

**Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments
Department
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department
Demand No.47
Policy Note
2016-2017
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**Tourism, Culture and Religious
Endowments Department**

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Introduction

The greatness of the holy land of Tamils lie in the innumerable holy temples, tall gopurams touching the sky, arts, sculptures etc., which are associated with temples.

“பிறப்பென்னும் பேதமை நீங்கச் சிறப்பென்னுஞ்
செம்பொருள் காண்ப தறிவு.”

One of the essential duties of the Government is to transform the human society into a cultured society as said by Thiruvalluvar. Hence, the temples of Tamil Nadu are to be considered as

centres of human resource development apart from being places of religious worship. In that respect, temples exist as centres of learning, art treasure and centres for reforming the mind. Hence, it is the essential duty of the Government to properly maintain these temples, to protect their properties, generate income and ensure performance of poojas from the income collected. Consistent with the meaning of the Thirumanthiram

“சேயினும் நல்லன் அணியன் நல்அன்பர்க்குத்
தாயினும் நல்லன்.....”

that even greater than mother’s affection, during the illustrious regime of **Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, who is providing good governance with the vibrant policy, “**மக்களால் நான், மக்களுக்காகவே நான்**” several developmental schemes have been implemented.

I-LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ADMINISTRATION

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act

2. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959(Act 22/1959) was enacted realizing the need for the administrative governance of Temples, Mutts and Endowments and the necessity to be monitored by the Government after carrying out the required modifications, examining the various prior enactments.

3. The Act is actually a successor to several previous enactments, the earliest of which was the Madras Endowments and Escheats Regulation No.VII of 1817. It was repealed by Act XX of 1863. The 1863 Act was replaced by the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926

(Act II of 1927), by which a statutory body called the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Board was created. The Board was later abolished by Act XIX of 1951, which vested the administration of Religious and Charitable Endowments in a hierarchy of officers of defined jurisdiction and headed by a Commissioner. The 1951 Act was repealed by the present Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Act 22 of 1959) which also created a hierarchy of authorities such as the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

4. This Act prescribes the rights and duties of the Commissioner and other Subordinate Officers of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. It also states various means for improving the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions. This Act further empowers the Government to extend the

provisions to Jain Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments.

Hindu Religious Institutions

5. There are 38,630 Hindu Religious and Jain Religious Institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The details are as follows: -

1.	Temples	36,590
2.	Holy Mutts	56
3.	Temples attached to Holy Mutts	57
4.	Specific Endowments	1,721
5.	Charitable Endowments	189
6.	Jain Temples	17
	Total	38,630

Classifications of the Hindu Religious Institutions

6. The Hindu Religious Institutions have been classified as listed and non listed institutions

based on the annual income. The details are as follows: -

Sl. No.	Classification of Religious Institutions	Annual Income of Institution	Number of Institutions
1.	Non listed Institutions – Under Section 49(1)	having an annual income of less than Rs.10,000/-	34,077
2.	Listed Insitutions – Under Section 46(i)	having an annual income of Rs.10,000/- and less than Rs.2 Lakh.	3,571
3.	Under Section 46(ii)	having an annual income of Rs.2 lakh and less than Rs.10 lakh.	662
4.	Under Section 46(iii)	having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above.	320
		Total	38,630

Administrative Structure

7. The Commissioner, functions as the Administrative Head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department responsible

to maintain, protect and monitor the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions according to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

8. In order to assist the Commissioner, in the activities such as general administration, establishment, management of movable and immovable properties of religious institutions, tiruppani, court cases, audit, etc, the following officers are serving in the headquarters:

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Post
1.	Additional Commissioner (General)	1
2.	Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)	1
3.	Additional Commissioner (Tiruppani)	1
4.	Joint Commissioner (Headquarters)	1
5.	Joint Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1
6.	Joint Commissioner (Education and Charitable Institutions)	1
7.	Joint Commissioner (Verification-Headquarters)	1
8.	Assistant Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1
9.	Assistant Commissioner (Village Temple Poosarigal Welfare Board)	1
10.	Editor (Thirukoil Monthly Magazine)	1

The list of officers serving in the headquarters from other departments are as below:

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Post	Department
1.	Special Officers (Temple Land) (District Revenue Officer Cadre)	2	Revenue Department
2.	Superintending Engineer	1	Public Works Department
3.	Executive Engineer	1	Public Works Department
4.	Assistant Divisional Engineer	1	Public Works Department
5.	Assistant Engineer / Technical Assistant	1	Public Works Department
6.	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	1	Public Works Department
7.	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	1	Electricity Department
8.	Senior Draughting Officer	1	Highways Department
9.	Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department
10.	Junior Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department
11.	Senior Accounts Officer	1	Treasury Department
12.	Assistant Accounts Officer	1	Treasury Department
13.	Chief Audit Officer (Deputy Secretary Cadre)	1	Finance Department
14.	Deputy Director / Public Information Officer	1	Information & Public Relations Department

Regional and District Administration

9. The administration of this Department has been divided into 11 regions at State and 28 divisions at District level. The Hindu Religious Institutions are being supervised by Joint Commissioners at regional level and Assistant Commissioners at district level accordingly. The details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
1.	Joint Commissioner, Chennai	1. Assistant Commissioner, Chennai	Chennai District, Madhavaram, Ambattur and Thiruvottiyur Taluks in Tiruvallur District and Tambaram, Alandur & Sholinganallur Taluks in Kancheepuram District.
2.	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	2. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur District (Except Madhavaram, Ambattur and Thiruvottiyur Taluks)

Sl.No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		3. Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District (Except Tambaram, Alandur & Sholinganallur Taluks)
		4. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore	Vellore District
3.	Joint Commissioner, Salem.	5. Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri & Krishnagiri Districts
		6. Assistant Commissioner, Salem	Salem District
		7. Assistant Commissioner, Namakkal	Namakkal District
4.	Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore	8. Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore	Coimbatore and Nilgris Districts
		9. Assistant Commissioner, Erode	Erode District
		10. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruppur	Tiruppur District
5.	Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur	11. Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur	Thanjavur District (Except Tiruvidaimarudur and Kumbakonam Taluks)

Sl.No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		12. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam District (Except Sirkazhi, Mayiladuthurai, Kuthalam and Tarangambadi Taluks)
		13. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur District
6.	Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	14. Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam	Tiruvidaimarudur, Kumbakonam Taluks in Thanjavur District and Mayiladuthurai, Sirkazhi, Kuthalam and Tarangambadi Taluks in Nagapattinam District
7.	Joint Commissioner, Villupuram	15. Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore	Cuddalore District
		16. Assistant Commissioner, Villupuram	Villupuram District
		17. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai District
8.	Joint Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli	18. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli District

Sl.No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		19. Assistant Commissioner, Ariyalur	Perambalur and Ariyalur Districts
		20. Assistant Commissioner, Pudukkottai	Pudukkottai District
		21. Assistant Commissioner, Karur	Karur District
9.	Joint Commissioner, Madurai	22. Assistant Commissioner, Madurai	Madurai District
		23. Assistant Commissioner, Dindigul	Dindigul and Theni Districts
10.	Joint Commissioner, Sivagangai	24. Assistant Commissioner, Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar District
		25. Assistant Commissioner, Paramakudi	Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram Districts
11.	Joint Commissioner, Tirunelveli	26. Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli District
		27. Assistant Commissioner, Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi District
		28. Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil	Kanyakumari District

Inspectors

10. The Joint Commissioners in the regions and the Assistant Commissioners in the divisions of this Department are assisted by 224 Inspectors (Taluk Level) based on Revenue Taluks.

Personal Assistants

11. The Executive Officers in the cadre of Joint Commissioners at Palani, Tiruchendur, Madurai, Srirangam, Rameswaram and Tiruttani are assisted by Personal Assistants in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioner, Palani

12. A Deputy Commissioner is also functioning to assist the Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer of Palani Arulmighu Dhandayuthapaniswami Temple.

Verification Officers

13. To appraise the jewels and other valuable articles of the Temples, there is one Verification Officer in the Cadre of Joint Commissioner at Headquarters, Six Verification Officers in the Cadre of Deputy Commissioner in Seven Joint Commissioner's Regions and four Verification Officers in the Cadre of Assistant Commissioner in four Joint Commissioner's regions. There are also 11 Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialists and 11 Junior Technical Assistants, apart from in the regions and at the Headquarters, to help the Verification Officer in appraising the jewels and other valuable articles of the temple. Now the **Honourble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered for the appointment of women also in the post of Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialist and Junior Technical Assistant.

Senior Accounts Officers

14. In 8 temples where the Executive Officers are in the cadre of Joint Commissioner are assisted by a Senior Accounts Officer in the cadre of Regional Audit Officer.

Engineers

15. The Engineers and Draughting Officers working in the Headquarters are scrutinizing estimates for carrying out temple renovation / restoration, construction, supervise works and record measurement.

16. At every Joint Commissioner's Office, there is an Assistant Divisional Engineer and a Junior Draughting Officer (Except Villupuram Region). The 25 Assistant Commissioner's Offices are having 25 Assistant Engineers. There are 3 Executive Engineers and 3 Assistant Electrical Engineers, each working in the regional Joint

Commissioner's Offices at Trichy, Salem and Madurai.

17. The temples at Palani, Samayapuram, Madurai, Tiruttani, Bannari, Marudamalai, Anaimalai, Azhagarkoil, Tiruverkadu, Swamimalai are having engineers of their own to carry out (Tiruppani) restoration and new works.

In addition to that, in the temples at Srirangam, Palani, Tiruchendur, Tiruttani, Tiruvannamalai, Suchindram and Tiruvarur, Assistant Divisional Engineers from Public Works Department are allotted on Foreign Service.

18. In order to carry out the Tiruppani works at Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Salem Joint Commissioner's regions, there are 4 Senior Draughting Officer posts in Tiruttani Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Madurai Arulmigu

Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Tiruchengode Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple and 4 Draughting Officers posts in the Temples of Sholingur Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswami Temple, Trichy Malaikottai Arulmigu Thayumanaswami Temple, Azhagarkoil Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple and Namakkal Arulmigu Narasimhaswami Temple to work in the above said regions.

