COMMERCIAL TAXES, REGISTRATION AND RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT

HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

POLICY NOTE
2026 – 2027

DEMAND No. 47

S. RAMESH

MINISTER FOR HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

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Government of Tamil Nadu
2026

Commercial Taxes, Registration and Religious Endowments Department

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

Demand No. 47
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- **HR&CE** is presented under Demand No.47, within the Commercial Taxes, Registration and Religious Endowments Department.

- The Hindu Religious Endowments Commission (**1960-1962**) was constituted by the Government of India; it noted Section 97 of the **1959** Act, which provides for a Common Good Fund.

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Commercial Taxes, Registration and Religious Endowments Department

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

Demand No. 47
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Preface

Our temples in Tamil Nadu embody the ancient civilisation, rich cultural heritage and the greatness of the Tamil language. Dating back thousands of years, these temples continue to stand tall with their unique features and grandeur, serving as magnificent symbols of our glorious heritage.

To remain steadfast in righteousness without deviating from one's fundamental principles is the essence of Aram (righteousness). It is universally acknowledged that Aram is a

principle common to all religions. As the preservation and promotion of such righteousness form an integral part of the functions of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, it may reasonably be understood that the Department derives its name from this noble principle.

Any institution that is firmly rooted in righteousness should not exercise authority, dominance and influence over anyone. Rather, it should render service with love and compassion, guided by righteousness. Such an approach would constitute righteous governance and would also reflect the policy of a Government that is responsive to the aspirations of the people.

Based on the timeless principles set forth in the Thirukkural, the revered Tamil ethical work, a system of administration founded on Aram

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(virtue) and Porul (prosperity) with the welfare and happiness of the people as its ultimate objective, represents the highest ideal of democratic governance. This embodies the true spirit of people-centric and ethical administration. In keeping with this principle, the Policy Note of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has consciously avoided the use of terms such as “Authority” and “Rule”, which may connote notions of dominance, supremacy.

Temples have historically served not only as centres of Tamil civilisation, art and cultural advancement but also as institutions of justice, learning and social protection. They played a significant role in nurturing and preserving diverse forms of art including literature, music, drama, painting and sculpture. The Azhwars, Nayanmars and other revered saints and spiritual luminaries made invaluable contributions to the

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enrichment of Tamil devotional literature and music through their hymns, compositions and artistic traditions.

Temples as Cultural and Heritage Repositories

During the Sangam Age and even earlier, temples were constructed using bricks, timber and other perishable materials. They were known by various names such as Kottam and Koil. During the Pallava period, rock-cut cave temples came into existence. Pallava king Mahendravarman in the inscription at the Mandagapattu Cave Temple, proclaimed that he had departed from the earlier practice of constructing temples using perishable materials and had instead created a temple by excavating imperishable rock. It was for this remarkable

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achievement that he assumed the title Vichitrachitta.

Subsequently, during the Chola period, structural stone temples known as Kattralis were built. Monumental temple towers, Rajagopurams emerged during this era. The Cholas introduced cylindrical pillars in temple architecture. The Big Temple at Thanjavur, the Gangaikonda Cholapuram and the Darasuram Temple represent the pinnacle of Chola architectural excellence. Numerous magnificent temples of exceptional artistic brilliance were also constructed throughout the territories ruled by the Cholas. The architectural legacy of the Cholas extended even beyond India, as exemplified by the construction of the Angkor Wat Temple in Cambodia. The Pandyas and the Vijayanagara rulers further revolutionized temple architecture.

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The Arunachaleswarar Temple at Tiruvannamalai is a magnificent testimony to the architectural contributions of the Vijayanagara Empire. Preserving this invaluable artistic heritage and transmitting it to future generations remains a solemn responsibility of the Government.

Unlike many other countries, the temples in Tamil Nadu were established by kings, endowed with extensive lands and financial grants by successive rulers and administered under royal authority. In later periods, affluent local benefactors and Zamindars made substantial contributions by donating lands and valuable properties to the temples. Consequently, the responsibility of safeguarding, maintaining and administering these temples and their movable and immovable properties continues to rest with the Government.

- The note names Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai as testimony to Vijayanagara architecture - one of the dynasty-to-temple links Group 1 asks about.

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2. Origin of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and Evolution of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Legislation

After the British East India Company began ruling India, three Presidencies, namely Calcutta, Madras and Bombay were established to supervise the administration of temples and religious endowments. These Presidencies issued Regulations in 1810, 1817 and 1827, respectively. The deity enshrined and worshipped in a temple was recognised as a perpetual minor and a legal entity.

- Colonial regulation of temples began with the Presidency Regulations of 1810, 1817 and 1827; in 1817 the East India Company's Board of Revenue took supervisory powers over temple property.

In 1817, the Board of Revenue of the East India Company was vested with general supervisory powers to ensure the protection and maintenance of temple properties. This also enabled the appointment of local agents to

- Under Section 46(iii) the Government appoints a Board of five non-hereditary trustees on the recommendation of the State Committee; Section 7-A provides a District Committee of three to five non-official members per revenue district.

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supervise the expenditure of temples. Meanwhile, the First War of Indian Independence, commonly known as the Sepoy Mutiny, took place in 1857. This incident raised several questions about the responsibility of the British Government to administer Hindu temples. In 1859, the Queen's Proclamation was issued. This ultimately led to the enactment of the Religious Endowments Act, 1863 (Act XX of 1863), based on the principle that the British Government should not interfere in the administration of Hindu temples. Consequently, the British Government withdrew from its responsibility of supervising Hindu temples. In the absence of Government supervision, local vested-interest groups, landholders and zamindars interfered with temple administration, leading to mismanagement and the unauthorised appropriation of temple properties.

- After 1857 the British withdrew from temple administration through the Religious Endowments **Act, 1863** (Act XX of 1863) - the pivot from involvement to non-interference.

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Subsequently, several laws were enacted, including Section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Civil Courts became the principal forums for adjudicating disputes relating to temples. However, proceedings before Civil Courts were slow and cumbersome. Further, since temple administrations possessed substantial resources, persons initiating litigation against them often found it difficult to sustain such proceedings. Consequently, a substantial portion of temple properties came to be held by private individuals. Records relating to the valuable properties of temples were also not maintained. In view of the prevailing circumstances, several Private Members' Bills were introduced in the Madras Legislative Council and the Imperial Legislative Council with a view to preventing and addressing administrative irregularities in temple administration.

- Section 92 **CPC**, **1908** became the route for suits over public religious trusts once the 1863 Act had removed direct Government control.

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During the Justice Party Government, the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1927 was enacted as a landmark legislation. The Act provided for the establishment of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Board and the appointment of Executive Officers for the administration of temples. The Act encountered strong opposition from various influential sections of society. However, the then Premier of the Madras Presidency, Sir Panaganti Ramarayaningar, popularly known as the Raja of Panagal, explained the necessity of the legislation to the then Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin and obtained his approval.

Subsequently, several amending Acts were enacted, namely Acts I of 1928, V of 1929, IV of 1930, XI of 1931, XI of 1934, XII of 1935, XX of 1938, XXII of 1939, V of 1944, X of 1946 and V of 1947. In 1950, the Law Commission,

- The Madras Hindu Religious Endowments **Act, 1927** was passed under the Justice Party Government - the landmark that put temple administration back under statutory oversight.

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headed by Shri C. R. Das, noted that numerous complaints had been received from the public regarding the misuse and misappropriation of the properties and funds of temples and religious endowments. The Commission recommended that, even if the matter did not strictly fall within its purview, appropriate legislation could be enacted to regulate the administration and prevent such malpractices.

In 1951, the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951 was enacted. Under this Act, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department was established with the Commissioner as its head and jurisdiction of officers at various levels were defined. The Department was entrusted with the responsibility of regulating the secular affairs of Hindu temples and mutts. The Act abolished the hereditary system of appointment of temple employees and

- The **1951** Act abolished the hereditary system of appointing temple employees and defined the duties of officials - the social-reform core of the legislation.

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clearly defined the duties and responsibilities of officials at various levels. Various interested organisations challenged the validity of the Act before the courts. Following prolonged litigation, the Supreme Court, in the *Shirur Mutt case*, upheld the constitutional validity of the Act, while striking down certain provisions.

Subsequently, repealing the earlier enactments, the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959. While introducing the Bill in the Legislative Assembly, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Kamaraj stated that more than 600 cases concerning the illegal transfer of temple properties in the names of temple trustees and their family members were pending before the Hon'ble Madras High Court. The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959,

- The Act of **1959** repealed the earlier enactments and, with amendments, remains the governing law. Kamaraj cited over 600 pending cases of illegal transfer of temple property in its defence.

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with various amendments made from time to time, continues to remain in force.

3. Hindu Religious Endowments Commission (1960–1962)

The Government of India constituted the Hindu Religious Endowments Commission to examine matters relating to Hindu religious endowments. The Commission was headed by Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as Chairman with Shri Shankar Sharan, Shri Mahabir Prasad, Swami Harinarayan Anand and Shri P. Kameswara Rao as Members.

Further, Shri K. Venkata Swami Naidu, Advocate, Madras and Shri K. C. Sen, a retired Judge of the Bombay High Court were appointed as Additional Members of the Commission.

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In its report, the Commission recommended that all States lacking a statutory mechanism for supervising Hindu Religious Endowments should establish appropriate statutory authorities to regulate and oversee the functioning of trustees, following the model of statutory bodies already functioning in States where such legislation was in force. The Commission also noted that Section 97 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, provided for the constitution of a Common Good Fund for the benefit of religious institutions.

At present, legislation governing Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments is in force in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

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The Hindu Endowments Board 1906 is in force in Malaysia; the Hindu Endowments Act, 1968 is in force in Singapore; and the Buddhist and Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1953 is in force in Sri Lanka.

Comparative law worth a line in an essay: Malaysia's Hindu Endowments Board **1906**, Singapore's Hindu Endowments **Act 1968**, and Sri Lanka's Buddhist and Hindu Religious Endowments **Act 1953**.

4. Legal and Administrative Framework

The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959

The Commissioner heads the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Officers at various levels are assigned specific territorial jurisdictions and statutory functions and perform their duties under the overall supervision of the Commissioner. This Act has also been extended to Jain religious institutions.

The Rules framed under the Act prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the

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Commissioner and the subordinate officers of the Department. The Act provides a comprehensive statutory framework for the administration of Hindu religious institutions and charitable endowments. It also lays down various legal provisions and administrative mechanisms to strengthen the financial position of religious institutions and charitable endowments and to ensure their sustainable development and effective management.

5. Hindu Religious Institutions

5.1 Religious Institutions

A total of 46,341 Hindu religious institutions are under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, as detailed below:

46,341 Hindu religious institutions are under **HR**&**CE** administration - the headline number for this department.

Sl. No.	Category of Institution	Number
1.	Temples	43,676
2.	Mutts	45

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3.	Temples Attached to Mutts	80
4.	Specific Endowments	1,216
5.	Charitable Endowments	1,301
6.	Jain Temples	23
	Total	**46,341**

All places of worship, mutts and endowment institutions under the administration of the Department have been identified by assigning a Geo-Location Identification Number (Geo-ID) based on their geographical co-ordinates (latitude and longitude).

- Every institution has a Geo-**ID** based on latitude and longitude - the base layer for the **GIS** module of the temple management system.

5.2 Classification of Hindu Religious Institutions

Hindu religious institutions are classified as Listed Institutions and Non-Listed Institutions based on their annual income as detailed below:

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Sl. No.	Classification	Annual Income	Number of Institutions
1.	**Non-Listed Institutions**		
	Under Section 49(1) of the Act	Below ₹10,000	34,661
2.	**Listed Institutions**		
	Under Section 46(i)	₹10,000 to below ₹2 lakh	3,828
	Under Section 46(ii)	₹2 lakh to below ₹10 lakh	616
	Under Section 46(iii)	₹10 lakh and above	582
3.	Sub-Temples	–	6,609
4.	Mutts	–	45
	Total		**46,341**

- The classification by income: 34,661 non-listed under Section 49(1); listed under Section 46 in three slabs - 3,828, 616 and 582; and 45 mutts.

5.3 Endowments

Endowments have been created by devotees for the maintenance of temples, the performance of daily rituals and the conduct of

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religious festivals. Properties have been dedicated to temples to ensure the continued and perpetual fulfilment of these endowments. Some of the major endowments are outlined below:-

5.3.1 Aalavandar Arakkattalai

Sri Alavandhar Swamigal, popularly known as 'Aayiram Kaani Alavandhar', established an endowment in 1814 through a testamentary deed. The endowment owns 71.24 acres of wetland, 1,057 acres of dryland and 2.24 acres of rain-fed land. The income derived from these properties has been earmarked for the conduct of religious services at Arulmigu Nithya Kalyana Perumal Temple, Tiruvidanthai, Arulmigu Thalasayana Perumal Temple, Mamallapuram and for carrying out the Bhagavatha Thadiyaradhanai Kainkaryam during the Brahmotsavam at Tirumala Tirupati.

- The Aalavandar Arakkattalai, endowed in 1814, holds **71.24 acres** of wetland and **1,057 acres** of dryland - the model of a testamentary temple endowment.

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5.3.2 Medai Thalavai kattalai

During the reign of Viswanatha Nayak of the Madurai Nayak dynasty, Thalavai Ariyanatha Mudaliar played a significant role. In continuation of his legacy, his descendants established the 'Medai Thalavai Kattalai' and endowed 304.16 acres of wet land and 827.68 acres of dry land situated in 31 villages across the districts of Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar. The income generated from these endowed lands is utilised for the regular conduct of daily, weekly, monthly and annual religious festivals and rituals at 19 temples in these districts.

