripts have been documented in Electronic form and the same has been sent to the National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi. In this process, the details of the manuscripts about Tamil culture, Astronomy etc are documented and preserved.

## **IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY DURING 2014-2015**

### **HON'BLE MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

**3.18** Scanning and e-publishing the Sanskrit Manuscripts housed in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre at a cost of Rs.50 Lakhs for the benefit of the general public through website.

### **PRESENT STATUS**

The Government has issued order vide G.O.(Ms).No. 33, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (MA-2) Department, dated 29.01.2015 for Rs. 50 Lakhs. The works are entrusted to ELCOT, in this regard the proforma invoice for the execution of the work have been received from ELCOT. The works are to be commenced soon.

### **World Heritage Week Celebration – November 19 to 25, 2014**

3.19 Every year in the month of November from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> “World Heritage Week Celebrations” are celebrated by this department annually. For 2014-2015 it was decided to observe the World Heritage Week Celebration at Ramnathapuram and Arcot Site Museums to create awareness among the general public and students.

**3.20 RAMANATHAPURAM** - In the Ramanathapuram Site Museum, a seminar on “Ramanathapuram District Archaeological Research” was organized on 21.01.2015 in the presence of Head Master, Raja Higher Secondary School and Hereditary Trustees of Ramanathapuram Samasthanam. Around 160

schools students, teachers and scholars attended the seminar. In this seminar, the awareness about the methods of preserving the heritage monuments and the monuments found in and around Ramanathapuram District was explained to the students.

**3.21 ARCOT** - In the Arcot Site Museum, an exhibition was organized in the presence of the Curator, Government Museum, Vellore. Around 600 school and college students visited the exhibition and gained knowledge about heritage monuments and cultural treasures of Tamil Nadu.

### **Workshop on Epigraphy and Archaeology**

**3.22** As per the instruction given by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education under which

the Archaeology Department functions, in the year 2014-2015, a workshop on “Epigraphy and Archaeology” was conducted from 01.09.2014 to 15.09.2014 at Tirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, Madurai regional office at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs. Around 40 trainees like school teachers, archaeological research scholars and interested public participated. In the workshop, the topics like art, history, culture, epigraphy, archaeology of Tamil Nadu etc., were discussed and explained to the trainees. This workshop had created an awareness among the trainees.

**Department Publication Book Stall in BAPASI [Books Sellers and Publishers Association of South India]**

3.23 The Department has participated for the second year in the BAPASI exhibition and



opened a stall for the sale of department publication for the benefit of scholars and general public from 09.01.2015 to 21.01.2015. As hoped there was a good response from all section of people and good numbers of archaeological books were sold out [around 2700 books] to the tune of Rs. 1,14,000/-. From the feedback it is understood that these books are highly valuable and useful for the public to understand the heritage of Tamil Nadu.

### **3.24 Important Developments in the Archaeology Department during 2014-2015 under Part II Schemes**

1. A sum of Rs.10 Lakhs was sanctioned for installing of R.O [Reverse Osmosis] Systems in the 14 Site Museums of Archaeology Department. The R.O systems were installed in all 14 site museums and being in use for the visitors.

2. A sum of Rs. 13 Lakhs was sanctioned for display improvements for Dharmapuri Museum and Marine Archaeological Museum building at Poompuhar of Nagappattinam District. The making of showcases was completed through TANSI and the infrastructure works are being carried out by Public Works Department.

3. A sum of Rs. 10 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the installation of CCTV cameras in 10 Site Museums of Archaeology Department. The works were entrusted and carried out through ELCOT, the installation works are going on and the scheme is nearing completion.

4. A sum of Rs. 10 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the purchase of folding type display boards for conducting exhibitions, seminars and

other functions in all site museums of Archaeology Department. Display boards are received and in use in the site museums.

5. A sum of Rs. 6 Lakhs has been sanctioned for conducting excavations at the historically important site Alangankulam of Ramanathapuram District and Ukrankottai of Tirunelveli District. The CABA has given approval.

6. A sum of Rs. 2 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the purchase of one video camera, one digital camera and one laptop in Thanjavur regional office of the Archaeology Department. Work orders have been issued; the materials are likely to be received very soon.

7. A sum of Rs. 30 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the reprinting of 6 Volumes of Sapta

Rishi Naadi [Mesham, Rishabham, Mithunam, Katakam, Simham, Kanni Laqnam] and newly editing and publishing 6 Volumes viz Thulam, Vrichigam, Dhanus, Makaram, Kumbham and Meenam. The re-printing process is over. The Books will be published soon.

8. A sum of Rs. 7.40 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the publication of an Epigraphy book titled "Tamil Nadu Inscriptions Vol- VI & VII", monographs four students and "Alambarai Excavation Report". All the works were completed and are to be released soon.

9. A sum of Rs. 25 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the in-situ conservation works to excavate at Maligaimedu near Gangai kondacholapuram in Jeyamkondam Taluk of

Ariyalur District. The works are entrusted to Public Works Department and the tender has been finalized for execution of the work.

10. A sum of Rs. 18 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the re-printing of 14 important rare publications of Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre. The works are nearing completion.

### **NEW SCHEMES**

**3.25** The following scheme will be implemented under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) during the year 2015-2016:-

<b>Works Details</b>	<b>Rs. in lakhs</b>
Publication of Epigraphy book titled "Tamil Nadu Inscriptions Vol – VIII" and Monographs of Ten Students	<b>11.50 Lakhs</b>

## **CONCLUSION**

Archaeology is a study of ancient remains through exploration and excavation. It helps us to reconstruct the history, culture and heritage of the region with authentic archaeological evidences. It is an interdisciplinary subject dealing with various subjects namely anthropology, history, art history, classics, ethnology, geography, geology, linguistics, physics, chemistry, palaeo-ecology, paleontology, using modern methods like remote sensing techniques to unravel the hidden ancient structures for understanding the history and environmental changes. In this endeavor of preserving the heritage of Tamil Nadu, the Department of Archaeology has been successfully implementing various schemes to throw light on the socio-cultural condition of ancient Tamils.

**K.C.VEERAMANI,**  
Minister for School Education.