Departmental Sthapathy

19. To ensure that the conservation / renovation / restoration of the temples is in accordance with Shilpa Shastra / traditional practices, colour codes, measurements, building materials of their quality and to iron out the problems that arise during renovation / restoration, to advise and to approve the plans with reference to Shilpa Shastra, a Departmental Sthapathy has been appointed in the cadre of

Superintending Engineer in this Department. He assists the Commissioner to ensure that all renovation / restoration activities are in consonance with Shilpa Shastra.

Regional Sthapathys

20. To review and check the estimates and plans of the Temple conservation works, five Regional Sthapathys were functioning at the State Level. After **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed office in 2011 appointed six more Regional Sthapathys in the year 2012-2013 to resolve the delays and speed up conservation and new works and raised the consolidated monthly pay of Rs.4,000/- to Rs.15,000/- for all the 11 Sthapathys. The consolidated pay of Rs.15,000/- is being disbursed from the funds of the temples to all the 11 Regional Sthapathys. Due to these appointments every division has one Sthapathy

and the conservation works are carried out as per the tradition and are progressing fast.

Executive Officers

21. Based on the significance, revenue, assets, workload and other activities of the temple, the following grades of Executive Officers in temples have been created:

Sl.No.	Executive Officer's Grade	Posts
1.	Joint Commissioner	11
2.	Deputy Commissioner	9
3.	Assistant Commissioner	27
4.	Executive Officer – Grade I	66
5.	Executive Officer – Grade II	111
6.	Executive Officer – Grade III	250
7.	Executive Officer – Grade IV	154
	Total	628

Distribution of Laptop Computers to Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Officials

22. Laptop Computers were provided by the Department to 767 officials like Additional Commissioners, Joint Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Executive Officers of all grade, field level Inspectors and also officials of various cadres of Audit Wing, for better execution of their work.

Administration of Mutts

23. There are 56 Holy Mutts under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. In order to monitor the administration of these Holy Mutts, an Audit Section consisting of one Regional Audit Officer, one Superintendent, two Inspectors, two Audit

Inspectors and two Assistants are functioning in the Headquarters to assist the Commissioner.

Audit of Religious Institutions

24. There is a Chief Audit Officer in charge of auditing the accounts of religious institutions. To assist the Chief Audit Officer, 2 Deputy Chief Audit Officers, 18 Regional Audit Officers and 28 Assistant Audit Officers are deployed.

High Level Advisory Committee

25. Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 has provisions to constitute a Committee to give advice to the Government in the matters relating to Hindu Religious Institutions. This Advisory Committee headed by the **Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** and having the Honourable Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments as the Vice Chairman, the Secretary to Government,

Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department as official member and the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department as the Member Secretary along with non-official members.

Constitution of District Committee

26. As per the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the Government has to constitute a District Committee in all the districts consisting of not less than three and not more than five non-official members. The Committee shall prepare a panel of names of persons qualified for appointment as Trustees except for the Religious Institutions having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above. The term of office of the District Committee shall be three years.

Appointment of Trustees

27. For administering Hindu Religious Institutions under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Non-Hereditary Trustees are appointed to each temple that has Non-Hereditary administration. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees should consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons. The Board should consist of members among whom one shall be from Adi Dravida or Scheduled Tribe and one shall be a woman. The period of this Board is two years.

Qualification for appointment of Trustees

28. Under the instructions of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** the following qualifications were prescribed in section 25A for a person to be appointed as Trustee of Hindu Religious and Charitable institutions under

the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act.

- a) if he has faith in God,
- b) if he possesses good conduct and reputation and commands respect in the locality in which the religious institution or endowment is situated
- c) if he has sufficient time and interest to attend to the affairs of the religious institution or endowment, and
- d) if he possesses such other merit incidental thereto.

Power to appoint Trustees

Government

29. Five Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions falling under Section 46 (iii) of Hindu Religious and

Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above, are appointed directly by the Government.

Commissioner

30. Three Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under Section 46 (ii) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of not less than Rs.2 lakh but less than Rs.10 lakh, are appointed by the Commissioner.

Joint Commissioner

31. Three Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under Section 46 (i) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of not less than Rs.10,000 but less than Rs.2 lakh are appointed by the Regional Joint Commissioner concerned.

Assistant Commissioner

32. Three Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under Section 49 (1) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of less than Rs.10,000 are appointed by the respective District Assistant Commissioners.

33. For those Religious Institutions where the Non-Hereditary Trustees are appointed by the Commissioner, Joint Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, if necessary, two Non-Hereditary Trustees will be nominated by the Government.

Appointment of Fit Person

34. After the tenure of the Trust Board, in order to perform the functions of the Board of Trustees, a qualified person will be appointed as a Fit person as an interim arrangement till the appointment of Board of Trustees.

II-LAND ADMINISTRATION

Land Details

35. Hindu Religious Institutions have a total extent of 4,78,282.76 acres of land. The details are as below:

Classification of Land	Temple Lands	Mutt Lands	Total Lands
	(Acre in Lakh)		
Wet	1.83	0.21	2.04
Dry	2.18	0.35	2.53
Maanavari	0.21	Nil	0.21
Total	4.22	0.56	4.78

36. 22,600 buildings and 33,665 vacant sites owned by Hindu Religious Institutions are leased out. Further, the agricultural lands are leased out to 1,23,729 lessees. For the last 5 years an income of Rs.697 crore was received from the immovable assets. In the year

2015-2016 an income of Rs.275 crore has been received.

Fixation of Fair Rent

37. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for fixation of fair rent for the buildings and sites belonging to Hindu Religious Institutions under Section 34A. Accordingly, a Committee consisting of the Regional Joint Commissioner, Executive Officer or Trustee or Chairman, Board of Trustees and the District Registrar of the Registration Department has been formed to fix fair rent for the buildings and sites used for commercial and residential purposes.

Revenue Courts

38. Revenue courts are functioning with Special Deputy Collectors in order to file cases regarding collection of arrears of land lease

revenue, fixation of fair rent for the agricultural lands and eviction of the lessees, who refuse to pay lease amount under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act, 1961 who are in default. The details are as below:

REVENUE COURTS	CAMPING REVENUE COURTS
1. Thanjavur	1. Kumbakonam
2. Tiruchirappalli	2. Salem
3. Mayiladuthurai	3. Tenkasi
4. Tiruvarur	
5. Cuddalore	
6. Madurai	
7. Lalgudi	
8. Mannargudi	
9. Nagapattinam	
10. Tirunelveli	

39. Among the above Revenue Courts the four Revenue Courts at Lalgudi, Mannargudi, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli have been formed during the year 2012-2013 and are functioning as per the orders of the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. During 2015-2016 out of 15877 cases 6539 cases have been disposed and sum of Rs.246.37 lakh out of decreed sum of Rs.810.34 lakh have been collected. In the past five years total sum of Rs.595.73 lakh lease arrears were collected. Necessary steps are being taken for collecting the entire lease arrears.

Retrieval of Lands

40. During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), the pattas of Hindu Religious Institutions were wrongly transferred in the names of private individuals. To rectify this and get the pattas back in the names of the Institutions, two District Revenue Officers

have been posted as Special Officers at Madurai and Coimbatore.

41. In the past five years, Pattas of 4439.43 acres of temple lands belonging to 719 temples wrongly transferred in the names of private persons, were identified and restored in the names of temples. In the year 2015-2016 alone pattas of 1034.21 acres of lands belonging to 170 temples were ordered to be restored to the temples.

42. Similarly, the Government of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** after finding that in the computerized chittas, the registration of temple lands were changed and entered in the names of private persons, ordered restoration of pattas to temples. Pattas of 582.93 acres of land belonging to 138 temples were restored in the past five years. In the year 2015-16 alone 19.02 acres belonging to

20 temples for which pattas have been wrongly issued to private individuals were restored to the temples.

43. As stated above, steps are being taken statewide to find out and restore temple lands whose pattas are wrongly issued to private individuals and wrongly registered in the computerised chitta.

Appointment of retired Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Surveyors

44. To restore the pattas of the lands of Hindu Religious Institutions transferred wrongly in the names of private individuals, 9 retired Deputy Collectors, 19 retired Tahsildars and 10 retired Surveyors have been appointed on consolidated pay.

Removal of Encroachments

45. Encroachments of lands of Hindu Religious Institutions to the extent of 1977.37 acres of land, 316.0402 grounds of sites and 155.0498 grounds of buildings, were cleared and brought back to the possession of temples in the past five years. The total market value of these assets is approximately Rs.2420.12 crore. In this, for the year 2015-2016 alone 90.58 acres of cultivable lands, 11.2207 grounds of sites and 15.0936 grounds of buildings were taken possession, their total value being approximately Rs.82.57 crore.

Regularisation of Group Encroachments

46. Steps were taken to regularize the persons who have encroached temple lands for residence in groups and living there for more than

30 years as tenants subject to the following conditions.

- i. The land must have been utilized over 30 years for residential purpose only.
- ii. The fair rent fixed as per relevant Government Order should be agreed.
- iii. The fair rent has to be given effect from 01.07.1998.
- iv. The rent due must be remitted in equal instalments in a period of 12 months.
- v. 10 months rent has to be paid as donation.

47. In the past five years, 6066 encroachers who had occupied 298.64 acres of land were regularized as tenants and No Objection Certificates were issued to them to avail facilities such as connection for drinking water supply and electricity.

III-SPECIAL SCHEMES

Annadanam Scheme

48. “மண்டிணி ஞாலத்து வாழ்வோர்க் கெல்லாம்
உண்டி கொடுத்தோர் உயிர் கொடுத்தோரே”

– மணிமேகலைக் காப்பியம்

The finest among the schemes, the Annadanam Scheme was inaugurated on 23rd March 2002 at Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple by **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**.

49. This noble Scheme of providing Annadanam to devotees who visit temple to receive grace of God was implemented in 360 temples during the previous regime of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. During 2006-2011, this scheme was extended to only 2 temples.

50. As ordered by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** this laudable scheme was further extended to 106 temples in 2011-2012, 50 temples in 2012-2013, 100 temples in 2013-2014 and 106 temples in 2014-2015 considering the inflow of devotees and their requirement.