5.3.3 Pillaiyan kattalai

The Pillaiyan kattalai was established by Thiruvadamalaiyappa Pillaiyan, a local chieftain of the Tirunelveli region. The endowment comprises 479.05 acres of wet land and 1,924.57 acres of

- Four major kattalais to know: Aalavandar (1814), Medai Thalavai, Pillaiyan, and Vellithambala (1877, endowed by Kottar tobacco merchants).

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dry land situated in the present-day districts of Tenkasi, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi**.** The income derived from these properties is utilised for conducting the daily, weekly, monthly and annual festivals of 10 temples situated in these districts.

5.3.4 Vellithambala kattalai

The Vellithambala kattalai was established in 1877 by tobacco merchants of the Kottar area in Vadiveeswaram Village, Nagercoil in Kanniyakumari District. Along with this endowment, the Namaskara kattalai**,** Nadesa Dharma and Ramasamy Bhajana Mutt were also established. The properties endowed to this Kattalai comprise 131.45 acres of wetland, 18.51 acres of dryland, a commercial building measuring 5,408.81 square feet and a residential building measuring 5,931.50 square feet, situated in 29 villages within Nagercoil Town. The income

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derived from the aforesaid lands is utilised, in accordance with the objectives of the endowments for the proper conduct of the following religious services and festivals:

- The daily Uchikala Kattalai and Vaikasi Vasantha Festival at the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District;
- The Eighth Day Mandagapadi during the Chithirai and Margazhi Festivals at the Arulmigu Thanumalaya Swamy Temple, Suchindram, Kanniyakumari District;
- The Masi Festival Endowment**,** Thirukalyanam**,** Kanda Sashti Soorasamharam Festival and Thirukarthigai Festival at the Arulmigu Alagamman Temple, Vadiveeswaram; and
- The daily Nivedana Pooja at the Ramasamy Bhajana Mutt**.**

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5.3.5 TPS Arakkattalai

Sri T.P.Suryanarayana Chettiar Annadhana Devara Padasalai Arakkattalai at Tiruvannamalai was established in 1930 by Thiru. T. P. Suryanarayana Chettiar.

The endowment derives its income from 53 commercial and 7 residential buildings situated on 35 survey fields, covering an extent of 39,204 square feet, located in Tiruvannamalai, Polur and Tirupattur, as well as from permanent investments.

The income generated from the endowment is utilised for providing Annadhanam and garments to devotees of Lord Siva, conducting specified festivals during the Karthigai Deepam Festival, organising Mandagapadi and reciting the Thevaram hymns, all of which continue to be carried out.

- The T.P. Suryanarayana Chettiar Annadhana Devara Padasalai Arakkattalai at Tiruvannamalai, established **1930**, draws income from 53 commercial and 7 residential buildings.

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6. Contribution and Audit Fee

Under Section 92(1) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, contributions are collected from religious institutions and under Section 92(2), audit fees are collected through the Assistant Commissioners of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The amounts so collected are credited to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund. The percentage of contribution and audit fee are prescribed as follows:

- Section 92(1) provides for contributions from religious institutions and Section 92(2) for audit fees - the department's own revenue base.

Contribution under Section 92(1)

Sl. No.	Annual Income of the Temple	Percentage (%)
1.	Below ₹5,000	Nil
2.	₹5,000 and above but not exceeding ₹20,000	4
3.	Above ₹20,000 but not exceeding ₹60,000	5

4.	Above ₹60,000 but not exceeding ₹2,00,000	6
5.	Above ₹2,00,000 but not exceeding ₹5,00,000	7
6.	₹5,00,000 and above	12

Audit Fee under Section 92(2)

Sl. No.	Annual Income of the Temple	Percentage (%)
1.	Below ₹5,000	Nil
2.	₹5,000 and above but not exceeding ₹5,00,000	1.5
3.	₹5,00,000 and above	4

7. Administrative Structure

To regulate and supervise the administration of religious institutions, the Commissioner functions as the administrative head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department under the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

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7.1 Structure of the Commissioner's Office

The following officers, at various levels, assist the Commissioner in the discharge of diverse functions of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, including general administration, establishment matters, management of movable and immovable properties of religious institutions, Temple renovation, court cases and other related activities:

Sl. No.	Designation	Number
1.	Additional Commissioner (Administration) (IAS Cadre)	1
2.	Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)	1
3.	Additional Commissioner (Education and Charitable Institutions)	1
4.	Additional Commissioner (General)	1

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5.	Additional Commissioner (Head quarters)	1
6.	Additional Commissioner (Thiruppani)	1
7.	Joint Commissioner (Legal)	1
8.	Joint Commissioner (Verification)	1
9.	Deputy Commissioner (Legal)	1
10.	Deputy Commissioners	3
11.	Assistant Commissioner / Administrative Officer (Village Temple Poosari Welfare Board)	1
12.	Assistant Commissioners	5
13.	Editor, "Thirukkoil" Monthly Magazine	1

- The Village Temple Poosari Welfare Board pays **Rs.1,500** a month to 6,000 members - poosaris in temples outside **HR**&**CE** administration. Cost is shared 50:50 between Government funds and the Common Good Fund.

7.2 Officers on Deputation

At the Commissioner's Office, officers from various departments are serving on deputation to assist in the administration of the Department.

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Revenue Department officials are engaged in the protection and management of lands, while engineers from the Public Works Department, Water Resources Department and Rural Development Department are engaged in renovation and related works. Further, officials from the Information and Public Relations Department and the Treasuries and Accounts Department are also serving in the Commissioner's Office. The details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Designation	Number
1.	Chief Engineer	1
2.	Superintending Engineers	2
3.	Special Officers (Temple Lands) (District Revenue Officer Cadre)	4
4.	Executive Engineers (Civil Works)	3
5.	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	1

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6.	Assistant Divisional Engineers (Civil Works)	6
7.	Assistant Divisional Engineer (Electrical)	1
8.	Deputy Collectors	4
9.	Special Tahsildars	2
10.	Assistant Engineers (Civil Works)	12
11.	Assistant Engineers (Electrical)	2
12.	Senior Drafting Officers	2
13.	Drafting Officers	6
14.	Junior Drafting Officers	6
15.	Senior Accounts Officer	1
16.	Assistant Accounts Officer	1
17.	Joint Director / Public Relations Officer	1
18.	Taluk Deputy Inspectors (Land Survey)	4

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8. Regional and Divisional Level Administration

8.1 Additional Commissioner (Northern and Southern) Zones

For the effective administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, two Additional Commissionerate Zones, namely the Northern Zone and the Southern Zone have been created with Chennai and Tiruchirappalli as their respective headquarters.

8.2 Jurisdiction of Joint Commissioners / Assistant Commissioners

The administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is structured into 25 Regions and 38 Divisions at the State level. A Joint Commissioner is appointed for each Region and an Assistant Commissioner is appointed for each Division to supervise and monitor the administration of religious institutions

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within their respective jurisdictions. The jurisdictional details of the Regional Joint Commissioners and Divisional Assistant Commissioners are defined as follows:

Sl. No	Joint Commissioner Region	Assistant Commissioner Division	Jurisdiction
1	Chennai–I	Chennai–I	Revenue Taluks of Madhavaram, Perambur, Purasawalkam, Thiruvottiyur and Tondiarpet
2	Chennai–II	Chennai–II	Revenue Taluks of Egmore, Aminjikarai, Maduravoyal, Ambattur and Ayanavaram
3	Chennai–III		Revenue Taluks of Guindy, Velachery, Alandur, Sholinganallur, Mylapore and Mambalam
4	Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District
		Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu District

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5	Vellore	Vellore	Vellore and Ranipet Districts
		Tirupathur	Tirupathur District
6	Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur District
7	Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai District
8	Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri District
		Krishnagiri	Krishnagiri District
9	Salem	Salem	Salem District
10	Erode	Erode	Erode District
		Namakkal	Namakkal District
11	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Coimbatore and The Nilgiris Districts
12	Mayiladuthurai	Mayiladuthurai	Mayiladuthurai District
		Kumbakonam	Kumbakonam and Thiruvidai -marudur Revenue Taluks of Thanjavur District
13	Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam District
14	Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur District
15	Thanjavur	Thanjavur	Thanjavur District

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			(excluding Thiruvidai -marudur and Kumbakonam Taluks)
		Pudukkottai	Pudukkottai District
16	Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli District
17	Perambalur	Perambalur	Perambalur District
		Ariyalur	Ariyalur District
18	Tiruppur	Tiruppur	Tiruppur District
		Karur	Karur District
19	Dindigul	Dindigul	Dindigul District
		Theni	Theni District and Usilampatti and Peraiyur Revenue Taluks of Madurai District
20	Sivagangai	Sivagangai	Sivagangai District
		Ramanatha -puram	Ramanatha -puram District
21	Madurai	Madurai	Madurai District (excluding Usilampatti and Peraiyur Revenue

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			Taluks)
		Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar District
22	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli District
		Nagercoil	Kanniyakumari District
23	Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi District
		Tenkasi	Tenkasi District
24	Villupuram	Villupuram	Villupuram District
		Kallakurichi	Kallakurichi District
25	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	Cuddalore District

8.3 Functions of the Joint Commissioner

The Joint Commissioner functions as the Zonal Officer of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Religious institutions notified under Section 46 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, are placed under the administration of the Joint Commissioner.

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Under the provisions of the Act, the Zonal Joint Commissioners are to appoint non-hereditary trustees for religious institutions notified under Section 46(i) and to approve the budgets of such religious institutions.

The Joint Commissioners are also to inquire into and decide applications within the scope of Section 63, frame schemes of administration for religious institutions under Section 64 and review orders passed by the Assistant Commissioner under Section 21A of the Act.

Further, in respect of religious institutions notified under Section 46(i), the Joint Commissioners are to take action against erring trustees, including suspension, removal or dismissal from office under Section 53. They are also recognise and register the successor to a

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hereditary trusteeship where a vacancy arises under Section 54 of the Act. The Joint Commissioners are also inquire into encroachments on lands and buildings belonging to religious institutions under Section 78 and to inquire into encroachments on temple tanks, water bodies, prakarams and mandapams under Section 80 and to order the eviction of such encroachments in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

In addition to the above, the Joint Commissioner is responsible for performing such other duties and functions as may be assigned by the Commissioner.

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8.4 Functions of the Joint Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner / Verification Officer

A Verification Officer in the cadre of Joint Commissioner is posted at the Headquarters to scrutinise and verify the valuation reports concerning valuables and other precious articles belonging to religious institutions. The valuation reports relating to senior grade temples are send to the Government for approval, whereas those relating to other temples are approved at the Commissioner level.

A Verification Officer at the level of Deputy Commissioner is functioning in the office of the Regional Joint Commissioner to verify the valuable jewels and other precious articles belonging to religious institutions and to prepare valuation reports.

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The Verification Officer is assisted by a Gold-Silver-cum-Gem Speclialist and a Junior Technical Assistant. The above Verification Team is also responsible for any special work assigned to them.

8.5 Functions of the Assistant Commissioner

In the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, the Assistant Commissioner functions as a District-level Officer.

The Assistant Commissioner is a District Level Officer, with supervisory over religious institutions covered under Section 49(1) of the Act and to approve budget and appoint non-hereditary trustees for the above institutions. On receipt of complaints about the religious institutions, the Assistant Commissioner enquires and submits preliminary reports to bring the

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religious institutions under the supervisory of the department.

For the purpose of collecting contributions and audit fees under Section 92, the Assistant Commissioner assesses religious institutions and submits reports to the Commissioner. Further, the Assistant Commissioner is responsible for recovering expenses incurred towards legal proceedings under Sections 93 and 102 and ensuring that such amounts are credited to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund.

The Assistant Commissioner is also responsible for carrying out other duties assigned by the Commissioner from time to time.

8.6 Functions of the Inspector

The Regional Joint Commissioners and the Divisional Assistant Commissioners of this

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Department are assisted by 264 Inspectors at the Taluk level. 30 Suit Inspectors are in the department to attend the court cases of the department.

The duties of Inspectors include conducting enquiries into complaints received regarding individual religious institutions and submitting preliminary reports to the Assistant Commissioner for bringing such institutions under the administration of the Department. They are also responsible for conducting periodic inspections of religious institutions, collecting contributions, audit fees, scrutiny fees and costs imposed by courts. Inspectors are entrusted with the following additional responsibilities:-

- Collect the property registers, scheme registers and tree registers prepared by the religious institutions, verifying them and forwarding them for the approval of the

264 Inspectors at taluk level assist the Regional Joint Commissioners and Divisional Assistant Commissioners - the field tier of **HR**&**CE**.

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Joint Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner;

- Conducting enquiries and submitting reports on petitions and references received from departmental officers;
- Scrutinising and verifying applications for the appointment of trustees and submitting reports;
- Supervising activities such as auctions, opening of tender documents and opening of hundials;
- Verifying the income and expenditure statements of religious institutions under the administration of the Department and submitting reports for the purpose of determining contributions;
- Recovering outstanding dues; and
- Performing other duties assigned by higher authorities.

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9. Restoration and Conservation Wing

Engineers and Drafting Officers are incharge of scrutinizing the estimates for carrying out the temple renovation and civil works as well as supervising works apart from checking the measurements.

For this purpose, this Department has established the Temple Restoration and Conservation Wing with a sanctioned strength of 341 posts, headed by the Chief Engineer.

- A dedicated Temple Restoration and Conservation Wing of 341 posts headed by a Chief Engineer, with its own service rules.

This section comprises one Chief Sthapathi at the level of Executive Engineer, 24 Zonal Sthapathis at the level of Assistant Executive Engineer and 40 Assistant Sthapathis at the level of Assistant Engineer.

Separate Service Rules have been prescribed for the posts in the Temple Renovation

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and Conservation Wing. Pursuant to the introduction of these Service Rules, the posts earmarked for direct recruitment in this service are being filled through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

In addition, 17 retired officials from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have been engaged on a contractual basis as Consultants to provide technical and expert guidance in the renovation and conservation of heritage temples.

