

**TOURISM, CULTURE AND  
RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

**ART AND CULTURE  
MUSEUMS  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**POLICY NOTE  
2022 – 2023**

**DEMAND No. 29**

**THANGAM THENARASU**  
**Minister for Industries**



©  
Government of Tamil Nadu  
2022

## **INDEX**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1.	Art and Culture	1 – 66
2.	Museums	67 - 96
3.	Archaeology	97 - 177



# DEPARTMENT OF ART AND CULTURE

## Policy Note

2022-2023

### 1. Introduction

Art and Culture are two delightful ways of preserving heritage, forging an identity and expressing creativity. They integrate people across boundaries of age, race and religion. Art is the physical portrayal of culture, values, beliefs and practices of a society.

Tamil Nadu is home to one of the oldest civilizations in the world and has extremely rich cultural heritage. Its history is replete with many great rulers who patronized the arts and the development and evolution of a unique Dravidian culture that Tamil Nadu symbolizes today.

The artistic brilliance of the people of Tamil Nadu is reflected in their music, dance, paintings, sculptures, carvings and magnificent temples. Tamil Nadu is home to many cultural festivals that portray the vivid Tamil Culture. From elegant Bharatanatyam to the vibrant Thappattam, the dance forms of Tamil Nadu are stunning by enchanting.

The painting skills of the people of Tamil Nadu are manifested not only in the spectacular Thanjavur paintings but also in the colourful Kolams drawn by the women at the entrance of their homes at sunrise.

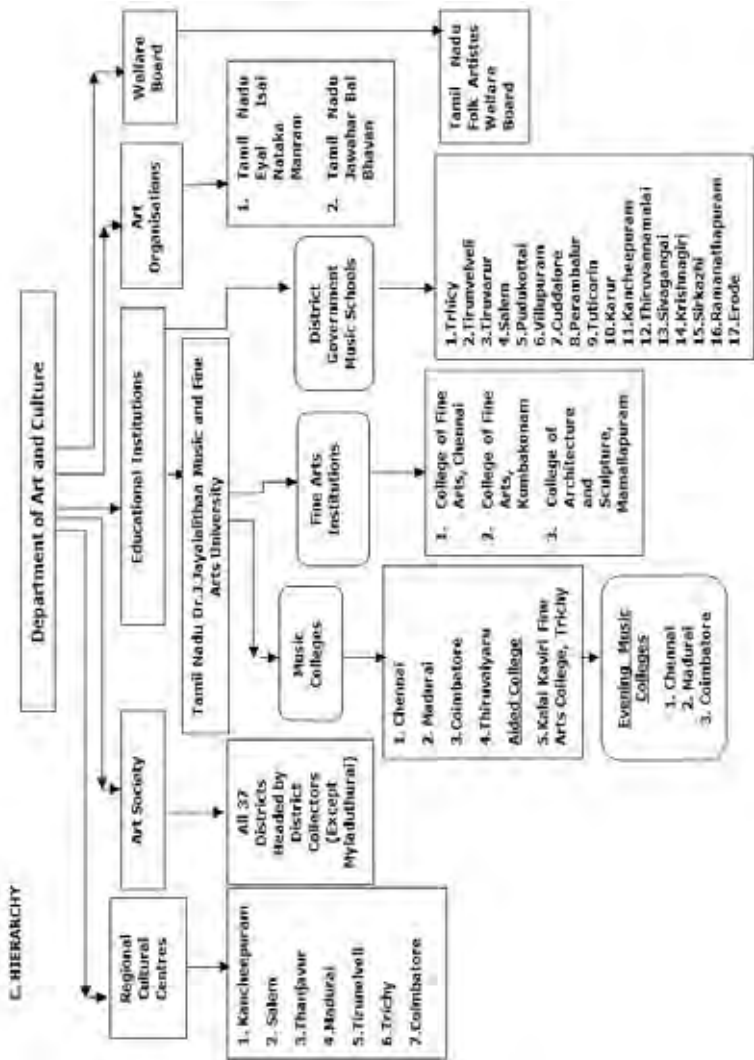
Tholkappiyam, the oldest literary work in the Tamil language speaks of different music forms of the five landscapes and musical instruments of those landscapes that clearly bring out the centrality of music in Tamil society.

Tamil culture is a fascinating blend of valour, love, self-respect, hospitality, charity, righteousness and religious tolerance. The illustrious traditions of Tamil art and culture has been preserved over generations and is manifested even today in all their glory.

### 1.1 Directorate of Art and Culture

The Directorate of Art and Culture is headed by the Director who is assisted by a Joint Director, Regional Assistant Directors, Accounts Officer and other officials. The working of Regional Art and Cultural Centres, the Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University, two Government Colleges of Fine Arts, one Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, four Government Music Colleges, one Government aided College Kalai Kaviri Fine Arts College, seventeen Government District music schools, Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board

and Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram are supervised by the Directorate.



## 1.2 Objectives of the Department

The objectives of the Department of Art and Culture are

- To promote Tamil culture.
- To preserve the art forms of Tamil Nadu.
- To nurture the Tamil art forms by imparting quality art education.
- To ensure livelihood and better economic status of artistes by providing them with opportunities.
- To provide financial assistance for indigent artistes.
- To promote talented artistes by assisting in conducting exhibitions and honouring them with awards.
- To organize festivals and cultural programmes to display the elegant Tamil art forms.
- To document different art forms.



### 1.3 Regional Art and Cultural Centres

To implement various schemes and activities of the department, seven Regional Art and Cultural Centres have been created under Assistant Directors. They organize art competitions, cultural events, art training, painting sculpture exhibitions, dance, drama and music festivals in the Regions. They also co-ordinate the administrative works of District Art Societies, District Music Schools, Jawahar Siruvar Manrams, Folk Artistes Welfare Board and Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.

Sl. No	Regional Art and Cultural Centre	Districts
1	Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Chengalpet, Chennai, Thiruvallur, Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupathur.

2	Salem	Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri.
3	Thanjavur	Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Kallakurichi and Mayiladuthurai.
4	Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Pudukottai, Perambalur and Ariyalur.
5	Madurai	Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Dindigul and Theni.
6	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Kanniyakumari, Virudhunagar and Tenkasi.
7	Coimbatore	Coimbatore, Erode, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur.

The Regional Art and Cultural Centres organize cultural programmes during the following festivals in the Districts: -

Sl. No.	Name of the region and art functions	
1	Kancheepuram region	
	Karthigai Deepam	Tiruvannamalai District
	Aadi Krithigai	Tiruttani, Thiruvallur District
	Maha Sivarathiri	Kancheepuram District
	Summer festival	Yelagiri, Tirupathur District
		Javvadumalai, Tiruvannamalai District
2	Salem region	
	Summer festival	Yercaud, Salem District
	Aadiperukku Vizha	Dharmapuri District
	Mangani Vizha	Krishnagiri District
	Valvil Ori Vizha	Kolli hills, Namakkal District

3	Thanjavur region	
	Sirkazhi Thamizhisai Moovar Vizha	Mayiladurai District
	Raja Raja Cholan Sadaya Vizha	Thanjavur District
	Aazhither Vizha	Thiruvavarur District
4	Tiruchirappalli region	
	Vaigunda Ekadasi Vizha	Tiruchirappalli District
	Arulmigu Nandidevar Thirukalyana Vizha	Thirumazhapadi, Ariyalur District
	Thiru Nedungudi Maha Sivarathiri Vizha	Pudukottai District
5	Madurai region.	
	Summer festival	Kodaikanal, Dindigul District
	Chithirai festival	Madurai
6	Tirunelveli region	
	Paavai Vizha	Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar District
	Saaraal Vizha	Courtralam, Tenkasi District

	Aruvi Thiruvizha	Tirparappu, Kanyakumari District
	Kumari Thiruvizha	Kanyakumari District
7	Coimbatore region	
	Dheeran Chinnamalai Vizha	Erode District
	Aadi Perunthiruvizha	Tiruppur District
	Summer festival	Ooty, The Nilgiris District
		Valparai, Coimbatore District

#### 1.4 District Art Societies

District Art Societies are headed by District Collectors and work towards preserving rare arts, propagating traditional art forms and identifying and conferring awards to talented artistes. Awards given by District Art Societies are as under:

Sl. No.	Age Group	Name of the Award	Award Amount (Rs.)
1	Below 18 years	Kalai Ilamani	4,000/-
2	Between 19–35 years	Kalai Valarmani	6,000/-
3	Between 36–50 years	Kalai Sudarmani	10,000/-
4	Between 51–65 years	Kalai Nanmani	15,000/-
5	Above 66 years	Kalai Mudumani	20,000/-

To promote artistes in an equitable manner, provide better access to financial assistance given by the Government and to participate in various cultural programmes, Identification Cards are issued to the artistes. 70,208 artistes have been issued Identification cards till 31.03.2022.

## 1.5 ART EDUCATION

### 1.5.1 The Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University

To provide higher education in art-related subjects and to oversee the academic activities of various Music and Fine Arts Colleges in the State, Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University was established in the year 2013 and the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University Act, 2013 was enacted on 14.11.2013. The University was renamed 'The Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University' in 2020.

Post-graduate courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Nadaswaram and Bharatanatyam are conducted at the University.

Ph.D., courses were started from the year 2015-2016. Three-year part-time, Post Graduate weekend courses in the Departments of Painting

and Visual Communication Design and M.Phil courses commenced from the years 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 respectively.

Four Tamil Nadu Government Music Colleges, two Government Colleges of Fine Arts, the Government College of Architecture and Sculpture and Government aided Kalai Kaviri Fine Arts College at Tiruchirappalli a total of 8 colleges under the control of the Department of Art and Culture are affiliated with the University.

M.G.R. Government Film and Television Institute and 13 other self-financed colleges are affiliated with the University.

#### 1.5.2 The Government Music College, Chennai

The Government Music College, Chennai conducts three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Flute, Ghatam, Kanjeera, Morsingh, Nadaswaram, Thavil, Folk



Arts and Bharatanatyam; two-year diploma course in Nattuvangam and one-year diploma course in Music Teachers training. It also conducts three-year degree course in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Bharatanatyam. Evening Music college centre conducts two-year certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin and Mridangam.

#### 1.5.3 The Government Music College, Madurai

The Government Music College, Madurai conducts three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Thavil, Flute, Nadaswaram, Bharatanatyam and Folk Arts and one-year diploma course in music teachers training. It also conducts three-year Degree courses in Vocal Music and Bharatanatyam. Evening music college centre conducts two-year certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin, Mridangam and Bharatanatyam.

#### 1.5.4 The Government Music College, Coimbatore

The Government Music College, Coimbatore conducts three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Bharatanatyam, Thavil and Nadaswaram and one-year diploma course in Music teachers training. It also conducts three-year degree courses in Vocal Music, Veena, Violin and Bharatanatyam. Evening Music college centre conducts two-year certificate courses in Vocal Music, Veena and Violin.

#### 1.5.5 The Government Music College, Thiruvaiyaru

The Government Music College, Thiruvaiyaru conducts three-year diploma courses in Vocal Music, Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Bharatanatyam, Nadaswaram, Thavil and Folk Arts; Two-year diploma course in Nattuvangam and one-year diploma course in

music teachers training. It also conducts three-year degree courses in Vocal Music, Veena and Bharatanatyam, two year post graduate degree courses in Vocal Music and Veena and Ph.D in Music.

