



**TOURISM, CULTURE AND
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**ART AND CULTURE
MUSEUMS
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**POLICY NOTE
2021 – 2022**

DEMAND No. 29

THANGAM THENARASU
Minister for Industries

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2021**

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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND CULTURE

Policy Note

2021-2022

1. Introduction

Art and Culture represent the pinnacle of achievements of a civilization. Civilization is a manifestation of the material and the tangible achievements of humankind. Art portrays human feelings and values, acting as a medium for their expression. It documents and preserves the traditions and culture of our times for posterity.

Tamil Nadu is richly endowed with Literature, Sculptures, Paintings and Murals that show case the numerous achievements of people over centuries. The literary works of yore are treasure troves of information. 'Silapathigaram' contains detailed notes on dance forms and stage arrangements. Tamil literature abounds with instances of the legendary hospitality of Tamils wherein even weapons like the sword and musical

instruments like 'Yazh' were mortgaged to care for their guests.

Paintings and sculptures reflect life in their varied hues and pass them on to future generations. Sculptures of Tamil Nadu are poetry in stone. They show case ancient history for future generations.

Culture is an expression of internal values. Advanced civilizations are not always home to refined cultures. Hospitality, behavior, conduct, honesty, generosity, spirit of accommodation and adaptability of an individual are conditioned by culture.

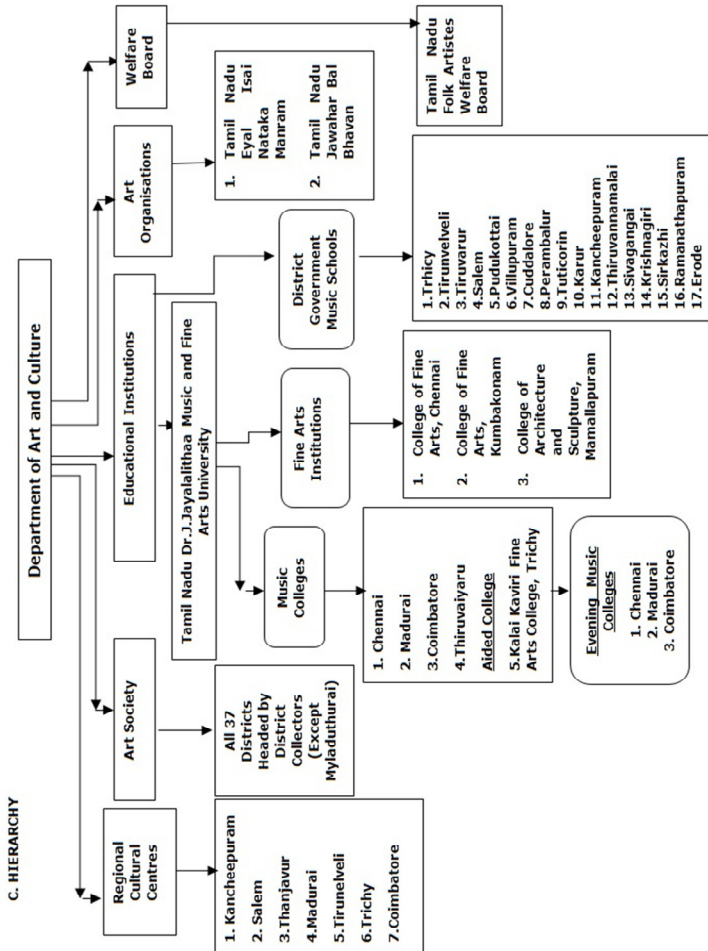
Music is closely intertwined with every aspect of Tamils' lives. From 'Thalattu' at the time of birth, to 'Gummi' at play, 'Etrapaatu' while irrigating, and 'Naatrupattu' while planting, music pervades all aspects of life. Even proverbs in Tamil sound melodious and are music to the ears.

Art and Culture are therefore a true reflection of the accomplishments of the people of a Nation.

1.1. Directorate of Art and Culture

The Directorate of Art and Culture was formed in 1991 and is headed by the Commissioner of Art and Culture. The department oversees the functioning of seven Regional Art and Cultural Centres, the Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University, two Government colleges of Fine Arts, one Government college of Architecture and Sculpture, four Government Music colleges, one Government aided college namely Kalai Kaviri Fine arts college, seventeen Government district music schools, Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board and Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram. The Commissioner is assisted by a Joint Director,

Regional Assistant Directors, Accounts Officer and various other officials.



1.2. Objectives of the Department

The objectives of the Department of Art and Culture are:-

- To encourage classical and folk artistes and troupes by providing them opportunities for cultural performances.
- To improve the economic status of artistes.
- To promote and provide education in performing and fine arts.
- To showcase various art forms through performances.
- To provide financial assistance to indigent artistes.
- To preserve folk art forms by encouraging artistes and supporting them to nurture the art forms.
- Conducting exhibitions and giving awards to eminent sculptors, painters, classical and folk artistes.
- Documenting various art forms.

1.3. Regional Art and Cultural Centres

Seven Regional Art and Cultural Centres have been established and are headed by Assistant Directors. Each Regional Art and Cultural Centre caters to 4 to 8 districts. They are engaged in conducting cultural programmes, art competitions, art training camps and painting-sculpture exhibitions in the districts. They also implement the schemes of the District Art Societies, District Music Schools, Jawahar Siruvar Manrams, Folk Artistes Welfare Board and Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.

Sl. No	Regional Art and Cultural Centre	Districts
1	Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Chengalpet, Chennai Thiruvallur, Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupathur.
2	Salem	Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri.

3	Thanjavur	Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Kallakurichi and Mayiladuthurai.
4	Trichirappalli	Trichirappalli, Karur, Pudukottai, Perambalur and Ariyalur.
5	Madurai	Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Dindigul and Theni.
6	Thirunelveli	Thirunelveli, Tuticorin, Kanniyakumari, Virudhunagar and Tenkasi.
7	Coimbatore	Coimbatore, Erode, Nilgiris and Tiruppur.

The Regional Art and Cultural Centres conduct the following cultural programmes:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Region and Art functions	
1	Kancheepuram Region	
	Karthigai Deepam	Tiruvannamalai District
	Aadi Krithigai	Tiruttani, Thiruvallur District
	Maha Sivarathiri	Kancheepuram
	Summer festival	Yelagiri, Tirupathur District
Javvadhimalai, Tiruvannamalai District		

2	Salem Region	
	Summer festival	Yercaud, Salem District
	Aadi perukku Vizha	Dharmapuri District
	Mangani Vizha	Krishnagiri District
	Valvil Ori Vizha	Namakkal District
3	Thanjavur Region	
	Sirkazhi Thamizhisai Moovar Vizha	Mayiladurai District
	Raja Raja Cholan Sadhaya Vizha	Thanjavur District
	Aazhither Vizha	Tiruvarur District
4	Trichirappalli Region	
	Vaigunda Ekadasi Vizha	Trichirappalli District
	Arulmigu Nandidevar Thirukalyana Vizha	Thirumazhapadi, Ariyalur District
	Thiru Nedungudi Maha Sivarathiri Vizha	Pudukottai District
5	Madurai Region	
	Summer festival	Kodaikanal, Dindigul District
	Chithirai Festival	Madurai
6	Thirunelveli Region	
	Paavai Vizha	Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar District
	Saaral Vizha	Courtralam, Tenkasi District
	Aruvi Thiruvizha	Tirparappu, Kanyakumari District
	Kumari Thiruvizha	Kanyakumari District

7	Coimbatore Region	
	Dheeran Chinnamalai Vizha	Erode District
	Aadi Perunthiruvizha	Tiruppur District
	Summer festival	Ooty, The Nilgiris District Valparai, Coimbatore District

1.4. District Art Societies

District Art Societies were formed in 1994 to promote, preserve and disseminate various art forms. They identify fresh talent artists and provide opportunities for their exposition. These societies identify five eminent artists in each District and give awards to them as under:-

Sl. No.	Age Group	Name of the Award	Award Amount (₹)
1	Below 18 years	Kalai Ilamani	4,000
2	Between 19-35 years	Kalai Valarmani	6,000
3	Between 36-50 years	Kalai Sudarmani	10,000
4	Between 51-60 years	Kalai Nanmani	15,000
5	For those above 61 years	Kalai Mudhumani	20,000

Identification Cards are issued to the artists which enable them to avail various facilities like financial assistance, priority to perform in cultural programmes organized by the Government and travel concession. 59,445 artists have been issued identification cards in districts.

1.5. Educational Institutions

Government has established various institutions for promoting education in performing and fine arts at various levels.

1.5.1. Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University

Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University was established in the year 2013 and the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University Act, 2013 was enacted on 14.11.2013. The University was renamed "The Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University" in 2020.

The University offers Post-Graduate Courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Nadhaswaram and Bharathanatyam.

The University started offering Ph.D., courses from the year 2015-2016. Three-year part-time Post Graduate courses (during weekends) in the Departments of Painting and Visual Communication Design were started from the academic year 2016-2017. M.Phil courses were started in the year 2018-2019.

Four Tamil Nadu Government Music colleges, two Government colleges of Fine arts, the Government college of Architecture and Sculpture and Government aided Kalai Kaviri Fine arts college at Trichirappalli, a total of 8 colleges under the control of the Department of Art and Culture are affiliated to the University.

M.G.R Government Film and Television Institute, Tamil Isai Kalloori, Raja Annamalai Manram at Chennai and Sathguru Sangeetha Vidhyalayam at Madurai were affiliated to the University in 2016.

1.5.2. The Government Music College, Chennai

The Government Music College, Chennai was started in the year 1949. It currently offers:-

- Three-year Degree courses in Vocal Music, Violin, and Veena.
- Three-year Diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Mridhangam, Flute, Ghatam, Kancheera, Morsingh, Nathaswaram, Thavil, Folk Arts and Bharathanatyam.
- Two-year Diploma course in Nattuvangam.
- One-year Diploma course in Music teachers training.
- Evening Music college centre conducts two-year Certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin and Mridhangam.

1.5.3. The Government Music College, Madurai

The Government Music College, Madurai was started in the year 1979. It currently offers:-

- Three year Degree courses in Vocal Music.

