



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

POLICY NOTE
2019-2020

Demand
No.47



Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar, Madurai



**Arulmigu Athigiri Varadhar,
Kancheepuram**



Arulmigu Thanumalayaswamy Temple, Suchindram



**Arulmigu Devarajaswamy
Temple Tank, Kancheepuram**

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Charitable Endowments Department

**Tourism, Culture and Religious
Endowments Department**

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INTRODUCTION

The great kings who ruled Tamil Nadu have always been patrons of religion, art and architecture.

Our kings have always been steeped in religious fervor and were the custodians of our tradition and culture.

The temples built by them are the manifestation of this generous and charitable nature of our kings and the immense interest that they had as patrons of art and architecture. The temples of Tamil Nadu are the show cases of our heritage and antiquity.

Hon'ble Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has said, "The Holy Temples are the common property of the community, instilling in us the deep feeling that all human beings are equal without discrimination based on social and economic status."

The Distinct Architectural features of Temples

Sangam period Architecture

2. The greatest accomplishments of the kingdoms of the early Chola, Chera and the Pandya kingdoms included brick shrines to deities like Kartikeya, Shiva, Amman and Vishnu. Several of these have been unearthed near Adichanallur, Kaveripoompattinam and Mamallapuram. The dynasties of early medieval period expanded and erected structural additions to many of these brick shrines. Moreover, the sculptures and deities of Madurai,

Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganatha Swamy Temple are identified to be related to Sangam Period.

Pallava Architecture

3. During the Pallava rule, the first stone and mortar temples of South India were constructed based on earlier brick and timber prototypes.

The Pallava architecture shows the transition from the rock cut temples to the stone built temples. The greatest accomplishments of the Pallava architecture are the rock cut temples of the 7th century and stone structural temples built in 8th and 9th century. The lasting monolithic temples known as rathas and mandapas prove superb skill of sculptors of Pallava period. The monolithic temples (eg. Five rathas) gave way to stone structural temples like the Shore temple in

Mamallapuram. These temples include excavated pillared hall, with no external roof except the natural rock. At the same time in the monolithic shrines, the natural rock is entirely cut away and carved to give an external roof. Pallava sculptors later graduated to free-standing structural shrines, which inspired Chola temples of a later age. Some of the best examples of Pallava art and architecture are the Kailasanathar Temple at Kancheepuram, the Shore Temple and the Pancha Rathas of Mamallapuram. Akshara was the greatest sculptor during the Pallava period.

Pandya Architecture

4. Rock cut and stone structural temples are significant part of Pandya architecture. The Vimanams and Mandapams are some of the features of the early Pandya temples. These type of temples are seen in Tiruchirappalli district. In the later stages of Pandya rule, the

temple architecture developed to finely sculptured idols, gopuram and vimanam. Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Tirunelveli, Arulmigu Nellaiappan Kanthimathi Amman Temple were built during the reign of the Pandyas.

Chola Architecture

5. The Chola emperors patronized and promoted construction of large number of temples that were spread over most parts of the Chola empire. Among the Chola kings, Rajaraja Chola I and his son Rajendra Chola I built temples such as Arulmigu Brihadeeswara temple of Thanjavur and Arulmigu Brihadeeshwara Temple of Gangaikonda Cholapuram. Further, Arulmigu Airavateswarar Temple at Darasuram and Arulmigu Kampahareswarar Temple at Thirupuvanam were built during Chola period. The first three among the above four temples

are titled as “Great Living Chola Temples” in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

6. The temple architecture received great impetus from the conquests of Aditya-I, Parantaka-I, Sundara Chola, Rajaraja Chola and his son Rajendra Chola-I. Rajaraja Chola-I built the Big Temple at Thanjavur and named it as Rajarajeswaram. The maturity and grandeur to which the Chola architecture had evolved found expression in these temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikonda Cholapuram.

7. Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple and Chidambaram, Arulmigu Sabanayagar (Natarajar) Temple were the most important temples patronized and expanded by the Cholas.

8. During the Chola Period, the compound wall (Thirumadhil) of the temples were constructed on a gigantic scale. The Chola Kings

were keen on constructing huge gopurams which reflected the syncretic architectural practices.

Chera Architecture

9. The Cheras had adopted a different technique of architecture with sloped roofs in the temples considering the weather conditions. Such temples are found in Kanyakumari district.

Vijayanagara and Nayak Architecture

10. Arulmigu Jalakanteswara Temple inside Vellore fort is a fine example of Vijayanagara Architecture. This temple has exquisite carvings on its gopuram (tower), richly carved stone pillars, large wooden gates and stunning monoliths and sculptures. These Vijayanagara sculptures are similar to the ones present in Arulmigu Soundararajaperumal Temple, Thadikombu, Arulmigu Venkatachalapathyswamy Temple, Krishnapuram, Arulmigu Natchiyar (Andal)

Temple, Srivilliputhur and Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Alagarkoil, Madurai.

11. The Nayaks who ruled Madurai and Thanjavur made great contributions to the architectural style in temples. The main characteristics of the style during this period are "hundred-pillared", "thousand-pillared" mandapas, high gopurams with stucco statues and long corridors.

The main temples representing this style are:

- Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam.
- Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.
- Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Sannadhi in Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur.
- Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.

Stone Inscriptions

12. In Tamil Nadu not only the Kings and Feudal Kings have endowed properties for maintenance of the temples, but the general public also endowed properties to the temples for their maintenance and for other services. These details are known from the stone inscriptions found in various temples.

I-LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ADMINISTRATION

The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959

13. The Government of Tamil Nadu after examining the various previous enactments, enacted the Tamil Nadu 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.

14. 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.

