

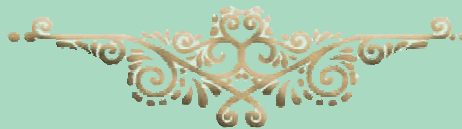


**Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments**



**Dharmasuram Temple,
Kumbakonam**

**Annapurani,
Dharmasuram**



Srirangam

**POLICY NOTE
2018-2019**

**Demand
No. 47**



Thiruvannamalai



Madurai

Sevoor S. Ramachandran

**Minister for Hindu Religious and
Charitable Endowments Department**

**Tourism, Culture and Religious
Endowments Department**

**Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowments Department**

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**Tourism, Culture and Religious
Endowments Department**

**Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowments Department**

Demand No. 47

Policy Note

2018-2019

Introduction

“The Holy Temples are the common property of the community, instilling in us the deep feelings that all human beings are equal without discrimination based on social and economic status.”

Consistent with the above statement of the **Hon’ble Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, the world famous temples of Tamil Nadu are Holy places showering the grace of god on everyone. They stand as the symbols of the cultural heritage of

this land, are a treasure trove of diverse arts, agencies of socio-economic progress and witnesses to history since time immemorial. In continuation of the benevolent blessings, in the form of innumerable schemes, conceived by **Hon'ble Amma**, this Department is functioning to ensure development and progress of temples with the intention of fulfilling the expectations of the devotees.

I-LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ADMINISTRATION

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu after examining the various previous enactments, enacted the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Act 22/1959) with the intention of ensuring the administrative regulation and supervision of Temples, Maths

and Endowments so as to enable their religious autonomy, financial viability and effective administration and the necessity to be monitored by the Government.

3. This Act is 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 It was repealed by Act XX of 1863.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

created the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department under the control and superintendence of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

4. This Act and Rules framed thereunder prescribe the rights and duties of the Commissioner and other Subordinate Officers of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. It provides the legal framework for the administration of Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments as also measures to improve their financial viability and sustained development. The provisions of the Act have been extended to Jain Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments.

Hindu Religious Institutions

5. There are 38,646 Hindu Religious and Jain Religious Institutions under the control of

the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The details are as follows:-

1.	Temples	36,606
2.	Holy Maths	56
3.	Temples attached to Holy Maths	57
4.	Specific Endowments	1,721
5.	Charitable Endowments	189
6.	Jain Temples	17
	Total	38,646

Classification of the Hindu Religious Institutions

6. The Hindu Religious Institutions have been classified vide sections 46 and 49 of the Act 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 less than Rs.10,000/-	34,093

Sl. No.	Classification of Religious Institutions	Annual Income of Institution	Number of Institutions
2.	Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i)	Having an annual income of Rs.10,000/- and less than Rs.2 lakh.	3,550
3.	Under Section 46(ii)	Having an annual income of Rs.2 lakh and less than Rs.10 lakh.	672
4.	Under Section 46(iii)	Having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above.	331
		Total	38,646

Administrative Structure

7. The Commissioner functions as the Administrative Head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department responsible to regulate, maintain, supervise and protect the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions in accordance with 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 Poosaris Welfare Board)	1
10.	Editor (Thirukkoil Monthly Magazine)	1

The cadre strength of officers in the headquarters from other Departments is as below:-

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Post	Appointed from which Department
1.	Special Officers (Temple Lands) (District Revenue Officer Cadre)	2	Revenue Department
2.	Superintending Engineer	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
3.	Executive Engineer	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
4.	Assistant Divisional Engineer	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
5.	Assistant Engineer / Technical Assistant	1	Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited
6.	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
7.	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	1	Electricity Department
8.	Senior Draughting Officer	1	Public Works Department/ Highways Department
9.	Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department / Highways Department

Sl. No.	Post	Number of Post	Appointed from which Department
10.	Junior Draughting Officer	2	Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited
11.	Senior Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
12.	Assistant Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
13.	Chief Audit Officer (Deputy Secretary Cadre)	1	Finance Department
14.	Deputy Director / Public Information Officer	1	Information and Public Relations Department

Regional and Divisional Administration

9. The administration of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been divided into 11 regions and 28 divisions. The Hindu Religious Institutions are being supervised by Joint Commissioners at Regional level and Assistant Commissioners at Divisional level. The territorial jurisdictions of Regional Joint Commissioners and Divisional Assistant Commissioners are as below:-

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
1.	Joint Commissioner, Chennai	1. Assistant Commissioner, Chennai	Chennai District, Madhavaram, Ambattur and Tiruvottiyur Taluks in Tiruvallur District and Tambaram, Alandur and Sholinganallur Taluks in Kancheepuram District.
2.	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	2. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur District (Except Madhavaram, Ambattur and Tiruvottiyur Taluks)
		3. Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District (Except Tambaram, Alandur and Sholinganallur Taluks)
		4. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore	Vellore District
3.	Joint Commissioner, Salem	5. Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts
		6. Assistant Commissioner, Salem	Salem District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		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)
		12. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam District (Except Mayiladuthurai, Sirkazhi, 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,

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
			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
		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

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
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 Regional Joint Commissioners and the Divisional Assistant Commissioners of this Department are assisted by 224 Inspectors at the taluk level.

Verification Officers

11. To appraise the jewels and other valuable articles of the Religious Institutions,

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 Commissioners' Regions and four Verification Officers in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner in four Joint Commissioners' regions. In addition, there are also 11 Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialists and 11 Junior Technical Assistants to help the Verification Officer in appraising the jewels and other valuable articles of the Religious Institutions. The Government has issued orders in 2016 for the appointment of women also in the post of Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialist and Junior Technical Assistant.

Engineering and Sthapathi wing

12. The Engineers and Draughting Officers are scrutinizing estimates for carrying out civil works, temple renovation, restoration,

construction as well as supervise works, record measurement and check measurement.

The total number of engineering staff is as detailed below :

S. No.	Post	Commissioner's Office	Regions	Total
1.	Superintending Engineer	1	0	1
2.	Executive Engineer/ Divisional Engineer	1	3	4
3.	Assistant Executive Engineer / Assistant Divisional Engineer	1	11	12
4.	Assistant Engineer (In the cadre of Technical Assistant)	1	0	1
5.	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	1	25	26
6.	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	1	3	4
7.	Senior Draughting Officer	1	4	5
8.	Draughting Officer	2	4	6
9.	Junior Draughting Officer	2	10	12
Total		11	60	71

All the above officials are on deputation from Public Works, Highways and other Departments.

Departmental Sthapathi

13. To ensure that the conservation / renovation / restoration of the temples is in accordance with Shilpa Shastra / traditional practices, designs, colour codes, measurements, building materials and 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 Sthapathi with educational qualification and experience has been appointed in this Department. He assists the Commissioner to ensure that all renovation / restoration activities are in consonance with Shilpa Shastra.

Regional Sthapathis

14. To review and check the estimates and plans of the Temple conservation works, five Regional Sthapathis were functioning at the State level. **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** created and appointed six more Regional Sthapathis in the year 2012-2013 to resolve the delays, speed up conservation and new works and raised the consolidated monthly pay of Rs.4,000/- to Rs.15,000/- for all the 11 Sthapathis. The consolidated pay of Rs.15,000/- is being disbursed from the funds of the temples to all the 11 Regional Sthapathis.

Due to these appointments every Joint Commissioner Region has one Sthapathi and the conservation works are carried out as per the tradition.

Temple Administration

15. Each Religious Institution and Charitable Endowment is a separate legal entity and is empowered to appoint its own employees. However, the Commissioner is authorized to appoint Executive Officers under section 45(1) of the Act and Rules framed thereunder.

Executive Officers

16. Based on the significance, revenue, assets, workload and other activities of the temple, the following grades of Executive Officer posts in temples have been created:-

Sl.No.	Executive Officer's Grade	Post
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

17. Executive Officers in the cadre of Joint Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner are appointed in temples which have an annual income of Rs.50 lakh and above. There are at present 47 such temples which are regarded as Senior Grade Temples.

Personal Assistants

18. 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

19. A Deputy Commissioner is also functioning to assist the Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer of Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple in the

administration of the educational institutions under the temple.

Senior Accounts Officers

20. In 8 temples, the Executive Officers in the cadre of Joint Commissioners are assisted by Senior Accounts Officers in the cadre of Regional Audit Officer.

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

Administration of Maths

22. At present there are 56 Holy Maths under the supervision of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. In order to monitor the administration of these Holy Maths, a section consisting of one Regional Audit

Officer, one Superintendent, two Inspectors, two Audit Inspectors, two Assistants, two Junior Assistants and one Typist is functioning in the Headquarters to assist the Commissioner.

Audit of Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions

23. There is a Chief Audit Officer in-charge of auditing the accounts of Hindu 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

24. Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 has provisions to constitute a High Level Advisory Committee to give advice to the Government in the matters relating to Hindu Religious Institutions. This Advisory Committee is headed by

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and having the Hon'ble 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 Committees

25. As per the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the Government has to constitute a District Committee in each Revenue district 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

26. 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.