Everyday 56,310 devotees are benefitted under this scheme in 722 temples and Rs.10.89 lakh is being spent per day.

Day Long Annadanam

51. **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** graciously inaugurated the Day Long Annadanam Scheme at Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswami Temple on 13.09.2012. Simultaneously, this scheme has been inaugurated at Palani, Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Temple. About 7765

devotees are being benefitted daily under this scheme and a sum of Rs.1.72 lakh spent daily. Devotees can have food at any time from morning 8 a.m to night 10 p.m. This scheme has won much appreciation from devotees.

52. Under the Annadanam Scheme daily 64075 devotees are benefitted in 724 temples for which Rs.12.61 lakh is incurred as expenditure. This scheme will be further extended in the current financial year to 30 more temples as ordered by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**.

Spiritual and Moral Classes

53. As desired by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** spiritual and moral classes are conducted on all Saturdays in all important temples to make our children imbibe the high moral and ethical values enshrined in our

ancient tamil literature through stories which embody our cultural heritage and tradition. These children are provided with snacks during such classes and awards will be distributed to the best children.

During the year 2015-2016, 32396 students participated in the spiritual and moral classes in 485 temples.

Special Poojas and Common Feasts

54. Special Poojas and Common Feasts are being conducted in temples every year on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna Memorial Day, inviting participation of the people from all communities without discrimination. During 2015-2016, Special Poojas and Common Feasts were conducted in 767 temples.

Elephant Rejuvenation Camps

55. In tune with the sublime concept of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** reflected in the lines **“Like human beings all other living beings also deserve the same mercy and kindness”**, Elephant Camp was organized well in a cool and natural environment suitable for the elephants for their physical and mental well being.

Special Rejuvenation Camps for Elephants were organized during 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the elephants maintained by individuals and temples in a cool environment conducive to elephants at Mudumalai Theppakkadu. This camp approach which was given up during 2006-2011 was restored in 2011-2012 and conducted on 14.12.2011 for 48 days at Mudumalai Theppakkadu.

From the year 2012-2013 the camp is being organized on the banks of the Bhavani River near Tekkampatti Arulmigu Vanabadrakaliamman Temple at Mettupalayam in Coimbatore District. In this camp 34 Temple and Mutt Elephants from Tamil Nadu and one elephant from a temple belonging to Puducherry Union Territory participated, underwent rejuvenation in the camp.

In the year 2013-2014, 31 Temple and Mutt Elephants from Tamil Nadu, along with 18 elephants from Forest Department, two elephants from Puducherry Union Territory and one from Nagoor Darga totally 52 elephants participated in the camp.

In the year 2014-2015, 28 Temple and Mutt Elephants 2 elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp.

In 2015-2016, 29 Temple and Mutt Elephants and 2 elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp. The elephants of Temples and Mutts which were unable to participate in this camp were also given the same nutritious food and medicines as supplied in the camp for better physical and mental health. In this camp, training was given not only for elephants but also for the mahouts who were taught on safety and maintenance of elephants to keep them healthy. The entire expenditure of this camp is borne by the Government.

Marriage Scheme for the Poor and Downtrodden

56. The noble Scheme of marriages for the poor and downtrodden people belonging to the Hindu religion was first launched in 1981 by the

then **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.** from the surplus fund of temple. People belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes benefitted under the Scheme. **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** performed the marriages of 1008 couples in 2002 and 1053 couples in 2003 at Tiruverkadu. Further, marriages were also conducted for 489 couples in few temples. This noble scheme was given up during the year 2006 – 2011. As ordered by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** during the year 2012-2013, marriages for 1006 couples have been conducted on 18.06.2012 at a venue near Tiruverkadu Temple in a fitting manner by providing 4 grams of Gold for Thirumangalyam and wedding gifts worth Rs.10,000 each. A sum of Rs.1.51 crore was spent for this scheme.

Cable Cars

57. As ordered by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** Cable Car facility was first introduced at an estimated cost of Rs.4 crore in Palani Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Temple for the benefit of the devotees on 3rd November 2004. Following the appreciation received from the devotees for this cable car facility, as ordered by **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** it has been decided to provide one more international standard cable car for Palani and it is in process. Agreement has also been entered to provide new cable cars for Sholingur Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswami Temple and Karur, Ayyarmalai, Arulmigu Rathinagireeswarar Temple.

Battery Cars

58. **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated a six seater Battery Car on 19th June 2011 to Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswami Temple for the benefit of the differently abled and elders. Battery Cars have been introduced in the following ten temples. This scheme is greatly appreciated by devotees.

Sl. No.	Temple Name	No. of Battery Cars
1.	Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswami Temple	2
2.	Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswami Temple	3
3.	Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple	1
4.	Tiruttani, Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple	1
5.	Tiruvavarur, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswami Temple	1
6.	Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple	1

7.	Tiruvottiyur, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswami Temple	1
8.	Tiruvanaikaval, Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple	1
9.	Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple	1
10.	Rameswaram, Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple	3
	Total	15

Government Grant for Kanyakumari District Temples

59. Taking note of the shortage of funds in the administration of Incorporated and Unincorporated Temples, Kanyakumari District, which includes 490 Temples, one Women's College, one Higher Secondary School, and 2 High Schools, in the year 2013-2014, **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for the enhancement of annual

Government Grant from rupees one crore to three crore.

Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme

60. This scheme was launched in 1986 to perform Oru Kaala Pooja in Temples which were not in a position to conduct pooja even once daily. To enable the public to participate in this scheme, during 1993, **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** issued an order that when a contribution of Rs.2,500/- is received from the public, Rs.20,000/- from the surplus fund of the affluent temples, Rs.1,300/- from the Temple Renovation / Restoration and Charitable Endowment Funds and Rs.1,200/- from the Temple Development Fund will be contributed, thus making a total of Rs.25,000/- to be deposited as fixed deposit under this scheme.

61. After **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** took charge in 2011, considering that the interest amount from the deposit of Rs.25,000/- is not sufficient, ordered for the increase of the permanent deposit (corpus) to Rs.1 lakh for every temple. Under this scheme, 11,931 temples were benefitted. This scheme has been carried out by an allotment of an 'one time government grant' of Rs.59.48 crore and by allotting Rs.30 crore diverted from the surplus fund of affluent temples. Further, this scheme has been extended to 68 temples and the scheme is implemented in 11,999 temples.

62. In the year, 2014-2015, 505 more temples got benefitted. A deposit of corpus fund of Rs.3.79 crore has been created. Now, Rs.125.04 crore have been deposited for 12,504 temples for successful Oru Kaala Pooja at the rate of one lakh rupees per temple.

63. At present, if any member of the public contributes Rs.10,000/- for any needy temple, the department will contribute Rs.90,000/- and one lakh rupees corpus will be created in the name of such temple to ensure the performance of Oru Kaala Pooja.

Pooja Articles for Small Temples

64. For due performance of Poojas in 10,000 small temples, the Government led by **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered to procure brass pooja articles like Thambalam, Dhoopakal, Bell, Karthigai Vilakku and Hanging Vilakku etc., at the cost of Rs.2.44 crore. Work orders were placed with Poompohar Handicraft Corporation for supply of the same through surplus fund of financial affluent temples and the pooja articles was distributed by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** on 15.09.2015.

Revival of Kaala Poojas in Ancient Temples

65. This scheme was evolved with a view to set right the setbacks in the performance of Kaala Poojas at Temples that are glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars. This scheme provides means for performing Kaala Poojas at Temples utilizing the surplus fund of the affluent temples. Under this scheme, 50 needy temples received financial assistance from the funds of 19 affluent temples during 2001-2006. This scheme was not in operation during 2006-2011. After the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** took charge in 2011 the scheme was revived and 18 temples were granted Rs.4.49 lakh. Steps are being taken to disburse funds for more temples under this scheme.

IV-TIRUPPANI

Tiruppani (Conservation, Restoration and Renovation)

66. **“Whosoever lays a brick for temple construction will rule the world”**

As per this proverbial saying, the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered to conserve / restore and to renovate the historical, ancient temples, holy shrines glorified by the hymns of the Alvars and Nayanmars, temples visited in large numbers with prarthana, village temples and temples located in the habitations of Adi Dravida Communities.

Tiruppani Fund

67. Temple conservation, restoration and renovation (Tiruppani) is carried out based on the following financial sources.

- Public Donation
- Own funds of the Temples
- Diversion of surplus fund of Temples
- Government Grant
- Common Good Fund
- Temple Development Fund
- Village Temple Renovation Fund
- Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund
- Renovation by Donors themselves
- Renovation Fund for temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal people
- Finance Commission Grant

68. Wherever a donor volunteers to take up the responsibility of renovating temples, financial assistance is also provided by the department if necessary in case of shortage of funds.

Donation

69. Conservation / Renovation / Restoration works are carried out from the donations voluntarily contributed by industrialists, private institutions, wealthy persons, common public and persons having faith in divinity, spirituality and religious affinity. In the past five years of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** regime estimates for Tiruppani through donations for a value of Rs.34.13 crore in 567 temples were sanctioned. During 2015-2016, estimates for a value of Rs.2.69 crore were sanctioned to carry out 40 works in 39 temples through donations.

Temple Fund

70. Affluent temples carry out conservation/ renovation / restoration from their own surplus fund. During the last five years Rs.249.16 crore

was allotted from the Temple Funds for Tiruppani of 821 temples. During 2015-2016, Rs.53.04 crore was allotted from the Temple Funds for Tiruppani of 142 temples.

Diversion of Funds

71. According to Section 36 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the temples which are short of funds receive funds by way of diversion from the surplus fund of the affluent temples. In the last five years financial assistance of Rs.16.57 crore was sanctioned for 133 temples for Tiruppani works. During 2015-2016 for Tiruppani works of 21 temples financial assistance of Rs.2.64 crore was sanctioned by diversion.

Government Grant

72. A Government Grant of Rs.3 crore was given for Temple Tiruppani (conservation/

renovation / restoration) every year. After the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed charge in the year 2011 an amount of six crore rupees was granted for renovation / restoration of 96 temples by the Government for the year 2011-2012 and 2012 and 2013. This annual Government Grant of three crore rupees has been ordered to be increased to six crore rupees in the year 2013-2014 by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. On the basis of this Order, in the past four years a total grant of Rs.18 crore was disbursed for 196 temples.