15. 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

16. There are 38,652 Hindu Religious and Jain Religious Institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The details are as follows: -

1.	Temples	36,612
2.	Holy Mutts	56
3.	Temples attached to Holy Mutts	57
4.	Specific Endowments	1,721
5.	Charitable Endowments	189
6.	Jain Temples	17
	Total	38,652

Classification of the Hindu Religious Institutions

17. The Hindu Religious Institutions have been classified as listed and non listed institutions based on the annual income. The details are as follows: -

Sl. No.	Classification of Religious Institutions	Annual Income of Institution	Number of Institutions / Percentage (%)
1.	Non listed Institutions – Under Section 49(1)	Having an annual income of less than Rs.10,000/-	34,099 (88.2%)
2.	Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i)	Having an annual income of Rs.10,000/- and less than Rs.2 lakh.	3,550 (9.2%)

Sl. No.	Classification of Religious Institutions	Annual Income of Institution	Number of Institutions / Percentage (%)
3.	Under Section 46(ii)	Having an annual income of Rs.2 lakh and less than Rs.10 lakh.	672 (1.8%)
4.	Under Section 46(iii)	Having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above.	331 (0.8%)
		Total	38,652

Administrative Structure

18. The Commissioner functions as the Administrative Head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department responsible to regulate and supervise the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions in accordance with the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

19. 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	Parent 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	Parent 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.	Joint Director / Public Information Officer	1	Information and Public Relations Department

Regional and Divisional Administration

20. 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 and Tambaram Taluk in Kancheepuram District
2.	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	2. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur District
		3. Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District (Except Tambaram Taluk)
		4. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore	Vellore District
3.	Joint Commissioner, Salem	5. Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts
		6. Assistant Commissioner, Salem	Salem District
		7. Assistant Commissioner, Namakkal	Namakkal District
4.	Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore	8. Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore	Coimbatore and Nilgris Districts
		9. Assistant Commissioner, Erode	Erode District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		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, Sirkazhi, Kuthalam and Tarangambadi Taluks in Nagapattinam District
7.	Joint Commissioner, Villupuram	15. Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore	Cuddalore District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		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
10.	Joint Commissioner, Sivagangai	24. Assistant Commissioner, Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar District
		25. Assistant Commissioner, Paramakudi	Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram Districts

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
11.	Joint Commissioner, Tirunelveli	26. Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli District
		27. Assistant Commissioner, Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi District
		28. Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil	Kanyakumari District

Functions of the Joint Commissioner in Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

21. The Joint Commissioner of the department is a regional level officer having supervisory control over the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions published under section 46 of the Act. He is empowered to appoint non Hereditary Trustees to the Religious Institutions published under section 46(i) of the Act. He has powers to approve budget for religious institutions assessed under section 46(i) of the Act. The Joint Commissioner shall have power to inquire into and decide certain disputes under

section 63 of the Act and settle a scheme for any religious institution under section 64 of the Act. He has also revisional power on the orders passed by the Assistant Commissioner under section 21A of the Act. Under Section 53 of the Act, he is competent to suspend, remove or dismiss the erring trustees of the religious institutions published under section 46(i) of the Act. Further, he is competent to fill up the vacancies occurring in the office of the Hereditary Trustees under section 54 of the Act. The Joint Commissioner has power to enquire and pass orders for eviction of encroachers on land or building belonging to Religious Institutions under section 78 of the Act. He shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commissioner either by general or special orders.

Functions of the Assistant Commissioner in Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

22. The Assistant Commissioner of the department is a District level Officer, having supervisory control over all the Hindu Religious Institutions not published under section 46 of the Act. Within his jurisdiction he is empowered to appoint non Hereditary Trustees and approve budget for non-listed religious institutions. In the event of receiving complaints about the religious institutions, he has to enquire and submit preliminary report to bring the religious institutions under the supervisory control of the department. It is the duty of the Assistant Commissioner to assess and give report to the Commissioner on every religious institution for levying contribution and audit fees under section 92 of the Act. The contribution and the audit fees levied under section 92 of the Act, and the cost and expenses incurred on legal proceedings

under section 93 of the Act shall be collected by the Assistant Commissioner from the Religious Institutions concerned and remitted into the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative fund. He shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commissioner either by general or special order.

Functions of the Inspector in Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

23. The Regional Joint Commissioners and the Divisional Assistant Commissioners of this Department are assisted by 224 Inspectors at the taluk level.

24. They have to inspect the temples to ensure their proper maintenance, upkeep the services therein. They have to collect Contribution and Audit Fees, Cost awarded by the Courts and Centage Charges.

25. They have to obtain and verify the Property Register, Dhittam Register and Tree Register belonging to the religious institutions and send for approval. They have to inquire and report on petitions and all references received by them from Joint Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners. They have to enquire and verify the applications for appointment of trustees and send report. They have to supervise auctions, opening of tenders and hundial openings. They have to attend Courts and Offices of Government Pleaders. They also have to obtain receipts and charges statement from the religious institutions under the department control for assessment purpose. They shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned to them by their superior officers.

Verification Officers

26. The role of verification officers is 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 in the post of Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialist and Junior Technical Assistant.

Engineering and Sthapathi wing

27. 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:

Sl. 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.

The proposal to create a separate Engineering Wing in Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been approved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Departmental Sthapathi

28. To ensure that the conservation / renovation / restoration of the temples is in accordance with Shilpa Sastra / 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 Sastra, 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 Sastra.

Regional Sthapathis

29. To review and check the estimates and plans of the Temple conservation works, five Regional Sthapathis were functioning at the State level. The **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.

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

Temple Administration

30. 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

31. 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: -

S.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

32. 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

33. 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

34. 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

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

1. Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu
2. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani
3. Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam
4. Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
5. Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani
6. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

7. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple,
Tiruchendur
8. Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple,
Rameswaram

Engineering Wing in Temples

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

Administration of Mutts

37. At present there are 56 Holy Mutts under the supervision of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. In order to monitor the administration of these Holy Mutts, 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

38. The accounts of all the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions are audited by Audit Wing of this department headed by Chief Audit Officer, under the overall control of the Commissioner of this department.

39. To audit the accounts of the religious institutions in Tamil Nadu, the Audit wing is divided into 19 Regions of which 2 Regions are headed by the Deputy Chief Audit Officers and 17 Regions are headed by Regional Audit Officers who are assisted by 26 Assistant Audit Officers. One Regional Audit Officer (Mobile Audit Team) and two Assistant Audit Officers are working in the Head Office.

40. A three tier Audit Committee as stated below, is in existence to settle the audit objections of senior grade temples.