10. Temple Administration

Each religious institution is distinct in terms of its administrative structure and is managed by its trustees, who are to appoint the necessary staff. However, under Section 45(1) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act and the Rules framed thereunder, an Executive Officer

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may be appointed in the interest of a religious institution and to ensure its proper and efficient administration. Further, an Executive Officer may be appointed where there are grounds to believe that persistent irregularities are being committed in the administration of the institution in contravention of the provisions of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder or where there are instances of improper conduct, maladministration or mismanagement. An Executive Officer may also be appointed where the administrative scheme provides for such appointment or where the trustee expresses a desire for the appointment of an Executive Officer to assist in the proper administration and development of the religious institution.

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10.1 Executive Officers

Based on the significance, revenue, assets, scope of work and other activities of the temples, Executive Officers of different grades in 668 Post are working at present in the Department.

- 668 Executive Officer posts across grades manage temples according to their significance, revenue and assets.

Classification of Executive Officers

Sl. No.	Level of Executive Officer	Number
1.	Joint Commissioner	12
2.	Deputy Commissioner	10
3.	Assistant Commissioner	29
4.	Executive Officer – Grade I	102
5.	Executive Officer – Grade II	119
6.	Executive Officer – Grade III	243
7.	Executive Officer – Grade IV	153
	Total	**668**

10.2 Engineering Wing in Temples

In major temples, a separate Engineering Wing has been established to undertake activities such as the preservation of temples without affecting their traditional and heritage character, repairs, renovation, restoration and new construction.

11. Mutts

There were 56 Mutts under the supervision of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. At present, only 45 Mutts exists. The remaining 11 Mutts, having lost their distinct institutional identity, have been brought under the category of temples.

In the Saiva tradition, these include the Thirugnanasambandar Swamigal Mutt, popularly known as Madurai Aadheenam, Thiruvavaduthurai

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Aadheenam, Dharmapuram Aadheenam, Kundrakudi Aadheenam, Perur Aadheenam, Mailam Bommapura Aadheenam and Coimbatore Siravai Aadheenam. In the Vaishnava tradition, the Ahobilam Mutt, Vanamamalai Mutt, Thirukkurungudi Mutt and Embar Jeeyar Mutt have been rendering such service. The Kanchipuram Sankara Mutt has likewise been traditionally contributing to the propagation of the Advaita tradition.

The contribution of the Mutts towards the promotion and preservation of the Tamil language, which has a long-standing tradition as a language of worship is immeasurable. Over generations, the Mutts have carefully preserved Tamil palm-leaf manuscripts, thereby facilitating the study and appreciation of Sangam literature by successive generations. By preserving the

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ancient Tamil language through these palm-leaf manuscripts, the Mutts have played a significant role in safeguarding not only the religious and cultural heritage of its followers but also the rich linguistic heritage of Tamil.

The Vijayanagara period onwards, the Mutts in South India played a prominent role in encouraging the composition of Puranic literature. Kamalai Gnanaprakasar, the preceptor of Guru Gnana Sambandar, the founder of the Dharmapuram Mutt, composed the *Thirumazhapadi Puranam*. His disciple, Thiruvottriyur Gnanaprakasar composed the *Thiruvottriyur Puranam*. These literary efforts marked the beginning of the growth and development of Sthala Puranas.

The accounts of the glory and sacred significance of various places, which were

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originally part of the Eighteen Puranas, developed into a distinct literary tradition through the efforts of the Mutts. These works conveyed the history, heritage, antiquity and present significance of various places, thereby strengthening people's enduring faith.

Several chieftains, prominent landholders and wealthy patrons, through their wealth and influence, supported the Mutts in nurturing eminent Tamil poets and scholars such as Perumpatrappuliyur Nambi, Umapati Sivachariyar, Athiveerarama Pandiar, Maraignana Sambandar, Kamalai Gnanaprakasar, Ellappa Navalar, Paranjothi Munivar, Thirikoodarasappa Kavirayar, Sivagnana Munivar, Chidambaranatha Munivar, Kachiyappar and Mahavidwan Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai. Thus, the Mutts played a significant role in the development and preservation of Tamil literary.

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12. Audit of Hindu Religious Institutions

Under Section 87(3) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, it has been prescribed that temples having an annual income exceeding ₹5 lakh shall be subjected to concurrent audit. Temples having an annual income exceeding ₹1,000 shall undergo an audit once every year. The audit reports shall be submitted to the respective officers as prescribed under Section 88 of the Act.

- Section 87(3): concurrent audit above **Rs.5 lakh** of annual income, annual audit above **Rs.1,000**. Audit fee runs from 1.5% to 4%.

For carrying out these audit functions, an audit fee ranging from 1.5% to 4% is collected under Section 92(2) of the Act, based on the income taken into account for determining the contribution payable by the respective temple.

To ensure the independent functioning of auditors and to facilitate speedy settlement of audit objections, the Audit Wing was separated

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from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and is functioning independently under the control of the Finance Department, headed by its Director.

For the effective settlement of audit objections, similar to the procedure followed by the Local Fund Audit Department, a two-tier system of Audit Committees has been established for resolving audit objections relating to major temples. Necessary amendments have been made in the Rules framed under Section 87 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, to facilitate this mechanism.

13. Advisory Committee

The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, provides for the constitution of an Advisory Committee to

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advise the Government on matters relating to Hindu religious institutions.

The Committee shall comprise the Hon'ble Chief Minister as the Chairperson, the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments as the Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary to the Department as a Member, the Commissioner as the Member-Secretary and experts from various fields as Non-Official Members. One of the Non-Official Members shall belong to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe.

The term of office of the Non-Official Members of the Committee shall be three years.

14. State Committee

Under Section 46(iii) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the Government constitutes a Board of

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Trustees consisting of five non-hereditary trustees for Hindu religious institutions notified under Section 46(iii), based on the recommendations of the State Committee.

15. District Committee

Under Section 7-A of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the Government constitutes a District Committee comprising not less than three and not more than five non-official members for each Revenue District. The Committee is responsible for selecting eligible applicants and furnishing a panel of names for the appointment of non-hereditary trustees to religious institutions falling under Section 49(1) but not having a scheme of administration as well as to religious institutions covered under Sections 46(i) and 46(ii).

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The term of office of the members of the District Committee is two years.

Accordingly, one District Committee is constituted for each of the 38 districts. Advertisement notifications have been issued for the constitution of District Committees in 18 districts, while District Committees are currently functioning in 20 districts.

16. Appointment of Trustees

Under Section 47 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, non-hereditary trustees shall be appointed for the administration of Hindu religious institutions. Each Board of Trustees so constituted shall consist of not less than three members and not more than five members.

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The Board shall include one member belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community and one woman member. The term of office of the members of the Board shall be two years.

At present, a notification has been issued for the appointment of Trustees to 9,259 temples.

- Trustees are being appointed to 9,259 temples under Section 47 - non-hereditary appointment, the principle established in **1951**.

16.1 Qualification and Disqualifications for Appointment of Trustees

Under Section 25A of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the following qualifications have been prescribed for appointment as a trustee of Hindu religious institutions:

a) The person shall have faith in God.

b) The person shall possess good conduct and reputation and shall be a respected person in

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the locality where the religious institution or endowment is situated.

c) The person shall have sufficient time and interest to discharge the administrative responsibilities of the religious institution or endowment.

Under Section 26 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the following disqualifications have been prescribed for appointment as a trustee:-

Section 25A sets the qualifications for a trustee and Section 26 the disqualifications - beginning with persons who do not profess the Hindu religion.

(a) Persons who do not profess the Hindu religion.

(b) Persons who are below 25 years of age.

(c) Persons who have been convicted by a Criminal Court for an offence involving moral turpitude, where such conviction has not been reversed or the offence has not been pardoned.

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(d) Persons who have been trustees of any temple and have been removed or dismissed from the office of trustee.

(e) Persons who are of unsound mind or suffering from any other mental infirmity or mental disability rendering them incapable of discharging the functions and duties of a trustee.

(f) Persons who are trustees of any endowment attached to the said temple.

(g) Persons who have been removed or dismissed from the service of the Central Government, the State Government or any local authority.

(h) Persons who have been engaged as paid legal practitioners on behalf of or against the religious institution.

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(i) Persons who have acted against the interests of the religious institution.

(j) Persons who are lessees of the religious institution or are interested in any other agreement with the institution or are connected with any work being carried out by the institution or are in arrears of any amount payable to the religious institution in any manner.

(k) Undischarged insolvents.

(l) Persons employed in Government companies, private companies under the administration of the Government or Government-sponsored institutions.

16.2 Provisions for Appointment of Trustees

Under Section 49(1) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act,

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1959, the Assistant Commissioner constitutes a Board of three non-hereditary trustees for Hindu religious institutions having an annual income of less than ₹10,000, based on the recommendations of the District Committees.

For Hindu religious institutions falling under Section 46(i) of the Act, the Joint Commissioner constitutes a Board of three non-hereditary trustees based on the recommendations of the District Committees under Section 47(1)(a)(i) of the Act.

For Hindu religious institutions falling under Section 46(ii) of the Act, the Commissioner constitutes a Board of three non-hereditary trustees based on the recommendations of the District Committees under Section 47(1)(a)(ii) of the Act.

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For Hindu religious institutions falling under Section 46(iii) of the Act, the Government constitutes a Board of Trustees consisting of five non-hereditary trustees based on the recommendations of the State Committee under Section 47(1)(a)(iii) of the Act.

Further, in addition to the persons appointed by the Commissioner, Joint Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, the Government may appoint two additional eligible persons as members of the Board of Trustees.

16.3 Appointment of Fit Person

Until the constitution of a Board of Trustees, as an interim arrangement, a Fit Person may be appointed by the officer concerned under Section 47(1)(c) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act to perform the duties and functions of the Board of Trustees.

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17. Management of Immovable Properties of Hindu Religious Institutions

17.1 Temple Lands

Temples and religious institutions own extensive agricultural lands, house sites and buildings spread over large areas.

Classification and Extent of Temple Lands

Classification of Land	Temple Lands	Mutt Lands	Total Lands
	Acres in lakh		
Wetlands (Nanjai)	1.83	0.21	2.04
Drylands (Punjai)	2.18	0.35	2.53
Rain-fed Lands (Manavari)	0.21	Nil	0.21
Total	**4.22**	**0.56**	**4.78***

* To verify and reconcile the lands belonging to temples, committees have been constituted throughout Tamil Nadu and land survey works are being carried out.

- Temple and mutt lands total **4.78 lakh** acres - **4.22 lakh** with temples and 0.56 lakh with mutts, across wet, dry and rain-fed classes.

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Details of lands belonging to religious institutions under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department have been uploaded on the Revenue Department's "Tamil Nilam" portal. The process of reconciliation and verification of these records is currently underway. Out of the above total extent of lands, 3.49 lakh acres have been confirmed as fully matched items with the Revenue Department records and have been published on the website for general public.

Of **4.78 lakh** acres, **3.49 lakh** have been matched with Revenue Department records on the Tamil Nilam portal and published for the public.

While reconciling the land records of temples, appeals are being preferred by the concerned religious institutions before the Revenue Department officials seeking to convert partially matched land records, as well as new entries not available in the Tamil Nilam records of the Revenue Department, into fully matched entries.

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The process of comparing the land database maintained by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department with the data available in the Revenue Department's Tamil Nilam portal is currently in progress. The details identified through this reconciliation process will be verified and uploaded in the Department's database.

For protecting and recovering the immovable properties belonging to religious institutions under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, the Revenue Department has appointed 36 Special Tahsildars, one for each Assistant Commissioner's Division, along with two Special Tahsildars at the Headquarters.

These officers assist in the protection of temple lands, eviction of encroachments and recovery of temple properties under private

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occupation. The Special Tahsildars and licensed land surveyors function under the supervision of four District Revenue Officers posted at the Commissioner's Office.

In addition, 23,715 buildings and 78,042 house sites and other agricultural lands belonging to religious institutions have been leased or rented out.

Besides land, 23,715 buildings and 78,042 house sites belonging to religious institutions are leased or rented out.

17.2 Fixation of Fair Rent

Section 34A of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, provides for fixation of fair rent for buildings and house sites belonging to temples. Fair rent for commercial and residential buildings and lands belonging to religious institutions is fixed by a committee consisting of:

Section 34A allows fair rent to be fixed for temple buildings and house sites - the legal answer to below-market temple leases.

- Regional Joint Commissioner;
- Executive Officer / Trustee / Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the temple; and

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- District Registrar of the Registration Department.

17.3 Revenue Courts

To recover arrears of lease rent due from agricultural lands belonging to Hindu religious institutions, determine the lease rent payable for such lands and evict defaulting lessees, cases are being filed by the concerned religious institutions before the Revenue Courts headed by Special Deputy Collectors under the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation and Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act, 1961. These cases are adjudicated in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Accordingly, Revenue Courts are functioning at the following 10 locations:-

- Thanjavur
- Tiruchirappalli
- Mayiladuthurai

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- Tiruvarur
- Cuddalore
- Madurai
- Lalgudi
- Mannargudi
- Nagapattinam and
- Tirunelveli.

Camp sittings of Revenue Courts are also functioning at Kumbakonam, Salem and Tenkasi.

As of 31.03.2026, a total of 3,696 cases had been filed before the Revenue Courts. Since this Government assumed office, orders have been obtained in 70 cases for the recovery of lease arrears amounting to ₹62.06 lakh. Further action is being taken continuously to recover the remaining outstanding lease arrears.

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17.4 Recovery of Lands

During the Updating of Registry Scheme, details were found regarding certain lands belonging to religious institutions under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, which were mistakenly transferred and patta was issued in the names of private individuals.

