



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



**POLICY NOTE  
2017-2018**

**Demand  
No. 47**



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Minister for Hindu Religious and  
Charitable Endowments Department

**Tourism, Culture and Religious  
Endowments Department**

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**Introduction**

Tamil Nadu has gained worldwide fame not just because of the Classical Tamil but also for the temples which are spread over every village. Hence, the adage is appropriate that states “கோயில் இல்லா ஊரில் குடியிருக்க வேண்டாம்” which means “Do not reside in a place where there is no temple”.

The emperors of Chera, Chola, Pandiya and Pallava dynasties built the temples revealing

the high religious philosophies embodied in the marvelous sculpture and architecture with sky scraping towers as the repositories of the ageless art and culture of the Tamils.

In consonance with the holy verses of Saint Appar Swamigal,

“பக்தியால் ஏத்திநின்று  
பணிபவர் நெஞ்சத்துள்ளார்...”

renovation of temples aims to facilitate worship of the Almighty who resides in the minds of the pious and devoted and help in fulfilling the wishes of devotees. Temples, apart from being places of worship remained as institutions preaching morals and homes which cured the sick. Even today, temples are running educational institutions, homes for children in need of care and Vedha Agama and Odhuvars Training schools, following the old tradition.

As envisioned by the then **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is earnestly carrying out the massive task of preserving and maintaining the ancient temples by properly managing their properties and by executing many schemes meticulously.

## **I-LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act**

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

modifications, examining the various prior enactments.

3. This Act is actually a successor to several previous enactments, the earliest of which was the Madras Endowments and Escheats Regulation No.VII of 1817. It was repealed by Act XX of 1863. The 1863 Act was replaced by the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926 (Act II of 1927), by which a statutory body called the "Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Board" was created. The Board was later abolished by Act XIX of 1951, which vested the administration of Religious and Charitable Endowments in a hierarchy of officers of defined jurisdiction and headed by a Commissioner. The 1951 Act was repealed by the present Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Act 22 of 1959) which also created a hierarchy of



authorities such as the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

4. This Act prescribes the rights and duties of the Commissioner and other Subordinate Officers of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. It also states various means for improving the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions. The provisions of the Act have been extended to Jain Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments.

### **Hindu Religious Institutions**

5. There are 38,635 Hindu Religious and Jain Religious Institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The details are as follows:-

1.	Temples	36,595
2.	Holy Mutts	56

3.	Temples attached to Holy Mutts	57
4.	Specific Endowments	1,721
5.	Charitable Endowments	189
6.	Jain Temples	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38,635</b>

### **Classification of the Hindu Religious Institutions**

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

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Classification of Religious Institutions</b>	<b>Annual Income of Institution</b>	<b>Number of Institutions</b>
1.	Non listed Institutions – Under Section 49(1)	Having an annual income less than Rs.10,000/-	34,082
2.	Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i)	Having an annual income of Rs.10,000/- and less than Rs.2 lakh.	3,550

Sl. No.	Classification of Religious Institutions	Annual Income of Institution	Number of Institutions
3.	Under Section 46(ii)	Having an annual income of Rs.2 lakh and less than Rs.10 lakh.	672
4.	Under Section 46(iii)	Having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above.	331
		<b>Total</b>	<b>38,635</b>

### Administrative Structure

7. The Commissioner, functions as the Administrative Head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department responsible to maintain, protect and monitor the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions according to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

8. In order to assist the Commissioner in the activities such as general administration, establishment, management of movable and

immovable properties of religious institutions, tiruppani, court cases, audit, etc., the following officers are serving in the headquarters:-

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

The cadre strength of officers in the headquarters from other departments are as below:-

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

12.	Assistant Accounts Officer	1	Treasury Department
13.	Chief Audit Officer (Deputy Secretary Cadre)	1	Finance Department
14.	Deputy Director / Public Information Officer	1	Information & Public Relations Department

### Regional and District Administration

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

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

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
		6. Assistant Commissioner, Salem	Salem District
		7. Assistant Commissioner, Namakkal	Namakkal District
4.	Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore	8. Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore	Coimbatore & Nilgris Districts
		9. Assistant Commissioner, Erode	Erode District
		10. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruppur	Tiruppur District
5.	Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur	11. Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur	Thanjavur District (Except Tiruvidaimarudur & Kumbakonam Taluks)
		12. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam District (Except Sirkazhi, Mayiladuthurai, Kuthalam & Tarangambadi Taluks)
		13. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur District

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
6.	Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	14. Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam	Tiruidaimarudur, Kumbakonam Taluks in Thanjavur District & Mayiladuthurai, Sirkazhi, Kuthalam & Tarangambadi Taluks in Nagapattinam District
7.	Joint Commissioner, Villupuram	15. Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore	Cuddalore District
		16. Assistant Commissioner, Villupuram	Villupuram District
		17. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai District
8.	Joint Commissioner, Trichirappalli	18. Assistant Commissioner, Trichirappalli	Trichirappalli District
		19. Assistant Commissioner, Ariyalur	Perambalur & Ariyalur Districts
		20. Assistant Commissioner, Pudukkottai	Pudukkottai District

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

## **Inspectors**

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

## **Personal Assistants**

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

## **Deputy Commissioner, Palani**

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

## **Verification Officers**

13. To appraise the jewels and other valuable articles of the Temples, there is one Verification Officer in the cadre of Joint Commissioner at Headquarters, six Verification Officers in the cadre of Deputy Commissioner in seven Joint Commissioners' Regions and four Verification Officers in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner in four Joint Commissioners' regions. In addition, there are also 11 Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialists and 11 Junior Technical Assistants to help the Verification Officer in appraising the jewels and other valuable articles of the temple. The Government have issued orders in 2016 for the appointment of women also in the post of Gold-cum-Silver-cum-Gem Specialist and Junior Technical Assistant.

### **Senior Accounts Officers**

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

### **Engineers**

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

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

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

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

18. In order to carry out the Tiruppani works in temples, 4 Senior Draughting Officer posts in Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Tiruchengode Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple and 4 Draughting Officer posts in Vadapalani Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple,

Trichirappalli Malaikottai Arulmigu  
Thayumanaswamy Temple, Azhagarkoil  
Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple and Namakkal  
Arulmigu Narasimhaswamy Temple have been  
created to work in the offices of four Executive  
Engineers in the Joint Commissioner Regions at  
Chennai, Trichirappalli, Madurai and Salem.

### **Departmental Sthapathi**

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

renovation / restoration activities are in  
consonance with Shilpa Shastra.

### **Regional Sthapathis**

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

Due to these appointments every division  
has one Sthapathi and the conservation works



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

### **Executive Officers**

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

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

### **Laptop to Officials**

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

### **Administration of Mutts**

23. At present there are 56 Holy Mutts under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. In order to monitor the administration of these Holy Mutts, an Audit Section consisting of one Regional Audit Officer, one Superintendent, two Inspectors, two Audit Inspectors, two Assistants, two Junior Assistants and one Typist are functioning in the Headquarters to assist the Commissioner.

## **Audit of Religious Institutions**

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

## **High Level Advisory Committee**

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

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

## **Constitution of District Committees**

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

## **Appointment of Trustees**

27. For administering Hindu Religious Institutions under the Hindu Religious and

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

### **Qualifications for appointment of Trustee**

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

a) if he has faith in God;

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

### **Power to appoint Trustees**

#### **Government**

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

### **Commissioner**

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

### **Joint Commissioner**

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

### **Assistant Commissioner**

32. Three Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions under

Section 49(1) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of less than Rs.10,000 are appointed by the respective Divisional Assistant Commissioners.

