



**TOURISM, CULTURE AND
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**HINDU RELIGIOUS
AND CHARITABLE
ENDOWMENTS**

**POLICY NOTE
2021 – 2022**

DEMAND No. 47

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Minister for Hindu Religious and
Charitable Endowments Department

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2021**

**Tourism, Culture and Religious
Endowments Department**

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**Tourism, Culture and Religious
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INTRODUCTION

Tamil Nadu is home to many glorious temples. A golden adage from Tamil Nadu says that one should not live in a village that does not have a temple. Temples are not only places of worship but also centers for congregation, shelters at the time of disasters, forums of the Kings, sources of history, universities of learning, museums of art, galleries of sculptures, stages for performances, serene hubs for meditation and venues for celebrations. Temples are the manifestation and symbols of veneration and propitiation of the divine.

These temples showcase the uninterrupted legacy of our heritage and culture. Discourses, music concerts and dance performances conducted at temples have nurtured the values and ethics of people for a long time.

Kings, philanthropists and devotees endowed temples with enormous wealth by gifting lands, buildings, gold, silver and many other precious assets. These assets have been instrumental in sustaining the temples and providing various facilities to the devotees over the ages.

These priceless assets of the temples are being safeguarded with proper care and maintenance duly following various traditions and practices as ordained by their donors and the requirements of the temples. The performance of daily rituals, veneration, periodic festivals, renovation and conservation works as per norms are being carried out meticulously. Various measures for improving the experience and convenience of devotees are being made as per need and requirements.

I – LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ADMINISTRATION

The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu after examining various previous enactments, enacted the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Act 22/1959) to ensure and supervise the proper administration of the secular aspects of Temples, Mutts, and Endowments by the Government.

3. This Act has replaced several previous enactments. The earliest was the Madras Endowments and Escheats Regulation No.VII of 1817 which 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 constituted. The Board was later abolished by the Act XIX of 1951 and the “Department for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration” was created and vested with the

administration of religious and charitable endowments.

The department was staffed by a hierarchy of officers with defined jurisdiction and was headed by the Commissioner. The provisions of this Act have been extended to Jain Religious institutions and Charitable Endowments. The 1951 Act was repealed and replaced by the present "Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959" (Act 22 of 1959).

4. The Act and Rules framed thereunder define 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. It also provides for various measures to be taken for improving their financial viability and ensuring their sustained development.

Hindu Religious Institutions

5. There are 38,667 Hindu and Jain Religious institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The details are as follows: -

Institutions under HR&CE Department

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Temples | 36,627 |
| 2. | Mutts | 56 |
| 3. | Temples attached to Mutts | 57 |
| 4. | Specific Endowments | 1,721 |
| 5. | Charitable Endowments | 189 |
| 6. | Jain Temples | 17 |
| | Total | 38,667 |

The inclusion of sub-temples, incorporated and un-incorporated temples under the management of Kanniyakumari Devaswom Board and temples formerly under the management of Pudukkottai Samasthanam, along with the above mentioned religious

institutions takes the total number of religious institutions to 44,291.

Classification of the Religious Institutions

6. Religious institutions have been classified as listed and non-listed institutions based on their annual income.

Classification of the Religious Institutions

| Sl. No. | Classification | Annual Income | Number of Institutions / Percentage(%) |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Non-listed Institutions – Under Section 49(i) | less than ₹ 10,000/- | 34,111(88.22%) |
| 2. | Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i) | ₹ 10,000/- to less than ₹ 2 lakh. | 3,528 (9.12%) |
| 3. | Under Section 46(ii) | ₹ 2 lakh to less than ₹ 10 lakh. | 492 (1.27%) |
| 4. | Under Section 46(iii) | ₹ 10 lakh and above. | 536 (1.39%) |
| | | Total | 38,667 |

Contribution and Audit Fees

7. The Contribution Fees under Section 92(1) and Audit Fees under Section 92(2) of the Act are collected from religious institutions, by the Assistant Commissioners of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and credited into the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund. The quantum of contribution and audit fees are as follows:-

Contribution Fees under Section 92(1)

| Sl. No. | Annual Income | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Less than ₹ 5,000/- | NIL |
| 2. | More than ₹ 5,000/- but not exceeding ₹ 20,000/- | 4 % |
| 3. | More than ₹ 20,000/- but not exceeding ₹ 60,000/- | 5 % |
| 4. | More than ₹ 60,000/- but not exceeding ₹ 2,00,000/- | 6 % |
| 5. | More than ₹ 2,00,000/- but not exceeding ₹ 5,00,000/- | 7 % |
| 6. | ₹ 5,00,000/- and above | 12 % |

Audit Fees under Section 92(2)

| Sl.No. | Annual Income | Percentage (%) |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Less than ₹ 5,000/- | NIL |
| 2. | More than ₹ 5,000/- but not exceeding ₹ 5,00,000/- | 1.5 % |
| 3. | ₹ 5,00,000/- and above | 4 % |

Administrative Structure

8. The Commissioner is the administrative head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and is vested with powers to regulate and supervise the administration of the religious institutions in accordance with the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

9. The Commissioner is assisted by various officers in the performance of activities such as general administration, establishment, management of movable and immovable properties of religious institutions, thiruppani, court cases, audit etc.

Head Office Staffing Pattern - Departmental Staff

| Sl. No. | Post | Number of Posts |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Additional Commissioner (Admin)- [I.A.S] | 1 |
| 2. | Additional Commissioner (General) | 1 |
| 3. | Additional Commissioner (Enquiry) | 1 |
| 4. | Additional Commissioner (Thirupani) | 1 |
| 5. | Joint Commissioner (Headquarters) | 1 |
| 6. | Joint Commissioner (Legal Cell) | 1 |
| 7. | Joint Commissioner (Education and Charitable Institutions) | 1 |
| 8. | Joint Commissioner (Verification- Headquarters) | 1 |
| 9. | Assistant Commissioner (Legal Cell) | 1 |
| 10. | Assistant Commissioner / Administrative Officer (Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board) | 1 |
| 11. | Editor, "Thirukkcoil" Monthly Magazine | 1 |

The details of the officers from other departments working in the head office is as below:-

**Head Office Staffing Pattern-
Deputation Staff**

| Sl. No. | Post | Number of Posts | Parent Department |
|----------------|---|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Chief Engineer | 1 | Public Works Department / Highways Department |
| 2. | Special Officer (Temple Lands) (District Revenue Officer Cadre) | 2 | Revenue Department |
| 3. | Superintending Engineer | 1 | Public Works Department / Highways Department |
| 4. | Executive Engineer | 1 | Public Works Department / Highways Department |
| 5. | Assistant Divisional Engineer | 1 | Public Works Department / Highways Department |

| Sl. No. | Post | Number of Posts | Parent Department |
|----------------|--|------------------------|---|
| 6. | Assistant Engineer/ Technical Assistant | 1 | Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited |
| 7. | Assistant Engineer (Civil) | 1 | Public Works Department / Highways Department |
| 8. | Assistant Engineer (Electrical) | 1 | Energy Department |
| 9. | Senior Draughting Officer | 1 | Public Works Department/ Highways Department |
| 10. | Draughting Officer | 2 | Public Works Department / Highways Department |
| 11. | Junior Draughting Officer | 2 | Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited |
| 12. | Senior Accounts Officer | 1 | Treasuries and Accounts Department |

| Sl. No. | Post | Number of Posts | Parent Department |
|----------------|--|------------------------|---|
| 13. | Assistant Accounts Officer | 1 | Treasuries and Accounts Department |
| 14. | Chief Audit Officer (Deputy Secretary Cadre) | 1 | Finance Department |
| 15. | Joint Director/Public Information Officer | 1 | Information and Public Relations Department |

