



**TOURISM, CULTURE AND  
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**ART AND CULTURE  
MUSEUMS  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**POLICY NOTE  
2023 – 2024**

**DEMAND No. 29**

**THANGAM THENARASU**  
**Minister for Industries**

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Government of Tamil Nadu  
2023

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# **DEPARTMENT OF ART AND CULTURE**

## **Policy Note**

### **2023-2024**

#### **1. Introduction**

Tamil Nadu is home to great historical heritage, traditions and vibrant culture. The state is famous for its magnificent culture, colossal temples, alluring arts and exquisite handicrafts including bronze sculptures.

This rich tapestry is expressed in language, literature, architecture, sculpture, music, dance, theatre arts, folk arts, martial arts and paintings etc., The state is endowed with vibrant dance forms like the classical Bharatanatyam and folk dances like Thapattam, Karagattam, Kavadiattam etc.,

Tamil Nadu has several cultural festivals which portray the vivid and diverse lifestyle and refinements of Tamil people. The festivals are celebrated by all people in the state cutting across regional and religious barriers.



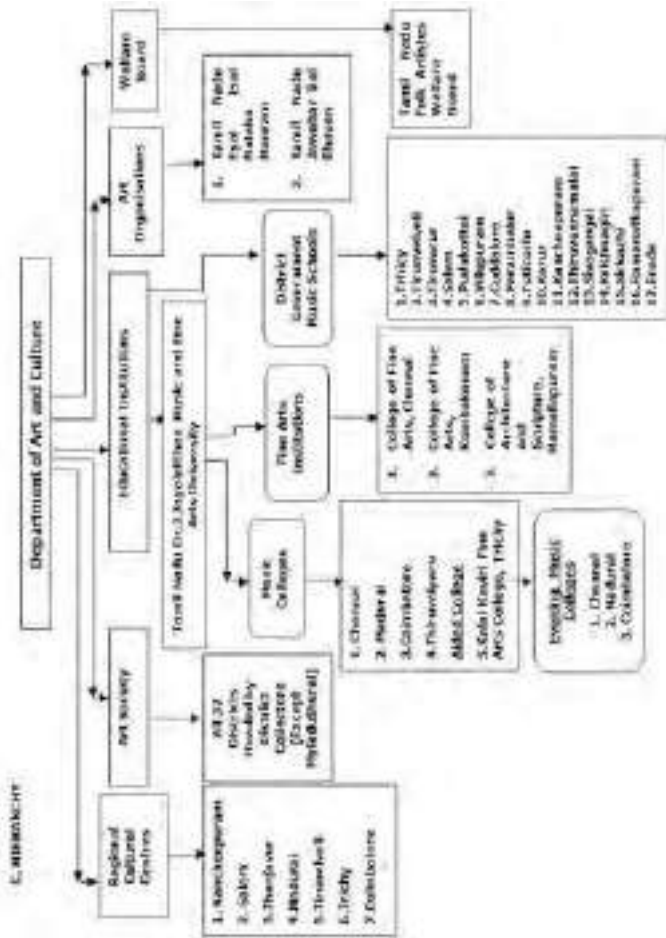
The uniqueness of Tamil culture lies in its antiquity, vitality, adaptability and equality and hence the state is regarded as the 'Cultural capital' of India.

### **1.1 Directorate of Art and Culture**

The Directorate of Art and Culture was formed in 1991 and is headed by the Director. The Department has

1. Seven Regional Art and Cultural Centers.
2. Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University.
3. Two Government Colleges of Fine Arts.
4. One Government College of Architecture and Sculpture.
5. Four Government Music Colleges.
6. One Government aided college: Kalai Kaviri Fine Arts College.
7. Seventeen Government District Music Schools.
8. Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.
9. Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board and
10. 40 Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manrams.

The Directorate consists of a Joint Director, 3 Deputy Directors, 8 Regional Assistant Directors, 1 Accounts Officer and various other officials.



## **1.2 Objectives of the Department**

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

- To showcase various art forms through performances.
- To encourage classical and folk artistes by providing them with opportunities.
- To ensure livelihood and improve the economic status of artists.
- To provide financial assistance to indigent artistes.
- To promote education in performing and fine arts.
- To document various art forms.
- To conduct exhibitions and
- To give awards to eminent sculptors, painters, classical and folk artistes.

## **1.3 Regional Art and Cultural Centers**

Seven Regional Art and Cultural Centers have been established and are headed by Assistant Directors. Each Regional Art and Cultural Centre covers 4 to 8 districts. They conduct cultural programs, art competitions, art

training camps and painting-sculpture exhibitions in the districts. The schemes of the District Art Societies, Jawahar Siruvar Manrams, District Music Schools, Folk Artistes Welfare Board and Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram are implemented by Regional Cultural Centers.

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Regional Art and Cultural Centre</b>	<b>Districts covered</b>
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	Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Pudukkottai, Perambalur and Ariyalur.

5	Madurai	Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Dindigul and Theni.
6	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Kanniyakumari, Virudhunagar and Tenkasi.
7	Coimbatore	Coimbatore, Erode, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur.

The Regional Art and Cultural Centers conduct the following cultural programs in the districts: -

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the region and art functions</b>	
1	<b>Kancheepuram region</b>	
	Karthigai Deepam	Tiruvannamalai District
	Aadi Krithigai	Tiruttani, Thiruvallur District
	Maha Sivarathiri	Kancheepuram District

	Summer festival	Yelagiri, Tirupathur District
		Javvadumalai, Tiruvannamalai District
2	<b>Salem region</b>	
	Summer festival	Yercaud, Salem District
	Aadiperukku Vizha	Dharmapuri District
	Mangani Vizha	Krishnagiri District
	Valvil Ori Vizha	Kolli hills, Namakkal District
3	<b>Thanjavur region</b>	
	Sirkazhi Thamizhisai Moovar Vizha	Mayiladuthurai District
	Raja Raja Cholan Sadaya Vizha	Thanjavur District
	Aazhither Vizha	Tiruvarur District
4	<b>Tiruchirappalli region</b>	
	Vaigunda Ekadasi Vizha	Tiruchirappalli District

	Arulmigu Nandidevar Thirukalyana Vizha	Thirumazhapadi, Ariyalur District
	Thiru Nedungudi Maha Sivarathiri Vizha	Pudukkottai District
5	<b>Madurai region</b>	
	Summer festival	Kodaikanal, Dindigul District
	Chithirai festival	Madurai
6	<b>Tirunelveli region</b>	
	Paavai Vizha	Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar District
	Saaral Vizha	Courtralam, Tenkasi District
	Aruvi Thiruvizha	Tirparappu, Kanniyakumari District
	Kumari Thiruvizha	Kanniyakumari District
7	<b>Coimbatore region</b>	
	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 talents in artists and provide opportunities for them. These societies identify fifteen eminent artists and give three awards in each group in the districts as under: -

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Name of the Award</b>	<b>Award Amount (Rs.)</b>
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 51–65 years	Kalai Nanmani	15,000/-
5	Above 66 years	Kalai Mudumani	20,000/-

To ensure equitable assistance to artists, provide better access to financial assistance distributed by the Government and to participate in various cultural programs, Identification cards are issued to artists. 73,348 artists have been issued identification cards.

## **1.5 ART EDUCATION**

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

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

The Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University was established in the year 2013 by the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University Act, 2013 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, Nadaswaram and Bharatanatyam.

The University offers Ph.D. courses, M.Phil courses and three-year part-time Post Graduate courses (during weekends) in the Departments of Painting and Visual Communication Design.

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 Tiruchirappalli, a total of 8 colleges are functioning under the administrative control of the Department of Art and Culture.

M.G.R Government Film and Television Institute and 13 other self-financing colleges are affiliated with the University. They are:

1. Rani Lady Meiyammai Achi Tamil Music College, Madurai.
2. Sri Annai Kamakshi Music & Fine Arts College, K.K. Nagar, Chennai.

3. Bridge Academy for Fine Arts, Choolaimedu, Chennai.
4. Bharatham, Shenoy Nagar, Chennai.
5. Sri Thiyagaraja College of Music, Marthandam, Kanniyakumari District.
6. Raviraj College of Fine Arts, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore.
7. Mc Gan's Ooty College of Architectural Design, Ooty, Nilgris District.
8. Palm Deor Film and Media College, Thanjavur.
9. Palm Deor Film and Media College, Tambaram West, Chennai.
10. Alagappa College of Performing Arts Academy, Karaikudi.
11. Chennai Film Industrial School, Kottivakkam, Chennai.
12. Tamizh Isai Kalloori, Raja Annamalai Mandram, Chennai.
13. M.E.T College of Fine Arts, Chenbagaramanputhur, Kanniyakumari District.

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

Government Music College, Chennai was established in the year 1949 and it offers

1. Three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Flute, Ghatam, Kanjira, Morsing, Nadaswaram, Thavil, Folk Arts and Bharatanatyam.
2. Two-year diploma course in Nattuvangam.
3. One-year diploma course in Music Teachers training.
4. Three-year degree courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Bharatanatyam.
5. Evening music college; two-year certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin and Mridangam.

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

Government Music College, Madurai was established in the year 1979 and it offers

1. Three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Thavil, Flute, Nadaswaram, Bharatanatyam and Folk Arts.

2. One-year diploma course in Music Teachers training.
3. Three-year Degree courses in Vocal Music and Bharatanatyam.
4. Evening music college; two-year certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridangam and Bharatanatyam.

#### **1.5.4 Government Music College, Coimbatore**

The Government Music College, Coimbatore was established in the year 1993 and it offers

1. Three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Bharatanatyam, Thavil and Nadaswaram.
2. One-year diploma course in Music Teachers training.
3. Three-year degree courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin and Bharatanatyam.
4. Evening Music College; two-year certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena and Violin.

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

The Government Music College, Thiruvaiyaru was established in the year 1997 and it offers

1. Three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Bharatanatyam, Nadaswaram, Thavil and Folk Arts.
2. Two-year diploma course in Nattuvangam.
3. One-year diploma course in Music teachers training.
4. Three-year degree courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin and Bharatanatyam.
5. Two-year post graduate degree courses in Vocal Music and Veena.
6. Ph.D. in Music.

The students of Government Music Colleges are given a monthly stipend of ₹500/- for 10 months in an academic year.

### **1.5.6 Government Music Schools**

Government Music schools have been established in 17 Districts to provide an opportunity for students to learn music and the arts at Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Thiruvarur, Salem, Pudukkottai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Thoothukudi, Karur, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Krishnagiri, Sirkazhi, Erode and Ramanathapuram.

Three-year certificate courses are offered in Vocal Music, Bharatanatyam, Nadaswaram, Thavil, Thevaram, Violin and Mridangam.

The students of Music Schools are given a monthly stipend of Rs.400/- for 10 months in an academic year.

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

Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai was established in the year 1850 and it offers

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

### **1.5.8 Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam**

Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam was established in the year 1887 and it offers

1. Four-year Degree courses in Painting, Sculpture and Visual Communication Design.



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

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

Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram was established in the year 1957 and it 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 Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts, Tiruchirappalli**

Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts in Tiruchirappalli is a Government-aided college, which functions under the administrative control of the Department of Art and Culture. It offers

1. Ph.D. in Music
2. M.Phil. in Music

3. Two-year Post graduate degree courses in Bharatanatyam, Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Mridangam.
4. Five-year integrated degree courses and Three-year degree courses in Bharatanatyam, Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Mridangam.

### **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 in children to nurture their inherent 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 centers and 2 are rural centers.

The administrative sanction for the construction of a new building for Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram at Mylapore, Chennai

at a cost of ₹2.41 crores has been accorded by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The construction is in progress.