A stipend of Rs.500/- per month for 10 months is given to motivate the students of Government Music Colleges.

#### 1.5.6 Government Music Schools

To provide an opportunity to students to learn music and the arts, 17 District Government Music schools have been established at Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Thiruvarur, Salem, Pudukottai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Thoothukudi, Karur, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Krishnagiri, Sirkazhi, Erode and Ramanathapuram.

Three-year certificate courses are conducted in Vocal Music, Bharatanatyam,

Nadaswaram, Thavil, Thevaram, Violin, and Mridangam.

Rs.400/- per month for 10 months is given as stipend to the students to motivate them.

#### 1.5.7 The Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai

The Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai conducts four-year degree courses in Industrial Design in Ceramic, Industrial Design in Textile, Visual Communication Design, Painting, Sculpture and Print Making; two-year Post Graduate Degree courses in Industrial Design in Ceramic, Industrial Design in Textile, Visual Communication Design, Painting and Sculpture.

#### 1.5.8 The Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam

The Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam conducts four-year degree courses

in Painting, Sculpture and Visual Communication Design; two-year Post Graduate degree courses in Painting, Sculpture and Visual Communication Design.

#### 1.5.9 The Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram

The Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram conducts four-year degree courses in B.Tech. in Traditional Architecture, B.F.A. in Traditional Sculpture (Stone Sculpture, Sudhai Sculpture, Wood Sculpture and Metal Sculpture) and B.F.A. in Traditional Drawing and Painting.

#### 1.5.10 The Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts, Tiruchirappalli

Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts in Tiruchirappalli is a Government-aided college, which functions under the administrative control of the Department of Art and Culture. It affords

Ph.D., in Music; M.Phil. in Music; two-year post graduate degree courses in Bharatanatyam, Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Mridangam; five-year integrated degree courses and three-year degree courses in Bharatanatyam, Vocal Music, Violin, Veena and Mridangam.

#### 1.6 Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram

The objective of Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram is to impart art training and to bring out the hidden artistic talents of the children in the age group of 5 to 16 years.

40 Jawahar Siruvar Manrams are presently functioning out of which 24 are District Siruvar Manrams, 14 are Extension centres and 2 are Rural centres.

The administrative sanction for the construction of a new building for Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Manram at Mylapore, Chennai has been accorded by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The new building construction at a cost of

Rs.2.41 crore is in progress and the work is being executed by the Greater Chennai Corporation.

#### 1.6.1 Part time training in Jawahar Siruvar Manrams

Jawahar Siruvar Manram centre in Chennai provides part-time training in Vocal Music, Bharatanatyam, Folk Dance, Crafts, Drama, Gymnastics, Mridangam, Tabla, Karate, Computer, Key Board, Veena, Drums, Bands, Tailoring, Drawing and Painting, Screen Printing, Flute, Yoga and Silambam. District Centres are providing training in any four of the above disciplines to cater for the needs of the Districts.

### TRAINING SCHEMES

#### 1.6.2 District Level Summer Art Training Camp

To make the summer vacation of students useful and joyful, district level summer training

camps are organized by Jawahar Siruvar Manram centres.

### 1.6.3 State Level Summer and Winter Camps

State level summer residential camps are conducted during the summer vacation at a Hill station. State level winter residential camps are conducted during the half-yearly vacation at one of the Districts. Children get happily trained in vocal music, folk dance, Bharatanatyam, painting, handicrafts, yoga and silambattam.

### 1.6.4 State Level Craft Camp

State level residential craft camp is organized once every year during quarterly vacation. Children are imparted joyful training in various arts like toy making, fabric painting, batik, handicrafts, candle making and terracotta sculpture.



### 1.6.5 District Level and State Level Cultural Competitions

To identify and encourage the artistic talent of students vocal, Bharatanatyam, folk dance and drawing competitions are being conducted once a year at the District Level in the age group of 5-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-16 years. Prizes and certificates are distributed to the winners.

First prize winners at District level competitions participate in State level cultural competitions under the categories of 9-12 years and 13-16 years age groups. Three prizes are given for each age group category in four fields. First prize, second prize and third prize winners get cash awards of Rs.10,000/-, Rs.7,500/- and Rs.5,000/- respectively. Total cash award worth Rs.1,80,000/- is distributed to 24 winners in addition to medals and certificates.

### 1.6.6 Participation of Jawahar Siruvar Manrams at National Level Schemes

National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi organizes National Integration Cultural Programmes for 3 days as a part of the celebration of the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru every year. Talented students from 21 affiliated Jawahar Siruvar Manrams of Tamil Nadu are participating in the event every year.

### 1.6.7 National Bal Shree Award

Competitions are conducted by National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi for the selection of 'National Bal Shree Awards'. Competitions are conducted in 4 main streams comprising 16 disciplines namely Creative Performance (Dance, Vocal Music, Percussion, Instrumental Music, Theatre Art, and Puppetry), Creative Arts (Painting, Craft, Sculpture, and Visual Art), Creative Scientific Innovations (Scientific Model Making, Project Making, Scientific Innovations, and

Problem-solving) and Creative Writing (Story, Prose, Poem, Dialogue and Play).

The winners who are shortlisted in District level and State level competitions participate in National level competitions.

### 1.7 Kalaichemmal Awards

The Government of Tamil Nadu encourages talented Painters and Sculptors in the field of traditional and contemporary art with 'Kalaichemmal Awards'. They are honoured with a citation plaque, a cash award of Rs.1,00,000/- and a certificate. Six eminent artistes are awarded every year. So far, 21 eminent artistes from traditional art forms and 52 eminent artistes from contemporary art forms have been conferred with this title.

### 1.8 State Level Exhibition of Traditional and Contemporary Art and Awards

State level exhibitions are conducted by collecting the outstanding painting and sculpture works of talented artistes by a selection committee constituted by the Government. Best among the exhibited works are awarded. Prize money of Rs.15,000/- each and certificate of appreciation are given to 30 artistes in the senior category (above 30 years of age). Prize money of Rs.10,000/- each and certificate of appreciation are given to 30 artistes in the junior category (below 30 years of age).

### 1.9 Financial assistance to artistes for conducting One-man shows and Group shows

Artistes with talent in the field of Paintings and Sculpture are nurtured by providing them financial support for conducting one-man shows and group shows. A Sum of Rs. 25,000/- is

given for conducting one-man shows to 10 artistes and Rs. 50,000/- is given per group for conducting group shows to 5 groups. A sum of Rs.5 lakhs is sanctioned every year for this purpose.

#### 1.10 Scholarships to students studying Fine Arts

To motivate the students of Government Colleges of Fine Arts, educational scholarship is being given to 10 outstanding students studying in final year B.F.A. Rs.3,000/- each and 4 educational scholarships for outstanding students studying in final year M.F.A. Rs.5,000/- each in Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai. 10 outstanding students studying in final year B.F.A. are given an educational scholarship of Rs.3,000/- each, and 2 outstanding students studying in final year M.F.A., in Government College of

Fine Arts, Kumbakonam are given an educational scholarship of Rs.5,000/- each. 26 outstanding students avail the benefits of the scholarship scheme every year. A sum of Rs.90,000/- is allotted to implement this scheme.

#### 1.11 Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board

The Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board was established by the Government to promote various folk art forms, showcase them to the younger generation and ensure the social security of folk artistes by providing financial assistance. 100 folk art forms have been enlisted by the Government of Tamil Nadu. 47,976 folk artistes have enrolled as members of the board and a sum of Rs.188.45 lakh has been sanctioned for the benefit of 8825 folk artistes. The details are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the welfare scheme	No.of beneficiaries	Amount given (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Purchase of spectacles	3811	23.58
2.	Education	3652	51.18
3.	Marriage	629	15.93
4.	Delivery of Child	19	1.14
5.	Miscarriage/ termination of pregnancy	1	0.03
6.	Natural Death / Funeral expenses	713	96.59
Total		8825	188.45

Folk artistes and their wards are provided with financial assistance for education, marriage, prenatal care and death. The details are given below: -

Sl. No.	Financial assistance to artistes	Financial assistance amount (Rs.)
1	Annual educational assistance (two children)	
	Girl children studying 10 <sup>th</sup> standard	1,000
	10 <sup>th</sup> Passed	1,000
	Girl children studying 11 <sup>th</sup> standard	1,000
	Girl children studying 12 <sup>th</sup> standard	1,500
	12 <sup>th</sup> Passed	1,500
	Regular Degree Course	1,500
	Regular Degree Course with Hostel Facility	1,750
	Regular Post Graduate Course	4,000
	Regular Post Graduate Course with Hostel Facility	5,000
	Professional Degree Course (Law, Engineering, Medicine, Animal Husbandry Medicine)	4,000
	Professional Degree Course with Hostel Facility	6,000
	Regular Post Graduate Professional Degree Course	6,000



	Regular Post Graduate Professional Degree Course with Hostel Facility	8,000
	Technical Education Courses (Polytechnic), Industrial Technical Institute Course (ITI)	1,000
	Technical Education Courses (Polytechnic), Industrial Technical Institute Course (ITI) with Hostel Facility	1,200
2	Assistance for Marriage Member / Son / Daughter (Two Times Only)	5,000
3	Assistance for Delivery of Child, Miscarriage, Termination of Pregnancy (for Women member-two times only)	
	a. Delivery of child	6,000
	b. Miscarriage /Termination of pregnancy	3,000
4	Assistance for purchase of spectacles (once in Three Years)	1,500
5	Natural Death Expenses	20,000
6	Funeral Expenses	5,000
7	Accidental Death Expenses	1,00,000

## 1.12 Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram

‘Tamil Nadu Sangeetha Nataka Sangam’ was established in the year 1955 to encourage the traditional Tamil arts and it was renamed ‘Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram’ in the year 1973. It implements several schemes to develop Eyal, Isai and Natakam.

### 1.12.1 Cultural Activities of Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram

- Conduct cultural festivals for the benefit of artistes.
- Encourage young artistes by providing opportunities in cultural programmes.
- Organize exchange of cultural troupes between the States.
- Promote traditional Tamil arts in foreign countries.

- Implement the scheme of conferring three All India level Awards, namely 'Bharathi' (for Literature), 'M.S. Subbulakshmi' (for Music) and 'Balasaraswathi' (for Dance).
- Confer State level 'Kalaimamani' awards to the artistes for their service in arts.
- Document rare art forms.
- Provide grants for the publication of rare books on arts.

#### 1.12.2 Kalaimamani Award

5 sovereign (40 grams) Gold medal and a citation are given to famous artistes for their outstanding contribution in the field of Eyal, Isai, Natakam, Natiyam, Cinema, Isai Natakam, Folk arts, Television and related arts. 1924 artistes have been conferred with this prestigious award so far.

### 1.12.3 Other Activities

- To sanction financial assistance to the aged indigent artistes Rs.3,000/- per month.
- To sanction a one-time family maintenance grant of Rs. 25,000/- to the families of deceased famous artistes.
- Distribution of Porkizhi worth Rs.1,00,000/- cash award to senior Kalaimamani artistes who live in indigent circumstances.
- To provide grants to folk artistes and troupes to purchase musical instruments and costumes.
- To recommend travel concession to drama artistes and art troupes in

Government buses and trains for performing in outstation venues.