- Three-year Diploma courses in the field of Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridhangam, Thavil, Flute, Nathaswaram, Bharathanatyam and Folk Arts.
- One-year Diploma course in Music teachers training.
- Evening music college centre conducts two-year Certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridhangam and Bharathanatyam.

1.5.4. The Government Music College, Coimbatore

The Government Music college, Coimbatore was started in the year 1993. It currently offers:-

- Three-year Degree courses in Vocal Music, Veena and Violin.
- Three-year Diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Bharathanatyam.
- One-year Diploma course in Music teachers training.

- Evening Music college centre conducts two-year Certificate Courses in Vocal Music, Veena and Violin.

1.5.5. The Government Music College, Thiruvaiyaru

The Government Music college, Thiruvaiyaru was started in the year 1997. It currently offers:-

- Ph.D in Music.
- Two-year Post Graduate Degree courses in Vocal Music and Veena.
- Three-year Degree courses in Vocal Music and Veena.
- Three-year Diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Mridhangam, Bharathanatyam, Nathaswaram and Thavil.
- One-year Diploma course in Music teachers training

A stipend of ₹ 500/- per month for 10 months is given to encourage the students of Government Music Colleges.

1.5.6. Government Music Schools

The Government Music Schools at Thirunelveli, Trichirappalli, Thiruvarur, Salem and Pudukottai were started in 1997; Villupuram, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Thoothukudi and Karur were started in 1998; Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Krishnagiri and Sirkazhi were started in 1999 and Erode, Ramanathapuram was started in 2000.

- Three-year certificate courses are offered in the field of Vocal Music, Bharathanatyam, Nathaswaram, Thavil, Thevaram, Violin, and Mridhangam.
- The students of Music Schools are given a monthly stipend of ₹ 400/- for 10 months every academic year.

1.5.7. The Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai

The Government college of Fine arts, Chennai was started in the year 1850. It currently offers:-

- Four-year Degree courses in Industrial Design in Ceramic, Industrial Design in Textile, Visual Communication Design, Painting, Sculpture and Print Making.
- Two-year Post Graduate Degree courses in Industrial Design in Ceramic, Industrial Design in Textile, Visual Communication Design, Painting and Sculpture.

1.5.8. The Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam

The Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam was started in the year 1887. It currently offers:-

- Four year degree courses in Painting, Sculpture and Visual Communication Design.
- Two-year Post Graduate degree courses in Painting, Sculpture and Visual Communication Design.

1.5.9. The Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram

The Government college of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram was started in the year 1957. It currently offers:-

- Four-year degree courses in B.Tech. in Traditional Architecture, B.F.A. in Traditional Sculpture (Stone Sculpture, Sudhai Sculpture, Wood Sculpture and Metal Sculpture) and B.F.A. in Traditional Drawing and Painting.

1.5.10. The KalaiKaviri College of Fine Arts, Trichirappalli

KalaiKaviri college of Fine Arts in Trichirappalli was started in the year 1996. It is an aided college and the administrative control of the college is with the Department of Art and Culture and grants to this college are released through the Directorate of Collegiate Education. It currently offers:-

- Ph.D., in Music.
- M.Phil., in Music.
- Two-year Post Graduate Degree courses in Bharathanatyam, Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, and Mridhangam.
- Five-year integrated Degree courses and Three-year Degree courses in Bharathanatyam, Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, and Mridhangam.

1.6. Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram

Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram was established in 1979 in Chennai with the aim of inculcating art training to children in order to bring out their latent artistic talents and to give art education to children between five and sixteen years of age.

Jawahar Siruvar Manrams are functioning in 40 locations of which 24 are District Siruvar Manrams, 14 are extension centres and 2 are rural centres.

Sl. No.	Sirubar Manram	Places
1	District Jawahar Sirubar Manrams	Chennai, Pudukottai, Madurai, Udhagamandalam, Coimbatore, Trichirappalli, Cuddalore, Kanyakumari, Thanjavur, Kancheepuram, Sivagangai, Thirunelveli, Salem, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Theni, Vellore, Thiruvallur, Erode, Tiruvarur, Virudhunagar and Villupuram.
2	Extension Centres	Perambalur, Thanjavur, Kulithalai, Karur, Chennai (Dr.M.G.R. Deaf and Dumb School, Ramapuram), Madurai, Thoothukkudi, Nagapattinam, Tiruvannamalai, Namakkal, Vysarpadi, Villivakkam, West Tambaram and Selaiyur.
3	Rural Centres	Ponpudupatti (Pudukottai District) and Othakadai (Madurai)

The Government of Tamil Nadu has accorded administrative sanction for the construction of a new building for Tamil Nadu Jawahar Sirubar Manram at Luz Avenue,

Mylapore, Chennai after demolishing the old buildings which were in dilapidated condition. The construction of a new building in an area of 628 Sq.mt. at a cost of ₹ 1.75 crore by utilizing the Jawahar Siruvar Manram Fund being implemented through the Greater Chennai Corporation.

1.6.1. Part time training in Jawahar Siruvar Manrams

Part-time training in various disciplines such as Vocal Music, Bharathanatyam, Folk Dance, Crafts, Drama, Gymnastics, Mridhangam, Tabla, Karate, Computer, Key Board, Veena, Drums, Bands, Tailoring, Drawing and Painting, Screen Printing, Flute, Yoga and Silambam are provided at the centres located at Chennai Centre and in any four above disciplines at the District Level Centres as per the needs of the Districts.

TRAINING SCHEMES

1.6.2. District Level Summer Art Training Camp

District Level Summer Art training camps are being conducted in Siruvar Manram centres.

1.6.3. State Level Summer and Winter Camps

State Level Summer residential camp is being conducted every year at any one of the Hill Stations during summer vacation. State Level Winter residential camp is being conducted at one of the districts during the half-yearly vacation. 100 Siruvar Manram children from various districts of Tamil Nadu are trained in each camp in Bharathanatyam, folk dance, vocal music, painting, handicrafts, yoga and silambattam.

1.6.4. State Level Craft Camp

State Level residential craft camp is conducted every year during quarterly vacation. In this craft camp, training in various arts like terracotta sculpture, toy making, fabric painting,

Batik, handicrafts, and candle making is given to 100 Siruvar Manram students from various districts of Tamil Nadu.

1.6.5. District Level and State Level Cultural Competitions

Competitions are being conducted every year in vocal, Bharathanatyam, folk dance and drawing at the District Level for children in the age group of 5-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-16 years. Winners are awarded prizes and certificates.

State Level Cultural Competition is conducted amongst the district Level first prize winners in the categories of 9-12 years and 13-16 years age groups. In the state level competition, 8 students (2 age groups X 4 fields) are given the first prize of ₹ 10,000/-, second prize of ₹ 7,500/- for 8 students and third prize of ₹ 5,000/- for 8 students and total cash award

worth of ₹ 1,80,000/-, including medals and certificates are being given to 24 students.

1.6.6. Participation of Jawahar Siruvar Manrams in National Level Schemes

On the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (November-14th) National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi conducts National Integration Cultural Programmes for 3 days at New Delhi. In this program, students of 21 affiliated Jawahar Siruvar Manrams of Tamil Nadu are participating every year.

1.6.7. National Bal Shree Award

National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi conducts competitions for the selection of "National Bal Shree Awards". Competitions are conducted in 4 main streams comprising 16 disciplines namely, Creative Performance (Dance, Vocal Music, Percussion, Instrumental Music, Theatre Art, Puppetry), Creative Arts (Painting, Craft, Sculpture, Visual Art), Creative Scientific

Innovations (Scientific Model Making, Project Making, Scientific Innovations, Problem-solving) and Creative Writing (Story, Prose, Poem, Dialogue and Play).

In the first phase, district level competitions are conducted followed by State level competitions and finally National level competitions are conducted.

1.7. 'Kalaichemmal' Awards

Painters and Sculptors in the field of traditional, contemporary art are conferred "Kalaichemmal Awards" by the Government of Tamil Nadu. A citation plaque and certificate are given to them. The award amount has been enhanced from ₹ 50,000/- to ₹ 1,00,000/- and the number of awardees has been increased from two to six. So far, 21 eminent artists from traditional art forms and 52 eminent artists from contemporary art forms have been conferred with this title.

1.8. State Level Exhibition of Traditional and Contemporary Art and Awards

Painting and Sculpture works are collected from the artists of Tamil Nadu and the best are selected by the selection committee which is constituted by the Government. Best traditional, as well as contemporary art works in Painting and Sculpture are exhibited and awards are given. In the senior category (above 30 years of age) 30 awards are given with prize money of ₹ 15,000/- each and a certificate of appreciation. In the Junior category (below 30 years of age) 30 awards are given with prize money of ₹ 10,000/- each and a certificate of appreciation. A sum of ₹ 7.50 lakhs is given to 60 artists.

1.9. Financial assistance to artists for conducting one-man shows and group shows

Talented upcoming artists in the field of Painting and Sculpture are supported for conducting one-man shows and group shows.

A Sum of ₹ 25,000/- is given for conducting one-man shows to 10 artists and ₹ 50,000/- is given per group for conducting group shows to 5 groups. A sum of ₹ 5 lakhs is being sanctioned.

1.10. Scholarships to students studying Fine Arts

For encouraging the students of Government Colleges of Fine Arts, educational scholarship is being given to 10 outstanding students studying in final year B.F.A. at ₹ 3,000/- each and 4 educational scholarships for outstanding students studying in final year M.F.A. at ₹ 5,000/- each in Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai. Similarly, for Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam, 10 outstanding students studying in final year B.F.A. are given an educational scholarship at ₹ 3,000/- each and 2 outstanding students studying in final year M.F.A., are given an educational scholarship at ₹ 5,000/- each. Every year, around 26 outstanding students are being benefited. A sum

of ₹ 90,000/- is allotted and given as educational scholarship as recommended by the Principals of respective Colleges.

1.11. Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board

The Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board was constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 2007 to sanction financial assistance to them to promote folk arts, to popularize these arts among people and to preserve these folk arts for future generations. The folk artistes are engaged in performing various folk art forms of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Tamil Nadu has identified and enlisted 100 folk art forms.