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

Part time training in various disciplines such as Vocal Music, Bharatanatyam, Folk Dance, Crafts, Drama, Gymnastics, Mridangam, Tabla, Karate, Computer, Key Board, Veena, Drums, Bands, Tailoring, Drawing and Painting, Screen Printing, Flute, Yoga and Silambam are provided at the centers located at Chennai and in any four above disciplines at the District Level Centers as per the willingness of the students.

## **TRAINING SCHEMES**

### **1.6.2 District Level Summer Art Training Camp**

District level summer art training camps are being conducted in Siruvar Manram Centers.

### **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 enthusiastically participate and get trained in each camp in Bharatanatyam, folk dance, vocal music, painting, handicrafts, yoga and Silambam.

### **1.6.4 State Level Craft Camp**

State level residential craft camp is conducted every year during quarterly vacation. Training in various arts like terracotta sculpture, toy making, fabric painting, batik, handicrafts and candle making is given to 100 students of Siruvar Manram from all over the state.

### **1.6.5 District Level and State Level Cultural Competitions**

Competitions are held every year in vocal music, Bharatanatyam, 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 competitions are 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, a 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-14<sup>th</sup>), National Bal Bhavan,

New Delhi conducts National Integration Cultural Programs for 3 days in New Delhi. Students of 21 affiliated Jawahar Siruvar Manrams of Tamil Nadu are participating in this programme every year.

### **1.6.7 National Bal Shree Award**

National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi conducts competitions for the selection of the '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).

District level competitions are conducted in the first phase followed by State level

competitions and finally, National level competitions are conducted.

### **1.7 Kalaichemmal Awards**

Painters and Sculptors in the field of traditional and 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 **increased from ₹50,000/- to ₹1,00,000/-** and the number of awardees has been increased from two to six. 21 eminent artists from traditional art forms and 52 eminent artists from contemporary art forms have been conferred with this title so far.

### **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 constituted

by the Government. Best traditional as well as contemporary artworks in Painting and Sculpture are exhibited and awarded. 30 awards are given with prize money of ₹15,000/- each and a certificate of appreciation in the senior category (above 30 years of age). 30 awards are given with prize money of ₹10,000/- each and a certificate of appreciation in the Junior category (30 years and below).

### **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/- per group is given for conducting group shows to 5 groups. A sum of ₹5 lakhs is sanctioned every year.



### **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 their final year B.F.A. at **₹3,000/-** each and 4 educational scholarships for outstanding students studying in their 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 their final year B.F.A. are given an **educational scholarship at ₹3,000/-** each and 2 outstanding students studying in their 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.

### **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, popularize these arts among people and 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 have identified and enlisted 99 folk art forms.

So far 51,403 artistes have registered their names as members of the board and a sum of **₹204.78 lakhs** have been sanctioned for the benefit of 9,097 folk artistes of Tamil Nadu as below: -

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the welfare scheme</b>	<b>Number of beneficiaries</b>	<b>Amount given (Rs. in lakhs)</b>
1	Purchase of spectacles	3863	24.34
2.	Education	3798	53.95
3.	Marriage	653	17.13
4.	Delivery of Child	19	1.14
5.	Miscarriage / termination of pregnancy	1	0.03
6.	Natural Death / Funeral expenses	763	108.19
Total		9097	204.78

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

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Financial assistance</b>	<b>Amount (Rs.)</b>
1	Annual educational assistance (two children)	
	Girl children studying 10 <sup>th</sup> standard	1,000

	10 <sup>th</sup> Passed	1,000
	Girl children studying 11 <sup>th</sup> standard	1,000
	Girl children studying 12 <sup>th</sup> standard	1,500
	12 <sup>th</sup> 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 Technical Institute Course (ITI)	1,000

	Technical Education Courses (Polytechnic), Industrial Technical 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**

Tamil Nadu Sangeetha Nataka Sangam was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1955 to develop and foster the

traditional Tamil arts and renamed 'Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram' in the year 1973 to recognise all three forms of Tamil namely Eyal, Isai and Natakam.

### **1.12.1 Cultural Activities of Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram**

- To organize the exchange of cultural troupes between the States.
- To implement the scheme of conferring State level 'Kalaimamani' awards to the artistes for their service in the field of arts.
- To implement the scheme of conferring three All India Level Awards,
  - 'Bharathi' for Literature,
  - 'M.S.Subbulakshmi' for Music,
  - 'Balasaraswathi' for Dance.
- To extend grants to professional drama and dance drama troupes.
- To conduct various cultural festivals and promote traditional Tamil arts in foreign countries.

- To encourage budding artistes by giving opportunities for their cultural performances.
- To give grants for the publication of rare books on arts.
- To carry out documentation of rare art forms.

### **1.12.2 Kalaimamani Award**

Gold Medal of 5 sovereigns (40 grams) and citation is given to each Kalaimamani Awardee. 1,924 artistes have been conferred with this award so far.

### **1.12.3 Other Activities**

- To distribute Porkizhi worth ₹1,00,000/- cash award to senior Kalaimamani artistes who live in indigent circumstances.
- To sanction a one-time family maintenance grant of ₹25,000/- to the families of deceased famous artistes.
- To sanction financial assistance to the aged indigent artistes ₹3,000/- per month.
- To provide grants for the production of new dramas and dance dramas.

- To provide grants to folk artistes and troupes to purchase musical instruments and costumes.
- To recommend travel concession to drama artistes and art troupes in Government buses and trains 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 the other four southern States and three Union Territories. It conducts cultural programs in the member States.

### **1.14 Announcements 2022-2023:-**

1. A sum of ₹6 Crores was sanctioned for conducting 'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha' grand folk art festival in Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli in addition to Chennai. The festival was conducted in Chennai in January 2023 and will be conducted in four other cities this year.



2. Providing online services to avail the benefits of Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka manram at a cost of ₹20 lakhs. The work is under progress and it will be completed in December 2023.
3. A sum of ₹1 crore was sanctioned for promoting Tamil folk and classical arts by organizing cultural programs at various locations like parks, beaches, museums and other places where people congregate. Of the 163 programs planned, 64 have been conducted and the programme is an ongoing one. The remaining will be completed by end of July 2023.
4. A sum of ₹1.43 crores was sanctioned for the renovation of the Open-air Auditorium of Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University. The renovation work will be completed by end of June 2023.

5. A sum of ₹97.80 lakhs was sanctioned for the upgradation of buildings in Government Fine Arts College, Kumbakonam. The renovation will be completed by end of June 2023.
6. A sum of ₹7.33 crores was sanctioned for the renovation of the Heritage buildings in Government Fine Arts College, Chennai. The renovation work is under progress and it will be completed in August 2024.
7. A sum of ₹15.26 crores was sanctioned for the construction of new buildings for Government Fine Arts College, Kumbakonam. The construction will be completed by end of June 2024.
8. A sum of ₹6 crores was sanctioned for modernizing teaching and improving pedagogy in Government Music Schools, Colleges and Jawahar Siruvar Manrams by

providing new equipment, lab facilities, software etc. The work is under progress and it will be completed by December 2023.

9. A sum of ₹1.60 crores was sanctioned for the construction of a new building for the District Government Music School, Cuddalore. The construction work is under progress, and it will be completed in September 2023.
10. A sum of ₹2.80 crores was sanctioned for the renovation of 'Brodie Castle' – the Heritage building of Government Music College, Chennai. The renovation work is under progress and it will be completed in December 2024.
11. A sum of ₹49.86 lakhs was sanctioned for the upgradation of the Sculpture Museum of Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram and for setting up a sale and display counter. The

renovation work will be completed by end of May 2023.

12. A sum of ₹1.54 crores was sanctioned for the upgradation of an office building, artistes hostel, portrait gallery and auditorium of the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram. The renovation work will be completed by end of June 2023.
13. A sum of ₹50 lakhs was sanctioned for conducting Pongal Kalai Vizha in Chennai and ten other districts by Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram. The Vizha was conducted in Chennai and six districts. In the other four Districts it will be organized by end of May 2023
14. A sum of ₹3 crores was sanctioned for enhancement of annual Government grant to Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.

### **1.15 Achievements:-**

1. A grand folk art festival titled 'Chennai Sangamam - Namma Ooru Thiruvizha' was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at Island Grounds on 13.01.2023. The festival was conducted at 18 venues in Chennai from 14.01.2023 to 17.01.2023 with the participation of about 1000 folk artistes performing more than 40 art forms.
2. A folk and classical art forms festival namely 'Kalai Sangamam' was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries at Government Museum, Chennai. Cultural programmes are being organized at weekends at various locations like parks, beaches, museums and other places where people congregate in Tamil Nadu.

3. A sum of ₹ 91.11 lakhs was provided as financial assistance to the legal heirs of 123 indigent artistes.
4. A sum of ₹70 lakhs was given to 500 Artists who were the winners of District Arts Awards.
5. Tamil Nadu folk artistes welfare board sanctioned a sum of ₹31.19 lakhs to 733 registered members of folk artistes for various welfare schemes.
6. Financial assistance was provided to 500 folk artistes for purchase of musical instruments, costumes and ornaments through Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram at a cost of ₹50 lakhs.
7. One time Porkizhi financial assistance was given to 10 Kalaimamani Awardees who are living in indigent conditions through Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram at a cost of ₹10 lakhs.

### **1.16 Other achievements:-**

1. Colorful cultural programs were organized at seven locations in Chennai during Chess Olympiad.
2. Cultural programmes namely 'Tamil Sangam Chithirai Vizha' were organized in Chandigarh.
3. A dance drama Velu Natchiyar was organized in Chennai and various parts of the state to commemorate 75 years of Indian independence.
4. A cultural programme was organized at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.
5. A cultural programme was organized with 90 women artistes and students during the inauguration of the 'Puthumai Pen Scheme' by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in Chennai.

6. A cultural programme namely the 'National Lokrang Cultural festival' was organized in Jaipur.
7. Cultural programmes were organized under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' scheme in Jammu.
8. Cultural programmes were organized in Malaysia to commemorate the 75 years of the establishment of the oldest Indian diaspora associations.
9. Pongal festival cultural programmes were organized at Tamil Nadu House and State Assembly, New Delhi.
10. Spectacular cultural programmes were organized during 'G-20 Education Working Group Meetings' at Chennai and Mamallapuram from 31.01.2023 to 02.02.2023.
11. Cultural programmes were organized in Chennai during the 'World Tamil Diaspora Day' Celebrations.



12. Classical vocal music performances were given in the temples in Chennai, Madurai, Srivilliputhur and Palani by a group of 108 students of Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University and Government Music Colleges.
13. Cultural programmes were organized at Madurai, Thanjavur, Mamallapuram and Tranquebar during the 'World Heritage Week' in January 2023.
14. Cultural programme was organized at Civil Service Training Institute, Bhavani Sagar.
15. Cultural programmes were organized in New Delhi, Chennai and 20 District Head quarters during Tamil Nadu Day celebrations.

16. Cultural programmes were organized at Mamallapuram during the Indian Dance festival.
17. Cultural programmes were organized in Global Economic Summit and Ninth World Tamils Economic Conference in Dubai.
18. Campus interviews were organized for the first time in Government Music, Fine Arts and Architecture & Sculpture Colleges and placements were arranged for 173 students.
19. Skill development training programmes were organized for the lecturers of the Government Colleges of Fine Arts and Architecture & Sculpture at Anna Institute of Management, Chennai.
20. Skill development training programmes were organized for the lecturers and teachers of

Government Music Colleges and Music Schools through eminent experts.

21. 33 workshops and 6 number of art exhibitions were organized to improve the skills of students at Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai & Kumbakonam and Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram.
22. State-level craft workshop in Thanjavur and State level winter camp in Madurai was organized for the students of Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram.