I. First Level Audit Committee (Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer Grade Temples)

1.	Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.	Chairman
2.	Joint Director, Local Fund Audit Department.	Member
3.	Chief Audit Officer, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.	Member/ Secretary

II. Second Level Audit Committee (Deputy Commissioner / Executive Officer Grade Temples)

1.	Additional Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.	Chairman
2.	Joint Director, Local Fund Audit Department.	Member
3.	Chief Audit Officer, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.	Member/ Secretary

III. Third Level Audit Committee (Assistant Commissioner / Executive Officer Grade Temples)

1.	Regional Joint Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.	Chairman
2.	Deputy Chief Audit Officer / Regional Audit Officer, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.	Member/ Secretary

Advisory Committee

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

42. 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

43. 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 Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes and one shall be a woman. The period of this Board is two years.

Qualifications for appointment of Trustee

44. Under the instructions of the **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

45. Five Non-hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions falling under Section 46(iii) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above, are appointed directly by the Government.

Commissioner

46. Three Non-hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under

Section 46(ii) of the 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

47. Three Non-hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under Section 46(i) of the 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

48. Three Non-hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under Section 49(1) of the 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.

49. 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

50. 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

51. Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions have an extent of 4,78,283.59 acres

of land. The details are as below: -

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

52. 22,600 buildings and 33,665 vacant sites owned by Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions are leased out. Further, agricultural lands are leased out to 1,23,729 lessees. For the past 8 years an income of Rs.1084.59 crore was received from the immovable assets. In the year 2018-2019 an income of Rs.126.01 crore has been received.

Fixation of Fair Rent

53. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for fixation of fair rent for the buildings and sites belonging to

Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under Section 34A of the Act. 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

54. 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.

55. 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 2018-2019 out of 8159 cases, 1454 cases have been disposed and a sum of Rs.233.11 lakh out of decreed sum of Rs.810.81 lakh have been collected. In the past eight years, a total sum of Rs.1544.11 lakh lease arrears was collected. Necessary steps are being taken for collecting the entire lease arrears.

Retrieval of Lands

56. During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), the pattas of

some of the 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.

57. In the past eight years, Pattas of 6582.81 acres of temple lands belonging to 1005 temples wrongly transferred in the names of private persons, were identified and restored in the name of temples. In the year 2018-2019 pattas of 547.66 acres of lands belonging to 146 temples were ordered to be restored to the temples.

58. In the past eight years, 674.40 acres of land belonging to 156 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 2018-2019, 58.01 acres belonging to 12 temples for which pattas

have been wrongly issued to private individuals were restored to the temples.

59. 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.

Appointment of retired Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Surveyors

60. To identify the pattas of the lands of Hindu Religious Institutions transferred wrongly in the names of private individuals and to co-ordinate with the Revenue Department 7 retired Deputy Collectors, 19 retired Tahsildars, 13 retired Surveyors, 2 retired Revenue Inspectors and 9 retired Village Administrative Officers have been appointed on consolidated pay.

Removal of Encroachments

61. Encroachments to the extent of 2855.36 acres of land, 557.0645 grounds of

sites and 250.1913 grounds of buildings belonging to Hindu Religious Institutions were removed and brought back to the possession of temples in the past eight years. The total market value of these assets is approximately Rs.3208.42 crore. For the year 2018-2019, 276.31 acres of cultivable lands, 33.2255 grounds of sites and 46.2380 grounds of buildings were taken possession. Their total value is Rs.127.42 crore.

Regularisation of Group Encroachments

62. 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.

Accordingly, 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

63. "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 the grace of God was inaugurated on 23rd March 2002 at Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple by the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. This noble scheme was gradually implemented in 360 temples. During 2006-07 to 2010-11, this scheme was extended to 2 temples only.

64. 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.

65. Everyday 64,962 devotees are benefitted under this scheme in 754 temples and Rs.16.12 lakh is being spent per day.

Day Long Annadhanam Scheme

66. The Day Long Annadhanam Scheme at Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple was launched on 13.09.2012 by the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. Simultaneously, this scheme was inaugurated at Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple. Totally 7427 devotees are benefitted daily under this scheme and Rs.1.74 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

67. 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.

In the year 2018-2019, 19,167 students participated in the spiritual and moral classes in 387 temples.

Special Poojas and Common Feasts

68. 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. In 2018-2019, Special Poojas and Common Feasts were conducted on Independence Day in 447 temples and on Perarignar Anna Memorial Day in 317 temples.

Elephant Rejuvenation Camp

69. In tune with the sublime concept of the **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 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 2006-07 to 2010-11 was restored in 2011-2012 and conducted on 14.12.2011 for 48 days at Theppakkadu, Mudumalai.

70. 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 Mutt Elephants from Tamil Nadu and one elephant from a temple belonging to Puducherry Union Territory participated and underwent rejuvenation in the camp. Since then on an average 31 elephants are participating in the Rejuvenation Camps.

71. In 2018-2019, 27 Temple and Mutt Elephants from Tamil Nadu and 2 Elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp. The elephants of Temples and Mutt which

were unable to participate in this camp were also given 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 are 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.1,41,35,760/- for this camp.

Marriage Scheme for the Poor and Downtrodden

72. 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 temples. People belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward

Classes benefitted under the Scheme. The **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 2006-07 to 2010-11. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** in 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

73. 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

74. The **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 persons 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	3
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	18

Government Grant for Kanyakumari District Temples

75. 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, the **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

76. 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 the **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 in the name of respective temple and to implement Oru Kaala Pooja from the interest accrued.

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

78. In the year 2015-2016, deposits were created under this scheme for 505 more temples. As ordered by the **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.

79. 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

80. For due performance of Poojas in 10,000 small temples, the **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 the **Hon'ble Chief Minister** on 08.05.2017.

Revival of Kaala Poojas in Ancient Temples

81. 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 2001-02 to 2005-06. In 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)

82. As per the orders of the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** 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 vows, village temples and temples located in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities, the department is assigning top most priority.

Financial sources for Tiruppani and other civil works

83. 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

84. Wherever a donor voluntarily 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

85. 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 eight years, the estimates for Tiruppani through donations for a value of Rs.37.21 crore in 585 temples were sanctioned. In 2018-2019, estimates for a value

of Rs.25 lakh were sanctioned to carry out 2 works in 2 temples through donations.

