

Demand No. 29
POLICY NOTE - 2009 – 2010

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND CULTURE

Language differentiates human beings from animals and culture, from the primitive man. Art and Culture represent the finesse of a civilization and are transmitted through generations and preserved by practice. Buildings and structures constitute the hardware part. Art, music and the like, form the software part. Science and Art are complementary and they contribute mutually to enhance each other. Both have resemblance in exploration, curiosity and creativity. Inventions and innovations in science contribute to better preservation, greater dissemination and higher reach of the art forms. Art gives mental relaxation and rejuvenates us in the hectic schedules. It mitigates misery and alleviates our agony. Apart from imitating nature, they highlight the subtle nuances of human existence. They silently transform us by creating ripples in our sub-conscious minds. Ordinary life gets an extraordinary silver lining by virtue of art and culture.

The Department of Art and Culture popularises art forms, promotes artistic endeavours and patronises artistes. It preserves our cultural lineage for future generations to refer, rejoice and recapitulate. The ancient art forms, folk arts and classical genre are disseminated to nooks and corners of the State by the ceaseless efforts of this Department.

DIRECTORATE OF ART AND CULTURE

Directorate of Art and Culture is headed by Commissioner of Art and Culture. It controls and regulates the functions of all the Govt. institutions related to Art and Culture. The functioning of Government Music colleges, Govt. Music schools, Govt. colleges for Fine Arts, Govt. college for Architecture and Sculpture, Jawahar Balabhavan and Oviaya Nunkalai Kuzhu is supervised and administered by the Directorate in an effective manner. The Directorate is now functioning in the premises of Govt. Music College, Chennai. The new building, being constructed at a cost of Rs.50 lakhs, in Tamil Valarchi Valagam is nearing completion.

1. REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRES

The Directorate of Art and Culture has six Regional Cultural Centres. Four of them were created in 1997-1998 at Kancheepuram, Thanjavur, Salem and Madurai and in 1998-1999 two more Regional Cultural Centres were created, one at Tirunelveli and another at Tiruchirappalli. The Regional Cultural Centres co-ordinate the cultural activities of the District Art Societies, the District Music Schools and the Jawahar Siruvar Manrams at district level. They are headed by Assistant Directors. They also liaise with Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram, Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu and South Zone Cultural Centre to organize Cultural events and conduct training programmes. They organise several art festivals like Tamil Isai Vizha, Karthigai Oli Vizha, Pongal Kalai Vizha, Nattupura Kalai Vizha, Paavai Vizha, Saaral Vizha, Sirkazhi Moovar Vizha, Kattabomman Birthday Celebration, Aruvi Thiruvizha, Kumari Thiruvizha, Sadaya Vizha, Azhither Vizha, Kodai Vizha, Matha Nallinakka Vizha etc.,

2. DISTRICT ART SOCIETIES

District Art Societies were formed in order to spot out artistic talents at District level and provide opportunities for their exposition. Identification Cards are issued to various artistes through these Societies to avail financial assistance. Priority in cultural programmes and concession in travel are availed by producing these cards.

3. FOLK ARTISTES WELFARE BOARD

The Government took cognizance of the impoverished condition of folk artistes and realized the need to protect them in order to preserve their talents. Hence, the Folk Artistes Welfare Board was considered imperative to promote their cause and provide financial relief at appropriate junctures. The Tamil Nadu Folk Artistes Welfare Board was constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and Registration. To provide social security and to extend welfare schemes to the Folk Artistes, Rs.1.00 crore was sanctioned initially. The financial assistance for the enrolled artistes are being distributed by the Board. Around 15,000 Folk Artistes have been enrolled in Folk Artistes Welfare Board by conducting awareness programmes in all the districts. Free medical camps were organized in many districts benefiting 3779 artistes. Free house sites were allotted to 86 Folk Artistes. All the art forms have been identified and notified for the purpose of preservation and documentation. Special training programmes to impart skills in specific folk arts are conducted by the department with an outlay of Rs.20.00 lakhs.

4. ART EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Tamil Music has its significance in the history of Indian Music and has played a pivotal role in augmenting the rich culture of our State. Music Schools and Music Colleges were established to provide formal education in music. The students of Music Colleges are given Rs.250/- p.m. as stipend. Music instruments at a cost of Rs.5.00 lakhs and Computers at a cost of Rs.3.15 lakhs have been provided to the Music Colleges in 2008-2009.