### **1.17 Conclusion**

The Department of Art and Culture functions with zeal to promote the arts and to ensure the well-being of artists by providing them with opportunities and assistance under

various schemes. Spectacular art forms of Tamil Nadu are proudly displayed to the world in grandly organized cultural programmes. Providing quality art education to the next generation is being done by involving accomplished experts in the respective fields. The department is also engaged in the preservation of the rich cultural heritage of the State through the documentation of art forms.

**Annexure**  
**Cultural Programmes (2022-2023)**

<b>Sl No.</b>	<b>Cultural programmes</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Date</b>	<b>Event conducted by</b>	<b>Amount (Rs. in lakh)</b>
1	District Youth Art Competitions	Tenkasi 02.04.2022 Kanniyakumari 09.04.2022 Virudhunagar 30.04.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	2.70
2	District Cultural Programmes	Virudhunagar 16.04.2022 Sivakasi 25.05.2022 Tuticorin 13.05.2022 Tenkasi 16.05.2022 to 21.05.2022 Kanniyakumari 17.06.2022 Azhagunatchiyapuram 20.07.2022 to 22.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli.	3.50
3	District Youth Art Competitions	Mayiladuthurai 16.04.2022 Nagapattinam 17.04.2022 Villupuram 23.04.2022 Thanjavur 09.05.2022 Kallakurichi 21.05.2022 Cuddalore 06.06.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	8.10
4	District Youth Art Competition	Tiruvannamalai 22.04.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	1.35

5	District Youth Art Competition	Dindigul 24.04.2022 Sivaganga 09.06.2022 Madurai 10.06.2022 Ramanathapuram 18.06.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	5.40
6	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Perambalur 24.04.2022 to 27.04.2022 Karur 26.05.2022 & 30.05.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	1.85
7	District Cultural Programme	Nagapattinam 24.04.2022 Cuddalore 18.05.2022, 25.05.2022 to 27.05.2022 Thiruvavarur 31.05.2022 Mayiladuthurai 31.05.2022 Thanjavur 04.06.2022 & 28.06.2022, 30.06.2022 15.07.2022 to 18.07.2022 Villupuram 13.06.2022, 14.06.2022 11.02.2023 Kallakurichi 12.07.2022 to 14.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	3.22
8	District Youth Art Competition	Coimbatore 08.05.2022 Erode 13.05.2022 Tirupur 09.07.2022 Ooty 10.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	5.4

9	Summer festival	Kodaikanal (Dindigul) 23.05.2022 to 31.05.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	2.43
10	Summer festival	Kothagiri (The Nilgiris) 07.05.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	1.00
11	Summer festival	Ooty (The Nilgiris) 25.05.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	2.0
12	Summer festival	Yercad (Salem) 29.05.2022 & 31.05.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.00
13	Mangani Vizha	Krishnagiri 06.07.2022, 09.07.2022, 10.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.00
14	Tamil Nadu Day Vizha	Chennai 18.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centers Kancheepuram Madurai, Tirunelveli Thanjavur	5.35
15	Aadi Krithigai Vizha	Thiruvallur (Tiruttani) 23.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	0.65
16	Inter National Chess Olympiad	Madurai 25.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.85
17	International Chess Olympiad	Chennai 26.07.2022 and 28.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	1.56
18	Valvil Ori Vizha	Namakkal 02.08.2022 and 03.08.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.50

19	Adiperukku Vizha	Hohenakkal (Dharmapuri District) 02.08.2022 to 04.08.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.50
20	Adiperukku Vizha (Kalai sangamam)	Erode 03.08.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	0.25
21	Courtallam Saral Thiru Vizha 2022	Tenkasi 05.08.2022 to 12.08.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	4.5
22	Independence Day Celebration	Bavani Sagar, Erode District 15.08.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	1.00
23	Book Festival	Madurai 26.09.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.40
24	Kalai Sangamam	The Nilgiris 27.09.2022 Kallakurichi 19.12.2022 Coimbatore 11.01.2023 Thanjavur 25.01.2023 to 29.01.2023 Tirupur 27.01.2023 Perambalur 28.01.2023, 29.01.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centers, Coimbatore, Thanjavur Tiruchirappalli	3.75
25	State Level Craft Camp	Thanjavur 01.10.2022 to 05.10.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	4.00
26	Navarathiri Vizha	Ramanathapuram 03.10.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.35



27	Raja Raja Cholan Sadaya Vizha	Mayiladuthurai 02.11.2022 to 03.11.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	1.50
28	District Cultural Programme	Ranipet 17.12.2022 Tiruvallur 17.12.2022 Chengalpattu 22.12.2022 Kancheepuram 23.12.2022 to 31.12.2022 Tirupathur 30.12.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	9.5
29	Regional level Art Exhibition	Tiruvarur 13.12.2022 &14.12.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	1.00
30	Winter Training Camp	Madurai 24.12.2022 to 01.01.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	4.00
31	Margazhi Isai Vizha	Sri Rangam 30.12.2022 to 01.01.2023 Madurai 02.01.2023 Kancheepuram 04.01.2023 Virudhunagar 08.01.2023 Salem 25.02.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centers, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Kanchipuram, Tirunelveli and Salem	11.00
32	Thai Poosam Vizha	Dindigul 02.02.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	3.00
Total				94.61

## Cultural Programmes conducted in Co-ordination with South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur (2022-2023)

Sl. No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event co-ordinated by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	International Chess Olympiad	Chennai 28.07.2022	South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	2.62
2	Vaikunda Ekadesi Vizha	Tiruchirappalli 31.12.2022 & 01.01.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	3.00
3	Chennai Sangamam - Namma Ooru Thiruvizha	Chennai 14.01.2023 to 17.01.2023	South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	4.00
4	Kaliyoorun Kaviri	Tiruchirappalli 10.01.2023 to 12.01.2023	South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	1.20
5	Vayaloor Village Temple Festival	Kancheepuram 30.01.2023 & 31.01.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	1.50
6	Maha Sivarathiri Vizha	Nedungudi 18.02.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	1.00
7	Thiruvani Sangamam Kalai Vizha	Kanniyakumari 04.03.2023 & 05.03.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	4.00
8	Spring fest 2023	Chennai 06.03.2023 to 09.03.2023	Tamil Nadu Dr.J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University	3.75

9	Summer Festival 2022	19.05.2022 to 31.05.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	5.86
Total				26.93

### Inter-state Cultural Programmes (2022-2023)

Sl. No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event coordinated by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Chithirai Thiruvizha	Chandigarh, 28.05.2022 to 01.06.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	3.00
2	LBSNAA, Uttarkhand	Mussoorie 21.07.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	1.14
3	National Lokrang Cultural Festival	Jaipur 17.10.2022 and 18.10.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	9.90
4	Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat	Jammu Kashmir 13.11.2022 to 15.11.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	15.00
5	Pongal Festival	Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi 14.01.2023 and 15.01.2023 New Delhi Assembly 17.01.2023	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	4.34
Total				33.38

## Abroad Cultural Programmes (2022-2023)

Sl. No	Cultural Programmes	Venue & Date	Event coordinated by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Classical programme	Malaysia (Sabha, Sarvak) 03.12.2022 to 06.12.2022	Indian Embassy in Malaysia	13.00
2.	Folk & Classical Programmes	Dubai 18.03.2023, 19.03.2023	Global Economic Summit and Ninth World Tamils Economic Conference, Madras Development Society.	11.50
Total				24.50

## District Art Awards (2022-2023)

Sl. No	Regional Name	District	Year of Award	No. of Awardees	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	Kancheepuram	Chennai	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Thiruvallur	2016-2017 to 2018 -2019, 2021-2022	30	4.05
		Ranipet	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Chengalpet	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Thirupattur	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Kancheepuram	2021-2022	15	2.10
2	Salem	Dharmapuri	2022-2023	15	2.10
		Krishnagiri	2022-2023	15	2.10

		Namakkal	2022-2023	15	2.10
3	Coimbatore	Erode	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Tiruppur	2018-2019, 2021-2022	20	2.85
		The Nilgiris	2018-2019	5	0.75
		Coimbatore	2021-2022	15	2.10
4	Thanjavur	Tiruvarur	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Nagapattinam	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Cuddalore	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Villupuram	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Kallakurichi	2021-2022	15	2.10
5	Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Karur	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Pudukkottai	2021-2022, 2022-2023	30	4.20
6	Madurai	Theni	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Dindugul	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Sivagangai	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Ramanatha puram	2018 -2019, 2021-2022	20	2.85
		Madurai	2018 -2019, 2021-2022	20	2.85
7	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Tuticorin	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Viruthunagar	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Kanniya kumari	2021-2022	15	2.10
		Tenkasi	2021-2022	15	2.10
Total				400	70.05



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated Chennai Sangamam – Namma Ooru Thiruvizha a grand Folk Art festival at Island grounds, Chennai on 13.01.2023.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed cheques @ Rs. 10,000/- each to 500 folk artists for purchasing musical instruments, costumes and ornaments on 14.10.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated grand Dance Drama depicting the life of first woman freedom fighter Veera Mangai Velu Natchiyar in Chennai on 13.08.2022.





The Hon'ble Minister for Industries inaugurated KalaiSangamam, a folk and classical art forms festival at Government Museum, Chennai on 17.09.2022.



Cultural programme organized in Chennai during Tamil Nadu Day celebration on 18.07.2022.



Classical dance programme conducted to welcome Chess Olympiad players in Chennai on 27.07.2022.



Folk dance programme conducted to welcome Chess Olympiad players in Chennai on 28.07.2022.



Dance Drama depicting life of Veera Mangai Velu Natchiyar in Chennai on 13.08.2022.





A grand cultural programme organized for G20 First Education Working Group Meeting in Chennai from 31.01.2023 to 02.02.2023.



Participation of G20 delegates in Cultural programme held in Mamallapuram on 01.02.2023.

# **DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS**

## **POLICY NOTE**

### **2023-2024**

#### **2. Introduction**

Museums play a vital role in preserving humanity's cultural heritage through authentication and exhibition of material evidence from various cultural sequences. As educational institutions, they promote experiential learning and foster an appreciation for our past. Throughout history, museums have served as indicators of social and cultural development, adapting to meet the evolving requirements of their audiences while staying focused on their missions.

##### **2.1. Objectives of the Department**

The museum collects, documents, preserves, and displays antiquities of cultural value and educates the visiting public about our cultural and historical heritage. The primary

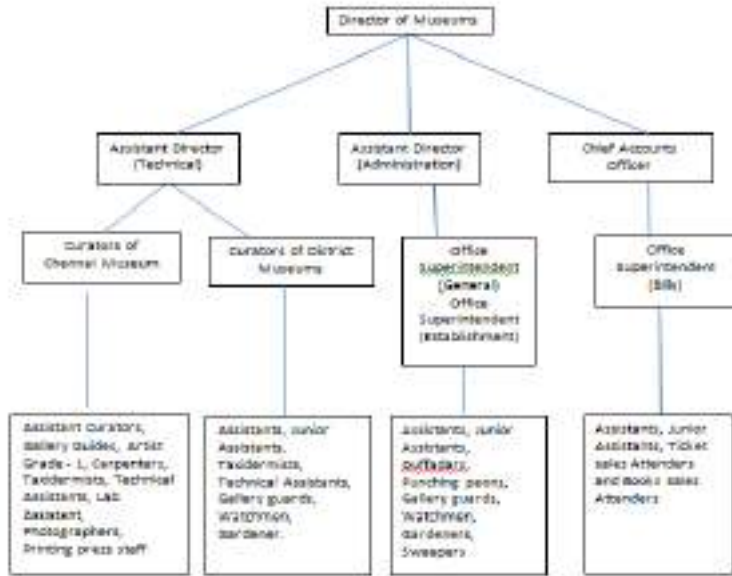


objectives of the Department of Museums are as follows:

1. Collection of objects.
2. Conservation of exhibits for posterity.
3. Storage and documentation.
4. Research and communication of the findings to visitors.
5. Exhibiting the collections for public viewing through thematic galleries and conducting periodical and special exhibitions.
6. Conducting Educational activities to impart knowledge about its valuable collections.