So far 43,175 artistes have registered their names as members of the board and a sum of ₹ 157.53 lakhs has been sanctioned for the benefit of 8,134 folk artistes of Tamil Nadu as below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Welfare scheme	No.of beneficiaries	Amount given (₹in lakhs)
1	Purchase of spectacles	3,456	18.32
2.	Education	3,448	47.82
3.	Marriage	592	14.08
4.	Delivery of Child	19	1.14
5.	Miscarriage/ termination of pregnancy	1	0.03
6.	Natural Death/Funeral expenses	618	76.14
	Total	8,134	157.53

The Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned the relief for registered folk artistes to support them during the lockdown imposed in the State during the corona pandemic situation as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Amount sanctioned (₹)	No.of folk artistes benefited	Expenditure (₹)
1	3,73,85,000 (@₹1,000/-per artiste)	24,845 (1 st installment)	2,48,45,000

2	3,73,85,000 (@₹1,000/-per artiste)	24,649 (2 nd installment)	2,46,49,000
3	₹1,000/ -per artiste	501 (Chennai and neighbouring districts)	5,01,000
4	As per Hon'ble High Court's Order (@₹ 2,000/- to Thavil, Nadaswaram, Therukoothu and folk artistes)	6,810	1,36,20,000
Total-7,47,70,000			6,36,15,000

The financial assistance is given to folk artistes and their wards for education, marriage, prenatal care and death are as detailed below:-

Sl.No.	Financial assistance to artistes	Financial assistance amount (₹)
1	Annual educational assistance (two children)	
	Girl children studying 10 th standard	1,000
	10 th Passed	1,000
	Girl children studying 11 th standard	1,000

Girl children studying 12 th standard	1,500
12 th Passed	1,500
Regular Degree Course	1,500
Regular Degree Course with Hostel Facility	1,750
Regular Post Graduate Course	4,000
Regular Post Graduate Course with Hostel Facility	5,000
Professional Degree Course (Law, Engineering, Medicine, Animal Husbandry Medicine)	4,000
Professional Degree Course with Hostel Facility	6,000
Regular Post Graduate Professional Degree Course	6,000
Regular Post Graduate Professional Degree Course with Hostel Facility	8,000
Technical Education Courses (Polytechnic), Industrial Training Institute Course (ITI)	1,000
Technical Education Courses (Polytechnic), Industrial Training Institute Course (ITI)with Hostel Facility	1,200

2	Assistance for Marriage Member /Son / Daughter (Two Times Only)	5,000
3	Assistance for Delivery of Child, Miscarriage, Termination of Pregnancy (for Women member two times only)	
	a. Delivery of child	6,000
	b. Miscarriage/Termination of pregnancy	3,000
4	Assistance for purchase of spectacles (once in Three Years)	1,500
5	Natural Death Expenses	20,000
6	Funeral Expenses	5,000
7	Accidental Death Expenses	1,00,000

1.12. Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram

To develop and foster the traditional Tamil arts, Tamil Nadu Sangeetha Nataka Sangam was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1955 and renamed "Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram" in the year 1973 to recognise all the three forms of Tamil namely Eyal, Isai and Natakam.

1.12.1. Cultural Activities of Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram

- Exchange of cultural troupes between the States.
- To implement the scheme of conferring three All India Level Awards, namely "Bharathi" (for Literature), "M.S.Subbulakshmi" (for Music) and "Balasaraswathi" (for Dance).
- To implement the scheme of conferring State Level "Kalaimamani" awards to the artists for their service in the field of arts.
- To extend grants to professional drama and dance drama troupes.
- To conduct various cultural festivals and promoting traditional Tamil arts in foreign countries.
- To carryout documentation of rare art forms.

- To give grants for the publication of rare books on arts.
- To encourage budding artists by giving opportunities for their cultural performances.

1.12.2. Kalaimamani Award

Gold Medal carrying 5 sovereign (40 grams) and citation were given to each Kalaimamani Awardee and so far, 1,924 artistes have been conferred with this Award.

1.12.3. Other Activities

- To sanction financial assistance to the aged indigent artistes ₹ 3,000/- per month.
- To sanction one-time family maintenance grant of ₹ 25,000/- to the families of deceased famous artistes.
- To distribute Porkizhi worth ₹ 50,000/- cash award to senior Kalaimamani

artistes who are living in indigent circumstances.

- To give grants to folk artistes, troupes to purchase musical instruments and costumes.
- To recommend for travel concession to drama artistes and art troupes in Government buses and train for performing in outstation venues.

1.13. South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur

It is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India established in 1986, with the support of the Government of Tamil Nadu and other four southern States and three Union Territories. It conducts the cultural programmes in the Member States attached.

1.14. Announcements 2020-2021

1. The consolidated pay given to part-time art teachers and coordinators of Jawahar Siruvar Manram was enhanced.
 - Chennai - from ₹4000/- to ₹ 5000/-

- Districts - from ₹3000/- to ₹ 4000/-
 - Rural - from ₹2000/- to ₹ 3000/-
2. The Kalaichemmal Award amount enhanced from ₹ 50,000/- to ₹ 1,00,000/- and the number of awardees is also increased from 2 to 6.
 3. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 19 lakhs for the creation of two Deputy Director posts in the Directorate of Art and Culture.
 4. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 330 lakhs for the construction of new buildings for the District Government Music Schools located at Krishnagiri, Sirkazhi and Sivagangai.
 5. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 10 lakhs for the formation of District Art Societies in recently created five new districts namely Tenkasi, Kallakuruchi, Chengalpet, Ranipet and Thirupathur.
 6. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 2.10 lakhs towards the purchase of 3 Laptops for the Assistant Directors.

7. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 4.85 lakhs for the purchase of display boards at seven Regional Art and Cultural Centres and the Directorate of Art and Culture.
8. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 50 lakhs for the conduct of cultural festivals in the field of eyal, music, drama, dance and folk arts through Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.
9. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 6 lakhs for the staging of two new dramas and two new dance dramas through Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.
10. Enhanced the grant from ₹ 10 lakhs to ₹ 20 lakhs towards the scheme of encouraging young talented artists in the field of Vocal Music, Instrumental Music and Bharatanatyam through Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.
11. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 2 lakhs towards the staging of two dramas of Sankardoss

Swamigal and to celebrate every year 13th of November (for his memory) as a Government function.

12. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 10 lakhs to Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram towards the publication of rare books on art to encourage the eligible eminent authors who are involved in it.

13. Sanctioned a sum of ₹ 5 lakhs to carry out research activities and documents on Tamil Music from the sangam period to the present period and shoot short films at Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University.

1.15. Achievements

1. Additional buildings for the Tamil Nadu Government Music College at Madurai at a cost of ₹ 95 lakhs and new buildings for Coimbatore Regional Art and Cultural Centre at a cost of ₹ 75 lakhs were inaugurated.

2. Foundation stone was laid for the construction of a new building to the Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University, Chennai at a cost of ₹ 14.85 crores and the new building for Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram, Chennai at a cost of ₹ 1.75 crore.
3. Honoured 23 National Bal Shree Awardees with citation and certificate and matching prize of ₹ 15,000/- each.
4. During the visit of the Parliamentary Committee on Estimates (2020-2021) cultural programmes were conducted by the Department of Art and Culture.
5. For the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of India's Freedom, cultural programmes were conducted in Chennai, Vellore, Vedaranyam, Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Trichirappalli, Madurai, Thiruvaiyaru, Tuticorin, Sivagangai and Pudukottai at a cost of ₹ 7.47 lakhs.

6. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the scheme of giving financial assistance at the enhanced rate of ₹ 3,000/- per month to 11 indigent artistes.
7. Regional Level Painting-Sculpture Exhibitions were conducted at Namakkal, Madurai, Vellore, Thirunelveli and Erode.

1.16. Cultural Programmes 2020-2021

Sl. No	Name of Cultural Programmes	Venue & Date	Event conducted By	Amount (₹ in lakh)
1.	District folk art programmes	Krishnagiri 08.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	2.00
2.	District folk art programmes	Namakkal 09.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.25
3.	Painting/ Sculpture Exhibition	Namakkal 09.01.2021 and 10.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.00

4.	Bharat Parv online classical Music Programmes	Chennai 11.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	1.45
5.	Pongal Cultural festival	Dharmapuri 12.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.25
6.	Drama Festival on the eve of World Drama Day	Salem 12.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.20
7.	Pongal Cultural Festival	Ariyalur 13.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirappalli	1.34
8.	Bharat Parv online Folk Music and Dance Programmes	Trichirappalli 15.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirappalli	1.40
9.	Staging New Dance Drama	Chennai 22.01.2021 and 29.01.2021	Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram	0.75

10	Painting/ Sculpture Exhibition	Madurai 26.01.2021 to 28.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	1.00
11	Painting/ Sculpture Exhibition	Vellore 30.01.2021 to 01.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kanchee puram	1.00
12	Drama Festival on the Memory of Swami Sankardoss	Pudukottai 06.02.2021	Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram	1.00
13	District folk festival	Pudukottai 06.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirap palli	2.00
14	Drama Festival on the eve of World Drama Day	Trichirappalli 07.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirap palli	1.50
15	Painting/ Sculpture Exhibition	Thirunelveli 08.02.2021 to 10.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thirunelv eli	1.00

16	Drama Festival on the eve of World Drama Day	Krishnagiri 09.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	0.30
17	Dance Festival on the eve of World Dance Day	Karur 13.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirappalli	1.50
18.	Hon'ble Prime Minister Visit Cultural Programmes	Coimbatore 25.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	2.00
19.	District folk Art Programmes	Erode 26.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	1.30
20.	Painting/ Sculpture Exhibition	Erode 26.02.2021 and 27.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	1.00
21.	Dance & Drama Programmes on the eve of World Dance & Drama Days	Erode 26.02.2021 and 27.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	0.65
22.	Commemoration of 75th Anniversary of India's Freedom	Chennai, Vellore & Tiruchirappalli 12.03.2021	Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram	6.72
	Thanjavur, Thiruvaiyaru	13.03.2021		

	Vedaranyam	14.03.2021		
	Madurai	25.03.2021		
	Coimbatore	30.03.2021		
	Thiruvaiyaru	08.04.2021		
	Chennai	12.04.2021		
	Tuticorin	22.04.2021		
	Sivagangai	28.04.2021		
	Pudukottai	30.04.2021		

1.17. Cultural Programmes conducted in Co-ordination with South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur -2020-2021