4.1 Government Music College, Chennai

It was established in 1949. Three-Year Diploma courses in Folk Arts, Bharathanatyam, Vocal and instrumental music (Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Flute, Gadam, Kanchira, Mugarsing, Nathaswaram, Thavil) are offered. Two-Year Post Diploma Courses in Vocal Music (Muthukalai Isai Kalaimani), Two-Year Diploma Course in Nattuvangam, and One-Year Diploma Course in Music Teachers Training are offered here. The total strength was 341 in the academic year 2008-2009.

4.2 Government Music College, Madurai

It was commenced in 1979. Three-Year Diploma Courses in Vocal, Veena, Violin, Mridangam, Flute, Nathaswaram, Bharathanatyam, Folk Art and One-Year Diploma Course in Music Teachers Training are offered in this College. One hundred and forty students were pursuing their curriculum in the academic year 2008-2009.

4.3 Government Music College, Coimbatore

This college is functioning since 1993. It offers Three Year Diploma Courses in Vocal, Violin, Veena, Bharathanatyam and One-Year Diploma Course in Music Teachers Training. The strength of the college in the previous academic year was 85.

4.4 Government Music College, Thiruvaiyaru

It was started in 1997. In this College, Three-Year Diploma Courses in Vocal, Violin, Veena, Mridangam, Bharathanatyam, Nathaswaram, Thavil and Three-Year Degree Course in Vocal Music are offered. One hundred and thirty two students were studying in 2008-2009. A new building has been constructed at a cost of Rs.56.50 lakhs to house this College.

4.5 Evening Music College Centres

Two centres are functioning at Chennai and one, at Madurai. Two-Year Certificate Courses are offered in Vocal, Veena and Violin in Chennai Thiyagarayanagar Centre; Vocal, Veena, Violin and Mridhangam in Music College Campus Centre. Vocal, Veena, Violin, Mridhangam and Bharathanatyam are offered in Madurai Centre. Thirty nine students in Chennai and 56 students in Madurai availed this facility in 2008-2009.

4.6 Government District Music Schools

With a view to encouraging the youth who are interested in music, Government District Music Schools were commenced in 1997 in five districts namely Thiruvarur, Tirunelveli, Trichy, Salem and Pudukkottai. In 1998, music schools were started in Villupuram, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Thoothukudi and Karur. In 1999, five more music schools in Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Krishnagiri and Seerkazhi were established. Music schools were commenced subsequently in Erode and Ramanathapuram. Thus, 17 Music Schools have been established so far. They offer Three-Year Certificate Courses in Vocal Music, Bharathanatyam, Nathaswaram, Thavil and Thevaram. Violin and Mridhangam courses were started during 2007-2008. 979 students were studying in 2008-2009.

4.7 GOVERNMENT FINE ARTS COLLEGES

4.7.1 Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai

It was established in 1850. Eminent artists constitute the alumni of this esteemed institution. In this College, Four-Year Degree Courses and Two-Year Post Graduate Degree Courses in the following disciplines are offered:

Degree Courses:

1. Industrial Design in Ceramic
2. Industrial Design in Textile
3. Visual Communication Design
4. Painting
5. Sculpture
6. Print Making

Post Graduate Degree Courses:

1. Painting
2. Visual Communication Design

3. Industrial Design in Ceramic
4. Industrial Design in Textile

Syllabi of this College are approved by the Madras University. During 2008-2009, the student strength was 505. Rs.1.88 crore has been provided to renovate the heritage building of this glorious institution during the year 2008-2009. After renovation, it will become one of the major tourist attractions in Chennai. Contemporary Artists Camp was organised at a cost of Rs.4.00 lakhs and more than 500 students benefited.

4.7.2 Government College of Fine Arts, Kumbakonam

It was started in 1887. In this College, Four Year Degree Courses and Two Year Post Graduate Degree Courses in the following disciplines are conducted.

Degree Courses:

1. Painting
2. Visual Communication Design
3. Sculpture

Post Graduate Degree Courses:

1. Painting
2. Sculpture

Syllabi of this College are approved by the Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. Two hundred sixty three students were studying in this College during the academic year 2008-2009.