Qualifications for appointment of Trustee

27. Under the instructions of **Hon'ble Former 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

28. 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

29. 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

30. 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

31. 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 Assistant Commissioners of the respective Divisions.

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

Appointment of Fit Person

33. After the tenure of the Trust Board or if vacancy arises temporarily, 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-ADMINISTRATION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES OF HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Land Details

34. Hindu Religious Institutions have an extent of 4,78,283.59 acres of land. The details are as below:-

Classification of Land	Temple Lands	Math 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

35. 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 7 years an income of Rs.958.58 crore was received from the immovable assets. In the year

2017-2018 an income of Rs.120.48 crore has been received.

Fixation of Fair Rent

36. 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, the Committee consisting of the Regional Joint Commissioner, Executive Officer or Trustee or Chairman, Board of Trustees and the District Registrar of the Registration Department are engaged in the process of fixing fair rent for the buildings and sites used for commercial and residential purposes.

Revenue Courts

37. Revenue courts are functioning with Special Deputy Collectors in order to settle cases filed 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.

There are 10 Revenue Courts functioning at Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, Cuddalore, Madurai, Lalgudi, Mannargudi, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli.

Camping Revenue Courts are functioning at Kumbakonam, Salem and Tenkasi.

38. 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. During the financial year 2017-2018 out of 13260 cases, 5860 cases have been disposed and a sum of Rs.276.93 lakh out of decreed sum of Rs.1858.98 lakh have been collected. In the

past seven years, a total sum of Rs.1311.00 lakh lease arrears was collected. Necessary steps are being taken for collecting the entire lease arrears.

Retrieval of Lands

39. 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.

40. In the past seven years, Pattas of 6035.15 acres of temple lands belonging to 859 temples wrongly transferred in the names of private persons, were identified and restored in the name of temples. In the year 2017-2018 pattas of 476.07 acres of lands belonging to

70 temples were ordered to be restored to the temples.

41. In the past seven years 616.39 acres of land belonging to 144 temples were restored in the name of temples, after finding that in the computerized chittas, the registration of temple lands were changed and entered in the names of private persons. In the year 2017-2018, 20.17 acres belonging to 3 temples for which pattas have been wrongly issued to private individuals were restored to the temples.

42. 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 computerized chitta.

No Objection Certificate from Religious Institutions

43. The amendment made under Section 22A of Act 2/2009 of Registration Act 1908 envisages the registration authorities to refuse

the registration of sale and long term lease of properties of Religious Institutions and Endowments unless permission of the appropriate authorities of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is obtained. This amendment came into implementation on 20.10.2016 and from that time onwards the illegal sale and lease of the properties of the Religious Institutions have been curtailed.

Appointment of retired Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Surveyors

44. To identify the pattas of the lands of Hindu Religious Institutions transferred wrongly in the names of private individuals and to coordinate between the Revenue Department and the temple Administration, 8 retired Deputy Collectors, 20 retired Tahsildars, 13 retired Surveyors, 2 retired Revenue Inspectors and 7 retired Village Administrative Officers have been appointed on consolidated pay.

Removal of Encroachment

45. Encroachment to the extent of 2579.05 acres of land, 523.0790 grounds of sites and 203.1933 grounds of buildings belonging to Hindu Religious Institutions were removed and brought back to the possession of temples in the past seven years. The total market value of these assets is approximately Rs.3081.00 crore. For the year 2017-2018, 263.08 acres of cultivable lands, 54.1416 grounds of sites and 24.0559 grounds of buildings were taken possession. Their total value is Rs.193.78 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 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 installments in a period of 12 months;
- v. 10 months rent has to be paid as donation.

Under this scheme 6159 encroachers who had occupied 300.06 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

Annadhanam Scheme

47. “ஆற்றுவார் ஆற்றல் பசிஆற்றல் அப்பசியை
மாற்றுவார் ஆற்றலின் பின்” –திருக்குறள்

***"Great indeed is the power acquired
through austerity to endure hunger !***

***Greater still is the power of those
who relieve the hunger of others ! "***

The finest among the schemes, the Annadhanam Scheme of providing Annadhanam to devotees who visit temple to receive grace of God was inaugurated on 23rd March 2002 at Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple by **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. This noble scheme was gradually implemented in 360 temples. During 2006-2011, this scheme was extended only to 2 temples.

48. Considering the inflow of devotees and requirements this laudable scheme was further extended to 106 temples in 2011-2012, 50 temples in 2012-2013, 100 temples in 2013-2014, 106 temples in 2014-2015 and 30 temples in 2016-2017.

49. Everyday 65,735 devotees are benefitted under this scheme in 754 temples and Rs.16.43 lakh is being spent per day.

Day Long Annadhanam

50. The Day Long Annadhanam Scheme at Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple was launched on 13.09.2012 by **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. Simultaneously, this scheme was inaugurated at Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple. Totally 8200 devotees are benefitted daily under this scheme and Rs.2.05 lakh is spent daily by the two

temples. 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.

Spiritual and Moral Classes

51. As desired by the **Hon'ble Former 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.

During the year 2017-2018, 28,447 students participated in the spiritual and moral classes in 517 temples.

Special Poojas and Common Feasts

52. Special Poojas and Common Feasts are being conducted in temples every year on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna Memorial Day, inviting people from all communities without discrimination. During 2017-2018, Special Poojas and Common Feasts were conducted in 756 temples.

Elephant Rejuvenation Camp

53. In tune with the sublime concept of **Hon'ble Former 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 is being 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 Theppakkadu, Mudumalai. This camp programme which was given up during 2006-2011 was restored in 2011-2012 and conducted on 14.12.2011 for 48 days at Theppakkadu, Mudumalai.

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

55. In the year 2013-2014, totally 52 elephants participated in the camp. 31 Temple and Math Elephants from Tamil Nadu, along with 18 elephants from Forest Department, two

elephants from Puducherry Union Territory and one from Nagoor Darga participated in the camp.

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

57. In 2015-2016, 29 Temple and Math Elephants from Tamil Nadu and 2 elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp.

58. In 2016-2017, 31 Temple and Math Elephants from Tamil Nadu and 2 Elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp.

59. In 2017-2018, 31 Temple and Math Elephants out of 39 elephants from Tamil Nadu and 2 Elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp. The

elephants of Temples and Maths which were unable to participate in this camp were also given the similar nutritious food and medicines as supplied in the camp for better physical and mental health, as per their needs. In this camp, appropriate physical exercises, diet and medicines for rejuvenation were given to the elephants. In addition, training on various aspects related to care and maintenance of elephants and self was given to the mahouts and cavadys. The Government had allotted Rs.1,50,79,000/- for this camp.

Marriage Scheme for the Poor and Downtrodden

60. The noble Scheme of marriages for the poor and downtrodden people belonging to the Hindu religion was first launched in 1981 by the then **Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. 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. **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** performed the marriages of 1008 couples in 2002 and 1053 couples in 2003 at Thiruverkadu. 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 **Hon'ble Former 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 Thiruverkadu Temple in a grand 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

61. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** Cable

Car facility was first introduced at an estimated cost of Rs.4 crore in Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple on 3rd November, 2004 for the benefit of the devotees. Following the appreciation received from the devotees for this facility, agreement has also been entered to provide new cable cars for Vellore District, Sholingur, Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple and at Karur District, Ayyarmalai, Arulmigu Rathinagireeswarar Temple and works are in progress. A second cable car facility in Palani with enhanced seating capacity and international standards has been sanctioned and work is under progress.

Battery Cars

62. **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated a six seater Battery Car on 19th June 2011 to Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple for the benefit of the differently abled and elders. This

scheme is greatly appreciated by devotees. Battery Cars are operated in the following ten temples:-

Sl. No.	Temple Name	No. of Battery Cars
1.	Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam	2
2.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani	3
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur	1
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani	1
5.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur	1
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai	1
7.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvottiyur	1
8.	Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval	1
9.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai	2
10.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram	3
	Total	16

Government Grant for Kanyakumari District Temples

63. Taking note of the shortage of funds in the administration of Kanyakumari District Temples which includes 490 Temples, one Women's College, one Higher Secondary School and 2 High Schools, **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for the enhancement of annual Government Grant from Rs.1 crore to Rs.3 crore in the year 2013-2014. The enhanced grant is being given every year.

Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme

64. 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, in 1993 **Hon'ble Former 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 and Charitable Fund 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 and to implement from the interest accrued.

65. After **Hon'ble Former 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 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 a '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 during

2014-2015 and the scheme was implemented in 11,999 temples.

66. In the year, 2015-2016, deposits were created under this scheme for 505 more temples. As ordered by **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** this scheme was extended to 241 temples by making a deposit of Rs.1 lakh per temple in the year 2016-2017. Accordingly Rs.127.45 crore has been deposited for 12,745 temples for successful Oru Kaala Pooja.

67. At present, if any member of the public contributes Rs.10,000/- for any needy temple, Rs.90,000/- will be contributed from various funds and thus Rs.1 lakh corpus will be created in the name of such temple to ensure the performance of Oru Kaala Pooja.