Temple Fund

86. Affluent temples carry out conservation / renovation / restoration from their own surplus fund. During the past eight years, Rs.468.89 crore was sanctioned from the Temple Fund for Tiruppani of 1490 temples. During 2018-2019, Rs.68.78 crore was sanctioned from the Temple Fund for Tiruppani of 316 temples.

Diversion of Surplus Funds of other Temples

87. 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 past eight years, financial assistance of Rs.35.90 crore was

sanctioned for 194 temples for Tiruppani works. During 2018-2019 for Tiruppani works of 9 temples, financial assistance of Rs.1.91 crore was sanctioned by diversion.

Government Grant

88. 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**. In the years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 a total grant of Rs.18 crore was disbursed to 196 temples. In 2017-2018 a grant of Rs.6 crore was disbursed to 32 temples.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund

89. 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

90. 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 and Charitable Institutions. For the past eight years, a sum of Rs.82.32 crore was disbursed for conservation / renovation / restoration work in 1146 temples. In 2018-2019 Rs.3.79 crore was disbursed to 104 temples.

Temple Development Fund

91. 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 past eight years, Rs.7.48 crore was given to 61 temples under this scheme. During 2018-2019 Rs.17.99 lakh was disbursed to one temple.

92. 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

93. "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, the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for enhancement of this assistance to Rs.50,000/-. In the year 2016-2017 the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for enhancement of this assistance to Rs.1,00,000/-. From 2011 to 2019, Rs.37.51 crore was disbursed to 5387 temples. For the year 2018-2019, a sum of Rs.6.34 crore has been disbursed to renovate 634 village temples under this scheme.

Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

94. "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

95. 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 2011-12 to 2018-19, donor works at an estimated cost of Rs.138.64 crore were executed in 772 temples. During 2018-2019,

396 donor tiruppani works were sanctioned in 211 temples at a cost of Rs.24.10 crore.

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

96. 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 the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for the enhancement of this assistance to Rs.1,00,000/- each. From 2011-12 to 2018-19, Rs.43.39 crore was disbursed to 6159 temples. For the year

2018-2019, Rs.10 crore has been disbursed to 1000 temples under this scheme.

Finance Commission Grant

97. The Central Finance Commission is rendering financial assistance for renovating ancient temples without tampering their heritage value. The **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

98. 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 eight years, Rs.10.22 crore was granted under this fund to provide facilities for tourists in 19 temples.

99. Works like illumination /rejuvenation of temple tanks have been carried out with the financial assistance of Rs.8.87 crore under **"Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive"** (PRASAD) Scheme of the Central Government in the following ten temples: -

SI.No.	Temple Name		
1.	Arulmigu	Ekambaranathar	Temple, Kancheepuram.
2.	Arulmigu	Ashtapujaperumal	Temple, Kancheepuram.
3.	Arulmigu	Kamatchiamman	Temple, Kancheepuram.
4.	Arulmigu	Juragareshwarar	Temple, Kancheepuram.

5.	Arulmigu Katchabeshwarar Temple, Kancheepuram.
6.	Arulmigu Kailasanathar Temple, Kancheepuram.
7.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple (Kumarakottam), Kancheepuram.
8.	Arulmigu Vaigundaperumal Temple, Kancheepuram.
9.	Arulmigu Devarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram.
10.	Arulmigu Ulagalandha Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram.

External funding from Asian Development Bank

100. The temples in Tamil Nadu are major source of attraction to tourists. With a view to facilitate pilgrims and 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 Infrastructure development works of the temples.

101. In the year 2017-2018, assistance of Rs.51.06 crore has been granted for 11 temples.

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

102. 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 moto 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 advice on essential and important conservation works in the temples.

103. 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 and State Level Heritage Screening Committee constituted by the Government. 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

104. Based on the announcement made by the **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.

105. On the advice of this Committee, the conservation of ancient wall paintings in the Rajagopuram of Arulmigu Thanumalayaswamy Temple, Suchindram, 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 are completed at a cost of Rs.1.42 crore. The restoration of mural paintings in outer prakaram wall for 433 Sq.mt. in Kancheepuram, Arulmigu Devarajaswamy Temple has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.64.10 lakh.

106. Sanction has been accorded for the restoration of mural paintings in Kanyakumari district, Thiruvattar, Arulmigu Adhikesavaperumal temple at an estimated cost of Rs.97.20 lakh.

107. For the first time, a Nayak period mural was discovered beneath cement plaster at Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai during renovation works in May 2015.

Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting

108. 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. 847 temple tanks have been renovated at a cost of Rs.4.57 crore by this Government from 2011-12 to 2018-19. The repairs and renovation of the remaining temple tanks are being executed in a phased manner. In 2018-2019, 12 tanks were renovated at a cost of Rs.43 lakh.

109. A special drive was conducted in May-June 2014 for revamping 5400 rain water

harvesting structures and 1004 temple tanks were revamped for rain water harvesting.

110. 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.

Empanelment of Chartered Engineers

111. 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 past eight 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.

Empanelment of Sthapathis

112. 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. During 2011-12 to 2015-16, 539 Sthapathis/Sirpis were empanelled.

Consecration (Kumbhabishekam/Samprokshanam)

113. 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.

114. From 2011-12 to 2018-19 kumbhabishekams were performed in 11,075 temples. In the year 2018-2019 Tiruppani works were completed and kumbhabishekams were performed in 509 temples.

Wooden Temple Car

115. 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. From 2011-12 to 2018-19, 194 temple cars were renovated at a cost of Rs.24.93 crore. During 2018-2019, 2 temple cars were renovated at a cost of Rs.1.35 crore.

116. In 2016-2017, Rs.1.18 crore, 2017-2018, Rs.83.85 lakh and in 2018-2019, Rs.49.68 lakh was disbursed for the renovation of temple cars from the Common Good Fund.

Temples having Golden Car and Silver Car

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

At present there are 64 temples with Golden Car and 49 temples with Silver Car as detailed below: -

Temples having Golden Car

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai.

Sl.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 Sankaranarayanawamy Temple, Sankarankovil.
12.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri. (Sapparam)
14.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram.
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri.