Administration at Regional and Divisional Levels

10. The administration of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been divided into 20 Regions and 36 Divisions. The religious institutions are being supervised by Joint Commissioners at the regional level and Assistant Commissioners at the divisional level. The territorial jurisdiction of Regional Joint

Commissioners and Divisional Assistant Commissioners are as under:-

Jurisdiction of Officers

| Sl. No. | Region | Division | Jurisdiction |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Joint Commissioner, Chennai - I | 1. Assistant Commissioner, Chennai | Thiruvottiyur, Tondiarpettai, Madhavaram, Perambur, Purasaiwalkam, Egmore, Ambattur and Ayanavaram Revenue Taluks of Chennai District |
| 2. | Joint Commissioner, Chennai-II | | Mylapore, Amainthakarai, Maduravayol, Mambalam, Guindy, Velachery, Alandur and Sholinganallur Revenue Taluks of Chennai District |
| 3. | Joint Commissioner, Kancheepuram | 2. Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram | Kancheepuram District |
| | | 3. Assistant Commissioner, Chengalpattu | Chengalpattu District |

| Sl. No. | Region | Division | Jurisdiction |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 4. | Joint Commissioner, Vellore | 4. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur | Tiruvallur District |
| | | 5. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore | Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet Districts |
| 5. | Joint Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai | 6. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai | Tiruvannamalai District |
| | | 7. Assistant Commissioner, Krishnagiri | Krishnagiri District |
| 6. | Joint Commissioner, Salem | 8. Assistant Commissioner, Salem | Salem District |
| | | 9. Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri | Dharmapuri District |
| 7. | Joint Commissioner, Erode | 10. Assistant Commissioner, Erode | Erode District |
| | | 11. Assistant Commissioner, Namakkal | Namakkal District |
| 8. | Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore | 12. Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore | Coimbatore and Nilgris Districts |
| 9. | Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai | 13. Assistant Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai | Mayiladuthurai District |

| Sl. No. | Region | Division | Jurisdiction |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | 14. Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam | Kumbakonam and Thiruvudai maruthur Revenue Taluks of Thanjavur District |
| 10. | Joint Commissioner, Nagapattinam | 15. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam | Nagapattinam District |
| | | 16. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvarur | Tiruvarur District |
| 11. | Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur | 17. Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur | Thanjavur District (Except Thiruvudaimarudur and Kumbakonam Revenue Taluks) |
| | | 18. Assistant Commissioner, Pudukkottai | Pudukkottai District |
| 12. | Joint Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli | 19. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli | Tiruchirappalli District (Except Lalgudi and Thuraiyur Revenue Taluks) |
| | | 20. Assistant Commissioner, Perambalur | Perambalur District, Lalgudi and Thuraiyur Revenue Taluks of Tiruchirappalli District |

| Sl. No. | Region | Division | Jurisdiction |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 13. | Joint Commissioner, Tiruppur | 21. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruppur | Tiruppur District |
| | | 22. Assistant Commissioner, Karur | Karur District |
| 14. | Joint Commissioner, Dindigul | 23 Assistant Commissioner, Dindigul | Dindigul District |
| | | 24. Assistant Commissioner, Theni | Theni District, Usilampatty and Peraiyur Revenue Taluks of Madurai District |
| 15. | Joint Commissioner, Sivagangai | 25. Assistant Commissioner, Paramakudi | Ramanathapuram District |
| | | 26. Assistant Commissioner, Sivagangai | Sivagangai District |
| 16. | Joint Commissioner, Madurai | 27. Assistant Commissioner, Madurai | Madurai District (Except Usilampatty and Peraiyur Revenue Taluks) |
| | | 28. Assistant Commissioner, Virudhunagar | Virudhunagar District |

| Sl. No. | Region | Division | Jurisdiction |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 17. | Joint Commissioner, Tirunelveli | 29. Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli | Tirunelveli District |
| | | 30. Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil | Kanniyakumari District |
| 18. | Joint Commissioner, Thoothukudi | 31. Assistant Commissioner, Thoothukudi | Thoothukudi District |
| | | 32. Assistant Commissioner, Tenkasi | Tenkasi District |
| 19. | Joint Commissioner, Villupuram | 33. Assistant Commissioner, Villupuram | Villupuram District |
| | | 34. Assistant Commissioner, Kallakurichi | Kallakurichi District |
| 20. | Joint Commissioner, Cuddalore | 35. Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore | Cuddalore District |
| | | 36. Assistant Commissioner, Ariyalur | Ariyalur District |

Functions of the Joint Commissioner

11. The Joint Commissioner of the department is a regional level officer with supervisory control over the Religious and

Charitable Institutions published under Section 46 of the Act. He is empowered to appoint Non-Hereditary trustees and approve the budgets for religious institutions assessed under Section 46(i) of the Act.

The Joint Commissioner has the powers to inquire into and decide certain disputes under Section 63 of the Act and settle the schemes for religious institutions under Section 64 of the Act. He has revision power over 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 erring trustees of religious institutions covered under Section 46(i) of the Act.

He is competent to fill the vacancies occurring in the office of the Hereditary Trustees under Section 54 of the Act. The Joint Commissioner is empowered to inquire and pass orders for eviction of encroachments on land or buildings 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 from time to time.

Functions of the Assistant Commissioner

12. The Assistant Commissioner of the department is a District Level Officer, with supervisory control over religious institutions not covered under section 46 of the Act. He is empowered to approve budgets and appoint Non-Hereditary trustees. On receipt of complaints about the religious institutions, he enquires and submits preliminary reports to bring the religious institutions under the supervisory control of the department.

The Assistant Commissioner assesses religious institutions for levying and collecting contribution and audit fees under section 92 of the Act and reports to the Commissioner. He also collects the costs and expenses incurred in legal proceedings under sections 93 and 102 of the Act and remits the same 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 from time to time.

Functions of the Inspector

13. The Regional Joint Commissioners and the Divisional Assistant Commissioners of this department are assisted by 274 Inspectors at the taluk level. 29 Suit Inspectors exclusively handle the court cases pertaining to the department.

14. Whenever complaints are received about the administration of religious institutions, the same are enquired into by the Inspectors. They submit their preliminary report for bringing the said religious institution under the purview of the Act to the Assistant Commissioner. The religious institutions are periodically inspected by the inspectors. They collect contribution fees, audit fees, centage charges and costs awarded by the Courts.

15. They obtain and verify the Property Registers, Dhittam Registers and Tree Registers prepared by the religious institutions and submit them for approval to the Assistant Commissioner. They inquire and report on petitions and all references received from various authorities and verify the applications

received for appointment of trustees. They supervise auctions, tenders and hundial openings. They verify and submit the receipts and statement of charges from the religious institutions for assessment purposes and collect the dues as per demand. They discharge such other duties as may be assigned to them by their superior officers from time to time.

Verification Officers

16. There is one Verification Officer in the cadre of Joint Commissioner at headquarters to scrutinize the reports regarding verification of jewels and other valuable articles of religious institutions. The Regional Joint Commissioner has a Verification Officer in the cadre of Deputy Commissioner to verify and appraise jewels and other valuable articles and prepare an appraisal report for approval. They are assisted by a Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem specialist and a Junior technical assistant in the above process. They are also responsible for any special works assigned to therein.