Such cases are identified and appeals are filed by temple administrations before the concerned District Revenue Officers. Based on the orders issued, the lands are recovered and restored in the name of the respective temples.

So far, patta has been transferred in the name of the respective temples for 5,364.93 acres of land belonging to 642 temples.

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Further, instances where land records belonging to religious and charitable institutions under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department have been erroneously recorded during the preparation of computerised Chitta records by the Revenue Department are being identified. The respective temple administrations file appeals before the concerned Revenue Divisional Officers and obtain appropriate orders for rectification of the records. Through this process, patta has so far been transferred in the name of the respective temples for 4,621.26 acres of land belonging to 732 temples.

17.5 Removal of Encroachments

From 10.05.2026, after the present Government assumed office, encroachments on immovable properties belonging to 43 temples

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have been removed. The properties recovered include:-

- 40.91 acres of agricultural lands;
- 69 grounds of vacant lands;
- 17 grounds of buildings; and
- 1 ground of temple tank bund areas.

The total value of the recovered properties is **₹108.40** crore.

- Encroachments on properties of 43 temples were removed from **10.05.2026**, recovering property worth **Rs.108.40 crore**.

17.6 Regularisation of Group Encroachments

Various measures are being taken to regularise persons who have encroached immovable properties belonging to Hindu religious institutions as a group for residential purpose for a long period, as tenants without affecting the interest of the temples.

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From 10.05.2026, in two temples, 11 encroachers occupying 0.21 acres of land have been regularised as tenants.

17.7 Survey of Temple Lands

Survey work of temple lands under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is being carried out using modern Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS Rover) equipment.

- 66 **DGPS** instruments and 132 licensed surveyors survey temple lands; **8,196.67 acres** were surveyed and 4,890 boundary stones installed between **10.05.2026** and **31.07.2026**.

Using 66 DGPS instruments, 132 licensed surveyors are engaged in land survey activities and 40 licensed surveyors are engaged in preparation of documents.

After this Government assumed office, during the period from 10.05.2026 to 31.07.2026, surveys have been conducted for 8,196.67 acres of land and 4,890 boundary stones have been installed in the surveyed fields.

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18. Temple Renovation Works (Thiruppani)

18.1 Renovation, Restoration and Conservation of Temples

In ancient times, temples were constructed and maintained by kings and affluent individuals. Successive rulers continued to preserve and enhance these traditional temple structures.

The heritage temples of historical significance and antiquity are renowned for having been praised and celebrated in the hymns of the Alvars and Nayanmars. Priority is being accorded to the renovation of such temples, along with the restoration of dilapidated temples and temples located in rural areas are given special attention to undertake renovation.

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18.2 Sources of Funds for Renovation and Construction

The financial resources utilised for undertaking renovation and construction in temples are as follows:

- Government Grant;
- Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund;
- Government Fund for Temples more than 1,000 years old;
- Common Good Fund;
- Temple Funds;
- Temple Development Fund;
- Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund;
- Thiruppani Donations and Donor-Sponsored works; and
- Tourism Department Fund.

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18.3 Government Grant

The Government provides an annual grant of ₹10 crore for renovation and repair of temples.

- The routine renovation grant is **Rs.10** crore a year, supplemented by the **HR**&**CE** Administration Fund constituted under Section 96 of the Act.

18.4 Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund

Financial assistance is provided for temple renovation works from the surplus funds of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Fund constituted under Section 96 of the Act.

18.5 Government Fund for temples more than 1,000 years old

It is imperative to undertake the renovation, restoration and conservation of temples in Tamil Nadu that are more than 1,000 years old, while ensuring that their original character and antiquity are preserved.

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Accordingly, the Government provides Rs.125 crore annually to facilitate renovation and conservation works in these ancient temples.

- **Rs.125 crore** a year is provided specifically for temples more than 1,000 years old, to renovate them while preserving their antiquity. The headline conservation commitment.

18.6 Common Good Fund

- Financial assistance is being provided from the Common Good Fund under Section 97 for the renovation and improvement of temples requiring such assistance.
- Renovation works in Village temples under the administration of the Department; and
- Renovation works in temples located in areas inhabited by Adi Dravidar and tribal communities, which are not under the administration of the Department.

Financial assistance of ₹2.50 lakh is being provided for each temple.

18.7 Temple Funds

Where a temple has sufficient funds, the renovation works and other works to be undertaken in the temple are carried out from the temple funds.

18.8 Temple Development Fund

A Corpus Fund of ₹8 crore was created from the surplus funds of financially strong temples to support the development and renovation of temples with inadequate financial resources. Financial assistance for renovation works of ancient and historically significant temples is provided from the interest earned on this fund.

- A Temple Development Fund of **Rs.8** crore, built from surplus funds of wealthy temples, supports temples with inadequate resources - cross-subsidy inside the temple system.

18.9 Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

The "Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund" was established in 1991.

- The Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund, **1991**, is administered directly by the Government and has a corpus of **Rs.9.11 crore**.

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Donations were received from philanthropic individuals, industrialists and the general public towards this Fund. The Fund was subsequently renamed as the "Temple Renovation and Charitable Works Fund".

The Fund is administered directly by the Government and presently has a corpus of ₹9.11 crore.

18.10 Thiruppani Donations and Donor - Sponsored Works

It has been a common practice for devotees to voluntarily undertake renovation, preservation and improvement works in temples at their own expense under the supervision of the Department.

Further, steps are being taken by the Department to create an online portal through which donors can make direct contributions to

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temples of their choice and support various activities, including temple renovation, restoration of temple tanks and temple cars, renovation of temples over 1,000 years old, Kudamuzhukku, Annadhanam, expansion of Oru kaala pooja temples, maintenance of Cow shelters and other charitable activities.

18.11 Tourism Department Fund

Tamil Nadu’s temples serve not only as spiritual places, but also as major tourist attractions.

With a view to ensure the convenience and welfare of devotees and tourists visiting these temples, the Tourism Department and the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department are jointly taking steps to provide the following basic amenities:

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- Toilets
- Bathing facilities
- Drinking water facilities
- Accommodation facilities
- Information centres
- Approach roads
- High-mast lighting
- Cloakrooms / baggage storage facilities
- Vehicle parking facilities

19. Regional and State-Level Expert Committees

For undertaking renovation works in temples under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a regional committee consisting of 10 experts and a state-level committee consisting of 14 experts with expertise in preservation and restoration of heritage and traditional structures have been constituted.

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Renovation works are being carried out based on the advice provided by these expert committees.

20. Approval of Drawings

Appropriate guidance is provided for carrying out temple works based on traditional architectural principles (Shilpa Shastra). Drawings related to renovation works, sculptures, Rajagopurams (temple towers) and temple cars are verified and countersigned by the Chief Stapathi and works are carried out accordingly.

21. List of Engineers Approved by District Collectors

To avoid delays in preparing estimates required for the preservation and renovation of temples, a list of chartered engineers approved by the Public Works Department and empanelled

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by District Collectors is being engaged at the district level.

These engineers prepare the required drawings and estimates for temple renovation works and undertake such assignments at the rates fixed by the Commissioner.

22. Recognition and Empanelment of Stapathis (Traditional Temple Architects)

To ensure that renovations in temples are carried out in accordance to the Shilpa Shastra and Agama Shastra, persons possessing traditional knowledge, skills and experience in the art of sculpture, inherited from their ancestors, are recognised as Sthapathis / Sculptors and temple renovation works are being undertaken through them.

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23. Empanelment of Architects

For preparing master plans for development works in temples and temple-related areas, eligible architectural and design firms with the required expertise have been selected and an approved panel has been prepared.

Temple administrations utilize the services of these firms for preparing comprehensive master plans required for temple development.

24. Restoration and Preservation of Murals

A Conservation Artist has been appointed on a contract basis to provide appropriate recommendations for the restoration, preservation and maintenance of ancient murals in temples while ensuring that their original heritage and antiquity are retained.

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25. Temple Thirukuda Nanneerattu Vizha (Consecration)

It is a customary practice to conduct the Thirukuda Nanneerattu Vizha (Consecration) once in every twelve years for each temple.

By expediting the renovation works being carried out in temples, Thirukuda Nanneerattu were successfully conducted in 281 temples from 14.05.2026 to 13.07.2026.

- 281 consecrations (Thirukuda Nanneerattu) were conducted between **14.05.2026** and **13.07.2026** - the visible output of the renovation programme.

26. Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rainwater Harvesting

Across the State, there are 2,372 temple tanks in 1,634 temples.

- 2,372 temple tanks in 1,634 temples are being renovated with rainwater harvesting - temples as water infrastructure, not only as heritage.

The renovation and restoration works of these temple tanks are being undertaken periodically based on the recommendations of experts and consultants.

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27. Cars

27.1 Wooden Temple Cars/ Chariots

The car processions held during the annual festivals of temples are of great significance.

It is believed that, during the car festival, the deity itself comes out of the temple in procession to bless the devotees.

A total of 1,138 wooden temple cars are in existence in 882 temples. They are periodically maintained under the supervision of Sthapathis during the festival time.

1,138 wooden temple cars survive in 882 temples - a living craft tradition the department maintains.

27.2 Gold and Silver Chariots

It has been a long-standing tradition for devotees to fulfil their vows by pulling the festival deity's procession in golden chariots or silver chariots.

At present, Gold chariots are available in 71 temples and Silver chariots are available in 61 temples. (as shown in Annexure I and II)

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27.3. Gold Investment Scheme

Devotees visiting temples offer various gold articles as offerings in fulfilment of their vows is in practice. Such gold articles received as offerings in temples, which are not in use and cannot be worn on the deities, were melted at the India Government Mint located in Mumbai and converted into 24-carat gold bars, which were invested in nationalised banks under the Gold Deposit Scheme.

For undertaking these activities, the districts have been divided into three zones and separate committees have been constituted for each zone in accordance with the Government Orders. Each committee is headed by a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court and comprises the Deputy Commissioner/Assistant Commissioner and members of the Verification Committee. The gold articles received as

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offerings, which are not in use or cannot be used for adorning the deities, are segregated and weighed within the respective temple premises under the supervision of the committee, with CCTV surveillance and video recording. The gold so collected is then handed over to the State Bank of India and melted at Government mint, Mumbai owned by the Government of India and converted into 24 carot gold bars. The refined gold bars are deposited with the State Bank of India.

With regard to the unused silver articles lying in the temples under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, permission has been accorded to melt them within the premises of the respective temples through Government-authorised private silver-melting firms, in the presence of zonal committees headed by three Judges and to

convert them into pure silver bars. Accordingly, the process of melting unused silver articles was undertaken at Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani and Srimath Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal Thirumadam, Mailam.

28. Special Schemes

28.1 Worship in Annai Thamizh (Tamil Language Worship)

Tamil, the language taught by the Tamil deity who blesses even those who speak against it. The Alwars and Nayanmars have enriched the glory of temples through their devotional hymns and sacred verses. As one's mother tongue enables devotees to understand the meaning of the words they utter, express their innermost feelings and offer prayers with devotion, the Department has made special arrangements to facilitate worship in Tamil, keeping in view its rich heritage and significance.

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Further, to encourage worship in Tamil, 60% of the amount collected through Archana ticket charges is being distributed as a share to the Archakas/Pujaris.

Accordingly, up to June 2026, a total amount of ₹1.19 crore has been distributed as a share to the Archakas/Pujaris serving in 332 temples.

28.2 Appointment of Priests (Archakas) from All Communities

In order to promote social justice in temples and ensure equal opportunities for all in the service of the deity, the Government took a policy decision in 2006 that opportunities to perform puja and other religious services in temples should not be denied on the basis of caste.

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Pursuant to this decision, 29 Archakas have been appointed in temples. All of them belong to different communities and have undergone training at the Archakar Training Schools run by six temples.

29. Annadhanam Scheme

Under this scheme, wholesome food is provided to devotees visiting temples to receive divine blessings.

The scheme was introduced in 2002 and is currently being implemented as a Annadhanam scheme in 770 temples. Through this scheme, approximately 44,500 devotees benefit every day.

- Annadhanam, introduced in **2002**, now runs in 770 temples and feeds about 44,500 devotees a day.

29.1 Day Long Annadhanam

With a view to ensure the welfare of devotees visiting temples, the Day Long

- The Day Long Annadhanam Scheme began in **2012** at Srirangam and Palani and now benefits about 31,750 devotees a day across the major temples.

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Annadhanam Scheme was introduced in 2012 at Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam and Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani. The scheme is currently being implemented in the following 14 temples. Through this scheme, approximately 31,750 devotees are benefitted every day:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam
2.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniyaswamy Temple, Tiruttani
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniyaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur
5.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
6.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram

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7.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
8.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
9.	Arulmigu Masani Amman Temple, Anaimalai
10.	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Melmalayanur
11.	Arulmigu Bhavani Amman Temple, Periyapalayam
12.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Alagarkoil, Madurai
13.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai
14.	Arulmigu Kurinji Andavar Temple, Kodaikanal

29.2 Naal Muzhuvathum Prasadam

The scheme of providing prasadam throughout the day to all devotees visiting temples is being implemented in 29 temples, including Palani, Madurai, Tiruchendur and Samayapuram.

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29.3 Breakfast and Lunch Scheme for Students

Breakfast and lunch are provided to the students studying in the educational institutions run by Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.

A total of 5,452 students benefit through this scheme.

29.4 Food Safety Certification (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God Certificate – BHOG)

529 temples hold **FSSAI**'s **BHOG** certification for prasadam and annadhanam hygiene - food safety applied to temple kitchens.

To ensure that the prasadam and annadhanam prepared in temples are made with quality and in a hygienic manner, 529 temples have received the quality certification (BHOG) awarded by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

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30. Thiruthugil Mariyaadhai (Exchange of Honors)

To promote religious harmony between temples in Tamil Nadu and those in other states, the tradition of exchanging Thiruthugil honors between Srirangam, Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has been continuously observed for many years.