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai.
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore.
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Mangadu.
19.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.
20.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur.
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, Thindalmalai, Erode.
26.	Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Adyar, Chennai.
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinathaswamy Temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi.
28.	Arulmigu Mundagakanni Amman Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Temple, Oppiliappankoil, 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, Gobichettipalayam.
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kalamman Temple, Ariyakurichi.
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli.
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagamman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai.
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal.
41.	Arulmigu Vekkalamman Temple, Uraiyur, Tiruchirappalli.

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
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 Kondathukaliamman Temple, Pariyur, Erode.
50.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple, Tiruporur, Kancheepuram.
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, Kundrakudi (Kedagam / Sapparam)
62.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Thiruvappur, Pudukkottai.
63.	Arulmigu Soundararajaperumal Temple, Nagapattinam.
64.	Arulmigu Bhagavathi Amman Temple, Mandaikkadu, Kanyakumari.

Temples having Silver Car

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy 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.

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram.
19.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai.
20.	Arulmigu Tiruvenkadamudayan Temple, Ariyakudi.
21.	Arulmigu Shanmuganathaswamy 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.

Sl.No.	Name of the Temple
35.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram.
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, Sivagangai.
44.	Arulmigu Selliamman Temple, Palatrankarai, Vellore
45.	Arulmigu Navaneetheswarar temple, Sikkal, Nagapattinam
46.	Arulmigu Kaligambal Kamadeswarar Temple, Chennai
47.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Saidapet, Chennai
48.	Arulmigu Pragathambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai
49.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Koilkandhankudi, Tiruvarur.

V-WELFARE MEASURES FOR DEVOTEES

Basic Amenities

Drinking Water

118. Steps have been taken for providing safe drinking water for the devotees visiting the temples. 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.

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

120. 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 Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board as deposit work.

121. For Arulmigu Kallazhagar temple, Alagarkoil, drinking water scheme is being implemented in Kallanthri village at an estimated cost of Rs.3.31 crore using temple fund by Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board as deposit work.

Modern Toilet Facilities

122. Modern toilet facilities for devotees visiting the temples are provided. During 2011-12 to 2018-19, sanction was accorded for provision of toilet facilities for devotees at a cost

of Rs.22.47 crore in 148 temples. During 2018-2019, sanction was accorded for construction of toilets in 8 temples at a cost of Rs.1.97 crore.

Accommodation Facilities for Devotees

123. Cottages, rooms, dormitories, cloak rooms and parking lots are provided to the devotees. Between 2011-12 and 2018-19 lodging facilities for devotees were approved at an estimated cost of Rs.63.76 crore in 26 temples. During the year 2018-2019, sanction was accorded for construction of dormitories at an estimated cost of Rs.1.47 crore in 4 temples.

124. Apart from that "Yatri Nivas" consisting of cottages, hotel, dormitories, restaurant with 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 the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** on 30.06.2014 and it is in use. A "Yatri Nivas" in Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple at an estimated cost of Rs.28 crore is being constructed as deposit work by Public Works Department. A 'Yatri Nivas' in Rameswaram, Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple is now under construction as deposit work by 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 is under progress at an estimated cost of Rs.6.71 crore using Asian Development Bank fund to facilitate pilgrims.

125. Action is being taken to construct a 'Yatri Nivas' accommodating 476 pilgrims at

Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple at an estimated cost of Rs.33 crore.

Annadhana Koodam

126. New Annadhana koodams were constructed in those temples having Annadhanam Scheme for the benefit of the devotees. Between 2011-12 to 2018-19, 88 Annadhana koodams have been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.26.39 crore in 88 temples. During the year 2018-2019, 2 Annadhana koodams were constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.83 lakh in 2 temples.

Temple Signages / Information Boards

127. 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

128. In Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple special Abishega Vibuthi is manufactured. Modern machinery 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.

Manasarovar and Mukthinath Yatra

129. 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.

**Year wise list of beneficiaries of
Manasarovar and Mukthinath Yatras**

Year	Manasarovar		Mukthinath		Total no. of beneficiaries (2+4)	Total Grant disbursed (Rs. in lakh) (3+5)
	No. of beneficiaries	Grant disbursed (Rs. in lakh)	No. of beneficiaries	Grant disbursed (Rs. in lakh)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
2012-2013	146	58.40	10	1.00	156	59.40
2013-2014	209	83.60	11	1.10	220	84.70
2014-2015	240	96.00	163	16.30	403	112.30
2015-2016	51	20.40	72	7.20	123	27.60
2016-2017	249	99.60	136	13.60	385	113.20

130. Based on the announcement of **the Hon'ble Chief Minister**, from 2017-2018 onwards the number of beneficiaries has been increased from 250 to 500 in each Yatra and the total grant has also been raised from Rs.1.25 crore to Rs.2.50 crore.

131. For the year 2017-2018 a sum of Rs.1.30 crore has been disbursed to 326 pilgrims who completed Manasarovar Yatra and a sum of Rs.17.80 lakh has been disbursed to 178 pilgrims who have completed Mukthinath Yatra and in total Rs.1.48 crore has been disbursed.

Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis

132. 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 2011-12 to 2017-18, 1,36,472 persons were benefitted. In 2018-2019, 42,314 persons were benefitted under this scheme.

VI-CLEANLINESS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN TEMPLES

Uzhavarappani

133. The ancient temples in Tamil Nadu stand as historical monuments having sky high towers, beautiful Vimanams, 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.

134. 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 3557 temples during the past eight years. Further, this programme is being implemented continuously in temples.

Maintenance of Cleanliness by Outsourcing

135. In order to maintain cleanliness in temples, housekeeping in the temple premises has been outsourced. Cleaning in 110 big temples are outsourced and a high level of cleanliness is being maintained. Steps have been taken to extend the model to other temples also where large number of devotees and tourists visit.

Prohibiting usage of Plastic in Temple Premises

136. 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

137. In the year 2012-2013, the **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 solar power equipments, there is a saving of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.15,000/- in the electricity bill.