Engineering Wing

17. The Engineers and Draughting Officers are in charge of scrutinizing the estimates for carrying out the temple renovation and civil works, as well as supervising works, apart from recording measurement and checking the measurement. The Renovation and Conservation Wing of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been constituted with the following 226 posts:-

Renovation and Conservation Wing

| Sl.No. | Post | Nos. |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| 1. | Chief Engineer | 1 |
| 2. | Superintending Engineer | 1 |
| 3. | Executive Engineer | 8 |
| 4. | Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) | 13 |
| 5. | Assistant Divisional Engineer | 9 |
| 6. | Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) | 7 |
| 7. | Assistant Engineer (Civil) | 40 |
| 8. | Assistant Engineer (Electrical) | 13 |

| Sl.No. | Post | Nos. |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| 9. | Chief Head Draughtsman | 2 |
| 10. | Draughting Officer | 22 |
| 11. | Junior Draughting Officer | 40 |
| 12. | Chief Sthapathi (In the cadre of Executive Engineer) | 1 |
| 13. | Regional Sthapathi (In the cadre of Assistant Executive Engineer) | 21 |
| 14. | Assistant Sthapathi (In the cadre of Assistant Engineer) | 38 |
| 15. | Typist | 6 |
| 16. | Driver | 2 |
| 17. | Office Assistant | 2 |
| | Total | 226 |

Temple Administration

18. Each Religious Institution and Charitable Endowment is a separate legal entity and is administered by its trustees who are empowered to appoint its employees. However,

the Commissioner is authorized to appoint Executive Officers under section 45(1) of the Act and as per the rules framed thereunder.

Executive Officers

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

Classification of Executive Officers

| Sl. No. | Grade of the Executive Officers | 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 |

Accounts and Audit

20. In 8 big temples, Executive Officers 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 Ranganathaswamy 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

21. Major temples have engineers of their own to carry out repairs, renovation, restoration and undertake new construction works.

Mutts

22. There are 56 Mutts under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Among these Mutts, Madurai Aadheenam (alias) Thirugnana Sambanthar Swamigal Mutt, Thiruvavaduthurai Aadheenam, Dharmapuram Aadheenam, Kundrakudi Aadheenam, Perur Aadheenam, etc., propagate Saivaite philosophy, Ahobila Mutt, Vanamamalai Mutt, propagate Vaishnavaite philosophy and Sankara Mutt, Kanchipuram propagates Sakthi philosophy since ancient times.

23. The contribution of Mutts to the development of the Tamil language, which is renowned as a medium of devotion is invaluable. The mutts have diligently preserved Tamil palm leaf manuscripts enabling generations to read and enjoy Sangam Literature.

Head of Mutts as Royal Counsel

24. At the time of enthronement, the traditional guru or the preceptor of the King would handover the ceremonial Scepter to the new ruler. Following this tradition when the Oduvars completed the singing of the last line of "11th stanza" from Kolaru Pathigam, Thevaram, "அடியார்கள் வாணில் அரசாள்வர் ஆணை நமதே..." Thiruvavaduthurai Aadheenam Thambiran Swamigal handed over the goldplated silver scepter to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This signified the transfer of power from the British Governor-General Lord Mountbatten to the first Prime Minister of India.

Audit of Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions

25. The accounts of all the religious and charitable institutions are audited by the audit wing of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department headed by the Chief Audit Officer, under the overall control of the Commissioner. The audit wing is divided into 19 regions of which 4 regions are headed by Deputy Chief Audit Officers and 15 regions are

headed by Regional Audit Officers who are assisted by 27 Assistant Audit Officers. One Regional Audit Officer (Mobile Audit Team) and one Assistant Audit Officer are working in the Head Office.

26. A three-tier audit committee has been constituted to settle audit objections.

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

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Commissioner | Chairman |
| 2. | Joint Director, Local Fund Audit Department | Member |
| 3. | Chief Audit Officer | Member – Secretary |

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

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Additional Commissioner | Chairman |
| 2. | Joint Director, Local Fund Audit Department | Member |
| 3. | Chief Audit Officer | Member – Secretary |

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

| | | |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Regional Joint Commissioner | Chairman |
| 2. | Deputy Chief Audit Officer / Regional Audit Officer | Member- Secretary |

Advisory Committee

27. Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for the constitution of an Advisory Committee to advise the Government in matters relating to Hindu religious institutions. This Advisory Committee is headed by **the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** and the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments is the Vice-Chairman. It consists of official and non-official members. The Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department is an Ex-officio Member and the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is the Ex-Officio Member-Secretary.

Constitution of District Committees

28. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, empowers the Government to constitute a District Committee in each Revenue District consisting of not less than three and not more than five non-official members. This Committee will prepare a panel of persons qualified for appointment as Non-Hereditary trustees for the religious institutions as per provisions of the Act. The term of office of the District Committee is three years.

Appointment of Trustees

29. Non-Hereditary Trustees are appointed for administering religious institutions under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act. Accordingly, the Board of trustees consists of three to five members. Of these members one shall belong to Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes and one shall be a woman. The tenure of the Board is two years.

Qualifications for appointment of Trustee

30. The following qualifications have been prescribed under section 25A for a person to be appointed as a trustee:-

- a) He must have faith in God;
- b) He must possess good conduct and reputation. Also, he must command respect respecting the locality in which the religious institution or endowment is situated;
- c) He must have sufficient time and interest to attend to the affairs of the religious institution or endowment;

Power to appoint Trustees

31. The Assistant Commissioner is empowered to constitute the Board of trustees consisting of three non-hereditary trustees for the religious and charitable institutions under Section 49(1) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of less than ₹ 10,000/- based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

32. The Joint Commissioner is empowered to constitute the Board of trustees consisting of three non-hereditary trustees for the religious and charitable institutions under section 46(i) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of not less than ₹ 10,000/- but less than ₹ 2 lakh, based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

33. The Commissioner is empowered to constitute the Board of trustees consisting of three non-hereditary trustees for the religious and charitable institutions under section 46(ii) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of not less than ₹2 lakh but less than ₹10 lakh, based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

34. The Government is empowered to constitute the Board of trustees consisting of five non-hereditary trustees for the religious and charitable institutions falling under section 46(iii) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of ₹ 10 lakh and above.

35. The Government may nominate two more qualified as members of the said Board of trustees in addition to the persons appointed by the Commissioner, the Joint Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner on certain matters.

Appointment of Fit Person

36. The Government, the Commissioner, the Joint Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner as the case may be, pending till the constitution of Board of trustees, appoint a fit person to discharge the duties and perform the functions of the Board of trustees.

II-ADMINISTRATION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES OF HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Land Details

37. Religious and charitable institutions own large extents of lands which are agricultural lands, plots and buildings. The reconciliation process between the data base of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and Revenue Department is

currently going on. Any changes as a result of this reconciliation will be updated in due course. As on date, the details of the lands are as under:-

Temple Lands Classification and Extent

| Classification of Land | Temple Lands (In lakh Acres) | Mutt Lands (In lakh Acres) | Total Extent (In lakh Acres) |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 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 |

38. 22,600 buildings and 33,665 vacant sites of the religious institutions are leased out to lessees. Further agricultural lands are leased out 1,23,729 lessees. Since the formation of this Government on 07.05.2021 till 15.08.2021 a sum of ₹ 44.03 crores have been collected from the above mentioned temple owned properties.