## **2.2. Administrative Structure**

The Department of Museums manages the Government Museum, Chennai as well as 23 District Museums. The department is headed by the Director of Museums, who is assisted by two Assistant Directors (Technical and administration), a Chief Accounts Officer, Curators, Assistant Curators, Guides, and Technical Staff.



### 2.3. The Government Museum, Chennai

The Government Museum, Chennai is the second oldest museum in India and was established in 1851 AD. It is a multi-purpose museum with seven buildings exhibiting unique artefacts in 57 Galleries covering Arts, Archaeology, Numismatics, Anthropology, Geology, Botany and Zoology and has a Children’s Museum. The sections dealing with

Education, Design and display and Chemical conservation provide support to these Galleries. World-famous bronze icons, Amaravati limestone sculptures, Robert Bruce Foote prehistoric collections, Adichanallur megalithic collections, Thanjavur armoury, coins of various dynasties, roman antiquities, fossils, the imposing 60-feet blue whale skeleton, Raja Ravi Varma paintings, etc. are just a few of the celebrated collections that are proudly displayed in the Government Museum in Chennai. The Geology Gallery and Children's museum have interactive exhibits and life-size dynamic models that attract children.

#### **2.4. District Government Museums**

There are 23 district Government Museums functioning at Pudukkottai, Salem, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Erode, Cuddalore, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Kanniyakumari, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, Thiruvavarur, Palani, Nagapattinam, Kancheepuram,

Ramanathapuram, Karur, Virudhunagar, Andipatti, Tiruvannamalai and Ariyalur under the Department of Museums, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government Museums at Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and the Nilgiris are functioning in Government owned heritage buildings.

## **2.5. Status of various works**

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced the upgradation of the Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai along with the Restoration of the Heritage Building at an expenditure of Rs.6 crore. Government Orders are issued and the restoration works are being carried out by the Public Works Department.
- Restoration of the Pantheon Heritage Building (built in 1780 AD) and the Renovation of galleries at a cost of Rs.5.41 crore is in progress.

- Restoration of Heritage Building and establishment of a cafeteria by modifying the existing old vintage building at an estimated cost of Rs.2.81 crore is under progress.
- Construction of a new Administrative Block and development of infrastructure facilities at an estimated cost of Rs.4.80 crore are being executed by Public Works Department.
- Construction of a Compound Wall by Public Works Department on two sides of the fossil site at the Fossil Museum in Ariyalur in order to protect the fossil beds at an estimated cost of Rs.90 lakh.
- Establishment of a new Government Museum in Villupuram district at an estimated cost of Rs.5.60 crore. Tender is being processed by Public Works Department.

- The Government Museum in Ramanathapuram district is being upgraded by providing a new building and infrastructure at an estimated cost of Rs.4.40 crore. Detailed Project Report preparation is being prepared by architect.
- Holistic upgradation of the bronze gallery in Government Museum Chennai on par with international standards at a cost of Rs.7 crore. The Detailed Project Report with BoQ (Bill of Quantities) has been prepared.
- The Museum Theatre (Heritage building) at Government Museum, Chennai is being renovated by providing upgraded seating arrangements and conservation of the leaky roof at a cost of Rs. 3 crore.
- Shifting of Government Museum, Kancheepuram to the new Tourist Interpretation Centre building of Arulmigu

Ekambareshwar Temple with modern display and interactive exhibits at a cost of Rs.2 crore. The Detailed Project Report is being vetted by Public Works Department.

- Relocation of the Government Museum in Nagapattinam to a heritage building with proper restoration and new display arrangements at an estimated cost of Rs.1.40 crore is in progress.
- Chemical Conservation Laboratory is being upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs.50 lakh with the addition of modern infrastructure and equipment. Two contract conservators have been appointed.
- Repairing and refurbishing the sandstone heritage compound wall in front of the Government Museum, Chennai at an estimated cost of Rs.45 Lakh is in progress.

- 3D laser projection mapping on National Art Gallery at a cost of Rs.8 crore. The tendering process is being implemented by TTDC.

## **2.6. Special Events**

- ❖ On August 15, 2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu unveiled the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Chennai Museum campus to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indian Independence. During the occasion, he inaugurated a special exhibition about the Freedom Movement in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Six month long Exhibition titled "Agam-Puram" which introduces the Heritage and History of Tamil culture was inaugurated in Linden Museum of Stuttgart, Germany. The exhibition traces the history of tamil civilization based on the theme of "Love and war" over a period of 3000 years.



### **2.6.1 Signing of MoU between Government Museum, Chennai and Linden Museum, Stuttgart, Germany.**

The Hon'ble Minister for Industries and the Principal Secretary, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, visited Germany. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Government Museum, Chennai and Linden Museum, Stuttgart, Germany on 07.10.2022.

The following are some of the objectives of the MoU:

1. Scholarly co-operation and development of joint projects between Linden Museum and Government Museum, Chennai.
2. Organize joint academic activities such as conferences, symposia, residencies and exchanges or exhibitions.
3. Exchange of materials and publications of common interest.

## **2.7. Publications**

Books and catalogues in various subjects including Museology, Archaeology, Anthropology, Art, Botany, Geology, Zoology, Numismatics and Chemical conservation of artefacts have been published by the Government Museum in Chennai. Many of these publications are on par with the best books published by other International Museums. They serve the world widely as reference books as they are the outcome of considerable research on antiquities and specimens from museum collections.

## **2.8. Latest collections in the Department of Museums**

During the year 2023-2024, the Department of Museums collected various bronzes and stone sculptures from different parts of the State as treasure troves through the Museums in Chennai and the Districts.

### **2.8.1. Government Museum, Chennai**

The Government Museum, Chennai received various Treasure Trove objects like standing Siva, Parvati, Devi and Ganesa bronzes, broken pieces of copper vessels, pot and aureole from Kunimedu village, Marakkaanam Taluk, Viluppuram District on 06.04.2023. 106 Gold coins of the Vijayanagara period were received as treasure troves from Magaral Village, Kancheepuram District. Gold ornaments like necklaces, earlobes etc., were received as treasure troves from Vedappalayam Village, Uthiramerur Taluk, Kancheepuram District.

A nuclear power plant model 700MW PHRI was handed over by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd., Mumbai to the Department of Museum, Chennai to put on display for creating awareness among the museum visitors. In the function held on 23.06.2022, the Principal Secretary to the Government, Tourism, Culture

and Religious Endowments Department, and Director of Museums received the model.

### **2.8.2. District Government Museums**

Stone Sculptures of Mahavira, Murugan with inscribed letters, Karuppanaswami, headless male figurine, Naagar, Amman, Sathikal, Perumal with Pedestal and Raghavendra, Brass idol of Perumal were received as treasure troves in Virudhunagar Museum. Chandikesvara, Gargoyle, Nandi, Sivalingam and Tirthankara were received by Tiruchirappalli Museum. Suriyan stone sculpture was received by Ariyalur District Museum. A Vishnu stone sculpture was received by Vellore District Museum and the Jeshta stone sculpture was received by Kancheepuram District Museum.

### **2.9. Educational activities**

The department routinely conducts various educational events to meet the educational needs of students, hobbyists and researchers. It organizes seminars, training sessions,

workshops and lectures. Every year, a variety of events and contests are organised to inspire and motivate students to actively participate in understanding and appreciating the museum and its treasures. The museum offers internships for researchers and postgraduate and undergraduate students to help them in their research works and develop their professional skills. 3153 Students from 75 colleges have undergone internship training in the subjects of Archaeology, Anthropology, Art, Numismatics and Science sections such as Botany, Zoology and Geology in the State through the Chennai and District Museums.

### **2.9.1. The Government Museum, Chennai has organized the following educational activities:**

- World Heritage Day was celebrated on 18.04.2022. Heritage Walk was conducted for 300 college students in coordination with Arivukkan pathippakam.

- International Museum Day was celebrated on 18.05.2022. A Lecture on "The Role of Inscriptions in Museums" was organized for students from colleges in Chennai city.
- The "Word Environment Day" was celebrated on 01.06.2022. A Lecture on "The Role of Museums in the Environment Education" was organized followed by a tree walk.
- The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated Gandhi's photo exhibition at contemporary art gallery on 15.08.2022.
- A special photo exhibition on Gandhi Jayanthi was held on 01.10.2022. 153 children from around Tamil Nadu dressed up as Gandhi participated at Government Museum, Chennai.
- On 15.01.2023, Pongal festival special program with a Rangoli competition was conducted. A 15 feet Pongal pot and Jallikattu models were kept for display at the entrance which attracted the visitors as "Selfie Spots".

- Curators participated in Panel discussions at Conservation Conclave, CSMVS (Chhathrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya), Mumbai and Museum Biennale at Smritivan Museum in Bhuj, Gujarat on 22.2.2023 and 4.3.2023 respectively.
- Epigraphy training was given to 30 students from 5 colleges in Chennai at the Archaeology section on 7.03.2023 and 8.3.2023.

### **2.9.2. District Government Museums**

Special Commemorative Days like World Heritage Day, International Museum Day, World Tourism Day, Yoga Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, World Environment Day, National Science Day, Children's Day, Philately Day, etc., were observed at the District Museums. Several events like competitions, special exhibitions, heritage walks, workshops, and training programs were also conducted to attract visitors and students alike. In addition, training was

imparted on inscriptions and the preservation of palm leaves. A few events are listed below:

- On the occasion of International Museum Day on 18.05.2022, Erode Museum organized a special photo exhibition on the theme "From Global to Local", highlighting the first museums of the world, India and Tamil Nadu.
- An international conference was held on 26-06-2022 at Government Museum, Tirunelveli on "Impact of Bharathi on Modern literature". 160 persons including professors and research students from various districts of Tamil Nadu submitted research papers.
- National Book Fair was organized by the Government Museum, Tirunelveli from 18-06-2022 to 30-06-2022 in association with New Century Book House. Various events like speech, poetry and essay competitions were conducted daily and prizes distributed to the winners.



- A special exhibition titled "Tamil Women in Freedom Struggle" was conducted on the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15.08.2022 at the Government Museum, Erode.
- Field trips were conducted to Erode Kasthuri Aranganathar Temple, Periyar Memorial House and Bharathiyar Museum for the final year history students of JKKN College of Arts and Science.
- In Salem Museum, Painting Exhibition about Freedom Fighters was conducted on 15-08-2022. A lecture on the importance of palm leaf manuscripts conservation was organized on 23-11-2022.
- On World Elephant Day (12-08-2022), an exercise to explain the stories told by the elephant sculptures in Nellaiappar Kovil was organized for school students by Tirunelveli Museum. Students were given

training on sketching the elephant sculptures.

- 186 Students from 62 Schools participated in the Drawing Competition in connection with Children's Day held at Government Museum, Vellore.
- Three days Taxidermy workshop was organized by Government Museums Madurai and Chennai at Lady Doak College in Madurai for the Zoological department. Forty students and seven faculty members participated from 16.03.2023 to 18.03.2023.

## **2.10. Conclusion**

Museums are the connecting corridor between the past and the present. The Department of Museums, Chennai is breaking new ground in its mission to educate and entertain the public about our rich cultural

heritage by providing a visitor-friendly environment. This museum is geared to equipping itself with state of the art technologies like Augmented Reality, 3D Projection Mapping, Virtual Reality and Gesture-based Display Setups. By adopting such technological advancements in the field of Museology, the Department of Museums is contributing to Culture, History and Heritage for the betterment of the upcoming society.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu viewing the Gandhi statue sculpted by D.P.Roy Choudhury at the Contemporary art gallery on 15.8.2022



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated 'Freedom struggle in Thamizhagam' - photo exhibition at Contemporary Art Gallery on 15.08.2022.



