



**TOURISM, CULTURE AND  
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**HINDU RELIGIOUS  
AND CHARITABLE  
ENDOWMENTS**

**POLICY NOTE  
2022 – 2023**

**DEMAND No. 47**

**P.K. SEKARBABU**  
Minister for Hindu Religious and  
Charitable Endowments Department

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**Government of Tamil Nadu  
2022**

**Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments  
Department**

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

“பிறப்பொக்கும் எல்லா உயிர்க்கும் சிறப்பொவ்வா  
செய்தொழில் வேற்றுமை யான்”

**-திருவள்ளுவர்**

Thiruvalluvar said that all human beings are equal by birth. To translate this idea into reality, the Hon'ble Chief Minister implemented the egalitarian policy of giving equal opportunity to all castes for performing poojas in temples. The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed the orders of appointment to 24 archakas who were trained in the Archaka Training Schools run by this department, on 14.08.2021.

This is a milestone in the long journey of internalising egalitarian principles of equality and social justice in temple administration. It reiterated that every Hindu possessing the required qualifications and training is eligible to become an archaka in Hindu Temples irrespective of caste.

1.1. Temples are not only places of worship but also repositories of ancient culture, heritage, arts, architecture, dance and music. The Government is taking several measures for improving the experience of devotees in temples, by enabling the conduct of poojas, celebrating of festivals, and ensuring the safety and security of devotees.

1.2. The conservation, repair, renovation and maintenance of temples are given due importance by ensuring regular maintenance and the periodical performance of kumbhabishegams. Safeguarding the temple properties, evicting

encroachments and providing amenities to devotees are being done regularly. Tamil archanai is being done in temples so as to enable devotees to better understand the chants. Thevaram and Divyaprabantham are being sung in temples.

## **Origin and Role of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department**

2. The grand temples of Tamil Nadu have a hoary past and were built by the kings of yore with generous contributions from the treasury. The Pallavas, Cholas, Cheras, Pandiyas and Nayakar kings built maintained and endowed temples. In recent times the kings of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin were actively involved in the construction and endowment of temples.

2.1. The kings of Travancore ruled in the name of the Lord and were called 'Padmanabha Dasa'. Kings also endowed places of worship of other religions also. The Maratha ruler of Tanjore

Ekaji and Thulajaji endowed land for mosques and dargahs. Kazis and Mutawallis were appointed by Kings.

2.2. The temples were endowed with huge landed properties to ensure that the rituals and upkeep of the temples did not suffer from lack of funds. Some endowments were meant for providing services to the temple for arhcas and Poosaris. It also provided for activities like lighting lamps, providing garlands, carrying the Lord in procession, conducting festivals and for dancers and musicians to perform in temples.

Many devotees have endowed temples by donating their properties in the form of lands, buildings, gold, silver and many other precious assets to be spent on the maintenance of these. As temples played a very important role in the lives of people and controlled priceless assets, their management was overseen by kings or sovereigns from time immemorial. In many



instances, the spiritual heads were either appointed by the kings or endorsed by them.

2.3. After the monarchy gave way to rule by the East India Company, many temples went into the hands of private individuals and families who appropriated them and started running them as private institutions. There were many complaints from devotees to the East India Company about temple properties being misused, sold and used for private benefit.

Regulations were issued in the presidencies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay in the years 1810, 1817 and 1827 respectively for supervision of temples and endowments. The idol of the temple was treated as a perpetual minor and a legal person.

2.4. During 1817, the Board of Revenue was vested with the power of general superintendence under the Madras Endowments

and Escheats Regulation No. VII, 1817 with the objective of protecting, ensuring and maintaining the endowments of temples and not taking them away by the Government. It provided for the appointment of local agents to oversee the expenditure incurred by the temples. After repeated representations by hindu leaders that the regulation was not effective, this regulation was repealed and was substituted by the Religious Endowments Act -1863 (Act XX of 1863) after a period of 46 years. This Act provided for the appointment of local committees to supervise temples. Members of this committee were appointed for life. This act was also found to be ineffective.

2.5. After that, a series of enactments were made including section 92 of Civil Procedure Code 1908. Civil courts became the central agency in all temple related litigation. The process was slow and difficult. The temple administration with its

vast resources had the advantage and often the litigant found it difficult to continue with the litigation. It was seen that many temple properties went into private hands. No documentation was maintained about valuable temple assets. Many private bills were introduced in the Madras Legislative Council and the Imperial Legislature seeking executive supervision of temples to prevent and redress abuses in the management of temples.

2.6. The Justice Party pioneered the enactment of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act - 1927 which provided for the constitution of the 'Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Board' and provided for the appointment of Executive Officers to temples. There was a lot of opposition to this legislation from entrenched groups. The then premier of Madras Presidency, the Raja of Panagal – Sir Pananganti Ramarayananingar convinced the then

Viceroy Lord Irwin and got his approval for the same.

2.7. Subsequently, various Acts viz., Act 1 of 1928, V of 1929, IV of 1930, XI of 1931, XI of 1934, XII of 1935, XX of 1938, XXII of 1939, V of 1944, X of 1946, V of 1947 were enacted. The law commission in 1950 under the Chairmanship of Thiru. C.R.Das also mentioned that a number of citizens complained to the law commission about the misuse of funds and properties of temples and endowments. Although not within its purview the law commission suggested that a suitable enactment may be passed to regulate the misappropriation.

2.8. The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act - 1951 was enacted and provided for the creation of a Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments headed by a Commissioner and assisted by a hierarchy of officers. It had the power to regulate

the secular affairs of Hindu temples and Mutts. The system of hereditary employees was abolished and the system of authority, duties and responsibilities at various levels were laid down. Many interested groups challenged the Act. After prolonged litigation in various courts, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Act in the Shirur Mutt case but struck down certain sections of the Act.

2.9. Finally, after repealing all the earlier enactments, The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 was passed by the Tamil Nadu Government. While introducing the bill, the Chief Minister mentioned that more than 600 cases were pending in the High Court regarding the illegal transfer of temple properties to the names of trustees or their wards.

## **Hindu Religious Endowments Commission (1960-1962)**

3. The Government of India constituted the Hindu Religious Endowments Commission to enquire into matters connected with Hindu Public Religious Endowments. The Commission consisted of

### **Chairman**

Dr.C.P.Ramaswami Aiyar

### **Members**

1. Shri Sankar Saran, Retired Judge, Allahabad High Court
2. Shri Mahabir Prasad, Advocate General, Bihar
3. Swami Harinarayananand, General Secretary, Bharat Sadhu Samaj
4. Shri P.Kameswara Rau, Retired Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, Madras.

Shri K.Venkataswami Naidu, Advocate, Madras and Thiru. K.C.Sen, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court were appointed as additional Members.

In its report, the Committee recommended that,

- (i) States which did not have acts governing Hindu religious endowments namely Assam, Punjab, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh should speedily undertake suitable legislation in this behalf.
  
- (ii) The Central Government should bring into operation a uniform pattern of legislation for the administration and management of religious endowments of all communities in India
  
- (iii) Every state should set up schools or institutions where archakas and pujaris are given instructions in Agamas, Archana, puja paddhati, rituals, etc.

- (iv) In all States not having acts with regard to religious endowments, well-defined statutory machinery should be set up to exercise effective control over trustees, similar to the pattern existing in states which possess such Acts.
  
- (v) A common good fund on the lines of that provided for in section 97 of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, 1959 might be created.

As on date, enactments relating to Hindu Religious Endowments are present in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir. Abroad Singapore has its Hindu Endowments Act of 1968 and Malaysia its Hindu Endowments Act of 1906.



## **STATUTE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959**

4. The department has a hierarchy of officers with defined jurisdiction and is headed by the Commissioner. The provisions of this Act were extended to Jain Religious institutions and Charitable Endowments.

4.1. 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 38,658 Hindu and 17 Jain Religious institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The list of temples are provided in Annexure-I.

5.1. The inclusion of sub-temples, incorporated and un-incorporated temples under the management of Kanyakumari Devaswom Board and temples formerly under the management of Pudukkottai Samasthanam, Thanjavur Palace Devasthanam, Sivagangai Samasthanam and Ramanathapuram Samasthanam along with the above mentioned religious institutions has increased the total number of religious institutions.

## **Classification of the Religious Institutions**

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

annual income. The Classification of Religious Institutions are provided in Annexure-II.

6.1. Sub-temples, temples of Kanyakumari Devaswom Board, temples under the management of former Pudukkottai Samasthanam, Thanjavur Palace Devasthanam, Sivagangai Samasthanam and Ramanathapuram Samasthanam are collectively taken into account for the above classification.

### **Contribution and Audit Fees**

7. The Contribution under Section 92(1) and Audit Fees under Section 92(2) of the Act are collected from religious institutions by the Assistant Commissioners of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and credited to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund. The quantum of contribution and audit fees are provided in Annexure-III.

## **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.

8.1. 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, etc. The lists of Departmental Staff at the Commissioner's Office are provided in Annexure-IV.

8.2. The details of the Officers on Deputation from other departments working in the Head Office are provided in Annexure-V.

8.3. To strengthen the administrative setup in the temple lands wing at the Commissionerate, two posts of District Revenue Officer (DRO) / Special Officer functioning at Madurai and Coimbatore have been shifted to Commissioner's Office alongwith their supporting staff.

8.4. To protect and retrieve temple lands, Special Tahsildar along with support staff of one Typist and one Office Assistant are functioning in all Assistant Commissioners' Offices in the State.