- To provide grants for the production of new Dramas and Dance Dramas

#### 1.13 South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur

It is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, established in 1986 with the support of the Government of Tamil Nadu and other four Southern States and three Union Territories. It conducts cultural programmes in the member States.

#### 1.14 Suthanthira Thirunal Amudha Peruvizha - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Suthanthira Thirunal Amudha Peruvizha Celebrates and commemorates 75 years of India's Independence and the glorious history of it's people, culture and achievements. It commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 with a

75-week countdown to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence and will end on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The five themes for the celebrations are Achievements@75, Freedom struggle@75, Ideas@75, Resolve@75 and Action@75. All departments and districts in the State have drawn up a calendar of events that will be conducted during this period with widespread public participation. The Department of Art and Culture is the nodal department for this celebration.

The Honble Chief Minister unveiled the 59 ft tall Independence Day commemorative Pillar in Chennai. He inaugurated an exhibition of photographs titled “Viduthalai Poril Thamizhagam” detailing the role of Tamil Nadu in the Freedom struggle on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021. The Honble Chief Minister flagged off a mobile exhibition on the life and contributions of freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram, which was

taken to various schools and colleges in the State. Chennai Museum curated an exhibition about the freedom struggle in Tamil Nadu.

More than 212 events have been organized throughout the State upto 15.04.2022 by various Departments. Details of 141 events have been uploaded in the official website <https://amritmahotsav.nic.in>

#### 1.15 Announcements 2021-2022:-

1. A sum of Rs. 164 lakhs sanctioned for the Commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence is being utilized for making 75 videos on various folk art forms of Tamil Nadu and to help the folk artistes.
2. A sum of Rs.91 lakhs sanctioned for conducting a grand art festival in

Chennai was utilized for organizing 'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha'.

3. A sum of Rs.75 lakhs sanctioned is being utilized for conducting District / State art competitions to showcase the artistic talents of the youth and organizing the State Art festival.
4. A sum of Rs.50 lakhs sanctioned for providing financial assistance to 500 folk artistes is being utilized to purchase musical instruments, costumes and ornaments.
5. A sum of Rs.10 lakhs sanctioned for the enhancement of one time Porkizhi amount from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- given by Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram to Kalaimamani Awardees who are living in indigent



conditions is being effectively utilized for the benefit of artistes.

6. A sum of Rs. 6.00 lakhs sanctioned is being utilized to organize Muthamizh Camp training by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.
7. A sum of Rs. 44 lakhs sanctioned has been utilized for the procurement of Computers, Printers, and Xerox Machines for Subordinate Offices, Colleges and District Government Music Schools functioning under the control of the Department of Art and Culture.
8. A sum of Rs. 160 lakhs sanctioned is being utilized for the construction of a new building for the Karur District Government Music School.

### 1.16 Achievements:-

1. A grand folk art festival titled 'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha' was organized on 21.03.2022 with the participation of about 500 folk artistes performing more than 30 art forms. The event was telecast live by more than 14 TV channels and on online channels.
2. Various cultural programmes were organised in all the districts during the Republic Day celebrations. A sum of Rs.10.80 lakhs was paid as honorarium to the artistes.
3. As a part of the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Year of Indian Independence, 75 videos depicting art forms of Tamil Nadu are being made and uploaded on social media and websites to document and promote the art forms.

4. 112 Cultural programmes and other events have been organized by Department of Art and Culture in all Districts of Tamil Nadu to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Year of Indian Independence.
5. Department of Art and Culture organized a colourful cultural programme in the Expo 2020-Dubai from 25.03.2022 to 31.03.2022.
6. Department of Art and Culture organized an Exhibition and demonstration of more than 70 traditional and rare Musical instruments of Tamil Nadu during the Maha Shivaratri festival at Mylapore on 01.03.2022.
7. Department of Art and Culture conceptualized and brought out a Calendar for the first time featuring various art forms of the State called 'Poetry in motion'

to promote Tamil classical and folk arts to the world.

8. Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board sanctioned a sum of Rs.28.03 lakhs to the 684 registered folk artistes through various welfare schemes.
9. Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram sanctioned a sum of Rs.3,000/- per month to 1000 members under the scheme of financial assistance to indigent artistes.
10. Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram sanctioned a sum of Rs.25,000/- to 18 families of deceased renowned artistes as a one-time family maintenance grant.
11. A painting competition was conducted by Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar.

12. A sum of Rs.74.46 lakhs was sanctioned to the legal heirs of 88 indigent artistes under the financial assistance scheme.
13. An honorarium of Rs. 5 lakhs from the Chief Minister Public Relief fund was sanctioned to Mr. Sairam, the grandson of eminent artiste late Thiru M.K. Thiyagaraja Bhagavathar.
14. The number of awards given by the District Art Society was increased from 5 to 15 in each District with an additional financial commitment of Rs. 53.70 lakhs.
15. Many cultural programmes were conducted by the Department of Art and Culture in collaboration with the Tourism Department and South Zone Cultural Centre and a sum of Rs. 31.30 lakhs was paid to the artistes as honorarium.

16. The Cultural programmes and other initiatives of the Department of Art and Culture are uploaded on social media sites such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp for wider reach.

### 1.17 Cultural Programmes 2021-2022

SI No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event conducted by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Covid-19 Awareness programme	Kundrathur 01.08.2021  Kancheepuram 06.08.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	0.30
2.	Covid-19 Awareness programme	Karur 06.08.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.12
3.	Independence Day Cultural programme	Dharmapuri 15.08.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	0.30
4.	100 days achievements of Government	Tiruchirappalli 29.08.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.21
5.	150 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of V.O.C.	Tirunelveli 05.09.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	0.50
6.	Chittanavaasal Tourism Art Festival	Tiruchirappalli 27.09.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.30

Sl No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event conducted by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
7.	Drama Festival	Coimbatore 30.09.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	1.20
8.	Dance Festival	Coimbatore 05.10.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	1.20
9.	Sankaradas Swamigal Drama Festival	Kattunayakkan patti, Ottappidaram 13.11.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	1.00
10	World Heritage Day Festival	Kancheepuram 29.11.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	0.26
11	Tamil Isai Vizha	Thiruppur 30.11.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	0.75
12	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Thirupattur 02.12.2021 Vellore 16.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	0.74
13	Dance Festival	Salem 16.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	1.50
14	Tamil Isai Vizha	Salem 16.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	0.75
15	Folk Art Festival	Kudukkachivilai, Kanniyakumari 19.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	2.00

<b>SI No.</b>	<b>Cultural programmes</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Date</b>	<b>Event conducted by</b>	<b>Amount (Rs. in lakh)</b>
16	Dance Festival	Sivagangai 22.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.75
17	National 8 <sup>th</sup> Siddha Day Festival	Nandambakkam Chennai 23.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	0.91
18	Drama Festival	Dindigul 24.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.75
19.	Indian Dance Festival	Mamallapuram 27.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram  (In collaboration with the Department of Tourism)	1.30
20.	Opening Ceremony of Tirunelveli District Art Society	Tirunelveli 28.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	1.72
21.	Indian Dance Festival	Mamallapuram 03.01.2022 and 04.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	0.80
22	Indian Dance Festival	Cuddalore 10.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.30
23	Indian Dance Festival	Mamallapuram 23.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	0.30



Sl No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event conducted by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
24.	Indian Dance Festival	Villupuram 27.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.60
25	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Coimbatore 28.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	0.15
26	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Ettayapuram 01.02.2022 Thoothukudi 02.02.2022 Tirunelveli 03.02.2022 Valliyur 04.02.2022 Kanniyakumari 05.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	2.28
27	Dance Festival	Thanjavur 04.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	1.50
28	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Karur 06.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.50
29	Dance Festival	Theni 08.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.75
30	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Tiruchirappalli 08.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.30
31	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Thanjavur 09.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.56

Sl No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event conducted by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
32	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Dindigul 10.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.28
33	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Thiruvarur 09.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.93
34	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Dharmapuri 10.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	0.15
35	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Ariyalur 11.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.66
36	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Krishnagiri 11.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem	0.20
37	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Thiruppur 11.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore	0.30
38	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Perambalur 12.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.75
39	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Cuddalore 13.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.22

SI No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event conducted by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
40	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Thiruppattur 13.02.2022 Vellore 14.02.2022 and 15.02.2022 Ranipet 16.02.2022 Chengalpet 16.02.2022 Kancheepuram 17.02.2022 Tiruvannamalai 17.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Kancheepuram	4.30
41	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Villuppuram 15.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.73
42	Drama Festival	Cuddalore 16.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	1.50
43	Role of Tamil Nadu in Indian Freedom struggle	Madurai 23.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai	0.75
44	Thirunedungudi Sivarathiri Vizha	Pudukottai 01.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli	0.75

SI No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event conducted by	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
45	Drama Festival	Sivakasi 04.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	1.50
46	Dance Festival	Tirunelveli 05.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	0.80
47	Art competition for youth	Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi 12.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli	2.70
48	Art competition for youth	Thiruvarur 12.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	1.35
49	Thiruvarur Azhi Ther Vizha	Thiruvarur 14.03.2022 and 15.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.90
50	Nagai Sangamam Vizha	Nagappattinam 20.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	0.50

# 1.18 Cultural Programmes conducted in Co-ordination with South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur 2021-2022

Sl. No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event coordinated by
1.	Navaratri Festival	Coimbatore 06.10.2021 to 13.10.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore
2.	Koothu Festival	Salem 13.11.2021 to 17.11.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem
3	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Thanjavur 01.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur
4	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Sengottai 10.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli
5	Bharatiyar Birthday celebration and Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Ettayapuram 11.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli
6	Vaikunda Ekadashi Festival	Srirangam 11.12.2021 to 13.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli
7	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Thiruvarur 23.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur
8	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Karur 28.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli
9	Kaniyan Koothu Kalai Vizha	Tirunelveli 30.12.2021 and 31.12.2021	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli
10	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	The Nilgiris 07.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore

Sl. No.	Cultural programmes	Venue & Date	Event coordinated by
11	Margazhi Isai Vizha	Thanjavur 10.01.2022 and 11.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur
12	Thiruppavai Vizha	Srivilliputtur 13.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tirunelveli
13	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Nagapattinam 24.01.2022 Villuppuram 27.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur
14	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Tiruchirappalli 27.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli
15	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Coimbatore 28.01.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Coimbatore
16	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Namakkal 05.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Salem
17	Masi Perunthiru Vizha	Dindigul 16.02.2022 and 17.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai
18	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Pudukottai 21.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli
19	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Ariyalur 23.02.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Tiruchirappalli
20	Folk Art Festival	Sivagangai 04.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Madurai
21	Commemoration of 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indian Independence	Cuddalore 05.03.2022 Ulundurpet 07.03.2022	Regional Art and Cultural Centre, Thanjavur

## 1.19 Conclusion

The Department of Art and Culture is actively functioning to preserve and promote the rich cultural values and elegant art forms of Tamil Nadu by conducting many cultural programmes and arranging quality education for the younger generations. The well-being of artistes and their families is ensured by providing financial assistance under various schemes and opportunities to perform. Rare and budding talents are identified and suitably honoured. All steps are taken to properly document the art forms which are the precious jewels of our rich heritage.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated Tamil Nadu pavilion after the Cultural programme at Expo 2020 - Dubai on 25.03.2022.