A model of nuclear power plant 700MW PHRI was handed over by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd., Mumbai to the Department of Museums, Chennai on 23.6.2022



Three days Taxidermy workshop was organized by Government Museums, Madurai and Chennai at Lady Doak College in Madurai from 16.03.2023 to 18.03.2023





106 Gold coins of the Vijayanagara period were received as treasure troves from Magaral Village, Kancheepuram District.

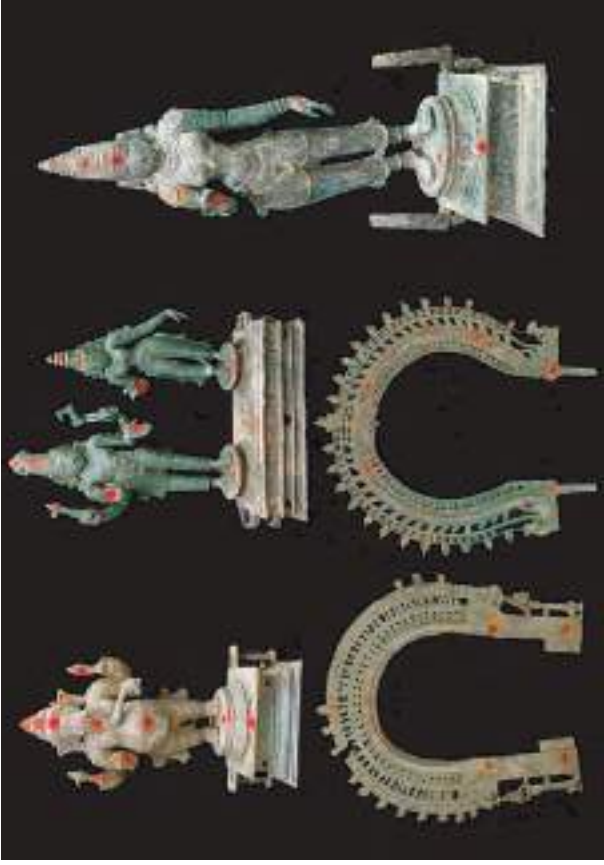




153 children from all over Tamil Nadu dressed up as Gandhi participated in Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations at Government Museum, Chennai on 1.10.2022



Gold ornaments like necklaces, earlobes, etc., were received as treasure troves from Vedappalayam Village, Uthiramerur Taluk, Kancheepuram District.



The Government Museum, Chennai received various Treasure Troves from Kunimedu village, Marakkaanam Taluk, Viluppuram District on 06.04.2023.

# **DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

## **POLICY NOTE**

### **2023-2024**

#### **3. Introduction**

Archaeology is an interdisciplinary subject and plays a vital role in reconstructing the history of a region. It exposes the social, political and cultural conditions that existed during ancient times with authentic archaeological antiquities recovered from explorations and excavations. It is the scientific study of material remains such as fossil relics, artefacts and monuments of past human life and activities. The term archaeology is derived from the Greek words 'archaeos' meaning 'ancient' and logos meaning 'study, discussion, reason or science'.

### **3.1. Objectives of the Department**

The 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.

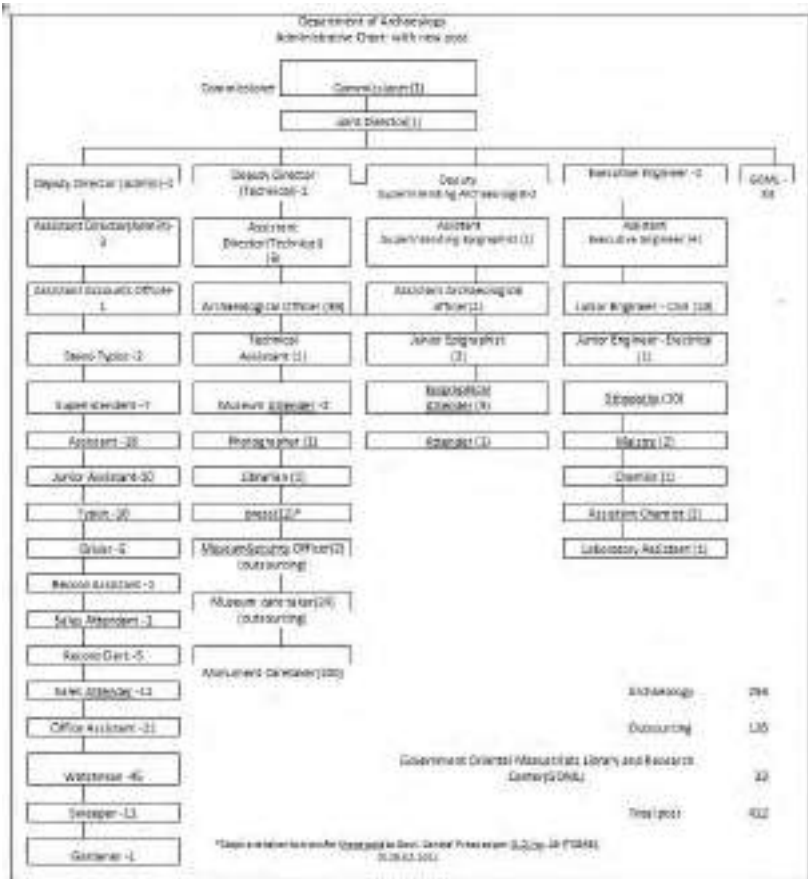
### **3.2. Administrative Structure**

The Department is headed by the Director of Archaeology and is assisted by Deputy Director, Deputy Superintending Archaeologists, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant

Superintending Epigraphist, Assistant Directors (Regional) and Archaeological Officers.

The Archaeological Wing was strengthened by creating 24 posts such as 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 Sthapathis, one Deputy Director (Admin.) and two Assistant Directors (Admin.).

For the newly established site museum at Keeladi, 34 new posts viz. two Archaeological officers, two Assistant Archaeological officers, one Superintendent, one Assistant, two Junior Assistants, 24 museum caretakers (Security), two museum security officers have been sanctioned by the Government.



### 3.3. Path breaking discoveries

The analysis of carbon samples collected from the Keeladi excavations assigned their date to the 6th century BCE (580 BCE). This date scientifically pushes back the date of

Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) to the 6th century BCE, which is almost a century earlier than the hitherto established period of 5th century BCE. This is evidence of the high levels of literacy that were achieved by the Tamils in the 6th century BCE.

The findings of Keeladi prove beyond doubt that the second urbanization was very much present in Tamil Nadu in the 6th century BCE as it was in the Gangetic Valley.

The carbon samples of paddy recovered from an urn burial at Sivagalai near Adichanallur were sent for AMS Carbon Dating to the prestigious Beta Analytical Laboratory located in Miami, Florida State of USA. The results are quite a revelation to the archaeological community. Rice along with the husk found in an offering pot in the urn at Sivagalai were dated to 1155 BCE.



This scientifically establishes that the Porunai (Tamiraparani) river civilization is at least 3200 years old. This discovery of monumental significance was announced on the floor of the Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 09.09.2021.

The excavation conducted at Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district yielded two important AMS dates that provide clues for understanding the introduction of iron and also the transformation from the late Neolithic Phase to the Iron Age. The present two AMS dates obtained from Mayiladumparai further substantiate the existence of the Iron Age in the second millennium BCE and the Neolithic phase before this date in Tamil Nadu.

### **3.4. Conservation of Protected Monuments**

India has a rich, vast and diverse cultural heritage that has left behind a collection of monuments built across the country. Rich views

of a wide variety of historical monuments and archaeological sites can be seen. Tamil Nadu firmly showcases its rich heritage and its history in modern times. They travel back and forth to Tamil Nadu to see the glorious and beautiful art and architectural heritage. The art found in the timeless historical monuments reveals the elegance and skills of the ancient sculptors. The vimanas and towers of the temples have beautiful characteristics of ancient architecture. The State also has cave temples, monolithic temples, forts, ponds, structural temples, Choudhry and mandapas.

These are inherently secular and religious. Temples and other buildings are damaged due to various natural calamities and unnatural events. Therefore, they need proper protection and conservation.

Conservation and restoration work carried out by conservation methods and archaeological principles in ancient heritage sites and

archaeological sites are unique. The Government of Tamil Nadu has enacted the "Tamil Nadu Ancient Monument and Historical and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1966 (Tamil Nadu Act 25 of 1966) and Rules, 1971" to protect and reconstruct the historical monuments in the State.

According to the above law and rules, "ancient historical monument" means any construction or symbol which has historical, archaeological or artistic significance and is more than a hundred years old. It refers to a mound or burial ground, a cave and rock sculpture, an inscription or a monolithic monument.

So far, the Government of Tamil Nadu has declared 103 historical monuments and archaeological sites, including a total of 100 historical monuments and 3 excavation sites as "Protected historical monuments".

Out of the above 103 historical monuments and archaeological sites Madurai Thirumalai Nayak Mahal, Ramanathapuram Ramalinga Vilasam Palace, Thanjavur Maratha Palace, Manora Memorial Pillar at Sarapendrarajapattinam in Thanjavur District, Danish Fort and the Governor's Bungalow at Tarangambadi in Mayiladuthurai District are important tourist attractions and places that continue to attract tourists.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has so far declared 411 monuments. It preserves a total of 251 historical monuments and 160 archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu.

### **3.5. Newly identified and notified monuments**

Recently megalithic monuments, Pangunatham village, Dharmapuri District; Jain Tirthankara sculptures, Ananthamangalam village, Maduranthagam taluk, Chengalpattu

District; Tamil inscription, Neganurpatti village, Gingee taluk, Villupuram District; Tamil inscription, Jain Tirthankara and Jain beds, Thondur village, Gingee taluk, Villupuram District; Tamil inscriptions and Jain beds, Mudalaikulam village, Usilampatti taluk, Madurai District; Tamil inscriptions and Jain Tirthankara sculpture, Arittapatti village, Melur taluk, Madurai District have been declared as historical monuments.

### **3.6. New Excavation Sites**

Burial grounds and habitation sites found in Kondagai and Agaram village Thiruppuvanam Taluk, Sivagangai District; Iron Age Graveyard, Sivagalai Village, Eral Taluk, Thoothukudi District and Habitation land, Megalithic Burials in Kodumanal of Perundurai Taluk in Erode district are the new sites to be included in the list of protected archaeological sites.

Apart from these, Pathinalamperi in Tirunelveli District; Mahipalanpatti in Sivaganga District; Kurathiyarai and Sivagiri in Kanniyakumari District; Early Pandyan cave temples in 10 villages of Pudupatti, Sevelipatti, Thiruchuli, Moovaraivendran, Thiruthangal and Anaiyur in Virudhunagar District are being declared as protected monuments.

Accordingly, a preliminary notification has been issued to declare the Cave Temple at Mahipalanpatti of Sivagangai District and the Early Pandya Cave Temple at Pathinalamperi of Tirunelveli District and Muthammal Chatram at Muthambalpuram Village, Orthanad Taluk of Thanjavur District as protected historical monuments.

Also, 83 historical monuments have been identified by the Department of Archaeology for being declared as "protected monuments and sites".

### **3.7. Funds for regular maintenance of Protected Monuments**

A sum of Rs.2 crore is being provided annually by the Government of Tamil Nadu as recurring expenditure for the maintenance of protected monuments and excavation sites. Accordingly, the above historical monuments and excavation sites have been selected on a priority basis and the works are being carried out.