Sl. No	Name of Cultural programmes	Venue& Date	Event co-ordinated By
1.	Navaratri Festival	Salem 15.10.2020 to 26.10.2020	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem
2.	Vaikunda Ekadashi Festival	Srirangam 22.12.2020 to 24.12.2020	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirappalli
3.	Folk art Training Bambalattam	Krishnagiri 05.01.2021 to 07.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem
4.	Folk art Training KaiSilambattam	Dharmapuri 06.01.2021 to 08.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem

5	Religious harmony festival	Namakkal 09.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem
6	Folk art Training Naiyandimelam	Namakkal 08.01.2021 to 10.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem
7.	Folk art Training Isai Natakam	Salem 09.01.2021 to 11.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem
8.	Folk art Training KaiSilambattam	Kancheepuram 25.01.2021 to 27.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram
9.	Folk art Training Karakattam Thappatam Villupattu Jimblamelam Silambattam	Thirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Thenkasi, Tuticorin, Kanyakumari 28.01.2021 to 31.01.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thirunelveli
10.	Folk art Training Thudumbattam	Trichirappalli 02.02.2021 to 04.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirappalli
11.	Folk art Training Isai Natakam	Pudukottai 03.02.2021 to 05.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirappalli
12.	Folk art Training Thudumbattam	Perambalur 05.02.2021 to 07.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Trichirappalli

13	Folk art Training Therukuthu	Pattarai perumpudur, Thiruvallur 08.02.2021 to 10.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram
14	Folk art Training Naiyandimelam Karakattam Thappatam Villupattu Therukuthu	Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Villupuram 12.02.2021 to 14.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur
15	Folk art Training Therukuthu	Tirupattur 13.02.2021 to 15.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram
16	Pavai Vizha	Srivilliputur 26.02.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thirunelveli
17	Azhi Ther Festival	Tiruvarur 23.03.2021 and 24.03.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur

1.18. Conclusion

The Department of Art and Culture conducts cultural programmes thereby allowing various artists involved in different art forms to perform and honour the eminent artists by conferring them with awards. All steps are being taken to provide social security to the folk artistes by implementing welfare schemes and to preserve and promote various art forms amongst the younger generations.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed sanction order to the beneficiaries under the scheme of monthly financial assistance to the indigent artistes at Secretariat on 08.06.2021.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed sanction order to the selected 11 beneficiaries among 1000 beneficiaries of Indigent artiste pension scheme at Secretariat on 08.06.2021.



Cultural programs were conducted by the Department of Art and Culture at inaugural function of Commemoration of 75th Anniversary of India's Freedom at Chennai on 12.03.2021.



Dance Program in Tamil Nadu Government Music College, Chennai on 12.04.2021 on the eve of Commemoration of 75th Anniversary of India's Freedom.



Dance festival was conducted by the Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli at Karur on 13.02.2021 on the eve of World Dance day.



Music programs were conducted at the Artiste festival for the differently abled by the Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore at Erode on 26.02.2021.



Cultural programs were conducted in the closing ceremony of Folk art training camp jointly organised by South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur and Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram at Pattarai Perumputhur, Thiruvallur District on 10.02.2021.



Folk Cultural programs were conducted at Tiruchirapalli on 15.01.2021, for the New Delhi Bharat Parv 2021 online cultural programmes.



Folk Cultural programs were conducted at Tiruchirapalli on 15.01.2021, for the New Delhi Bharat Parv 2021 online cultural programmes.



Folk art festival cultural programmes were conducted by the Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem at Krishnagiri on 08.01.2021.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS
POLICY NOTE
2021-2022

Introduction

2. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) defines a museum as “a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for education, study and enjoyment”.

Artefacts in a museum’s collection are expressions of human experience and concretisation of human ideas. The use of artefacts rather than words gives people a deeper level of knowledge of themselves and the world around them. Generating awareness and dissemination of knowledge is the prime objective

of Museums today. Interactive exhibits induce a sense of participation in the visitors.

Museums complement educational institutions for students. Technological advancements like mobile applications, virtual reality, augmented reality, social media and interactive media bring the museum to the doorsteps of people.

Objectives of the Department

2.1. The primary objectives of the Department are:-

1. Collection and preservation of objects belonging to the past and present.
2. Conservation of exhibits for posterity.
3. Storage and documentation with proper cataloguing.
4. Research and publication of findings.
5. Exhibiting collections for public viewing through thematic galleries in museums and conducting periodical and special exhibitions.

6. Conducting seminars, workshops, lectures, training and internship programmes.

Administrative Structure and Financial Allotment

2.2. The Department of Museums has one Government Museum in Chennai and 23 District Museums. The department is headed by the Director of Museums who is assisted by two Assistant Directors, Curators, Assistant Curators, Guides and Technical Staff.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS

Director -(1)



Assistant Director -(2)



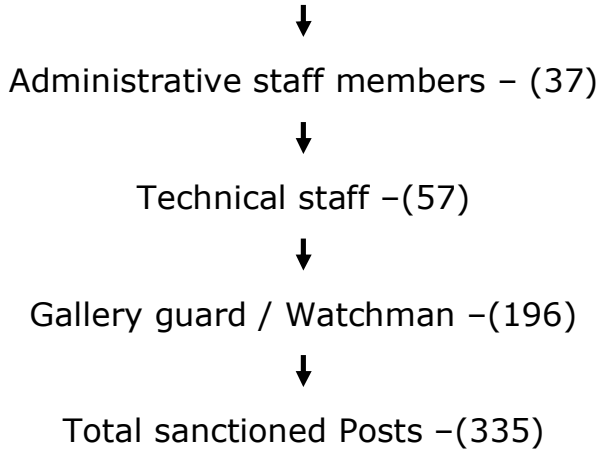
Chief Accounts Officer -(1)



Curator -(31)



Assistant Curator /
Gallery guide -(10)



The Budget allocation for the year 2020-21 was ₹ 30.28 crores. ₹ 5.41 crores was received for Central-State Government-funded projects.

The Government Museum, Chennai

2.3. The Government Museum at Chennai is the State Museum of Tamil Nadu. It is the second oldest museum in India and was established in 1851 AD. It has 57 galleries with different sections on Archaeology, Art, Anthropology, Geology, Botany, Zoology, Numismatics and Children’s Museum. The museum also has

Chemical Conservation, Education, Design & Display sections.

The world-famous Amaravati limestone sculptures, Bronze icons, Robert Bruce Foote's Palaeolithic stone tool collections, Adichanallur Megalithic collections, coins of various dynasties, a skeleton of the Blue whale, Raja Ravi Varma paintings, etc., are some of the noteworthy collections of the Government Museum, Chennai. There are interactive displays in the Children's Museum and an interesting robotic dinosaur in the Geology gallery of the Government Museum, Chennai. The Zoology and Botany galleries are a treasure trove of information for students and research scholars.

The Government Museum, Chennai has full tactile access with Braille labels, electrical stair-lifts and wheel chairs to assist the differently abled visitors to go around the galleries. The Museum continuously works towards improving its

facilities for visitors to make the Museum inclusive for all.

District Government Museums

2.4. Tamil Nadu has 23 District Museums at Pudukkottai, Salem, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Erode, Cuddalore, The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Kanniyakumari, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Sivaganga, Tiruvarur, Palani (Dindigul), Nagapattinam, Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram, Karur, Virudhunagar, Theni, Tiruvannamalai and a Fossil museum at Ariyalur under the control of Department of Museums, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government Museums at Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Cuddalore and The Nilgiris are functioning in heritage buildings.

2.5. Status of Various Works

- Proposals have been sent to Government of India for holistic up-gradation of the Museum Theatre Block under Tagore Cultural Complex (TCC) Grant of

Government of India at an estimate cost of ₹ 24.56 crores.

- The construction of new Administrative Block at the Government Museum, Chennai at the cost of ₹ 4.81 crores is in progress.
- Restoration of Heritage Building and Establishment of Cafeteria by modifying the existing old vintage building at a cost of ₹ 2.81 crores has been tendered.
- Restoration of the Pantheon Heritage Building (A.D.1780) and renovation of the Geology, Zoology, Botany and Archaeology galleries at a cost of ₹ 30 crores over 3 years in 3 annual instalments is being taken up. Government of India has approved first year with a project cost of ₹ 10.82 crores and has released ₹ 5.41 crores. Tender has been floated.
- Construction of compound wall on two sides of the fossil site of the Fossil Museum,

Ariyalur to preserve the fossil beds, at the cost of ₹ 1 crore. Work is in progress.

- Construction of 3 new buildings and the shifting & re-organization of District Government Museums is being taken up at a cost of ₹ 16 crores. ₹ 5 crores has been allocated to build a museum in Salem.
- Lands have been identified for the construction of new buildings for Virudhunagar and Kanniyakumari District Museums.

Publications

2.6. Government Museum, Chennai brings out publications on different subjects viz. Archaeology, Anthropology, Art, Botany, Geology, Museology, Numismatics, Zoology, Chemical Conservation of antiquities etc. They serve as reference books for the entire world as they are the outcome of considerable research on the antiquities and specimens from the collections of the Museum.

Some of the most sought-after publications are the “Catalogue of South Indian Hindu metal images, Gopuras of Tiruvannamalai, Catalogue of Prehistoric Antiquities from Adichanallur and Perumbair”.

Publication on chemical conservation and preservation techniques of museum artefacts are greatly valued by people in the field of preservation of objects.

So far, 183 museums publications have been digitised in the form of searchable pdf and are being uploaded to the department’s official website for enabling easy access to these publications.

Recent Collections of Antiquities

2.7. During the year 2020-2021, a large number of artefacts were acquired by the Department of Museums.

Government Museum Chennai

2.8. **Anjaneya** bronze sculpture from Kalekuntha Village, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri

district, **Narasimha** bronze sculpture from Uddanappalli village, Shoolagiri taluk, Krishnagiri district, a Sacred Conch (**Valampuri Sangu**) and Vishnu bronze sculpture from Tiruchengode, Namakkal district were all acquired as a treasure trove for the Archaeology section, in the Government Museum, Chennai.