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

### **Appointment of Fit Person**

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

## II-LAND ADMINISTRATION

### Land Details

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

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

36. 22,600 buildings and 33,665 vacant sites owned by Hindu Religious Institutions are leased out. Further, the agricultural lands are leased out to 1,23,729 lessees. For the last 6 years an income of Rs.838.10 crore was received from the immovable assets. In the year

2016-2017 an income of Rs.141.10 crore has been received.

### Fixation of Fair Rent

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

### Revenue Courts

38. Revenue courts are functioning with Special Deputy Collectors in order to file cases regarding collection of arrears of land lease revenue, fixation of fair rent for the agricultural

lands and eviction of the lessees, who refuse to pay lease amount under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act, 1961 who are in default.

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

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

39. Among the above Revenue Courts the four Revenue Courts at Lalgudi, Mannargudi, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli have been formed during the year 2012-2013 and are functioning. During the financial year 2016-2017 out of 16511 cases, 9629 cases have been disposed and a sum of Rs.438.34 lakh out of decreed sum of Rs.1783.59 lakh have been collected. In the

past six years, a total sum of Rs.1034.07 lakh lease arrears was collected. Necessary steps are being taken for collecting the entire lease arrears.

### **Retrieval of Lands**

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

41. In the past six years, Pattas of 5559.08 acres of temple lands belonging to 789 temples wrongly transferred in the names of private persons, were identified and restored in the name of temples. In the year 2016-2017 pattas of 1119.65 acres of lands belonging to

70 temples were ordered to be restored to the temples.

42. In the past six years after finding that in the computerized chittas, the registration of temple lands were changed and entered in the names of private persons, pattas of 596.22 acres of land belonging to 141 temples were restored. In the year 2016-2017, 13.29 acres belonging to 3 temples for which pattas have been wrongly issued to private individuals were restored to the temples.

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

### **Appointment of retired Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Surveyors**

44. To restore the pattas of the lands of Hindu Religious Institutions transferred wrongly in the names of private individuals, 9 retired Deputy Collectors, 21 retired Tahsildars, 14 retired Surveyors, 1 retired Revenue Inspector and 5 retired Village Administrative Officers have been appointed on consolidated pay.

### **Removal of Encroachment**

45. Encroachment of lands of Hindu Religious Institutions to the extent of 2315.97 acres of land, 468.1774 grounds of sites and 179.1374 grounds of buildings, were removed and brought back to the possession of temples in the past six years. The total market value of these assets is approximately Rs.2887.22 crore. For the year 2016-2017, 338.60 acres of cultivable lands, 152.1372 grounds of sites and 24.0876 grounds of buildings were taken

possession, their total value being approximately Rs.467.10 crore.

### **Regularisation of Group Encroachments**

46. Steps were taken to regularize the persons who have encroached temple lands for residence in groups and living there for more than 30 years subject to the following conditions:-

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

47. During 2011-2016, 6066 encroachers who had occupied 298.64 acres of land were regularized as tenants and No Objection Certificates were issued to them to avail facilities such as connection for drinking water supply and electricity.

### **III-SPECIAL SCHEMES**

#### **Annadhanam Scheme**

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

– மணிமேகலைக் காப்பியம்

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

49. This noble Scheme of providing Annadhanam to devotees who visit temple to receive grace of God was implemented in



360 temples. During 2006-2011, this scheme was extended only to 2 temples.

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

Everyday 65,300 devotees are benefitted under this scheme in 754 temples and Rs.16.32 lakh is being spent per day.

### **Day Long Annadhanam**

51. The Day Long Annadhanam Scheme at Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple was launched on 13.09.2012 by **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. Simultaneously, this scheme was inaugurated at Palani, Arulmigu

Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple. About 7765 devotees are being benefitted daily under this scheme and a sum of Rs.1.72 lakh is spent daily. Devotees can have food at any time from morning 8 a.m. to night 10 p.m. This scheme has won much appreciation from devotees.

### **Spiritual and Moral Classes**

52. As desired by the **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, spiritual and moral classes are conducted on all Saturdays in all important temples to make our children imbibe the high moral and ethical values enshrined in our ancient Tamil literature through stories which embody our cultural heritage and tradition.

These children are provided with snacks during such classes.

During the year 2016-2017, 29885 students participated in the spiritual and moral classes in 485 temples.

### **Special Poojas and Common Feasts**

53. Special Poojas and Common Feasts are being conducted in temples every year on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna Memorial Day, inviting people from all communities without discrimination. During 2016-2017, Special Poojas and Common Feasts were conducted in 787 temples.

### **Elephant Rejuvenation Camps**

54. In tune with the sublime concept of **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** reflected in the lines "Like human beings all other living beings also deserve the same mercy and kindness", Elephant Camp was organized well in a cool and

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

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

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

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

58. In 2015-2016, 29 Temple and Mutt Elephants and 2 elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp.

59. In 2016-2017, 31 Temple and Mutt Elephants and 2 Elephants from Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the camp. The elephants of Temples and Mutts which were unable to participate in this camp were also given the same nutritious food and medicines as

supplied in the camp for better physical and mental health. In this camp, training was given not only for elephants but also for the mahouts. They were taught on safety and maintenance of elephants to keep them healthy. The entire expenditure of this camp is borne by the Government.

### **Marriage Scheme for the Poor and Downtrodden**

60. The noble Scheme of marriages for the poor and downtrodden people belonging to the Hindu religion was first launched in 1981 by the then **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R.** from the surplus fund of temple. People belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes benefitted under the Scheme. **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** performed the marriages of

1008 couples in 2002 and 1053 couples in 2003 at Thiruverkadu. Further, marriages were also conducted for 489 couples in few temples. This noble scheme was given up during the year 2006–2011. As ordered by the **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** during the year 2012-2013, marriages for 1006 couples have been conducted on 18.06.2012 at a venue near Thiruverkadu Temple in a grand manner by providing 4 grams of Gold for Thirumangalyam and wedding gifts worth Rs.10,000 each. A sum of Rs.1.51 crore was spent for this scheme.

### **Cable Cars**

61. As ordered by the **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** Cable Car facility was first introduced at an estimated cost of Rs.4 crore in Palani Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple on

3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2004 for the benefit of the devotees. Following the appreciation received from the devotees for this facility, agreement has also been entered to provide new cable cars for Sholingur Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple and at Karur, Ayyarmalai, Arulmigu Rathinagireeswarar Temple and works are in progress.

### **Battery Cars**

62. **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated a six seater Battery Car on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple for the benefit of the differently abled and elders. This scheme is greatly appreciated by devotees. Battery Cars are operated in the following ten temples:-

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

### Government Grant for Kanyakumari District Temples

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

### Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme

64. This scheme was launched in 1986 to perform Oru Kaala Pooja in Temples which were not in a position to conduct pooja even once daily. To enable the public to participate in this scheme, in 1993 **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** issued an order that when a contribution of Rs.2,500/- is

received from the public, Rs.20,000/- from the surplus fund of the affluent temples, Rs.1,300/- from the Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund and Rs.1,200/- from the Temple Development Fund will be contributed, thus making a total of Rs.25,000/- to be deposited as fixed deposit under this scheme.