### **Administration at Regional and Divisional Levels**

9. The administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been organized 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 details of the territorial jurisdiction of Regional Joint

Commissioners and Divisional Assistant Commissioners are provided in Annexure-VI.

### **Functions of the Joint Commissioner**

10. 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.

10.1. The Joint Commissioner has the powers to inquire into and decide certain disputes under Section 63 of the Act and settle the scheme of administration on 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.

10.2. He is competent to recognize and record the legal heirs of the Hereditary Trustee as the next in the line of succession under Section 54 of the Act for the reasons mentioned therein. 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**

11. The department's Assistant Commissioner 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.

11.1. 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 Administration Fund. He shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commissioner from time to time.

### **Functions of the Inspector**

12. The Regional Joint Commissioners and the Divisional Assistant Commissioners of this department are assisted by 264 Inspectors at the Taluk Level. 29 Suit Inspectors exclusively handle



the court cases pertaining to the department. To strengthen the administrative setup in the Headquarters, 10 Inspector posts have been shifted to the Commissioner's Office from the Divisional Level.

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

12.2. 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 the appointment of trustees. They supervise auctions, tenders and hundial openings. They verify and submit the receipts and charge statements of 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**

13. There is one Verification Officer in the cadre of Joint Commissioner at Headquarters to scrutinize the reports regarding the 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 work assigned therein.

### **Conservation Wing**

14. The Engineers and Draughting Officers are incharge of scrutinizing the estimates for carrying out the temple renovation and civil works, as well as supervising works, apart from checking the measurements. The Renovation and Conservation Wing of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been constituted with 226 posts. The list of Renovation and Conservation Wing are provided in Annexure-VII.

- (i) 20 retired officials from the Archeological Survey of India have been appointed as Consultants on a contract basis to provide

advice on the Conservation and Renovation of Heritage Temples.

- (ii) One retired Chemist from the Archeological Survey of India has been appointed on a contract basis for the Conservation and preservation of Murals in the temples.
- (iii) Retired PWD personnel have been appointed as Temple Tank Consultants for providing advice on temple tank maintenance and upkeep.

### **Temple Administration**

15. 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**

16. Based on the significance, revenue, assets, workload and other activities of the temples, 668 posts of Executive Officers of different grades are working at present in the Department, vide Annexure-VIII.

## **Conservation Wings in Temples**

17. Major temples have Engineers of their own to carry out conservation, repairs, renovation and restoration and undertake new construction works.

## **Mutts**

18. Previously there were 56 Mutts under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. At present, there are only 45 Mutts under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department as 11 Mutts have lost their character of Mutts. These 11 Mutts which

have lost their character of Mutts are now treated as temples. Among Mutts, Madurai Aadheenam (alias) Thirugnana Sambanthar Swamigal Mutt, Thiruvavaduthurai Aadheenam, Dharmapuram Aadheenam, Kundrakudi Aadheenam, Perur Aadheenam, etc., propagate Saivaite philosophy, Ahobila Mutt, Vanamamalai Mutt, Thirukurunkudi Mutt, Embar Jeeyar Mutt propagate Vaishnavaita Philosophy and Sankara Mutt, Kancheepuram propagates Advaita philosophy since ancient times.

18.1. The contribution of Mutts to the development of the Tamil language, which is the renowned medium of devotion, is invaluable. The mutts have diligently preserved Tamil palm leaf manuscripts enabling generations to read and enjoy Sangam Literature. The Mutts further play an important role in preserving the heritage of the religious community by preserving palm leaves which hold the tenets of the oldest language in

the world i.e., Tamil which would otherwise be lost to posterity.

18.2. The most important service rendered to the society by these Mutts are the publication of 12 Thirumurais of Saivite hymns which have run into several editions now.

18.3. Moreover, the Mutts are Caretakers of religion and have an important role in propagating the values and morals inculcated in people's minds which in turn lead to a morally responsible society. The Mutts run educational institutions which are leaders in the field of education. They help in evolving an educated and highly cultured society. Their contribution to the nurturing educated and cultured future generations is immeasurable.

18.4. The heads of Mutts Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, Srimath Varaha Mahadesikan, Srila sri Ambalavana Desigha

Paramachariya Swamigal, Dr.Thiru Perunthiru Santhalinga Maruthachala Adigalar are members of the Advisory Committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and play a vital role by providing valuable advice for the improvement and management of various temples in the State.

### **Audit of Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions**

19. Under section 87(3) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, all religious institutions whose annual income is not less than Rs.5 lakh shall be subjected to concurrent audit and all religious institutions with income not less than Rs.1,000/- shall be audited annually and under section 88, audit reports have to be submitted to the authorities under the Act. For this purpose, an audit fee from 1.5 percent to 4 percent of the assessable income is collected under section 92(2).



19.1. To give more independence to the auditors and to speed up the settlement of audit objections, it was decided to detach the Audit Wing from the Department and to create a separate Wing to function under the control of the Finance Department of the Government. In G.O (Ms) No.181, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 25.11.2021 the Audit Wing was separated from this department.

19.2. A three-tier Audit Committee has been constituted to settle audit objections as is done in the Local Fund Audit. The details of Audit Committees are provided in Annexure-IX. Suitable Amendments have been made in the rules appended to section 87 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act.

## **Advisory Committee**

20. The 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. The Advisory Committee is constituted as follows vide G.O (Ms) No.04, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated: 06.01.2022:-

### **Official Members**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>
1.	Chairman Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu	Thiru M.K. Stalin
2.	Vice Chairman Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments	Thiru P.K. Sekar Babu
3.	The Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department	Dr. Chandra Mohan. B, I.A.S.,

4.	Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department	Thiru J. Kumaragurubaran, I.A.S.,
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### **Non-Official Members**

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Name</b>
1.	Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar
2.	Srimath Varaha Mahadesikan
3.	Srilasri Ambalavana Desigha Paramachariya Swamigal
4.	Dr. Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Maruthachala Adigalar
5.	Justice (Retired) T. Mathivanan
6.	Thiru Suki Sivam
7.	Thiru Karumuthu T. Kannan
8.	Sr. Dr. M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar
9.	Thiru N. Ramasubramanayan
10.	Thiru Tharanipathi Rajkumar
11.	Thiru Mallikarjun Santhanakrishnan
12.	Thirumathi Srimathi Sivasankar
13.	Thirumathi Desa Mangayarkarasi

20.1. In the Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20.01.2022 chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the following 9 resolutions were passed. The Officials from the Department, Experts in the relevant field and Non-Official Members from the Advisory Committee have been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the resolutions in temples:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Member</b>
1	Appointment of three Advisory Committee Members for the State Level Committee constituted for selection of Trustees to the Religious Institutions.	1.Thavathiru Kuntrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar 2.Thiru Dharanipathi Rajkumar 3.Tmt. Desa Mangaiyarkarasi 4. Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Member</b>
2.	Documentation and Publication of Thalapuram/ Thalavaralaru	1. Thavathiru Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar  2. Srimath Varaha Mahadesigan  3. Additional Commissioner (Education)
3.	Protection of Palm Leaves document / Copper Plates documents / Rare Books	1 SrilaSri Ambalavana Desika Paramachariya Swamigal  2.Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenakartha  3. Additional Commissioner (Education)
4.	Upgradation of Training Schools	1. Dr.Thiruperunthiru Santhalinga Maruthachala Adigalar  2.Thiru Karumuthu T. Kannan  3. Additional Commissioner (Education)

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Member</b>
5.	Recommendations of Amendments to Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959	1. Hon'ble Justice (Retd) Thiru T.Mathivanan 2. Joint Commissioner (Legal)
6.	Documentation and Publication of Agamas Books	1.Thiru Suki Sivam 2.Sr. Dr. M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar 3.Additional Commissioner (Education)
7.	Conducting Spiritual Discourses / Spiritual Classes	1. Thiru N.Rama Subramanian 2.Tmt. Desa Mangaiyarkarasi 3.Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)
8.	Computerization of temple services.	1.Thiru Dharanipathi Rajkumar 2. Tmt. Srimathi Sivasankar 3.Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Member</b>
9.	Upgradation of Financial Management in temples	1. Thiru Mallikaarjun Santhana Krishnan 2. Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)

### **Constitution of District Committee**

21. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act empowers the Government to constitute a District Committee under section 7A for non-listed categorized temples under section 49(1) and listed temples categorized under section 46(i) and 46(ii) 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 two years.

## **Appointment of Trustees**

22. 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 Trustees**

23. 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 in the locality in which the religious institution or endowment is situated;
- c) He must have sufficient time and interest to attend the affairs of the religious institution or endowment.



## **Power to appoint Trustees**

24. 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 Rs.10,000/- based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

24.1. 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 Rs.10,000/- but less than Rs.2 lakh, based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

24.2. 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 Rs.2 lakh but less than Rs.10 lakh, based on the recommendations of the District Committee.

24.3. 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 Rs.10 lakh and above.

24.4. The Government may nominate two more qualified members to the said Board of Trustees of the religious institutions in addition to the persons appointed by the Commissioner, the Joint Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner.

## **Appointment of Fit Person**

25. The appropriate authorities under the Act may appoint a fit person to discharge the duties and perform the functions of the Board of Trustees till the Board of Trustees is constituted.

25.1. A Committee consisting of 7 persons has been constituted to select and submit a list of eligible applicants for the appointment of Non-Hereditary trustees for temples having an annual income of more than Rs.10 lakh notified under section 46(iii) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act.