District Government Museums

2.9. Dakshinamurthi and Brahma stone sculptures were received as a treasure trove for the district museum at Vellore. Bhairava, Karuppasami, Naga stone, Nandi, Murugar and Vinayaga stone sculptures were acquired for the district museum at Tirunelveli as treasure troves. Veeran and Vinayaka stone sculptures were acquired for the district museum at Tiruchirappalli. Devi Stone sculpture and one stone inscription were received for Virudhunagar district museum.

Stone sculptures of Bhairava, headless Buddha, Sivalinga, Sukhasana belonging to the

14th century C.E. and Murugar with Theivanai (broken), Vinayaga, and Dakshinamurthi belonging to 19th century were acquired as a treasure trove in Nagapattinam district museum.

Ongoing Schemes

2.10. The first phase works for the holistic up-gradation of the District Museum at Tiruchirappalli have been started and are being executed at a cost of ₹ 3.75 crores. Security Management and Control System (SMCS) including surveillance cameras and security gadgets are being installed at a cost of ₹ 2.50 crores in Government Museum, Chennai. The works are being executed by ELCOT. Tenders have been called for executing the work.

Educational Activities 2020–21

2.11. The Department regularly carries out educational activities for the benefit of students, enthusiasts and researchers. It organizes lectures, internships, workshops, trainings and seminars. Various programmes and competitions are held

every year to engage and involve students creatively and effectively to appreciate and understand the museum and its collections. This museum offers internships and training programmes for Researchers, Post Graduates and Under Graduates to research the collections, learn about museum practices and acquire professional skills. The Government Museum, Chennai organised the following activities during 2020-2021:-

- In connection with International Museum Day, an online drawing competition was conducted for children from 08.05.2020 to 15.05.2020.
- As a part of Wild life week celebrations, a special lecture on Urban Wild Life was organised on 17.10.2020.
- Six days of online inscription training was conducted between 19.10.2020 and 24.10.2020 in the Government Museum, Chennai in which 643 participants from various countries took part.

- A drawing competition for children was conducted on various topics on 28.02.2021.
- 182 interns have been trained in Archaeology, Numismatics, Anthropology, Chemical Conservation, Zoology, Geology and Botany sections.
- Special weekly exhibitions were organised in the main building highlighting one special artefact / exhibit from each section of the Museum.
- A special lecture was organised on 29.03.2021 on "**Adichanallurum Thanporunai Nathikarai Agazhaivugalum**"
- A special lecture was organised on 30.03.2021 on "**Sanga Illakiyangal Kattum Thanporunai Nathikarai Panpadu**"

District Government Museums organized the following activities:-

Special Commemorative Days such as World Museum Day, Tourism Day, Yoga Day,

Independence Day, Republic Day, Environment Day, Science Day, Children's Day, Philately Day, etc were observed at the District Museums. Several events like Competitions, Special exhibitions, Heritage walks, workshops and summer camps were also conducted attracting visitors and students alike. Training on inscriptions, preservation of palm leaves were also conducted. In connection with the 75th year of Indian Independence, various competitions like drawing, oratorical competitions and various events have been conducted.

2.12. Important Milestones 2020-21

- In the financial year, 2018-19 orders were issued for establishing two new Government Museums in Theni and Tiruvannamalai districts at a cost of ₹ 2.60 crores. The construction of the museums and display of artefacts have been completed and opened to the public.

- A sum of ₹ 5.58 Crores was sanctioned for the holistic up-gradation of the heritage building and display arrangements of the Government Museums at Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli and The Nilgiris. In The Nilgiris, Pudukkottai and Tirunelveli works have been completed. Works are in progress in the Tiruchirappalli Museum.
- Upgradation of Government Museum, Chennai was taken up by providing visitors amenities, platforms, lighting, internal roads, museum plaza and amphitheatre at a cost of ₹ 11.70 crores with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank under the Infrastructure Development Investment Programme for Tourism (ADB-IDIPT). The works have been completed.
- Electrical cables for all the galleries of Government Museum, Chennai have been

replaced and a new UG cable duct has been provided at a cost of ₹ 94 lakhs.

- Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Touch and gesture-based technologies are being deployed at a cost of ₹1 crore in the galleries of Government Museum, Chennai.
- Video walls have been installed in the Government Museum, Chennai at a cost of ₹ 1 crore.
- Upgradation of sculpture gardens was taken up at a cost of ₹ 70 lakhs and works have now been completed.
- Air conditioners in the Bronze galleries of the Government Museum, Chennai have been replaced at a cost of ₹ 70 lakhs.

Conclusion

2.13. Museums are dedicated to helping people to understand and appreciate the natural and cultural history of the world and the evolution of humanity through achievements in the arts, science and technology. They offer opportunities

for self-directed learning and exploration by people of diverse ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities.

Museums enrich local culture and make communities more appealing places to live and to visit. Museums connect the past with the present by preserving our culture and heritage for posterity.



**New District Government Museum was opened in Tiruvannamalai
at a cost of Rs.1.30 crore.**



New District Government Museum was opened in Theni at a cost of Rs.1.30 Crore.



Virtual Reality, Touch and Gesture based Technologies are deployed at a cost of Rs.1 crore in the Galleries of Government Museum, Chennai.



Augmented Reality Show opened at a cost of Rs.50 lakhs at Children's Museum in Government Museum, Chennai.



Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture, Archaeology and Principal Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowment Department inspected the Bronze Gallery in Government Museum, Chennai on 09.08.2021.



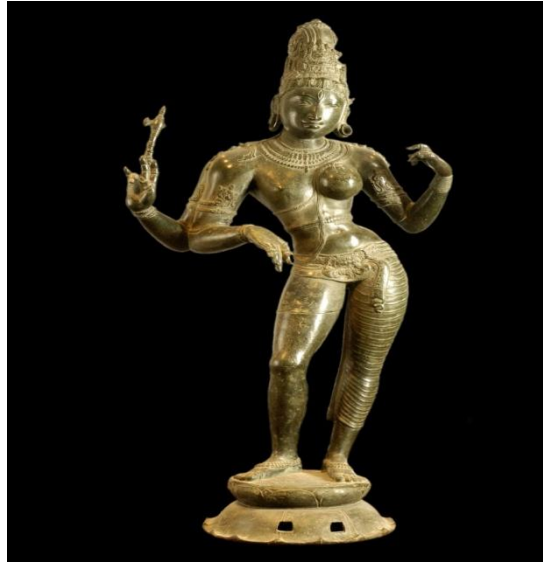
Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture, Archaeology and Principal Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowment Department inspected the works to conserve 1780 AD Pantheon Building in the Government Museum, Chennai on 09.08.2021.



Oil on Canvas painting *Sakuntala* drawn by Raja Ravi Varma.



Taming of Elephant Nalagiri by Buddha is depicted in Amaravati Lime Stone Sculpture belongs to 2nd Century A.D.



ARDHANARISWARA bronze idol belongs to 11th Century A.D. found in Thiruvenkadu, Mayiladuthurai District.



Gold coins unearthed as Treasure trove in Tiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirapalli District on 30.06.2021

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

POLICY NOTE

2021-2022

Introduction

3. Archaeology is an experimental discipline concerned with the recovery, identification, systematic description, methodical and analytical study and interpretation of the remains of the ancient humans, their culture and civilisation. It helps understand and recreate ancient culture and the society of those times. The term archaeology is derived from the Greek words archaeos meaning 'ancient' and logos meaning 'study', discussion, reason, or science.

Objectives of the Department

3.1. The State Department of Archaeology was established in 1961 with the following objectives:-

- To identify, conserve and preserve ancient and historical monuments.

- To conduct systematic archaeological explorations and excavations in historically and archaeologically important sites throughout the State.
- Documenting stone inscriptions by copying, deciphering, and publishing them.
- Establishing Site Museums.

Administrative Structure

3.2. The department is headed by the Director of Archaeology and is assisted by Deputy director, Deputy superintending archaeologist, Assistant executive engineer, Assistant superintending epigraphist, Assistant directors (Regional) and Archaeological officers.

To strengthen the department and more specifically the archaeological wing, 24 new key posts like one Joint director, three Regional assistant directors, five Archaeological officers, one Executive engineer, two Assistant executive engineers, four Junior engineers, one Junior electrical engineer, four Sthapathies, one Deputy

Director (Admin.), two Assistant Directors (Admin.) have been sanctioned by the Government.

Recreating history

3.3. The Central Advisory Board of Archaeology [CABA] permitted the Tamil Nadu state department of Archaeology to conduct excavations at Keeladi, in Sivagangai district during the years 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021.

The analysis of carbon samples collected from the Keeladi excavations has dated the finds to the 6th century BCE (580 BCE). Likewise, the date of Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) is pushed back to the 6th century BCE, which is almost a century earlier than the hitherto held view of 5th century BCE. This sample is evidence for the high levels of literacy that were achieved in the 6th century BCE in Tamil Nadu.

The findings of Keeladi prove beyond doubt that the second urbanization not only happened in

Tamil Nadu in the 6th century BCE, but was also substantially evolved and refined as compared to other civilizations of the time. This conclusively dispels the widely held belief among scholars that the second urbanization that had been observed in the Gangetic valley did not occur in Tamil Nadu.

Conservation of Protected Monuments

3.4. Tamil Nadu is famous for its several cultural icons. We have abundant evidence in the literature as well as in inscriptions about the construction of Palaces, Forts, Tanks, Temples, Choultries, and Mandapams. They are both secular as well as religious in nature. Due to various reasons including natural calamities or unnatural events, temples and other structures have become dilapidated and now need proper conservation and preservation.

Archaeological conservation and preservation of ancient monuments,

archaeological sites and remains are works of a specialized nature and require an understanding of conservation methods and archaeological principles. The Government of Tamil Nadu enacted "The Tamil Nadu Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act – 1966 and Rules – 1971" to protect and conserve the historical monuments in the State.

As per the above Act and Rules, ANCIENT MONUMENT means any structure, erection or monument or any tumulus or place of interment or any cave rock sculptures, inscriptions or monolith, which is of historical, archaeological, or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years.

The Department of Archaeology has so far declared 94 ancient and historical structures as "**Protected Monuments**". Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] has declared 251 monuments and 160 archaeological sites, a total of 411, as protected monuments and sites in the State.