65. After **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** took charge in 2011, considering that the interest amount from the deposit of Rs.25,000/- is not sufficient, ordered for the increase of permanent deposit (corpus) to Rs.1 lakh for every temple. Under this scheme, 11,931 temples were benefitted. This scheme has been carried out by an allotment of an 'one time Government grant' of Rs.59.48 crore and by allotting Rs.30 crore diverted from the surplus fund of affluent temples. Further, this scheme has been extended to 68 temples during 2014-2015 and

the scheme was implemented in 11,999 temples.

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

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

### **Pooja Articles for Small Temples**

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

### **Revival of Kaala Poojas in Ancient Temples**

69. This scheme was evolved with a view to set right the setbacks in the performance of Kaala Poojas at Temples that are glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars. This scheme provides means for performing Kaala Poojas at Temples utilizing the surplus fund of the affluent

temples. Under this scheme, 50 needy temples received financial assistance from the funds of 19 affluent temples during 2001-2006. For 2017-2018, 89 temples are receiving a grant of Rs. 1,19,70,000/- from the Common Good Fund.

### **IV-TIRUPPANI**

#### **Tiruppani (Conservation, Restoration and Renovation)**

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

As per this proverbial saying, the **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** had ordered to conserve / restore and to renovate the historical, ancient temples, holy shrines glorified by the hymns of the Alwars and Nayanmars, temples visited by devotees in large numbers with prathanai, village temples and temples located in the

habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities.

### **Tiruppani Fund**

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

- Donation
- Temple Fund
- Diversion of surplus fund of the Temple
- Government Grant
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administrative Fund
- Common Good Fund
- Temple Development Fund
- Village Temple Renovation Fund
- Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund
- Donor works

- Renovation Fund for the temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities
- Finance Commission Grant
- Tourism Fund

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

### **Donation**

73. Conservation / Renovation / Restoration works are carried out from the donations voluntarily contributed by industrialists, private institutions, wealthy persons, common public and persons having faith in divinity, spirituality and religious affinity. In the past six years, the estimates for Tiruppani through donations for a value of Rs.35.66 crore



in 577 temples were sanctioned. During 2016-2017, estimates for a value of Rs.1.53 crore were sanctioned to carry out 10 works in 10 temples through donations.

### **Temple Fund**

74. Affluent temples carry out conservation/ renovation / restoration from their own surplus fund. During the last six years Rs.282.87 crore was allotted from the Temple Funds for Tiruppani of 948 temples. During 2016-2017, Rs.33.71 crore was allotted from the Temple Fund for Tiruppani of 127 temples.

### **Diversion of Surplus Fund of the Temples**

75. According to section 36 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the temples which are short of funds, receive funds by way of diversion from the surplus fund of the affluent temples. In the last six years, financial assistance of Rs.22.57 crore was sanctioned for

169 temples for Tiruppani works. During 2016-2017 for Tiruppani works of 36 temples, financial assistance of Rs.6 crore was sanctioned by diversion.

### **Government Grant**

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

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

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

### **Common Good Fund**

78. A separate fund viz., "Common Good Fund" in the name of the Commissioner was created out of voluntary donations given by the individuals and the contributions made by the Hindu Religious Institutions. For the last six years a sum of Rs.71.12 crore was disbursed for conservation / renovation / restoration work in 907 temples. Rs.10.73 crore was disbursed to 113 temples during 2016-2017.

### **Temple Development Fund**

79. A corpus fund of Rs.8 crore was created from the surplus fund of affluent temples for the development of temples. From the interest accruing from this corpus, financial assistance is rendered for the Tiruppani of temples of ancient and historical significance. For the last six years Rs.6.75 crore was given to 53 temples under this scheme. Rs.1.39 crore was given to 5 temples during 2016-2017.

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

### **Village Temple Renovation Fund**

80. "Village Temple Renovation Fund" has been created for the purpose of providing financial assistance to small village temples under the control of the department for

renovation / restoration. A corpus of Rs.2 crore was created by diversion from the surplus fund of Palani, Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple. From the interest derived from the corpus, Rs.25,000/- was disbursed for renovation / restoration of each village temple. In the year 2012-2013, **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered for enhancement of this assistance to Rs.50,000/-. From 2011 to 2016 a sum of Rs.16.36 crore was disbursed to 3272 temples. In the last financial year **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered an increase of the grant for renovating Village temples from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- each. For the year 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.5 crore has been disbursed to renovate 500 village temples under this scheme.

### **Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund**

81. "Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund" was created on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1991. The **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated Rs.1,00,008/- towards this fund personally. Donations were thereafter received from Philanthropists, Industrialists and the General Public. This fund is now called as "Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund". From 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 Rs.1.59 crore was disbursed to 17 temples. In the year 2016-2017, Rs.12.53 lakh from this fund was disbursed to 241 temples under Oru Kala Pooja Scheme by providing Rs.5,200/- per temple. This fund is being directly managed by the Government.

### **Donor Works**

82. It is a common practice that donors voluntarily carry out the temple conservation / renovation / restoration with their own funds

under the supervision of the Department. During the period 2011-2017, donor works at an estimated cost of Rs.90.86 crore were executed in 360 temples. During 2016-2017, 61 Donor Tiruppani works were sanctioned in 45 temples at a cost of Rs.10.73 crore.

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

83. The temples not under the control of the Department in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities were provided a financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- per temple for the Tiruppani from out of the funds received from the surplus fund of the affluent temples. Since, the amount per temple was found insufficient for executing the scheme, the financial assistance was raised to Rs.50,000/- per temple in the year 2011-2012 by the **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. From 2011 to 2016,

Rs.18.20 crore was given to 3640 temples. In the last financial year **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered an increase of the grant for renovating temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- each. For the year 2016-2017 Rs.5 crore has been disbursed to 500 temples under this scheme.

### **Finance Commission Grant**

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

## **Tourism Fund**

85. The temples in Tamil Nadu are major tourist attractions. For the welfare of the devotees and tourists visiting the temples, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and the Tourism Department jointly provide basic amenities such as toilets, bathrooms, drinking water, dormitories, information centres, approach roads, high mast lamps, cloak rooms, provision of lawns and parking facilities. In the past six years, Rs.10.22 crore Tourism Fund was granted to provide facilities for tourists in 19 temples.

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

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

86. Under the orders of the Government, in order to render advice on archaeological matters and expert opinion in the conservation / renovation / restoration works in the temples of heritage value under the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Grant, Thiru.K.T.Narasimhan, retired Superintending Archaeologist of the Archaeological Survey of India who is a well known expert in Archaeology was appointed as Archaeological Consultant. An Expert Committee was also constituted to help in this matter. Thereafter 22 experts from Central and State Archaeology Department have been selected and opinion for Tiruppani is being obtained from them.

After empanelment of these experts notes of inspection has been received from them for

490 temples. Chennai Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple, Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple and Tiruvannamalai Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple have been renovated based on the Archaeological Notes of Inspection and Kumbabhishekam has also been performed. In the same way in temples with heritage value tiruppani works are being carried out based on the notes of inspection of the experts.

87. The conservation activities taken up under the guidance of the Committee has been appreciated and the **Chief Minister's Best Practices Award of Tamil Nadu Government** for the year 2015 was conferred on the Department. This was received for conserving and restoring historically important Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple, Triplicane,

Chennai, strictly in accordance with heritage norms.