Fixation of Fair Rent

39. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for fixation of fair rent for the buildings and sites belonging to religious and charitable institutions under Section 34A of the Act. Accordingly, a committee consisting of the Regional Joint commissioner, Executive officer or Trustee or Chairman, Board of trustees and the District Registrar of the Registration Department are engaged in the process of fixing fair rent for the buildings and sites used for commercial and residential purposes.

Revenue Courts

40. There are 10 Revenue courts functioning at Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, Cuddalore, Madurai, Lalgudi, Mannargudi, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli. Revenue Courts on camp are also functioning at Kumbakonam, Salem and Tenkasi.

41. These Revenue Courts are presided over by Special Deputy Collectors who settle the cases filed before them regarding the collection

of arrears of land lease, fixation of fair rent for agriculture lands and eviction of the lessees, who refuse to pay the lease amount under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation and Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act, 1961.

42. A total of 7914 number of cases are currently pending before the Revenue Courts. 601 cases have been disposed of up to 15.08.2021. 477 new cases have been filed by the department. A sum of ₹ 362.94 lakh out of decreed amount of ₹ 3.75 lakh has been collected.

Retrieval of Lands

43. During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), the lands belonging to religious institutions were wrongly transferred to the name of the individuals. To rectify these mistakes and to transfer the lands back to the institutions, two District Revenue Officers have been posted as Special Officers one each at Madurai and Coimbatore.

44. After the formation of this Government (i.e., from 07.05.2021 to 15.08.2021) 301.44 acres of land belonging to 60 temples was retrieved and restored to the respective temples. Reconciliation with computerized Chitta resulted in the restoration of 11.12 acres of lands belonging to 3 temples.

Engagement of retired Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Surveyors

45. To better manage the huge land resources of the institutions, to restore the lands that have been wrongly transferred to names of private individuals and to co-ordinate with the Revenue Department, 8 Retired Deputy Collectors, 20 Retired Tahsildars, 17 Retired Surveyors, 3 Retired Revenue Inspectors and 9 Retired Village Administrative Officers have been engaged on consolidated pay.

Removal of Encroachments

46. After the formation of this Government, encroachments have been evicted in 203.00 acres of cultivable lands, 170.2105 grounds of vacant plots, 1.811 grounds of buildings and

15.597 grounds of temple tanks bunds and restored to the temples concerned. It is estimated that these properties are worth ₹ 641.01 crores.

Regularization of Group encroachments

47. Various steps have been taken to give tenancy rights to the people who are part of group encroachments of temple lands, using them for residential purposes, and have been living there continuously for a long period.

III-THIRUPPANI

Thiruppani (Renovation and Conservation)

48. Thiruppani work includes construction, repair, conservation, preservation, restoration and renovation of temples and buildings. Priority is given to historical, ancient temples, including those which have been glorified in the hymns of the Azhwars and Nayanmars and village temples.

Financial sources for Thiruppani and other Civil Works

49. Temple conservation, restoration and renovation (also known as Thiruppani) is carried out with the following financial sources:-

- Government Grants
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund
- Common Good Fund
- Temple Development Fund
- Diversion of surplus funds of other Temples
- Village Temples Renovation Fund
- Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund
- Donation
- Renovation fund for the temples in Adi-Dravida and Tribal habitations
- Tourism funds

Government Grants

50. A Government Grant of ₹ 6 crores is given for Temple Thiruppani (conservation/renovation/restoration) every year for preserving the architecturally and historically important temples.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund

51. The Contribution fees (Section 92(1)) and Audit fees (Section 92(2)) are collected from the religious institutions, and remitted into the Government account by the Assistant Commissioners of this department and credited to this fund. As per Section 96(2), the administrative expenditure of this department under various heads, including pension contribution are debited to this fund.

The financial transactions of the funds are being reconciled by this department regularly and it is being monitored by the Accountant General (A&E), Chennai. The Government may transfer the sum required by the Commissioner for temple renovation.

Common Good Fund

52. **“Common Good Fund”** was created under Section 97 of the Act, out of the contributions voluntarily made by the religious institutions from their surplus funds or donations from individuals for undertaking thiruppani works of temples that are financially weak and in need of assistance.

Temple Development Fund

53. A corpus fund of ₹ 8.00 crores was created from the surplus funds of affluent temples for the development of temples that are financially weak and in need of assistance. The interest accruing from this corpus is used for undertaking Thiruppani in temples of ancient and historical significance.

Diversion of Surplus Funds of other Temples

54. Section 36 of the Act, enables the diversion of surplus funds of affluent temples for undertaking renovation works of temples that are financially weak and in need of assistance.

Village Temples Renovation Fund

55. "Village Temples Renovation Fund" has been created for providing financial assistance to village temples under the control of the department for repairs, renovation and restoration. A corpus of ₹2 crores was created by diversion of surplus funds of Palani 'Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple'.

Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

56. "The Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund" was created on 5th August 1991. Donations were thereafter received from Philanthropists, Industrialists and the General Public. This fund is now called the 'Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund' and now has ₹8.89 crores. This fund is being managed by the Government.

Donation

57. It is a common practice for donors to voluntarily carry out the temple conservation, renovation and restoration with their funds under the guidance and supervision of the

department. In addition, there is an online portal created for donors to make donations.

Renovation Fund for the temples in Adi-Dravida and Tribal habitations

58. The temples which are not under the control of the department and situated in the Adi-Dravida and Tribal habitations are provided financial assistance of ₹ 1,00,000/- per temple for taking up Thiruppani. This assistance is provided from the surplus funds of affluent temples.

Tourism Fund

59. 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 centers, approach roads, high mast lamps, cloak rooms and parking facilities.

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

60. To guide the department to carry out the renovation, restoration, preservation and conservation of heritage structures in the ancient temples without changing their unique heritage value, this department is in the process of preparing a comprehensive "**Conservation Manual**"

61. The department regularly consults more than 22 experts in the field of Archaeology, Heritage conservation, and restoration to take up scientifically appropriate interventions and works in these temples. Proposals for Thiruppani are formulated based on the opinion of these experts and then placed before the regional and State level heritage screening committee constituted by the Government. For temples that are more than 100 years the proposals are placed before the Expert committee, on whose advice the works are carried out.

Drawing Committee

62. The Drawing committee is chaired by the Principal, Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram. The other members of the committee are an expert-Professor/Assistant Professor, Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram, Regional Sthapathi of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and the Additional Commissioner (Thiruppani) as coordinator. This committee scrutinizes and countersigns drawings related to new structures inside temple premises and new Temple Cars.

Restoration and Maintenance of Murals

63. An Advisory and Supervisory Committee was formed by the Government for conservation, restoration and maintenance of murals found in temples.

Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting

64. There are 2359 temple tanks in 1586 temples across the State. Repairs and

renovation of temple tanks are being carried out periodically by,

- Clearing the encroachments in and around the temple tanks.
- Construction of compound wall around the tanks.
- Deepening and de-silting the temple tanks.
- Re-laying the steps of the temple tanks.
- Providing facilities for the inflow of rainwater into temple tanks and overflow channel for surplus water.

Empanelment of Chartered Engineers

65. To avoid delays 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. These engineers prepare drawings and estimates

necessary for the conservation of temples as well as civil works.

Empanelment of Sthapathis

66. To ensure that the temple conservation works (Thiruppani) are carried out following the standards prescribed in Agama and Shilpa Shastra, traditional experts and qualified personnel with formal education are being approved as Sthapathi/ Sirpi for taking up works in the department.