## **MANAGEMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

### **Land Details**

26. Religious and Charitable Institutions own a large extent of agricultural lands, plots and buildings.

The details of the lands are as given below:-

### **Temple Lands Classification and Extent**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Temple Lands (In lakh Acres)</b>	<b>Mutt Lands (In lakh Acres)</b>	<b>Total Extent (In lakh Acres)</b>
Wet	1.83	0.21	2.04
Dry	2.18	0.35	2.53
Maanavari	0.21	Nil	0.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>4.78*</b>

\* As some discrepancies have been noticed in the classification and extent, the "Verification and Reconciliation Committees" were formed to verify and reconcile the landed properties belonging to the Religious Institutions, throughout Tamil Nadu and the above reconciliation work is going on.

27. The landed property belonging to the religious institutions which are under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is compared and reconciled with the landed property uploaded in the "TamilNilam" website. This is being carried out by the subordinate officials of the Department. Out of the

above total extent of landed property, 3.43 lakh acres of lands are fully matched with the "TamilNilam" website and these figures were released in Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Website by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments on 09.06.2021 to the general public.

27.1. Further, details of lands which are partially matching with the TamilNilam Portal and items which are not available in the TamilNilam Portal are also being collected / reconciled and the religious institutions are preferring appeals before the competent authority of the Revenue Department for making suitable corrections to modify the partially matched cases into fully matched cases.

27.2. The above reconciliation process between the data base of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and the Revenue Department's "TamilNilam" Website, is currently

ongoing. Any changes as a result of this reconciliation will be updated in due course.

27.3. In order to maintain / safeguard the enormous extent of landed properties belonging to various religious institutions, as per the announcement made in the Assembly by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments during 2021-2022, 36 posts of Tahsildars have been created and staffed in each Assistant Commissioner's Division. 2 Tahsildars were posted on deputation from the Revenue Department in the Commissioner's Office. These officers will help to safeguard the landed properties, remove the encroachments and retrieve the properties from private individuals and restore them to the religious institutions. They will monitor the collection of lease rent from the lessee / tenant and supervise the survey work carried out by the Licensed Surveyors. The above mentioned Tahsildars are working under the direct supervision

of the 4 District Revenue Officers working in the Commissioner's Office.

27.4. There are 22,600 buildings and 33,665 vacant sites of religious institutions leased out. Further agricultural lands are leased out to 1,23,729 lessees. During the fasli year 1431 from 01.07.2021 to 31.03.2022, Rs.151.65 crore has been collected from the above mentioned temple owned properties.

### **Fixation of Fair Rent**

28. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for the 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**

29. 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.

29.1. 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.



29.2. A total of 11,418 cases are pending before the Revenue Courts, out of which 6,167 cases have been disposed off as on 31.03.2022.

29.3. A sum of Rs.1,768.03 lakh of arrear amount was decreed and a sum of Rs.476.69 lakh has been collected.

### **Retrieval of Lands**

30. During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), lands belonging to religious institutions were wrongly transferred in the name of the individuals. To rectify these mistakes and to restore the lands in the name of the institutions, appeals were preferred before the concerned District Revenue Officers. From 07.05.2021 to 31.03.2022 orders have been obtained for 720.83 acres of land belonging to 133 temples and the lands were retrieved and restored to the respective temples.

30.1. Appeals were preferred before the concerned Revenue Divisional Officers for the rectification of the mistakes that occurred at the time of the preparation of computerized Chitta by the Revenue Department. Accordingly, 592.69 acres of land belonging to 94 temples have been restored to the name of the temples.

### **Improving Temple Land and Assets Management**

31. In order to safeguard the landed property belonging to the religious institutions, to identify and retrieve the encroachments, speed up the collection of arrears of fair rent and lease amount and co-ordinate with the Revenue Department, 8 Deputy Collectors, 19 Tahsildars, 17 Surveyors, 2 Revenue Inspectors and 9 Village Administrative Officers retired from service have been engaged on consolidated pay.

## **Removal of Encroachments**

32. From 07.05.2021 to 31.03.2022, 167 encroachments on religious institution properties have been evicted and 1184.13 acres of lands, 467.0884 grounds of vacant plots, 47.0813 grounds of buildings and 38.1867 grounds of temple tank bunds were restored. It is estimated that these properties are worth Rs.2,566.94 crore.

32.1. Penal provisions for offences in connection with encroachment have been prescribed under 79(b) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959. Furthermore, to enforce the provisions more effectively sub-clause 3 of section 79(b) has been amended by the Government under Amended Act 29 of 2021 prescribing the punishment as cognizable and non-bailable one and the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act 2 of 1974) with respect to cognizable and non-bailable

offences shall apply to that offence. Complaints may also be lodged by anyone including the trustee, authorities under the Act and even by the public and persons having interest.

### **Regularization of group encroachments**

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

### **Survey of Temple Lands (from 08.09.2021 to 31.03.2022)**

34. On 08.09.2021, the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments launched the scheme of "Measuring the lands belonging to the religious institutions throughout the State with modern instruments of DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System)",

at Arulmighu Karpagambal Udanurai Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.

34.1. 150 Licensed Surveyors have been engaged and formed into 56 groups and allotted to 20 regions for measuring the temple lands. They have also been given 56 pieces of rover equipment to help in surveying the temple lands accurately.

34.2. The Department has engaged a retired Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Survey and Settlement as Principal Consultants to monitor and advise the surveyors in carrying out the survey works.

34.3. Along with the measurement work of temple lands, pegging of cement pillars in the boundary and bends of the fields are being undertaken. After the completion of temple lands survey work in villages, field measurement

sketches are prepared by the concerned surveyors using the COLLABLAND SOFTWARE.

34.4. From 08.09.2021 to 31.03.2022, extents of 36,976.03 acres of land in 10,122 survey numbers / sub division numbers in 221 villages have been measured.

## **THIRUPPANI**

### **Thiruppani (Renovation and Conservation)**

35. In ancient times, the rulers built and patronized temples. The successive rulers maintained and made improvements to those heritage structures. The Hon'ble Chief Minister is keen on maintaining these living monuments without impairing their heritage value. Thiruppani work includes construction, repair, conservation, preservation, restoration and renovation of temples and buildings. Priority is given to historical, ancient temples which

include those religious institutions which have been glorified in the hymns of the Azhwars and Nayanmars. Special attention is given to village temples also.

### **Financial sources for Thiruppani and other Civil Works**

36. Temple conservation, restoration and renovation (otherwise known as Thiruppani) works are carried out with the following financial sources: -

- Government Grants
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments 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 Department Funds

### **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund**

37. The Contribution (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 contributionis debited from this fund.

37.1. 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 from this fund for temple renovation.



## **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund**

38. "Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund" was created under Section 97 of the Act. The contributions voluntarily made by the religious institutions from their surplus funds or donations from individuals are credited to this Fund for undertaking thiruppani works of temples that are financially weak and in need of assistance.

## **Temple Development Fund**

39. A corpus fund of Rs.8.00 crore 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**

40. 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**

41. “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 Rs.2 crore was created by the diversion of surplus funds of Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple. Under this scheme, a grant of Rs.1.00 lakh each was given to 1000 temples.

41.1. In 2021-2022, the grant has been increased to Rs.2.00 lakh for each temple and the number of beneficiary temples has been increased to 1250.

## **Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund**

42. "The Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund" was created on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Rs.8.93 crore. This fund is being managed by the Government.

## **Donations and Donor Works**

43. 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**

44. 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 Rs.1,00,000/- per temple for taking up Thiruppani. This assistance is provided from the surplus funds of affluent temples.

44.1. In 2021-2022, the grant was increased to Rs.2.00 lakh for each temple and the number of beneficiary temples has been increased from 1000 to 1250.

### **Tourism Department Fund**

45. 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, cloakrooms and parking facilities.

## **Conservation Manual**

46. To guide the department to carry out the conservation, renovation, restoration and preservation of heritage structures in ancient temples without damaging their unique heritage value, this department has prepared a comprehensive **“Conservation Manual”** covering both sthaphathi works and engineering works.

46.1 The manual draws inspiration from the manual written by Sir John Marshal in 1923. An appendix has also been added for ready reference for manual users.

## **State Level Expert Committee**

47. Earlier renovations were carried out in the temples following the advice given by the Regional Level Expert Committee, State Level Heritage Screening Committee and the High Court Committee.

47.1. Recently the State Level Heritage Screening Committee and the High Court Committee have been merged and the State Level Expert Committee of 11 members has been formed. Conservation and Renovation are carried out in temples based on the advice of this Committee.

### **Drawing Committee**

48. 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 and the Regional Sthapathi of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The Joint Commissioner (Thiruppani) performs the role of co-ordinator of this Committee. This committee scrutinizes and countersigns drawings related to

new structures inside temple premises and the drawings of new Temple Cars.

### **Restoration and Maintenance of Murals**

49. An Advisory and Supervisory Committee was formed by the Government for the conservation, restoration and maintenance of Murals found in temples after getting opinions from the Retired Chemist/Consultant, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

### **Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting**

50. There are 2,359 temple tanks in 1,586 temples across the State. Repairs and renovation of temple tanks are being carried out periodically by getting advice from the Experts/Consultants.

The features of temple tank renovation include,

- Clearing of 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 channels for surplus water.

50.1. In the year 2021-2022, sanction has been accorded to form a new temple tank in the land belonging to Arulmigu Kailasanathar Temple, Madhavaram, Chennai at a cost of Rs.2.22 crore.