VII - SECURITY MEASURES

Security of Temples

138. 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 Icons and other valuables

139. To safeguard the 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, installing 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 documented 3,37,151 idols/icons belonging to 31,273 temples.

Strong Rooms

140. 11,512 temples are having strong rooms for icons. 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.

141. Rs.308.70 crore has been allotted from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund for the construction of high security strong rooms with burglar alarm, CCTV facilities to safeguard the Icons of temples under the Department, and the work is in progress.

Scheme for Installation of Burglar Alarms

142. 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 2011-12 to 2016-17 a sum of Rs.97.96 lakh was disbursed to 816 temples. In the year 2017-2018, Rs.3,63,200/- was disbursed to 32 temples. In 2018-2019 Rs.21,750/- was disbursed to one temple.

Icon Centres

143. In order to protect the invaluable 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 performed for all the icons at the centres.

144. To protect the invaluable icons belonging to the temples which are not having sufficient income to build strong room and situated in remote areas, icon centres have been built. 8399 icons are kept in the following 19 icon centres. These icon centres are fully equipped with CCTVs, Burglar Alarm and Armed Security Guards.

1.	Icon Centre, Tiruvarur (Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple campus)
2.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli
3.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli
4.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem
5.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Gandhinagar, Vellore
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram
8.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur, Cuddalore
9.	Arulmigu 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 Kalamman Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri
18.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy Temple, Villupuram
19.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar

145. Further, in continuation to protect the invaluable icons the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for construction of the following 15 new "Icon Centres" for which works have been completed and 297 idols have been entrusted for safe custody.

1.	Arulmigu Malaikavalar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal. (Sub Temple of Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple)
2.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, 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 Kaliyamman Temple, Thanthondrimalai, 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

146. 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. 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.

Safety measures in temples

147. Following the fire accident at Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** conducted a 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 taken: -

- Fire audit and fire drill have been conducted.
- Required number of firefighting equipments such as fire extinguishers, sand/water buckets, electrical circuit breakers etc. have been provided.
- Protection measures for thalavirutchams and temple cars have been taken.
- 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 taken.
- Certifications for electrical safety from the competent authority are being obtained.
- Instead of lighting of open clay lamps, 'Anaiya Villakku' are being installed.

148. Moreover on the instructions of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister** a circular has been issued to all the Officers of this Department,

directing all the temple authorities to take 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 officers to obtain building stability certificates.

VIII-EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

Educational Institutions

149. 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: -

Sl. 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.	Odhuvar 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 Periyanyagiamman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore.
3.	Arulmigu Vazhaithottathaiyan 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 Devasthana Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tirunelveli.
8.	Devasthana 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 Gurugnana 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, Thiruvankadu, 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, Azhagarkoil, 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 Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi.
3.	Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai.
4.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar 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

150. To impart training to the aspirants in the pattern of worship in temples, Hymns-recital, Agamas and Vedas, Saiva Agama Patasala were established in the year 2015-2016 at Chennai, Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple which is extolled as “மயிலையே கயிலை”. For Vaishnava Agamas, two Patasalas were established in the year 2015-2016, one in “பூலோக வைகுந்தம்” (The Heaven on Earth) 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

151. 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 Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai and Arulmigu 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.

152. 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.

153. 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

154. The following two 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 for men, Palani. (from 17.03.2016 to 16.03.2021)

2. Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam. (from 05.11.2016 to 04.11.2021)

Sri Parasakthi College for women, Courtrallam, has been ranked First amongst the cleanest Higher Educational Institutions in the country in the category of college by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India on 01.10.2018.

Social Welfare Institutions

155. 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	32
2.	Home for Mentally Challenged	1
3.	Old Age Homes	2
4.	Siddha Hospitals	6
5.	Allopathy Hospitals	2
	Total	43

Karunai Illangal

156. 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 32 Karunai Illangal functioning in 30 temples, 21 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 twelfth standard 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 2012-13 to 2017-18. In 2017-2018 Rs.1,40,385/- was given to 36 students. In

2018-2019 Rs.1,29,511/- was given to 31 students.

157. Basic amenities for boys and girls in Karunai Illangal have been upgraded at the cost of Rs.2.44 crore during 2011-12 to 2014-15. In 2015-2016 basic amenities have been upgraded at the cost of Rs.1.68 crore. In 2016-2017, 19 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.38 lakh. In 2017-2018, 6 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.12.98 lakh. In 2018-2019, 13 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.18.62 lakh.

158. To compensate the expenditure incurred for Karunai Illangal, the Government is giving a grant every year. For the period 2011-12 to 2016-17, 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. (2 Illangal)
3.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul. (2 Illangal)
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, Park Town, 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.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai, 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

159. 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.

160. During 2011-12 to 2015-16, 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. In the year 2018-2019, 35 works have been completed at an estimated cost of Rs.5.48 crore.

Goshalas

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

162. 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

163. 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 not only describe the glory/supremacy of the deity but also have contributed significantly to make the Tamil language flourish. That is why it is being published with the history of the sites. 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

164. 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.

165. Special Poojas, Special Annadhanam, religious discourses and cultural programmes are 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

166. During the Tamil month of Margazhi recitation competition in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai is conducted in the temples every year. On the orders of the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, the competition is conducted every year in a grand manner at the district level also. During the year 2018-2019, 9127 students participated in 32 districts and prizes were distributed to 2207 students.

Appointment of Musicians

167. 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

168. 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.

Thirugnanasambandar Isai Vizha

169. **Thirugnanasambandar Isai Vizha** is celebrated every year on 'Moolam' Star day of Tamil month "Vaigasi" at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram, Kancheepuram District, to honour saint Thirugnanasambandar, one of the religious Savants. The expenditure for the festival is met from the Common Good Fund.

Avvaiyar Vizha

170. 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 on 'Sathayam' Star Day of Tamil month "Panguni". 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

171. 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

172. **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

173. **“Arulalar Arunagirinathar Mukthiperu Vizha”** is celebrated in Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai to honour saint Arunagirinathar on ‘Kettai’ star day of Tamil month “Avani” every year.

Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha

174. **“Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha”** is celebrated at Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli District every year on ‘Sathayam’ star day of Tamil month “Masi”, the birthday of Kochenkatchozha, one among the 63 Nayanmars.