Furthermore, 7 other temples listed below also regularly participate in this exchange of Thiruthugil honors:-

1. Bannari, Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple and Chamundeeswari Temple, Mysuru, Karnataka.
2. Sholingur, Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple and Arulmigu Ahobilam Temple, Andhrapradesh.

3. Srivilliputhur, Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple and Arulmigu Venkatajalapathi Temple, Tirupati.

4. Kanchipuram, Arulmigu Vaikunta Perumal and Embar Swamigal Temple and Arulmigu Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple, Melukote, Karnataka.

5. Kumbakonam, Oppiliappankoil, Arulmigu Oppiliappan Temple and Arulmigu Raghavendrar Brindavan, Mantralayam, Andhrapradesh.

6. Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and Arulmigu Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

7. Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple and Arulmigu Mallikarjuna Temple, Srisailam, Andhrapradesh.

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31. Spiritual and Moral Education Classes

To deeply instill our culture and traditions found in ancient Tamil literature into the minds of children through stories, spiritual and moral education classes are conducted in senior grade temples on weekends.

To encourage the students attending these classes, temple prasadam is distributed to them.

Furthermore, a standardized textbook titled 'Aanmiga Olukka Neri' (Spiritual and Moral Ethics) has been prepared and provided to these senior grade temples to follow a uniform syllabus for these spiritual classes.

32. Special Worship and Common Feast

Every year, on important occasions such as Independence Day and Remembrance Day of Perarignar Anna, special worship are conducted in

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major temples, followed by special common feast for people belonging to all sections of society.

33. Elephants Special Welfare Measures

A total of 27 elephants belonging to 25 temples and mutts are being maintained at their respective temples and mutts. Medical examinations are conducted twice a month for these temple elephants and special natural feed is being provided to them.

Currently, to ensure the well-being and maintenance of elephants in temples and mutts within a natural environment, bathing tanks, mud baths and walking paths have been set up (as shown in Annexure III).

34. Cow Shelters

Cow shelters have been established in temples to maintain cattle received as offerings from devotees (as shown in Annexure IV).

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Integrated cow shelters have also been established at four locations:-

- Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
- Arulmigu Subramaniyaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur
- Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam
- Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram

Surplus cattle received as donations by temples are distributed free of cost to Women Self-Help Groups, Temple archakas and Poosaris.

Cow shelter construction works are currently being undertaken at the following locations:-

1. Arulmigu Sundararaja Perumal Temple, Kovilpathagai, Avadi Taluk
2. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai

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3. Arulmigu Vedapureeswarar Temple, Cheyyar
4. Arulmigu Aalkondamal Temple, Somavarapatti, Udumalpet

35. Battery Cars

For the welfare and convenience of devotees visiting temples, 80 battery-operated vehicles are in operation across 18 temples (as shown in Annexure V).

36. Ropecar and Lift Facilities

To enable devotees to reach hilltop temples easily and quickly for worship, ropecar are currently operational for public use at the following temples:-

- Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
- Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, Sholinghur

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- Arulmigu Rathinagiriswarar Temple, Ayyarmalai

Additionally, to help senior citizens and persons with disabilities easily reach the temples, lifts have been installed for the convenience of devotees at Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple in Maruthamalai and Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple in Swamimalai.

37. Oru Kaala Poojai Scheme

Oru Kaala Poojai Scheme was introduced in 1986 with the objective of ensuring that atleast one time pooja is performed daily in financially constrained temples.

At present, a fixed deposit of ₹2.5 lakh has been created for each of 19,000 temples. The pooja expenses of these temples are met from the interest accrued from these deposits.

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With the objective of improving the livelihood of Archakas/Poojaris performing pooja in temples covered under Oru Kaala Poojai Scheme, an incentive amount of ₹1,500 per month is being disbursed. The expenditure for this scheme is met out from the Common Good Fund.

For payment of electricity charges for 12,946 temples under Oru Kaala Poojai Scheme, the Government provides financial assistance of ₹4,020 per temple per year, amounting to ₹6.00 crore annually. Since electricity charges are recurring expenditure, the amount is reimbursed from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Fund.

38. Government Grant

Government grant are being provided to the following temples for meeting expenses such as salaries of temple employees, pensions, electricity

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charges, pooja materials, renovation works, festival expenses and other related expenditures:-

Sl. No.	Temples	Government Grant (₹ in Crore)
1	Suchindram, Kanniyakumari District Temples	18.00
2	Pudukkottai Samasthanam Temples	10.00
3	Thanjavur Palace Devasthanam Temples	8.00

39. Spiritual Pilgrimages

39.1 Government Subsidy for Pilgrimage to Manasarovar and Muktinath

Every person belonging to the Hindu faith considers undertaking a pilgrimage to Manasarovar and Muktinath at least once in their lifetime as a spiritual duty.

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A Government subsidy of ₹1,00,000 is provided to eligible pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage to Manasarovar in China. Similarly, a subsidy of ₹30,000 is provided to eligible pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage to Muktinath in Nepal.

For both these pilgrimages, the subsidy is provided once in a lifetime to eligible devotees who complete the pilgrimage and apply for the subsidy. A maximum of 500 beneficiaries are provided assistance annually for each pilgrimage.

- Pilgrimage subsidy: **Rs.1,00,000** for Manasarovar in China and **Rs.30,000** for Muktinath in Nepal, for up to 500 beneficiaries each a year.

39.2. Spiritual Pilgrimage Rameswaram to Kasi, Arupadaiveedu, Amman Temples and Vaishnavite Temples:

Every year, senior citizens aged between 60 and 70 are taken on spiritual pilgrimages funded by the Government.

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40. Preparation of Vibuthi (Sacred Ash) and Kumkum in Temples

Vibuthi (Sacred Ash) and Kumkum prepared using modern technological methods are being produced in the following temples. These products are supplied not only to the respective temples but also to other temples as per their requirements.

Product	Temples
Vibuthi (Sacred Ash)	1. Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani 2. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur 3. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai 4. Arulmigu Akilandeswari samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval

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Kumkum	1. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai 2. Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram 3. Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari 4. Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu

41. Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis

On Independence Day and on Remembrance day of Perarignar Anna, cotton sarees and dhotis available in surplus in affluant temples are distributed to poor and underprivileged people.

42. Libraries in Temples

To promote spiritual awareness among devotees visiting temples, libraries have been established in 198 temples.

- Libraries in 198 temples - part of the department's cultural, not merely ritual, function.

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In addition to the existing books, new devotional literature and spiritual magazines have also been added to these libraries.

All spiritual books published through the publication wing of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department are being placed in the libraries managed by temples.

43. Control Room at the Commissioner's Office

To enhance the security of temples, 2,883 CCTV cameras have been installed in 48 senior grade temples to monitor Hundial opening, auction proceedings and Darshan ticket collection. Further, the live feeds from these cameras have been integrated with the Control Room at the Commissioner's Office, enabling continuous centralized monitoring.

- 2,883 **CCTV** cameras in 48 senior grade temples watch hundial openings, auctions and darshan ticket collection, monitored from a control room at the Commissioner's Office.

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44. Master Plan Works

With a view to enhance the basic amenities and infrastructure for the benefit of thousands of devotees visiting prominent temples, development works are being undertaken in 16 temples at a total estimated cost of ₹1,445.93 crore. The details of the major infrastructure development works are as follows:

- Master Plan works in 16 major temples at **Rs.1,445.93 crore** - the single largest capital commitment in this note.

Sl. No.	Master plan works- Temple	Estimate Amount (₹ in Crores)
1	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur (Donor Fund) - Phase 1	206.45
	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur (Temple Fund) - Phase 2	118.00
2	Arulmigu Bhavaniamman Temple, Periyapalayam	169.66
3	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram	59.35
4	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani	230.48

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5	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani	103.50
6	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram	60.89
7	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu	52.80
8	International Centre for Thiru Arut Prakasa Vallalar, Vadalur, Cuddalore	99.90
9	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai	122.82
10	Arulmigu Mariyamman Temple, Irukkankudi	65.80
11	Arulmigu Avvaiyar Viswanathaswamy Temple, Vedharanyam	18.95
12	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Azhagarkoil	40.00
13	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai	40.53
14	Arulmigu Balasubramania swamy Temple, Siruvapuri	16.50
15	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Melmalayanur	9.95
16	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Kumaravayalur	30.35
	Total	**1,445.93**

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45. Temple Accommodation Facilities for Devotees

To facilitate accommodation for devotees visiting major temples that attract large numbers of pilgrims, temple accommodation facilities have been provided at several temples, including:

1. Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam
2. Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
3. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
4. Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram
5. Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kanchipuram
6. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur

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46. Free Tonsure Offering Facility in Temples

Considering the welfare of devotees who come to offer hair as a vow in temples, the cost of hair tonsure is borne by the respective temples.

The temple administration pays ₹30 per hair offering to the workers engaged in tonsuring, along with a monthly incentive of ₹5,000 per worker.

- Tonsure is free to devotees; the temple pays workers **Rs.30** per offering plus a **Rs.5,000** monthly incentive.

47. Temple Cleaning Services (Uzhavara Pani)

In the major temples under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Uzhavarappani (temple cleaning and service activities) are being carried out through the temple administration on the first Wednesday of every month.

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Further, in all temples, cleaning activities are also being carried out by volunteers and devotees with the permission of the respective temple administrations.

Facilities have been provided for volunteers and devotees to register through the Department's website and undertake Uzhavarappani in the temples of their choice.

The necessary equipment required for carrying out the Uzhavarappani activities is being provided by the respective temple administrations.

48. Prevention of Plastic Usage in Temple Premises

To maintain and protect a clean and hygienic environment within and around temple premises, the use of plastic (polythene) bags has

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been prohibited in temple premises and their surrounding areas.

As an alternative, the use of cloth bags and areca-leaf plates is being encouraged.

49. Security Measures

49.1 Temples Security

For the protection and security of temples, electronic security equipment such as burglar alarm systems, metal detectors, modern digital video recording systems, CCTV cameras and strong grill gates have been installed. Further, day and night security personnel have been appointed to ensure the safety of temple premises.

49.2 Security of Metal Icons

To safeguard the metal icons belonging to temples, various security measures are being implemented, including:

- Installation of burglar alarm systems
- Provision of internal locking systems (vault-type locks)
- Installation of iron entrance gates
- Installation of surveillance cameras
- Appointment of day and night security personnel
- Deployment of Temple Security Force personnel

Further, the process of registering and documenting idols/metal icons is being carried out.

49.3 Icon Centres

To safeguard valuable metal icons belonging to temples, 34 Icon Centres have been constructed.

To ensure the safe custody of metal icons kept in temples during renovation and repair

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works and to protect the icons housed in temples that do not have adequate security facilities, arrangements have been made to keep Utsava icons that are not used for daily worship, as well as those used only once a year during festivals, at nearby Icon Centres.

During festival times, these icons are transported to the respective temples under police protection. After the festivals, they are brought back to the Icons Centres and kept in safe custody.

Metal icons are currently being safeguarded at 25 Icons Centres. These centres have been provided with CCTV surveillance cameras, burglar alarm systems and armed security personnel to ensure the safety and security of the icons.

Icon Centres

1.	Tiruvarur Icon Centre (Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple premises)
2.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli
3.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli
4.	Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Temple, Salem
5.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Gandhinagar, Vellore
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kanchipuram
8.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar Temple, Thiruppadiripuliyur, Cuddalore
9.	Arulmigu Nageswaraswamy Temple, Kumbakonam
10.	Arulmigu Patteeswarar Swamy Temple, Perur, Coimbatore
11.	Arulmigu Bragathambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai

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12.	Arulmigu Thiruvappudaiyar Temple, Sellur, Madurai
13.	Arulmigu Sundararajaperumal Temple, Sivagangai
14.	Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur (Additional Centre)
15.	Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvotriyur
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Thiruthani
17.	Arulmigu Kaliamman Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri
18.	Arulmigu Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Villupuram
19.	Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar
20.	Arulmigu Malaikaavalar Temple, a sub-temple of Arulmigu Ardhanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal
21.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai, Tiruppur
22.	Arulmigu Choleeswarar Prasanna Venkataramanaswamy Temple, Perundurai, Erode
23.	Arulmigu Koumariamman Temple, Veerapandi, Theni

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24.	Arulmigu Madanagopalaswamy and Brahmapureeswarar Temple, Perambalur
25.	Arulmigu Nagaraja Temple, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari

The additional 9 Icon Centres will be made operational upon obtaining the required security arrangements from the Police Department.

Additional Icon Centres

1.	Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Tirunageshwaram, Thanjavur
2.	Joint Commissioner's Office Campus, Thanjavur
3.	Arulmigu Kalyana Venkataramana Swamy Temple, Thanthondrimalai, Karur
4.	Arulmigu Aalanduraiyar and Kothandarama Swamy Temple, Ariyalur
5.	Arulmigu Kayarohanaswamy Udanurai Neelayathakshi Amman Temple, Nagapattinam
6.	Arulmigu Srinivasa Perumal Temple, Dindigul

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7.	Arulmigu Venkatajalapathi Temple, Krishnapuram, Palaiyamkottai (A sub-temple of Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur)
8.	Arulmigu Parimala Ranganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai
9.	Arulmigu Kapardheeswaraswamy Temple, Thiruvvalanchuzhi, Kumbakonam

49.4 Strong Rooms

To protect metal icons kept in temples, strong rooms equipped with modern security facilities such as CCTV cameras and burglar alarm systems have been constructed within the respective temple premises.

49.5 Fire Prevention Measures in Temples

Preventive measures are being undertaken in temples to avoid fire accidents and other disasters.