4.7.3 Government College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mamallapuram

Mamallapuram occupies a prominent place in the history of sculpture. It is a museum for showcasing Indian rock architecture. It has bas-relief, monoliths and cave temples in one place. The Government College of Architecture and Sculpture was established in Mamallapuram in 1957. Four Year Degree Course are offered in this College from 2000-2001. B.Tech in Traditional Architecture, B.F.A in Traditional Sculpture and B.F.A in Traditional Drawing and Painting are offered. One hundred eleven students were studying in this College during 2008-2009. The museum run by this college in Mamallapuram was provided Rs.87.00 lakhs to get new sculptures on Tamil culture installed and they have been completed.

4.8 Kalaikaveri College of Fine Arts, Tiruchirappalli

Kalai Kaveri College of Fine Arts in Tiruchirappalli is an aided College. The administrative control of this College was brought under the Department of Art and Culture in 2000 -2001. Grants to this College are being released through the Directorate of Collegiate Education. Five-Year Integrated Degree Courses, Three-Year Degree Courses, Two-Year Post Graduate Degree Courses in the following disciplines are offered in this College.

1. Bharathanatyam
2. Vocal Music
3. Violin
4. Veena
5. Mridhangam.

One hundred eighty six was the strength of this College in the academic year 2008-2009.

5. SOUTH ZONE CULTURAL CENTRE, THANJAVUR

South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur function under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu. It is a Government of India organization for the southern region run with the countenance of the southern States So far a sum of Rs.2.00 crore has been given by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the corpus fund. Rs.2.00 crore and 25 acres of land worth Rs.1.54 crore have been provided for the construction of a building. It organizes cultural programmes and events in co-ordination with the Department of Art and Culture. Rs.16.00 lakhs was provided to the Department of Art and Culture for conducting cultural functions through Regional Cultural Centres in 2008-2009.

6. TAMILNADU EYAL ISAI NATAKA MANRAM

Tamil Nadu Sangeet Nataka Sangam was established by the Government in the year 1955 to achieve the objectives of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi at State level and foster traditional Tamil Arts. It was renamed as Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in the year 1973. This organisation is implementing several schemes from the grants sanctioned by the State Government.

6.1 Schemes of Cultural Activities

The main activities of the Manram consists of exchange of cultural troupes between the States, sanctioning of monthly financial assistance to the indigent artistes and sanctioning of family maintenance grant to the families of deceased famous artistes. It encourages talented

budding artistes by providing opportunities for their performances through various cultural organizations of Tamil Nadu. It is responsible for conferring “Kalaimamani” awards to the artistes for their yeomen service to the enrichment of performing arts. It extends grants to professional drama troupes for production and staging of Tamil dramas depicting our ancient culture and heritage. It sanctions grants for publication of rare books in the field of art and culture. Works like releasing of grants to voluntary cultural organizations towards the commemorative festival of savants, conducting various cultural festivals for the benefit of the artistes, documentation of extinguishing rare forms of traditional arts to enable the future generation to know about them, recording and preserving of music programmes of the senior artistes and encouraging research on our folk arts and traditional classical fine arts are undertaken by this wing of the department.

6.2 Conferment of Kalaimamani Award

With a view to felicitating the famous artistes who are serving in a commendable manner in the field of performing arts, the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram is conferring “Kalaimamani” Awards. So far 1450 artistes have been honoured. In the functions so far organized for conferring Kalaimamani award, portraits of 324 eminent deceased artistes in various art disciplines have been unveiled. At the “Kalaimamani” award investiture ceremonies, Porkizhi (Cash Award) is being awarded to senior Kalaimamani artistes. In this way, Porkizhi has been given totally to 199 artistes, at the rate of Rs.1000/- to 147 artistes, at the rate of Rs.5000/- to 17 artistes, at the rate of Rs.10,000/- to 13 artistes and 22 artistes at rate of 15,000/- have benefited. With a view to encouraging and felicitating the voluntary cultural organizations and splendid performing drama troupes, 27 cultural organizations and 18 drama troupes were awarded Shields and Rolling Shields till date. Seventy one artistes have been selected by the Government for Kalaimamani award for the year 2007.

6.3 Financial Assistance to Indigent Artistes

Under this scheme, Rs.500/- per month was given as financial assistance to the aged famous artistes and men of letters who are now in indigent circumstances, The Government have issued orders for enhancing the financial assistance to Rs.1000/- from the financial year 2006. The number of recipients is 6891.