Pooja Articles for Small Temples

68. For due performance of Poojas in 10,000 small temples, **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** had ordered to procure brass pooja articles like Thambalam, Dhoopakal, Bell, Karthigai Vilakku and Hanging Vilakku at the cost of Rs.2.44 crore and were distributed to the temples on 15.09.2015. For the year 2016-2017 distribution of pooja articles to 10,000 more small temples at the cost of Rs.2.50 crore was launched by **Hon'ble Chief Minister** on 08.05.2017.

Revival of Kaala Poojas in Ancient Temples

69. 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. During 2017-2018, 89 temples received financial assistance of Rs. 1,19,70,000/- from the Common Good Fund.

IV-TIRUPPANI

Tiruppani (Conservation, Restoration and Renovation)

70. “மழுவுடைச் செய்ய கையர் கோயில்கள் மருங்கு சென்று
தொழுது போந்து அன்பினோடும் தொன்மறை நெறி வழாமை
முழுதுலகிணையும் போற்ற மூன்று ளரிபுரப் போர் வாழும்
செழு மலர்ச் சோலை வேலித் திருப் பனந் தாளில் சேர்ந்தார் ”

– பெரிய புராணம்.

As per the above saying, the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** had ordered to conserve, restore and to renovate the historical, ancient temples, including those which have been glorified in the hymns of the Alvars and Nayanmars, those temples attracting devotees in large numbers with prarthanai, village temples and temples located in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities.

Financial sources for Tiruppani and other civil works

71. Temple conservation, restoration and renovation (also known as Tiruppani) is carried out based on the following financial sources:-

- Donation of funds for carrying out work by temple
- Temple Fund
- Diversion of surplus funds of other Temples
- Government Grant
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund
- Common Good Fund
- Temple Development Fund
- Village Temples Renovation Fund
- Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund
- Donor works executed directly by devotees
- Renovation Fund for the temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities
- Finance Commission Grant

- Tourism Fund
- External funding from Asian Development Bank

72. 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 of funds for carrying out work by temple

73. 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 seven years, the estimates for Tiruppani through donations for a value of Rs.36.96 crore in 583 temples were sanctioned. During 2017-2018, estimates for a value of

Rs.1.30 crore were sanctioned to carry out 6 works in 6 temples through donations.

Temple Fund

74. Affluent temples carry out conservation/ renovation / restoration from their own surplus fund. During the last seven years Rs.400.11 crore was sanctioned from the Temple Funds for Tiruppani of 1174 temples. During 2017-2018, Rs.117.24 crore was sanctioned from the Temple Fund for Tiruppani of 226 temples.

Diversion of Surplus Funds of other Temples

75. 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 seven years, financial assistance of Rs.33.99 crore was

sanctioned for 185 temples for Tiruppani works. During 2017-2018 for Tiruppani works of 16 temples, financial assistance of Rs.11.42 crore was sanctioned by diversion.

Government Grant

76. A Government Grant of Rs.3 crore was given for Temple Tiruppani (conservation / renovation / restoration) every year. An amount of Rs. 6 crore was granted for renovation / restoration of 96 temples by the Government for the year 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. This annual Government Grant of Rs. 3 crore was ordered to be increased to Rs. 6 crore in the year 2013-2014 by **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. On the basis of this order, in the years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 a total grant of Rs.18 crore was disbursed to 196 temples. During 2017-2018 grant of Rs.6 crore was disbursed to 32 temples.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund

77. Instead of annual Government Grant, for the year 2014-15 Rs.6 crore was sanctioned from the "Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund" for 36 temples related to Mahamaham.

Common Good Fund

78. A separate fund viz., "Common Good Fund" was created out of voluntary donations given by the individuals and the contributions made by the Hindu Religious Institutions. For the last seven years a sum of Rs.78.53 crore was disbursed for conservation / renovation / restoration work in 1042 temples. Out of this during 2017-2018 Rs.7.41 crore was disbursed to 135 temples.

Temple Development Fund

79. 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 and historical significance. For the last seven years Rs.7.30 crore was given to 60 temples under this scheme. During 2017-2018 Rs.54.35 lakh was disbursed to 7 temples.

In the year 2016-2017 contribution to 241 temples under Oru Kala Pooja Scheme was made from this fund by giving Rs.4,800/- per temple totalling to Rs.11.56 lakh.

Village Temples Renovation Fund

80. "Village Temple Renovation Fund" has been created for the purpose of providing financial assistance to small village temples under the control of the Department for renovation / restoration. A corpus of Rs.2 crore was created by diversion from the surplus fund of Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy 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, **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for enhancement of this assistance to Rs.50,000/-. In the year 2016-2017 **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for enhancement of this assistance to Rs.1,00,000/-. From 2011-2018, Rs.31.17 crore was disbursed to 4753 temples. For the year 2017-2018, a sum of Rs.9.81 crore has been disbursed to renovate 981 village temples under this scheme.

Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

81. "Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund" was created on 5th August 1991. The **Hon'ble Former 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". From 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 Rs.1.59 crore was disbursed to 17 temples. In the year 2016-2017, Rs.12.53 lakh from this fund was disbursed to 241 temples under Oru Kala Pooja Scheme by providing Rs.5,200/- per temple. This fund is being directly managed by the Government.

Donor Works executed directly by devotees

82. It is a common practice that donors voluntarily carry out the temple conservation / renovation / restoration with their own funds under the supervision of the Department. During the period 2011-2018, donor works at an estimated cost of Rs.114.54 crore were executed in 561 temples. During 2017-2018, 334 Donor Tiruppani works were sanctioned in 201 temples at a cost of Rs.23.68 crore.

Renovation Fund for the temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities

83. 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 **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. In the year 2016-2017 **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for an enhancement of this assistance to Rs.1,00,000/- each. From 2011 to 2018, Rs.33.39 crore was disbursed to 5159 temples. For the year 2017-2018,

Rs.10.19 crore has been disbursed to 1019 temples under this scheme.

Finance Commission Grant

84. The Central Finance Commission is rendering financial assistance for renovating ancient temples without tampering their heritage value. **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** sanctioned Rs.22.50 crore each for 4 years totalling to Rs.90 crore from 2011-2012 for taking up works in 250 temples.

Tourism Fund

85. 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 seven years, Rs.10.22 crore Tourism Fund was granted to provide facilities for tourists in 19 temples.

Works are being carried out with the financial assistance of Rs.8.87 crore under **"Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive"** (PRASAD) Scheme of the Central Government.

External funding from Asian Development Bank

86. The temples in Tamil Nadu are major source of attraction to tourists. With a view to facilitate tourists the Asian Development Bank has selected the needy temples having tourist attraction through the Tourism Department and is providing financial assistance for construction of Yatri Nivas, Tourist information Centre,

Tourism Reception Centre and Infrastructures development works of the temples.

During the year 2017-2018, assistance of Rs.50.20 crore financial assistance has been granted for 11 temples from Asian Development Bank fund through Tourism Department.

Conservation, Renovation and Restoration works in the temples of Heritage Value

87. The Hon'ble High Court of Madras had directed the Department to prepare a conservation manual in consultation with UNESCO in the matter of conservation of temples in the suo motu Writ Petition No.574/2015. Such a manual has been prepared and has been placed for the consideration of the Hon'ble Court. A seven member expert committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble High Court on 07.11.2016 to advise on essential and important conservation works in the temples.

88. Thereafter 22 experts from Central and State Archaeology, Museum Department have been empanelled and opinion for Tiruppani is being obtained from them. On receipt of opinion from the experts, proposal to carry out Tiruppani is placed before the Regional Level Heritage Screening Committee constituted by the Government on 01.11.2016. The proposal is then placed before the High Court Committee, on whose advice works inside the temple premises are carried out.

Restoration and Maintenance of Murals

89. Based on the announcement made by **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** under Rule 110, an Advisory and Supervisory Committee was 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 advise of this Committee, the conservation of ancient wall paintings in the Rajagopuram of Arulmigu Thanumalayaswamy Temple Sucheendram, Kanyakumari District at an estimated cost of Rs.81 lakh has been completed. Similarly, in Arulmigu Narumboonathaswamy Temple, Thirupudaimarudur, Tirunelveli District conservation of paintings in the Rajagopuram is being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs.1.42 crore. Restoration works have been completed. The restoration of mural paintings in Kancheepuram Arulmigu Devarajaswamy Temple at an estimate of Rs.64.10 lakh is in progress in which the work in outer prakaram wall for 433 Sq.mt. has been completed.

90. For the first time, a Nayak period mural was discovered beneath cement plaster at Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple,

Triplicane, Chennai during renovation works in May 2015.

Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting

91. 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. 835 temple tanks have been renovated at a cost of Rs.4.14 crore by this Government from 2011 to 2018. The repairs and renovation of the remaining temple tank works will be executed in a phased manner. In 2017-2018, 117 tanks were renovated at a cost of Rs.53 lakh. A special drive was conducted in May-June 2014 for revamping 5400 rain water harvesting structures and 1004 temple tanks.