### **3.8. Conservation and Restoration of old Forts and Palaces**

During the Hon'ble Governor's Address for the year 2021, an announcement was made that "a master plan will be unveiled in the current year for fully realizing Tamil Nadu's tourism potential. Heritage tourism will be given a boost by restoring and renovating old forts and palaces while retaining their originality". In this regard, the following three protected monuments are being taken up for conservation

and restoration work. The work is to be taken up by the Public Works Department: -

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of the Monument</b>	<b>Estimated Cost Rs. in crore</b>
1	Sarjah Madi at Thanjavur	9.4285
2	Danish Fort at Tarangambadi	3.7728
3	Tirumalai Nayak Mahal at Madurai	3.7276
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16.9289</b>

The renovation of the Governor's Bungalow at Sathangudi village in Tarangambadi Taluk of Mayiladuthurai District as per archaeological principles is being carried out by the Public Works Department at a total cost of Rs.4.46 crore.



The renovation of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Maratha-era mural paintings at the Maratha Durbar Hall in Thanjavur palace premises is being carried out by the Public Works Department at a total cost of Rs. 6.948 crores.

Restoration of the compound wall of the Danish Fort at Tarangambadi in Mayiladuthurai District is being carried out by the Public Works Department at Rs.0.63 crore.

### **3.9. Development of newly reported Tamili inscriptions and Jain symbols as tourist spots.**

Neganurpatti Tamili inscription in Villupuram District, Thondur Tamili inscription in Villupuram District, Mudalaikulam, Tamili inscriptions and Jain beds in Madurai District, Aritapatti Tamili inscriptions in Madurai District and Jain sculptures in Chengalpattu District are to be developed as tourist attractions and infrastructure and basic amenities will be taken up by the Public Works Department at Rs.3 crore.

### **3.10. Other archaeological artefacts such as loose sculptures and inscriptions**

To preserve the various archaeological treasures such as loose sculptures and inscriptions found in different parts of the State in the same place or in a safe place, a sum of Rs.3,22,05,547/- has been sanctioned for the implementation of this project and a sum of Rs.1,38,45,547/- as non-recurring grant is sanctioned for the financial year 2022-2023.

### **3.11. International Seminar on "Recent Advances in Archaeological Investigations in South India "**

The Department of Archaeology organized an International Seminar on "Recent Advances in Archaeological Investigations in South India" in commemoration of Padmasri Iravatham Mahadevan. The three-day seminar was organized from March 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Anna Centenary Library, Chennai. The occasion saw paper presentations of 55 research scholars,

eminent Archaeologists and Historians through offline and online modes. The events were streamed live on the YouTube channel for the benefit of the students and the general public.

### **3.12. Archaeological excavations**

Archaeological excavations are considered as one of the scientific tools to rewrite the Nation's cultural past. The ancient literature and epigraphical records generally display the administrative and social life of the elite, whereas the excavation provides the life of the common man. Further, the biological samples provide important information on the palaeo-environment, their subsistence pattern and change in lifestyle in chronological sequences.

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.

The Department of Archaeology has so far conducted excavations at 46 historical sites, of which 37 excavation reports have been published as per Annexure. The Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] has so far conducted excavations at more than 50 sites in the State.

### **3.13. Archaeological explorations and excavations during 2022**

During the year 2022, seven excavations have been carried out.

1. Keeladi and its cluster (Kondagai, Agaram and Manalur) in Sivagangai District
2. Sivagalai and its cluster in Thoothukudi District
3. Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri District
4. Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur District
5. Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District

6. Perumbalai in Dharmapuri District
7. Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli District

In addition to excavations two more archaeological explorations have been carried out in Vellore, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri and Salem districts to identify the Neolithic sites and also in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts to unearth the archaeological remains of Porunai (Tamiraparani) River valley culture.

### **3.13.1. Keeladi and its Cluster (Keeladi Agaram and Kondagai) – 8th Season**

Archaeological excavations at Keeladi and its cluster sites for the eighth consecutive year continue to reveal antiquities, features and structures of the Sangam Age urban settlement on the banks of river Vaigai.

In the eighth phase of excavations, ten quadrants were excavated at Keeladi and from one trench a three-meter-long brick structure, from another trench nearby a three-course brick wall, 15 courses of terracotta ring-well were unearthed alongside black-and-red ware and red slipped ware potteries. Apart from the 1700 artefacts, the upper strata shows glass bead domination. Notable artefacts such as gamesman made of ivory, terracotta male head figurine, cubic ivory dice, terracotta ear ornaments, gamesmen, spindle whorls, hop-scotches, an iron knife and nails, copper coins, glass beads and carnelian beads were also recovered.

In Agaram excavations, six quadrants were dug and 4 terracotta ring wells and 530 artefacts were unearthed. For the first time in Agaram excavations, a terracotta ring well was unearthed and found to be executed in an interlocking pattern.

In Kondagai, two trenches and two quadrants were excavated that went to reveal 59 burial urns. Human skeletons, 74 carnelian beads, iron implements such as 2 swords, 3 knives, 2 chisels and an axe, rice husks and more than 170 grave good vessels made of black-and-red ware, black slipped ware and red slipped ware were also excavated from these ancient burial urns. The remarkable discovery in this season's excavation was the occurrence of 74 carnelian beads in a single urn.

### **3.13.2. Sivagalai – 3rd Season**

Sivagalai village is located on the left bank of the river Porunai (Tamiraparani) in Eral Taluk in the Thoothukudi District. This famous urn burial site lies west of the site on the bank of the same river. Excavation at Sivagalai and its surroundings has been carried out for three consecutive seasons. It is habitation-cum-burial

sites of Iron Age noticed at Sivagalai Parambu, Petmanagar and Moolakarai.

The habitation sites noticed at Valappanpillai Thiradu, Sekkadi, Avarankadu, Pottalkottai and Parakkiramapandi Thiradu. The urn burial site, Sivagalai Parambu, was the first to be excavated. Nearly 160 urns were exposed and 583 artefacts were unearthed in these three seasons of excavation. More than eighty iron objects were found both inside and outside of the urns such as swords, knives, axes, etc. A total number of 750 offering grave goods such as bowls, lids, pots and ring stands were found. Excavation at the habitation site yielded more than a hundred graffiti-bearing shards, three Neolithic tools and five Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) potsherds. Noteworthy gold ornaments, Chinese coins and potsherds are also found at Parakkiramapandi Thiradu. Smoking pipes, bone points, shell and glass bangle pieces, hop-scotches, beads and copper coins were the



major antiquities found. A brick channel found at Parakkiramapandi Thiradu reveals evidence of pure water flowing through that channel by diatom study.

One of the important findings is the collection of paddy grains from an urn which is dated to 1155 BCE suggesting that paddy cultivation was happening on the banks of the Tamiraparani river as early as 3200 years ago.

### **3.13.3. Mayiladumparai – 2nd season**

Mayiladumparai is a small hillock situated about 4 km west of Togarapalli village in Bargur Taluk of Krishnagiri District. It is one of the most important sites of Tamil Nadu that provides evidence of the existence of cultural material in the Microlithic, Neolithic, Iron Age, Early Historic and Medieval phases.

An impressive burial complex of about 100 burials consisting of stone circles entombing pit burials and cairn circles enclosing cist burials

entombed with a huge capstone is distributed around 40 hectares. Two seasons of excavation were taken up during 2021 and 2022. The first season of excavation discovered a remarkable Iron Age, dating about 4200 years ago through the AMS dating. This rich site was further extended for the next excavation season to trace the social formation. In the present season of excavation, a total of 30 trenches were laid to expose the complete material evidence to reveal the exact settlement pattern and the socio-economic status of the society.

The site yielded microlithic tools in shelters, Neolithic cultural material, Neolithic grooves, rock art, Iron Age megalithic graves, Early Historic cultural material such as graffiti and Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) bearing potsherds and memorial stones and trade guild inscriptions of the medieval period thereby suggesting its long survival of the site.

### **3.13.4. Gangaikondacholapuram – 2nd Season**

Gangaikondacholapuram lies in the Udaiyarpalayam Taluk of Ariyalur District. It was established as the capital of the Cholas by Rajendra-I (1012-1044 CE), the celebrated son and successor of Rajaraja-I (985-1014 CE). The excavation site Maligaimedu, the palace mound lies 2 km southwest of the famous Gangaikondacholeswarar temple and about 2 km southeast of Utkottai village. It is widely believed that it was the residential place of the Chola kings. The nature of structural evidence available at the mound also supports this view. Besides structural remains, the stone and copper plate inscriptions explicitly express the foundation of the capital city Gangaikondacholapuram and confirm the fact that exposed structures might have been the possible foundation of the palace. Earlier explorations and excavations were conducted in

1980, 1984, 1991, 1996 and 2009 in and around Gangaikondacholapuram. So far, a good number of antiquities along with bricks and roof tiles have been found in Maligaimedu. Many bricks and roof tiles kindled the interest to go for further excavation at this site in 2021 and 2022 to expose the extension of the possible foundation of the palace remains.

Along with the brick structures, roofing tiles and potsherds also were found. Antiquities such as iron objects, copper objects, copper coins, a silver coin, a gold bracelet, ivory objects, glass beads and fragments of bangles, hopscotch, terracotta objects and Chinese ceramics such as celadon and porcelain also were collected. It is obvious that these findings establish Chinese contacts during the 12th century CE. The sequel excavations are in progress and they may bring out considerable evidence to understand the nature of construction activities, the plan of the

palace and other political and cultural activities that flourished at the site.

### **3.13.5. Vembakottai – 1st Season**

Vembakottai is a village located on the northern bank of the Vaippar River in the Virudhunagar District. The habitation mound extends over a vast area of more than an acre and rises about 6 meter height from the ground level. The first season of excavation was initiated at Vembakottai in the year 2021-2022. The excavation was carried out in the mound locally called Mettukadu or Uchimedu and it reveals continuous cultural material right from pre-historic times to the Medieval period.

The first season excavation yielded 3254 antiquities such as semi-precious stone beads made of carnelian, agate, amethyst and crystal. More number of glass beads in various colors, shell bangles, glass bangles, terracotta beads, spindle whorls, terracotta gamesmen, smoking

pipes, terracotta pendants, toy objects, terracotta figurines, terracotta weighing units, terracotta balls, terracotta seals, terracotta human and animal figurines, bird figurines, humped bulls, hop-scotches, earlobes, wheels, rubbing stones, iron objects, gold objects and copper objects were collected. Ceramics such as pots, bowls, dishes, lids, plates, vases, basins, storage jars and perforated pots of red ware, red slipped ware, black slipped ware, black-and-red ware and brown slipped ware were collected in excavated trenches. Among the artefacts, the occurrence of microlithic fluted cores and chert flakes indicate the possible existence of the Microlithic period.

### **3.13.6. Perumbalai – 1st season**

Perumbalai is a small village situated on the left bank of the Nagavathi river, a tributary of Palar. Palar is one of the major tributaries of the river Kaveri. Perumbalai lies on the Dharmapuri-

Mechcheri-Pennagaram road at a distance of about 25 km from Pennagaram and 42 km north of Dharmapuri District. The 13th century CE literary work Kongumandala Satakam written by Karmekavairayar of Vijayamangalam refers to this place as the northern boundary of the Kongu country, a territorial division comprising the Coimbatore, Erode, part of Dharmapuri and Salem regions.

The excavation was undertaken in the year 2020 and the exposure of the habitation mound containing 3 metre cultural deposit records a continuous settlement covering a period from the 6th century BCE to the 13th century BCE as per the AMS dates and epigraphical evidence. Based on AMS dates and associated cultural materials such as ceramics, terracotta figurines, graffiti-bearing sherds and other materials, the cultural deposit is divided into three cultural periods namely the Iron Age, Early Historic

period and Early medieval period from bottom to top, datable respectively 6th century BCE to 3rd century BCE, 3rd century BCE to 4th century CE and 4th century CE to 13th century CE. The site yielded as many as 1028 graffiti-bearing potsherds, more than 300 antiquities and more than 200 terracotta objects.