Consecration (Kumbhabishekam/ Samprokshanam)

67. According to Agama Shastras (texts), every temple has to be consecrated once in 12 years. The temples in need of renovation are classified as,

- Ancient temples glorified by the hymns of Azhwars and Nayanmars.
- Temples historically important and having tourist significance.
- Temples popular for fulfilling the wishes and vows of the devotees.

- Temples located in the villages and in the habitations of Adi-Dravida and Tribal Communities.

Wooden Temple Cars

68. Car festivals have great significance during the annual festivals of temples. Aazhi ther of Arulmigu Thiayagarajaswamy temple, Tiruvarur is the biggest temple car in Asia. It is believed that the deity comes out of the temple to bless the devotees. There are 989 wooden cars in 809 temples in the state.

Temples having Golden and Silver Chariots

69. It is a customary practice for devotees to draw Golden or Silver chariots carrying the deity to fulfill their vows. At present there are 65 Golden Chariots and 49 Silver Chariots in temples of the state.

Temples having Golden Chariots

| Sl.No. | Name of the Temple |
|---------------|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani. |

| Sl.No. | Name of the Temple |
|---------------|--|
| 2. | Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai. |
| 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. |

| Sl.No. | Name of the Temple |
|---------------|--|
| 15. | Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri. |
| 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. |
| 42. | Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Temple, Salem. |

| Sl.No. | Name of the Temple |
|---------------|---|
| 43. | Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Salem. |
| 44. | Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkoil, Madurai. |
| 45. | Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sholingur, Ranipet. |
| 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. |

| Sl.No. | Name of the Temple |
|---------------|--|
| 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. |
| 65. | Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Kalvidangam, Sangagiri Taluk, Salem. |

Temples having Silver Chariots

| SI.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. |
| 18. | Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram. |

| Sl.No. | Name of the Temple |
|---------------|--|
| 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, Thirumayam. |
| 27. | Arulmigu AruthraKapaleeswarar Temple, Erode. |
| 28. | Arulmigu Sangameswarar Temple, Bhavani. |
| 29. | Arulmigu Palaniandavar Temple, Bhavani. |
| 30. | Arulmigu Balasubramaniaswamy Temple, Ayikudi, Tirunelveli. |
| 31. | Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Thottiyam, Tiruchirappalli. |
| 32. | Arulmigu Sivasubramaniaswamy Temple, Neyveli. |
| 33. | Arulmigu Veyuluku Uganda Vinayagar Temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram. |
| 34. | Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Dindigul. |
| 35. | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram. |

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

IV-SPECIAL SCHEMES

Appointment of Archakas from all Communities

70. To enable all worshippers to pray, conduct rituals, venerate the divine, and promote social justice, the Government has ordered that Hindus of all communities with required qualifications and necessary training may become archakas in Hindu temples. Four 'Saiva Archaka' training institutes at Madurai, Palani, Tiruchendur and Tiruvannamalai and two 'Vaishnava Archaka' Training institutes at Chennai and Srirangam were started to train the students.

71. On 14.08.2021, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** gave away appointment orders to 56 'Archakas' of whom 22 'Archakas' have completed training in the above institutes.

'Kalaingar Thalamarakandrugal Nadum Thittam'

72. Traditionally, trees symbolize deities and are considered part of various rituals. Every temple is connected to a specific tree and it is considered sacred. **'Kalaingar Thalamarakandrugal Nadum Thittam'** was introduced in the memory of former Chief Minister Dr.Kalaingar, for planting of one lakh temple sacred trees (Thalamarakandru) within temple premises throughout the State. On 07.08.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu planted a 'Nagalinga' (Couroupita guianensis) sapling in the premises of the HR&CE Commissionerate and inaugurated the scheme.

'Annai Tamizhil Archanai'

73. Tamil Saints of yore propitiated God by chanting verses in Tamil. Thirumandiram, Devaram, Thiruvagasam, Nalayira Divyaprabandham, Thirupugazh etc., rendered by the Saints have not only enriched the Tamil language and also contributed to its growth.

74. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** released a banner announcing the availability of '**Annai Tamizhil Archanai**'. In the first phase, this system has been implemented in 47 senior grade temples. The banner displays the names of the priests (Gurukkal) available to perform Tamil Archanai in the temple along with their contact numbers.

75. The Government has further supported the **Annai Tamizhil Archanai** scheme by making Tamil archanai books available. The 12 archanai books namely Arulmigu Vinayagar Pottri, Arulmigu Murugavel Pottri, Arulmigu Umaiammai Pottri, Arulmigu Natarajar Pottri, Arulmigu ThenmugaKadavul Pottri, Arulmigu Kothandaramar Pottri, Arulmigu Thayar Pottri, Arulmigu Durgaiamman Pottri, Arulmigu Kaliamman Pottri, Arulmigu Mariamman Pottri, Arulmigu Hanuman Pottri and Arulmigu Sivan Pottri were launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 12.08.2021. In addition, two more archanai books Arulmigu Thirumal Pottri and Arulmigu Navakolgal Pottri have been published.

Annadhanam Scheme

76. 'Annadhanam Scheme' is meant to provide food to the devotees who visit the temples to receive the blessings of God. It was started in the year 2002 and afternoon meal is now being provided in 754 temples. In Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam and Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy temple at Palani Annadhanam is being provided throughout the day.

BHOG Certification

77. To ensure the quality and to maintain hygiene in **preparing** and serving the Prasadam/ Annadhanam, all major temples have obtained **Blissful Hygienic Offering to God (BHOG)** certification from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). So far, 45 temples have obtained BHOG certification and for the remaining temples, the work is in progress.

Feeding the poor during the Pandemic

78. From time immemorial, temples fed the poor and hungry during famines and droughts. Covid-19 has severely affected the livelihood of the poor and marginalized sections of the society. In order to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and hungry during the pandemic, temples across the state have distributed 44 lakh food packets from 12.05.2021 to 21.06.2021.

Spiritual and Moral Classes

79. Spiritual and moral classes are being conducted in all important temples to help children imbibe moral and ethical values enshrined in ancient Tamil literature through stories embodying our cultural heritage and traditions.

Special Poojas and Feasts

80. 'Special Poojas' are being conducted in temples every year on Independence Day and 'Perarignar' Anna Memorial Day and special lunch is served at the temples by inviting people from all communities. Due to the pandemic, this

year on the occasion of Independence Day, (15.08.2021) takeaway food packets with sweets were distributed at 404 temples.

Elephant Rejuvenation Camp

81. During the year 2020-2021, 24 temple and mutt elephants from Tamil Nadu and 2 Elephants from temples belonging to Puducherry union territory participated in the Elephant rejuvenation camp on the banks of the Bhavani River near Thekkampatti, Arulmigu Vanabadrakaliamman Temple at Mettupalayam. This camp was conducted over a period of 48 days.

Battery Cars

82. For the benefit of devotees visiting temples, 21 battery Cars are operated in eleven temples.

Temples with Battery Cars

| Sl. No. | Name of the Temple | No. of Battery Cars |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1. | Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam | 3 |

| Sl. No. | Name of the Temple | No. of Battery Cars |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| 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 Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur | 1 |
| 8. | Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval | 1 |
| 9. | Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai | 2 |
| 10. | Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram | 3 |
| 11. | Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore | 2 |
| | Total | 21 |

Government Grant for Kanniyakumari District Temples

83. The Government provides an annual grant of ₹ 3.00 crores for the administration of 490 Temples, one Women's College, one Higher

Secondary School and 2 High Schools in Kanniyakumari District

Government Grant for Pudukkottai Devasthanam

84. The Government is providing an annual grant of ₹ 1.00 crore for the administration of 225 temples formerly under the control of the Pudukkottai Samasthanam.