92. The temple tanks are being protected 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.

Chartered Engineers

93. In order to avoid delay in the preparation of estimates for conservation works of temples, retired engineers of the Public Works Department and Highways Department have been empanelled as chartered engineers. In the last seven years 13 Chartered Engineers were empanelled. These approved panel engineers prepare drawings and estimates necessary for the conservation of temples as well as civil works.

Sthapathis

94. To ensure that the temple conservation works (Tiruppani) are carried out in accordance with the standards prescribed in Agama and Shilpa Shastra, persons who have learnt this art traditionally from their ancestors and/or those possessing a degree or a diploma in sculptural arts are being approved as Sthapathi/Sirpi from time to time. From 2011-2016, 539 Sthapathis/Sirpis were empanelled.

Consecration (Kumbhabishekam / Samprokshanam)

95. 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 Tribal Communities.

96. From 2011-2018 kumbhabishekams were performed in 10,566 (upto 31.03.2018) temples. In the year 2017-2018 Tiruppani works were completed and kumbabhishekams were performed in 765 temples. This is an important milestone in the history of Tiruppani.

Wooden Temple Car

97. There are 989 wooden cars in 809 temples under the control of the Department. A sum of Rs.10.50 crore was collected for the repairs and renovation of temple cars from the surplus fund of affluent temples in February 2006 and the Temple Car Renovation Fund was created. Out of this from 2011-2018, Rs.23.58

crore was disbursed for renovation of 192 temple cars. During 2017-2018, Rs.12.33 crore was disbursed to 23 temple cars.

Further from Common Good Fund, Rs.7.70 crore has been allotted for the renovation of Temple Cars. During 2016-2017 Rs.1.18 crore and during 2017-2018 Rs.83.85 lakh was disbursed.

Temples having Golden Car and Silver Car

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

99. At present there are 63 temples with Golden Car and 49 temples with Silver Car as detailed below:-

Temples having Golden Car

S. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai.

S. No.	Name of the Temple
3.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu.
6.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai.
7.	Arulmigu Vaidyanathaswamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.
8.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Temple, Echanari, Coimbatore.
9.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram.
10.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayananaswamy Temple, Sankarankovil.
12.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur.
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri. (Sapparam)
14.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram.
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri.
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai.
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore.
18.	Arulmigu Kamakshiamman Temple, Mangadu.
19.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.
20.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur.

S. No.	Name of the Temple
21.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai.
22.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari
23.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai.
24.	Arulmigu Marundeeswarar Temple, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai.
25.	Arulmigu Velayuthaswamy Temple, Thindalmai, Erode.
26.	Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Adyar, Chennai.
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinathaswamy Temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi.
28.	Arulmigu Mundagakanni Amman Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Temple, Uppiliappankoil, Kumbakonam.
30.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruparankundram.
31.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Karur.
32.	Arulmigu Dhandumariamman Temple, Coimbatore.
33.	Arulmigu Chandrachudeswarar Temple, Hosur.
34.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval.
35.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy Temple, Namakkal.
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettypalayam.

S. No.	Name of the Temple
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliasman Temple, Ariyakurichi.
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli.
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai.
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal.
41.	Arulmigu Vekkaliasman Temple, Uraiyur, Tiruchirappalli.
42.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem.
43.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Salem.
44.	Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkoil, Madurai.
45.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sholingur, Vellore.
46.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai.
47.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Dindigul.
48.	Arulmigu Angalaparameswari Temple, Melmalaiyanur, Villupuram.
49.	Arulmigu Kondathukaliasman Temple, Pariyur, Erode.
50.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple, Tiruporur, Kancheepuram.

S. No.	Name of the Temple
51.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Anaimalai, Coimbatore.
52.	Arulmigu Tirumalai Kumaraswamy Temple, Panpozhi, Tirunelveli.
53.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur.
54.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Katha Iyanar and Bathrakaliyamman Temple, Madapuram, Sivagangai.
55.	Arulmigu Thanthondreeswarar temple, Belur, Salem.
56.	Arulmigu Baladhandayuthapaniswamy temple, Sukkiravarapettai, Coimbatore.
57.	Arulmigu Vishwanathaswamy Temple, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar.
58.	Arulmigu Aamaruvi Perumal Temple, Therezhandur, Nagapattinam.
59.	Arulmigu Poonga Murugan Temple, Thallakulam, Madurai.
60.	Arulmigu Valasubramaniya swamy Temple, Virudhunagar
61.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha swamy Temple, Kunrakudi (Kedagam / Sapparam)
62.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Thiruvappur Pudukkottai.
63.	Arulmigu Soundararajaperumal Temple, Nagapattinam.

Temples having Silver Car

S. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruchendur.
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai.
7.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai.
8.	Arulmigu Adhikumbeswarar Temple, Kumbakonam.
9.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur.
10.	Arulmigu Vaidyanathaswamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.
11.	Arulmigu Sattanathaswamy Temple, Sirkazhi.
12.	Arulmigu Mayuranathaswamy Temple, Mayiladuthurai.
13.	Arulmigu Mariamman, Angalamman Temple, Pollachi.
14.	Arulmigu Prasanna Vinayagar Temple, Udumalpet.
15.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu.
16.	Arulmigu Kolanjiappar Temple, Manavalanallur.
17.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram.
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram.
19.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai.

S. No.	Name of the Temple
20.	Arulmigu Tiruvenkadamudayan Temple, Ariyakudi.
21.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha swamy Temple, Kundrakudi.
22.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Keelasevalpatti.
23.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Natarasankottai.
24.	Arulmigu Koppudaya Nayagiamman Temple, Karaikudi.
25.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan (A) Meenakshi 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 Balasubramaniaswamy Temple, Ayikudi, Tirunelveli.
31.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Thottiyam, Tiruchirappalli.
32.	Arulmigu Sivasubramaniaswamy Temple, Neyveli.
33.	Arulmigu Veyuluku Uganda Vinayagar Temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram.
34.	Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Dindigul.
35.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram.

S. No.	Name of the Temple
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam.
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur.
38.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai.
39.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint, Chennai.
40.	Arulmigu Katchabeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram.
41.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Viralimalai, Pudukkottai.
42.	Arulmigu Vedhapureeswarar Temple, Thiruvathipuram, Tiruvannamalai.
43.	Arulmigu Sevugaperumal Temple, Singampunari, Tirupathur, Sivagangai.
44.	Arulmigu Selliamman Temple, Palatrankarai, Vellore.
45.	Arulmigu Navaneetheswarar temple, Sikkal, Nagapattinam.
46.	Arulmigu Kaligambal Kamadeswarar Temple, Chennai.
47.	Arulmigu Subramania swamy Temple, Saidapet, Chennai
48.	Arulmigu Pragathambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai.
49.	Arulmigu Subramania swamy Temple, Koilkandhankudi, Tiruvarur.

V-WELFARE MEASURES FOR DEVOTEES

Basic Amenities

Drinking Water

100. Steps have been taken for providing safe drinking water for the devotees visiting temples. From the year 2011-2016, 145 temples were provided with safe drinking water at a cost of Rs.3.70 crore.

101. Moreover, for Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Tiruttani, drinking water scheme has been implemented by linking Tekkalur village situated at 4.5 km away, at an estimated cost of Rs.1.78 crore. Similarly, for Bannari, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman temple drinking water scheme has been implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.2.09 crore in Kothamangalam village, near Bhavanisagar, which is 9.5 km away from the temple.

102. Schemes have been formulated for augmenting facilities for safe drinking water for the devotees visiting Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple and Alagarkoil, Arulmigu Kallalagar Temple.

For Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, drinking water scheme is being implemented by construction of check dams across Palar river making underground wells and taking drinking water of 2.31 million litres per day at an estimated cost of Rs.22.72 crore using temple fund entrusting the work to the TWAD Board as deposit work.

103. For Arulmigu Kallalagar temple, Alagarkoil, drinking water scheme will be implemented in Kallanthri village at an estimated cost of Rs.3.31 crore using temple fund entrusting the work to the TWAD Board as deposit work.

Modern Toilet Facilities

104. Steps have been taken to provide separate modern toilet facilities for men and women visiting temples. During 2011-2018, construction of toilets was undertaken at a cost of Rs.20.50 crore in 140 temples. During 2017-2018, construction of toilets for men and women was undertaken (4 works) in 3 temples namely, 1) Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin District, 2) Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Melmalayanur, Villupuram District, 3) Arulmigu Thirthagiriswarar Temple, Thirthamalai, Dharmapuri District, at a cost of Rs.2.64 crore.

Facilities for Stay

105. Cottages, rooms, dormitories, cloak rooms and parking lots are provided to the devotees visiting temples. Between 2011-2012 and 2017-2018 lodging facilities for devotees

were approved for construction at an estimated cost of Rs.62.29 crore in 22 temples. During the year 2017-2018, dormitories were constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.0.95 crore in 2 temples namely, 1) Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Chennimalai, Erode, 2) Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Thayamangalam, Sivagangai.