### **Conservation of Heritage Temples**

88. The Honourable High Court of Madras has directed the Department to prepare a conservation manual in consultation with UNESCO in the matter of conservation of temples in the suo motu Writ Petition No.574/2015. A seven member expert committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble High Court to advise on essential and important conservation works in the temples till a proper path is laid in this matter. Action is being taken to get the orders of the Hon'ble High Court to carry out the above works through the Heritage Screening Committee both at the State level and Regional level constituted by the Government in G.O.(Ms)No. 264, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 01.11.2016.

## **Restoration and Maintenance of Murals**

89. Based on the announcement made by **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** under Rule 110, an Advisory and Supervisory Committee was formed by the Government for conservation / restoration and maintenance of heritage paintings found in 50 temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

On the advice of this Committee, the conservation of ancient wall paintings in the Rajagopuram of Arulmigu Thanumalayaswamy Temple Suchendram, Kanyakumari District at an estimated cost of Rs.81 lakh has been completed. Similarly, in Arulmigu Narumboonathaswamy Temple, Thirupudaimarudur, Tirunelveli District conservation of paintings in the Rajagopuram is being carried out at an estimated cost of

Rs.1.42 crore. Painting works are under progress. The restoration of mural paintings in Kancheepuram Arulmigu Devarajaswamy Temple at an estimate of Rs.64.10 lakh is also being carried out. Restoration of Mural paintings in outer prakaram wall of Arulmigu Devaraja Swamy Temple for 433 Sq.mt. will be completed shortly.

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

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

91. There are 2359 temple tanks located in 1586 temples across the State under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Out of them, 1068 tanks were identified for repairs and renovation. 618 temple tanks have been renovated at a cost of Rs.3.61 crore by this Government from 2011 to 2017. The repairs and renovation of the remaining temple tank works will be executed in a phased manner. In 2016-2017, 7 tanks were renovated at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh. A special drive for revamping 5400 rain water harvesting structures and 1004 temple tanks was conducted in May-June 2014.

92. The temple tanks will be protected by the following measures:-

- Clearing the encroachments in and around the temple tanks.

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

## **Software to follow up progress of Tiruppani**

93. A new module has been introduced to upload Tiruppani proposals, sanction of administrative and technical approval given by the departmental head and subordinate officers including tender approvals, particulars of contractors, issue of work orders and uploading of photographs of work sites with special software designed for this purpose to monitor the progress of Tiruppani.



## **Chartered Engineers**

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

## **Sthapathis**

95. To ensure that the temple conservation works (Tiruppani) are carried out in accordance with the standards prescribed in Agama and Shilpa Shastra, persons practicing this art, learnt traditionally from their ancestors and those possessing a degree or a diploma in sculptural arts are being approved as Sthapathy / Sirpy from time to time. From

2011-2016, 539 Sthapathis / Sirpis were empanelled.

## **Consecration (Kumbhabishekam / Samprokshanam)**

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

- Ancient temples glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars.
- Temples historically popular and having tourist significance.
- Temples popular for fulfilling the wishes and vows of the devotees.
- Small temples located in the villages and in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal Communities.

From 2011-2017 kumbhabhishekams were performed in 9801 (upto 31.03.2017) temples. In the year 2016-2017 alone Tiruppani works were completed and kumbabhishekams were performed in 958 temples. This is an important milestone in the history of Tiruppani.

### **Maintenance of Temple Car**

97. There are 989 wooden cars in 809 temples under the control of the Department. A sum of Rs.10.50 crore was collected for the repairs and renovation of temple cars from the surplus fund of affluent temples in February 2006. From 2011-2017, Rs.9.91 crore was disbursed for renovation of 162 temple cars. During 2016-2017 Rs.36.45 Lakh was disbursed for renovation of 4 temple cars.

Further, Rs.36 Lakh was allotted from the Temple fund for renovation of 2 Temple Cars. 6 Temple cars are being made with the

contribution of Rs.134 lakh from donors. From Commissioner Common Good Fund Rs.6.86 crore has been allotted for the renovation of Temple Cars. During 2016-2017 Rs.1.18 crore is disbursed for renovation of Temple Cars.

98. After the **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed office in 2011, the road blocks in the repairs and renovation of temple cars were removed by raising both the labour charges fixed for artisans and the cost of wood. As a result of this, 169 temple cars have been repaired, renovated and put in use at the cost of Rs.21.62 crore. During the year 2016-2017, 26 temple cars have been repaired at a cost of Rs.5.71 crore.

In order to safeguard the temple cars, steps have been taken to provide roofs which are fire proof, provision of iron wheels and steel axles. To avoid untoward incidents during

temple car festivals, guidelines for safety have been implemented. Insurance is taken not only for the temple car but also to the devotees who pull the car.

The temple car sheds are designed in such a way with transparent panels to make the artistic works of the temple cars visible.

### **Temples having Golden Car and Silver Car**

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

100. At present there are 57 temples with Golden Cars and 45 temples with Silver Cars as detailed below:-

### **Temples having Golden Car**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple, Park Town, Chennai.
3.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu.
6.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai.
7.	Arulmigu Vaidyanathaswamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.
8.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Temple, Echanari, Coimbatore.
9.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram, Trichirappalli.
10.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanawamy Temple, Sankarankovil.
12.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur.
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
14.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman Temple, Kancheepuram.
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri.
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai.
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore.
18.	Arulmigu Kamakshiamman Temple, Mangadu.
19.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.
20.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur.
21.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai.
22.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari
23.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai.
24.	Arulmigu Marundeeswarar Temple, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai.
25.	Arulmigu Velayuthaswamy Temple, Thindalmalai, Erode.
26.	Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Adyar, Chennai.
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinathaswamy Temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi.
28.	Arulmigu Mundagakanni Amman Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Temple, Uppiliappankoil, Kumbakonam.
30.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruparankundram.
31.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Karur.
32.	Arulmigu Dhandumariamman Temple, Coimbatore.
33.	Arulmigu Chandrachudeswarar Temple, Hosur.
34.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval.
35.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy Temple, Namakkal.
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettipalayam.
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliamman Temple, Ariyakurichi.
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli.
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagamman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai.
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal.
41.	Arulmigu Vekkaiamman Temple, Uraiyur, Trichirappalli.
42.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
43.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Salem.
44.	Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkoil, Madurai.
45.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sholingur, Vellore.
46.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai.
47.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman Temple, Dindigul.
48.	Arulmigu Angalaparameswari Temple, Melmalaiyanur, Villupuram District.
49.	Arulmigu Kondathukaliamman Temple, Pariyur, Erode District.
50.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple, Tiruporur, Kancheepuram District.
51.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Anaimalai, Coimbatore District.
52.	Arulmigu Tirumalai Kumaraswamy Temple, Panpozhi, Tirunelveli District.
53.	Arulmigu Nachiar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur.
54.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Katha Iyanar and Bathrakaliyamman Temple, Madapuram, Sivagangai District.
55.	Arulmigu Thanthondreeswarar temple, Belur, Salem District.(Gold Electroplated)

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
56.	Arulmigu Baladhandayuthapaniswamy temple, Sukkiravarapettai, Coimbatore District.
57.	Arulmigu Vishwanathaswamy Temple, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar District.