'Oru Kaala Pooja' Scheme (Scheme for one time 'pooja' only)

85. This scheme was launched in 1986 to provide for one-time Pooja every day in temples that were not financially endowed to conduct pooja even once in a day. A corpus of ₹ 1.00 lakh for each temple was created for 12,959 temples to enable the performance of one time Pooja from the interest earned. In the current year, the Government will create an additional corpus of ₹ 130.00 crores, thereby doubling the corpus from ₹ 1.00 lakh to ₹ 2.00 lakh for each temple.

V-FACILITIES FOR DEVOTEES

Rest Houses

86. In order to provide accommodation for devotees, rest houses have been constructed at Srirangam Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Tiruvannamalai Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Rameswaram Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Alangudi Arulmigu Abathsahayeswarar Temple and Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar temple. Construction of 'Rest Houses' is in progress at Tiruchendur Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple.

High Quality 'Vibuthi' and 'Kumkum' to Devotees

87. 'Special Abishega Vibuthi' is being prepared in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani. Modern machines have been installed at Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundrareswarar Temple, Bannari Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, and Thiruverkadu Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple to

prepare quality 'Kumkum' and distribute to the devotees.

Manasarovar and Mukthinath Pilgrimage

88. Every Hindu believes that he/she should go on a 'Holy Pilgrimage' to Manasarovar and Mukthinath at least once in their lifetime. A grant of ₹ 40,000/- each is provided for 500 devotees from Tamil Nadu to perform pilgrimage to Manasarovar in China every year. Similarly, a grant of ₹ 10,000/- each for 500 devotees domiciled in Tamil Nadu to perform pilgrimage to Mukthinath in Nepal every year. Both these grants are provided after the completion of the pilgrimage.

Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis

89. In important temples, cotton sarees and dhotis received as offerings are distributed to the elderly persons, destitute women and widows on Independence Day and 'Perarignar Anna's Memorial Day'. During this year on 15.08.2021, the occasion of Independence Day, 11,526 cotton sarees/dhotis were distributed.

Libraries at Temples

90. To nurture the spirituality among the devotees visiting temples, libraries were started at 114 temples with sufficient number of devotional books and magazines.

VI-CLEANLINESS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN TEMPLES

'Uzhavarappani' (cleaning works in the temple area)

91. It is a customary practice for volunteers to clean temples. This activity is popularly known as 'Uzhavarappani'. In order to facilitate the volunteers taking up this work, an online registration facility has been launched in 47 senior grade temples on 27.07.2021.

Prohibiting usage of plastic in temple premises

92. To maintain the temple premises in a hygiene manner, the usage of plastic and polythene bags are prohibited and the usage of

bags made of cloth and the plates made of arecanut leaf are being encouraged.

VII-SECURITY MEASURES

Security of Temples

93. Safety Electronic Gadgets like Burglar Alarms, Metal Detectors, Digital Video Recorders, CCTV and strong grill gates have been installed in order to enhance the safety and security of the temples. Day/Night watchmen are being deployed by temples.

Safety of Icons and other Valuables

94. To safeguard the icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as icon centers, 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 and registration of idols/icons are being implemented.

95. In order to protect the priceless Icons of the temples, 34 Icon Centers have been built. Icons of temples located in the remote area without adequate safety measures 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 Centers for safe custody after the festivals.

'Poojas' are performed for all the icons at the centers. 8693 icons are kept in the following 23 icon centers. These icon centers are fully equipped with CCTVs, Burglar Alarm and armed security guards.

Icon centers

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple campus, Tiruvarur |
| 2. | Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli |
| 3. | Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli |
| 4. | Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar 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, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai |
| 12. | Arulmigu Tiruvappudaiyar Temple, Chellur, Madurai |
| 13. | Arulmigu Sundararaja Perumal Temple, Sivagangai |
| 14. | Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur (Additional Centre) |
| 15. | Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur |
| 16. | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani |
| 17. | Arulmigu Kaliyamman Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri |
| 18. | Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy Temple, Villupuram |

| | |
|-----|--|
| 19. | Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar |
| 20. | Arulmigu Malaikavalar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal. (Sub Temple of Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple) |
| 21. | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur. |
| 22. | Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramanaswamy Temple, Perundurai, Erode |
| 23. | Arulmigu Gowmariamman Temple, Veerapandi, Theni. |

96. Further, Icon Centers have been constructed in the following 11 locations and steps are being taken to operationalize them soon:-

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, Thanjavur. |
| 2. | Arulmigu Madhanagopalaswamy and Brahmapureeswarar Temple, Perambalur. |
| 3. | Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagarcoil, Kanniyakumari. |
| 4. | Joint Commissioner's Office complex, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thanjavur. |
| 5. | Arulmigu Kaliamman Temple, Thanthondrimalai, Karur. |

| | |
|-----|---|
| 6. | Arulmigu Alanthuraiyar and Kothandaramaswamy Temple, Ariyalur. |
| 7. | Arulmigu Kayaroganaswamy Udanurai Neelayathatchiamman Temple, Nagapattinam |
| 8. | Arulmigu Srinivasaperumal Temple, Dindigul |
| 9. | Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy Temple, Krishnapuram, Palayamkottai (Sub Temple of Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple) |
| 10. | Arulmigu Parimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai. |
| 11. | Arulmigu Kapartheeswarar Temple, Thiruvanchuzhi, Kumbakonam. |

Strong Rooms

97. ₹ 308.70 crores 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. In the first phase, strong room has been constructed at a cost of ₹22.57 lakh at Arulmigu Pasupatheeswarar Temple, Pandanallur, Thiruvudaimaruthur Taluk, Thanjavur district. Construction of strong rooms in remaining temples is under progress.

Scheme for Installation of Burglar Alarms

98. Under the burglar alarm installation scheme, a Corpus Fund of ₹ 5 crores was created in order to provide financial assistance to the needy temples.

Temple Protection Force

99. 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 has raised the monthly consolidated pay from ₹1,500/- to ₹5,000/- to the Ex-Servicemen in the Temple Protection Force.

Fire Safety Measures in Temples

100. Fire audit has been conducted in 47 senior grade temples in the first phase with the assistance of Fire & Rescue Services Department and necessary action has been initiated to strengthen the fire safety measures like fixing the fire fighting equipment like, fire

extinguishers, sand/water buckets, electrical circuit breakers, fire hydrants etc., Sufficient fire safety training is being imparted to the temple personnel.

VIII-EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

Educational Institutions

101.To inculcate traditional values, appreciate culture and develop a pious outlook from a young age, religious and general education is being imparted in the educational institutions run by the temples. The following institutions are run by the temples:-

Classification of Educational Institutions

| Sl. No. | Institution | No. |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Arts & Culture and Science Colleges | 5 |
| 2. | Polytechnic College | 1 |
| 3. | Higher Secondary Schools | 12 |
| 4. | High Schools | 6 |
| 5. | Middle Schools | 2 |
| 6. | Elementary Schools | 8 |
| 7. | Matriculation School | 2 |

| Sl. No. | Institution | No. |
|----------------|---|------------|
| 8. | CBSE School | 1 |
| 9. | Nadhaswaram and Thavil – Musical Training Schools | 2 |
| 10. | Archagar Patasalas | 6 |
| 11. | Veda Agama Patasalas | 3 |
| 12. | Odhuvar training Schools | 2 |
| 13. | Thevaram training Schools | 2 |
| 14. | School for the Hearing impaired and dumb | 1 |
| | Total | 53 |

List of Educational Institutions Arts 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, Kanniyakumari. |
| 5. | Poompuhar College, Melaiyur, Nagapattinam. |

Polytechnic College

Arulmigu Palaniandavar Polytechnic College, Palani, Dindigul.