50.2. In the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.16.70 crore has been allocated for the renovation of 54 temple tanks.

### **District Panel Engineers approved by Collector**

51. Empanelment of Chartered Engineers to prepare estimates was done by Commissioner till



2021. To avoid delays in the preparation of estimates for conservation works of temples, it has been proposed to use PWD approved Chartered Engineers empanelled by the Collector as district panel engineers. These engineers can be approached by temples to prepare drawings and estimates necessary for the conservation of temples as well as civil works at the rates prescribed by the Commissioner.

### **Empanelment of Sthapathis**

52. 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. 235 Sthapathis / Sirpis have been empanelled so far.

## **Empanelment of Conservation Architects**

53. To ensure the carrying out of conservation works in heritage temples in a proper manner to preserve heritage, 84 conservation architects have been empanelled by the department. These conservation architects can also be chartered to prepare comprehensive master plans for the temples.

## **Consecration (Kumbhabishegam/ Samprokshanam)**

54. According to Agama Shastras (texts), temples are to be renovated and consecrated once in 12 years.

54.1 In the year 2021-2022, from 26.08.2021 to 25.04.2022, 126 temples have been renovated and consecrated.

## **Wooden Temple Cars / Chariots**

55. Car festivals have great significance during the annual festivals of temples. Aazhither

of Arulmigu Thiayagaraja Swamy 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.

55.1. In 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.9.76 crore has been allocated for carrying out renovation to 28 wooden cars belonging to 28 temples.

### **Golden Temple Chariots**

56. It is a customary practice for devotees to draw golden chariots carrying the urchavar deity to fulfil their vows. At present, there are 65 Golden Chariots in the temples of the state. The list of chariots are provided in Annexure-X.

### **Silver Temple Chariots**

57. It is a customary practice for devotees to draw silver chariots carrying the urchavar deity

to fulfil their vows. At present, there are 49 Silver Chariots in temples of the State. The list of chariots are provided in Annexure-XI.

57.1. A sum of Rs.2.06 crore has been earmarked for making a silver chariot for Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Irukangudi, Sathur Taulk, Virudhunagar District.

### **Gold Investment Scheme**

58. Gold items of different purity obtained as offerings and not used for the diety are converted into 24-carat bars for the purpose of investing the same in the State Bank of India under the Gold Investment Scheme. The interest accrued from the investment is used for the development of the concerned temple. To oversee the implementation of this scheme, three committees headed by Retired Judges have been constituted, one each for the 3 Regions in the State. Two committees are headed by Hon'ble

Judges (Retired) of Madras High Court and one committee by a Hon'ble Judge (Retired) of the Supreme Court of India.

58.1. Preliminary works for converting the unused gold offerings by the devotees into 24-carat gold bars at Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu and Arulmigu Bhavaniammam Temple, Periyapalayam are in progress.

58.2. Under the Supervision of the Committee headed by the Hon'ble Justice (Retired) Selvi. R. Mala, unused Gold items were segregated at Arulmigu Mariammam Temple, Irukankudi. The segregated unused gold has been handed over to the State Bank of India, Sathur Branch in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments by the temple authorities on 01.04.2022. State Bank of India (SBI) has taken the gold to the Government of India Mint for converting them

into 24-carat gold bars for the purpose of converting the gold of different touch into standardised gold bars.

## **SPECIAL SCHEMES**

### **Appointment of Archakas from all castes**

59. The Government, in 2006, resolved to implement the policy of social justice in temples and to ensure that all are treated equally in the service of God. Nobody shall be denied the opportunity of performing pooja in temples only on the basis of their caste alone.

59.1. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued appointment orders on 14.08.2021, to 56 persons as archakas, out of whom 24 beneficiaries are the persons from other castes who were trained in the 6 Archakas Training Schools run by the temples viz.,

1. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

2. Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple,  
Palani
3. Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple,  
Tiruchendur
4. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple,  
Tiruvannamalai
5. Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple,  
Srirangam
6. Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple,  
Triplicane

59.2. Sanction has been accorded to start one more Archaka Training School at Arulmigu Adikesava Perumal and Bhashiyakara Swamy Temple in Sriperumbuthur.

### **'Kalaigiar Sacred Tree Sapling Planting Scheme'**

60. Traditionally, trees symbolize deities and are considered part of various rituals. Every temple is connected to a specific tree and the tree

is considered sacred. '**Kalaignar Sacred Tree Sapling Planting Scheme**' was introduced in memory of the former Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Dr.Kalaignar**. Under this scheme, the Planting of one lakh sacred tree saplings (Thalamarakandru) in the temples throughout the State was planned.

60.1. On 07.08.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the scheme by planting a 'Nagalinga' (cannonball) tree sapling on the premises of the office of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

60.2. In the year 2021-2022, 77,155 sacred tree saplings have been planted on the premises of 3,132 temples. This scheme is being implemented in other temples of Tamil Nadu.

### **Archanai in Annai Tamizh**

61. Tamil Saints of yore propitiated God by chanting verses in Tamil. Thirumandiram,



Devaram, Thiruvagasam, Naalayira Divya prabandham, Thirupugazh etc., rendered by the Saints have not only enriched the Tamil language but also contributed to its growth.

61.1. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced the performance of 'Annai Tamizhil Archanai' in temples. In the first phase, this system has been implemented in 48 senior-grade temples. A placard displays the names of the priests (Gurukkal) and their contact numbers to help devotees avail Tamil Archanai in the respective temples.

The following Pottri books in "ANNAI TAMIZH" were released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 12.08.2021.

1. Arulmigu Vinayagar Pottri
2. Arulmigu Murugavel Pottri
3. Arulmigu Umaiammai Pottri
4. Arulmigu Natarajar Pottri

5. Arulmigu Thenmuga Kadavul Pottri
6. Arulmigu Kothandaramar Pottri
7. Arulmigu Thayar Pottri
8. Arulmigu Durgaiamman Pottri
9. Arulmigu Kaliamman Pottri
10. Arulmigu Mariamman Pottri
11. Arulmigu Hanuman Pottri
12. Arulmigu Sivan Pottri
13. Arulmigu Thirumal Pottri
14. Arulmigu Navakolgal Pottri

### **Annadhanam Scheme**

62. The scheme provides a wholesome meal to the devotees who visit the temples for darshan. In line with the belief and thought of devotees the food provided at the temple under this scheme is sacred. The scheme was started in the year 2002 and is now operational in 754 temples.

## **Day Long Annadhanam for Devotees**

63. In Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple at Srirangam and Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple at Palani, Annadhanam is being provided throughout the day.

63.1. In 2021-2022, this day long scheme has been extended to Tiruchendur Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and Thiruthani Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy Temple.

## **BHOG Certification**

64. To ensure 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 the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). So far, 314 temples have obtained BHOG Certification in the State.

64.1. Of the total number of 396 BHOG Certifications issued in the whole of India, Tamil Nadu stands first with 314 Certifications, accounting for almost 80% of the total certifications.

### **Feeding the poor during the Pandemic**

65. From time immemorial, temples have fed the poor and hungry during famines and droughts. Covid-19 has severely affected the livelihoods of the poor and marginalized sections of society.

65.1. In order to alleviate the suffering 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 Classes**

66. 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**

67. '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.

67.1. Due to the pandemic, on the occasion of Independence Day on 15.08.2021 takeaway food packets with sweets were distributed at 404 temples.

### **Elephant Rejuvenation Camp**

68. 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 Vanabadra Kaliyamman Temple at Mettupalayam. This camp was conducted for a period of 48 days.

68.1. From this year, medical check-ups for the elephants are being done twice a month and special natural foods are provided to 28 Elephants maintained by the temples and 6 Elephants maintained by the mutts.

68.2. Now the Elephants in the temples and mutts are being maintained well in a natural environment with provisions of a splash pool mud bath and walking track.

### **Battery Cars**

69. For the benefit of devotees visiting temples, 22 Battery Cars are operated in eleven temples. The details of temples with battery cars are furnished in Annexure-XII.

## **'Oru Kaala Pooja' Scheme (Scheme for one time 'pooja' in needy temples)**

70. This scheme was launched in 1986 to provide for at least one-time Pooja every day in temples that were not financially endowed to conduct pooja even once a day. A corpus of Rs.1.00 lakh for each temple was created for 12,959 temples to enable the performance of one-time Pooja from the interest earned.

70.1. In the year 2021-2022, a Corpus fund Rs.1.00 lakh for each temple has been enhanced to Rs.2.00 lakh.

70.2. In a move to support the livelihood of 10,109 Archakars working in the above 12,959 temples under the Oru Kala Pooja Scheme, they are being paid a monthly incentive of Rs.1,000/- from September 2021.

## **GOVERNMENT GRANTS**

### **Grant for Incorporated and Un-incorporated temples at Sucheendram, Kanyakumari District Temples**

71. The Government provided an annual grant of Rs.3.00 crore for the administration of 490 Temples, one Women's College, one Higher Secondary School and 2 High Schools in Kanyakumari District.

On 27.12.2021, considering the inflation and increase in the administrative expenses, the above annual grant was enhanced from Rs.3.00 crore to Rs.6.00 crore.

### **Grant for Pudukkottai Devasthanam**

71.1. The Government provided an annual grant of Rs.1.00 crore for the administration of 225 temples formerly under the control of Pudukkottai Samasthanam. On 27.12.2021, considering the inflation and increase in the



administrative expenses, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu enhanced the above annual grant from Rs.1.00 crore to Rs.3.00 crore.