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Administration Fund

73. Instead of annual Government Grant, for the year 2014-15 Rs. 6 Crore was sanctioned from the "Religious and Charitable Endowments

Administration Fund" for 36 temples related to Mahamaham.

Common Good Fund

74. A separate fund viz. "Common Good Fund" in the name of the Commissioner was created out of voluntary donations given by the individuals and the contributions made by the Hindu Religious Institutions. In the last five years a sum of Rs.60.39 crore was sanctioned for conservation/ renovation / restoration work in 794 temples.

Temple Development Fund

75. A corpus fund of Rs.8 crore was created from the surplus fund of affluent temples for the development of temples. From the interest accruing from this corpus, financial assistance is rendered for the Tiruppani of temples of ancient, historical significance. In the last 5 years,

Rs.5.36 crore was given to 48 temples under this scheme. During 2015-2016, Rs.4.51 crore was disbursed to 41 temples.

Village Temples Renovation Fund

76. **“Village Temples Renovation Fund”** has been created for the purpose of providing financial assistance to small village temples under the control of the department for temple renovation / restoration. A corpus of Rs.2 crore was created by diversion from the surplus fund of Palani, Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Temple. From the interest derived from the corpus, Rs.25,000/- was disbursed for renovation / restoration of each village temple. In the year 2012-2013, **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered enhancement of this assistance to Rs.50,000/-. Accordingly, in the past 4 years, a sum of Rs.16.36 crore was disbursed to 3272 temples. During the year

2015-2016 alone, a sum of Rs.5.02 crore was disbursed to 1004 temples.

Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has ordered for the enhancement of the grant given for the renovation of village temples under this scheme, from Rs.50,000/- to One Lakh Rupees from the current financial year. In the financial year 2016-2017, 500 village temples would be renovated under this scheme at an estimated cost of Five Crore Rupees.

Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

77. **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** created a corpus namely, "Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund" on 5th August 1991. **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated Rs.1,00,008/- towards this fund personally. Donations were thereafter received from

Philanthropists, Industrialists and the General Public. This fund is now called as "Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund". In the past 5 years Rs.1.59 crore was disbursed to 17 temples. This fund is being directly maintained by the Government.

Donor Works

78. It is common practice that donors voluntarily carry out the temple conservation / renovation / restoration with their own funds under the supervision of the Department. After assuming charge in 2011, the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** sanctioned donor works at an estimated cost of Rs.80.13 crore in 315 temples. During 2015-2016, 90 Donor Tiruppani works were sanctioned in 63 temples at an estimated cost of Rs.28.54 crore.

Tiruppani for the temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities

79. The temples not under the control of the Department in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities were provided a financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- per temple for the Tiruppani from out of the funds received from the surplus fund of the affluent temples. Since, the amount per temple was found insufficient for executing the scheme, the financial assistance was raised to Rs.50,000/- per temple in the year 2011-2012 by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. In the last 5 years, Rs.18.20 crore was given to 3640 temples. During the year 2015-2016 alone Rs.5.02 crore was given to 1004 temples.

Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has ordered for the enhancement of the grant given for the renovation of temples

situated in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal communities under this scheme, from Rs.50,000/- to One Lakh Rupees from the current financial year. In the financial year 2016-2017, 500 temples situated in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal communities would be renovated under this scheme at an estimated cost of Five Crore Rupees.

Finance Commission Grant

80. The Central Finance Commission is rendering financial assistance for renovating ancient temples without tampering their heritage value. In the past five years rule of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, sanction of Rs.22.50 crore each for 4 years totalling to Rs.90 crore from 2011-2012 onwards was obtained, from the 13th Finance Commission for taking up works in 250 temples.

Rs.22.50 crore sanctioned in the year 2014-2015 was utilized for renovation of 67 temples.

Tourism Fund

81. The temples in Tamil Nadu are major tourist attractions. For the welfare of the devotees and tourists visiting the temples, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and the Tourism Department jointly provide basic amenities such as toilets, bathrooms, drinking water, dormitories, information centres, approach roads, high mast lamps, cloak rooms, provision of lawns and parking facilities. In the past five years rule of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** Rs.7.86 crore tourist fund was granted to provide facilities for tourists in 16 temples.

Conservation, Renovation and Restoration works in the temples of Heritage Value – Archaeological Expert Committee

82. Under the orders of the Government, in order to give advice on archaeological matters and expert opinion in the conservation/ renovation / restoration works in the temples of heritage value under the 13th Finance Commission Grant, Thiru.K.T.Narasimhan, retired Superintending Archaeologist of the Archaeological Survey of India who is a well known expert in Archaeology has been appointed as Archaeological Consultant. An Expert Committee has also been constituted to help in this matter. Under the guidance of the Archaeological Expert or the Committee or any member of the Committee, archaeological and heritage conservation/ renovation / restoration works are being carried out in temples.

After appointment of this Committee, notes of inspection has been received from all the members of the committee for 323 temples. Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swami Temple Chennai, Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganathaswami Temple, Tiruvarur Arulmigu Thyagarajaswami Temple have been renovated based on the Archaeological Notes of Inspection and Kumbabhishekam has also been performed. In the same way in temples including Tiruvannamalai Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple conservation/ renovation / restoration works are being carried out based on the notes of inspection.

83. The conservation activities taken up under the guidance of Committee has been appreciated and **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has conferred the **Chief Minister's Best Practices Award of Tamil Nadu Government** among Departments

for the year 2015. This was received by the Department among others for conserving and restoring historically important Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swami Temple, Triplicane, Chennai, strictly in accordance with heritage norms.

Restoration and Maintenance of Murals

84. The Honourable Chief Minister announced under Rule 110 that an Advisory and Supervisory Committee is formed by the Government for conservation/ restoration and maintenance of heritage paintings found in 50 temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

On the advice of this Committee, the conservation of ancient wall paintings in the Rajagopuram of Arulmigu Thanumalayaswami Temple Sucheendram, Kanyakumari District at an

estimated cost of Rs.81 lakh has been completed. Similarly, in Arulmigu Narumboonathaswami Temple, Thirupudaimarudur, Tirunelveli District conservation of paintings in the Rajagopuram is being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs.1.42 crore. The restoration of mural paintings in Kancheepuram Arulmigu Devarajaswami Temple at an estimate of Rs.64.10 lakh is also being carried out.

85. For the first time, a Nayak period mural was discovered beneath cement plaster at Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swami Temple, Chennai during renovation works in May 2015. A new Chola inscription belonging to Rajendra Chola was also discovered and deciphered in the same temple during renovation. The words have been displayed in contemporary Tamil script in the Prakara.

Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting

86. There are 2359 temple tanks located in 1586 temples across the State under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Out of them, 1068 tanks were identified for repairs and renovation/restoration. 611 temple tanks have been renovated at Rs.3.31 crore by this Government from 2011 to 2016. The remaining temple tanks will be repaired and renovated shortly. In the last 2 years the Department of Environment granted financial assistance of Rs.3.76 crore for renovation/ restoration of 11 temple tanks. In 2015-2016 alone, 5 tanks were renovated. As ordered by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** a special drive for revamping 5400 rain water harvesting structures

and 1004 temple tanks was conducted in May-June 2014.

87. The temple tanks will be protected as per this scheme by the following measures.

- Clearing the encroachments in and around the temple tanks.
- Putting up compound wall around the tanks.
- Deepening and desilting the temple tanks.
- Re-laying the steps of the temple tanks.
- Providing facility for the inflow of rainwater into temple tanks and overflow channel for surplus water.

Software to follow up progress of Tiruppani

88. A new module has been introduced to upload Tiruppani proposals, sanction of administrative and technical approval given by the departmental head and subordinate officers

including tender approvals, particulars of contractors, issue of work orders and uploading of photographs of work sites with special software designed for this purpose to monitor the progress of Tiruppani.

Chartered Engineers

89. In order to avoid delay in the preparation of estimates for renovation / restoration works of temples, retired engineers of the Public Works Department and Highways Department have been approved as panel engineers. In the last five years 13 Chartered Engineers were approved. The approved panel engineers prepare drawings and estimates necessary for the renovation / restoration of temples.

Sthapathys

90. To ensure that the temple renovation / restoration (Tiruppani) are carried out in accordance with the standards prescribed in Agama and Shilpa Shastra, persons practicing this art, learnt traditionally from their ancestors and those possessing a degree or a diploma in sculptural arts are being approved as Sthapathys from time to time. In the last five years 539 sthapathys have been given approval.

Kumbhabishekam/Samprokshanam (Consecration) of Temples

91. According to Agama Shastras (texts), every temple has to be consecrated once in 12 years. On this basis, temples are classified into the following four categories for consecration.

- Ancient temples glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars.

- Temples historically popular and having tourist significance.
- Temples popular for fulfilling the wishes and vows of the devotees.
- Small temples located in the villages and in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Scheduled Tribes.

92. After **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed charge in 2011 kumbhabishekams were performed in 8843 (upto 31.03.2016) temples. In the year 2015-2016 alone Tiruppani works were completed and kumbabhishekams were performed in 1516 temples. This is an important milestone in the history of Tiruppani.

Maintenance of Temple Cars

93. There are 989 wooden cars in 809 temples under the control of this Department. A sum of Rs.10.50 crore was collected for the

conservation/ renovation / restoration of temple cars from the surplus fund of affluent temples in February 2006. Out of this during the last 5 years Rs.9.54 crore was disbursed for renovation of 158 temple cars. During 2015-2016 Rs.2.04 crore was disbursed for renovation of 30 temple cars.

94. After this Government under the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed office in 2011, the road blocks in the conservation/ renovation / restoration of temple cars were removed by raising both the labour charges fixed for artisans and the cost of wood. As a result of this, 143 temple cars have been repaired, renovated and put in use at the cost of Rs.15.91 crore. During the year 2015-2016, 8 temple cars have been repaired at a cost of Rs.3.62 crore.