6.4 Family Maintenance Grant to the Families of Deceased Famous Artistes

The bereaved families of the deceased artistes are given family maintenance grant. Under this scheme 88 families at the rate of Rs.2000/- and 77 families at the rate of Rs.3000/- and 81 families at the rate of Rs.5000/- and 93 families at the rate of Rs.6000/- have benefited. So far, 339 bereaved families of the deceased artistes have benefited.

6.5 Inter State Cultural Exchange Programme

It is essential to create opportunities for the outsiders to know about the arts and cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu so as to promote national integration. A scheme known as Inter-State Cultural Exchange Programme is being implemented by the Manram with the co-ordination of Sangeet Natak Akademi to achieve this objective. Under this scheme, 81 cultural troupes from other States have visited Tamil Nadu and 84 cultural troupes of Tamil Nadu have also visited to other States. A folk artistes troupe was sent to Himachal Pradesh.

6.6 Encouragement of Talented Young Artistes

With a view to providing an avenue to the budding artistes in Bharathanatyam, Classical Vocal and Instrumental Music, the Manram extends grant to effective Voluntary Cultural Organizations of Tamil Nadu for conducting performances. Till date, 1792 young artistes have benefited under the scheme.

6.7 Grants to Folk Artistes / Troupes for Purchase of Musical instruments and Costumes

The Manram extends grants to folk artistes and troupes for costumes and musical instruments. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.750/- is given to each folk artiste and Rs.2500/- to each troupe. So far, 1425 folk artistes / troupes have been benefited. Now, action has been initiated to give musical instruments at a cost of Rs.3.00 lakhs to registered folk organizations.

6.8 Grants for the Production of New Dramas

Under this scheme grants to Drama troupes for the production and staging of new Tamil Plays based on Tamil art and culture are given. So far 42 Plays have been produced and staged.

6.9 Grants for the Production of New Dance Dramas

Under the scheme of grants are given for the production and staging of new Tamil dance-dramas based on Tamil literature and culture. So far 17 Dance-Dramas have availed this grant. Further action is being taken to extend the financial assistance for the production of new dance-dramas.

6.10 Grants for the Publication of Rare Books on Arts

Financial assistance has been sanctioned to publish books on art. Under this scheme, 104 books have been published.

6.11 Construction of a Guest House for the Artistes

In order to provide accommodation to the artistes to perform in Chennai, a Guest House with a plinth area of 363.90 sq. mts. is being constructed in the premises of the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.

6.12 Cultural Festivals of the Manram

To create awareness about the importance of our extinguishing traditional art forms, the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram is organising various cultural functions and conducting folk festivals. Besides organising functions to commemorate the contribution of the deceased famous artistes, Mupperum Vizha, Dance and drama functions and cultural programmes are organized at tourist spots and temples.

- a) Nine days Literary Art Festival such as Seminar, Therukoothu Vizha, Nadaswara Thiruvizha, Tamil Isai, Devara Thiruvarutpa Isai Vizha, Thavil Nadaswara Kalai Vizha, Bharathi Vizha, Jeeva Centenary Symposium were celebrated in a grand manner between 29.3.2008 and 6.4.2008 at Chennai.
- b) Staging of four dance-dramas produced under the scheme of grants for the production of fine dance dramas in Tamil, were organised at Chennai from 20th to 23rd October, 2008 in a grand manner.
- c) Perarignar Anna Centenary Celebration were organised at Chennai from 4th to 6th December 2008, with deliberations like symposium, seminar and cultural performances and was punctuated with publication of a book.

6.13 Sponsoring of Cultural Programmes on behalf of the Manram

(a) Under the scheme of conducting cultural programmes at Tourist places, cultural programmes were organised from 10th to 12th August 2008 by the Manram, at the Saaral Thiruvizha held at Coutrallam of Tirunelveli District.

b) Under the scheme of sponsoring cultural programmes at temples, two music programmes were conducted at Soothavaneswarar temple, at Kothamangalam of Sivaganga District, on account of Kumbabishegam, on 26th and 27th August 2008.

(c) From 06.10.2008 – 15.10.2008 a cultural troupe consisting of 15 artistes were sent to Kulu Manaly (HP) and the troupe performed five programmes at different places of Himachal Pradesh.

6.14 Organising Tamil Cultural Festivals at other States

(a) In co-ordination with Avvai Tamil Sangam of Noida in Uttarpradesh, folk cultural programmes of Tamil Nadu were conducted from 24th to 26th January 2009.