### **Annual Grant for Thiruppani**

71.2. A Government Grant of Rs.6 crore is being sanctioned for Temple Thiruppani (conservation/renovation/restoration) every year for preserving heritage temples.

### **Grant for Manasarovar and Muktinath Pilgrimage**

71.3. Every Hindu believes that he/she should go on a 'Holy Pilgrimage' to Manasarovar and Muktinath at least once in their life time. A grant of Rs.40,000/- each is provided to eligible 500 devotees those who are hindus domiciled in Tamil Nadu to perform pilgrimage to Manasarovar in China every year. Similarly, a grant of Rs.10,000/- each is provided for eligible 500 devotees those who are hindus domiciled in Tamil Nadu to perform pilgrimage to Muktinath in Nepal

every year. Both these grants are provided to those who have applied for grant after their completion of the pilgrimage and this has been granted once at their life time.

### **Special Grant for Conservation works in Heritage Temples**

71.4. A special grant of Rs.100 Crore has been announced by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance during the presentation of the Budget in the year 2022-2023 for taking up conservation works in temples more than 1,000 years old. The identification of temples is in process.

## **FACILITIES FOR DEVOTEES**

### **Pilgrims' Rest Houses**

72. In order to provide accommodation for devotees, Pilgrims Rest Houses have been constructed at Srirangam Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Tiruvannamalai Arulmigu

Arunachaleswarar Temple, Rameswaram Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Alangudi Arulmigu Abathsahayeswarar Temple and Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple. Construction of 'Pilgrims Rest Houses' are in progress at Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple.

72.1. In the year 2021-2022, Rs.35.00 crore has been allotted for the construction of "Pilgrims Rest Houses" for the devotees at Madurai.

### **'Vibuthi' and 'Kumkumam' now mechanically prepared in Temples**

73. 'Special Abishega Vibuthi' is being prepared in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani swamy Temple, Palani. Further, Vibuthi is now being prepared in Thiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Thiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple and

Thiruvanikkaval, Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple in a mechanized manner.

**List of Temples preparing Vibuthi in a mechanised manner**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Temples</b>	<b>Regions to which distributed</b>
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani swamy Temple, Palani	Salem, Dindigul, Erode, Coimbatore, Thanjavur
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple, Thiruchendur	Sivagangai, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Tirupur
3.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Thiruvannamalai	Chennai-1, Chennai-2, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai
4.	Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanikkaval	Tiruchirappalli Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Villupuram, Cuddalore

73.1. Kumkumam is also being prepared with modern machinery in Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundrareswarar Temple, Bannari Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and

Thiruverkadu Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple and distributed to other temples as well.

**List of Temples preparing Kumkumam in a mechanised manner**

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Temples</b>	<b>Regions to which distributed</b>
1	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Thirukoil, Madurai	Madurai, Sivagangai, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi
2	Arulmigu Mariamman Thirukoil, Samayapuram	Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai
3	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Thirukoil, Bannari	Salem, Erode, Coimbatore, Tirupur
4	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Thirukoil, Thiruverkadu	Chennai-1, Chennai-2, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai Cuddalore

## **Distribution of Dhotis and Sarees**

74. In important temples, cotton dhotis and sarees received as offerings are distributed to the elderly persons, destitute women and widows on 'Independence Day' and 'Perarignar Anna Memorial Day'.

74.1. During 2021-2022, on the occasion of Independence Day, 11,526 cotton dhotis / sarees were distributed.

## **Libraries at Temples**

75. 114 Libraries are maintained in temples to nurture the spirituality of the devotees visiting temples.

75.1. Of these 114 libraries, 66 libraries were refurbished and renovated. More devotional books and magazines were also added to the original collections.

## **Control Room at Commissioner Office**

76. As a surveillance measure, 2,064 CCTV cameras were installed in the 48 senior grade temples and connected to the Control Room in the Office of the Commissioner.

76.1. This was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief of Minister of Tamil Nadu on 20.01.2022. The CCTV cameras are monitored in the temple by the Assistant Security Officer and Planning Officer in the office of the Commissioner.

## **Basic Amenities for Devotees**

77. In Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani, New Drinking water Scheme, a Dining hall for Annadhanam, a Lift facility from the upper Rope Car Station, and a Nathamani Mandapam have been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.23.81 crore for the benefit of devotees.

## **Dispensaries**

78. Dispensaries have been started in:-

1. Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple, Tiruchendur
2. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Thiruvannamalai
3. Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple, Tiruthani
4. Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Melmalayanur
5. Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, Sholingar
6. Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple, Maruthamalai

The existing dispensary in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani swamy Temple, Palani has been improved.

## **Free Marriage Scheme for the Differently-Abled**

79. Free Marriage scheme has been announced for differently-abled in temples. Even if one of the couples is differently-abled, no fee will be collected for the performance of marriages



in temples. 33 marriages have been performed under this scheme.

### **Free Tonsuring in Temples**

80. Earlier Tonsuring fee was being collected from devotees. Considering the difficulties faced by the devotees in paying this fee, the fee is now being borne by the temple administration and tonsuring is done free of cost to the devotee.

80.1. At present, Rs.30/- is paid to the person who performs tonsure for each tonsure and additionally an incentive of Rs.5,000/-per month is given to him by the temple administration.

## **CLEANLINESS AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN TEMPLES**

### **'Uzhavarappani' (cleaning works in temples)**

81. It is a customary practice for volunteers to clean temples. This activity is popularly known

as 'Uzhavarappani'. In order to facilitate volunteers taking up this work, an online registration facility has been launched in 48 senior grade temples on 27.07.2021.

### **Prohibiting usage of Plastic in Temple Premises**

82. To maintain the temple premises in a hygienic manner without damaging the environment, the usage of plastic and polythene bags are prohibited and the usage of bags made of cloth and the plates made of areca-nut leaf are being encouraged.

## **SECURITY MEASURES**

### **Security of Temples**

83. Safety Electronic Devices 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**

84. 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, the 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.

### **Icon Centre**

85. In order to protect the priceless Icons of the temples, 34 Icon Centres have been built. Icons of temples located in remote areas without adequate safety measures are being safeguarded by keeping them in these centres. Provision has

been made to take out the icons of temples from the centre for conducting festivals and bring them back to the Icon Centres for safe custody after the festivals.

85.1. There are 8,693 icons kept in the 23 Icon Centres. These Icon Centres are fully equipped with CCTVs, Burglar Alarms and Armed Security Guards. The lists of Icon Centres are provided in Annexure-XIII.

85.2. Further, 11 more Icon Centres have been constructed. Request letter has been sent to the Police Department for 24x7 Police protection in these 11 Icon Centres. The lists of new Icon Centres are provided in Annexure XIV.

### **Strong Rooms**

86. A sum of Rs.308.70 crore has been allotted from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund for the construction of high security strong rooms with

burglar alarms and CCTV facilities to safeguard the icons of temples.

86.1. In the first phase, a strong room has been constructed at a cost of Rs.22.57 lakh at Arulmigu Pasupatheeshwarar Temple, Pandanallur, Thiruvudaimaruthur Taluk, Thanjavur District. A model strong room has also been constructed at Arulmighu Barathwajeswarar Temple, Puliur, Chennai at a cost of Rs.13.21 lakh. Construction of strong rooms in 103 temples are in progress.

### **Scheme for installation of Burglar Alarms**

87. Under the Burglar Alarm Installation Scheme, a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore was created in order to provide financial assistance to the needy temples. So far, Rs.2.05 crore grant has been given to 1,645 temples and burglar alarms have been fixed.

## **Temple Protection Force**

88. A separate wing named **“Temple Protection Force”** was formed for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and valuables in the temples. The sanction was accorded by Government for appointing 1,000 Grade-II Police Constables and 3,000 Ex-Servicemen. The Government have raised the monthly consolidated pay to the Ex-Servicemen in the Temple Protection Force from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.5,000/-.

## **Fire Safety Measures in Temples**

89. Fire safety audit have been conducted in 48 senior grade temples in the first phase with the assistance of the Fire & Rescue Services Department and necessary action has been initiated to strengthen the fire safety measures like fixing the fire-fighting equipment, fire extinguishers, sand / water buckets, electrical circuit breakers, fire hydrants, etc., Sufficient fire

safety training is being imparted to the temple personnel.