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In all temples published under Section 46(iii) of the Act and under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department, fire safety audits are conducted once every six months with the assistance of the Fire and Rescue Services Department.

Every Section 46(iii) temple undergoes a fire safety audit twice a year with the Fire and Rescue Services Department.

Further, fire safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, sand/water buckets, electrical safety devices and water sprinklers have been installed at appropriate locations in temples.

50. Festivals

50.1 Festivals of Saints and Spiritual Personalities

In order to honour and commemorate the revered saints and spiritual leaders who served as pioneers of devotion, celebrations are conducted based on their birthplaces and birth stars. Accordingly, festivals are being conducted in honour of the following 18 revered personalities:

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Sl. No.	Saint / Spiritual Personality	Celebration		Details of Temple
		Month	Star	
1.	Kamalamuni Siddhar	Vaikasi	Poosam	Arulmigu Thiyagaraja -swamy Temple, Tiruvarur
2.	Sundarananda Siddhar	Aavani	Revathi	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
3.	Paambatti Siddhar	Karthigai	Mriga seerisham	Arulmigu Sankara -narayana Swamy Temple, Sankarankovil
4.	Sekkizhar	Vaikasi	Poosam	Arulmigu Subramania -swamy Temple, Kundrathur
5.	Thirugnana Sambandar	Vaikasi	Moolam	Arulmigu Vedagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhu -kundram, Chengalpattu District
6.	Avvaiyar	Panguni	Sathayam	Arulmigu Viswanatha Swamy Temple, Thulasia -pattinam, Nagapattinam District

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Sl. No.	Saint / Spiritual Personality	Celebration		Details of Temple
		Month	Star	
7.	Thayu -manavar	Thai	Visakam	Arulmigu Thayumanava Swamy Temple, Malaikottai, Tiruchirappalli
8.	Arunagiri -nathar	Aadi	Pooram	Arulmigu Arunachal -eswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
9.	Kochchengat Chola Nayanar	Maasi	Sathayam	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambu -keswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli District
10.	Twelve Azhwars	Respective months	Respective birth stars	Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli District
11.	Mangaiyar -kkarasiyar	Chithirai	Rohini	Arulmigu Somanatha swamy Temple, Pazhayarai, Thanjavur District

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Sl. No.	Saint / Spiritual Personality	Celebration		Details of Temple
		Month	Star	
12.	Karaikkal Ammaiyar	Panguni	Swathi	Arulmigu Vadaran -yeeswarar Temple, Thiruvalangadu, Tiruvallur District
13.	Nandanar	Purattasi	Rohini	Arulmigu Sivalokanathar Temple, Thirupunkur, Mayiladuthurai District
14.	Sivavakkiyar Siddhar	Thai	Magam	Arulmigu Urumanathar Temple, Perungalur, Pudukkottai District
15.	Patanjali Siddhar	Panguni	Moolam	Arulmigu Ramanatha swamy Temple, Rameswaram, Ramanatha -puram District
16.	Sriman Natha munigal	Aani	Anusham	Arulmigu Veera -narayana Perumal Temple, Kattumannar -koil, Cuddalore District

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Sl. No.	Saint / Spiritual Personality	Celebration		Details of Temple
		Month	Star	
17.	Sri Alavandar	Aadi	Uthiradam	Arulmigu Veeranarayana Perumal Temple, Kattumannar -koil, Cuddalore District
18.	Manicka -vasagar	Aani	Magam	Arulmigu Athmanatha swamy Temple, Thirupperundurai

50.2 Thiruvalluvar Day

Thiruvalluvar Day is celebrated every year on the second day of the Tamil month of Thai, which is observed as the birth anniversary of Thiruvalluvar, at the Deivappulavar Thiruvalluvar Temple located in Mylapore, Chennai.

During this celebration, various competitions such as elocution, recitation and essay writing are conducted for school students and prizes are awarded to the winners.

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The Thiruvalluvar Temple has been reconstructed with Granite stone and the Kudamuzhukku was performed.

The Thiruvalluvar Temple was rebuilt in granite and consecrated - the department's role in commemorating Tamil literary figures.

50.3 Paavai Festival

Andal, one of the Twelve Azhwars, expressed her devotion through 30 verses (Pasurams), elevating the glory of the Tamil language and with her unique devotion, she worshipped and attained the Lord through Tamil hymns. The Thiruppavai Pasurams and Thiruppalliyezhuchi hymns composed by her are sung by devotees in praise of Lord Vishnu during the month of Margazhi.

The Thiruvempavai and Thiruppalliyezhuchi hymns composed by Manickavasagar in praise of Lord Shiva are sung by devotees during the month of Margazhi.

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Every year, the Paavai Festival is celebrated in a grand manner at the district level. During the month of Margazhi, Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai recitation competitions are conducted for school students in temples. Separate competitions such as Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai singing competitions with proper musical rendition (Pann) and essay writing competitions are conducted for students of all classes under various categories and prizes are awarded to the winners.

50.4 Notified Temple Festivals

Sl. No.	Festival	Name of the Temple	Tamil Month
1.	Meenakshi Thirukalyanam	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai	Chithirai
2.	Kallazhagar Vaigai Aatril Iranguthal	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Madurai	Chithirai
3.	Chithirai Temple Car Festival	Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam	Chithirai

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4.	Chithirai Temple Car Festival	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram	Chithirai
5.	Chithirai Visu Festival	Arulmigu Papanasa Swamy Temple, Papanasam	Chithirai
6.	Aani Festival	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli	Aani
7.	Aadi Krithigai	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani	Aadi
8.	Aadi Amavasai Festival	Arulmigu Sorimuthu Ayyanar Temple, Singampatti, Karaiyar	Aadi
9.	Aadi Thabasu Festival	Arulmigu Sankaranarayana Swamy Temple, Sankarankovil	Aadi
10.	Aadi Pooram	Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur	Aadi
11.	Dasara Festival	Arulmigu Mutharamman Temple, Kulasekarapattinam	Purattasi

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12.	Kandha Sashti and Soorasamharam	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur	Aippasi
13.	Karthigai Deepam	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai	Karthigai
14.	Vaikunta Ekadasi	Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam	Margazhi
15.	Thaipoosam Festival	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani	Thai
16.	Poochorithal Festival	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram	Maasi
17.	Maasi Kodai Festival	Arulmigu Bhagavathi Amman Temple, Mandaikadu	Maasi
18.	Panguni Uthiram Festival	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani	Panguni
19.	Kundam Festival	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari, Sathyamangalam	Panguni

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50.5 Maha Shivaratri Festival

The Maha Shivaratri Festival is celebrated every year in a grand manner at various temples with programmes such as classical dance, drama, debate sessions and folk cultural performances. The festival is celebrated at the following temples:

1. Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore
2. Arulmigu Patteeswarar Temple, Perur
3. Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli
4. Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
5. Arulmigu Peruvudaiyaar Temple, Thanjavur
6. Arulmigu Akilandeswari Samedha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval
7. Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

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8. Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur
9. Arulmigu Vadaranyeeswarar Temple, Thiruvalangadu
10. Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram
11. Arulmigu Virudhagiriswarar Temple, Virudhachalam
12. Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram

51. 108 Thiruvilakku Pooja on Pournami

The 108 Thiruvilakku Pooja is conducted every month on the Full Moon Day (Pournami) at 25 Amman temples enabling women devotees to participate in the special worship.

- The 108 Thiruvilakku Pooja runs monthly on Pournami at 25 Amman temples, enabling women devotees to lead the worship.

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52. Education and Charitable Activities

52.1 Educational Institutions

Section 36 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, provides for the utilization of surplus funds of temples for the purposes specified under Section 66(1) of the Act.

- Section 36 read with Section 66(1) permits temple surplus funds to run schools, colleges and charitable institutions - the legal basis of **HR**&**CE** education.

With the objective of providing not only general education but also imparting spiritual values, cultural traditions and religious principles to students from an early age, temple administrations are running various educational institutions. (Details of the educational institutions are provided in Annexure VI.)

Sl. No.	Educational Institutions	Number
1.	Arts, Culture and Science Colleges	9
2.	Polytechnic College	1
3.	Higher Secondary Schools	12

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4.	High Schools	4
5.	Primary Schools	6
6.	Matriculation School	2
7.	CBSE School	1
8.	Nadaswaram and Thavil Music Training Schools	5
9.	Archagar Training Schools	8
10.	Veda Agama Schools	3
11.	Othuvar Training Schools	7
12.	Nalayira Divya Prabandham Training School	2
	Total	**60**

52.2 Training Schools

Students undergoing full-time courses in the training schools functioning in temples under the administration of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department are provided a stipend of ₹10,000/-, while students undergoing part-time courses are provided a stipend of ₹5,000/-.

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Details of Training Schools

Sl. No	Details of Training School	Name of the Temple
1	**Nadaswaram and Thavil Music Training Schools**	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
		Arulmigu Naganathaswamy Temple, Thirunageswaram
		Arulmigu Kotta Arumuga Swamy Temple, Tiruttani
		Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple, Pazhamuthirsolai
		Arulmigu Ramanatha Swamy Temple, Rameswaram
2	**Archagar Training Schools**	Arulmigu Parthasarathy Temple, Triplicane
		Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
		Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
		Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur

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		Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
		Arulmigu Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Srirangam
		Arulmigu Athikesava Perumal and Bhashyakaraswamy Temple, Sriperumputhur
		Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimma Swamy Temple, Namakkal
3	**Veda Agama Schools**	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
		Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
		Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Thiruchendur.
4	**Othuvar Training Schools**	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
		Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai

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		Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
		Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
		Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai
		Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli
		Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
5	**Nalayira Divya Prabandham Training School**	Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur
		Arulmigu Aalavanthar Charities, Nemmeli, Mamallapuram

53. Social Welfare Institutions

Temples function not only as places of worship but also as charitable institutions with a social objective by running old age homes, Siddha

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hospitals, mental health care centres and homes for destitute children.

53.1 Karunai Illams

For the welfare of orphaned children and children from poor and underprivileged families, temples provide education, food and accommodation facilities. Financial assistance is also provided to support for their higher education.

Under the administration of 7 temples, Karunai Illams are functioning, benefiting a total of 169 children including 47 boys and 122 girls.

- Karunai Illams under 7 temples care for 169 children - 47 boys and 122 girls.

Further, basic infrastructure facilities has been provided at an estimated cost of ₹2 crore.

Sl. No.	Temple Details
1.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram
2.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani

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3.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari
4.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli
5.	Arulmigu Magudeswarar Temple, Kodumudi
6.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Azhagarkoil
7.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

53.2 Residential Homes for Senior Citizens

A residential home with accommodation facility for 75 senior citizens is functioning at a site belonging to Arulmigu Devi Paliyamman and Ilangaliyamman Temple, Villivakkam, Chennai.

The residential home provides facilities suitable for senior citizens, including nutritious food, accommodation rooms, medical facilities, CCTV cameras, 24-hour security personnel, a

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park for walking, a library and facilities for spiritual activities.

In addition, senior citizen residential homes are under construction at:

- Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.
- Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli.

53.3 Mananala Kappagam

Mananala Kappagam are functioning at Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani and Arulmigu Prasanna Venkatachalapathy Temple, Gunaseelam, Tiruchirappalli, for the welfare of persons with mental illness.

53.4 Siddha Hospitals

Siddha Hospitals are functioning in six temples to create awareness among devotees visiting the temples about Siddha medicine and to

- Siddha hospitals in six temples give free treatment, and first aid centres with doctors and nurses run in 19 heavily visited temples.

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provide them with the required free medical treatment.

Preliminary works are under progress for establishing a Siddha Medical College in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani.

List of Siddha Hospitals

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Temple, Vadapalani
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Thiruparankundram
5.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur
6.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram

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53.5. First Aid Medical Centres in Temples

First Aid Medical Centres with the required Doctors, Nurses and Medical Assistants have been established and are functioning in the following 19 temples, where a large number of devotees visit.

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani
2.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani
5.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
6.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram
7.	Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam

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8.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Maruthamalai
9.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, Sholinghur
10.	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Melmalayanur
11.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
12.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Irukkankudi
13.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari
14.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Azhagarkoil
15.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanaswamy Temple, Sankarankovil
16.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Kandhakottam, Chennai
17.	Arulmigu Masani Amman Temple, Anaimalai
18.	Arulmigu Bhavani Amman Temple, Periyapalayam
19.	Arulmigu Mutharamman Temple, Kulasekaranpattinam

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54. Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Publication

54.1 Publication of Thala Varalaru, Thala Puranam and Rare Religious Books

Rare spiritual books that have not been reprinted are being republished in a simple style suitable for the present generation. In addition, new books based on temple histories, inscriptions and ancient temple traditions are being prepared and published. Through these publications, devotees can gain knowledge about the history of temples, temple legends, the heritage of ancient temples, their historical significance, architecture, inscriptions and the importance of worship practices.

The Publication Division of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has published books related to Shilpa Shastra

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(traditional science of sculpture), Temple Construction Principles, Iconography, Explanations on Hindu Traditions, Saivism, Vaishnavism and other Spiritual subjects.

The Publication Division so far, published 1,016 books, including Shilpa Shastra text books on temple architecture and iconography (Bimba Lakshana), Sirpa Sennool, explanatory works on the Hindu religion and publications relating to Saivism and Vaishnavism.

- 1,016 books published on Shilpa Shastra, iconography, Saivism and Vaishnavism, sold through 204 temple book stalls.

Across Tamil Nadu, including the headquarters, 204 book stalls have been established in temples to facilitate the easy availability of spiritual books to devotees.

54.2 "Thirukkoil" Monthly Magazine

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has been publishing a monthly magazine titled "Thirukkoil" since 1958.

- 'Thirukkoil', the department's monthly magazine, has been published since **1958** - one of the oldest continuous Government publications in Tamil Nadu.