### **Temples having Silver Car**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Tiruchendur.
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram.
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai.
7.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai.
8.	Arulmigu Adhikumbeswarar Temple, Kumbakonam.
9.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur.
10.	Arulmigu Vaidyanathaswamy Temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.

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

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
25.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan (A) Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Devakottai.
26.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Konnaiyur, Tirumayam.
27.	Arulmigu Aruthra Kapaleeswarar Temple, Erode.
28.	Arulmigu Sangameswarar Temple, Bhavani.
29.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Temple, Bhavani.
30.	Arulmigu Balasubramaniaswamy Temple, Ayikudi, Tirunelveli.
31.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Siruvachur.
32.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Neyveli.
33.	Arulmigu Veyuluku Uganda Vinayagar Temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram District.
34.	Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Dindigul.
35.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram.
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam District.
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur District.
38.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District.
39.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint, Chennai.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Temple</b>
40.	Arulmigu Katchabeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram.
41.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple. Viralimalai, Pudukkottai.
42.	Arulmigu Vedhapureeswarar Temple, Thiruvathipuram, Tiruvannamalai District.
43.	Arulmigu Sevugaperumal Temple, Singampunari, Tirupathur Taluk, Sivagangai District.
44.	Arulmigu Selliamman Temple, Palatrankarai, Vellore District.
45.	Arulmigu Navaneetheswarar temple, Sikkal, Nagapattinam District.

## **V-WELFARE MEASURES FOR DEVOTEES**

### **Basic Amenities**

#### **Drinking Water**

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

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

#### **Modern Toilet Facilities**

102. Steps have been taken to provide separate modern toilet facilities for men and women visiting temples. During 2011-2017, construction of toilets was undertaken at a cost of Rs.17.86 crore in 137 temples. During 2016-2017, construction of toilets for men and women was undertaken in 11 temples at a cost of Rs.1.79 crore.

## **Facilities for Stay**

103. Cottages, rooms, dormitories, cloak rooms and parking lots are provided to the devotees visiting temples. Between 2011-2012 and 2016-2017 lodging facilities for devotees were approved for construction at an estimate of Rs.61.34 crore in 20 temples. During the year 2016-2017, dormitories were constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.1.93 crore in 5 temples.

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

A "Yatri Nivas" in Tiruvannamalai Temple at an estimated cost of Rs.28 crore will be constructed through Public Works Department. A 'Yatri Nivas' in Rameswaram Temple is now under construction through the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs.29 crore to facilitate the stay of 500 pilgrims.

## **Temple Signages / Information Boards**

105. To reach the temples easily, sign boards with temple's name are installed in main roads. Further, boards containing information about all the temples situated in and around the area are also installed in the bus stands and railway stations.

## **High Quality Vibuthi and Kumkum to Devotees**

106. In Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple special Abishega vibuthi is manufactured. Modern



machineries have been installed at a cost of Rs. 1 crore at Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundrareswarar Temple, Bannari Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and Thiruverkadu Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple and quality kumkum is prepared and distributed to devotees. In Mahamaham mega festival held last year the kumkum prepared in these temples was distributed to devotees.

### **Manasarovar and Mukthinath Yatra**

107. It is the belief of every Hindu that they should go on a holy yatra to Manasarovar and Mukthinath at least once in their life time to achieve spiritual bliss. In appreciation of the aspirations of the people, the **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered a grant of Rs.40,000/- each for 250 Hindu devotees domiciled in Tamil Nadu and

who had completed the yatra to Manasarovar in China, every year. Similarly a grant of Rs.10,000/- each for 250 Hindu devotees domiciled in Tamil Nadu and who had completed the yatra to Mukthinath in Nepal, every year was also ordered. In the year 2012-2013, Rs.58.40 lakh was given to 146 pilgrims who performed the Manasarovar yatra. Rs. 1 lakh was given to ten pilgrims who performed the Mukthinath Yatra. In the year 2013-2014, a sum of Rs.84.70 lakh was released to the pilgrims who completed the yatras. In the year 2014-2015, a sum of Rs.112.30 lakh was released to the pilgrims who completed the yatras. In the year 2015-2016 a sum of Rs.20.40 lakh has been released to 51 pilgrims who completed Manasarovar Yatra and a sum of Rs.7.20 lakh has been disbursed to 72 pilgrims who have completed Mukthinath Yatra and in total Rs.27.60 lakh has been disbursed.

## **Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties**

108. In important temples, cotton sarees and dhoties received as offerings are distributed to the elderly persons, destitutes and widows on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna's Memorial Day. From 2011-2017, 96,387 persons were benefitted under this scheme.

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

### **Uzhavarappani**

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

110. The traditional method of cleaning the temple premises called "Uzhavarappani" once launched by Saint Appar Adigal, one of the four leading exponents of the Saiva School was re-launched in 2011-2012 with a view to introduce the spirit of service. Through this programme, eradication of weeds and vegetation was carried out in 3354 temples during the last six years. Further, this programme is being implemented continuously in temples.

### **Maintenance of Cleanliness by Outsourcing**

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

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

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

### **Alternate Energy Scheme**

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

Suchindram Arulmigu Thanumalayaswamy Temple. After installation of a 10 KW equipment, there is a saving of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.15,000/- in the electricity bill.

## **VII - SECURITY MEASURES**

### **Safety of Icons and Valuables**

114. To safeguard the icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as installation of burglar alarms, tell tale clocks, inner locking systems, fixing iron gates, closed circuit televisions, appointment of night watchmen and appointment of personnel from the Temple Protection Force have been implemented in 8371 temples.

### **Scheme for Installation of Burglar Alarms**

115. Under the burglar alarm installation scheme a Corpus Fund of Rs. 5 crore was created. From the interest received, the

Department will sanction 75% of the requirement of the needy temple which applies for grant of installation of burglar alarms from the Corpus Fund. 25% of the requirement has to be borne by the temple either from its own fund or from donor fund. Realizing the fact that most of the temples in villages have paucity of funds but possess invaluable icons, jewels and expensive items and that the department's primary duty is to protect such valuables, orders were issued to release full grant from the interest received from the Corpus Fund for the installation of burglar alarms. During 2011-2016 a sum of Rs.71 lakh was disbursed to 562 temples. In the year 2016-2017, Rs.26,95,994/- was disbursed to 254 temples.

### Icon Centres

116. In order to protect the valuable Icons of the temples "Icon Centres" have been built. Icons of temples having inadequate

protection are being safeguarded therein. Provision has been made to take out the icons of temples from the centre for conducting festivals and bring it back to the Icon Centres for safe custody after the festivals. Poojas are regularly performed for all the icons at the centres.