Higher Secondary Schools

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Arulmigu Periyannayagi Amman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupetta, Tiruvarur. |
| 2. | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore. |
| 3. | Arulmigu Vazhathottathaiyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalayam, Samalapuram, Somanur, Tiruppur. |
| 4. | Arulmigu Perur Santhalinga Adigalar Higher Secondary School, Perur, Coimbatore. |
| 5. | Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai. |
| 6. | Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniaswamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirupparankundram, Madurai. |
| 7. | Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswamy Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tenkasi. |
| 8. | Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu, Kanniyakumari. |
| 9. | Sri Kanthimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli. |

| | |
|-----|--|
| 10. | Arulmigu Sri Parvathavarthini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram. |
| 11. | Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Temple Boys Higher Secondary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam. |
| 12. | Sri Sivaprakasaswamigal Higher Secondary School, Mailam, Tindivanam, Villupuram. |

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, Thiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam. |
| 4. | Arulmigu Sundararaja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai. |
| 5. | Devaswom High School, Thirparappu, Kanniyakumari. |
| 6. | Sri Gurugnana Sambander High School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam. |

Middle Schools

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Middle School, Thiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam. |
| 2. | Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Ambalavana Desikar Middle School, Thiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam. |

Elementary Schools

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli. |
| 2. | Sankaranarayanawamy Temple Elementary School, Sankarankoil, Tenkasi. |
| 3. | Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Thiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam. |
| 4. | Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple Elementary School, Palani, Dindigul. |
| 5. | Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Elementary School, Thiruvaidaimaruthur, Thanjavur. |
| 6. | Thirugnanasambandar Elementary School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam. |
| 7. | Arulmigu Sundararaja Elementary School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai. |
| 8. | Anjugam Elementary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai. |

Matriculation Schools

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Palaniandavar Matriculation School, Palani, Dindigul. |
| 2. | Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation School, Chennai. |

CBSE School

| |
|--|
| Parasakthi Vidyalaya, Courtallam, Tenkasi. |
|--|

Nadhaswaram and Thavil Music Training Schools

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul. |
| 2. | Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, Thanjavur. |

Archagar Patasalas

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli. |
| 2. | Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai. |
| 3. | Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai. |
| 4. | Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul. |
| 5. | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi. |
| 6. | Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai. |

Veda Agama Patasalas

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai. |
| 2. | Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli. |
| 3. | Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai. |

Odhuvar 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

| |
|--|
| Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul. |
|--|

Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation School, Chennai

102. Land measuring 32 grounds belonging to Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar temple in which Seetha Kingston House Matriculation Higher Secondary School was functioning has been taken possession on 13.06.2021. Since the school has stopped

functioning abruptly, considering the welfare of the pupils, teachers and other employees, **the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** has ordered to take over the management by the temple itself. Now, the School has been renamed as Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation Higher Secondary School and is being run by the temple efficiently.

Training Schools for Odhuvars

103. The students who have passed 8th standard and falling in the age between 13 to 20 can enroll in 'Odhuvar training School'. A monthly stipend of ₹ 1000/- is being given to the enrolled students.

Social Welfare Institutions

104. Apart from being a place of worship, the temples are also known for running various social welfare institutions like Old Age Homes, dispensaries, etc., 32 'Karunai Illangal', 2 Old Age Homes, 6 Siddha Hospitals, 2 Allopathy Hospitals and a Home for Mentally Challenged are being managed by the temples.

Basic Amenities for Schools and Colleges

105. For providing basic amenities for schools under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a corpus fund of ₹ 10.00 crores will be created by transferring surplus funds from affluent temples. Out of the interest accrued on 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.

Goshalas (Cow Protection Centers)

106. Integrated 'Goshalas' were formed in 4 places viz., Palani, Thiruchendur, Srirangam and Rameswaram to maintain cattle offered as 'Kaanikkai' (offerings). Surplus cattle received by the temples are being given free of cost to the Women Self Help Groups and 'Archakars and Poosaris'. Special efforts are being taken to maintain the Goshalas well.

IX-ARULALARGAL VIZHA

'Sekkizhar Vizha'

107.Sekkizhar Festival is being 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 being given from the interest accrued out of the corpus fund created for the purpose. Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple at Mylapore in Chennai celebrates 'Panniru Thirumurai Vizha' and 'Sekkizhar Vizha' for 12 days every year during the month of August.

'Thirugnanasambandar Isai Vizha'

108.Thirugnanasambandar Isai Vizha is being celebrated every year on 'Moolam' Star day of Tamil month 'Vaigasi' at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram, Chengalpattu District to honour Saint Thirugnanasambandar, one of the religious saints. The expenditure for the festival is met from the Common Good Fund.

'Avvaiyar Vizha'

109. A temple for the Tamil Poetess and Saint Avvaiyar is situated at Thulasiyapattinam Village, Vedaranyam, Nagapattinam District in the temple premises of Arulmigu Viswanathaswamy Temple. Avvaiyar Vizha is being 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 on the corpus fund created for this purpose.

'Thayumanavar Vizha'

110. Every year Thayumanavar Festival is being celebrated at Arulmigu Thayumanaswamy Temple at Malaikkottai, Tiruchirappalli. This is an honour of Thayumanavar who gave Tamil Devotional songs to the world.

'Thiruvalluvar Day'

111. 'Thiruvalluvar Day' is being 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.

'Arunagirinathar Vizha'

112. 'Arulalar Arunagirinathar Mukthiperu Vizha' is being celebrated in Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai to honour Saint Arunagirinathar on 'Kettai' star day of Tamil month 'Avani' every year. Arunagirinathar 'Mani Mandapam' (memorial hall) is being constructed at Tiruvannamalai at an estimated cost of ₹ 75 lakh by donor fund.

'Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha'

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

'Azhwargal Vizha'

114. 'Azhwargal Vizha' for 12 Azhwars is being celebrated in Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli District on their respective birth star days every year.

'Paavai Vizha'

115. During the Tamil month of Margazhi, recitation competitions in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai are being conducted in temples every year. Paavai Vizha is being conducted every year in a grand manner at the district level. Competitions are being conducted in reciting/essay writing in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai for different categories of students studying up to 5th standard, 6th to 8th standard and 9th to 12th standard.

X-PUBLICATIONS

'Thalavaralaru' and 'Thalapuranam'

116. 'Thalavaralaru' (History of Temples) and 'Thalapuranam' (Legends of Temples) of ancient temples have been published enabling the public

to know the heritage, history, importance, legends, puranas, architecture, inscriptions and importance of worship of the temples concerned. For small temples pamphlets are being published for educating the public or devotees on the importance of worship in these temples.

District Guides for Pilgrims

117. 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 situated nearby. These guides have been uploaded in the website of the Department also.

“Thirukkoil” Monthly Magazine

118. A monthly magazine namely "Thirukkoil" is being published since 1958 with noteworthy articles along with devotional question and answers by eminent writers. For the benefit of the subscribers, a new facility has been introduced wherein this magazine can be subscribed online.