Among the 94 protected monuments of the State, Tirumalai Nayak Mahal at Madurai district, Ramalingavilasam at Ramanathapuram district, Maratha Palace at Thanjavur district, Danish Fort, and Governor Bungalow at Tarangampadi in Mayiladuthurai district and Manora at Sarabendrarajapattinam in Thanjavur district continue to register major tourist inflow.

The Elephant Statue in Elayaperumalnallur village, Udayarpalayam taluk in Ariyalur district, and the intricately carved sculptures tank (Amma Kulam) in Kilravanthavadi village, Thandrampettaluk, Tiruvannamalai district are the latest additions to the list of protected monuments.

63 Historical monuments have been identified and are in the process of being declared as "Protected Monuments" by the department of Archaeology.

Funds for Conservation of Protected Monuments

3.5. The Government of Tamil Nadu has enhanced the allocation from ₹ 1 Crore to ₹ 2 Crores for taking up regular maintenance of protected monuments. The work for providing façade and internal lighting for the Tirumalai Nayak Mahal at Madurai at a cost of ₹ 1.68 Crores is currently in progress and will be completed shortly.

Asian Development Bank [ADB] works

3.6. The infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism in Tamil Nadu [IDIPT-TN], a sub-project of the Asian Development Bank [ADB] was taken up for the conservation and restoration of important historical monuments.

Restoration and conservation of 12 protected Monuments have been completed at a cost of ₹ 18.32 crores under the sub-project Tranche-IV.

Capacity Building

3.7. To identify archaeologically important sites, a workshop was conducted on “**Identifying Archaeologically important Sites**” for officials of the Geology and Mining Department. The importance of the preservation of archaeologically important sites and the protected monuments was explained by the experts of Archaeology.

They were sensitised about creating awareness, educating, and understanding the importance of the monuments situated on hillocks and surrounding areas before issuing leasing orders to agencies for quarrying. The officials were taken for field visits to ancient and historical monuments in and around Villupuram, Kallakurichi, and Madurai districts.

Orientation Training

3.8. 17 new Archaeological officers were recruited through Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission this year. The newly joined archaeological officers were imparted training on

the subjects of Archaeological Explorations and Excavations, Palaeography and Epigraphy, Architecture and Iconography, identification of Monuments, Museology, etc., by experts and eminent scholars of Archaeology.

A "Workshop on excavation methods for ancient DNA (aDNA) Sampling" was conducted on 21.02.2021 for all the Archaeological officers at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. Scientists and experts of Madurai Kamaraj University trained the Archaeological officers on handling aDNA sampling.

Archaeological excavations

3.9. In archaeology, excavation is the exposure, processing, and recording of archaeological remains. An excavation site or "dig" is the area being studied. These locations range from one to several areas at a time during a project and can be conducted over a few weeks to several years.

Excavation involves the recovery of several types of data from a site. This data includes artifacts (portable objects made or modified by humans), features (non-portable modifications to the site itself such as post molds, burials, and hearths), ecofacts (evidence of human activity through organic remains such as animal bones, pollen, or charcoal), and archaeological context (relationships among the other types of data).

The Department of Archaeology is the state-level nodal agency for forwarding the proposals for excavations from various Departments / Universities / Agencies with the recommendation of the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology [CABA] for placing before the Standing Committee for approval in Tamil Nadu.

The Department of Archaeology has so far conducted excavations at 43 historical sites, of which, 37 excavation reports had been published

as per Annexure I. Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] have so far conducted excavations at more than 50 sites in the State.

Archaeological explorations and excavations during last season

3.10. During 2019-2020, the Government has sanctioned a sum of ₹ 2 Crores as recurring funds for conducting large-scale archaeological explorations and excavations at archaeologically and historically important sites in the State.

Four excavations have been conducted;

1. Keeladi cluster (Manalur, Agaram, Kondhagai) of Sivagangai District.
2. Adichanallur of Thoothukudi District.
3. Sivagalai of Thoothukudi District.
4. Kodumanal of Erode District.

Further, it has been decided to conduct two archaeological explorations at Vellore, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, and Salem to identify the Neolithic sites and also at Tirunelveli

and Thoothukudi districts to identify the Tamiraparani River valley culture.

Keeladi and its clusters (Kondagai | Manalur | Agaram)

3.11. To study the civilization of the Vaigai River valley holistically, excavations are taken up in all those sites which include habitation, burial, and industrial locations.

Keeladi

3.12. The 6th season of excavation at Keeladi reveals major structural activities, globular pots, furnace, cattle bones, numerous iron objects, copper objects, beads made of semi-precious stones, glass, shell and weighing units, seal, Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) inscribed potsherds and graffiti marks have been collected which strongly suggestive of Keeladi might having been an industrial-cum-habitational site. The discovery of weighing units, seals and semi-precious stone beads of other regions points to the possibility of

strong trading activities of the Sangam age society.

Kondagai

3.13. Kondagai is exclusively a burial site. 46 urn burials, one pit burial, and 17 extended burials were identified in association with offering pots and bowls of red-ware, red-slipped-ware, black-and-red ware.

Agaram

3.14. The first season of excavation was initiated at Agaram. Among the artefacts, that require our attention is the occurrence of Microlithic tools. The blades and lunates found in association with the fluted core indicate that these tools were produced at this site. Carbonized rice grains have been recovered. The polished stone axe, ceramics such as black-and-red ware, red slipped ware, redware and grey slipped ware in variety of shapes and decorations/paintings, beads, terracotta figurines, terracotta objects, glass objects of various colours, decorated shell

objects, metal objects of both copper and iron and a gold coin have been recovered.

All these finds indicate the cultural richness of the ancient civilization of the Tamils of this region has its proximity to the temple city Madurai.

Hence it becomes essential to continue to probe the hidden cultural treasures of Keeladi and its clusters in the future and unravel the cultural wealth of the ancient Tamil society.

Adichanallur, Thoothukudi District

3.15. Adichanallur is located on the right bank of the Tamiraparani River, in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu. The extensive 'urn burial site' at Adichanallur was first discovered by Dr. Jagor of the Berlin Museum in 1876. Alexander Rea excavated a good number of urns during 1903 and discovered gold diadems with parallels from Mycenae (one of the major centers of Greek civilization); bronze objects

notably lids with exquisite finials depicting many animal forms, iron objects besides thousands of potsherds. The excavation was resumed by the Archaeological Survey of India during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. More than 160 urns within the area of 600 square meters were exposed.

This marvellously wealthy habitation site and the antiquities unearthed from Adichanallur of Thoothukudi district play a vital role in the history of Tamil Nadu and its civilization.

The excavation work has been carried out in the two main localities viz. burial ground and habitation. Ten urn burials were exposed, of which two are in a better state of preservation and the remaining urns were buried in the soil. Nearly, 680 antiquities were collected excluding graffiti marks.

Sivagalai, Thoothukudi District

3.16. Sivagalai is a village in Srivaikundam taluk of Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu. It is

located on the northern banks of the river Tamiraparani. Adichanallur lies 14 km from west of the Sivagalai.

The excavations carried out in the mounds of Parumbu and Valappanpillaithiradu revealed plenty of pot-sherds, Mesolithic tools, and other artefacts which indicate the archaeological importance of this region.

The excavation work at Sivagalai, a habitation-cum-burial site has yielded 125 antiquities and a total of 31 urns.

Kodumanal, Erode District

3.17. Kodumanal in Perundurai taluk of Erode district, Tamil Nadu is located on the northern bank of Noyyal River, a tributary of the Kaveri River. It is about 15 km west of Chennimalai and about 40 km southwest of Erode.

The significance of Kodumanal is evident from the textual references to it as a trade-cum-industrial center in **Paditruppattu** of Sangam

literature referred to this village as 'Kodumanam'. The site lies on the ancient trade route that connects Karur, the ancient capital of Cheras, in the east to the ancient seaport of Muziris on the west.

A large number of black-and-red ware and russet-coated ware were found. This site is associated with industrial activity as is evidenced by the large number of remnants of furnaces and associated materials found in the trenches. The floor levels of the houses, Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) inscribed pot-sherds, terracotta objects, and a considerable number of animal bones were found.

Neolithic Sites Survey

3.18. To identify the Neolithic Sites of Tamil Nadu, the department along with "Sharma Centre for Heritage Education" is conducting exploration and scientific investigations of Neolithic sites along the Eastern-Ghats of Tamil Nadu in the districts of Vellore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, and Salem. During the pandemic,

the first phase of the project work was taken up and preliminary works like the collection of information about site names, site geo-coordinates, and their geographical-geological and geo-morphological contexts.

Having collected the above-said information, the second phase of the project comprising of fieldwork was conducted between 22.03.2021 and 28.03.2021 in the districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai by the team of experts. The present field studies included both archaeological and geological/geomorphological aspects. In the field survey, identification of Celt manufacturing sites, re-examination of grinding groove sites, and several samples had been collected for study purposes. Artefacts and rock samples are currently being analysed.

Explorations in the Tamiraparani River valley

3.19. The river Tamiraparani originates in the Pothigai Hills on the south-western slopes of Western Ghats. The Tamiraparani river basin is classified into upper, middle, and lower basins. The basin comprises about 670 villages from its western boundary to the eastern coastal boundary at the Bay of Bengal. In this exploration, nearly 160 sites including burial sites, habitation sites, hero-stones, cup marks, microlithic flakes, inscriptions, loose sculptures, monuments, etc., have been identified.

Archaeological Explorations and Excavations during 2020-2021

3.20. During 2020-2021, the Government increased the ceiling for recurring funds from ₹ 2 Crores to ₹ 3 Crores for conducting large-scale archaeological explorations and excavations at archaeologically and historically important sites in the State.

At present seven systematic archaeological excavations are being conducted in Keeladi and its cluster (Manalur, Agaram, Kondhagai) of Sivagangai district, Adichanallur, Sivagalai & Korkai of Thoothukudi district, Kodumanal of Erode district, Gangaikondacholapuram of Ariyalur district and Mylamdumparai of Krishnagiri district. The department will continue systematic archaeological explorations at Vellore, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, and Salem to identify the Neolithic sites and also in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts to identify and explore the Tamiraparani River valley culture, for which the Central Advisory Board for Archaeology (CABA) had issued necessary permissions.