106. Apart from that "Yatri Nivas" consisting of cottages, hotel, dormitories, restaurant with an accommodation facility for 1000 pilgrims was constructed at Srirangam at a cost of Rs.47.09 crore from the funds of Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple and Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple. It was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** on 30.06.2014 and it is in use. A "Yatri Nivas" in Tiruvannamalai Temple at an estimated cost of Rs.28 crore is being constructed through Public

Works Department. A 'Yatri Nivas' in Rameswaram Temple is now under construction through the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs.29 crore to facilitate the stay of 500 pilgrims. Construction of 2 dormitories, 2 cottages, office, information centre and dining hall works in Alangudi, Arulmigu Abathsahayeswarar Temple will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.6.71 crore using Asian Development Bank fund to facilitate pilgrims.

Annadhana Koodam

107. New Annadhana koodams are constructed in those temples having Annadhana scheme to the benefit of the devotees visiting temples. During 2011-2018, Annadhana koodams have been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.25.56 crore in 86 temples. During the year 2017-2018, Annadhana koodams are

being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.4.24 crore in 8 temples namely,

- 1) Arulmigu Gneelivaneswarar Temple, Thirupainjili, Tiruchirappalli.
- 2) Arulmigu Avinasingeswarar Temple, Avinasi, Tiruppur.
- 3) Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Chennimalai, Erode.
- 4) Arulmigu Madhyapuriswarar Temple, Parakkalakkottai, Thanjavur.
- 5) Arulmigu Varadharaja Perumal Temple, Melaveeraraghavapuram, Tirunelveli.
- 6) Arulmigu Amirthakadeswarar Temple, Thirukkadaiyur, Nagapattinam.
- 7) Arulmigu Mullaivananatha Swamy Temple, Thirukkarugavur, Thanjavur.
- 8) Arulmigu Paramanatha Ayyanar Temple, Soorakkottai, Thanjavur.

Temple Signages / Information Boards

108. To reach the temples easily, sign boards with temple's 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 Vibuthi and Kumkum to Devotees

109. In Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple special Abishega Vibuthi is manufactured. Modern machineries have been installed at a cost of Rs.1 crore at Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundrareswarar Temple, Bannari Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and Thiruverkadu Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple and quality Kumkum is prepared and distributed to devotees. During Mahamaham mega festival held in the year 2016 the kumkum prepared in these temples was distributed to devotees.

Manasarovar and Mukthinath Yatra

110. It is the belief of every Hindu that they should go on a holy yatra to Manasarovar and Mukthinath at least once in their life time to achieve spiritual bliss. In appreciation of the aspirations of the people, the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered a grant of Rs.40,000/- each for 250 Hindu devotees domiciled in Tamil Nadu and who had completed the yatra to Manasarovar in China, every year. Similarly a grant of Rs.10,000/- each for 250 Hindu devotees domiciled in Tamil Nadu and who had completed the yatra to Mukthinath in Nepal, every year was also ordered. In the year 2012-2013, Rs.58.40 lakh was given to 146 pilgrims who performed the Manasarovar yatra. Rs. 1 lakh was given to ten pilgrims who performed the Mukthinath Yatra. In the year 2013-2014, a sum of Rs.84.70 lakh was released to the pilgrims who

completed the yatras. In the year 2014-2015, a sum of Rs.112.30 lakh was released to the pilgrims who completed the yatras. In the year 2015-2016 a sum of Rs.20.40 lakh has been released to 51 pilgrims who completed Manasarovar Yatra and a sum of Rs.7.20 lakh has been disbursed to 72 pilgrims who have completed Mukthinath Yatra and in total Rs.27.60 lakh has been disbursed. In the year 2016-2017 a sum of Rs.99.60 lakh has been released to 249 pilgrims who completed Manasarovar Yatra and a sum of Rs.13.60 lakh has been disbursed to 136 pilgrims who have completed Mukthinath Yatra and in total Rs.113.20 lakh has been disbursed. Based on the announcement of **the Hon'ble Chief Minister** from 2017-2018 onwards the beneficiaries number has been increased from 250 to 500 in each Yatras and total grant has also been raised from Rs.1.25 crore to Rs.2.50 crore.

Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties

111. In important temples, cotton saris and dhotis received as offerings are distributed to the elderly persons, destitute and widows on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna's Memorial Day. From 2011-2017, 96,387 persons were benefitted. During 2017-2018, 40,085 persons were benefitted under this scheme.

VI-CLEANLINESS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN TEMPLES

Uzhavarappani

112. The ancient temples in Tamil Nadu stand as historical monuments having sky high 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 damaging them heavily.

113. 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 3382 temples during the last seven years. Further, this programme is being implemented continuously in temples.

Maintenance of Cleanliness by Outsourcing

114. In order to maintain cleanliness in temples, housekeeping in the temple premises has been outsourced. As a result of this, cleaning in 110 big temples were undertaken by outsourcing, a high level of cleanliness is being maintained. Steps have been taken to extend the scheme to other temples also where large number of devotees and tourists visit.

Prohibiting usage of Plastic in Temple Premises

115. To maintain a 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 and paper, plates made of bamboo and arecanut-leaf are being used in temples.

Alternate Energy Scheme

116. In the year 2012-2013, **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** announced introduction of alternative energy source viz., installation of solar power equipment to save on the cost of electricity and to keep the environment free from pollution. The same was implemented at Tiruchendur Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple and

Suchindram Arulmigu Thanumalayaswamy Temple. 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

Security of Temples

117. Safety Electronic Gadgets like Burglar Alarm, Metal Detector, Digital Video Recorder, CCTV and strong grill gates are installed within the temple premises. Day/Night watchmen are deployed by temples mainly through Man Power Agency.

Safety of Idols/Icons and other valuables

118. To safeguard the idols/icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as icon centres, strong rooms, installation of burglar alarms, inner locking systems, fixing iron gates, closed circuit televisions, appointment of day/night watchmen and

appointment of personnel from the Temple Protection Force are being implemented. In addition, documentation for purposes of registration of idols/icons is being implemented. The Department has photographed 3,36,509 idols/icons belonging to 31,250 temples.

Strong Rooms

119. 11,512 temples are having icon strong rooms. The process of collecting the details of the temples which may need strong rooms is underway. These have been equipped with CCTVs, Burglar alarm, Iron Grill Gate, Inner lock system and security guards.

Scheme for Installation of Burglar Alarms

120. Under the burglar alarm installation scheme a Corpus Fund of Rs.5 crore was created. From the interest received, the Department will sanction 75% of the requirement of the needy temple which applies for grant of installation of burglar alarms from

the Corpus Fund. 25% of the requirement has to be borne by the temple either from its own fund or from donor fund. Realizing the fact that most of the temples in villages have paucity of funds but possess invaluable icons, jewels and expensive items and that the Department's primary duty is to protect such valuables, orders were issued to release full grant from the interest received from the Corpus Fund for the installation of burglar alarms. During 2011-2016 a sum of Rs.71 lakh was disbursed to 562 temples. In the year 2016-2017, Rs.26,95,994/- was disbursed to 254 temples. Apart from that during 2017-2018 Rs.3,63,200/- was disbursed to 32 temples.

Icon Centres

121. 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 bring it back to the Icon Centres for safe custody after the festivals. Poojas are regularly performed for all the icons at the centres.

122. To protect the valuable idols/icons belonging to the temples which are not having sufficient income to build strong room and situated in remote area, totally 34 icon centres have been built, of which the following 19 icon centres are fully functioning. 8083 idols/icons are kept in these 19 icon centres. These icon centres are fully equipped with CCTVs, Burglar Alarm and Armed Security Guards.

Details of Icon Centres

1.	Icon Centre, Tiruvarur (Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple campus)
2.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli
3.	Arulmigu Nelliappar Arultharum 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 Nageswaraswamy Temple, Kumbakonam
10.	Arulmigu Patteeswaraswamy Temple, Perur, Coimbatore
11.	Arulmigu Brahadambal Temple, Tirugokarnam, Pudukkottai
12.	Arulmigu Tiruvappudaiyar Temple, Chellur, Madurai
13.	Arulmigu Sundarraja Perumal Temple, Sivagangai
14.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur (Additional Centre)
15.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvottiyur
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani
17.	Arulmigu Kaliamma Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri
18.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy Temple, Villupuram
19.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar

123. Further, to protect the invaluable icons **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** had ordered for construction of the following 15 "Icon Centres" for which works

have been completed. Installation of security equipments are being undertaken for effective functioning.