95. In order to safeguard the temple cars, steps have been taken to provide roofs which are

fire proof, provision of iron wheels and steel axles. To avoid untoward incidents during temple car festivals, guidelines for safety have been implemented. Insurance is provided to the devotees who pull the car and also to the temple car.

Temples with Golden Cars and Silver Cars

96. It is a customary practice that the devotees pull the Golden or Silver Car mounted with the processional deity to fulfill their vows.

97. At present there are 55 temples with Golden Cars and 42 temples with Silver Cars.

Temples with Golden Cars

S.No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswami Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Kandaswami Temple, Park Town, Chennai.
3.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai.

S.No.	Name of the Temple
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Tiruverkadu.
6.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswami Temple, Swamimalai.
7.	Arulmigu Vaidyanathaswami Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.
8.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Temple, Echanari, Coimbatore.
9.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram, Trichirapalli.
10.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanawami Temple, Sankarankoil.
12.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruchendur.
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri.
14.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram.
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri.
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Sivanmalai.
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore.
18.	Arulmigu Kamakshiamman Temple, Mangadu.
19.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswami Temple, Rameswaram.
20.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur.
21.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Maruthamalai.
22.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari

S.No.	Name of the Temple
23.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai.
24.	Arulmigu Marundeeswarar Temple, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai.
25.	Arulmigu Velayuthaswami Temple, Thindalmalai, Erode.
26.	Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabhaswami Temple, Adyar, Chennai.
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinathaswami Temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi.
28.	Arulmigu Mundagakanni Amman Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Temple, Uppiliappankoil, Kumbakonam.
30.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruparankundram.
31.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Karur.
32.	Arulmigu Dhandumariamman Temple, Coimbatore.
33.	Arulmigu Chandrachudeswarar Temple, Hosur.
34.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval.
35.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswami Temple, Namakkal.
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettyalayam.
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kalliamman Temple, Ariyakurichi.
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli.
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagamman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai.

S.No.	Name of the Temple
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal.
41.	Arulmigu Vekkaiammam Temple, Uraiyur, Trichirappalli.
42.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem.
43.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Salem.
44.	Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkoil, Madurai.
45.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswami Temple, Sholingur, Vellore.
46.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswami Temple, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai.
47.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Dindigul.
48.	Arulmigu Angalaparameswari Temple, Melmalaiyanur, Villupuram District.
49.	Arulmigu Kondathukaiammam Temple, Pariyur, Erode District.
50.	Arulmigu Kandaswami Temple, Tiruporur, Kancheepuram District.
51.	Arulmigu Masaniammam Temple, Anaimalai, Coimbatore District.
52.	Arulmigu Tirumalai Kumaraswami Temple, Panpozhi, Tirunelveli District.
53.	Arulmigu Andal (Nachiar) Temple, Srivilliputhur.
54.	Arulmigu AdaikalamKatha Iyanar and Bathra Kaliyammam Temple, Madapuram, Sivagangai District.
55.	Arulmigu Thanthondreeswarar temple, Belur, Salem District. (Gold Electroplated)

Temples having silver cars

S.No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswami Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruchendur.
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswami Temple, Rameswaram.
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai.
7.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswami Temple, Swamimalai.
8.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli.
9.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur.
10.	Arulmigu Vaidyanathaswami Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.
11.	Arulmigu Chattanathaswami Temple, Sirkazhi.
12.	Arulmigu Mayuranathaswami Temple, Mayiladuthurai.
13.	Arulmigu Mariamman, Angalamman Temple, Pollachi.
14.	Arulmigu Prasanna Vinayagar Temple, Udumalaipettai.
15.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Tiruverkadu.
16.	Arulmigu Kolanjiappar Temple, Manavalanallur.

S.No.	Name of the Temple
17.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram.
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram.
19.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswami Temple, Park Town, Chennai.
20.	Arulmigu Tiruvenkadamudayan Temple, Ariyakudi.
21.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Kundrakudi.
22.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Keelasevalpatti.
23.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Natarasankottai.
24.	Arulmigu Koppudaya Nayagiamman Temple, Karaikudi.
25.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan (A) Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Devakottai.
26.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Konnaiyur, Tirumayam.
27.	Arulmigu Aruthra Kapaleeswarar Temple, Erode.
28.	Arulmigu Sangameswarar Temple, Bhavani.
29.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Temple, Bhavani.
30.	Arulmigu Balasubramaniaswami Temple, Aayakudi, Tirunelveli.
31.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur.
32.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Neyveli.
33.	Arulmigu Veyuluku Uganda Vinayagar Temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram District.
34.	Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Dindigul.

S.No.	Name of the Temple
35.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram.
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam District.
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dandayuthapaniswami Temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur District.
38.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District.
39.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint, Chennai.
40.	Arulmigu Katchabeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram.
41.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami temple. Viralimalai, Pudukottai
42.	Arulmigu Vedhapureeswarar Temple, Thiruvathipuram, Tiruvannamalai District.

V-WELFARE MEASURES FOR DEVOTEES

Basic Amenities

Drinking Water

98. Steps have been taken for providing safe drinking water for the devotees visiting temples. During the past five years 145 temples

were provided with pure drinking water at a cost of Rs.3.70 crore.

Modern Toilet Facilities

99. Steps have been taken to provide separate modern toilet facilities for men and women visiting temples. During 2011-2016, construction of toilets was undertaken at a cost of Rs.16.07 crore in 126 temples. During 2015-2016, construction of toilets for men and women at a cost of Rs.5.49 crore was undertaken in 19 temples.

Facilities for Stay

100. Cottages, rooms, dormitories, cloak rooms and parking lots are dedicated to the devotees visiting temples. During last five years boarding / lodging facilities for devotees at an estimate of Rs.59.41 crore in 15 temples were

approved for construction. During the year 2015-2016, dormitories at an estimated cost of Rs.1.50 crore were constructed in three temples.

Apart from that "Yatri Nivas" consisting of cottages, dormitories, hotel restaurants with an accommodation facility for 1000 pilgrim tourists at a time was constructed at Srirangam at a cost of Rs.47.09 crore from the funds of Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganathaswami Temple and Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple was inaugurated by **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** on 30.06.2014 and is in use. A 'Yatri Nivas' in Tiruvannamalai Temple at an estimated cost of Rs.28 crore and a 'Yatri Nivas' in Rameswaram Temple at an estimated cost of Rs.29 crore to facilitate stay for 500 pilgrims respectively will be constructed through Public Works Department.

Temple Sign / Information Boards

101. To reach the temples easily, sign boards with the temple name are installed in main roads. Further, boards containing information about all the temples situated in and around the area are also installed in the Bus stands and Railway Stations.

High Quality Kumkum to Devotees

102. New Kumkum preparation machines have been installed at a cost of one crore rupees at Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundraeswarar Temple, Bannari, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and Thiruverkkadu Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple with the aim to provide high quality Kumkum to the devotees.

Donor Reception Centres

103. Donor reception centres are established at Chennai Commissioner's Office, Srirangam Arulmigu Ranganathaswami Temple, Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswami Temple and Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple to help the donors, who wish to donate to the temples either in cash or valuables.

Manasarovar and Mukthinath Yatra

104. It is the belief of every Hindu that they should go on a holy yatra to Manasarovar and Mukthinath atleast once in their life time to achieve spiritual bliss. The cost of this yatra is very expensive. In appreciation of the aspirations of the people, the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered a grant of Rs.40,000/- on completion of yatra to Manasarovar in China and Rs.10,000/- on

completion of yatra to Mukthinath in Nepal for Hindus residing in Tamil Nadu has been ordered to be given for 250 Tamil Nadu devotees every year. In the year 2012-2013, Rs.58.40 lakh was given to 146 pilgrims who performed the Manasarover yatra. One lakh rupees was given to ten pilgrims who performed the Mukthinath Yatra. For the year 2013-2014, a sum of Rs.84.70 lakh was released to the pilgrims who completed the yatras. For the year 2014-2015, a sum of Rs.112.30 lakh was released to the pilgrims who completed the yatras. For the year 2015-16 a sum of Rs.20.40 lakh has been released to 51 pilgrims who completed Manasarover Yatra and a sum of Rs.7.20 lakh has been disbursed to 72 pilgrims who have completed Mukthinath Yatra totally Rs.27.60 lakh has been disbursed.

Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties

105. In important temples, cotton sarees and dhoties received as offerings are distributed to the elderly persons, destitute and widows on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna's Memorial Day. In the last five years 59,870 elderly persons were benefitted under this scheme.

VI-CLEANLINESS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN TEMPLES

Uzhavarappani

106. The ancient temples in Tamil Nadu are proudly standing as historical monuments having tall towers, beautiful domes, large corridors and huge walls. It is our bounden duty to preserve and protect them. The vegetation growing on these old constructions are heavily damaging them.

The traditional method of cleaning the temple premises called "Uzhavarappani" once launched by Saint Appar Adigal one of the four leading exponents of the Saiva School was re-launched in 2011-2012 with a view to introduce the spirit of service. Through this programme, eradication of weeds and vegetation was carried out in 2892 temples during these years. During the year 2015-2016, through this programme, eradication of weeds and vegetation was carried out in 454 temples. Further, this programme is being implemented continuously in temples.

Maintenance of Cleanliness by Outsourcing

107. In order to maintain the cleanliness in the temples, the house keeping of the temple premises has been outsourced. As a result of this, cleaning in 110 big temples was undertaken by outsourcing, which has resulted in high level

cleanliness. Steps have been taken to extend the scheme to the other temples also where large number of devotees and tourists visit.

Prohibiting usage of Plastic in Temple Premises

108. To maintain the healthy and clean environment in and around the temples usage of plastic and polythene bags are prohibited in the shops selling pooja articles in and around temple premises. Instead bags made of cloth, paper, bamboo and arecanut-leaf plates are being used in temple.

Alternate Energy Scheme

109. In the year 2012-2013 **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** announced introduction of alternative energy source viz., installation of solar power equipments to save on the cost of electricity and to keep the

environment free from pollution. The same was implemented at Tiruchendur Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswami Temple, Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganathaswami Temple and Suchindram Arulmigu Kanyakumari District Temples. After installation of a 10 KW equipment, there is a saving of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.15,000/- in the electricity bill.