The 7th season of excavations in the Keeladi cluster was started on 13.02.2021. The other archaeological excavations were started on 26.02.2021. These works are in progress and are likely to be completed by 30th September of 2021.

Scientific Dating

3.21. Scientific dating is necessary to establish the period to which the unearthed artefacts belong. Archaeological investigations have no meaning unless the chronological sequences of the events are reconstructed faithfully. The antiquities unearthed from the present ongoing systematic archaeological excavations are to be scientifically analyzed with the help of reputed laboratories and institutions.

Technology in Excavations

3.22. Archaeology requires the application of a wide range of technologies at various stages from discovery to interpretation of the findings. This helps in placing the archaeological data in chronological order and to understand this sequential cultural process.

The department is using technologies like Ground Penetrating Radar [GPR] Survey, Magnetometer Survey, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle [UAV] Survey, etc., to identify the ideal locations

for carrying out systematic archaeological explorations and excavations. In this process the department collaborates with reputed institutions like Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Department of Remote Sensing, Bharathidasan University, Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University and Madras Institute of Technology, Chennai.

Having recognized the valuable contribution of specialised disciplines into a deeper analysis of archaeological findings, it has been decided to collaborate with experts from the fields such as Archaeo-botany, Molecular Biology, Population Genetics, Environmental Archaeology, and Linguistic Archaeology.

Archaeological Site Museums

3.23. The antiquities unearthed from archaeological explorations and excavations have been preserved and exhibited for the benefit of the scholars, researchers and the general public in

the following 14 archaeological site museums situated in various districts of the State:-

Sl. No	Site Museums	Place / District
1)	Danish Fort Museum	Tarangambadi / Mayiladuthurai
2)	Underwater Archaeological Museum	Poompuhar / Mayiladuthurai
3)	Gangaikonda Cholapuram Museum	Gangaikonda Cholapuram/ Ariyalur
4)	Ramalinga Vilaasam Museum	Ramanathapuram / Ramanathapuram
5)	Arcot Museum	Arcot / Ranipet
6)	Pre-Historic Museum	Poondi / Tiruvallur
7)	Tirumalai Nayak Mahal Museum	Madurai / Madurai
8)	Rajarajan Museum	Thanjavur / Thanjavur
9)	Maratha Museum	Thanjavur / Thanjavur
10)	Karur Museum	Karur / Karur
11)	Coimbatore Museum	Coimbatore / Coimbatore
12)	Courtallam Museum	Courtallam / Tirunelveli
13)	Tirukkivilur Museum	Tirukkivilur / Kallakkurichi
14)	Dharmapuri Museum	Dharmapuri / Dharmapuri

New Site Museum at Keeladi

3.24. During 2019-2020, the Government had sanctioned a sum of ₹ 12.21 Crores for establishing a world-class site museum at Kondagai in Sivagangai district. Public Works Department has commenced the work in April 2020 and plans to complete the same by the end of this financial year.

Tirumalai Nayak Mahal Site Museum

3.25. Conservation and display works are being taken up at a estimated cost of ₹ 8.27 crores in the Tirumalai Nayak Mahal, Madurai. These works have been approved by the Ministry of Culture under the Museum Grant Scheme with 80:20 sharing pattern. (Central share 80% = ₹ 661.76 lakhs + State Share 20% = ₹ 165.44 lakhs). The works are expected to commence shortly.

Epigraphy

3.26. Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions on rocks, pillars, temple walls, copper plates, stones, metals, potteries, woods, palm leaves, clothes, conch shells, murals and coins. It is one of the most fascinating and instructive of studies.

Inscriptions are one of the main sources for reconstructing the history and culture of ancient civilizations. They serve as the primary documentary evidence to establish legal, socio-cultural, literary, archaeological and historical antiquity.

A recent survey on Indian Epigraphy by Archaeological Survey of India lists Tamil Nadu as the number one State in the country with the highest number of inscriptions. In the categories of language, alphabets and the number of inscriptions on both stone and copper plates also Tamil Nadu is ranked first among Indian States.

A separate epigraphy wing was started in the department during the year 1996. The

primary function of this wing is to copy inscriptions on boulders, stone pillars, stones, temple walls, and copper plates.

At present, this wing is in possession of about 25,027 estampages of inscriptions from 35 districts. The work of copying inscriptions in the districts of Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, and Thoothukudi is currently in progress. Of the 25,027 estampages, 14,340 inscriptions have been deciphered and 7,460 inscriptions have been published in 51 volumes.

During 2019-2020, a sum of ₹ 2 Crores has been sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu for launching a special drive to complete the work of copying, deciphering, and publishing the inscriptions. This work will be taken up over a period of five years @ ₹ 40 lakhs per year. These will be published as "**Tamil Nadu Inscriptions**".

15 retired experts have been engaged to decipher 3,000 inscriptions per year. 5 retired epigraphical attendees have been appointed on

contract basis to take estampages of un-copied inscriptions and to find new estampages in the State. 120 inscriptions were copied during the year '2020-2021.

Institute of Archaeology

3.27. The Institute of Epigraphy was revamped and renamed as the "Institute of Archaeology" in the year 2020-2021. This Institute of Epigraphy had been functioning at headquarters of the department since 1974. It conducted a one-year Post Graduate Diploma Course in "Epigraphy and Archaeology". Every year, 8 Post Graduate students were enrolled and training was given in Epigraphy and Archaeology. So far 264 students have undergone this course. Every month a sum of ₹ 4,000/- was paid as a stipend to each student.

The Institute of Archaeology now offers a two years Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology for 20 students annually. Selections for the course are made through entrance examinations which is

open to those who have completed their Post Graduate degree in any subject. The course contains four semesters and each semester has 6 papers. Totally, there are 24 papers inclusive of theory and practicals with all the aspects of Archaeology being taught. The students are trained by eminent scholars from various institutions. Every month, a sum of ₹ 5,000/- is paid as a stipend to each student. Due to the pandemic situation, the classes are being held in the online mode in this academic year.

Rock-Arts in Tamil Nadu

3.28. The Rock-Arts of Tamil Nadu can be classified into two major divisions

- 1) Rock Paintings are classified as those found on
 - natural rock shelters
 - megalithic dolmens
 - man-made rock-cut caves of the historical period.
- 2) Rock Bruising and Engravings

To document the Rock-Arts of Tamil Nadu the department had conducted a survey from 11.05.2021 to 16.05.2021 with an expert team consisting of 8 members from different fields like Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Folklore, and Photography. The team surveyed the following villages:-

- 1) Karikiyur, Nilgiris District
- 2) Sirumalai, Dindigul District
- 3) Usilampatti, Madurai District

In this survey, different themes of rock art were found like hunting gatherers, war scenes, cattle keepers, riders, etc., and the major colours noticed in the paintings were red and white ochre.

Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre

3.29. A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, or any other material that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.

Manuscripts are found in hundreds of different languages and scripts.

Manuscripts are distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, firmans, revenue records which provide direct information on events or processes in history.

The formation of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre, Chennai has a unique historical background dating from 1861 onwards. This library was made possible because of the monumental efforts of Colonel Colin Mackenzie, C.P. Brown, and Prof. Pickford and the Government of Tamil Nadu for gathering the manuscripts.

Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre is functioning under the control of this department. It is currently located on the 7th floor of Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram, Chennai. This library has a collection of 72,748 rare manuscripts and 25,373 reference books on 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 which are being safely preserved.

So far, 21,00,000 manuscript pages have been digitized. Of these 3,00,000 pages in 2,400 Manuscript bundles have been digitized and are available online (www.tnarch.gov.in).

State Manuscript Mission

3.30. In 2019-2020, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned a sum of ₹ 50 lakhs as a recurring fund for launching the "State Manuscript Mission" to identify, preserve and digitize the manuscripts available in the State. Under this project, a unique manuscript centre was started in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre. This project identified 70,000 manuscripts kept with the individuals and institutions that are to be preserved and digitized for the benefit of the

future generations. The State Manuscript Mission is functioning in five regions and the work is in full swing.

The data collected from the State Manuscript Mission will be used to create a uniform catalogue along with international standard metadata format and it will be finally made available online for the benefit of the scholars and general public.

Manuscripts Resource Centre

3.31. "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. It has recognized the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library in Chennai as the "Manuscripts Resource Centre" (MRC) for collecting the manuscripts in the State of Tamil Nadu and digitizing them. So far 66,110 manuscripts have been digitized and sent to the National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi.

Conclusion

3.32. There has been a renewed interest in Archaeology and Heritage in our State. Hence, there is a huge scope for the study of the past, to discover, care for, promote and enjoy our rich and diverse heritage, contributing to our wellbeing and knowledge and conclusively position the history of Tamil Nadu in the global context.

The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology has recognised the need to adopt international best practices into its ongoing efforts that include conservation of monuments, archaeological excavations and explorations, mission mode projects on manuscripts, and inscriptions. We envision that through well-calibrated multi-pronged approaches, we will be better placed to advance Heritage Management in Tamil Nadu.