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This monthly magazine contains articles by spiritual scholars and renowned writers, brief news articles, spiritual questions and answers, along with attractive colour photographs.

The magazine is available at temple sales centres. Facilities have also been provided for subscribers to obtain the magazine by paying subscription fees through online mode.

54.3 Digitisation and Preservation of Palm-Leaf Manuscripts

Tamil literature identifies temples as symbols of our ancient heritage. Tamil is therefore regarded as a revered language of devotion. Prior to the invention of paper, our ancestors used palm leaves as writing material for recording important information. Temples served as repositories for preserving records relating to temple administration.

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Palm-leaf manuscripts contain details of the day-to-day administration of temples, grants made by kings to temples and other historical records. They also serve as valuable evidence of the cultural heritage of ancient times. In order to preserve this information for future generations, action is being taken to digitise the palm-leaf manuscripts and transcribe them into contemporary Tamil.

So far, field surveys have been conducted in 2,604 temples, during which 1,68,926 palm-leaf manuscripts have been collected from 73 temples. In addition, 82 copper plates/copper plate grants, 9 gold-plated/silver/panchaloha plates and 13 paper manuscripts have also been identified. Of these 80,000 palm-leaf manuscripts have been scientifically preserved and conserved and efforts are continuing to preserve the manuscripts.

- Field surveys in 2,604 temples have collected 1,68,926 palm-leaf manuscripts from 73 temples, of which 80,000 are scientifically conserved.

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For the digitisation of the Grantha manuscripts available at Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram, the work of cataloguing is being carried out by a Grantha manuscript expert for the purpose of digital imaging. As a first phase, the manuscripts available at Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, have been digitised.

54.4 Palm Leaf Manuscript Research Centre

- A Palm Leaf Manuscript Research Centre at the Commissioner's Office scans and publishes temple manuscripts and preserves herbal paintings.

A Palm Leaf Manuscript Research Centre has been established at the Commissioner's Office of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department to scan and publish the palm leaf manuscripts identified in temples and to preserve the herbal paintings found in temples.

55. Refresher Training Course

- The Refresher Training Course, since **1991**, trains Archakas, Bhattacharyas and Oduvars in temple duties.

The "Refresher Training Course" was started in 1991 to enable Archakas,

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Bhattacharyas *and* Oduvars working in temples to perform their duties efficiently.

This training is being provided to Archakas and all other temple employees to ensure that temple services are performed with dedication and compassion, while respecting the spiritual sentiments of devotees visiting temples.

A training centre for administration is being constructed at the Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani for conducting Refresher Training Courses for departmental employees and temple staff.

56. Welfare Schemes for Temple Employees

Various categories of employees are working in temples under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The following welfare schemes are being implemented for their benefit:-

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56.1 Fixation and Implementation of Revised Pay Scales for Temple Employees

Similar to the revision of pay scales provided to government employees based on the recommendations of the Pay Commission, revised pay scales have also been fixed and implemented for employees working in temples.

56.2 Temple Employees Welfare Fund

For the benefit of employees working in temples with an annual income of less than ₹1 lakh, who receive a monthly salary of less than ₹750, a corpus fund of ₹6.50 crore has been created from the surplus funds of financially affluent temples. The salary arrears of these employees are being disbursed every year from the accumulated interest from this corpus fund.

- A **Rs.6.50 crore** corpus supports employees of poor temples earning under **Rs.750** a month; a **Rs.15 crore** corpus pays **Rs.4 lakh** to the heirs of employees who die in service.

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Further, the accumulated interest received from this corpus fund is also being utilized for providing salary arrears to musicians (Isai Vaanars) working in temples.

So far, an annual amount of ₹2.14 lakh has been disbursed to musicians working in two temples.

56.3 Special Provident Fund and Family Welfare Fund Scheme

Employees working in temples with an annual income of ₹1 lakh and above are provided a Special Provident Fund amount of ₹5,000/- as the Commissioner's contribution at the time of their retirement, along with the subscription amount contributed by them during their period of service.

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A Family Welfare Fund Scheme has been established for the legal heirs of temple employees who pass away during their service period. For implementing this scheme, a corpus fund of ₹15 crore has been created from the surplus funds of financially affluent temples. Under this scheme, financial assistance of ₹4 lakh is provided to the legal heirs of employees who die while in service.

56.4 Scheme for Providing a Monthly Consolidated Pay of ₹10,000/- to Musicians

A corpus fund of ₹35.25 crore has been created to provide a monthly consolidated pay of ₹10,000/- to musicians working in financially weaker temples and whose monthly salary is very meager.

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56.5 Regularization of Services of Temporary Employees Working in Temples

In temples under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, many employees have been working temporarily for several years on a daily wage/consolidated pay basis. With the approval of the Government, the services of eligible temporary employees are being regularized.

Accordingly, the services of eligible employees who had completed more than five years of temporary service as on 31.07.2021 are being considered and regularized subject to certain conditions.

So far, the services of 1,357 employees have been regularized.

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56.6 Pongal Ex-Gratia Assistance for Temple Employees

Similar to the special bonus provided to Government Employees during the Pongal festival, an amount of ₹3,000/- is being provided to all employees working in temples under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, including full-time employees, part-time employees, consolidated pay employees and daily wage employees.

56.7 New Clothes for Temple Archakas and Uniforms for Employees

On the occasion of Thai Thirunal, new clothes are being provided to temple Archakas and uniforms are being provided to temple employees by the respective temples.

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56.8 Appointment of Musicians and Odhuvars

It is customary to perform auspicious music during temple festivals. For this purpose, adequate number of musicians and Odhuvars are being appointed in temples.

56.9 Higher Education Assistance for wards of Archakas / Poosaris Working in Temples under Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme

Educational assistance of ₹10,000/- per student is being provided to the wards of Archakas/Poosaris working in temples under the Oru kaala Pooja Scheme for pursuing higher education. This assistance is provided from the interest accrued from the School and College Education Development Corpus Fund.

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56.10 Compassionate Appointment

Compassionate appointments are being provided to the legal heirs of temple employees who pass away while in service.

57. Pension Scheme for Employees Working in Temples

Two types of pension schemes for temple employees have been implemented from March 2006.

- Temple employee pensions since March **2006**: the **EPF** route for financially sound temples, and a Departmental Pension Scheme of **Rs.5,000** a month for the rest.

57.1 Pension under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme

This scheme is applicable to all employees working in financially sound temples. As per this scheme, temple employees who have enrolled under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme and have more than 10 years of service

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remaining before retirement as on 13.02.2006 are eligible to receive pension benefits under the Employees' Provident Welfare Fund Scheme.

57.2 Departmental Pension Scheme

A Departmental Pension Scheme was introduced in 2006 for temple employees who joined the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme from 01.01.2006 but had less than 10 years of subscription before retirement and also for employees working in temples that did not have sufficient financial resources to enroll them under the Employees' Provident Welfare Fund Scheme despite having more than 10 years of service.

Under this scheme, a departmental pension of ₹5,000/- per month is currently being provided.

58. Family Pension

If a beneficiary receiving a departmental pension passes away, the Family Pension Scheme has been implemented from 2015 to provide lifelong benefits to the direct legal heir, namely the husband or wife of the pensioner.

Family pension is provided at 50% of the last pension amount received by the pensioner.

- Family pension has run since **2015** at 50% of the pension - currently **Rs.2,500** a month, with a Pongal ex-gratia of **Rs.2,000**.

At present, a departmental family pension of ₹2,500/- per month is being provided.

59. Ex-Gratia Assistance

For pensioners and family pensioners receiving benefits under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, an Ex-Gratia amount equivalent to the pension and family pension provided under the Departmental Pension Scheme is being granted.

60. Pongal Ex-Gratia Assistance for Pensioners and Family Pensioners

A Pongal ex-gratia assistance of ₹2,000/- is being provided to pensioners who have retired from temple service and are receiving departmental pension and family pension.

Similarly, a Pongal ex-gratia assistance of ₹2,000/- is also being provided to pensioners who retired from temple service and are receiving pension and family pension through the Employees' Provident Fund institution.

61. Pension Scheme for Archakas, Odhuvars and Others

A pension scheme has been formulated for Archakas, Odhuvars, Vedic reciters, Araiyars, Divya Prabandham singers and musicians. Under this scheme, persons who have served in temples

for 20 years, completed 60 years of age and retired from service are provided a monthly pension of ₹4,000/- by the Government.

- Archakas, Odhuvars, Vedic reciters, Araiyars, Divya Prabandham singers and musicians with 20 years of service and aged 60 get **Rs.4,000** a month.

62. Welfare Schemes for Village Temple Poosari

62.1 Village Temple Poosari Welfare Board

The Village Temple Poosari Welfare Board has been established for poosari performing worship services in village temples that are not under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Through this Board, various welfare assistance schemes are being provided to village temple poosaris.

A monthly incentive amount of ₹1,500/- is being provided to 6,000 members of the Village Temple poosaris Welfare Board. The expenditure for this scheme is shared through 50% Government funds and 50% Common Good Fund.

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62.2 Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme

Poosaris of non-HR&CE temples with 20 years' service and aged 60 receive Rs.4,000 a month from Government funds.

Under the Village Temple Poosaris Pension Scheme, a monthly pension of ₹4,000/- is being provided from Government funds to poosari who have served for more than 20 years in temples that are not under the direct administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, completed 60 years of age and retired from service.

63. Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS)

ITMS, built with NIC, puts every temple e-service on one bilingual platform - property register, budget and audit, lands, DCB, thiruppani, court cases, idols, GIS, security and e-tender.

To provide services for devotees in temples, the Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS) is functioning with the support of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The objective of the Integrated Temple Management System is to enable devotees visiting temples to have a

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comprehensive temple experience in this digital era. Necessary arrangements have been made to integrate the various e-services available in every temple in Tamil Nadu on a single online platform, enabling devotees to avail themselves of temple services easily by making payments through digital transactions.

Under the Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS), various modules relating to temple administration and operations have been developed. Informations are provided in Tamil and English (bilingual).

Modules related to Administration

- Property Register
- Budget and Audit
- Lands
- Demand, Collection and Balance (DCB)
- Temple Renovation (Thiruppani)

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- Court Cases Module
- Idols and Icons
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Integration
- Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme
- Temple Security
- e-Tender and e-Auction
- HR&CE Mobile Application

64. Toll-Free Telephone Service

A toll-free telephone service has been implemented at the Commissioner's Office to enable devotees visiting temples to share their suggestions and grievances. The toll-free telephone service number is 1800 425 1757.

65. UNESCO Award

The Arulmigu Abathsahayeswarar Temple located at Thukkachi, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur

District, has been awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation for restoring the temple while preserving its traditional architectural features with the support of modern scientific techniques.

66. Conclusion

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is committed to discharging its responsibilities promptly by understanding the needs of devotees. The Department continues to implement various initiatives such as renovation of temples, conducting Kudamuzhukku, appointing Archakas without caste discrimination, performing *Archanai* in Tamil to promote the Tamil devotional tradition, publishing devotional literature and providing Annadhanam to devotees in temples.

To ensure speedy, transparent and accountable administration, the Department has been fully computerised. Towards this objective, the Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS) has been implemented and is functioning effectively.

Future Plans of the Government

In the coming five years, the Government has planned to undertake renovation works and conduct Kumbabishekam (consecration ceremonies) in 3,000 temples, renovate 250 temple tanks and restore 75 wooden temple chariots. Further, in temples that receive a large number of devotees, plans have been made to improve basic amenities such as safe drinking water facilities, toilets, bathrooms,

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accommodation facilities and other essential facilities to meet the needs of devotees.

Recognising the importance of appointing Administrative Trustees for temples, immediately after assuming office, this Government has taken swift action by issuing notifications for the appointment of trustees for 9,259 temples within a short period and steps are being taken for the appointment of trustees.

Earlier, prasadam was prepared outside the temple premises and distributed to devotees through prasadam stalls. After this Government assumed office, as a first step, measures are being taken to prepare and distribute quality prasadam within the respective temple premises itself for devotees visiting major temples.

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For all types of revenue and expenditure-related activities of temples, new common guidelines for public auctions, tender processes and e-tender processes have been introduced to ensure transparency and enable wider participation. Accordingly, notifications for public auctions and tenders have been issued.

This endeavour will continue!

Divine service will flourish!