## **EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES**

### **Educational Institutions**

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

The classification of Educational Institutions is as follows:-

### **Classification of Educational Institutions**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>No.</b>
1.	Arts & Culture and Science Colleges	9
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
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>



**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, Kanyakumari
5.	Poompuhar College, Melaiyur, Mayiladuthurai
6.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College, Kolathur, Chennai
7.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Arts and Science College, Thiruchencode
8.	Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy Arts and Science College, Ottanchattram, Dindigul
9.	Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Arts and Science College, Vilathikulam, Thoothukkudi

## **Polytechnic College**

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

1.	Arulmigu Periyanaayagi Amman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur
2.	Arulmigu Subramania swamy 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 Subramaniya swamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirupparankundram, Madurai
7.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumara swamy Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tenkasi

8.	Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari
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 Sivaprakasa Swamikal Higher Secondary School, Mailam, Tindivanam, Villupuram

### **High Schools**

1.	Arulmigu Anjuvattathamman Girls High School, Kilvelur, Tiruvarur
2.	Arulmigu Kaliyuga Varadharaja Perumal Girls High School, Kallangurichi, Ariyalur
3.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Temple Girls High School, Thiruvenkadu, Mayiladuthurai
4.	Arulmigu Sundararaja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai

5.	Devaswom High School, Thirparappu, Kanyakumari
6.	Sri Gurugnana Sambander High School, Dharmapuram, Mayiladuthurai

### **Middle Schools**

1.	Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Middle School, Thiruvavaduthurai, Mayiladuthurai
2.	Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Ambalavana Desikar Middle School, Thiruvavaduthurai, Mayiladuthurai

### **Elementary Schools**

1.	Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli
2.	Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple Elementary School, Sankarankoil, Tenkasi
3.	Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Thiruvankadu, Mayiladuthurai
4.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple Elementary School, Palani, Dindigul

5.	Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Elementary School, Thiruvaidaimaruthur, Thanjavur
6.	Thirugnana Sambandar Elementary School, Dharmapuram, Mayiladuthurai
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**

1.	Parasakthi Vidyalaya, Courtallam, Tenkasi
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### **Nadhaswaram and Thavil Music Training Schools**

1.	ArulmiguDhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
2.	Arulmigu Naganatha swamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, Thanjavur.

### **Archagar Patasalas**

1.	Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli
2.	Arulmigu Parthasarathy swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
4.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul
5.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai

### **Veda Agama Patasalas**

1.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Chennai
2.	Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur

### **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 Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul.
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90.1. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College, Kolathur, Chennai on 21.10.2021 and Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Arts and Science College, Thiruchencode, Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy Arts and Science College, Ottanchattram

and Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Arts and Science College, Tiruchendur on 01.12.2021.

90.2. 529 students will be graduating from the above colleges. Of the announced opening of 10 new colleges, 4 colleges have been started already and 6 colleges will be started next year.

### **Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation School, Chennai**

90.3. Land measuring 32 grounds belonging to Kancheepuram, Arulmigu Ekambaranathar temple in which Seetha Kingston House Matriculation Higher Secondary School functioning has been taken possession on 13.06.2021. Since the school had stopped functioning abruptly, considering the welfare of the students, teachers and other employees, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ordered to take over the management by the temple itself. Now, the School has been renamed as "Kancheepuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation Higher



Secondary School” with 887 students and 43 teachers. It is being run by the temple efficiently.

### **Training Schools for Odhuvars**

90.4. Odhuvars are persons trained in Thevaram (Tamil hymns) who sing verses from it during Kala pooja in the Saivite, Ambal and Murugan temples.

Those who have passed the 8<sup>th</sup> standard and in the age group of 13 and 20 years can enroll as students in the three years course conducted by Upgraded Odhuvar Training Schools run by the temples at Madurai and Tiruvannamalai. A monthly stipend of enhanced from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.3,000/- is paid to the enrolled students. Training is being imparted for 16 students this academic year.

## **Training Schools for teaching Nalayira Divya Prabhantham**

90.5. Nalayira Divya Prabhantham is the tamizh hymns sung by 12 Azhwars of the Vaishnava sect. Whenever the Urchavamurthi is taken in procession or kept in a mandapam for pooja and festivals these hymns are sung. In every procession the Nalayira Divya Prabhantham hymns are sung by the people who walk in front of the deity and the Vedas are sung by the people who walk behind the deity.

Sanction has been accorded to start a new Vaishnava Prabhandha Padasalai at the property of Alawanthar Charitable Endowment at Mamallapuram in 2021-2022, costing Rs.96.00 lakh.

## **Social Welfare Institutions**

90.6. Apart from being a place of worship, 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 Differently-Abled.

### **Basic Amenities for Schools and Colleges**

91. For providing basic amenities for schools under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a corpus fund of Rs.10.00 crore has been 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.

91.1. In the year 2021-2022, considering the need for more facilities in the schools and colleges, Rs.25.00 crore has been allotted.

## **GOSHALAS (Cow Protection Centres)**

92. Integrated 'Goshalas' were formed in 4 places viz., Palani, Thiruchendur, Srirangam and Rameswaram to maintain cattle offered as 'Kaanikkai' (offerings). Surplus cattles 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.

## **FESTIVALS FOR TAMIZH HOLY SAINTS**

### **'Sekkizhar Festival'**

93.1. Sekkizhar is a holy saint who authored 'Periya Puranam' a treatise on Lord Shiva. He lived a virtuous and pious life. His birthday is celebrated as a festival.

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 Festival' (sacred Saivite hymns) and 'Sekkizhar Festival' for 12 days every year during the month of August.

### **'Thirugnanasambandar Music Festival'**

93.2. Thirugnanasambandar Music Festival is being celebrated every year on 'Moolam' Star day of Tamil month 'Vaigasi' at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram at Chengalpattu District to honour Saint Thirugnana sambandar, who is one of the religious saints. (One of the celebrated four Saivite saints) The expenditure for the festival is met from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Common Good Fund.

### **'Avvaiyar Festival'**

93.3. 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 Festival 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 on the corpus fund created for this purpose.

### **'Thayumanavar Festival'**

93.4. Every year Thayumanavar Festival is celebrated at Arulmigu Thayumanaswamy Temple at Malaikkottai, Tiruchirappalli. This is an honour for Thayumanavar, tamizh poet and scholar who sung Tamil Devotional songs to the world.

## **'Thiruvalluvar Day'**

93.5. Saint Thiruvalluvar is the author of Thirukkural which has been translated into the most known languages of the world. The book in the format of 1,330 couplets is well known for its deep understanding of human life and is divided into 3 parts Righteousness, Material world and Love.

'Thiruvalluvar Day' is being celebrated in Chennai, Mylapore, Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple every year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Festival'**

93.6. 'Saint Arunagirinathar's attainment of wisdom (Mukthiperu) festival 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 Rs.75 lakh with the donor funds. This saint sung many hymns on Lord Muruga which are famous for their scale, meter and rhyme.

### **'Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Festival'**

93.7. 'Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Festival' is celebrated at Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli District every year on the day of the 'Sathayam' star of Tamil month 'Masi', the birthday of Kochenkatchozha Nayanar, one among the 63 Nayanmars (Tamizh saints who sang Saivite hymns in praise of Lord Siva).



## **'Azhwargal Festival'**

93.8. Azhwargal are 12 saints who attained the lotus feet of Vishnu and sung the four thousand spiritual hymns called Nalayira Divya Prabhantham.

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

## **'Paavai Festival'**

93.9. One of the 12 Azhwars, Saint Andal has sung 30 hymns called 'Thiruppavai' which is sung through the tamizh month of Margazhi.

Thiruvempavai is a collection of hymns extolling the virtues of Lord Shiva and is also sung through the tamizh month of Margazhi.

During the Tamil month of Margazhi, recitation competitions in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai are being conducted in temples every year. Paavai Festival is being conducted every year at the district level. Competitions are being conducted in reciting / essay writing in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai for different categories of students studying upto 5<sup>th</sup> standard, 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard and 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard.

### **Notified Festivals in Temples**

94. The following are the well-known notified festivals conducted in major temples.

Sl. No	Name of Festival & Temple	Place	Tamizh Month
1.	Meenakshi Thirukalyanam at Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple	Madurai	Chithirai
2.	Kallazhagar entering the Vaigai River at Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple	Madurai	Chithirai

Sl. No	Name of Festival & Temple	Place	Tamizh Month
3.	Chithirai Ther at Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple	Srirangam	Chithirai
4.	Chithirai Ther at Arulmigu Mariamman Temple	Samaya -puram	Chithirai
5.	Adi Kiruthigai at Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple	Tiruttani	Aadi
6.	Dasara festival at Arulmigu Mutharamman Temple	Kulasekara - pattinam	Purattasi
7.	Kandasashti, Soorasamharam at Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple	Tiruchen -dur	Iyppasi - Karthigai
8.	Karthigai Deepam at Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple	Tiruvanna -malai	Karthigai
9.	Vaikunda Ekadesi at Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple	Srirangam	Margazhi
10.	Poochorithal Festival at Arulmigu Mariamman Temple	Samaya -puram	Masi
11.	Masi Kodai Festival at Arulmigu Bagavathiamman Temple	Mandai -kadu	Masi

Sl. No	Name of Festival & Temple	Place	Tamizh Month
12.	Kundam festival at Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple	Bannari	Panguni

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **'Thalavaralaru' and 'Thalapuranam'**

95.1. '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**

95.2. 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.

### **“Thirukoil” Monthly Magazine**

95.3. A monthly magazine namely "Thirukoil" is being published since 1958 with note worthy articles along with devotional questions and answers by eminent writers. For the benefit of the subscribers, a new facility has been introduced wherein this magazine can be subscribed to online.

### **Publishing ‘Agamas’ and Other Books in Tamil**

95.4. In order to facilitate everyone to understand the Agama Shastra and Shilpa Shastra, books that are in Sanskrit have been translated and published in Tamil. The popular books viz., “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 also been published.

## **TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

### **Refresher Training Course**

96.1. 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.

### **Administrative Training for Department and Temple staff**

96.2. It is proposed to extend refresher training courses for department and temple staff. For that purpose, an Administrative Training

Centre is being built at an estimated cost of Rs.5 crore at Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani.