The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed cheques for Rs.25,000/- to 18 families of deceased renowned artistes as a one-time family maintenance grant on 20.01.2022.



'Namma Ooru Thiruvizha', a grand Folk Art festival organized at Island ground in Chennai  
on 21.03.2022.



150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebration of freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram Pillai organized at Ottapidaram, Thoothukudi District on 18.10.2021.



Exhibition and demonstration of rare traditional musical instruments organized at Mylapore, Chennai on 1.3.2022.





Cultural programme organized at Chennai during the World Tamil Diaspora Day Celebration on 12.01.2022.



Folk dance programmes conducted in Indian Dance Festival at Mamallapuram on 26.12.2021.

# DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS

## POLICY NOTE

2022-2023

### 2. Introduction

Tamil Nadu is home to an ancient civilization that is rich in culture, heritage and traditions. The best way to explore the richness of the Tamil Nadu culture is through its museums.

Museums are repositories of history where our heritage is preserved for posterity through collection, documentation and exhibition and function as centres of learning and appreciation. Interpretation of material evidence and associated information are provided for the benefit of visitors to promote understanding and appreciation of our past.

## 2.1. Objectives

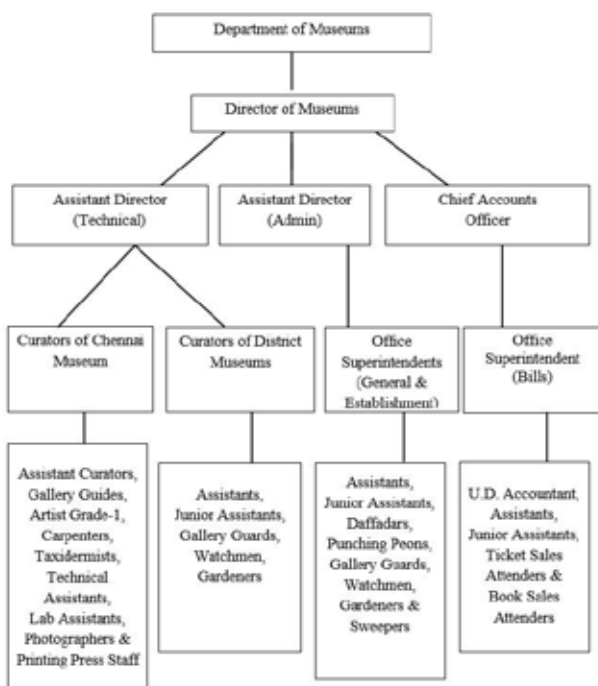
Museums preserve and document the antiquity of the State and create awareness among the public regarding the cultural and historical heritage of Tamil Nadu by displaying them thematically in the museums. The objectives of the Department are:

1. Collection of objects.
2. Conservation of exhibits for posterity.
3. Storage and documentation.
4. Research and communicate the findings to the visitors.
5. Exhibiting the collections for public viewing through thematic galleries and conducting periodical and special exhibitions.
6. Conducting educational activities.



## 2.2. Administrative Structure

The Department of Museums manages the Government Museum, Chennai and 23 District Museums and is headed by the Director of Museums who is assisted by two Assistant Directors, one Chief Accounts Officer, Curators, Assistant Curators, Guides and Technical Staff.



### 2.3. The Government Museum, Chennai

Government Museum, Chennai is the second oldest museum in India and was established in 1851 AD. This is a multi-purpose museum, with a rich collection of antiquities, art objects and natural history specimens exhibited in 7 buildings (including three heritage buildings) and 57 galleries. It has different sections such as Archaeology, Art, Anthropology, Geology, Botany, Zoology, Numismatics and Children's section. It also has Chemical Conservation, Education and Design & Display sections. The Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory is the first of its kind in India and started in 1930 to preserve museum antiquities.

The Government Museum, Chennai has many notable collections such as the world-famous South Indian bronzes, Amaravati limestone collections, Thanjavur armoury, stone inscriptions, copper plates, Roman coins, coins

of Raja Raja I and Kulothunga I, Robert Bruce Foote collections of prehistoric stone implements, artefacts from Megalithic Adichanallur, Roman artefacts from Arikamedu, the giant Ammonite fossil from Ariyalur and the giant skeleton of the whale from seashore near Mangalore, Raja Ravi Varma paintings, Thanjavur paintings etc.

The new 'Talking Tree' interactive displays in the Children's Museum and the Robotic dinosaur in the Geology gallery of the Government Museum, Chennai are the main attractions for the children. The Zoology and Botany galleries are a treasure trove of information for students and research scholars.

The Government Museum, Chennai now has an ambience of advanced digital display technology that offers visitors a realistic experience. The augmented and virtual realities, touch based technology solutions, interactive

display panels and touch screen kiosks offer a visual treat to visitors.

## 2.4. District Government Museums

The Department of Museums has 23 District Museums at Pudukkottai, Salem, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Erode, Cuddalore, The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Kanniyakumari, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, Tiruvarur, Palani (Dindigul), Nagapattinam, Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram, Karur, Virudhunagar, Theni, Thiruvannamalai and a Fossil Museum at Ariyalur.

The Government Museums at Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Cuddalore and the Nilgiris are housed in heritage buildings.

## 2.5. Status of various works

- Based on the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Gandhi

Memorial Museum at Madurai is being upgraded and the Heritage structure is being restored at a cost of Rs. 6 crore. Government Orders have been issued and the restoration works have been entrusted to the Heritage wing of the Public Works Department.

- Security Management Control System (SMCS) which includes Surveillance Cameras, Asset Protection systems, Fire Alarm systems and Public Address systems with suitable modern gadgets and round the clock monitoring is being implemented at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore through ELCOT. The installation work is in progress.
- Restoration of the Pantheon Heritage (Main) Building (AD 1780) and the renovation of galleries, at a cost of Rs.5.41 crore is in progress.
- Restoration of Heritage Building and establishment of the Cafeteria by modifying the existing vintage building, at a cost of Rs. 2.81 crore is in progress.

- Construction of a new administrative block and infrastructure facilities at a cost of Rs. 4.80 crore is in progress by Public Works Department.
- A sum of Rs.5.58 crore has been sanctioned for the holistic up-gradation of the heritage building and display arrangements of the Government Museums at Pudukottai, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli and The Nilgiris. Works have been completed.
- For the construction of a compound wall on two sides of the Fossil site of the Fossil Museum, Ariyalur so as to preserve the Fossil beds, Government orders were issued for Rs.90 lakhs and works are entrusted to Public Works Department.

## 2.6. New Schemes

Proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India for obtaining grants and sanction is awaited in the current financial year viz.,

- Holistic up-gradation of Museum Theatre Block under Tagore Cultural Complex (TCC) at an estimated project cost of Rs.24.56 crore.
- New Archaeological Wing to exhibit the reserve collections at an estimated project cost of Rs.23.278 crore.
- Establishment of a New Science Centre under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPOCS) at an estimated project cost of Rs. 22.40 crore.
- Implementation of Digitization and Virtual Museum at an estimated project cost of Rs.5 crore.
- Capacity Building of the Staff of the Department of Museums at an estimated project cost of Rs.2 crore.

## 2.7. Publications

Many of the books published by the Government Museum, Chennai are comparable to the best-published books anywhere in the world. Government Museum, Chennai has publications in different fields of Museology such

as Archaeology, Anthropology, Art, Botany, Geology, Museology, Numismatics, Zoology, Chemical Conservation of antiquities etc. They serve as reference books worldwide as they are the outcome of considerable research on the antiquities and specimens from the collections of the museum.

Many works on the chemical conservation and preservation techniques of museum artefacts are of great value to the field of preservation of objects. So far, 183 museum publications have been digitised and uploaded in the department's official website.

## 2.8. Latest collections in the Department of Museums

During the year 2021-2022, the Department of Museums collected various bronzes and stone sculptures from different parts of the State.



## 2.9. Government Museum, Chennai

Devi bronze sculpture from Namakkal district, Bhairava bronze sculpture from Dindigul district, Kali from Virudhunagar district, Warrior, Devi and Vishnu from Ariyalur district were received as treasure troves and included in the Archaeology Section of the Government Museum, Chennai.

505 Gold Coins from Tiruchirappalli district, 10 Silver Coins from Krishnagiri district were received as treasure troves and included in the collections of the Numismatics section in the Government Museum, Chennai.

## 2.10. District Government Museums

Stone sculptures of Brahma, Vishnu Durga and Jyeshtha were received as treasure troves in Kanchipuram. Vinayaka, Subramanya, Ayyanar, Kotravai Devi, Saptha kannimar and Vanjivel ravikuvaan chieftain stone inscriptions, were

received as treasure troves in Karur. Linga was received in Kanniyakumari, Veerabadhra was received in Krishnagiri and Amman was received in Salem district museums.

Gopura kalasams 4 nos, stone sculptures of Murugan with peacock, Ayyanar with his consorts Poornai and Pushkalai seated on a pedestal, Karuppasamy, Hanuman, Durga, Sati stone, Vishnu (Standing position), SriDevi, BhuDevi, Lakshmi Narayana, Vinayakar, Dancing girl, Hero stone were received as treasure trove in Virudhunagar district museum.

## 2.11. Educational activities

The Department regularly carries out various educational activities to cater to the learning needs of students, enthusiasts and researchers. It organizes lectures, internships, workshops, trainings and seminars. Various programmes and competitions held every year to engage and involve students creatively and

effectively to appreciate and understand the museum and its collections. The museum offers internships for Researchers, Post Graduates and Under Graduates to research the collections, learn about museum practices and acquire professional skills.

The Government Museum, Chennai has organized the following educational activities:

- In Commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's freedom, various programmes and competitions like drawing, oratorical competitions, heritage walks, special exhibitions and special lectures have been conducted in Chennai and District Museums.
- Drawing competition was conducted on 31.08.2021 in Government Museum, Chennai.

- Special Lectures were conducted in Government Museum, Chennai on the following topics:
  - ❖ Anaimangalam copper plates in the Netherlands and the contacts between the Chola Empire & Srivijaya Empire
  - ❖ Adichanallur Excavations
  - ❖ Keeladi Vaigai River Civilization
  - ❖ Role of Museum in the Preservation of Wildlife and Research
- Special exhibitions were conducted in connection with "Freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu" and "Adichanallur antiquities & Keeladi models" on 22.12.2021.
- Internship training has been given to 678 students of 15 colleges, in the subjects of Archaeology, Anthropology, Art, Numismatics

and Science sections such as Botany, Zoology and Geology.