(b) Folk cultural programmes of Tamil Nadu were conducted at National Karavela Festival at Kandhagiri of Orissa State, from 6th to 8th February 2009. The Manram is also extending grants to Voluntary Cultural Organisations for their various art projects.

7. TAMIL NADU OVIA NUNKALAI KUZHU

It was established in the year 1975, for preserving, promoting and propagating fine arts such as Painting, Sculpture and Graphics. The Schemes of the Kuzhu are implemented with the grant- in- aid sanctioned by the Government.

7.1 Scheme of conferring 'Kalaichemmal' Awards

"KALAICHEMMAL" awards are conferred on the eminent artists of Tamil Nadu in recognition of their meritorious service in the fields of Traditional and Contemporary Arts. A cash award of Rs.20,000/- each and a citation plaque are given to them. Till the year 2001-2002, five eminent artists in Traditional field and 36 in contemporary field have been conferred with this title. Twelve Kalaichemmal awards for the year 2002-2003 to 2007-2008 have been conferred on 13.02.2009. Till date, 11 eminent artists in traditional field and 42 in contemporary field have been conferred with this title.

7.2 Scheme of conducting exhibition of traditional art and giving awards

State level Exhibition of Traditional Art is conducted by the Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu. For outstanding creations, an Exhibition Award of Rs.15,000/-each is given to five "Senior Artists" above 30 years of age and Rs.5,000/- each to 10 "Junior Artists" who are below thirty. So far, 73 artists have been given the Exhibition Awards.

7.3 Scheme of conducting exhibition of contemporary art and giving awards

State level Exhibition of Contemporary Art is conducted by the Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu and artists are encouraged. For outstanding creations, an Exhibition Award of Rs.15,000/- each is given to five participating "Senior Artists" who have completed 30 years of age and Rs.5,000/-each is given to 10 participating "Junior Artists" who have not completed 30 years of age. So far 249 artists have been given the contemporary Exhibition Awards.

7.4 Scheme of financial assistance to artists for conducting one-man shows or group shows

Financial assistance of Rs.5,000/- per exhibition is given to the artists in Tamil Nadu to conduct their exhibitions either individually or collectively as a group. Upto now, financial assistance has been given to 143 artists for conducting their One-Man Shows and to 10 Groups of Artists for conducting their Group Shows.

7.5 Scheme of awarding scholarships to young artists

For encouraging the students of Fine Arts Colleges at Chennai and Kumbakonam, a scholarship of Rs.5,000/- each is given to outstanding final year Post Graduate Students and Rs.3,000/- each to outstanding final year Degree students. Till now, 498 Degree students and 62 Post Graduate students have been given scholarships.

7.6 Art Galleries at Districts

Three Art Galleries of Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu with creative pieces of eminent artistes of Tamil Nadu are functioning one at Udthagamandalam other at Madurai. The proposed third Gallery has been changed from Kanniyakumari to Fine Arts College, Chennai. They captivate the attention of tourists from the other parts of the country. Rs.4.50 lakhs has been provided for the formation of Art Gallery at Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai.

8. TAMILNADU JAWAHAR SIRUVAR MANDRAM, CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Mandram was established in 1979 at Chennai. The aim of this institution is to inculcate artistic talent and aesthetic fervour in the minds of children between five and sixteen years of age.

In Tamil Nadu Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams function in 36 places; 24 places as District Jawahar Siruvar Manrams, 10 places as Jawahar Siruvar Mandram Extension Centres and in two places as Jawahar Siruvar Mandram Rural Centres. Recently orders have been issued for the formation of one at Ariyalur, the newly formed District. The details are furnished below:-

8.1 District Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams

District Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams are functioning at Chennai, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Udhamandalam, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Cuddalore, Nagaercoil, Thanjavur, Kancheepuram, Sivagangai, Thirunelveli, Salem, Ramanathapuram, Dindugal, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Theni, Vellore, Tiruvallur, Erode, Thiruvarur, Virudhunagar and Villupuram.

8.2 Jawahar Siruvar Mandram Extension Centres

Jawahar Siruvar Mandram Extension Centres are functioning at Perambalur, Thanjavur, Kulithalai, Karur, Chennai (Dr.M.G.R Deaf and Dumb School, Ramapuram), Madurai, Thoothukkudi, Nagapattinam, Thiruvannamalai and Nammakkal.