VII-SECURITY MEASURES

Safety of Icons and Valuables

110. To safeguard the icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as installation of Burglar Alarm, Tell Tale Clocks, Inner Locking Systems, fixing Iron Gates, Closed Circuit Television, appointment of Night Watchman and appointment of personnel from the Temple Protection Force have been implemented in 4132 temples.

Scheme for Installation of Burglar Alarms

111. Under the burglar alarm installation scheme a Corpus Fund of rupees five crore was created. Under this scheme, the Department will sanction 75% of the requirement of the needy temple who apply for grant for installation of burglar alarms in the temples from the interest received from the Corpus Fund. 25% of the requirement has to be borne by the temple either from its own fund or donor fund. Realizing that most of the temples in villages have paucity of funds and that they possess invaluable icons, jewels and expensive items and that this Department's primary duty is to protect these temples, orders were issued to release full grant from the interest received from the Corpus Fund for the installation of burglar alarms. In the last five years a sum of Rs.71 lakh was disbursed to 562 temples.

Icon Centres

112. In order to protect the valuable Icons of the temples "Icon Centres" have been built. Icons of temples having inadequate protection are being safeguarded therein. Provision has been made to take out the icons of temples from the centre for conducting festivals and return for safe custody after festival. Poojas are performed for all the icons at the centres.

Details of Icon Centres	
1.	Icon Centre, Tiruvarur (Arulmigu Thyagarajaswami Temple campus)
2.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirapalli
3.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli
4.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem
5.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Gandhinagar, Vellore
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram
8.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur, Cuddalore
9.	Arulmigu Nageswaraswami Temple, Kumbakonam
10.	Arulmigu Patteeswaraswami Temple, Perur, Coimbatore

11.	Arulmigu Brahadambal Temple, Tirugokarnam, Pudukkottai
12.	Arulmigu Tiruvappudaiyar Temple, Chellur, Madurai
13.	Arulmigu Sundarraja Perumal Temple, Sivagangai
14.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswami Temple, Tiruvarur (Additional Centre)
15.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswami Temple, Tiruvottiyur
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruttani
17.	Arulmigu Kaliyamman Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri
18.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswami Temple, Villupuram
19.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar

Further, to protect the invaluable icons **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered for construction of the following 15 “Icon Centres” for which works have been completed.

Name of the temple / Place

1.	Arulmigu Kaliyamman Temple, Thanthondrimalai, Karur
2.	Arulmigu Alanthuraiyar and Kothandaramaswami Temple, Ariyalur
3.	Arulmigu Madhanagopalaswami and Brahmmapureeswarar Temple, Perambalur

4.	Arulmigu Neelayathatchiamman Udanurai Kayaroganaswami Temple, Nagapattinam
5.	At Thanjavur Joint Commissioner's Office backside
6.	Arulmigu Malaikavalar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal (Sub Temple of Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple)
7.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Sivanmalai
8.	Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramanaswami Temple, Perundurai
9.	Arulmigu Srinivasaperumal Temple, Dindigul
10.	Arulmigu Gowmariamman Temple, Veerapandi
11.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy Temple, Krishnapuram, Palayamkottai (Sub Temple of Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple)
12.	Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagarcoil
13.	Arulmigu Naganathaswami Temple, Thirunageswaram, Kumbakonam Taluk
14.	Arulmigu Parimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai Taluk
15.	Arulmigu Kapartheeswarar Temple, Thiruvanchuzhi, Kumbakonam Taluk

Temple Protection Force

113. A separate wing namely "Temple Protection Force" has been formed for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and

valuables in the temples. Sanction was accorded for appointing 1000 Grade-II Police Constables and 3000 Ex-Servicemen.

In 2005-2006, 1000 Grade-II Police Constables 2751 Ex-Servicemen were serving in the Temple Protection Force. Since adequate interest in the safety of temples was not shown in 2006-2011 period, the number of Ex-Servicemen was come down. To compensate this, the Government raised the monthly consolidated pay from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.5,000/- with effect from 09.01.2012 to the Ex-Servicemen in the Temple Protection Force.

VIII-EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

Educational Institutions

114. With the social object of inculcating culture, pious outlook etc., from a young age,

religious and general education is imparted in the educational institutions run by temples. The Temple Administration along with their other obligations and responsibilities are running the following Patasalas, Colleges and Schools.

S.No	Instituion	No.
1.	Arts, Culture and Science Colleges	5
2.	Polytechnic College	1
3.	Higher Secondary Schools	15
4.	High Schools	8
5.	Middle Schools	2
6.	Elementary Schools	9
7.	Matriculation School	1
8.	CBSE School	1
9.	Nadaswaram and Thavil – Musical Training Schools	2
10.	Veda Agama Patasalas	2
11.	Odhuvar Training Schools	2
12.	Thevaram Training Schools	2
13.	School for the Hearing Impaired and Dumb	1
	Total	51

List of Educational Institutions

Arts, Culture and Science Colleges

1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts and Culture College, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani, Dindigul District
3.	Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District
4.	Sri Devi Kumari College for Women, Kuzhithurai, Kanyakumari District
5.	Poompuhar College, Melaiyur, Nagapattinam District

Polytechnic College

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

1.	Arulmigu Periyannayagamman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur District
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2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore District
3.	Arulmigu Vazhathottathaiyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalayam, Samalapuram, Somanur, Tiruppur District
4.	Arulmigu Perur Santhalinga Adigalar Higher Secondary School, Perur, Coimbatore District
5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai
6.	Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniaswami Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District
7.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswami Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District
8.	Devasthanam Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari District
9.	Sri Kanthimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli
10.	T.Venugopal Chetty Higher Secondary School, Chennai, Chennai District
11.	Hindu Higher Secondary School, Chennai
12.	Arulmigu Sri Parvathavarthini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District

13.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District
14.	Sri Sivaprakasa Swamigal Higher Secondary School, Mailam, Tindivanam, Villupuram District
15.	Arulmigu Parasakthi Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District

High Schools

1.	Arulmigu Anjuvattathamman Girls High School, Kilvelur, Tiruvarur District
2.	Arulmigu Kaliyugavaradharaja Perumal Girls High School, Kallangurichi, Ariyalur District
3.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Tirukkoil Girls High School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District
4.	Arulmigu Sundarraja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District
5.	Devaswom High School, Thirparappu, Kanyakumari District
6.	Sri Thirugnana Sambandar High School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam District
7.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswami Devasthanam High School, Chennai, Chennai District
8.	Devaswom High School, Kuzhithurai, Kanyakumari District

Middle Schools

1.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam District
2.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Ambalavana Desikar Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam District

Elementary Schools

1.	Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District
2.	Sankaranarayananaswami Tirukkoil Elementary School, Sankarankoil, Tirunelveli District
3.	Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Thiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District
4.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Aided Elementary School, Palani, Dindigul District
5.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Elementary School, Tiruvidaimaruthur, Thanjavur District
6.	Tirugnanasambandar Elementary School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam District
7.	Arulmigu Sundarraja Elementary School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District
8.	Anjugam Elementary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai

9.	Padmavathy Kannabiran Elementary School, Otteri, Chennai
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Matriculation School

1.	Palaniandavar Matriculation School, Palani, Dindigul District
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CBSE School

1.	Parasakthi Vidyalaya, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District
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Nathaswaram and Thavil Music Training Schools

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Temple, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Naganathaswami Temple, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District

Veda Agama Patasalas

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Temple, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Subramanyaswami Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District

Odhavar Training Schools

1.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
2.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai

Thevaram Training Schools

1.	Dharmapura Adeenam, Dharmapuram, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam District
2.	Marudhanayaga Mudaliar Annapoorani Ammal Trust, Coimbatore

School for Hearing Impaired and Dumb

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Temple, Palani, Dindigul District
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Vedha Agama Patasalas

115. To impart training to the aspirants in the pattern of worship in temples, Hymns–recital, agamas and Vedas, Saiva Agama Patasala is being established at Chennai, Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple which is extolled as "மயிலையே கயிலை". For Vaishnava Agamas, two Patasalas will be established, one in "பூலோக வைகுந்தம்", Arulmigu Ranganathaswami Temple, Srirangam, Trichirappalli and another one in Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swami Temple,

Triplicane, Chennai. The trainees will be provided food, free shelter and stipend.

Grading of Educational Institutions

116. The two colleges run by Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswami Temple viz., Arulmigu Palani Andavar Arts and Culture College, Arulmigu Palani Andavar Arts College for Women have been given 'A' Grade Certificate by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (an Autonomous body under the University Grants Commission).

Social Welfare Institutions

117. Temples are also a Social Welfare Units apart from being a place of worship. For example, they also run Hospitals, Home for

Mentally Challenged, Karunai Illangal and Old Age Homes. The details are as follows:

	Social Welfare Institutions	No.
1.	Karunai Illangal	33
2.	Home for Mentally Challenged	1
3.	Old Age Homes	2
4.	Siddha Hospitals	6
5.	Allopathy Hospitals	2
	Total	44

Karunai Illangal

118. Karunai Illangal were started in financially affluent temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department to provide assistance such as food, shelter and education to the destitute children. There are 33 Karunai Illangal functioning in 30 temples, 22 for boys and 11 for girls. The Government have ordered full fee exemption for

the Higher studies of the Karunai Illam students who have completed +2 studies in the Educational Institutions run by the temples and go for higher studies in Colleges under the control of the Department and 50% concession to those in other Educational Institutions in the year 2012-2013. The funds will be provided by the temples. During the past 4 years, Rs.5,11,589/- was given to 91 students.

119. In the past five years necessary basic amenities have been upgraded for the children at the cost of Rs.4.12 crore in Karunai Illangal. In the year 2015-2016 alone, basic amenities have been upgraded at the cost of Rs.1.68 crore.

120. Every year the Government gives grant to compensate the expenditure incurred for Karunai Illangal. The Government grant of Rs.1.78 crore was released for running the following Karunai Illangal in the past five years.