### **3.13.7. Thulukarpatti – 1st Season**

The habitation-cum-burial site Thulukarpatti is located on the bank of the river Nambhiyar in Radhapuram Taluk of Tirunelveli District. The excavation exposed the important cultural sequences contemporary to Adichanallur. The excavation in the habitation at Adichanallur could not reach the natural soil due to the high water table. To understand the contemporary cultural material, the present site was selected for excavation.



The cultural material such as white painted black-and-red ware and black-and-red ware, diagnostic ceramics of Adichanallur and Sivagalai was unearthed below the Early Historic cultural phase thereby suggesting its association with the Iron Age. The Early Historic period is marked by the occurrence of a large number of graffiti-bearing potsherds and a considerable number of Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) inscribed potsherds.

### **3.14. Neolithic Sites Survey**

To identify the Neolithic Sites of Tamil Nadu, the Department in collaboration with Sharma Centre for Heritage Education is conducting explorations and scientific investigations of Neolithic sites along the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu in the Districts of Vellore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, and Salem. The preliminary works such as collection of information about site settings, geo-coordinates and their geographical-geological and geo-morphological contexts were carried out.

Having collected the above-said information, the project's second phase was conducted in the Districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Tiruvannamalai by a team of experts. The field studies included both archaeological and geological/geomorphological aspects. In the field survey, identification of Celt manufacturing sites and re-examination of grinding groove sites were undertaken. Several samples were collected for study purposes. Artefacts and rock samples are currently being analysed with the help of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR).

### **3.15. Explorations in the Porunai (Tamirabarani) River valley**

The river Porunai (Tamirabarani) originates in the Pothigai hills on the southwestern slopes of the Western Ghats. The Porunai (Tamirabarani) river valley is classified into upper, middle and lower basins. The basins

comprise about 670 villages from its western boundary to the eastern coastal zone 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.

### **3.16. Offshore Reconnaissance Survey of a Sangam Age Korkai Port**

The department had undertaken a preliminary reconnaissance survey in collaboration with Indian Maritime University (IMU) and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to identify the Korkai port of mid-Sangam Age Pandyas at a total cost of Rs.1.50 crore in which a sum of Rs. 0.64 crore is to be borne by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology.

A preliminary reconnaissance first phase survey had been conducted from 02.09.2022 to 09.09.2022 and the second phase of the survey had been conducted from 23.01.2023 to 16.02.2023. In this survey, scientific and technological tools such as Model Kongsung (Model Kongsberg EM712), Sigle Beam Echosounder (Model Kongsberg EA440) and Subbottom Profiler were used and the data is currently being analysed.

### **3.17. Archaeological Explorations and Excavations during 2023**

During the year 2023, large-scale archaeological explorations/excavations and underwater explorations/excavations are to be conducted in the following archaeologically and historically important sites with an overall ceiling of Rs. 5 crore. This is one of the highest budget allocations ever witnessed in any state of India.

In 2023, the excavations are to be carried out in eight sites namely:

- 1) Keeladi and its cluster (Kondagai and Agaram) in Sivagangai District
- 2) Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur District
- 3) Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District
- 4) Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli District
- 5) Kilnamandi in Tiruvannamalai District
- 6) Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai District
- 7) Boothinatham in Dharmapuri District
- 8) Pattaraiperumbudur in Tiruvallur District

### **3.18. Scientific Studies**

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.

Archaeology requires the application of a wide range of technologies and scientific analysis at various stages from the time of discovery to satisfactory and acceptable interpretations of the findings. This helps in placing the archaeological data in proper chronological order and understanding the sequential cultural processes.

The Department is using technologies such as Ground Penetrating Radar [GPR] Survey, Magnetometer Survey, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle [UAV] Survey, etc., to identify the ideal locations for carrying out archaeological explorations and excavations.

On the scientific analysis part, State Archaeology Department is re-establishing the cultural history of Tamil Nadu in scientific line in collaboration with various scientific institutions. The Department is collaborating with

1. Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow and French Institute of Pondicherry for pollen analysis and

phytolith studies to study the palaeoclimate.

2. DNA analysis is being made in collaboration with Madurai Kamaraj University to understand the human genome;
3. Metallurgical analysis is being carried out in association with National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru to understand the iron, steel and high-tin bronze technology;
4. Ceramic analysis is being carried out with the help of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and Pune University to understand the sources of raw materials.
5. Skeletal remains are being studied in association with Deccan College, Pune to identify the nature of social compositions.

Having recognized the valuable contribution of specialized disciplines to a deeper analysis of archaeological findings, it has been decided to collaborate with experts from the fields such as

Archaeo-botany, Metallurgy, Molecular Biology, Population Genetics, Environmental Archaeology and Linguistic Archaeology. Constant efforts are being made to rewrite the cultural history of Tamil Nadu on the scientific line.

### **3.19 Archaeological Site Museums**

The antiquities unearthed from archaeological explorations and excavations have been preserved and exhibited for the benefit of scholars, researchers and the general public in the following 15 archaeological site museums situated in various districts of the State: -

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Site Museums</b>	<b>Place / District</b>
1)	Danish Fort Museum	Tarangambadi / Mayiladuthurai
2)	Underwater Archaeological Museum	Poompuhar / Mayiladuthurai



3)	Gangaikonda Cholapuram Museum	GangaikondaCholapuram Ariyalur
4)	RamalingaVilaasam 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 / Tenkasi
13)	Tirukkivilur Museum	Tirukkivilur / Kallakurichi
14)	Dharmapuri Museum	Dharmapuri / Dharmapuri
15)	Keeladi Museum	Kondagai / Sivagangai

### **3.20. Keeladi Museum at Sivagangai District**

During 2019-2020, the Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.12.21 crore for establishing a world-class Keeladi museum at Kondagai in Sivagangai District. Additionally, a sum of Rs. 6.21 crore has been allotted during the year 2022-2023. The construction works have been carried out by the Public Works Department in an area of 2 acres. The built-up area of the museum is about 31,000 square feet.

The idea behind the design was to follow an architectural style that is humane and reflects the culture and lifestyle followed by the people of the region. The design thus assumes the setting of a rural to merge with the vernacular context in which the construction work has been carried out at an overall cost of Rs.18.42 crore.

The design philosophy follows a multidisciplinary approach which is visitor-centric and focuses on aspects like universal accessibility, the use of technology to disseminate information on the historic importance of Keeladi and architecture as a tool to accentuate the intangible association the people share with the historic site.

Overall, the campus has six primary blocks in which the displays had been showcased under thematic themes like 1) Vaigai and Keeladi 2) Agrarian and Water Management 3) Ceramic Industries 4) Weaving and Beads 5) Sea Trade and 6) Lifestyle.

Apart from this, the museum complex will also house semi-open and open spaces to offer an experience where the visitors can indulge in traditional games, craft workshops, art performances etc. Replicas of excavation trenches will also be part of the curation. The structures that reflect the domestic architectural

character of the region with courtyards, thazhvarams, mandapams etc. also employ elements of local art and craftsmanship in the treatment of the facades.

The Keeladi Museum with all the above features was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 05.03.2023. He visited the exhibition and spent time understanding the various exhibits showcased for the benefit of the public. There has been an overwhelming response to the museum. The museum has more than 2000 visitors on weekdays and nearly 5000 during weekends.

### **3.21. Porunai Museum at Tirunelveli District**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced in the State Assembly on 09.09.2021 that the "Porunai museum" would be set up at Tirunelveli, with all modern amenities to showcase the artefacts obtained in Sivagalai, Korkai and Adichanallur. In 2022, the

Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.33.02 crore for setting up the museum.

The museum is to be located in about 10 acres at Reddiarpatti hillock in Tirunelveli District on National Highway 45 with a built up area of 55,500 Sq.ft and is being built in traditional architectural style with courtyards, colonnades, thazhvarams etc. Tender had been called for by the Public Works Department (Heritage Wing) and is presently under the scrutiny stage.

### **3.22. Gangaikondacholapuram Museum at Ariyalur District**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited and inspected the Gongaikonda cholapuram excavated site on 28.11.2022 and announced that in order to showcase to the world "Chola king established trade links with several countries including China apart from conquering several countries", the Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to establish a museum.

For the inception of the proposed museum at Gangaikondacholapuram land with an extent of 0.76.70 ares had been identified by the Ariyalur District administration and enter-upon permission for the land was also issued. Presently, the detailed project report is under preparation.

### **3.23. Development of Madurai Thirumalai Nayak Mahal Site Museum**

Conservation and display works at a cost of Rs.8.27 crore for the Tirumalai Nayak Mahal, Madurai have been approved by the Ministry of Culture under the Museum Grant Scheme with an 80:20 sharing pattern (Central share 80% = Rs.661.76 lakh + State Share 20% = Rs.165.44 lakh). The Public Works Department has commenced the work. At present, the works relating to the upgradation of Palliarai, Natakasaalai and the library complex in Thirumalai Nayak Mahal are in progress.

### **3.24. Upgradation of Site Museums**

According to the Budget Speech for the year 2022-2023, "Tribal Museum at Courtallam, Tenkasi District, Pre Historic Site Museum at Poondi in Tiruvallur District, Hero Stone Museum at Dharmapuri will be upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore." In this regard, the following three Site Museums are to be taken up for upgradation.

#### **1. Poondi Museum**

The Government have issued orders for the construction of a new building at a cost of Rs.2.70 crore at Pattaraiperumpudur village. The above works are to be taken up by the Public Works Department.

#### **2. Courtallam Museum**

The Government have issued orders for the construction of a new building at Courtallam village in Tenkasi District at a cost of Rs.2.52 crore.

### **3. Dharmapuri Museum**

The site belonging to A/M Siddhivinayak Temple near Adhiyamankottai in Nallampalli Taluk of Dharmapuri District has been inspected and action is being taken for the construction of the Hero stone museum.

#### **3.25. Epigraphy**

Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions on rocks, pillars, temple walls, copper plates, stones, metals, pottery, woods, palm leaves, clothes, conch shells, murals and coins. It is one of the most fascinating and instructive 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, linguistic, archaeological and historical antiquity.



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

A separate epigraphy wing was started in the Department during the year 1966. The primary function of this wing is to copy inscriptions on rocky surfaces, stone pillars, slabs, temple walls, copper plates and palm-leaf manuscripts.

At present, this wing owns about 25,642 estampages of inscriptions from 38 districts. The work of copying inscriptions in the districts of Pudukkottai, Sivagangai and Thoothukudi is currently in progress. Of the 25,642 estampages, 13,577 inscriptions have been deciphered and 8,775 inscriptions have been published in 59 volumes.

During 2019-2020, a sum of Rs.2 crore 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 for five years @ Rs. 40 lakhs per year. These are being published district wise under the series "Tamil Nadu Inscriptions".

Fifteen experts have been engaged to decipher 3,000 inscriptions per year. So far, 5,200 inscriptions have been deciphered. Among these inscriptions 1,279 were published in six volumes. Five epigraphical attendees have been appointed on a contract basis to take estampages of uncopied inscriptions and to find new inscriptions in the State. 399 inscriptions were copied during the year 2022-2023.

### **3.26. Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology**

The Institute of Epigraphy was revamped and renamed in the year 2021-2022 as "Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology" and it is functioning as an educational-cum-training institution at the headquarters of the Department since 1974.

"Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology" conducts a two-year post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology for 20 students annually from 2020 to 2021 for those who have obtained a post-graduate degree in Humanities/ Physical/ Biological/ Geo/ Engineering/ Computer Science.