- Introduction of “Exhibit of the month” has been organized in all the galleries of 8 sections, highlighting one special exhibit from each section of Government Museum, Chennai and in the District Museums, every month. The aim is to showcase the significant, rare and outstanding objects of historical, scientific and artistic interest covering various periods both within Tamil Nadu and from other parts of India. This has created more awareness about the importance of museum objects to visitors.
- Heritage walk was conducted by the Curators of Chennai Museum on 21.11.2021.
- Chennai Photo-Biennale programme to showcase the photo project by students across Tamil Nadu was inaugurated in

Government Museum, Chennai on 26.2.2022.

- Adichanallur antiquities of the Government Museum, Chennai were displayed in the special exhibition at the Chennai book fair from 16.2.2022 to 6.3.2022.

For the benefit of the students and the visitors, various educational activities are conducted in the District Museums also. Special Commemorative Days such as World Heritage Day, International Museum Day, World Tourism Day, Yoga Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, World Environment Day, National Science Day, Children's Day, Philately Day, etc were observed at the District Museums. Several events like Competitions, Special exhibitions, Heritage walks, workshops and training were also conducted for attracting visitors and

students alike. Training on inscriptions and preservation of palm leaves was also conducted.

## 2.12. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Museums preserve culture and natural heritage in the form of collections and associated knowledge through which informal education reaches the masses. Various educational activities like lectures, internships, workshops, trainings and seminars are designed in such a way to play a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through which, Museums are bridging the gaps and provide significant contribution by addressing Social and Economic inequalities.

## 2.13. Conclusion

The Department of Museums, Chennai aims to create awareness and sensitivity towards our rich heritage through a visitor-friendly museum for education and enjoyment of the public.

Museum caters to the need of people from all walks of life. Any expedition to a place should not complete without a museum visit. The purpose of the museums is to collect, preserve, interpret and display objects of artistic, cultural or scientific significance for the study research and edutainment. The department of Museums has been fulfilling the above requirements for better understanding the ceaseless cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu.





The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced Rs.6 crore to upgrade the Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai.



The Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Principal Secretary to Government , Tourism, Culture & Religious Endowment Department inaugurated and viewed the special exhibition on paintings and photograph of freedom fighters in Government Museum, Chennai.

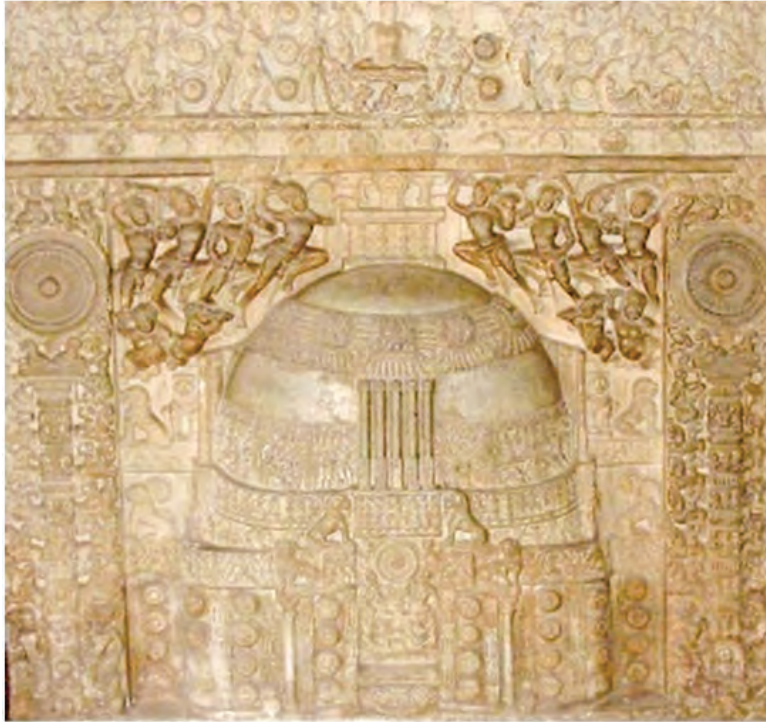


Tmt.Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Member of Parliament inaugurated and viewed the Photo Exhibition of Chennai Photo Binnalae in Government Museum, Chennai.

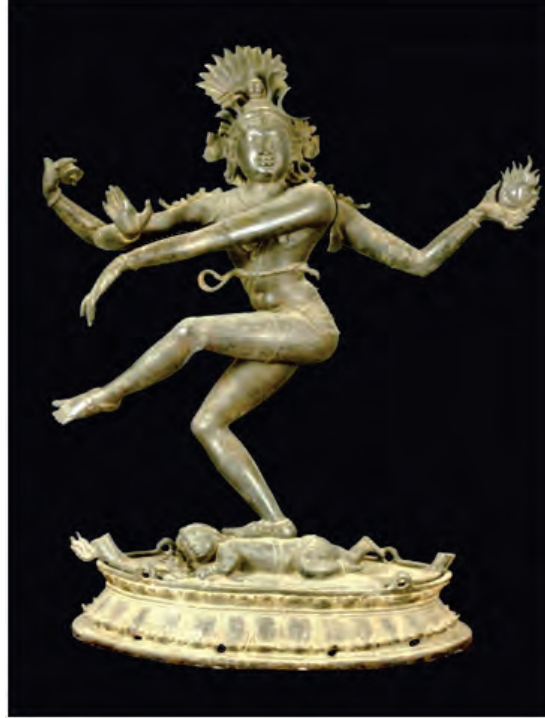


Heritage walk for School students in Kalugu Malai, Thoothukudi district organized by Tirunelveli District Museum.





Casing slab of Amaravati displayed in the Government Museum, Chennai.



Thiruvalangadu, Tiruvallur District Nataraja bronze idol belonging to 11<sup>th</sup> century AD displayed in the Government Museum, Chennai.

## DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

### POLICY NOTE

2022-2023

#### 3. Introduction

The essence of archaeology is the study of the human past that deepens our understanding of the world in a more meaningful and resourceful manner. The study of the human past means the study of human behavioural and cognitive systems within given socio-politico-cultural contexts that transformed humanity through time and space. The term archaeology is derived from the Greek words *archaeos* meaning 'ancient' and *logos* meaning 'study', discussion, reason or science.

##### 3.1. Objectives of the Department

The Department of Archaeology was established in 1961 with the following objectives: -

- To identify, conserve and preserve ancient and historical monuments.
- To conduct systematic archaeological explorations and excavations in historically and archaeologically important sites throughout the State.
- Documenting stone inscriptions by copying, deciphering and publishing them.
- Establishing Site Museums.

### 3.2. Administrative Structure

The Department is headed by the Commissioner of Archaeology and is assisted by Deputy Director, Deputy Superintending Archaeologists, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Superintending Epigraphist, Assistant Directors (Regional) and Archaeological Officers.



To strengthen the Department and more specifically the Archaeological Wing 24, new key posts such as one Joint Director, three Regional Assistant Directors, five Archaeological Officers, one Executive Engineer, two Assistant Executive Engineers, four Junior Engineers, one Junior Electrical Engineer, four Sthapathies, one Deputy Director (Admin.) and two Assistant Directors (Admin.) have been sanctioned by the Government.

### 3.3. A Chronological breakthrough

The Department of Archaeology conducted excavations at Keeladi, Sivagangai District during the years 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

The analyses of carbon samples collected from the Keeladi excavations assigned the date to the 6th century BCE (580 BCE). This date scientifically and securely pushed back the date

of Damili (Tamil-Brahmi) to the 6th century BCE, which is almost a century earlier than the hitherto held view of the 5th century BCE. This is evidence of the high levels of literacy that were achieved by the Tamils in the 6th century BCE.

The findings of Keeladi prove beyond doubt that the second urbanization had also happened in Tamil Nadu in the 6th century BCE as of Gangetic Valley and was also substantially evolved and refined as compared to other civilizations of the time. This conclusively dispels the widely held belief among scholars that the second urbanization that had been observed in the Gangetic valley had not occurred in Tamil Nadu.

During the last season (2021), a silver Punch-Marked Coin (PMC) was found at Keeladi with the symbols of Sun, Moon, Taurine and a few geometrical designs. As per experts opinion,

this coin belongs to pre-Mauryan times i.e., prior to the period of Emperor Asoka.

The occurrence of a large number of artefacts clearly indicates the cultural richness of the ancient civilization of the Tamils. Further, the proximity to the capital city Madurai strengthens the significance. As the cultural mound is so vast in its area and to date, undisturbed and protected by the coconut grooves, it becomes essential to continue to probe such cultural hidden treasures of the Keeladi site in the future and reveal the cultural wealth of the ancient society.

The select carbon samples of paddy recovered from an urn burial at Sivagalai near Adichanallur were sent for AMS Carbon Dating Test to the prestigious Beta Analytical Laboratory located in Miami, Florida State of USA. The results are quite a revelation to the archaeological community. Rice along with husk

found in an offering pot within the urn at Sivagalai yielded the date of 1155 BCE. It is with immense pride and happiness we announced to the world that based on scientific research, it is confirmed that the Porunai (Tamiraparani) river civilization is at least 3200 years old. This scientific report of historical significance had been announced under 110 Announcement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 09.09.2021.

### 3.4. Conservation of Protected Monuments

India has extraordinarily rich, vast, and diverse cultural heritage that has left a huge corpus of built heritage across the country. A glimpse of this richness and variety can be seen in the form of monuments and archaeological sites. The State flaunts a rich heritage and has clung to its history in this modern era. Tamil Nadu is often visited for its artistically and

architecturally famous and beautiful monuments. The monuments display and demonstrate the skills and excellence of the artisans of a bygone age. The fine characteristics of ancient architecture are that the temples have towering vimanas and gopurams and the State is studded with rock-cut temples, monolithic temples, forts, tanks, structural temples, choultries and mandapams.

They are both secular as well as religious in nature. Due to various reasons including natural calamities or unnatural events, temples and other structures have become dilapidated and now they need proper conservation and preservation.

Archaeological conservation and preservation of ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remains are works of a specialized nature and require an understanding of conservation methods and archaeological

principles. The Government of Tamil Nadu enacted "The Tamil Nadu Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act – 1966 and Rules – 1971" to protect and conserve the historical monuments in the State.

As per the above Act and Rules, "Ancient Monument" means any structure, erection or monument, any tumulus or place of interment or any cave, rock sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years ago.

The Department of Archaeology has so far declared 100 ancient and historical structures as "Protected Monuments". Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] has declared 251 monuments and 160 archaeological sites, a total of 411 as protected monuments and sites in the State.

Among the 100 protected monuments of the State, Tirumalai Nayak Mahal at Madurai, Ramalingavilasam at Ramanathapuram, Maratha Palace at Thanjavur, Danish Fort and Governor Bungalow at Tarangambadi in Mayiladuthurai District and Manora at Sarabendrarajapattinam in Thanjavur District continue to register major tourist inflow and continue to have a magnetic pull that attracts hundreds of travellers.

Megalithic Burial Site in Pangunatham Village, Dharmapuri Taluk, Dharmapuri District; Jain Thirthankara sculptures and inscriptions in Anandamangalam village, Maduranthakam Taluk, Chengalpattu District; Tamizhi Inscription at Neganurpatti village, Gingee Taluk, Villupuram District; Tamizhi Inscription, Jain Sculpture and Jain Beds at Thondur village, Gingee Taluk, Villupuram District; Jain Beds, Cave and Tamizhi Inscriptions at Mudalaikulam village, Usilampatti Taluk, Madurai District and

Tamizhi Inscriptions and Thirthankara sculpture in a hillock at Arittapatti village, Melur Taluk, Madurai District are the latest additions to the list of protected monuments.