Name of the temple / Place

1.	Arulmigu Malaikavalar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal. (Sub Temple of Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple)
2.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, Kumbakonam , Thanjavur.
3.	Arulmigu Madhanagopalaswamy and Brahmasureeswarar Temple, Perambalur.
4.	Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagarcoil, Kanyakumari.
5.	Joint Commissioner's Office complex, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thanjavur.
6.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur.
7.	Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramanaswamy Temple, Perundurai, Erode .
8.	Arulmigu Gowmariamman Temple, Veerapandi, Theni.
9.	Arulmigu Kalamman Temple, Thanthondimalai, Karur.
10.	Arulmigu Alanthuraiyar and Kothandaramaswamy Temple, Ariyalur.
11.	Arulmigu Kayaroganaswamy Udanurai Neelayathatchiamman Temple, Nagapattinam.

12.	Arulmigu Srinivasaperumal Temple, Dindigul
13.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy Temple, Krishnapuram, Palayamkottai (Sub Temple of Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple)
14.	Arulmigu Parimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai.
15.	Arulmigu Kapartheeswarar Temple, Thiruvanchuzhi, Kumbakonam.

Temple Protection Force

124. A separate wing viz., "Temple Protection Force" was 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.

125. 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 during 2006-2011, the number of serving Ex-Servicemen came 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. Now 266 Police Constable and 848 Ex-Servicemen have been deployed in the temples.

Safety measures in temples.

126. Following the fire accident at Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** conducted meeting on 12.02.2018 about preventive measures taken against fire accidents and other disasters in temples. As per instructions of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister**, in the first phase, 47 senior grade temples have been selected for intensifying fire safety measures. Accordingly in these temples, the following measures have been undertaken.

- Fire audit and fire drill have been conducted.

- Required number of fire fighting equipment such as fire extinguishers, sand/water buckets, electrical circuit breakers etc. have been provided.
- Protection measures for thalavirutchams and temple cars have been undertaken.
- Training of temple personnel has been undertaken.
- Eviction of shops within temple premises as well as of those appurtenant to the temple compound walls has been undertaken.
- Certification for electrical safety from the competent authority are being obtained.
- Lighting of open clay lamps is to be discouraged and 'Anaiya Villakku' are to be installed.

127. Moreover on the instructions of **Hon'ble Chief Minister** a circular has been issued to all the Officers of this Department, directing all the temple authorities to make adequate precautionary measures for the protection of the devotees and buildings used by the devotees and also to conduct inspection of

all the buildings belonging to the temple periodically and to ensure adherence to a maintenance schedule for all buildings. To check the stability of the buildings and quality of the electrical appliances in all the temples, instructions have been issued to all sub-ordinate offices to obtain building stability certificates.

VIII-EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

Educational Institutions

128. With the social objective 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 other obligations and responsibilities are running the following Patasalas, Colleges and Schools:-

S.No	Institution	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	5
11.	Odhavar Training Schools	2
12.	Thevaram Training Schools	2
13.	School for the Hearing Impaired and Dumb	1
	Total	54

**List of Educational Institutions
Arts, Culture and Science Colleges**

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

Polytechnic College

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

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

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

High Schools

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

Middle Schools

1.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam.
2.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Ambalavana Desikar Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam.

Elementary Schools

1.	Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli.
2.	Sankaranarayananaswamy Temple Elementary School, Sankarankoil, Tirunelveli.
3.	Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Thiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam.
4.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Aided Elementary School, Palani, Dindigul.
5.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Elementary School, Tiruvidaimaruthur, Thanjavur.
6.	Tirugnanasambandar Elementary School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam.
7.	Arulmigu Sundarraja Elementary School, Azhagarkovil, Madurai.
8.	Anjugam Elementary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai.
9.	Padmavathy Kannabiran Elementary School, Otteri, Chennai

Matriculation School

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

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

1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
2.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur.

Veda Agama Patasalas

1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
2.	Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi.
3.	Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai.
4.	Arulmigu Kabaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
5.	Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli.

Odhavar Training Schools

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

Thevaram Training Schools

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

School for Hearing Impaired and Dumb

1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
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Vedha Agama Patasalas

129. To impart training to the aspirants in the pattern of worship in temples, Hymns-recital, Agamas and Vedas, Saiva Agama Patasala was established in the year 2015-2016 at Chennai, Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleswarar Temple which is extolled as “மயிலையே கயிலை”. For Vaishnava Agamas, two Patasalas were established in the year 2015-2016, one in “பூலோக வைகுந்தம்” Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy

Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli and another one in Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai. The trainees are provided with stipend.

Training Schools for Odhuvars

130. During the 2012-2013 Budget session, announcement was made by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments on the floor of the Assembly that Odhuvar training schools would be started in Arulmighu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai and Arulmighu Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai. Following the announcement, Odhuvar training school was started on 15.07.2013 at Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai and at Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai on 18.08.2014.

131. The students who seek enrollment in Odhuvar Training School should have passed

8th Standard and the minimum age limit is 13 years and the maximum age is 20 years. Monthly stipend of Rs.1000/- is given to the students.

132. The Government has permitted the Commissioner to fill the odhuvar posts with the appointment of students in prescribed time scale, who have successfully completed the course in the odhuvar training schools run by the temples and obtained certificate.

Grading of Educational Institutions

133. The following three colleges managed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department have been awarded "A" Grade for their overall achievements and best practices by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission:-

1. Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts and Culture College, Palani.
2. Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani.
3. Shri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam.

Social Welfare Institutions

134. Temples also function as Social Welfare Institutions apart from being places of worship. For example, they also run Hospitals, Home for Mentally Challenged, Karunai Illangal and Old Age Homes. The details are as follows:-

Sl. No.	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

135. 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 children in need of care. There are 33 Karunai Illangal functioning in 30 temples, 22 for boys and 11 for girls. The Government has ordered in the year 2012-2013, 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 intend to go for higher studies in Colleges under the control of the Department and 50% concession to those in other Educational Institutions. The funds will be provided by the temples. Accordingly, Rs.8,30,382/- was given to 159 students during 2012-2018. During 2017-2018 Rs.1,40,385 was given to 36 students.

136. Basic amenities for boys and girls in Karunai Illangal have been upgraded at the cost of Rs.2.44 crore during 2011-2015. During 2015-2016 basic amenities have been upgraded at the cost of Rs.1.68 crore. During 2016-2017, 19 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.38 lakh. During 2017-2018, 6 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.12.98 lakh.

137. To compensate the expenditure incurred for Karunai Illangal, the Government is giving a grant every year. For the period 2011-2017, a grant of Rs.1.99 crore was received.

Details of Temples having Karunai Illangal

1.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu, Tiruvallur.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur.
3.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
4.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram, Tiruchirappalli.

5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
6.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi.
7.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram.
8.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai.
9.	Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai, Coimbatore.
10.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari, Erode.
11.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Azhagarkoil, Madurai.
12.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sholingur, Vellore.
13.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
14.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai, Thanjavur.
15.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem
16.	Arulmigu Vanabadrakaliamman Temple, Tekkampatti, Coimbatore.
17.	Arulmigu Vazhathottathu Ayyan Temple, Iyampalayam, Tiruppur.
18.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tirupparankundram, Madurai.
19.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Temple, Oppiliappankoil, Thanjavur.
20.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur.
21.	Arulmigu Magudeswaraswamy Veerananarayana Perumal Temple, Kodumudi, Erode.
22.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Temple, Echanari, Coimbatore.

23.	Arulmigu Patteeswaraswamy Temple, Perur, Coimbatore.
24.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Anaimalai, Coimbatore.
25.	Arulmigu Koppudaiyanayagi Amman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai.
26.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur.
27.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Kaatha Ayyanar and Bhadrakaliamman Temple, Madappuram, Sivagangai.
28.	Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Kanthimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli
29.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Devasthanam, Chennai
30.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Thayamangalam, Sivagangai.

Home for Mentally Challenged

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

1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tirupparankundram, Madurai.

Siddha Hospitals

1.	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai
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2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Marudamalai, Coimbatore.
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruparankundram, Madurai..
5.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi.
6.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram.

Allopathy Hospitals

1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
2.	Arulmigu Karpagavinayagar Temple, Pillaiyarpatti, Sivagangai..

Basic Amenities for Schools and Colleges

138. For providing basic amenities for schools under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore and for providing basic amenities for colleges a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore have been created by transferring surplus funds from affluent temples. Out of the interest accrued

from the corpus fund, financial Assistance is being given for providing amenities such as buildings, laboratories, libraries, computers, drinking water and toilet facilities in the schools and colleges run by the temples.

139. During 2011-2016, Rs.40.58 crore was allocated for 223 works for upgrading the basic facilities of schools and colleges. In the year 2016-2017, 22 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.3.64 crore. In the year 2017-2018, 48 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.8.27 crore.

Goshalas

140. Integrated Goshalas were formed in 4 places viz., Palani, Tiruchendur, Srirangam and Rameswaram to maintain cattle offered as Kanikkai (offering).

Surplus cattle received by the temples as donation are given free of cost to the Women

Self Help Groups and to Archakars and Poosaris 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

141. Alvars, Nayanmars and Holy Sages in reverence eulogized the deities in Tamil wherever they went. The devotional songs of such savants such as Thevaram, Thiruvagasam, Thirumanthiram, Thiruppugazh and Nalayira Diviya Prabandam have contributed significantly to make the Tamil language 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 Celebration

142. The **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** by an amendment to the enactment restored the customary practice followed by the Tamil people for 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.