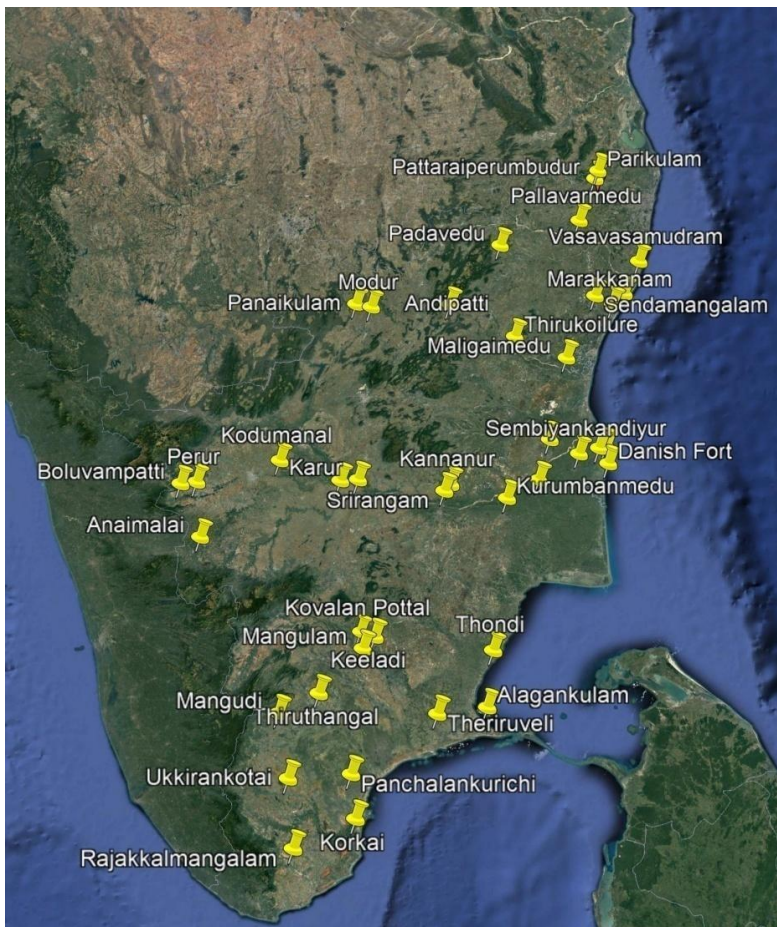
Thangam Thenarasu
Minister for Industries

Annexure

Sl. No.	Place	District	Year of excavation	Nature of Site
1	Korkai	Thoothukudi	1968-1969 2020-2021	Early Historic
2	Panchalankurichi	Thoothukudi	1968-1969	Modern
3	Vasavasamudram	Kanchipuram	1969-1970	Early Historic
4	Anaimalai	Coimbatore	1969-1970	Megalithic
5	Pallavamedu	Kanchipuram	1970-1971	Medieval
6	Karur	Karur	1973-1974 1994-1995	Early Historic
7	Panayakulam	Dharmapuri	1979-1980	Early Historic
8	Boluvampatti	Coimbatore	1979-1980 1980-1981	Medieval
9	Kovalanpottal	Madurai	1980-1981	Megalithic
10	Thondi	Ramnathapuram	1980-1981	Early Historic
11	Gangaikonda cholapuram	Ariyalur	1980-1981 1986-1987 2008-2009 2020-2021	Medieval
12	Kannanur	Tiruchirapalli	1982-1983	Medieval
13	Kurumbanmedu	Thanjavur	1984-1985	Medieval
14	Palayarai	Thanjavur	1984-1985	Medieval
15	Alagankulam	Ramnathapuram	1986-1987 1990-1991 1992-1993 1994-1995 1996-1997 2014-2015 2016-2017	Early Historic
16	Tirukkivilur	Villupuram	1992-1993	Early Historic

17	Kodumanal	Erode	1992-1993 1996-1997 2019-2020 2020-2021	Megalithic & Early Historic
18	Sendamangalam	Villupuram	1992-1993 1994-1995	Medieval
19	Padavedu	Tiruvannamalai	1992-1993	Medieval
20	Tiruttangal	Virudhunagar	1994-1995	Microlithic
21	Poompuhar	Nagapatinam	1994-1995 1997-1998	Early Historic
22	Maligaimedu	Cuddalore	1999-2000	Early Historic
23	Teriruveli	Ramanathapuram	1999-2000	Early Historic
24	Mangudi	Tirunelveli	2001-2002	Microlithic
25	Perur	Coimbatore	2001-2002	Early Historic
26	Andipatti	Tiruvannamalai	2004-2005	Early Historic
27	Modur	Dharmapuri	2004-2005	Neolithic
28	Marakkanam	Villupuram	2005-2006	Medieval
29	Parikulam	Tiruvallur	2005-2007	Palaeolithic
30	Nedunkur	Karur	2006-2007	Megalithic
31	Mangulam	Madurai	2006-2007	Early Historic
32	Sembiyankandiyur	Nagapatinam	2007-2008	Megalithic
33	Tarangampadi	Nagapatinam	2008-2009	Modern
34	Rajakkalmangalam	Tirunelveli	2009-2010	Medieval
35	Talaichankadu	Nagapattinam	2010-2011	Medieval
36	Alambarai	Kanchipuram	2011-2012	Modern
37	Srirangam	Tiruchirapalli	2013-2014 2014-2015	Medieval
38	Ukkiran Kottai	Tirunelveli	2014-2015	Medieval
39	Pattaraiperumbudur	Tiruvallur	2015-2016 2017-2018	Later Palaeolithic

40	Keeladi	Sivagangai	2017-2018 2018-2019 2019-2020 2020-2021	Early Historic
41	Adichanallur	Thoothukudi	2019-2020 2020-2021	Iron Age
42	Sivagalai	Thoothukudi	2019-2020 2020-2021	Iron Age
43	Myladumparai	Krishnagiri	2020-2021	Neolithic



Places of Excavations carried out by Department of Archaeology



Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil official language and Tamil Culture, Archaeology visited the Sivagalai Excavation Site, Thoothukudi district on 11.07.2021.



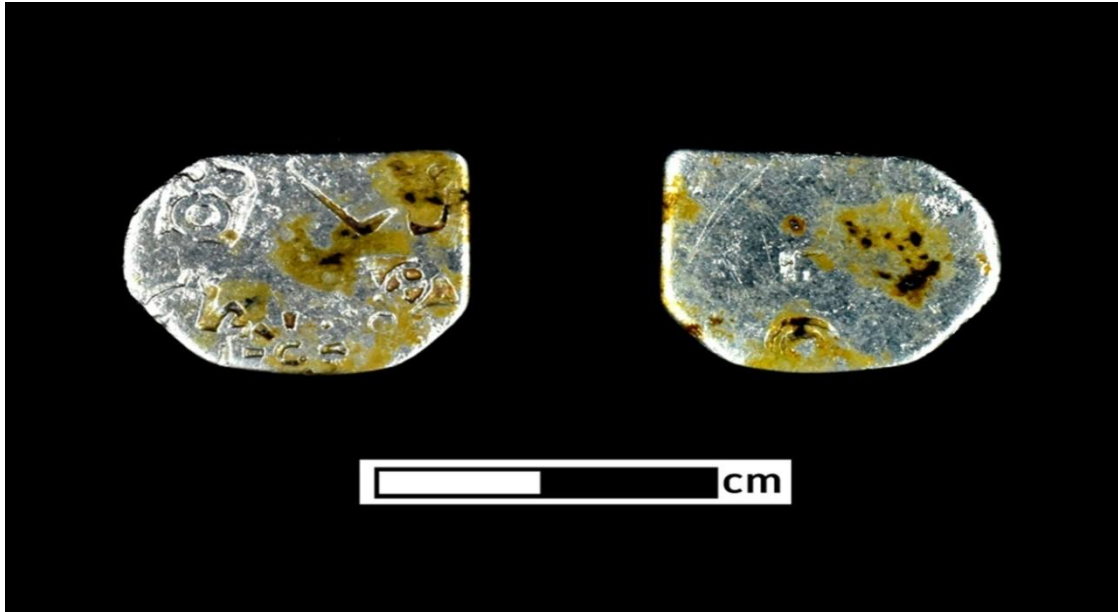
Aerial view of excavation trenches of Sivagalai, Thoothukudi district.



Findings of exposed brick structure and unique perforated terracotta pipes of Korkai Excavation in Thoothukudi district.



Exposed ringwells at Agaram and Keeladi excavation site in Sivagangai district.



Silver punched marked coin of before 4th Century BCE unearthed from the Keeladi excavation site in Sivagangai District.



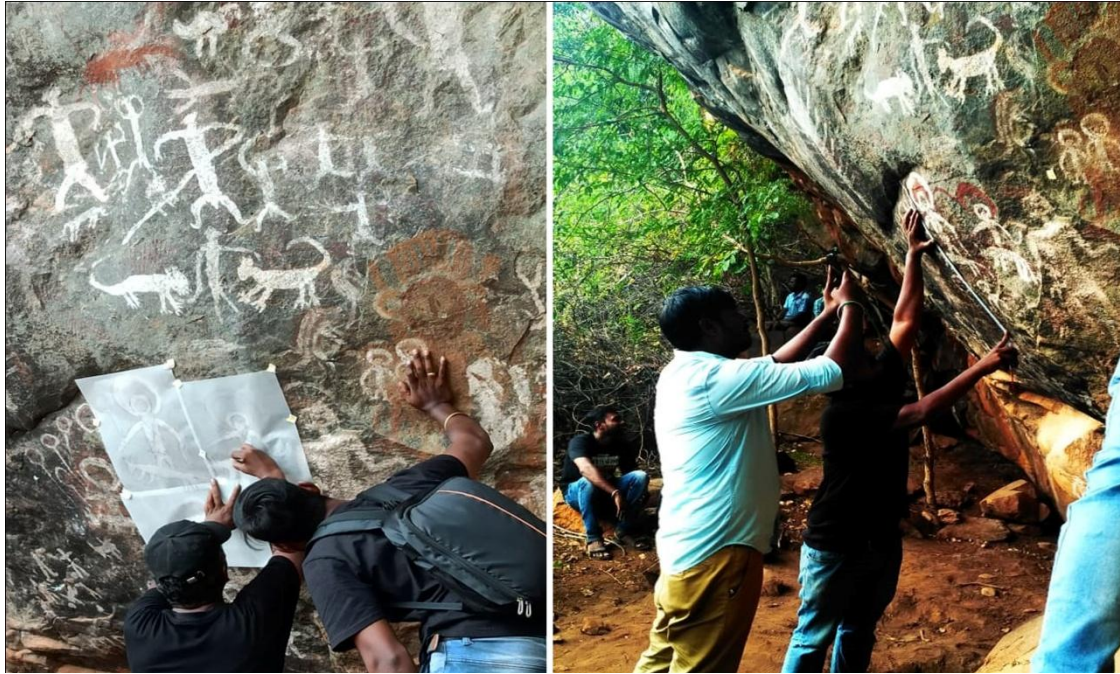
Exposed brick structure of Gangaikondacholapuram - Maligaimedu excavation, Ariyalur district.



Exposed step well structure in the Kodumanal excavation, Erode district



Three legged jars and offering pots in megalith cist burial of Mayiladumparai excavation, Krishnagiri district.



Documentation of Rock-Art at Sirumalai in Dindigul district.



14th century terracotta Elephant statue at Elaiyaperumalnallur in Ariyalur district – recently declared as protected monument