It also conducts a two-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Epigraphy for 10 students annually from 2021 to 2022 for those who have obtained a post-graduate degree in Tamil/ Indian History/ History/ Ancient History and Archaeology/ History and Archaeology.

In the year 2022-23, it introduced a two-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Heritage Management and Museology for 10 students annually for those who have obtained a degree in B.E. Civil Engineering or a Post-Graduate degree in Humanities/ Social/ Chemical/ Physical/ Biological/ Geology.

These courses contain four semesters and each semester has 6 papers. There are 24 papers inclusive of theory and practical with all the aspects of Archaeology, Epigraphy and Heritage Management and Museology being taught. The students are being trained by eminent scholars from various institutions. Every month, a sum of Rs.5,000/- is paid as stipend to each student. Selections for the courses are made through a screening test and direct interviews.

Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology has been giving hands-on training on tool making, beads making, bronze casting,

structural and chemical conservation, excavations and copying and deciphering inscriptions by the experts of the respective field during the course.

Students were taken to the UNESCO Monuments like Thanjavur, Gangaikonda cholapuram and Darasuram and they also visited Thiruvananthapuram and Tribhuvanam temples to understand the architectural, sculptural, epigraphical and historical values of Tamil Nadu. They also visited the Thirumalai Nayak Mahal of Madurai and Rajarajan Museum, the Maratta Museum and the Saraswathi Mahal of Thanjavur. They were imparted knowledge on Tamili, Vatteluttu and Tamil inscriptions by visiting the places like Kongarpuliyankulam, Arittapatti, Aanaimalai, Thirupparankundram, Thiruvadavur, Thirumogur etc.,

### **3.27. Rock Art in Tamil Nadu**

The Rock-Art of Tamil Nadu can be classified under two major categories: petrograph (rock paintings) and petroglyph (rock engravings).

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

To document the Rock-Art of Tamil Nadu, the Department has formed an expert team consisting of 8 members from different fields such as Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Folklore and Art history. The team surveyed the following villages: -

1. Karikiyur, The Nilgiris District
2. Sirumalai, Dindigul District

3. Usilampatti, Madurai District
4. 6 sites in Villupuram District
5. 30 sites in Krishnagiri District

In this survey, different themes of rock art were found demonstrating hunting gatherers, war scenes, cattle keepers, riders, etc., reflecting the agro-pastoral subsistence pattern. The major colours noticed in the paintings were red and white ochre. It is planned to bring out a publication with the documentation of completed sites in a phased manner.

### **3.28. Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre**

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 and 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 back to 1861. This library was made possible because of the monumental efforts of Colonel Colin Mackenzie, C.P. Brown and Prof. Pickford. Since then, the Government of Tamil Nadu is collecting the manuscripts.

The 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 such as 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. 50 new wooden racks are procured to preserve the manuscripts with care.

Many manuscripts are being donated to Library. 43 boxes of manuscripts containing local accounts have been given to the library by the Nagercoil Court. So far 21,00,000 manuscript pages have been digitized. Of these 5,00,000 pages in 3,500 Manuscript bundles have been digitized and are available online ([www.tnarch.gov.in](http://www.tnarch.gov.in)).

### **3.29. State Manuscript Mission**

In 2019-2020, the Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 lakh 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 1,00,000 manuscripts with individuals and institutions that are to be preserved and digitized for the benefit of future generations. The State Manuscript Mission is functioning in five regions and so far 3,53,080 manuscript pages have been digitally documented and the works are in full swing.

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

### **3.30. Manuscripts Resource Centre**

"The National Mission for Manuscripts" (NMM), 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.

### **3.31. Important activities 2022-2023**

- During 2022-2023, World Heritage Week (Nov 19-25) was celebrated by organizing Archaeology and Epigraphy awareness programmes, workshops, competitions, lectures, training, etc. for the benefit of scholars, researchers, the student community and the public by all the site museums and sub-offices of this Department.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited the 2nd season's excavation conducted at Gangaikondacholapuram on 28.11.2022 for which a special exhibition was organized with the antiquities unearthed from the site.

Exhibitions were organized showcasing the unearthed artefacts from Archaeological sites at Books fairs conducted in Sivagangai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Karur and Virudhunagar.

- On the occasion of the Chithirai festival on April 16, 2022 and the World Heritage Day celebrations from April 18 to 24, the Tirumalai Nayak Mahal in Madurai, Tarangambadi Danish Fort and Thanjavur Palace hosted traditional art performances like Kavadi dance, Kaliyattam, Karakattam, Madattam, Mayilattam, Devarattam, Marakkalattam, Manattam, Nayandi Melam in collaboration with the Department of Art and Culture.
- The archaeological officers were imparted training in the field of marine archaeology and geo-surveys in collaboration with Indian Maritime University [IMU] experts and eminent scholars of Archaeology. "Workshop on marine archaeology and geo-surveys" was conducted from

28.11.2022 to 02.12.2022 for 5 days for 10 Archaeological Officers as a first phase at Indian Maritime University Campus. Further, it is planned to conduct two more phases for the benefit of the Archaeological Officers.

### **3.32. Conclusion**

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 well-being and knowledge and conclusively positioning the history of Tamil Nadu in the global context.

In Tamil Nadu, the humans appeared 15 lakh years ago as per the evidence observed at Attirampakkam near Poondi Reservoir in Thiruvallur taluk. The reconstruction of 15 lakh years of history is one of the major and challenging tasks of the Department. The Tamil

Nadu State Department of Archaeology will undertake archaeological research through the promotion of multidisciplinary research with reputed institutions across the globe. Our researchers will be involved in ongoing field projects that include the conservation of monuments, development of local archaeological explorations and excavations, establishing of site museums, copying and deciphering the inscriptions through partnerships with local institutions/universities within the country and across the globe.

**Thangam Thenarasu**  
Minister for Industries

## Annexure

S.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	Kancheepuram	1969-1970	Early Historic
4	Anaimalai	Coimbatore	1969-1970	Megalithic
5	Pallavamedu	Kancheepuram	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	Ramanathapuram	1980-1981	Early Historic
11	Gangaikonda cholapuram	Ariyalur	1980-1981 1986-1987 2008-2009 2020-2021 2021-2022 <b>2022-2023</b>	Medieval
12	Kannanur	Tiruchirapalli	1982-1983	Medieval
13	Kurumbanmedu	Thanjavur	1984-1985	Medieval
14	Palayarai	Thanjavur	1984-1985	Medieval
15	Alagankulam	Ramanathapuram	1986-1987 1990-1991 1992-1993 1994-1995 1996-1997	Early Historic

			2014-2015 2016-2017	
16	Tirukkovilur	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	Mayiladuthurai	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	Nagapattinam	2007-2008	Megalithic
33	Tarangampadi	Mayiladuthurai	2008-2009	Modern
34	Rajakkalmangalam	Tirunelveli	2009-2010	Medieval
35	Talaichankadu	Mayiladuthurai	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 <b>2022-2023</b>	Later Palaeolithic
40	Keeladi	Sivagangai	2017-2018 2018-2019 2019-2020 2020-2021 2021-2022 <b>2022-2023</b>	Early Historic
41	Adichanallur	Thoothukudi	2019-2020 2020-2021	Iron Age
42	Sivagalai	Thoothukudi	2019-2020 2020-2021 2021-2022	Iron Age
43	Mayiladumparai	Krishnagiri	2020-2021 2021-2022	Neolithic
44	Vembakkottai	Virudhunagar	2021-2022 <b>2022-2023</b>	Microlithic
45	Thulukarpatti	Tirunelveli	2021-2022 <b>2022-2023</b>	Early Historic
46	Perumpalai	Dharmapuri	2021-2022	Early Historic
47	Kilnamandi	Tiruvannamalai	<b>2022-2023</b>	Megalithic
48	Porpanaikottai	Pudukottai	<b>2022-2023</b>	Early Historic
49	Boothinatham	Dharmapuri	<b>2022-2023</b>	Neolithic



Places of Excavations carried out  
by Department of Archaeology



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the excavations of Keeladi and Kilnamandi and launched the Keeladi Augmented Reality App through video conferencing on 06.04.2023.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the new Keeladi Museum located at Kondagai Village, Sivagangai District for the benefit of general public on 05.03.2023.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited the Gangaikondacholapuram, Maligaimedu excavation site, Ariyalur District on 28.11.2022.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited the special exhibition organised in the V.O. Chidambaranar Ground, Coimbatore showcasing the artefacts and replica models of the ongoing archaeological excavation carried out in various parts of Tamil Nadu on 19.05.2022.





Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology inaugurated the 2nd International Seminar in commemoration of Padmasri Iravatham Mahadevan on 10.03.2023 and delivered the Special Address



Cultural programmes organized in the eve of Pongal festival day in the premises of Tirumalai Nayak Mahal, Madurai District on 16.01.2023 and 17.01.2023.





Imparting knowledge to the students of Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology about the architecture, sculpture and inscriptions of Thanjavur Big temple during the field training



Aerial view of excavated trenches with burial urns exposed at Kondagai near Keeladi, Sivagangai District



Aerial view of excavated trenches at Sivagalai, Thoothukudi District



Aerial view of excavated brick structures at Maligaimedu Excavation,  
Gangaikondacholapuram, Ariyalur District

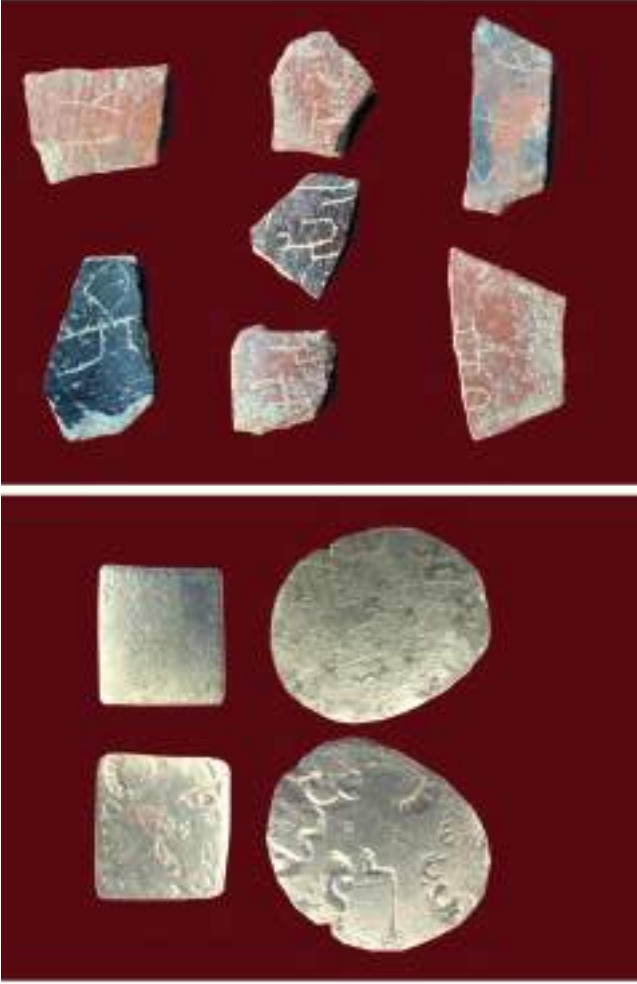


Sarcophagus found in the cist burial at Mayiladumparai excavation,  
Krishnagiri District



Three floors and a terracotta female figurine found at Perumbalai excavation, Dharmapuri District





Excavated findings of Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli District  
(1) Silver punch marked coins (2) Tamil inscribed potsherds



A view of stratigraphical layer of excavated trench, Vembakottai,  
Virudhunagar District





Muthammal Chatram at Orathanad of Thanjavur District to be declared as protected monument