Azhwargal Vizha

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

Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli District every year.

XI-PUBLICATIONS

Thalavaralaru and Thalapuram

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

District Guides for Pilgrims

177. 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

178. 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 short question and answers were also introduced. The number of pages have been increased from the year 2017. This magazine is available in online also. For the benefit of the subscribers a new facility is introduced by the Department in which this magazine can be subscribed by paying online.

Sale of Religious Books

179. 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 Kalanjyugal, 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

180. 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.

XII-TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Refresher Training Course

181. For the Archakars, Bhattachariars and Odhuvars to do their work efficiently, a Refresher Training Course was started in the year 1991. During 2006-07 to 2010-11, this training course was not conducted. The six weeks refresher training course was revived and during 2011-12 to 2015-16 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. For 2018-2019 refresher training course was given to 2144 employees.

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

182. 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

183. Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department conducted a short term two weeks course on “Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments” for Executive Officers

in 3 phases. In the first phase, 75 Executive Officers have attended the training in 3 batches, 25 Executive Officers in each batch from 08.09.2016 to 19.10.2016. In the second phase, 75 Executive Officers have attended the training in 3 batches, 25 Executive Officers in each batch from 28.08.2017 to 09.10.2017. In the third phase, 164 Executive Officers have attended the training in 4 batches, 41 Executive Officers in each batch from 12.11.2018 to 07.01.2019.

Training on Human Values

184. It is proposed to train all the employees of temples including Archakars to serve the devotees respecting their religious sentiments. Accordingly, in the past eight years, training on human values was given to 25,865 employees. In 2018-2019, 3307 temple employees were trained. This training will be continued every year.

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

185. 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, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Thirupparankundram, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy

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

186. 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.

187. 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 of the department participated.

188. Prasadams of Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Rameswaram,

Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple and Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple were exhibited on behalf of this department in a Pavilion called "Temple Foods of India" at National Eat Right Mela, organised by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Indira Gandhi National Centre, New Delhi from 14.12.2018 to 16.12.2018.

Skill Development Training

189. 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 upgrade their livelihood, skill development training programmes were organized.

190. 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.1,000/- was given to each trainee as incentive.

191. One month training was conducted at Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani to give skill development training to Thavil and Nadhaswaram Vidhvans in 5 sessions. Rs.5,000/- was given to each trainee as incentive.

192. 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.2,000/- 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.

193. Skill development training for the Paricharakars and Suyambagis was conducted from 06.03.2017 to 10.03.2017 and training was imparted to 221 persons for one week. An incentive of Rs.1,000/- was given to each trainee.

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

year 2017-2018 in 4 Joint Commissioner regions. An incentive of Rs.5,000/- was given to each trainee participated in the training.

195. One month training programme for weavers was conducted at Chennai Joint Commissioner region from 04.05.2018 to 20.06.2018. An incentive of Rs.5,000/- was given to each trainee participated in the training.

XIII - WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE EMPLOYEES

Details of Welfare Schemes

196. 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

SI.No.	Welfare Schemes
3.	Health Insurance Scheme
4.	Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme
5.	Appointment on Compassionate Grounds
6.	Pension Scheme for Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians
7.	Pension Scheme for other temple employees
8.	Educational aid for the children of temple employees

Family Benefit Fund Scheme

197. 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 to the heirs of the deceased, who died in harness. During 2011-2012 to 2017-2018 a sum of Rs.4.13 crore was disbursed to 419 legal heirs. In 2017-2018 Rs.43.35 lakh was disbursed to 44 legal heirs. In

2018-2019 Rs.53.00 lakh was disbursed to 54 legal heirs.

198. The amount has been increased from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.3 lakh in G.O.(Ms.) No.47, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE 4.1) Department, dated 20.05.2019.

Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme

199. 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 2017-18 a total sum of Rs.33.33 lakh was disbursed to 721 retired employees from this corpus fund. In 2017-2018 Rs.1.30 lakh was disbursed to 26 retired employees. In

2018-2019 Rs.3.50 lakh has been disbursed to 70 retired employees.

Health Insurance Scheme

200. 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 the 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 the **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. Under this scheme 3705 temple employees have been registered. Employees and their families are being benefitted.

201. In 2013 the **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. Under this

scheme 10391 temple employees have been registered. Employees and their families are being benefitted.

Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme

202. 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 the employees every year. For the period from 2011-2012 to 2017-2018, 11,795 employees working in 9394 temples were given Rs.6.95 crore as salary arrears. In 2017-2018 a sum of Rs.1.52 crore was disbursed to 2014 employees in 1647 temples as salary

arrears. In 2018-2019, a sum of Rs.1.59 crore was disbursed to 2214 employees in 1569 temples as salary arrears.

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

203. Under the scheme "Appointment on Compassionate Grounds" jobs are provided to the legal heirs of temple employees who died in harness. In the past eight years, 157 legal heirs were given appointment on compassionate grounds. In the year 2018-2019, 24 legal heirs have been appointed under compassionate grounds.

204. 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 31.07.2014.

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

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

206. The **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered to enhance the pension from Rs.750/- to Rs.1,000/- per month, benefitting 364 retired employees.

Pension Scheme for other Temple Employees

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

(i) Employees Provident Fund Scheme

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

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.

208. 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 to retired temple employees. The monthly pension of Rs.1,000/- given to retired temple employees under the Departmental pension scheme was raised to Rs.2,000/- 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.

209. In 2018-2019, 21 retired employees were sanctioned pension. So far, 4624 employees have been benefitted under this scheme.

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

Educational Aid for the Children of the Temple Employees

211. This scheme provides for financial assistance of 25% of the first year tuition fees to the son or daughter of the temple employee studying professional courses in Government and Government aided Educational Institutions.

Revision of Salary to Temple Employees

212. The Government revised the pay scale of temple employees in G.O. (Ms) No.91, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department (RE4.1) dated.28.06.2019.

XIV-WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIS

Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board

213. 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 by online and ID cards can be generated.

Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme

214. The **Hon'ble Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has enhanced the monthly pension from Rs.750/- to Rs.1,000/- 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

215. 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 Sriperumpudur 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.