Likewise, the Tamizh Inscription at Pulankurichchi village, Tiruppathur Taluk, Sivagangai District is to be declared as "Protected Monuments" for which preliminary notifications have been issued in the year 2021-2022.

During the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Human Resources Management, an announcement was made that the areas in Keeladi, Sivagalai and Kodumanal where excavations have been carried out will be declared as protected archaeological sites. In this regard, the preliminary notification for the sites Agaram, Kondagai, Sivagalai and Kodumanal were issued in the year 2021-2022 as "Protected Archaeological Sites".



Seventy Historical monuments have been identified and are in the process of being declared as "Protected Monuments & Sites" by the Department of Archaeology.

### 3.5. Funds for regular maintenance of Protected Monuments

The Government of Tamil Nadu has enhanced the allocation from Rs.1 crore to Rs.2 crore for taking up regular maintenance of protected monuments.

### 3.6. Conservation and Restoration of old forts and palaces

Under the Hon'ble Governor Address for the year 2021, an announcement was made that a master plan will be unveiled in the current year for fully realizing Tamil Nadu's tourism potential. Heritage tourism will be given a boost by restoring and renovating old forts and palaces while retaining their originality. In this regard, the following three protected monuments are

being taken up for conservation and restoration work. The works are to be taken up by the Public Works Department.

S. No	Name of the Monument	Estimated Cost Rs. in crore
1	Sarjah Madi at Thanjavur	9.4285
2	Danish Fort at Tarangambadi	3.7728
3	Tirumalai Nayak Mahal at Madurai	3.7276
TOTAL		16.9289

### 3.7. Capacity Building

Public Archaeology is one of the emerging areas which aims at educating and involving the common public to create awareness about our heritage. The aim is to provide information, knowledge and insight into the human past.

Under this endeavour, to create awareness as well as to educate the heritage enthusiasts, students and general public, an awareness programme titled "Introduction to Archaeology" has been proposed to hold in Madurai regions. A five-day workshop is planned to be organized jointly in collaboration with Madurai Kamaraj University in May 2022. Eminent scholars from various fields of Archaeology are to be invited to deliver lectures on various topics.

### 3.8. International Seminar on "Early Tamil Culture and Heritage"

The Department of Archaeology and Roja Muthiah Research Library jointly organized an International Seminar on "Early Tamil Culture and Heritage" in commemoration of Padmasri Iravatham Mahadevan. The seminar was organized for two days on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram, Chennai. The occasion was graced

by the paper presentations of nearly 22 Research scholars, eminent Archaeologists and Historians through both offline and online modes. The events had been streamed live on the YouTube channel for the benefit of the students and the general public.

### 3.9. Archaeological excavations

The archaeological excavations are considered one of the scientific tools to rewrite the Nations' glorious cultural past. The ancient literature and epigraphical records generally display the administrative and social life of the elite whereas the excavation provides the life of the common man. Further, the biological samples provide important information on palaeo-environment, their subsistence pattern and change in lifestyle in chronological sequences.

The Department of Archaeology is the State-level nodal agency for forwarding the

proposals for excavations from various Departments/Universities/Agencies with the recommendation of the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology [CABA] for placing before the Standing Committee for approval.

The Department of Archaeology has so far conducted excavations at 43 historical sites, of which 37 excavation reports had been published as per Annexure. Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] has so far conducted excavations at more than 50 sites in the State.

### 3.10. Archaeological explorations and excavations during last season–2021

During the year 2021, seven excavations have been carried out.

1. Keeladi and its cluster (Kondagai, Agaram and Manalur) of Sivagangai District.
2. Adichanallur of Thoothukudi District.

3. Sivagalai of Thoothukudi District.
4. Korkai of Thoothukudi District
5. Gangaikondacholapuram of Ariyalur District
6. Mayiladumparai of Krishnagiri District
7. Kodumanal of Erode District.

In addition to excavations, two more archaeological explorations had been carried out in Vellore, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri and Salem districts to identify the Neolithic sites and also in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts to identify the archaeological wealth of Porunai (Tamirabarani) River valley culture.

### 3.11. Keeladi and its clusters (Kondagai | Agaram|Manalur)

To study the civilization of the Vaigai River valley holistically, excavations are taken up in all

the above sites which include habitation, burial and industrial locations.

### 3.12. Keeladi

The Keeladi excavations revealed huge brick structures, Damili inscribed potsherds, graffiti marks, semi-precious stones, gamesmen, silver Punch Marked coins, Northern Black Polished ware of Gangetic valley, ivory dices and combs. The available structures and artefacts are elite and suggest that it served as a great city having trade relations with India and Sri Lanka. The Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) date obtained at Keeladi pushed back the date of Damili to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The numismatics expert Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar, Calcutta University suggested that the Punch Marked coin belongs to the pre-Mauryan period as per Gupta Hardekar Series.

The 7<sup>th</sup> season of excavation at Keeladi revealed major structural activities, globular

pots, furnace, cattle bones, numerous iron objects, copper objects, beads made of semi-precious stones, glass, shell and weighing units, seals, Damili (Tamil-Brahmi) inscribed potsherds and graffiti marks which strongly suggest that Keeladi might have survived as an industrial-cum-habitational site. The discovery of weighing units, seals and semi-precious stone beads, silver Punch Marked Coin (PMC) of other regions point to the possibility of evolved trading activities of the Sangam Age society.

### 3.13. Kondagai

Kondagai is exclusively a burial site. 30 urn burials, nearly 51 offering vessels of red-ware, red-slipped-ware and black-and-red ware were identified.



### 3.14. Agaram

The three seasons of excavation conducted at Agaram yielded several artefacts. Among them that requires our attention is the occurrence of Microlithic tools. Besides, ceramics such as black-and-red ware, red slipped ware, redware and grey slipped ware in a variety of shapes and decorations/paintings, beads, terracotta figurines, terracotta objects, glass objects of various colours, decorated shell objects, metal objects of both copper and iron have been recovered.

### 3.15. Adichanallur, Thoothukudi District

Adichanallur is located on the right bank of the Porunai (Tamirabarani) River, in the Thoothukudi district. The extensive 'urn burial site' at Adichanallur was first discovered by Dr.Jagor of the Berlin Museum in 1876. Alexander Rea excavated a good number of urns in 1903 and discovered gold diadems with

parallels from Mycenae (one of the major centres of Greek civilization); bronze objects notably lids with exquisite finials depicting many animal forms, iron objects besides thousands of potsherds. The excavation was resumed by the Archaeological Survey of India during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. More than 160 urns within the area of 600 square meters were exposed.

This marvellously wealthy habitation site and the antiquities unearthed from Adichanallur of Thoothukudi District play a vital role in the history of Tamil Nadu and its civilization.

In the year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 archaeological research and excavations were undertaken by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu, in the habitation areas of the Adichanallur complex. The artefacts recovered from these digs brought to light the social, economic, art, culture, ecology, biology,

literacy and language and everyday lives of the ancient civilization that survived on the Porunai river bank. The excavations were carried out in two main localities viz., burial ground and habitation. Nearly, 905 antiquities were collected in addition to graffiti marks.

### 3.16. Sivagalai, Thoothukudi District

Sivagalai is a village in Srivaikundam Taluk of Thoothukudi District. It is located on the northern bank of the river Porunai (Tamilabbarani). Adichanallur lies 14 km west of Sivagalai.

The excavations carried out in the mounds of Parambu and Valappanpillai thiradu revealed plenty of pot-sherds, microlithic tools and other artefacts indicating the archaeological importance of this region.

The excavation work at Sivagalai, a habitation-cum-burial site, has yielded 258

antiquities and a total of 48 urns. One of the urn burials yielded the AMS date of 1155 BCE there by suggesting that the Tamils of Porunai (Tamilabbarani) river valley had led a matured cultural life as early as 3200 years ago.

### 3.17. Korkai, Thoothukudi District

At Korkai, the Northern Black Polished ware and Black slipped ware datable prior to 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE are unearthed. Dr. Rakesh Tewari, former Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India and Prof. R.N. Singh of Banaras Hindu University suggested that the availability of Punch Marked coins, Northern Black Polished ware and Black Slipped ware of Gangetic valley clearly suggests that South India was well connected with different parts of India through trade well before 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Korkai might have served as one of the important ports even before 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE as indicated by the C14 dates obtained earlier in the excavations.

So far, antiquities such as glass beads, glass bangles, conch bangles, terracotta beads, stone beads, hop-scotches, terracotta figurines, iron objects, copper objects, terracotta perforated pipes, copper coins, Arretine ware and celadon ware along with brick structure were identified. Totally 511 antiquities were unearthed.

### 3.18. Kodumanal, Erode District

Kodumanal in Perundurai Taluk of Erode District, Tamil Nadu, is located on the northern bank of Noyyal River, a tributary of the Kaveri River. It is about 15 km west of Chennimalai and about 40 km southwest of Erode.

The significance of Kodumanal is evident from the textual references to it as a trade-cum-industrial centre in Paditrupattu of Sangam literature referred to this village as 'Kodumanam'. The site lies on the ancient trade route that connects Karur the ancient capital of

Cheras in the east to the ancient seaport of Muziris in the west.

A large number of semi-precious stone beads, bangles, rings, copper and silver objects, iron objects, hop-scotches, terracotta objects, bone objects, stone objects, potsherds with Graffiti marks (779), Damili (Tamil-Brahmi) inscribed potsherds (35) accounting to 3485 antiquities were unearthed from the habitational site and 26 iron implements from Burial sites. The major finding is a stone-laid step-well approached from two directions.

### 3.19. Gangaikondacholapuram, Ariyalur District

The site called Maligaimedu, is located near Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district. It is situated on Ariyalur-Kumbakonam highway at about 13 km west of Jayankondam-kut road which lies on Villupuram – Kumbakonam highway.

The name Maligaaimedu implies the mound of the palace (maligai : palace; medu: mound). This site is 2 km southwest of Utkottai village. Maligaaimedu is in the vicinity of Gangaikondacholapuram, the capital city of Rajendra Chola-I (1012 -1044 CE), son of Rajaraja Chola-I (985-1014 CE).

The excavation was conducted by the Department of Archaeology to expose the palace remains belonging to Chola rulers. Beautifully well-laid brick structures with 36 courses of bricks in a neat alignment were exposed. Besides, many antiquities such as iron nails, iron objects, celadon ware, potsherds, a copper coin, roof tiles, hop-scotches, etc., were collected. Totally 945 antiquities had been unearthed.

### 3.20. Mayiladumparai, Krishnagiri District

Mayiladumparai is a small hillock situated about 4 km west of Togarapalli village in Bargur Taluk of Krishnagiri district. The site

Mayiladumparai reveals that the area is inhabited since the Microlithic period. The presence of grooves, rock shelters and rock paintings in red ochre overlapping with white ochre indicates the cultural phase of the Neolithic. The continuous settlement pattern from the Microlithic period to the medieval period is perceived from the excavations and explorations. The excavation unveils the existence of materials such as handmade potteries, burnished ware, polished celt and flakes associated with the Neolithic period at the lowermost level of the excavated trench. The research indicates the slow and smooth transformation period from food gatherer to food producer, substantially from the end phase of the Neolithic to an early phase of the Iron age. Mayiladumparai excavation and its associated findings observed at Varatanapalli and Kappalavadi clearly proved that the Neolithic people carried out their agro-pastoral activities.