### **'Yoga' Classes**

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

## **WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE EMPLOYEES**

### **Details of Welfare Schemes**

97. Different categories of employees are working in temples and the following welfare schemes are implemented for them.

### **Family Benefit Fund Scheme**

97.1. This scheme was introduced to help the legal heirs of the temple employees who die in

harness. A corpus fund of Rs.15.00 crore has been created from the surplus funds of the affluent temples. In this scheme, Rs.3.00 lakh is being granted to the legal heirs of the deceased, who died in harness.

### **Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme**

97.2. "Temple Employees Welfare Fund" is having a corpus fund of Rs.6.50 crore derived from the surplus funds of affluent temples. The salary arrears of temple employees whose monthly income is less than Rs.750/-, and who are working in temples which are having an annual income of less than Rs.1.00 lakh, is being disbursed out of the interest accrued from this corpus.

97.3. Besides, for the employees working in temples having an annual income of Rs.1.00 lakh and above, Rs.5,000/- 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**

97.4. "Appointment orders on Compassionate Grounds" are being issued to the legal heirs of temple employees who die while in service. 22 legalheirs of temple employees have been given appointments on compassionate grounds.

### **Appointment of Musicians and Odhuvars**

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

### **Pension Scheme**

97.6. Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divyaprabandham Reciters and Isai Kalaighars who have served 20 years in temples

and have attained 60 years of age were being paid a monthly pension of Rs.1,000/-.

This year, the monthly pension has been enhanced to Rs.3,000/-. In this scheme 100 pensioners are benefited.

### **Pension Scheme for Other Temple Employees**

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

#### **(i) Employees Provident Fund Scheme**

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 under Employees Provident Fund Scheme.

## **(ii) Departmental Pension Scheme**

For 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, 4977 employees are benefitting from this scheme. In 2021-2022, pension orders were issued to 106 temple employees.

## **(iii) Family Pension**

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. 172 persons have benefited so far.

In the year 2021-2022, family pension orders were issued to the spouse of 54 deceased employees.

### **Distribution of New Dresses to Archakas and Uniforms to the Temple Staff**

97.8. New dresses for Archakas and Uniforms for temple staff have been distributed to commemorate the occasion of Tamizhar Thirunal of Thai. Totally 17,655 temple staff have benefitted, under this scheme.

### **Revised Pay Fixation for Temple Employees**

97.9. Following the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission to the Government servants, pay revision has been implemented for the temple employees also. Until now, 2,293 employees of 48 senior grade temples benefitted from this revised pay fixation.

## **Regularisation of Temporary Temple Employees**

97.10. The temple employees are appointed by the Trustees of the respective temples. Many temples' employees are recruited temporarily by the trustees and some of them have been working for more than 10 years as well. The Government has issued a Government Order for the regularization of 1221 temple employees who have worked continuously for 5 years. In the first instance, 425 employees are being regularised.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister issued regularisation orders for 33 persons on 25.04.2022.

## **WELFARE SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIS**

### **Village Temple Poosaris Welfare Board**

98. 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 and welfare benefits are being distributed to those poosaris.

The Government have increased the financial assistance to the legalheirs to perform the last rites of the deceased member from Rs.2,000/- to Rs.5000/-. Free spectacles, marriage assistance, educational assistance and women's welfare assistance are provided to the members of the Board. The financial assistance provided to the legalheirs of the deceased member has been increased from Rs.15,000/- to Rs.50,000/.

### **Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme**

98.1. The monthly pension of Rs.3,000/- was given to the retired Poosaris who have attained 60 years of age and served for more than 20 years in village temples that are not directly falling under the control of this Department.

In the year 2021-2022, the monthly pension has been enhanced from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.4,000/- and under this scheme, 3,440 Village Poosaris are benefitted.

## **COMPUTERIZATION OF DEPARTMENT AND TEMPLE ACTIVITIES**

99. The 'Integrated Temple Management System' was commissioned in 2021 to usher the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department into the digital age so as to bring all the advantages of digital world like robust security, transparency and accountability. The aim of ITMS is the enhancement of the devotees' temple experience in the digital age. The various services offered by every temple in the State have now been mapped onto this platform and their respective payment links with banks have also been established.

Temples are given independence to decide what services to map onto ITMS, what services to

offer to devotees, updating of idol / icon information and updating of land records. With the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), modules covering all major aspects of temple administration and activities have been created. Modules in current use include Land reclamation, Geographic Information System (GIS), Court Cases, Temple property, E-Tenders, Mobile application, Annadhanam, Temple and Icon information, Demand Collection Balance (DCB) and online temple e-services.

Administrative Modules include

- Property registers
- Approved budgets and audit reports
- Land property information
- Thiruppani
- Court module
- GIS Integration
- Temple Property DCB
- E-Tenders
- Temple Receipts & Payments
- Pension Disbursement



Devotee Related Modules include

- Temple Information
- Online Booking Service
- Mobile App Integration
- Online Grievance Redressal
- Annadhanam

The objective of the ITMS includes the enhancement of the devotees' spiritual experience and convenience in using digital transactions, while preserving the temples ancient traditions, customs and agamic rules. Complementing this is the administrative aspect of the ITMS that enhances the department's regulatory abilities in preserving temple records, monitoring finances, ensuring the halting of possible pilferage of temple wealth, creating a repository to store the legal judgements pertaining to temples, creating a repository of the temples' spiritual assets (idols/icons), facilitating the electronic monitoring of temples land and land revenue, and facilitate donations to renovations of temples. The

seamless integration of the public interfacing and the administrative aspects of Tamil Nadu's temple eco-system rests on the backbone of the ITMS.

The DCB module was launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department on 8th October 2021. Since then, Rs.167.43 crore has been collected. The online temple services launched on 11th April 2022 have so far seen a total of 1,118 online transactions amounting to Rs.8.7 lakh.

Incidentally, the Department is actively exploring avenues to constantly improve the ITMS system and ease the pilgrims' experience of darshan. Equally, important to the department is the ensuring of transparency and accountability of temple services by ushering in the practical aspects of the digital age in both administration and spiritual promotion.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Government has announced its intention to fine-tune and fastrack the administrative machinery to ensure transparency and accountability of the administration. The intention of the Government is manifested in the Announcements made in the year 2021-2022 which covers almost all aspects of the Temple Administration.

A major thrust is given for the removal of encroachments and retrieval of land belonging to temples and endowments. The welfare of service holders of the temple is also another area of concern for the administration.

A major step in advancement is the foray into digitalisation taken up by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department which has created a strong sense of transparency and accountability. The seamless integration of online booking services for various requirements of the devotees like darshan,

pooja, booking of rooms and cottages for stay, in this digital age has fulfilled the aspirations of the younger generation.

The Government is taking earnest steps to ensure proper administration and maintenance of the temples besides fulfilling the desires of the devotees, by introducing several new schemes for the welfare of the temples and devotees. Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department will work relentlessly with a deep sense of dedication and will continue to provide effective and efficient administration.

**P.K. SEKAR BABU**

MINISTER FOR HINDU RELIGIOUS AND  
CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

**Annexure - I**  
**Institutions under Hindu Religious and**  
**Charitable Endowments Department**

1.	Temples	36,635
2.	Mutts	45
3.	Temples attached to Mutts	68
4.	Specific Endowments	1,721
5.	Charitable Endowments	189
6.	Jain Temples	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38675</b>

## Annexure - II

### Classification of the Religious Institutions

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Number of Institutions/ Percentage (%)</b>
1.	Non-listed Institutions – Under Section 49(1)	less than Rs.10,000/-	34,119 (88.22%)
2.	Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i)	Rs.10,000/- to less than Rs.2 lakh	3,528 (9.12%)
3.	Under Section 46(ii)	Rs.2 lakh to less than Rs.10 lakh	492 (1.27%)
4.	Under Section 46(iii)	Rs.10 lakh and above	536 (1.39%)
		<b>Total</b>	<b>38,675</b>

## Annexure – III

### Contribution Fees under Section 92(1)

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

### **Audit Fees under Section 92(2)**

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

### **Annexure-IV**

#### **Departmental Staff at Commissioner's Office**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>
1.	Additional Commissioner (Admin)-[I.A.S]	1
2.	Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)	1
3.	Additional Commissioner (Education and Religious Institutions)	1
4.	Additional Commissioner (General)	1



<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>
5.	Joint Commissioner (Headquarters)	1
6.	Joint Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1
7.	Joint Commissioner (Thiruppani)	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.	Assistant Commissioner (Headquarters)	4
12.	Editor, "Thirukoil" Monthly Magazine	1

## Annexure – V

### Staff on Deputation at Commissioner's Office

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>	<b>Parent Department</b>
1.	Chief Engineer	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
2.	Special Officer (TempleLands) (District Revenue Officer Cadre)	4	Revenue Department
3.	Superintending Engineer	1	Public Works Department / Highways Department
4.	Executive Engineer	2	Public Works Department / Highways Department
5.	Assistant Divisional Engineer	3	Public Works Department / Highways Department

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>	<b>Parent Department</b>
6	Special Tahsildar	2	Revenue Department
7.	Assistant Engineer/ Technical Assistant	1	Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited
8.	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	3	Public Works Department / Highways Department
9.	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	2	Energy Department
10	Senior Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department/ Highways Department
11.	Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department / Highways Department
12.	Junior Draughting Officer	4	Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>	<b>Parent Department</b>
13.	Senior Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
14.	Assistant Accounts Officer	1	Treasuries and Accounts Department
15.	Joint Director/ Public Relation Officer	1	Information and Public Relations Department

**Annexure - VI**  
**Jurisdiction of Officers**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
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
4.	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	4. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur District
		5. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore	Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet Districts