216. 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 – SRI ATHIGIRI VARADHAR VAIBHAVAM

217. In Arulmigu Devarajaswamy temple, Kancheepuram, the idol of Athigiri Varadhar is believed to be the original presiding deity at the temple which was in worship centuries ago. Fearing desecration during foreign invasion about three centuries ago, the Athigiri Varadhar idol was kept concealed obviously by devotees in a special vault made of granite below a mandapam in "Ananthasaras", the temple tank. The resemblance between the wooden image and the stone idol (now being worshipped) is so close that the later's ornamental crown fits the former exactly.

218. The previous expositions of the Athigiri Varadhar idol were in June 1854, June 1892, July 1937 and July 1979. The intervening period is about 40 years. Hence, this year the Arulmigu Athigiri Varadhar is kept for public worship for 48 days from 01.07.2019 to

17.08.2019 as per the custom and usages of the temple.

219. As it is a once in a lifetime event, the devotees from all over the world are anxious to visit the temple for rare dharshan of Lord Athigiri Varadhar. Necessary arrangements are made to celebrate this vaibhavam in a grand manner.

XVII - COMPUTERIZATION OF DEPARTMENT AND TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

220. 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. With the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC) 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 donations through online. The Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS), trainings are being given in phases for Joint Commissioner / Deputy Commissioner / Assistant Commissioner / Executive Officers in all cadres and Temple staffs on e-Governance and the Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS) activities.

221. The Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS) has completed web portal designs for five pilot temples mentioned here under in Phase – I.

- i) Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.

- ii) Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu, Chennai.
- iii) Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai.
- iv) Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai.
- v) Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai.

Further, the General / Annadhanam / Thirupani donations to the above temples are open to the public for online offering. The ITMS Phase-I was launched on 24.12.2018 by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The successive phases of the Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS) projects is being developed by the National Informatic Centre (NIC).

222. As part of e-Governance initiatives and to maintain paperless office, e-Mail IDs have been created [@tn.gov.in](mailto:tn.gov.in) to the staffs and

officials of the Commissioner's office, Regional Joint Commissioners and Divisional Assistant Commissioners.

223. Further, to get the high speed uninterrupted data services to implement e-Office, steps have been taken to get TNSWAN facilities from Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT).

XVIII - AWARDS

224. 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 the 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 Parthasarathi swamy Temple on 15.08.2015 by the **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 01.11.2017 to Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple.

- First runner up Award of India Today Tourism Survey and Awards-2019 was awarded to Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple in **BEST HERITAGE DESTINATION** category based on the online annual voting process.
- The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been receiving First place/Outstanding Award every year for its pavilion in the All India Tourist and Industrial Fair held annually at Island Grounds, Chennai. It was awarded the **“Outstanding Pavilion”** Award at the 44th India Tourist and Industrial Fair 2018 and it was awarded the **1st Prize in the State Government Department category** in the 45th India Tourist and Industrial Fair 2019.

CONCLUSION

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is working tirelessly towards the betterment of temples by introducing schemes aimed at understanding the needs of the devotees and protecting the properties of the temples.

While working towards upgrading the facilities in the temples in the interest of the devotees, the Department also takes interest in improving the revenue of the temples. It further oversees that the poojas in the temple are conducted according to the agamas and customs and usages. The Department while supervising the administration of the temple also takes a deep interest in upholding the temples as a symbol of our language and culture.

SEVOOR S. RAMACHANDRAN
Minister for Hindu Religious and
Charitable Endowments



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru Edappadi K. Palanisamy inaugurated the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department's pavilion in the Bharath Rathna Dr. M.G.R. Centenary Exhibition held in Chennai Y.M.C.A. Grounds on 30.09.2018. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru O. Panneerselvam, the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru Sevoor S. Ramachandran and other Hon'ble Ministers participated.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru Edappadi K. Palanisamy, inaugurated the modern marriage hall belonging to Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai situated at Raja Annamalaipuram on 10.01.2019.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru Edappadi K. Palanisamy, along with Hon'ble Ministers participated in the Kumbabishegam of Arulmigu Prasanna Nanjundeswarar Temple, Edappadi on 30.08.2018.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru Sevoor S. Ramachandran, distributed free dhoties and sarees to poor and downtrodden at Arulmigu Kamakshi Amman Temple, Mangadu.



The Hon'ble Ministers fed the elephants during Special Rejuvenation camp for Elephants held at Thekkampatti.



Elephants enjoying bath during Special Rejuvenation Camp at Thekkampatti.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru Sevoor S.Ramachandran inaugurated the workshop conducted by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department along with International Exnora and ITC Mission Sunehra Kal organisation on temple environment protection and creating green campus on 26.10.2018 and released the Awareness Guide and Compact Disc.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru Sevoor S. Ramachandran inaugurated the Web Application Petition Processing Portal and Global Information System for temples and their lands on 16.11.2018 at the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Commissioner Office.



Yatri Nivas, Srirangam.



Arulmigu Athigiri Varadhar showering grace during “Athigiri Varadhar Vaibhavam” at Arulmigu Devarajaswamy Temple, Kancheepuram.



“Sorga Vasal” opening on Vaikunda Ekathasi day (18.12.2018) at Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy Temple, Triplicane.



Float Festival held on Thai Poesam Day (21.01.2019) at Arulmigu Kapaleswarar Temple, Mylapore.



Vaikasi Visagam Temple Car Festival on 15.05.2019 at Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani.



Gosala at Arulmigu Venkatachalapathyswamy Temple,
Oppiliappankoil, Thanjavur District.



Day long Annadhanam at Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple,
Srirangam.

Temple Renovation in Adi Dravida Habitations

Arulmigu Kalamman Temple, Alathur,
Kodavasal Taluk, Tiruvarur District.



Before Renovation



After Renovation

Village Temple Renovation

Arulmigu Ammachar Temple, Veerananthal,
Chengam Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District .



Before Renovation



After Renovation



Departmental Review Meeting was conducted on 12.06.2019 by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru Sevoor S.Ramachandran. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, Thiru Apurva Varma, I.A.S., Principal Secretary/Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru K. Phanindra Reddy, I.A.S., and Department officials participated.