143. Special Poojas, Special Annadhanam, religious discourses and cultural programmes were conducted in all the temples on 1st day of Chithirai. The temples are illuminated and decorated with plantain trees and mango leaves. Reading of Panchangam (Traditional Tamil almanac) is also done on that day. Numerous devotees celebrate this day by visiting the temples on this auspicious day.

Paavai Vizha

144. During the Tamil month of Margazhi recitation competition in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai is conducted in the temples every year. On the orders of **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, action has been taken to conduct the competition in a grand manner at the district level also. During the year 2017-2018, 7740 students participated in 32 districts and prizes were distributed to 1552 students.

Appointment of Musicians

145. 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 Rs.1 crore has been deposited for enabling payment from the interest to the

musicians recruited for playing Nadhaswaram, Thavil and Thalam instruments at a monthly salary of Rs.1,500/-, Rs.1,000/- and Rs.750/- respectively.

X-ARULALARGAL VIZHA

Sekkizhar Vizha

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

Thirugnana Sambandar Isai Vizha

147. **Thirugnana Sambandar Isai Vizha** is celebrated every year at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram, to honour saint Thirugnana Sambandar, one of the religious savants. The expenditure for the festival is met from the Common Good Fund.

Avvaiyar Vizha

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

Thayumanavar Vizha

149. Every year **Thayumanavar Adigal festival** is celebrated at Arulmigu Thayumanaswamy Temple at Malaikkottai, Tiruchirappalli. This is in honour of Thayumanaswamy who gave Tamil Devotional songs to the world.

Thiruvalluvar Day

150. **Thiruvalluvar Day** is celebrated in Chennai, Mylapore, Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple 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

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

Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha

152. **“Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha”** is celebrated at Arulmigu Akhilandeswari 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

153. **“Azhwargal Vizha”** for 12 Azhwars is celebrated in Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy

Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli District every year.

XI-PUBLICATIONS

Thalavaralaru and Thalapuram

154. 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 small temples also pamphlets are published for enlightening the people on the importance of worship in these temples.

District Guides for Pilgrims

155. District Temple Guides were published for each district to guide the devotees and tourists with information about the temples situated in important towns and also the temples

situated nearby. Realising the usefulness of these guides to the devotees and tourists, these have been uploaded in the website of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

"Thirukkoil" - Monthly Magazine

156. 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. Nowadays this magazine is adorned by adding Tidbits, Religious Pictorial story, Religious short question and answers were also introduced. The number of pages have been increased from the year 2017. This magazine is available on online also. For the benefit of the subscribers a new facility is introduced by the Department in which this magazine can be had by paying the cost through online.

Sale of Religious Books

157. A Book Fair was conducted from 06.01.2017 to 19.01.2017 by Book Sellers and Publishers Association of South India at Chennai. For the first time a book stall on behalf of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department was opened and publications of the Department such as District Guide, Indhu Madha Inaippu Vilakkam, Saivamum Vainavamum, Saiva Samaya Kalanjyanganal, Temple Calendars, Temple History and Thirukkoil Magazines were sold. Following the appreciation received from the spiritualistic persons for this idea, online facility has been made for buying the "Thirukkoil Magazine" and other religious books published by the Department.

Publishing Agamas and other books in Tamil

158. 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 Madha 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 requirement.

XII-TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Refresher Training Course

159. For the Archakars, Bhattachariars and Odhuvars to do their work efficiently, a Refresher Training Course was started in the year 1991. During 2006-2011, this training course was not conducted. The six weeks refresher training course was revived and during 2011-2016 totally 8436 employees were trained.

During 2016-2017 skill development training was imparted to 1524 Archakars, Bhattachariars and Odhuvars. For 2017-2018 Refresher training course was given to 2090 employees.

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

160. As a first of its kind in the Country, the State Archaeology Department conducted a short term six week course on “Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments” from 03.12.2014 to 13.01.2015 for 22 Engineers of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The second batch of 22 Engineers attended the training from 19.03.2015 to 29.04.2015. The third batch of 40 persons including Engineers, Sthapathis and Technical Staff of temples attended the training from 08.09.2016 to 19.10.2016.

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

161. Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department also conducted a short term two weeks course on “Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments” in two stages for 150 Executive Officers of temples in six batches of 25 Executive Officers each batch.

Training on Human Values

162. It is proposed to train all the employees of temples including Archakars to serve the devotees respecting their religious sentiments. Accordingly, in the past seven years, training on human values was given to 22,558 employees. During 2017-2018, 3275 temple employees were trained. This training will be continued every year.

Training for Suyampagis (cooks of holy kitchen), Annadhanam cooks and Prasadam stall contractors

163. With a view to provide good quality Prasadam, Annadhanam etc., to devotees in a hygienic manner, training was conducted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), for 2 days at Chennai Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple. The Suyampagis, Annadhanam cooks and Prasadam stall contractors of temples in and around Chennai city, Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Thiruparankundram, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Thiruverkadu, Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Triplicane, Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy

Temple, Mangadu, Arulmigu Kamatchiamman and Vaigunda Perumal Temple and Vadapalani, Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple participated in the training classes. 142 members from 80 temples participated and got trained.

164. Similar training was conducted on 01.09.2017 and 02.09.2017 in Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman temple. In this training a total of 150 members consisting of temple Executive Officers, Superintendents, Paricharakars, Prasada stall contractors, Store clerks from 10 major temples and temples in and around Tiruchirappalli participated.

165. Also a workshop was conducted for Officers on 11.01.2018 in New Delhi regarding "Blissful Hygienic Offerings to God – BHOG" . In this workshop Officers including Additional Commissioner (General), Joint Commissioner / Executive Officers of Thiruverkadu Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Tiruvannamalai

Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruttani
Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Madurai
Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple,
Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganatha Swamy
Temple and Deputy Commissioner / Executive
Officers of Sankarankoil Arulmigu
Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple, Swamimalai
Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple
participated in the workshop.

Skill Development Training

166. From time immemorial, Temples in Tamil Nadu have been at the centre stage of all activities concerning human life. There are many categories of service providers to the temples and devotees. They are Sculptors, Craftsmen, Architects, Weavers, Goldsmiths, Archakars, Village Temple Poosaris, Musicians, Dancers, Nadhaswara Exponents, Vendors of Pooja Articles, Garland Makers, Gardeners, Paricharakars, Folk Artists, Artists and Religious

Orators. Due to lack of requisite patronage, in due course of time they became economically weak and their valuable skills are facing extinction. To expand the scope for their livelihood a plan has been drawn to upgrade their skill, design and technology.

Accordingly, during the year 2016–2017, a one week skill development training was imparted to 2094 Village Temple Poosaris in 11 Joint Commissioner regions and Rs.1000/- was given to each trainee as incentive.

167. One month training was conducted at Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani to give skill development training to Thavil and Nadhaswaram Vidhvans in 5 sessions. Rs.5000/- was given to each trainee as incentive.

Skill development training for the Archakars, Bhattachariyars, Odhuvars was conducted and training was imparted to 1524 persons for four weeks from 13.02.2017 to 10.03.2017. Rs.2000/- was given to each trainee as incentive. The persons who serve as Malaikatti and Nandavana Kappalar in the temples were reoriented with skill upgradation training programme and the training programme was conducted from 20.03.2017 to 24.03.2017 and from 02.05.2017 to 16.05.2017 throughout the State.

Skill development training for the Paricharakars and Suyambagis was conducted and training was imparted to 221 persons for one week. An incentive of Rs.1000 was given to each trainee.

Three months skill development training for the Handicrafts, Iconography and Pooja items preparation was conducted. An incentive

of Rs.5000/- was given to each trainee participated in training.

XIII - WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE EMPLOYEES

Details of Welfare Schemes

168. 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:-

Sl. No.	Welfare Schemes
1.	Family Benefit Fund Scheme
2.	Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme
3.	Health Insurance Scheme
4.	Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme
5.	Appointment on Compassionate Grounds
6.	Regularisation of Services of Temporary Employees
7.	Pension Scheme for Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians

Sl. No.	Welfare Schemes
8.	Pension Scheme for other temple employees
9.	Educational aid for the children of temple employees

Family Benefit Fund Scheme

169. This scheme was introduced to help the heirs of the temple employees who died 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, Rs.1 lakh is granted for the heirs of the deceased, who died in harness. During 2011-2012 to 2016-2017 a sum of Rs.3.70 crore was disbursed to 375 legal heirs. Out of this, during 2016-2017 alone Rs.49 lakh was disbursed to 49 legal heirs. During 2017-2018 Rs.43.35 lakh was disbursed to 44 legal heirs.

Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme

170. 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. From 2011-12 to 2016-17, total sum of Rs.32.03 lakh was disbursed to 695 retired employees from this corpus fund. Out of this, during 2016-2017 alone Rs.5.10 lakh was disbursed to 102 retired employees. Apart from that during 2017-2018 Rs.1.30 lakh have been given to 26 retired employees.