The excavation conducted in the year 2021 at Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri District yielded two important AMS dates that provide a clue for understanding the introduction of iron and also the transformation from the late Neolithic Phase to the Iron Age. The present two AMS dates obtained from Mayiladumparai further substantiated and strengthened the view on the existence of the Iron Age in the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE and the Neolithic phase prior to this date in Tamil Nadu.

### 3.21. Neolithic Sites Survey

To identify the Neolithic Sites of Tamil Nadu, the Department in collaboration with Sharma Centre for Heritage Education is conducting explorations and scientific investigations of Neolithic sites along the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu in the Districts of Vellore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, and Salem. During the pandemic, the first phase of

the project work was taken up. The preliminary works such as the collection of information about site settings, geo-coordinates and their geographical-geological and geo-morphological contexts were carried out.

Having collected the above-said information, the second phase of the project was conducted in the Districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, and Tiruvannamalai by a team of experts. The field studies included both archaeological and geological/geomorphological aspects. In the field survey, identification of Celt manufacturing sites and re-examination of grinding groove sites were undertaken. Several samples were collected for study purposes. Artefacts and rock samples are currently being analysed with the help of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR).

### 3.22. Explorations in the Porunai (Tamirabarani) River valley

The river Porunai (Tamirabarani) originates in the Pothigai hills on the south-western slopes of Western Ghats. The Porunai (Tamirabarani) river valley is classified into upper, middle and lower basins. The basins comprise about 670 villages from its western boundary to the eastern coastal zone at the Bay of Bengal. In this exploration, nearly 160 sites including burial sites, habitation sites, hero-stones, cup marks, microlithic flakes, inscriptions, loose sculptures, monuments, etc., have been identified.

### 3.23. Archaeological Explorations and Excavations during 2022

In 2022, the Government had enhanced the ceiling of Rs.3 crore to Rs.5 crore as recurring funds for conducting large-scale archaeological explorations/excavations and underwater explorations/excavations at archaeologically and historically important sites

in the State. This is one of the higher budget allocations ever witnessed in any other State of India.

In 2022, the excavations are being carried out in seven sites namely:

1. Keeladi and its cluster (Kondagai, Agaram and Manalur) in Sivagangai District
2. Sivagalai and its cluster in Thoothukudi District
3. Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur District
4. Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri District
5. Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District
6. Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli District
7. Perumpalai in Dharmapuri District

Further, two more archaeological explorations are being undertaken at Vellore, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri and

Salem to identify the Neolithic sites and also in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts to identify and explore the Porunai (Tamirabarani) River valley culture.

The 8<sup>th</sup> season of excavations in the Keeladi cluster in Sivagangai District and the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of excavations at Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur District were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu through video conferencing on 11.02.2022. Likewise, the excavation works at Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District and Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli District were started on 16.03.2022. These works are in progress and are likely to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September of 2022.

### 3.24. Offshore Reconnaissance Survey of a Sangam Age Korkai Port

It is proposed to undertake a preliminary reconnaissance survey in collaboration with Indian Maritime University (IMU) and the

National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to identify the Korkai port of mid-Sangam Age Pandyas at a total cost of Rs.1.50 crore in which a sum of Rs. 0.64 crore is to be borne by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology. The survey is planned to be conducted from April – May 2022.

### 3.25. Scientific Studies

Scientific datings are necessary to establish the chronological time frame to which the unearthed artefacts belong. Archaeological investigations have no meaning unless the chronological sequences of the events are reconstructed faithfully. The antiquities unearthed from the present ongoing systematic archaeological excavations are to be scientifically analyzed with the help of reputed laboratories and institutions.

Archaeology requires the application of a wide range of technologies and scientific

analyses at various stages from the time of discovery to the satisfactory and acceptable interpretations of the findings. This helps in placing the archaeological data in proper chronological order and understanding the sequential cultural processes.

The Department is using technologies such as Ground Penetrating Radar [GPR] Survey, Magnetometer Survey, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle [UAV] Survey, etc., to identify the ideal locations for carrying out archaeological explorations and excavations.

On the scientific analyses part, State Archaeology Department is re-establishing the cultural history of Tamil Nadu in scientific line in collaboration with various scientific institutions. The Department is collaborating with Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow and French Institute of Pondicherry for pollen analysis and phytolith studies to study the

palaeoclimate; an aDNA analysis is being made in collaboration with Madurai Kamaraj University to understand the human genome; Metallurgical analysis is being carried out in association with National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru to understand the iron, steel and high-tin bronze technology; Ceramic analysis is being carried out with the help of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and Pune University to understand the sources of raw materials and the skeletal remains are being studied in association with Deccan College, Pune to identify the nature of social compositions.

Having recognized the valuable contribution of specialized disciplines to a deeper analysis of archaeological findings, it has been decided to collaborate with experts from the fields such as Archaeo-botany, Metallurgy, Molecular Biology, Population Genetics, Environmental Archaeology and Linguistic



Archaeology. Constant efforts are being made to rewrite the cultural history of Tamil Nadu on the scientific line.

### 3.26. Archaeological Site Museums

The antiquities unearthed from archaeological explorations and excavations have been preserved and exhibited for the benefit of the scholars, researchers and the general public in the following 14 archaeological site museums situated in various districts of the State: -

Sl. No	Site Museums	Place / District
1)	Danish Fort Museum	Tarangambadi Mayiladuthurai
2)	Underwater Archaeological Museum	Poompuhar Mayiladuthurai
3)	Gangaikonda Cholapuram Museum	GangaikondaCholapuram Ariyalur
4)	RamalingaVilaasam Museum	Ramanathapuram

5)	Arcot Museum	Arcot Ranipet
6)	Pre-Historic Museum	Poondi Tiruvallur
7)	Tirumalai Nayak Mahal Museum	Madurai
8)	Rajarajan Museum	Thanjavur
9)	Maratha Museum	Thanjavur
10)	Karur Museum	Karur
11)	Coimbatore Museum	Coimbatore
12)	Courtallam Museum	Courtallam Tenkasi
13)	Tirukkivilur Museum	Tirukkivilur Kallakurichi
14)	Dharmapuri Museum	Dharmapuri

### 3.27. Porunai Site Museum at Tirunelveli District

A statement was made by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the State Assembly under rule 110 on 09.09.2021 to showcase the artefacts obtained in Sivagalai, Korkai and Adichanallur a Porunai museum would be set up

at Tirunelveli, with all modern amenities for Rs. 15 crore.

In this regard, holistically, the unearthed artefacts from the sites such as Adichanallur, Sivagalai and Korkai are to be displayed at Tirunelveli District under the theme “Porunai museum”. A detailed Project Report for the construction of the museum complex is prepared for a sum of Rs. 33.02 crore. The construction works are to be taken up by Public Works Department.

### 3.28. New Site Museum at Keeladi

During 2019-2020, the Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.12.21 crore for establishing a world-class Keeladi site museum at Kondagai in Sivagangai District. Public Works Department has commenced the work in April 2020 and plans to complete the same by the end of May 2022.

For the Keeladi site museum, the Government has sanctioned 34 new posts (Archaeological Officer-2, Assistant Archaeological Officer-2, Superintendent-1, Assistant-1, Junior Assistant-2, Museum Security Officer-2 and Museum Care Taker-24) with essential funds at a total cost of Rs.1.58 crore during 2021-22. On completion of the construction work, the posts are to be filled up soon.

### 3.29. Development of Madurai Tirumalai Nayak Mahal Site Museum

Conservation and display works at a cost of Rs.8.27 crore for the Tirumalai Nayak Mahal, Madurai have been estimated. These works have been approved by the Ministry of Culture under the Museum Grant Scheme with an 80:20 sharing pattern. (Central share 80% = Rs.661.76 lakh + State Share 20% = Rs.165.44 lakh). The works are expected to commence shortly.

### 3.30. Epigraphy

Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions on rocks, pillars, temple walls, copper plates, stones, metals, potteries, woods, palm leaves, clothes, conch shells, murals and coins. It is one of the most fascinating and instructive studies.

Inscriptions are one of the main sources for reconstructing the history and culture of ancient civilizations. They serve as the primary documentary evidence to establish legal, socio-cultural, literary, linguistic, archaeological and historical antiquity.

A recent survey on Indian Epigraphy by the Archaeological Survey of India lists Tamil Nadu as the number one State in the country with the highest number of inscriptions. Tamil Nadu is ranked first among the Indian States in the categories of language, alphabets and the number of inscriptions on both stone and copper plates too.

A separate epigraphy wing was started in the Department during the year 1966. The primary function of this wing is to copy inscriptions on rocky surfaces, stone pillars, slabs, temple walls, copper plates and palm-leaf manuscripts.

At present, this wing owns about 25,243 estampages of inscriptions from 38 districts. The work of copying inscriptions in the districts of Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, and Thoothukudi is currently in progress. Of the 25,243 estampages, 13,201 inscriptions have been deciphered and 8,599 inscriptions have been published in 56 volumes.

During 2019-2020, a sum of Rs. 2 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu for launching a special drive to complete the work of copying, deciphering, and publishing the inscriptions. This work will be taken up for five years @ Rs. 40 lakhs per year.

These will be published under the series "Tamil Nadu Inscriptions".

Fifteen experts have been engaged to decipher 3,000 inscriptions per year. So far, 4,000 inscriptions were deciphered. Among these inscriptions, 1,279 were published in six volumes. Five epigraphical attendees have been appointed on a contract basis to take estampages of uncopied inscriptions and to find new inscriptions in the State. 216 inscriptions were copied during the year 2021-2022.

### 3.31. Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology

The Institute of Epigraphy was revamped and renamed as "Institute of Archaeology" in the year 2020-2021. In the year 2021-2022, the Institute of Archaeology has been renamed as "Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology". This institute is functioning as an

educational-cum-training institution at the headquarters of the Department since 1974.

"Tamil Nadu Institute of Archaeology and Museology" conducts a two-year post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology for 20 students annually from 2020 to 2021. Selections for the course are made through a screening test which is open to those who have completed their Post-Graduate degree in any subject.

It also conducts a two-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Epigraphy for 10 students annually from 2021 to 2022 for those who have obtained a Post-Graduate degree in Tamil/ Indian History/ History/ Ancient History and Archaeology/ History and Archaeology.

The courses contain four semesters and each semester has 6 papers. Totally, there are 24 papers inclusive of theory and practical with all the aspects of Archaeology and Epigraphy are



being taught. The students are being trained by eminent scholars from various institutions. Every month, a sum of Rs. 5,000/- is paid as stipend to each student.

### 3.32. National level workshop on Lithic Technology

National level workshop on Lithic Technology was organized jointly with the Department of History and Tourism of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore between 05.03.2022 and 07.03.2022 in which around 10 researchers and experts from India had participated and physical training was provided for the benefit of the students from various colleges in Coimbatore, Bharathiar University and TNSDA Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology & Epigraphy students.