S. Ramesh
Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments

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Annexure – I

List of Temples Having Golden Chariots

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani
2.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Kandhakottam, Chennai
3.	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Temple, Vadapalani, Chennai
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani
5.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu
6.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai
7.	Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswamy Temple, Vaitheeswaran Koil
8.	Arulmigu Vinayagar Temple, Eachanari, Coimbatore
9.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram
10.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

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11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanaswamy Temple, Sankarankovil
12.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal Temple, Nanguneri (Chapparam)
14.	Arulmigu Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kanchipuram
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan Temple, Rathinagiri
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Sivanmalai
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore
18.	Arulmigu Kamakshi Amman 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

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24.	Arulmigu Marundeeswarar Temple, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai
25.	Arulmigu Velayudhaswamy Temple, Thindalmalai, Erode
26.	Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Adyar, Chennai
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinathaswamy Temple, Thiruthangal, Sivakasi
28.	Arulmigu Mundakakanniamman Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy Temple, Oppiliappan Koil, Kumbakonam
30.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Thiruparankundram
31.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Karur
32.	Arulmigu Dhandumariamman Temple, Coimbatore
33.	Arulmigu Chandrachoodeswarar Temple, Hosur
34.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval
35.	Arulmigu Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Namakkal
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettipalayam

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37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliamman Temple, Ariyakurichi
38.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayaki Amman Temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai
40.	Arulmigu Ardhanareeswarar Temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal
41.	Arulmigu Vekkaliamman Temple, Uraiyur, Tiruchirappalli
42.	Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Temple, Salem
43.	Arulmigu Kottai Mariamman Temple, Salem
44.	Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple, Pazhamuthircholai, Madurai
45.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Sholingur, Ranipet
46.	Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottiyur, Chennai
47.	Arulmigu Kottai Mariamman Temple, Dindigul
48.	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Melmalayanur, Villupuram
49.	Arulmigu Kondathu Kaliamman Temple, Pariyur, Erode

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50.	Arulmigu Kandhaswamy Temple, Thiruporur, Kanchipuram
51.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Anaimalai, Coimbatore
52.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswamy Temple, Panpoli
53.	Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur
54.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Kaatha Ayyanar and Badrakaliamman Temple, Madapuram, Sivagangai
55.	Arulmigu Thanthondreeswarar Temple, Pelur, Salem
56.	Arulmigu Baladandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Sukravarpet, Coimbatore
57.	Arulmigu Viswanathaswamy Temple, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar
58.	Arulmigu Amaruvipperumal Temple, Therazhundur, Nagapattinam
59.	Arulmigu Poonga Murugan Temple, Tallakulam, Madurai
60.	Arulmigu Balasubramania Swamy Temple, Virudhunagar

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61.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha Swamy Temple, Kundrakudi (Kedagam / Chapparam)
62.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Thiruvappur, Pudukkottai
63.	Arulmigu Soundararajaperumal Temple, Nagapattinam
64.	Arulmigu Bhagavathi Amman Temple, Mandaikadu, Kanniyakumari
65.	Arulmigu Angalamman Temple, Kalvidangam, Salem
66.	Arulmigu Varasiddhi Vinayagar Temple, Besant Nagar, Chennai
67.	Arulmigu Vanjiyamman Temple, Moolanur, Dharapuram, Tiruppur
68.	Arulmigu Thenupureeswarar Temple, Patteeswaram, Mayiladuthurai
69.	Arulmigu Karpaka Vinayagar Sivasubramaniaswamy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai
70.	Arulmigu Bhavani Amman Temple, Periyapalayam, Tiruvallur District
71.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kanchipuram

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Annexure – II

List of Temples Having Silver Chariots

S. No.	Name of the Temple
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani
5.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai
8.	Arulmigu Adhi Kumbeswarar Temple, Kumbakonam

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9.	Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswamy Temple, Vaitheeswaran Koil
10.	Arulmigu Sattanathaswamy Temple, Sirkazhi
11.	Arulmigu Mayuranathaswamy Temple, Mayiladuthurai
12.	Arulmigu Mariamman and Angalamman Temple, Pollachi
13.	Arulmigu Prasanna Vinayagar Temple, Udumalpet
14.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu
15.	Arulmigu Kolanjiappar Temple, Manavalanallur
16.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple, Kanchipuram
17.	Arulmigu Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kanchipuram
18.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple, Kanthakottam, Chennai
19.	Arulmigu Thiruvengadamudaiyan Temple, Ariyakudi
20.	Arulmigu Shanmuganatha Swamy Temple, Kundrakudi

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21.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Keezhasevalpatti
22.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayaki Amman Temple, Nattarasankottai
23.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan @ Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Devakottai
24.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Konnaiyur, Thirumayam
25.	Arulmigu Arudra Kapaleeswarar Temple, Erode
26.	Arulmigu Sangameswarar Temple, Bhavani
27.	Arulmigu Palani Andavar Temple, Bhavani
28.	Arulmigu Balasubramaniaswamy Temple, Aykudi, Tirunelveli
29.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman Temple, Thottiyam, Tiruchirappalli
30.	Arulmigu Sivasubramaniaswamy Temple, Neyveli
31.	Arulmigu Veyilukku Ugantha Vinayagar Temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram

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32.	Arulmigu Soundararaja Perumal Temple, Dindigul
33.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Kumarakottam, Kanchipuram
34.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam
35.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur
36.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint, Chennai
38.	Arulmigu Kachapeswarar Temple, Kanchipuram
39.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Viralimalai, Pudukkottai
40.	Arulmigu Vedapureeswarar Temple, Thiruvathipuram, Tiruvannamalai
41.	Arulmigu Sevuga Perumal Temple, Singampunari, Sivagangai
42.	Arulmigu Chelliamman Temple, Palar River Bank, Vellore

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43.	Arulmigu Navaneetheswarar Temple, Sikkal, Nagapattinam
44.	Arulmigu Kalikambal Kamadeswarar Temple, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai
45.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Saidapet, Chennai
46.	Arulmigu Bragadambal Temple, Thirukokarnam, Pudukkottai
47.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Koil Kandan Kudi, Tiruvarur
48.	Arulmigu Kannika Parameswari Temple, Kadaiveethi, Salem
49.	Arulmigu Kampahareswarar Temple, Thirubuvanam, Thanjavur
50.	Arulmigu Mahalingaswamy Temple, Thiruvidaimarudur, Thanjavur
51.	Arulmigu Parimala Ranganathar Temple, Thiruindalur, Mayiladuthurai
52.	Arulmigu Valarolieswarar Temple, Nagaravairavanpatti, Sivagangai
53.	Arulmigu Mangalanaathaswamy Temple, Piranmalai, Sivagangai
54.	Arulmigu Balasubramania Swamy Temple, Uthiramerur

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55.	Arulmigu Adheenam Srimath Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal Thirumadam, Bommaiyapalayam, Villupuram
56.	Arulmigu Muthumari Gangai Amman Temple, Police Quarters, Kilpauk, Chennai
57.	Arulmigu Kannika Parameswari Amman Temple, Sevvaypettai, Salem
58.	Arulmigu Badrakaliamman Temple, Ramar Koil Road, Coimbatore
59.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Nagarasivan Temple, Karaikudi
60.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar and Muthalamman Temple, Paramakudi Town, Ramanathapuram District
61.	Arulmigu Nellaiappar Arultharum Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli

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Annexure – III

Details of Elephants Maintained in Temples

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple	Name and Age of the Elephant
1.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani	Kasthuri –59
2.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai	Parvathi – 29
3.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram	Ramalakshmi – 24
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur	Deivanai – 28
5.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanaswamy Temple, Sankarankovil	Gomathi – 32
6.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Swamy Temple, Azhagarkoil	Sundaravalli Thayar – 19

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7.	Arulmigu Thayumanaswamy Temple, Malaikottai	Lakshmi – 35
8.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy Swamy Temple, Oppiliappan Koil	Bhooma – 28
9.	Arulmigu Patteeswarar Swamy Temple, Perur	Kalyani – 34
10.	Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam	Andal – 45; Premi @ Lakshmi – 25
11.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval	Akhila – 22
12.	Arulmigu Adikesava Perumal and Bhashyakara Swamy Temple, Sriperumbudur	Kothai – 27
13.	Arulmigu Renugambal Amman Temple attached with Arulmigu Ramar Temple, Padavedu	Lakshmi – 30
14.	Arulmigu Mayuranathaswamy Temple, Mayiladuthurai	Abayambigai – 59

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15.	Arulmigu Amirthakadeswarar Temple, Thirukkadaiyur	Abirami – 20
16.	Arulmigu Adi Kumbeswarar Temple, Kumbakonam	Mangalam– 59
17.	Arulmigu Rajagopalaswamy Temple, Mannargudi	Sengamalam – 38
18.	Arulmigu Panchanadeeswarar Swamy Devasthanam, Thiruvaiyaru (Dharmapuram Adheenam)	Dharmambal – 41
19.	Arulmigu Sornakaleeswarar Temple, Kalaiyarkoil	Sornavalli @ Gandhi – 32
20.	Arulmigu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur	Jayamala @ Jayamalyatha – 23
21.	Arulmigu Adhinatha Azhwar Temple, Azhwar Thirunagari	Adhinayagi – 25
22.	Arulmigu Vaithamanidhi Perumal Temple, Thirukkolur	Kumudavalli – 29

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23.	Arulmigu Aravindalochanar Temple, Irattai Tirupati (Srivaikuntam)	Lakshmi –22
24.	Arulmigu Azhagiya Nambirayar Temple, Thirukurungudi (Jeeyar Mutt)	Kurungudivalli – 30; Sundaravalli – 20
25.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Thiruparankundram	Deivanai – 16 (currently being maintained at the Rejuvenation Camp at Topslip).

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Annexure – IV

Details of Cow Shelters

Sl. No.	Zones	Number of Cow Shelters	Number of Cows
1.	Chennai I	7	49
2.	Chennai II	8	54
3.	Chennai III	10	89
4.	Tiruvallur	7	740
5.	Vellore	3	40
6.	Salem	1	3
7.	Coimbatore	6	68
8.	Thanjavur	4	34
9.	Mayiladuthurai	15	168
10.	Villupuram	1	23
11.	Tiruchirappalli	9	301
12.	Madurai	3	135
13.	Sivagangai	2	44
14.	Tirunelveli	3	78
15.	Kanchipuram	7	200
16.	Erode	11	83
17.	Tiruppur	6	71

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18.	Tiruvannamalai	3	52
19.	Cuddalore	5	119
20.	Thoothukudi	12	43
21.	Nagapattinam	4	45
22.	Dindigul	2	702
23.	Tiruvarur	6	50
	Total	**135**	**3191**

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Annexure – V

List of Temples having Battery Cars

Sl. No.	Name of the Temple	Number
1.	Arulmigu Ranganatha swamy Temple, Srirangam	7
2.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani	38
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruchendur	4
4.	Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram	2
5.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani	3
6.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, Sholinghur	1
7.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai	5
8.	Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvottriyur	1
9.	Arulmigu Akilandeswari Sametha Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikaval	2

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10.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai	4
11.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram	2
12.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore	2
13.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Temple, Alagarkoil	4
14.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Temple, Bannari, Erode	1
15.	Arulmigu Patteeswarar Swamy Temple, Perur	1
16.	Arulmigu Devarajaswamy Temple, Kanchipuram	1
17.	Arulmigu Kamakshi Amman Temple, Kanchipuram	1
18.	Arulmigu Mutharamman Temple, Kulasekaranpattinam, Thoothukudi	1
	Total	**80**

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Annexure – VI

List of Educational Institutions

Arts, Culture and Science Colleges

1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar College of Arts and Culture, Palani, Dindigul
2.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Women's College of Arts, Palani, Dindigul
3.	Sri Parasakthi Women's College, Courtallam, Tenkasi
4.	Sridevi Kumari Women's College, Kulithurai, Kanniyakumari
5.	Poompuhar College, Melaiyur, Nagapattinam
6.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar College of Arts and Science, Kolathur, Chennai
7.	Arulmigu Ardhanareeswarar College of Arts and Science, Thiruchengodu
8.	Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy College of Arts and Science, Oddanchatram
9.	Tiruchendur Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy College of Arts and Science, Vilathikulam

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Polytechnic College

1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Polytechnic College, Palani, Dindigul

Higher Secondary Schools

1.	Arulmigu Periyanayaki Amman Girls Higher Secondary School, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore
3.	Arulmigu Vazhithottathu Ayyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalaiyam, Tiruppur
4.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai
5.	Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniaswamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirupparankundram

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6.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswamy Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, Tenkasi
7.	Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Mandaikkadu, Kanniyakumari
8.	Sri Gandhimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli
9.	Arulmigu Sri Parvathavardhini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram
10.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Temple Boys Higher Secondary School, Thiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam
11.	Sri Sivaprakasa Swamigal Higher Secondary School, Mayilam, Vilupuram
12.	Arulmigu Sundararaja Higher Secondary School, Alagarkoil, Madurai

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High Schools

1.	Arulmigu Anjuvattathamman Girls High School, Keelvelur, Tiruvarur
2.	Arulmigu Kaliyuga Varadaraja Perumal Girls High School, Kallangurichi, Ariyalur
3.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Temple Girls High School, Thiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam
4.	Devaswom High School, Thirparappu, Kanniyakumari

Primary Schools

1.	Swami Nellaiappar Anbu Ashram Primary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli
2.	Sankaranarayanaswamy Temple Primary School, Sankarankovil, Tenkasi
3.	Sri Meykandar Primary School, Thiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam
4.	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple Primary School, Palani, Dindigul
5.	Arulmigu Sundararaja Primary School, Alagarkoil, Madurai
6.	Anjugam Primary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai

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Matriculation Schools

1.	Palani Andavar Matriculation School, Palani, Dindigul
2.	Kanchipuram Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Matriculation School, Kilpauk, Chennai

CBSE School

1.	Parasakthi Vidyalaya, Courtallam, Tenkasi

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru C. Joseph Vijay presided over a review meeting on the schemes and activities of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department at the Secretariat on 28.07.2026.

i

1



Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Thiru. S. Ramesh chaired a review meeting held on 04.07.2026 at the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Commissioner's Office, Nungambakkam, Chennai.

ii

2



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Thiru S. Ramesh, inaugurated the decorative entrance gate constructed at a cost of Rs. 53.79 lakhs at the Junction of Kodaikanal Road - Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul District, on 08.06.2026.

iii

3



The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Thiru S. Ramesh inspected the renovation works being carried out at Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, on 11.06.2026.

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The Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Thiru. S. Ramesh and the Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Thiru. P. Madhan Raja flagged off the 520th Aani wooden car festival of Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Arultharuam Gandhimathi Amman Temple, Tirunelveli on 28.06.2026.

v

5



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay, on 18.08.2026, at the Secretariat has given appointment orders to a total of 80 persons selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, comprising 36 Assistant Engineers, 38 Assistant Sthapathis and 6 Executive Officers.

6



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. C. Joseph Vijay, on 18.08.2026 at the Secretariat has given appointment orders to 80 persons selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, comprising 36 Assistant Engineers, 38 Assistant Sthapathis and 6 Executive Officers. He also took a group photograph with them.

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