Details of Karunai Illangal

1.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Tirukkoil, Tiruverkadu, Tiruvallur District
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District
3.	Arulmighu Dhandayuthapaniswami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District
4.	Arulmigu Mariamman Tirukkoil, Samayapuram, Trichirappalli District
5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Tirukkoil, Madurai
6.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District
7.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswami Tirukkoil, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.
8.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Tirukkoil, Vadapalani, Chennai
9.	Arulmigu Subramanyaswami Tirukkoil, Maruthamalai, Coimbatore District
10.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Tirukkoil, Bannari, Erode District
11.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Tirukkoil, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District
12.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswami Tirukkoil, Sholingur, Vellore District
13.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Tirukkoil, Tiruvannamalai
14.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswami Tirukkoil, Swamimalai, Thanjavur District
15.	Arulmigu Sukavaneshwarar Tirukkoil, Salem
16.	Arulmigu Vanabadrakali Amman Tirukkoil, Tekkampatti, Coimbatore District

17.	Arulmigu Vazhathottathu Ayyan Tirukkoil, Iyampalayam, Tiruppur District
18.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District
19.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Tirukkoil, Oppiliappan koil, Thanjavur District
20.	Arulmigu Naganathaswami Tirukkoil, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District
21.	Arulmigu Magudeswaraswami Veeranarayana Perumal Tirukkoil, Kodumudi, Erode District
22.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Tirukkoil, Echanari, Coimbatore District
23.	Arulmigu Patteeswaraswami Tirukkoil, Perur, Coimbatore District
24.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Tirukkoil, Anaimalai, Coimbatore District
25.	Arulmigu Koppudaiyanayagi Amman Tirukkoil, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District
26.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur District
27.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Kaatha Ayyanar & Bhadrakaliamman Tirukkoil, Madappuram, Sivagangai District
28.	Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Kanthimathi Amman Tirukkoil, Tirunelveli
29.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswami Devasthanam, Chennai
30.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Tirukkoil, Thayamangalam, Sivagangai District

Home for Mentally Challenged

1.	Arulmigu Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Tirukkoil, Gunaseelam, Tiruchirappalli District
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Old Age Homes

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District

Siddha Hospitals

1.	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Tirukkoil, Vadapalani, Chennai
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Marudamalai, Coimbatore District
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Tiruparankundram, Madurai District.
5.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District
6.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswami Tirukkoil, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District

Allopathy Hospitals

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Karpagavinayagar Tirukkoil, Pillaiyarpatti, Sivagangai District

Basic Amenities for Schools and Colleges

121. For providing basic amenities for schools under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore and providing basic amenities for colleges a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore have been created by transferring funds from affluent temples. The interest accrued from the corpus fund, financial grant is being given for providing facilities such as buildings, laboratories, libraries, computers, drinking water and toilet facilities in the schools and colleges run by the temples.

122. In the past five years Rs.40.58 crore was allocated for 223 works for upgrading the basic facilities of schools and colleges.

Goshalas

123. Integrated Goshalas were formed in 4 places viz., Palani, Tiruchendur, Srirangam and

Rameswaram to maintain cattle offered as Kanikkai (offering).

124. Surplus cattle received by the temples as donation are given free of cost to the Women Self Help Groups and to Archakas and Poosaries working in the temples. Special efforts are being taken to maintain the Goshalas of the Temples as per the guidelines issued.

IX-TEMPLES AND TAMIL

“Potri” Books

125. Alwars, Nayanmars and Holy Sages in reverence eulogized the deities in Tamil wherever they went. The devotional songs of such savants such as Thevaram, Thiruvasagam, Thirumanthiram, Thiruppugazh, Nalayira Divya Prabandam have contributed significantly to make the Tamil language to flourish. To encourage and streamline the performance of poojas in Tamil for

the devotees who desire, Potri books (Archana books) have been published.

Tamil New Year Day

126. The **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** by amendment of an enactment restored the customary practice followed by the Tamil people years together recognizing the first day of Chithirai month as the Tamil New Year day on 13.04.2012. This was celebrated by Tamils spread throughout the world.

127. Special Poojas, Special Annadanam, religious discourses and cultural programmes were conducted in all the temples on 1st day of Chithirai in the subsequent years also. The temples are illuminated and decorated with plantain tree and Mango leaves. Reading of Panchangam (traditional Tamil almanac) is also

done on that day. Numerous devotees celebrate this day by visiting the temple on this auspicious day.

Paavai Vizha

128. Annually during the Tamil month of Margazhi conduct of recitation competition in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai is in vogue at temples. On the orders of **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** action has been taken to conduct the competition in a grand manner in the district level apart from the competitions held usually in individual temples. During the year 2015-2016, 7118 students participated in 32 districts and prizes were distributed for 1668 students. The festival was conducted in a grand manner.

Appointment of Musicians

129. It is customary to play auspicious music in temples during festivals. Considering the decline in such service for want of sufficient fund in ancient temples which are praised by Alwars and Nayanmars in their hymns, a corpus fund of one crore rupees has been deposited for enabling payment from the interest to the musicians recruited for playing Nadaswaram, Thavil and Thalam instruments at a monthly salary of Rs.1,500/-, Rs.1,000/- and Rs.750/- respectively.

X-ARULALARGAL VIZHA

Sekkizhar Vizha

130. Sekkizhar Festival is celebrated as a Government function every year at his birth place, Kundrathur near Chennai by the Hindu Religious

and Charitable Endowments Department. Chennai, Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple celebrates "Panniru Thirumurai Vizha" and "Sekkizhar Vizha" for 12 days every year during the month of August. Every year for the festival conducted in Kundrathur, financial assistance is given from the interest accrued from the corpus created for this purpose.

Thirugnana Sambandar Isai Vizha

131. **Thirugnana Sambandar Isai Vizha** is celebrated every year at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram, to honour saint Thirugnana Sambandar, one of the religious savants. The expenses for the festival are met out from the Commissioner's Common Good Fund.

Avvaiyar Vizha

132. A temple for the Tamil Poetess and Savant Avvaiyar is situated at Thulasiyapattinam Village, Vedaranyam, Nagapattinam District in the temple premises of Arulmigu Viswanathaswami Thirukoil. **Avvaiyar Vizha** is celebrated every year in the month of Panguni on Sathayam Star Day. Every year for the festival conducted in Thulasiyapattinam, financial assistance is given from the interest accrued from the corpus fund created for this purpose.

Thayumanavar Vizha

133. Every year a festival of Thayumanava Adigal is celebrated at Arulmigu Thayumanavaswami Temple at Malaikkottai, Tiruchirappalli. This is in honour of Thayumanavaswami who gave Tamil Devotional songs to the world.

Thiruvalluvar Day

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

Arunagirinathar Vizha

135. **"Arulalar Arunagirinathar Mukthipperu Vizha"** is celebrated in Arulmigu Arunachaleshwarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai to honour saint Arunagirinathar, on "Kettai" star in the month of Avani every year. He is believed to have attained salvation on that day.

Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha

136. **“Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha”** is celebrated at Arulmigu Akilandeswari Udanurai Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli every year on “Sathayam” star in the month of Masi, the birthday of Kochenkatchozha, one among the 63 Nayanmars.

Azhwargal Vizha

137. **“Azhwargal Vizha”** for 12 Azhwars is celebrated in Arulmigu Ranganathaswami Temple, Srirangam, Trichirapalli District every year.

XI-PUBLICATIONS

Thalavaralaru and Thalapuram

138. Thalavaralaru (History of Temples) and Thalapuram (Legends of Temples) of ancient temples are published enabling the public to know the heritage, history, importance,

puranas, architecture, inscriptions and importance of worship of the temples concerned. For other temples pamphlets are printed and published for enlightening the people on the importance of their worship. Steps were taken to re-publish and re-write Thalavaralaru and Thalapuramam books.

District Guides for Pilgrims

139. Earlier Pilgrim Guides along with essential details were regularly published about various temples. The Pilgrim District Guides with essential details have been published for all the districts considering the fact that these books serve as important guide to devotees and tourists. They have also been uploaded in the department's website.

"Thirukkoil" - Monthly Magazine

140. A monthly magazine namely 'Thirukkoil' is being published since 1958 by the

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Now, this magazine is elegantly published with noteworthy articles by eminent writers. Special edition is being published for every Tamil New Year Day from 2013.

Publishing Agamas and other books in Tamil

141. In order to facilitate everyone to understand the Agama Shastra and Shilpa Shastra, books which are in Sanskrit are translated into Tamil and published. In this context, the books "Uthara Kamika Agamam" and "Kumara Thantram" have been translated into Tamil and published. Further, the Tamil books like "Indhu Matha Inaippu Vilakkam", "Saivamum Vainavamum" and "Alaya Nirmana Bhimbalakshana Shilpa Nool" have been published. Steps will be taken for reprinting such books and publish them as per need.

XII-TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Refresher Training Course

142. For the Archakas, Bhattachariars and Oduvars to do their work efficiently, a **Refresher Course Scheme** was started in the year 1991. Till 2002, 488 persons have undergone training under the scheme. From 2006-2011, this scheme was not operated. The six weeks refresher training course has been revived and totally 8436 employees benefitted in the past five years. Every year this training course will be conducted.

Short term course on “Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments” for Engineers

143. As a first of its kind in the country, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department collaborated with the Tamil Nadu

State Department of Archaeology which conducts a short term six week course on "Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments" from 3.12.2014 to 13.01.2015 for 22 Engineers of Temples and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. This course was very useful for the Engineers for conserving and restoration of the ancient temples in accordance with archaeological principles. The second batch (22 Engineers) was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Culture Department on 19.03.2015 and the course got over on 29.04.2015. This course will be conducted this year also. The syllabus was designed by a Committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government with archaeological experts and IIT and other Professors as members.

Short term course on “Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments” for Executive Officers of temples

144. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology will conduct a short term four week course on “Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments” for Executive Officers of temples. This will be a simplified version of the course for engineers with more emphasis on managerial aspects.

Training on Human Values

145. It is proposed to train all employees including Archakas to serve the devotees respecting their religious sentiments. Accordingly in the past five years, training on human values

was given to 16063 employees. This training will be continued every year.