### 3.33. Rock-Art in Tamil Nadu

The Rock-Art of Tamil Nadu can be classified under two major categories namely petrograph and petroglyph.

1. Rock Paintings are further classified as those found on

- natural rock shelters
- megalithic dolmens
- manmade rock-cut caves of the historical period.

2. Rock Bruising and Engravings

To document the Rock-Art of Tamil Nadu, the Department has conducted a survey with an expert team consisting of 8 members from different fields such as Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Folklore and Art history. The team surveyed the following villages: -

1. Karikiyur, The Nilgiris District
2. Sirumalai, Dindigul District
3. Usilampatti, Madurai District
4. 6 sites in Villupuram District
5. 30 sites in Krishnagiri District

In this survey, different themes of rock art were found demonstrating hunting gatherers, war scenes, cattle keepers, riders, etc., reflecting the agro-pastoral subsistence pattern. The major colours noticed in the paintings were red and white ochre.

### 3.34. Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre

A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value. Manuscripts are found in hundreds of different languages and scripts.

Manuscripts are distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, firmans and revenue records which provide direct information on events or processes in history.

The formation of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre, Chennai has a unique historical background dating back to 1861. This library was made possible because of the monumental efforts of Colonel Colin Mackenzie, C.P.Brown and Prof. Pickford. Since then the Government of Tamil Nadu is gathering the manuscripts.

Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre are functioning under the control of this department. It is currently located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram, Chennai. This library has a collection of 72,748 rare manuscripts and 25,373 reference books on various subjects such as Mathematics, Astronomy, Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani, Vedas, Agama, Architecture, Music, Fine Arts, History and many other subjects written in Tamil, Sanskrit, Marathi, Urdu, Arabic and Persian Languages which are being safely

preserved. 50 new wooden racks are procured to preserve the manuscripts with more care.

Many manuscripts are being donated to Library. 43 boxes of manuscripts containing local accounts are given to the library by the Nagercoil Court. So far, 21,00,000 manuscript pages have been digitized. Of these, 5,00,000 pages in 3,500 Manuscript bundles have been digitized and are available online ([www.tnarch.gov.in](http://www.tnarch.gov.in)).

### 3.35. State Manuscript Mission

In 2019-2020, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 lakh as a recurring fund for launching the "State Manuscript Mission" to identify, preserve and digitize the manuscripts available in the State. Under this project, a unique manuscript centre was started in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre. This Project identified 1,00,000 manuscripts kept

with the individuals and institutions that are to be preserved and digitized for the benefit of future generations. The State Manuscript Mission is functioning in five regions and the work is in full swing.

The data collected from the State Manuscript Mission will be used to create a uniform catalogue along with an international standard metadata format and it will be finally made available online for the benefit of the scholars and the general public.

### 3.36. Manuscripts Resource Centre

"The National Mission for Manuscripts" (NMM), under the Ministry of Culture, the Government of India is engaged in the process of collecting all the manuscripts available in India. It has recognized the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library in Chennai as the "Manuscripts Resource Centre" (MRC) for collecting the manuscripts in the State of

Tamil Nadu and digitizing them. So far 66,110 manuscripts have been digitized and sent to the National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi.

### 3.37. Important activities 2021-2022

- During 2021-2022, World Heritage Week (Nov 19-25) was celebrated by organizing Archaeology and Epigraphy awareness programmes, workshops, competitions, lectures, training, etc. for the benefit of scholars, researchers, the student community and the general public by all the site museums and sub-offices of this Department.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited the 7<sup>th</sup> season's excavation programme conducted at Keeladi and its clusters on 29.10.2021 for which a special exhibition was organized with the antiquities unearthed from Keeladi. The special exhibition is kept open for 10 days for the benefit of the general public.

- A unique exhibition gallery on Porunai River Civilization covering an area of 5000 square feet had been set up at the 45<sup>th</sup> Chennai Book Fair held from 16.02.2022 to 06.03.2022 with the help of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds availed from Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited. Those original artefacts and replicas of some structural findings from Adichanallur, Sivagalai and Korkai with detailed narrations along with Virtual Reality experiences were exclusively displayed for the benefit of the general public. This gallery was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 16.02.2022.
- During the 5<sup>th</sup> Porunai Nellai Book Fair held from 17.03.2022 to 27.03.2022, a special exhibition gallery was established for the benefit of the general public and there have been overwhelming responses among the schools and college students.



- Six volumes of inscriptions under “Tamil Nadu Inscriptions” series were released on 19.03.2022 during the 5<sup>th</sup> Porunai Nellai Book Fair.
- A new course for a two-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Epigraphy was inaugurated on 31.12.2021.

### 3.38. Sum-up

In Tamil Nadu, the human appeared 15 lakh years ago as per the evidence observed at Attirampakkam near Poondi Reservoir in Thiruvallur taluk. The reconstruction of 15 lakh years of history is one of the major and challenging tasks of the Department. The Department is attempting further to associate and interact with various scientific Institutions such as the National Institute of Ocean Technology and Indian Maritime University to identify the sea-level fluctuations, river migration, paleochannels, traditional

navigational and boat-building technology to understand the maritime heritage of the Tamils. The Tamils ventured into the sea 2500 years before and had a brisk trade with Egypt, Arabian Peninsula, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

The Department aims to advance our understanding of the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu through continuous well-calibrated and multi-pronged approaches on the scientific line. The available antiquities and artefacts unearthed through systematic explorations and excavations provide a tremendous scope to discover and decipher our vibrant cultural past. The result-oriented findings are being disseminated to scholars, students and the general public to enhance and enlighten the existing knowledge to understand their heritage with proud and pride without any prejudice.

Thangam Thenarasu  
Minister for Industries

## Annexure

No.	Place	District	Year of excavation	Nature of Site
1	Korkai	Thoothukudi	1968-1969 2020-2021	Early Historic
2	Panchalankurichi	Thoothukudi	1968-1969	Modern
3	Vasavasamudram	Kanchipuram	1969-1970	Early Historic
4	Anaimalai	Coimbatore	1969-1970	Megalithic
5	Pallavamedu	Kanchipuram	1970-1971	Medieval
6	Karur	Karur	1973-1974 1994-1995	Early Historic
7	Panayakulam	Dharmapuri	1979-1980	Early Historic
8	Boluvampatti	Coimbatore	1979-1980 1980-1981	Medieval
9	Kovalanpottal	Madurai	1980-1981	Megalithic
10	Thondi	Ramanathapuram	1980-1981	Early Historic
11	Gangaikonda cholapuram	Ariyalur	1980-1981 1986-1987 2008-2009 2020-2021 2021-2022	Medieval
12	Kannanur	Tiruchirapalli	1982-1983	Medieval
13	Kurumbanmedu	Thanjavur	1984-1985	Medieval
14	Palayarai	Thanjavur	1984-1985	Medieval

No.	Place	District	Year of excavation	Nature of Site
15	Alagankulam	Ramanathapuram	1986-1987 1990-1991 1992-1993 1994-1995 1996-1997 2014-2015 2016-2017	Early Historic
16	Tirukkivilur	Villupuram	1992-1993	Early Historic
17	Kodumanal	Erode	1992-1993 1996-1997 2019-2020 2020-2021	Megalithic & Early Historic
18	Sendamangalam	Villupuram	1992-1993 1994-1995	Medieval
19	Padavedu	Tiruvannamalai	1992-1993	Medieval
20	Tiruttangal	Virudhunagar	1994-1995	Microlithic
21	Poompuhar	Nagapatinam	1994-1995 1997-1998	Early Historic
22	Maligaimedu	Cuddalore	1999-2000	Early Historic
23	Teriruveli	Ramanathapuram	1999-2000	Early Historic
24	Mangudi	Tirunelveli	2001-2002	Microlithic
25	Perur	Coimbatore	2001-2002	Early Historic
26	Andipatti	Tiruvannamalai	2004-2005	Early Historic
27	Modur	Dharmapuri	2004-2005	Neolithic
28	Marakkanam	Villupuram	2005-2006	Medieval
29	Parikulam	Tiruvallur	2005-2007	Palaeolithic
30	Nedunkur	Karur	2006-2007	Megalithic

S. No.	Place	District	Year of excavation	Nature of Site
31	Mangulam	Madurai	2006-2007	Early Historic
32	Sembiyankandiyur	Nagapattinam	2007-2008	Megalithic
33	Tarangampadi	Nagapattinam	2008-2009	Modern
34	Rajakkalmangalam	Tirunelveli	2009-2010	Medieval
35	Talaichankadu	Nagapattinam	2010-2011	Medieval
36	Alambarai	Kanchipuram	2011-2012	Modern
37	Srirangam	Tiruchirapalli	2013-2014 2014-2015	Medieval
38	Ukkiran Kottai	Tirunelveli	2014-2015	Medieval
39	Pattaraiperumbudur	Tiruvallur	2015-2016 2017-2018	Later Palaeolithic
40	Keeladi	Sivagangai	2017-2018 2018-2019 2019-2020 2020-2021 2021-2022	Early Historic
41	Adichanallur	Thoothukudi	2019-2020 2020-2021	Iron Age
42	Sivagalai	Thoothukudi	2019-2020 2020-2021 2021-2022	Iron Age
43	Mayiladumparai	Krishnagiri	2020-2021 2021-2022	Neolithic
44	Vembakkottai	Virudhunagar	2021-2022	Microlithic
45	Thulukkarpatti	Tirunelveli	2021-2022	Early Historic
46	Perumpalai	Dharmapuri	2021-2022	Early Historic



Places of Excavations carried out by Department of Archaeology.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the Keeladi excavation site, Sivagangai District on 29.10.2021.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister paid a visit to the special exhibition of Keeladi Excavation and had a close examination of the findings on 29.10.2021.





The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the excavations of Keeladi and Gangaikondacholapuram through video conferencing on 11.02.2022.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Porunai Exhibition Gallery setup at 45<sup>th</sup> Chennai Book Fair on 16.02.2022 and had a look on the antiquities.



The Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology inaugurated the two years course on Post-Graduate Diploma in Epigraphy on 31.12.2021.



The Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology and Member of Parliament for Thoothukudi paid a visit to the Porunai Exhibition Gallery setup during 5<sup>th</sup> Porunai Nellai Book Fair on 19.03.2022 and had a close look on the model of the excavated trench of Sivagalai.





Excavated findings of Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District:  
 (1) Glass and semi-precious stone beads (2) Spindle whorls.



Excavated findings of Vembakottai in Virudhunagar District:  
(1) Microlithic flakes (2) Shell bangles



Excavated findings of Keeladi and its cluster in Sivagangai District:  
(1) Shell bangles (2) Ivory dice.



Excavated findings of Keeladi and its cluster in Sivagangai District:  
(1) Quartz beads (2) Bone Points.





Excavated findings of Thulukarpatti in Tirunelveli District:  
 (1) Glass and semi-precious stone beads  
 (2) Antimony rods and broken copper ring.



Jain Thirthankara sculptures at Ananthamangalam Village, Chengalpattu District.  
Recently declared as Protected Monument.