Health Insurance Scheme

171. 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 **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. 3847 temple employees and their families have benefitted under this scheme.

In 2013 **Hon'ble Former 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 employees and their families have benefitted under this scheme.

Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme

172. This scheme has been created for the employees of temples where the annual income of the temple is less than Rs.1 lakh and drawing pay less than Rs.750/- per month. A corpus fund, namely "Temple Employees Welfare Fund" with Rs.5 crore 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. For the period from 2011-2012 to 2016-2017, 9781 employees working in 7747 temples were given Rs.5.43 crore as salary arrears. Out of this during 2016-2017 a sum of Rs.1.67 crore was disbursed to 2499 employees in 1926 temples as salary arrears. During 2017-2018, a sum of Rs.1.52 crore was disbursed to 2014 employees in 1647 temples as salary arrears.

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

173. Under the scheme "Appointment on Compassionate Grounds" jobs are provided to the legal heirs of temple employees who died in harness. In the past seven years 133 legal heirs were given appointment on compassionate grounds. During the year 2017-2018, 9 legal heirs have been given employment on compassionate grounds.

Regularisation of Services of Temporary Employees

174. Regularisation of services and fixation of time-scale pay has been done to 2217 employees who served temporarily on daily wages/ consolidated pay for a period of more than five years continuously as on 31.7.2014.

Pension Scheme for Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians

175. Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians who have served for 20 years in temples and attained 60 years of age are being paid a monthly pension of Rs.750/- from the Government fund through this Department.

176. The **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered to enhance the pension from Rs.750/- to Rs.1000/- per month, benefitting 364 retired employees.

Pension Scheme for other Temple Employees

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

(i) Employees Provident Fund Scheme

178. This scheme is applicable to all employees working in affluent 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

179. 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.

180. 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.1000/- given to retired temple employees under the Departmental pension scheme was raised to Rs.2000/- with effect from 01.10.2016. For this purpose the corpus fund was raised to a tune of Rs.15 crore additionally from the surplus fund of affluent temples.

181. During 2017-2018, 51 retired employees were sanctioned pension and so far 4581 employees have been benefitted under this scheme.

182. As ordered by **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** Departmental Pension Scheme benefits have been extended to those temple employees who retired prior to 1996, benefitting 67 more retired temple employees.

Educational Aid for the Children of Temple Employees

183. This scheme provides for 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 Government and Government aided Educational Institutions.

XIV-WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIS

Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board

184. For Poosaris performing poojas in the village temples which are not under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a separate Board namely "Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board" has been constituted, through which the benefits are provided.

A Separate website has been created for Poosaris Welfare Board. Now registration of membership can be done online and ID cards can be generated.

Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme

185. The **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has enhanced the monthly pension from Rs.750/- to Rs.1000/- on 22.11.2013 to retired poosaris who have attained 60 years of age and served for more than 20 years in village temples which are not directly under the control of this Department. Under this scheme, 3205 Village Poosaris have been benefitted so far.

XV – MILLENNIUM BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF SRI RAMANUJAR

186. The Millennium birth anniversary of Sri Ramanujar was celebrated from 21.04.2017 to 01.05.2017 at Arulmigu Adhikesava Perumal

and Bhashyakaraswamy temple in Sriperumbudur which is his birth place. This festival was also celebrated in 84 Divya Desam Temples in Tamil Nadu and also in other Vaishnavite temples under the control of this Department.

187. As part of these celebrations, cultural programmes, religious discourses, seminars, essay competitions, elocution competitions were conducted. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department released a calendar for 2017 as well as a documentary on Sri Ramanujar. A trilingual pictographical book on Sri Ramanujar's life history titled "Vainava Maanidhi" was released by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** on 09.05.2017. In commemoration of Sri Ramanujar's millennium birth anniversary a special postal stamp of Sri Ramanujar was released through the Postal

Department by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 01.05.2017 in New Delhi.

XVI - Computerization of Department and Temple activities

188. A Common Web Portal, Integrated Temple Management System, is being created for all the temples to provide all the required information / services to the Devotees and also for better management of the temples in Tamil Nadu. The information regarding valuable Metal Icons, Stone Idols and immovable properties such as lands and buildings belonging to the ancient and heritage temples, religious institutions in Tamil Nadu are being computerized. The temple properties are being mapped and documented with Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) for easy identification and management. Mobile App is being developed for booking rooms, golden car and to receive

Annadhanam donation by the temples online. It is also proposed to impart training to the Department staff and Temple staff as well as on e-Governance activities. It is also proposed to provide Hardware and Network facilities to all the Offices of this Department and Temples as part of e-Governance initiatives. The ITMS-Integrated Temple Management System, is being developed by the National Informatics Centre.

XVII - Awards

189. The Department has been functioning diligently to ensure that the objectives of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959 are achieved. Primary among these are conservation, restoration and renovation of temples through Tiruppani, protection of movable and immovable properties, provision of

basic amenities to devotees and above all, preservation of the religious and cultural practices associated with each temple. In recognition of the outstanding work in this field, the following awards have been bestowed.

- BEST PRACTICES AWARD for improvement of quality delivery system ensuring good governance was given to Triplicane, Arulmigu Parthasarathyswamy Temple on 15.08.2015 by **Hon'ble former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.**
- Government of India selected Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple as Cleanest Iconic Place in India and announced "SWACHH BHARATH" – Best Iconic Places Award on 02.10.2017.

- 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award of Merit for Conservation had been conferred by UNESCO on 24.01.2018 to Srirangam, Arulmigu Sri Aranganathaswamy Temple.
- The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is getting First place/Outstanding Award every year for its pavilion in the All India Trade Fair conducted by the Department of Tourism. In 2018 it won the Outstanding Award at the Fair.

Conclusion

**“அண்ணாமலையான் அடிக்கமலம் சென்றிறைஞ்சும்
விண்ணோர் முடியின் மணித்தொகை வீற்றறார்போல் . . .”**

–திருவெம்பாவை

Consistent with the above lines of “Thiruvembavai”, which means, all are equal

before the glowing effulgence of the lord and consistent with the slogan “We exist for the people, We exist because of the people”, this Government is working for the welfare of the devotees in the temples. The Department will continue to work for the development of temples and take all efforts to protect the properties and rich heritage of temples.

SEVOOR S. RAMACHANDRAN
Minister for Hindu Religious
and Charitable Endowments



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated Icon Safety Centre constructed in Arulmighu Kapartheeswarar Temple, Thiruvanchuzhi, Kumbakonam, at Secretariat on 08.05.2017.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated Annadhana Koodam constructed in Arulmighu Vaseeswaraswamy Temple, Tirupachur, Tiruvallur District and Chemistry Lab constructed in Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai, at Secretariat on 08.11.2017.



Madurai District Collector Thiru. K. Veera Ragava Rao, IAS, received the blessings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at Secretariat on 09.10.2017 by showing SWACHH BHARATH Best Iconic Places Award conferred on Arulmighu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai by the Government of India.



Chairman, Board of Trustees of Arulmighu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Thiru. Venu Srinivasan with other trustees received the blessings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at Secretariat on 24.01.2018 by showing the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award of Merit for Conservation conferred to the temple by UNESCO.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami distributed Pooja Articles to the archakars of small temples on the occasion of MGR Centenary Celebrations in Thanjavur District.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami reviewed the safety measures to be taken to prevent fire accidents in temples under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department on 12.02.2018 at Secretariat.



Commencement of Special Rejuvenation Camp for Elephants on 04.01.2018 at Thekkampatti, Mettupalayam.



Elephants taking bath during Special Rejuvenation Camp.



Car festival at Arulmighu Mariyamman Temple,
Samayapuram.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru. Sevoor S. Ramachandran inspects the artifacts created by artisans during training conducted at Arulmighu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.



Odhavar Refresher Training Course conducted at Arulmighu Marundheeswarar Temple, Tiruvanmiyur from 15.02.2018 to 31.03.2018.



Adi Krithigai Float Festival at Arulmighu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani on 16.08.2017.



Float Festival at Arulmighu Mariyamman Temple, Samayapuram on 30.01.2018.

Icon Centre



Outer view



Inner View

Marriage Hall
Arulmighu Choleeswaraswamy Temple,
Arcotkuppam, Tiruttani Taluk, Tiruvallur District.



Outer view



Inner view

Adi Dravidar Temple Tiruppani
Arulmighu Karpaga Vinayagar Temple, Kurichipatti (West),
Thirumayam Taluk, Pudukkottai District.



Before Tiruppani



After Tiruppani

Annadhana Koodam
Arulmighu Vaseeswaraswamy Temple,
Tirupachur, Tiruvallur District.



Outer view



Inner view



Training given in the usage of Fire Hydrant
at Arulmighu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.



Anaiya Vilakku installed at Arulmighu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Tiruverkadu.



Inspection of Dry lands of Arulmighu Chidambareswarar Temple, Deviakurichi, Attur Taluk, Salem District.



Chemistry Laboratory
Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School,
Madurai.