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
5.	Joint Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai	6. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvanna-malai	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 The Nilgris Districts

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
9.	Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	13. Assistant Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	Mayiladuthurai District
		14. Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam	Kumbakonam and Thiruvaidaimaruthur 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 Thiruvaidaimarudur 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)

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
		20. Assistant Commissioner, Perambalur	Perambalur District, Lalgudi and Thuraiyur Revenue Taluks of Tiruchirappalli District
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)



<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
		28. Assistant Commissioner, Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar District
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

**Annexure VII**  
**Renovation and Conservation Wing**

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Nos.</b>
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
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>

## **Annexure VIII**

### **Classification of Executive Officers**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Grade of the Executive Officers</b>	<b>Post</b>
1.	Joint Commissioner	11
2.	Deputy Commissioner	9
3.	Assistant Commissioner	27
4.	Executive Officer – Grade I	100
5.	Executive Officer – Grade II	117
6.	Executive Officer –Grade III	250
7.	Executive Officer –Grade IV	154
	<b>Total</b>	<b>668</b>

## **Annexure - IX**

### **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

## Annexure - X

### Temples having Golden Chariots

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
2.	Arulmigu Muthukumara Swamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai
3.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai
4.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
5.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu
6.	Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai
7.	Arulmigu Vaidyanatha Swamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil
8.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Temple, Echanari, Coimbatore
9.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
10.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple, Sankarankovil
12.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri (Sapparam)
14.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri
16.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Sivanmalai
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Mangadu
19.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram
20.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur
21.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Maruthamalai

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
22.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari
23.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
24.	Arulmigu Marundeeswarar Temple, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai
25.	Arulmigu Velayuthaswamy Temple, Thindalmai, Erode
26.	Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple, Adyar, Chennai
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinatha Swamy Temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi
28.	Arulmigu Mundagakanni Amman Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Temple, Oppiliappankoil, Kumbakonam
30.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruparankundram
31.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Karur
32.	Arulmigu Dhandumariamman Temple, Coimbatore
33.	Arulmigu Chandrachudeswarar Temple, Hosur



<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
34.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval
35.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy Temple, Namakkal
36.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettipalayam
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kalamman Temple, Ariyakurichi
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal
41.	Arulmigu Vekkalamman Temple, Uraiyyur, Tiruchirappalli
42.	Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Temple, Salem
43.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Salem
44.	Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkoil, Madurai
45.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sholingur, Ranipet

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
46.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur, 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 Bathra kaliyamman Temple, Madapuram, Sivagangai
55.	Arulmigu Thanthondreeswarar Temple, Belur, Salem.
56.	Arulmigu Baladhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Sukkiravarapettai, Coimbatore

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
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 Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Nagapattinam
64.	Arulmigu Bhagavathi Amman Temple, Mandaikkadu, Kanyakumari
65.	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Kalvidangam, Sangagiri Taluk, Salem

**Annexure - XI**  
**Temples having Silver Chariots**

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
2.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
4.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
5.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai
8.	Arulmigu Adhikumbeswarar Temple, Kumbakonam
9.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur
10.	Arulmigu Vaidyanatha Swamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil
11.	Arulmigu Sattanatha Swamy Temple, Sirkazhi

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
12.	Arulmigu Mayuranatha Swamy Temple, Mayiladuthurai
13.	Arulmigu Mariamman, Angalamman Temple, Pollachi
14.	Arulmigu Prasanna Vinayagar Temple, Udumalpet
15.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu
16.	Arulmigu Kolanjiappar Temple, Manavalanallur
17.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram
19.	Arulmigu Muthukumara Swamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai
20.	Arulmigu Tiruvenkadamudayan Temple, Ariyakudi
21.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha Swamy Temple, Kundrakudi
22.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Keelasevalpatti
23.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman Temple, Natarasankottai
24.	Arulmigu Koppudaya Nayagiamman Temple, Karaikudi

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
25.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan (A) Meenakshi Sundaeswarar 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 Balasubramania Swamy Temple, Ayikudi, Tirunelveli
31.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Thottiyam, Tiruchirappalli
32.	Arulmigu Sivasubramania Swamy Temple, Neyveli
33.	Arulmigu Veyuluku Uganda Vinayagar Temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram
34.	Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Dindigul
35.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram
36.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dhandayuthapani swamy Temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
38.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai
39.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint, Chennai
40.	Arulmigu Katchabeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram
41.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy 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 Subramania Swamy Temple, Saidapet, Chennai
48.	Arulmigu Bragathambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai
49.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Koilkandhankudi, Tiruvarur

## Annexure-XII

### Temples with Battery Cars

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple	No. of Battery Cars
1.	Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Srirangam	3
2.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani	3
3.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur	3
4.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani	1
5.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur	1
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai	2
7.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur	1
8.	Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval	1
9.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai	2
10.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram	3
11.	Arulmigu Kapaleswarar Temple, Mylapore	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>



**Annexure-XIII**  
**Icon centers**

1.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy 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 Patteeswara Swamy Temple, Perur, Coimbatore
11.	Arulmigu Brahadambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai
12.	Arulmigu Tiruvappudaiyar Temple, Chellur, Madurai
13.	Arulmigu Sundararaja Perumal Temple, Sivagangai

14.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur (Additional Centre)
15.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur
16.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
17.	Arulmigu Kaliamma Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri
18.	Arulmigu Aanjaneya Swamy Temple, Villupuram
19.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar
20.	Arulmigu Malaikavalar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal (Sub Temple of Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple)
21.	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur
22.	Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramana Swamy Temple, Perundurai, Erode
23.	Arulmigu Gowmariamman Temple, Veerapandi, Theni

## **Annexure-XIV**

### **ICON CENTRES - CONSTRUCTED**

1.	Arulmigu Naganatha Swamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, Thanjavur
2.	Arulmigu Madhanagopala Swamy and Brahmapureeswarar Temple, Perambalur
3.	Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagarcoil, Kanyakumari
4.	Joint Commissioner's Office complex, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thanjavur
5.	Arulmigu Kaliasman Temple, Thanthondrimalai, Karur
6.	Arulmigu Alanthuraiyar and Kothandarama Swamy 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 Subramania Swamy Temple)
10.	Arulmigu Parimalarenganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai
11.	Arulmigu Kapartheeswarar Temple, Thiruvalanchuzhi, Kumbakonam



Inauguration of Kalaignar Sacred Tree Sapling Planting Scheme by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the office of the Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, on 07.08.2021.



Opening of Call Centre to hear the grievance of the public at the office of the commissioner for Hindu Religious and charitable Endowments department by the Honourable minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department, on 25.06.2021.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released Archanai Books in Annai Thamizh, on 12.08.2021.



On 14-08-2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed the Appointment orders to the 24 Archakas, who got trained in the Archakas training schools started under the scheme persons belonging to all castes can become Archakas in Temples.



On 14-08-2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed the Appointment orders to the 24 Archakas, who got trained in the Archakas training schools started under the scheme persons belonging to all castes can become Archakas in Temples. Group photo taken by the beneficiaries with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.





The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the scheme of "Disbursement of monthly incentive of Rs.1000/- to Archakas / Bhattacharyas / Poojaris performing pooja service in 12959 Our Kala Pooja Scheme temples on 11-9-2021 at Thiruvanmiyur.



On 11.09.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the scheme of providing a monthly incentive of Rs. 1000/- to the Archakas / Bhattacharyas / Poojaris of beneficiary temples under "Oru Kala Pooja" Scheme. Group photo taken by the beneficiaries with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.



The Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Urban and Water supply and the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department inspected the care provided to the temple elephant in Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval, Trichirapalli.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed the appointment order to persons selected for teaching and non teaching posts of Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College, Chennai on 21.10.2021.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu opened Kanchipuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Chennai through Video Conferencing and distributed uniform dresses and school bags to students on 01.11.2021.



On 08.12.2021, Commemorating the launch of the Scheme "Free marriage for the differently abled in temples", the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu blessed the couples, whose marriage was arranged at Arulmigu Parthasarathiswamy Temple, Triplicane and delivered the order with gifts.



On 24.12.2021, The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched the scheme of providing enhanced stipend of Rs. 3000/- per month from Rs. 1,000/- to the students, who undergo training for Archaka, Prabhantham reciter, Vedhaparayanar and Musical Instruments playing in the training schools run by temples.



On 27.12.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu delivered a cheque for the amount of Rs. 6 Crore as the enhanced Government grant to the Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer of Kanyakumari District Temples to mete out the administrative expenses.





On 04.01.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the distribution of new dresses to Archakas / Bhattacharyas / Odhuvars and 2 sets of uniform to other temple staff.



Advisory Committee meeting held on 20.01.2022 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the office of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department.



Group photo taken by the members of the Advisory committee with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, on 20-01-2022.



On 20.01.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated 'The Control Room' in the office of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department, which is Connected to the CCTV Cameras installed in Senior Grade Temples.



On 24.01.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu appreciated the Executive Officers of the temples for getting 'BHOG' Certificate issued by FSSAI for providing quality food in the temples and distributed certificates to 10 Officers.



On 25.04.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu laid the foundation stone for the additional building at the office of the commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.



Green fodder cultivation for the Elephant and Ghosala at Thiruvanaikaval.



On 25-04-2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin delivered the service regularisation orders to the staff working on daily wages / Consolidated Pay on temporary basis for more than 5 years in temples.