### Details of Icon Centres

1.	Icon Centre, Tiruvarur (Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple campus)
2.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Tiruvanaikaval, Trichirappalli
3.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli
4.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem
5.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Gandhinagar, Vellore
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kancheepuram
8.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thirupathiripuliyur, Cuddalore
9.	Arulmigu Nageswaraswamy Temple, Kumbakonam
10.	Arulmigu Patteeswaraswamy Temple, Perur, Coimbatore

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

117. Further, to protect the invaluable icons **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** had ordered for construction of the following 15 "Icon Centres" for which works have been completed:-

### Name of the temple / Place

1.	Arulmigu Malaikavalar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal District (Sub Temple of Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar Temple)
2.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram, Kumbakonam Taluk, Thanjavur District.
3.	Arulmigu Madhanagopalaswamy and Brahmapureswarar Temple, Perambalur District.
4.	Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagarcoil, Kanyakumari District.
5.	Joint Commissioner's Office complex, Hindu Religious and Chariatable Endowments Department, Thanjavur.
6.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Kangeyam, Tiruppur District.
7.	Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramanaswamy Temple, Perundururai, Erode District.
8.	Arulmigu Gowmariamman Temple, Veerapandi, Theni District.
9.	Arulmigu Kaliyamman Temple, Thanthondrimalai, Karur District.
10.	Arulmigu Alanthuraiyar and Kothandaramaswamy Temple, Ariyalur District.
11.	Arulmigu Kayaroganaswamy Udanurai Neelayathatchiamman Temple, Nagapattinam District.
12.	Arulmigu Srinivasaperumal Temple, Dindigul

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

### Temple Protection Force

118. A separate wing viz., "Temple Protection Force" was formed for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and valuables in the temples. Sanction was accorded for appointing 1000 Grade-II Police Constables and 3000 Ex-Servicemen.

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

## VIII-EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

### Educational Institutions

119. With the social objective of inculcating culture, pious outlook etc., from a young age, religious and general education is imparted in the educational institutions run by temples. The Temple Administration along with other obligations and responsibilities are running the following Patasalas, Colleges and Schools:-

S.No	Institution	No.
1.	Arts, Culture and Science Colleges	5
2.	Polytechnic College	1
3.	Higher Secondary Schools	15
4.	High Schools	8
5.	Middle Schools	2
6.	Elementary Schools	9
7.	Matriculation School	1
8.	CBSE School	1
9.	Nadaswaram and Thavil – Musical Training Schools	2
10.	Veda Agama Patasalas	5
11.	Odhavar Training Schools	2
12.	Thevaram Training Schools	2
13.	School for the Hearing Impaired and Dumb	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

## List of Educational Institutions

### Arts, Culture and Science Colleges

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

### Polytechnic College

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

1.	Arulmigu Periyannayagamman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur District
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore District
3.	Arulmigu Vazhathottathaiyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalayam, Samalapuram, Somanur, Tiruppur District

4.	Arulmigu Perur Santhalinga Adigalar Higher Secondary School, Perur, Coimbatore District
5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai
6.	Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniaswamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District
7.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswamy Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District
8.	Devasthanam Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari District
9.	Sri Kanthimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli.
10.	T.Venugopal Chetty Higher Secondary School, Chennai.
11.	Hindu Higher Secondary School, Chennai
12.	Arulmigu Sri Parvathavarthini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District
13.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District
14.	Sri Sivaprakasa Swamigal Higher Secondary School, Mailam, Tindivanam, Villupuram District
15.	Arulmigu Parasakthi Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District

### High Schools

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

### Middle Schools

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

### Elementary Schools

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



### **Matriculation School**

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

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

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District

### **Veda Agama Patasalas**

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

### **Odhavar Training Schools**

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

### **Thevaram Training Schools**

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

### **School for Hearing Impaired and Dumb**

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul District
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### **Vedha Agama Patasalas**

120. To impart training to the aspirants in the pattern of worship in temples, Hymns-recital, Agamas and Vedas, Saiva Agama Patasala was established in the year 2015-2016 at Chennai, Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple which is extolled as “மயிலையே கயிலை”.

For Vaishnava Agamas, two Patasalas were established in the year 2015-2016, one in “பூலோக வைகுந்தம்” Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Trichirappalli and another one in Arulmigu Parthasarathi Swamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai. The trainees are provided with stipend.

### **Training Schools for Odhuvars**

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

at Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai on 18.08.2014.

122. The students, who seek enrollment in Odhuvar Training School should have passed 8<sup>th</sup> Standard and the minimum age limit is 13 years and the maximum age is 20 years. Monthly stipend of Rs.1000/- is given to the students.

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

### **Grading of Educational Institutions**

124. The following three colleges managed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department have been awarded “A” Grade for their overall achievements and best practices by the National Assessment and

Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission:-

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

### **Social Welfare Institutions**

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

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

### **Karunai Illangal**

126. Karunai Illangal were started in financially affluent temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department to provide assistance such as food, shelter and education to the children in need of care. There are 33 Karunai Illangal functioning in 30 temples, 22 for boys and 11 for girls. The Government has ordered in the year 2012-2013, full fee exemption for the higher studies of the Karunai Illam students who have completed +2 studies in the Educational Institutions run by the temples and intend to go for higher studies in Colleges under the control of the Department and 50% concession to those in other Educational Institutions. The funds will be provided by the temples. Accordingly, Rs.5,11,589/- was given to 91 students during 2012 – 2016.

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

128. To compensate the expenditure incurred for Karunai Illangal, the Government is giving a grant every year. For the period 2011-2017, a grant of Rs.1.99 crore was received. For the year 2016-2017 a grant of Rs.21 lakh was received.

#### **Details of Karunai Illangal**

1.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Tirukkoil, Thiruverkadu, Tiruvallur District
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District
3.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District
4.	Arulmigu Mariamman Tirukkoil, Samayapuram, Trichirappalli District

5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Tirukkoil, Madurai
6.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District
7.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Tirukkoil, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.
8.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Tirukkoil, Vadapalani, Chennai
9.	Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy Tirukkoil, Maruthamalai, Coimbatore District
10.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Tirukkoil, Bannari, Erode District
11.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Tirukkoil, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District
12.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Tirukkoil, Sholingur, Vellore District
13.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Tirukkoil, Tiruvannamalai
14.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Tirukkoil, Swamimalai, Thanjavur District
15.	Arulmigu Sukavaneswarar Tirukkoil, Salem
16.	Arulmigu Vanabadrakaliamman Tirukkoil, Tekkampatti, Coimbatore District
17.	Arulmigu Vazhaithottathu Ayyan Tirukkoil, Iyampalayam, Tiruppur District
18.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District
19.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Tirukkoil, Oppiliappan koil, Thanjavur District
20.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Tirukkoil, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District

21.	Arulmigu Magudeswaraswamy Veerananarayana Perumal Tirukkoil, Kodumudi, Erode District
22.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Tirukkoil, Echanari, Coimbatore District
23.	Arulmigu Patteeswaraswamy Tirukkoil, Perur, Coimbatore District
24.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Tirukkoil, Anaimalai, Coimbatore District
25.	Arulmigu Koppudaiyanayagi Amman Tirukkoil, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District
26.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur District
27.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Kaatha Ayyanar and Bhadrakaliamman Tirukkoil, Madappuram, Sivagangai District
28.	Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Kanthimathi Amman Tirukkoil, Tirunelveli
29.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Devasthanam, Chennai
30.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Tirukkoil, Thayamangalam, Sivagangai District

### Home for Mentally Challenged

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

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District

### Siddha Hospitals

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

### Allopathy Hospitals

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

### Basic Amenities for Schools and Colleges

129. For providing basic amenities for schools under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore and for providing basic amenities for colleges a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore have been

created by transferring surplus funds from affluent temples. Out of the interest accrued from the corpus fund, financial grant 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.

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

### **Goshalas**

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

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

### **IX-TEMPLES AND TAMIL**

#### **“Potri” Books**

132. Alwars, Nayanmars and Holy Sages in reverence eulogized the deities in Tamil wherever they went. The devotional songs of such savants such as Thevaram, Thiruvvasagam, Thirumanthiram, Thiruppugazh, Nalayira Diviya Prabandam have contributed significantly to make the Tamil language flourish. To encourage and streamline the performance of poojas in Tamil for the devotees who desire, Potri books (Archana Books) have been published.