Publishing 'Agamas' and Other Books in Tamil

119. In order to facilitate everyone to understand the Agama Shastra and Shilpa Shastra, books which are in Sanskrit have been translated and published in Tamil. The popular books viz., "UtharaKamika 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 also been published.

XI-TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Refresher Training Course

120. To perform their duties efficiently a "Refresher Training Course" has been started for the 'Archakars', 'Bhattachariars' and 'Odhuvars' in the year 1991. It is also proposed to train all the employees of temples including Archakars to serve the devotees by respecting their religious sentiments.

'Yoga' Classes

121. Meditation and 'Yoga' classes are being conducted at 52 temples in hygienic and well-ventilated places by trained and qualified persons every morning to upkeep the physical and mental health of the devotees.

XII-WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE EMPLOYEES

Details of Welfare Schemes

122. Different categories of employees are working in temples and welfare schemes available for them are listed as below:-

Welfare Schemes

| Sl.No. | Name of the scheme |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Family Benefit Fund Scheme |
| 2. | Health Insurance Scheme |
| 3. | Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme |
| 4. | Appointment on Compassionate Grounds |

| Sl.No. | Name of the scheme |
|---------------|--|
| 5. | Pension Scheme for Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians |
| 6. | Pension Scheme for other temple employees |
| 7. | Educational aid for the children of temple employees |

Family Benefit Fund Scheme

123. This scheme was introduced to help the legal heirs of the temple employees who die in harness. A corpus fund of ₹ 15.00 crores has been created from the surplus funds of the affluent temples. In this scheme, ₹ 3.00 lakh is being granted to the legal heirs of the deceased, who died in harness.

Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme

124. "Temple Employees Welfare Fund" is having a corpus fund of ₹ 6.50 crores derived from the surplus funds of affluent temples. The salary arrears of temple employees whose monthly income is less than ₹750/-, and are

working in temples which are having an annual income of less than ₹ 1.00 lakh, are being disbursed from out of the interest accrued from this corpus.

Besides, for the employees working in temples having an annual income of ₹ 1.00 lakh and above ₹5000/- is being given towards Special Provident Fund at the time of retirement along with the subscription amount paid by them during their service. Moreover, the salary arrears for musicians employed in temples are also being paid from the interest accrued from this corpus.

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

125. "Appointment orders on Compassionate Grounds" are being issued to the legal heirs of temple employees who die in harness. After this Government assumed office, 11 legal heirs of temple employees have been given appointment on compassionate grounds.

Appointment of Musicians

126. It is customary to play auspicious music in temples during festivals. For this purpose, sufficient number of musicians are being appointed by the respective temples.

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

127. Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians who have served 20 years in temples and attained 60 years of age are being paid a monthly pension of ₹ 1000/- by the Government benefitting 121 retired employees.

Pension Scheme for Other Temple Employees

128. Two types of pension schemes are being implemented since March 2006, for the temple employees.

(i) Employees Provident Fund Scheme

129. This scheme applies to all employees working in affluent temples. As per this scheme,

employees who have more than ten years of service and subscribed to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme from 13.02.2006 will receive benefits like pension and family pension.

(ii) Departmental Pension Scheme

130. For the employees who have less than ten years of service on the date of implementation of the scheme (01.01.2006) and all employees working in the temples who are not affluent enough to subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, a Departmental Pension Scheme was implemented in 2006. So far, 4871 employees have benefited from this scheme.

Family Pension

131. A family pension scheme is being implemented from the year 2015 onwards for the benefit of the direct legal heirs (Wife/Husband) of the deceased departmental pensioner upto their lifetime. The family pension amount is 50% of the pension amount. 118 persons have been benefited so far.

XIII-WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIS

Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board

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

Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme

133.The monthly pension of ₹ 3,000/- is being given to retired Poosaris who have attained 60 years of age and served for more than 20 years in village temples which are not directly falling under the control of this Department. Under this scheme, 3281 Village Poosaris have been benefitted so far.

XIV - COMPUTERIZATION OF DEPARTMENT AND TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

134. A Common Web Portal has been created i.e., Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS), for all the temples to provide the required information/services to the devotees and also for better management of temples in Tamil Nadu. Mobile App is being developed for booking rooms, pulling golden car and issuing the receipts online.

Information regarding valuable icons, idols, and immovable properties such as lands and buildings belonging to the temples, religious institutions are being computerized. With the help of the 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. Under the ITMS, the following modules related to temples have been created.

- (i) Temple General Information
- (ii) Uploading of Property Registers (7 and 7A)

- (iii) Uploading of Approved Budgets and Audit Reports
- (iv) Online booking of Various 'Sevas' in the Temple
- (v) Modified Landed Property Information
- (vi) 'Thiruppani' Module (Workflow based)
- (vii) e-Services for free, paid Darshan bookings, Online donations
- (viii) Online donation for Annadhanam and General purposes
- (ix) Court Module
- (x) Mobile App Integration
- (xi) GIS Integration
- (xii) Call Centre
- (xiii) Online Grievances Redressal Cell
- (xiv) Temple Property DCB
- (xv) e-Tenders (Implemented in Palani Temple)
- (xvi) Annadhanam Module
- (xvii) Temple Receipts and Payments
- (xviii) Disbursement of Pension to retired employees.

CONCLUSION

"குடிசெய்வல் என்னும் ஒருவற்குத் தெய்வம்

மடிதற்றுத் தான்முந் துறும்".

'One who toils for the upliftment of his subjects need not go to the temple, God clad himself in cloth wrapped around his waist, will appear before him to stand with him' says Saint Thiruvalluvar.

The Government is striving hard to protect, preserve and develop the temples and their assets in a transparent way to benefit the devotees and public. The Department is fully committed to promote the use of the classical language of Tamil in temples. The various initiatives taken up by the department in the temples have been extensively reported and universally acclaimed in the whole country.

P.K. SEKARBABU

MINISTER FOR HINDU RELIGIOUS AND
CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M.K. Stalin gave away appointment orders to 22 Archakas on 14.08.2021 who had completed training at Archaka training schools run by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.



The newly appointed archakas with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Minister of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Thiru P.K. Sekarbabu, Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, Thavathiru Shanthalinga Marudhachala Adigalar, Dr.Thavathiru Kumaragurubara Swamigal, Principal Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department Dr. Chandra Mohan. B, I.A.S.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K. Stalin unveiling the plaque of "Kalaingar Thalamarakandrugal Nadum Thittam" on 07.08.2021 at the Commissionerate of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department at Chennai.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K. Stalin planted a Nagalinga Pushpam sapling on 07.08.2021 at the Commissionerate of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department at Chennai to commence the planting 1 lakh saplings in temples under the "Kalaingar Thalamarakandrugal Nadum Thittam".



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M.K. Stalin released the Tamil Potri Books on 12.08.2021.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M.K. Stalin, disbursed the financial assistance of Rs.4000/- and a gift hamper containing 10 Kg rice and 15 grocery items to Poosaris, Archakas, Bhattacharyas on 03.06.2021.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M.K. Stalin, released the banner announcing the availability of "Annai Tamizhil Archanai" at various temples on 03.08.2021 at Chennai.



Hon'ble Minister of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru P.K. Sekarbabu distributed food packets to Covid infected patients and their attenders at Omantur Government Medical College, Chennai on 01.06.2021.



High Level Advisory Committee Meeting chaired by
Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, Former Chief Minister on 12.12.2009



Former Chief Minister Dr. Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi issued free bicycles to the Archakar, Poosari working in the Orukala Pooja Scheme Temples on 18.08.2010



Aazhi Ther Festival, Tiruvarur