XIII-WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE SERVANTS

Details of Welfare Schemes

146. Different categories of employees are working in temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The welfare schemes available for temple employees are listed below:

Welfare Schemes	
1.	Employees Provident Fund Scheme
2.	Departmental Pension Scheme
3.	Family Benefit Fund Scheme
4.	Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme
5.	Chief Minister's New Medical Insurance Scheme
6.	Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme
7.	Pension Scheme for Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanar, Arayars, Divyaprabandam Reciters and Musicians.

Welfare Schemes	
8.	Advance for Marriage, Festival and for purchase of Vehicle
9.	Appointment on compassionate grounds
10.	Kudamuzhukku Incentive
11.	Additional incentive for annual festivals for extra hours of work
12.	Pongal Ex-gratia payment
13.	Financial assistance for education of the children of the temple employees
14.	Providing Uniforms and Identity Cards for the temple employees
15.	Computer training for temple employees

Family Benefit Fund

147. This scheme was introduced to help the heirs of the temple employees dying in harness. A corpus fund of Rs.15 crore has been created from the surplus fund of temples for the implementation of this scheme. In this scheme, one lakh rupees is granted for the heirs of the deceased, who died in harness. During the past five years a sum of Rs.3.25 crore was disbursed to 329 legal heirs.

Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme

148. This scheme was introduced for the welfare of the employees of temples whose annual income is Rs.1 lakh and above. A corpus fund of Rs.50 lakh has been created for this scheme from out of the surplus fund of the affluent temples. An amount of Rs.5000/- is disbursed as gratuity under this scheme along with the total subscription paid by the retiring employee during his service. In the last five years a sum of Rs.26.93 lakh was disbursed to 593 retired employees from the corpus fund. In the year 2015-2016, Rs.7.01 lakh has been given to 145 retired employees.

Health Insurance Scheme

149. The Medical Insurance Scheme under the Chief Minister's New Health Insurance Scheme-2012 was extended to employees working

in the temples under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and drawing an annual income of more than Rs.72,000/- (scale of pay salary) and their families by our **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. 3412 temple servants and their families have benefitted under the scheme.

In 2013 **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** extended the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme to the temple employees drawing an annual income of less than Rs.72,000/- and their families. 10391 temple servants and their families benefitted under the scheme.

Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme

150. This scheme has been created for the employees of temples where the annual income of

the temple is less than Rs.1,00,000/- and drawing pay less than Rs.750/- per month. A corpus fund, namely **Temple Employees Welfare Fund** with five crore rupees from the surplus fund of temples has been created for payment of arrears of salary. The interest accrued from this corpus fund is being utilized for the disbursement of the arrears of salary to employees every year. During the last five years totally 7282 employees of 5821 temples were given Rs.3.77 crore salary arrears. During 2015-2016, 2466 employees in 2068 temples were disbursed sum of Rs.1.38 crore.

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

151. Under the scheme, jobs on compassionate grounds are provided to the legal heirs of temple employees who died in harness. In the past five years 107 legal heirs were given appointment on compassionate grounds.

During 2015-2016, 13 legal heirs have been given employment on compassionate grounds.

Regularisation of Services of Temporary Employees

152. Regularisation of services and fixation of time-scale pay has been done to 2078 temple employees who served temporarily for a period of more than five years continuously as on 31.7.2014.

Pension Scheme

Pension for Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians

153. Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians who have served for 20 years in temples and attained 60 years of age were paid a

monthly pension of Rs.750/- from the Government fund through this Department.

154. The **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered to enhance the pension from Rs.750/- to Rs.1000/- per month annually benefitting 364 employees. The list of beneficiaries of this scheme is as follows:

Sl. No.	Categories of Artistes/ Pensioners	Number of persons approved by the Government	Total number of beneficiaries
1.	Oduvars	125	26
2.	Vedam, Prabandham and Arayars	59	11
3.	Musicians	125	50
4.	Archakas (Saivam and Vainavam)	691	277
	Total	1000	364

Pension Scheme for other servants serving in Temples

155. There are two types of Pension Schemes being implemented since March 2006, for the temple servants.

(i) Employees Provident Fund Scheme

156. This scheme is applicable to all employees working in temples. As per this scheme, employees who have more than ten years of service, who subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme from 01.03.2006 will receive benefits like pension and family pension under this scheme.

(ii) Departmental Pension Scheme

157. For the employees who have less than ten years of service on the date of implementation of the scheme (01.03.2006) and

all employees working in the temples which are not affluent enough to subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, a Departmental Pension Scheme was implemented in 2006.

158. For disbursing pension under the Departmental Pension Scheme, a corpus fund of Rs.50 crore was created from the surplus fund of affluent temples and from the interest accrued on this corpus fund, the pension is disbursed for retired temple employees. The monthly pension of Rs.800/- given to retired temple employees under the departmental pension scheme was raised to Rs.1000/- in 2013-2014.

159. During 2015-2016, 368 retired employees were sanctioned pension and so far 4338 employees are benefitted under this scheme.

160. As ordered by the **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** Departmental Pension Scheme benefits have been extended to those temple servants who retired prior to 1996, benefitting 66 more retired temple servants.

Educational Aid for the Children of Temple Employees

161. Financial assistance of 25% of the first year tuition fees is given to the son or daughter of the temple employee studying professional courses in a Government and Government aided Educational Institutions.

XIV-WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIS

Village Temple Poosarigal Welfare Board

162. For Poosaris performing poojas in the village temples which are not under the control of

the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a separate Board namely "The Village Temple Poosarigal Welfare Board" has been constituted, through which the benefits are provided.

So far, welfare assistance was distributed to 606 persons valued at Rs.20 lakh.

Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme

163. The **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has enhanced the monthly pension of retired village temple poosaris who have served for more than 20 years in village temples which are not directly under the control of this Department and attained 60 years of age from Rs.750/- per month to Rs.1000/- on 22.11.2013. Under this scheme, 3037 Village Poosaris are benefitted.

XV-MAHAMAHAM

164. The grand festival of Mahamaham was conducted on 22.02.2016. This grand festival which started with flag hoisting on 13.02.2016 concluded with Theerthavari on 22.02.2016. The Processional deities of 12 Saivite temples were taken to Mahamaham tank and that of 5 vaishnavite temples were taken to Cauvery temple and Theerthavari was performed. In view of Mahamaham, tiruppani was conducted in 64 temples in and around Kumbakonam town and consecration performed. Mahamaham tank and Pottramarai tank were desilted and renovated. The water level in the 20 wells situated inside the Mahamaham tank was kept at a low level to ensure safety of devotees. Further the water in the tank was recycled continuously. Special security arrangements were made in all the temples during this Mahamaham for the devotees

to have easy dharshan and CCTV cameras were installed in all the temples. Advance booking for Mahamaham prasadam by e-mail and in popular temples were introduced. The Department created an exclusive website for Mahamaham 2016 and a souvenir was also released for Mahamaham. From the day of Flag hoisting to the Theerthavari and the month after that, several lakh of devotees took Holy bath in Mahamaham tank, Pottramarai tank and Cauvery River.

Conclusion

"கிளரொளி யிளமை கெடுவதன் முன்னம்
வளரொளி மாயோன் மருவிய கோயில்
வளரிளம் பொழில்சூழ் மாலிருஞ்சோலை
தளர்வில ராகிச் சார்வது சதிரே... "

In consonance with the Nammalwar's Pasuram, all the necessary arrangements are continuously being made for the benefit of devotees visiting temples for offering prayers with

sedate mind, bowed head, reaching out to the holy feet of god.

Temples of Tamil Nadu have been functioning as the foundations for the social structure, religion and development of arts since time immemorial. The past glory of temples as houses of religion, shelters during war times have been lost in realms of time. **The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has made historical achievements which are clearly visible to the people of Tamil Nadu in restoring the weakened cultural heritage, by implementing several holy and charitable works like Annadanam, Oru-Kala Pooja Scheme, Annual renovation works, periodical Kumbhabhishekams. The list of achievements are as follows:

- ❖ Annadanam in 724 temples.

- ❖ Day Long Anndanam in Srirangam and Palani Temples.
- ❖ Rejuvenation Camp to nurture the mental and physical health of the temple elephants.
- ❖ Completion of Conservation / Restoration and Consecration (Kumbabhishekam/ Samprokshanam) ceremonies in 8843 temples ranging from archaeological and heritage value temples to village temples till date.
- ❖ Yatri Nivas building constructed at Srirangam at the cost of Rs.47.09 crore and proposed construction of Yatri Nivas in Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai and Arulmigu Ramanathaswami Temple, Rameswaram.

- ❖ Fixing of burglar alarms in temples with full grant for temples with paucity of funds.
- ❖ Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme extended to all the temple employees and their families.
- ❖ Enhancement of monthly pension to Rs.1000/- for poosaris of village temples not under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.
- ❖ Enhancement of monthly pension to Rs.1000/- for temple employees drawing pension under the Departmental Pension Scheme.
- ❖ Appointment of a Committee of eminent Archaeologists with Expert Advisor to conserve ancient temples.

- ❖ Appointment of Advisory Committee to conserve, restore, heritage paintings as per archaeological norms to preserve their heritage status.
- ❖ Enhancement of annual Government Grant from Rs.1 crore to Rs.3 crore for administration of Kanyakumari District temples and educational institutions.
- ❖ Enhancement of annual Government Grant from Rs.3 crore to Rs.6 crore for conservation / renovation / restoration (Tiruppani) of temples.
- ❖ Amendment to the provisions of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act prescribing qualifications for appointment of Trustees to the Religious Institutions that they should have faith in God.

By all these innovative schemes **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ensured that man is able to concentrate peacefully in his spiritual pursuit away from the material world. Further by making multifarious improvements to the already famous temples **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has taken the centre stage in protecting the heritage of the Tamils.

In consonance with the verse of Manimegalai,

“குறியவும் நெடியவும் குன்றுகண் டன்ன
சுடுமண் ஓங்கிய நெடுநிலைக்கோட்டமும்”

the sculptures which elate the mind, the murals which pacify, the divine music which soothes the heart are all treasures given to us by our ancestors. Realising its heritage value, the Staff and the Officers of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department will strive

and standby for the development of the Department, under the able guidance of the **Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalavi Amma.**

SEVOOR S. RAMACHANDRAN
Minister for Hindu Religious
and Charitable Endowments.