## **Tamil New Year Day**

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

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

## **Paavai Vizha**

135. During the Tamil month of Margazhi recitation competition in Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai is conducted in the temples every year. On the orders of **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, action has been taken to conduct the competition in a grand manner at the district level also. During the year 2016-2017, 7068 students participated in 32 districts and prizes were distributed to 2177 students.

## **Appointment of Musicians**

136. It is customary to play auspicious music in temples during festivals. Considering the decline in such service for want of sufficient fund in ancient temples which are praised by Alwars and Nayanmars in their hymns, a corpus fund of Rs. 1 crore has been deposited for enabling payment from the interest to the

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

### **X-ARULALARGAL VIZHA**

#### **Sekkizhar Vizha**

137. Sekkizhar Festival is celebrated as a Government function every year at his birth place, Kundrathur near Chennai by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Every year financial assistance is given from the interest accrued from the corpus fund created for this purpose. Chennai, Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple celebrates "Panniru Thirumurai Vizha" and "Sekkizhar Vizha" for 12 days every year during the month of August.

#### **Thirugnana Sambandar Isai Vizha**

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

#### **Avvaiyar Vizha**

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



accrued from the corpus fund created for this purpose.

### **Thayumanavar Vizha**

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

### **Thiruvalluvar Day**

141. **Thiruvalluvar Day** is celebrated in Chennai, Mylapore, Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple on Thiruvalluvar Day 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. Further discourses and debates are also conducted.

### **Arunagirinathar Vizha**

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

### **Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha**

143. **"Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha"** is celebrated at Arulmigu Akhilandeswari Udanurai Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Trichirappalli every year on "Sathayam" star in the month of Masi, the birthday of Kochenkatchozha, one among the 63 Nayanmars.

## **Azhwargal Vizha**

144. **"Azhwargal Vizha"** for 12 Azhwars is celebrated in Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Trichirappalli District every year.

## **XI-PUBLICATIONS**

### **Thalavaralaru and Thalapuramam**

145. Thalavaralaru (History of Temples) and Thalapuramam (Legends of Temples) of ancient temples are published enabling the public to know the heritage, history, importance, puranas, architecture, inscriptions and importance of worship of the temples concerned. For other small temples also pamphlets are published for enlightening the people on the importance of worship in these temples. Steps are taken to revise and reprint Thalavaralaru and Thalapuramam.

## **District Guides for Pilgrims**

146. District Temple Guides were published for each district to guide the devotees and tourists with information about the temples situated in important towns and also the temples situated nearby. Realising the usefulness of these guides to the devotees and tourists, these have been uploaded in the website of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

### **"Thirukkoil" - Monthly Magazine**

147. A monthly magazine namely "Thirukkoil" is being published since 1958 by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Now, this magazine is elegantly published with noteworthy articles by eminent writers. Special edition is being published for every Tamil New Year Day from 2013. The number of pages have been increased from

the year 2017 and the magazine is available online.

### **Sale of Religious Books**

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

### **Publishing Agamas and other books in Tamil**

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

### **XII-TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

#### **Refresher Training Course**

150. For the Archakars, Bhattachariars and Odhuvars to do their work efficiently, a

Refresher Training Course was started in the year 1991. Till 2002, 488 persons had undergone training under this scheme. During 2006-2011, this training course was not conducted. The six weeks refresher training course was revived and during 2011-2016 totally 8436 employees were trained. During 2016-2017 skill development training was imparted to 1524 Archakars, Bhattachariars and Odhuvars.

### **Short term course on "Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments" for Engineers**

151. As a first of its kind in the Country, the State Archaeology Department conducted a short term six week course on "Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments" from 03.12.2014 to 13.01.2015 for 22 Engineers of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The second batch of 22 Engineers

attended the training from 19.03.2015 to 29.04.2015. The third batch of 40 persons including Engineers, Sthapathis and Technical Staff of temples attended the training from 08.09.2016 to 19.10.2016.

### **Short term course on "Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments" for Executive Officers of temples**

152. The State Archaeology Department also conducted a short term two weeks course on "Heritage Conservation and Restoration of Monuments" for 75 Executive Officers of temples in three batches of 25 Executive Officers each.

### **Training on Human Values**

153. It is proposed to train all the employees of temples including Archakars to serve the devotees respecting their religious sentiments. Accordingly, in the past six years,

training on human values was given to 19283 employees. This training will be continued every year.

### **Training for Suyampakis (cooks of holy kitchen), Annadhanam cooks and Prasadam stall contractors**

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

Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple, Thiruverkadu, Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Triplicane, Arulmigu Parthasarathy Swamy Temple, Mangadu, Arulmigu Kamatchiamman and Vaigunda Perumal Temple, Vadapalani, Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple participated in the training classes. 142 members from 80 temples participated and got trained.

Further, steps are being taken for conducting similar training to the staff of other temples.

### **Computerization of Department and Temple activities**

155. The data base regarding valuable Metal Icons, Stone Idols and immovable properties such as lands and buildings belonging to the ancient and heritage temples, religious institutions in Tamil Nadu are being

computerized. The temple properties are being mapped and documented with Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) for easy identification and management. Mobile App is being developed for booking rooms, golden car and to receive Annadhanam donation by the temples online. Websites will be created for the temples in a phased manner to provide all the required information about the temple to the devotees. An Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software will also be developed for better management of the temples in Tamil Nadu.

### **Skill Development Training**

156. From time immemorial, Temples in Tamil Nadu have been at the centre stage of all activities concerning human life. There are many categories of service providers to the temples and devotees. They are Sculptors, Craftsmen,

Architects, Weavers, Goldsmiths, Archakars, Village Temple Poosaris, Musicians, Dancers, Nadhaswara Exponents, Vendors of pooja articles, Garland Makers, Gardeners, Paricharakars, Folk Artists, Artists and Religious Orators. Due to lack of requisite patronage, in due course of time they became economically weak and their valuable skills are facing extinction. To expand the scope for their livelihood a plan has been drawn to upgrade their skill, design and technology.

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

157. One month training is being conducted at Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani to give skill development training

to Thavil and Nadhaswaram Vidhvans in 5 sessions. Rs.5000/- is being given to each trainee as incentive.

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

For other categories of artisans steps have been taken to provide training in the year 2017–2018.

### **XIII - WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEMPLE EMPLOYEES**

#### **Details of Welfare Schemes**

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

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Welfare Schemes</b>
1.	Family Benefit Fund
2.	Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme
3.	Health Insurance Scheme
4.	Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme
5.	Appointment on Compassionate Grounds
6.	Regularisation of Services of Temporary Employees

Sl. No.	Welfare Schemes
7.	Pension Scheme for Archakars, Odhuvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham Reciters and Musicians
8.	Pension Scheme for other temple employees
9.	Educational aid for the children of temple employees

### Family Benefit Fund

159. This scheme was introduced to help the heirs of the temple employees who died in harness. A corpus fund of Rs.15 crore has been created from the surplus fund of temples for the implementation of this scheme. In this scheme, Rs. 1 lakh is granted for the heirs of the deceased, who died in harness. For the last six years a sum of Rs.3.75 crore was disbursed to 379 legal heirs. In 2016-2017 Rs.50 lakh was disbursed to 50 legal heirs.

### Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme

160. This scheme was introduced for the welfare of the employees of temples whose annual income is Rs.1 lakh and above. A corpus fund of Rs.50 lakh has been created for this scheme from out of the surplus fund of the affluent temples. An amount of Rs.5000/- is disbursed as gratuity under this scheme along with the total subscription paid by the retiring employee during his service. In the last six years a sum of Rs.31.98 lakh was disbursed to 694 retired employees from the corpus fund. In the year 2016-2017 Rs.5.05 lakh have been given to 101 retired employees.

### Health Insurance Scheme

161. The Medical Insurance Scheme under the Chief Minister's New Health Insurance Scheme-2012 was extended to employees working in the temples under the control of



Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and drawing an annual income of more than Rs.72,000/- (scale of pay salary) and their families by **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. 3762 temple employees and their families have benefitted under this scheme.

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

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

162. This scheme has been created for the employees of temples where the annual income of the temple is less than Rs.1 lakh and

drawing pay less than Rs.750/- per month. A corpus fund, namely "Temple Employees Welfare Fund" with Rs. 5 crore from the surplus fund of temples has been created for payment of arrears of salary. The interest accrued from this corpus fund is being utilized for the disbursement of the arrears of salary to employees every year. For the period from 2011-2016, 7282 employees working in 5821 temples were given Rs.3.77 crore as salary arrears. During 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.1.67 crore was disbursed to 2499 employees in 1926 temples as salary arrears.

### **Appointment on Compassionate Grounds**

163. Under the scheme "Appointments on Compassionate Grounds" jobs are provided to the legal heirs of temple employees who died in harness. In the past six years 124 legal heirs were given appointment on compassionate grounds. During 2016-2017, 17 legal heirs have

been given employment on compassionate grounds.

### **Regularisation of Services of Temporary Employees**

164. Regularisation of services and fixation of time-scale pay has been done to 2201 employees who served temporarily on daily wages/ consolidated pay for a period of more than five years continuously as on 31.7.2014.

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

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

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

### **Pension Scheme for other Temple Employees**

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

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

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

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

169. For the employees who have less than ten years of service on the date of implementation of the scheme (01.03.2006) and all employees working in the temples which are not affluent enough to subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, a Departmental Pension Scheme was implemented in 2006.

170. For disbursing pension under the Departmental Pension Scheme, a corpus fund of Rs.50 crore was created from the surplus fund of affluent temples and from the interest accrued on this corpus fund, the pension is disbursed for retired temple employees. The monthly pension of Rs.1000/- given to retired temple employees under the departmental pension scheme was raised to Rs.2000/- with effect from 01.10.2016.

171. During 2016-2017, 192 retired employees were sanctioned pension and so far 4530 employees have been benefitted under this scheme.

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

## **Educational Aid for the Children of Temple Employees**

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

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

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

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

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

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

175. The **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has enhanced the monthly pension from Rs.750/- to

Rs.1000/- on 22.11.2013 to retired poosaris who have attained 60 years of age and served for more than 20 years in village temples which are not directly under the control of this Department. Under this scheme, 3106 Village Poosaris have been benefitted.

#### **XV - MILLENNIUM BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF SRI RAMANUJAR**

176. The Millennium birth anniversary of Sri Ramanujar was celebrated from 21.04.2017 to 01.05.2017 at Arulmigu Adhikesava Perumal and Bhashyakaraswamy temple in Sriperumbudur which is his birth place. This festival was also celebrated in 84 Divya Desam Temples in Tamil Nadu and also in other Vaishnavite temples under the control of this Department.

177. As part of these celebrations, cultural programmes, religious discourses, seminars, essay competitions, elocution competitions were

conducted. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department released a calender for 2017 as well as a documentary on Sri Ramanujar. A trilingual pictographical book on Sri Ramanujar's life history titled "Vainava Maanidhi" was released by the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 09.05.2017. In commemoration of Sri Ramanujar's millennium birth anniversary a special postal stamp of Sri Ramanujar was released through the Postal Department by the Honourable Prime Minister of India on 01.05.2017 in New Delhi.

## **Conclusion**

As stated by Sundaramoorthi Nayanar in his verses,

“இறைவனோடு இசைந்த இன்பம்  
இன்பத்தோடு இசைந்த வாழ்வு”

the temples in Tamil Nadu remain as historical monuments and as treasures which beacon the art, culture and civilization of the Tamils, the world over. These temples apart from being places of worship ensure fulfilling peoples' faith, also function as places of tourist attraction. Keeping in mind the wishes of the devotees, all the required steps are continuously being undertaken by the Department.

With the blessings of **Honourable Former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** whose administration led for the proper blending of one's spiritual and material lives, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department would further strive earnestly in achieving the various goals of Government.

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



I

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami released the Tamil, English and Telugu trilingual pictographical book on Sri Ramanujar's life history titled "Ramanujar Vainava Maanidhi", in connection with the Millennium birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramanujar, at Secretariat on 03.05.2017. The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Thiru. Sevoor S. Ramachandran received the copy.



II

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami distributed Pooja Articles to the Archakars of small temples at Secretariat on 03.05.2017.



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Thiru. Sevoor S.Ramachandran, gave a special lecture on 22.02.2017, encouraging and appreciating the work of Archakars undergoing skill development training at Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar Temple, Vadapalani.

III



Maha Kumbabhishhekam

Arulmigu Mariamman Temple; Samayapuram  
Maha Kumbabhishhekam on 06.02.2017

New Temple Car



Arulmigu Margabandheswarar temple, Virinchipuram, Vellore District.

IV

**Maha Kumbabhishekam**



Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai  
Maha Kumbabhishekam on 06.02.2017

**Maha Samprokshanam**



Arulmigu Aadhi Jegannatha Perumal Temple, Thirupullani  
Maha Samprokshanam on 04.06.2017

**Nadaswaram Skill Development Training-Palani**



**Odhuvar Skill Development Training-Tirunelveli**





**Training on Food Safety-Vadapalani**



**Millennium birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramanujar  
Arulmigu Adhi Kesava Perumal and Bhashyakaraswamy Temple,  
Sriperumbudur**

**Sri Ramanujar Birth Place**



**Arulmigu Palaniandavar Polytechnic College, Palani  
Kitchen and Dining Hall – Outside View**



VII

**Golden Vimanam**



VIII

**Icon Centre**



Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagercoil – Outside View

**Front Mandapam**



Arulmigu Sangameshwarar Temple, Bhavani

IX

Renovation of the temple situated in the habitation of Adi Dravidar  
Arulmigu Mariyamman Temple, Kavutharasanallur, Thottiyam,  
Trichirappalli District.

**Before Renovation**



**After Renovation**



X

Renovation of village temple  
Arulmigu Dhraupathiamman Temple,  
Lakshminarayanapuram, Panruti Taluk, Cuddalore District.

**Before Renovation**



**After Renovation**



XI

**Auditorium**



Arulmigu Palaniandavar College of Arts and Culture  
for Men, Palani – Outside View

**Information Centre**



Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy temple, Palani – Inside View

XII

**Annadhanam Hall**  
Arulmigu Boovarahaswamy Temple, Srimushnam  
**Outside View**



**Inside View**



XIII



Sriperumbudur Ramanujar



Murals in Kallazhagar Temple, Madurai



1000 Pillar Mandapam, Madurai