8.3 Jawahar Siruvar Mandram Rural Centres

Two rural centres for imparting artistic talents to children are effectively functioning in Ponpudupatti, Pudukkottai district and Madurai Ellis Nagar, Madurai.

8.4 Part time training in the following disciplines are given in Siruvar Mandrams:-

Bharathanatyam, Folk Dance, Crafts, Vocal, Drama, Gymnastics, Mridhangam, Tabela, Karathe, Computer, Key Board, Veena, Drums, Bands, Tailoring, Drawing & Painting, Screen Printing, Flute, Yoga and Silambattam.

At Chennai, training is given for six days in a week in 16 disciplines. In the District Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams and Extension Centres, training is given for three days in a week in four kinds of disciplines. And in Rural Centres, training is given for three days in a week in two disciplines. Around 9000 children are being trained in all the Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams

in our State. Children libraries are functioning in all Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams except two Rural Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams and Krishnagiri District Jawahar Siruvar Mandram.

For the benefit of the children residing in Chennai and to spread the Jawahar Siruvar Mandram activities, a few centres were started in residential areas. Jawahar Siruvar Mandram Periyar Nagar centre was started on 17.11.2007 and in this centre training is given for children in sixteen activities. Vyasarpadi Muthamizh Naga, Jawahar Siruvar Mandram Centre was commenced on 12.12.2007 to impart training in 7 activities. Selaiyur Centre was started on 11.04.2008 and in this Centre training is given in eight activities. Puzthivakkam centre was started on 15.8.2008 and training is given in this Centre in six activities. West Tambaram Centre was started on 3.11.2008 and training is given in two kinds of activities. All these Centres are functioning on Saturdays and Sundays.

In 30 Chennai Corporation schools, after school hours, Jawahar Siruvar Mandram cultural training is given in dance, Vocal and Drawing and Painting for three days in a week. In ten Corporation schools, training is given for children in dance, in ten schools training is given for children in Vocal Music and in ten schools training is given for children in Drawing and Painting.

To represent Tamilnadu 16 children of Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Kanchipuram, and Chennai Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams participated in the National Baisaki Festival at Bhuvaneswar, Orissa State from 20.4.08 to 22.4.08.

From Tamilnadu Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams, 56 children participated in the South Zone Bal Shree selection camp held at Thiruvananthapuram, 13 children in the National Bal Shree selection held at Delhi, 42 children, in the National Childrens' Assembly held at Delhi and 14 children of Chennai, Sivagangai, Thirunelveli, Salem. Karur and Namakkal Jawahar Siruvar Mandram participated in the National Environmental Conference at Agra and Delhi.

State Level Craft workshop was conducted for 100 Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams children for ten days at Karur in clay modeling, doll making, Batik, Collage work and Candle making. District level cultural competitions were organized in all the districts. The winners from all the Districts participated in the State level cultural competitions held at Thiruchirapalli on 11.1.2009. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners on 14.1.2009 on Tamil New Year day.

For the National Bal Shree Honour-2007, National Bal Bhavan selected Selvi Srinithi of Trichirapalli for Creative Performance and Selvi Swetha Vishvakarma of Chennai for Creative Art. These two children received the Award from His Excellency, The President of India on 10.06.2008.

National Bal Bhavan has selected two children from Tamilnadu for the National Bal Shree Honour 2008, Selvi J.P.Dharshini from Karur for Creative Writitng and Selvan M. Suprabalan for Creative Innovative Science. In the year 2008-2009 National Bal Bhavan has given affiliation for 14 Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams in Tamilnadu. Separate Building is going to be constructed for Jawahar Siruvar Mandram in the campus of Government Music College, Chennai at a cost of Rs.70.00 lakhs. It has been proposed to start Jawahar Siruvar Mandrams in 57 Schools in all over Tamilnadu. The Department of Art and Culture will continue its efforts in fostering the art forms of Tamil Nadu by mustering its resources. It will change the mindset of the people and make them appreciate the native arts of Tamil Nadu by propagation, promotion and preservation. All art forms will be used to enhance the awareness of our people and make them advance in their life every moment.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology helps in understanding the evolution of mankind over a period of time. The cultural pursuits, life style, architectural achievements and reminiscence of a particular race are understood by fathoming the past. Archaeology is the science that studies human culture through the recovery, documentation, analysis and interpretation of material remains and environmental data, including architecture, artifacts, features, biofacts and landscapes. It draws upon anthropology, history, art history, classics, ethnology, geography, geology, linguistics, physics, information sciences, chemistry, statistics, paleoecology, paleozoology, and paleobotany. The goals of archaeology include the documentation and explanation of the origins and development of human cultures, understanding history, chronicling, cultural evolution and studying human behaviour and ecology for both prehistoric and historic societies.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Government of Tamil Nadu established the Department of Archaeology in the year 1961. The broad objectives were conservation and preservation of ancient monuments in Tamil Nadu and conducting excavations at historical sites. Its activities included copying of stone inscriptions, printing and publishing them in book form, setting up of site museums, preservation of art objects, documenting them with photographs and registration of antiquities.

The Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre located in the Madras University campus is functioning under the control of this department.

CONSERVATION SECTION

So far 85 ancient and historical monuments including religious and secular buildings have been declared as protected monuments. Under the Twelfth Finance Commission Grants a sum of Rs.7.80 crores was allotted for structural conservation of 36 monuments. Rs.3.00 crores was sanctioned for the conservation of Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace at Madurai. All the works are in progress and renovation of Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal is nearing completion.

EXCAVATION AND MUSEUM SECTION:

Excavations at historically important places is the primary activity of this department. So far, excavations have been carried out at 32 historical sites and valuable antiquities have been unearthed; they are being preserved in 14 archaeological site museums situated in various districts of the State. During the year 2008 under the scheme of Archaeological Excavation at historical sites, excavation was commenced at Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur District at a cost of Rs.3.00 lakhs and is nearing completion.

This Department has conducted an Exhibition on Rock Art Paintings from 19.11.2008 to 25.11.2008 in collaboration with the Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai to create awareness among the students and public about Rock Paintings in connection with World Heritage Day celebration.

EPIGRAPHY SECTION

An Institute of Epigraphy is functioning in the Commissionerate, which conducts a one year Diploma Course in Epigraphy and Archaeology. Every year eight Post Graduate Students are being enrolled and training is given in Epigraphy and Archaeology. So far, 192 students have successfully completed this course. A sum of Rs.1000/- is paid as stipend to each student every month.

During the year 2004-2005 an "Intensive Campaign" of copying of inscriptions in Tamil Nadu was launched and is continuing. It is estimated that there are more than 25,000 Tamil inscriptions in Tamil Nadu. At present this department is in possession of about 20,235 estampages of inscriptions. About 13,149 inscriptions have been deciphered by departmental Epigraphists. The Government under Part II schemes for the year 2008-09 have allotted a sum of Rs.8.60 lakhs for the publication of 10,000 inscriptions by appointing one retired Epigraphy scholar as an expert and four unemployed students of the Institute of Epigraphy on three year contract basis. The special scheme is in progress from the year 2008-2009.

Further to safeguard the estampages by digitalization a sum of Rs. 17.00 lakhs have been sanctioned under Part II Schemes for the year 2008-2009 to purchase one Contex Crystal Scanner along with accessories and it has been procured.

Epigraphists of State Department of Archaeology have deciphered the inscriptions copied by Archaeological Survey of India during the year 1915. It is proposed to jointly publish these inscriptions.

PUBLICATION

The recently modernized departmental press is exclusively bringing out books in Tamil and English on Epigraphy, Monuments, Excavation reports and District Archaeological Guides. The department has brought out 204 publications on Excavation, Epigraphy, Archaeological Guides and Museums Guide Books. A quarterly journal 'Kalvettu' is being printed. So far, 76 issues have been published.

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

It takes photographs of various temples, sculptures, murals and antiquities. Whenever an excavation is undertaken, the stages of excavation and the details of excavated sites are documented with adequate photographs. The conservation works of monuments are also photographed and documented. The process of digitalizing the ink impression of copied inscriptions is also progressing going on continuously.

REGISTRATION OF ANTIQUITIES

The Government of India have enacted 'The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972' in order to curb the smuggling of Art treasures from India. To enforce this act effectively, two Registering Offices one at Chennai and another at Trichirappalli are functioning. The Government of India meets the entire expenditure of this scheme. This scheme is being implemented in Tamil Nadu from the year 1974. Till date 52,311 applications have been received for registration and 42,499 certificates have been issued in Tamil Nadu.

GOVERNMENT ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE:

More than 72,000 paper and palm leaf manuscripts dealing with 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 are being preserved in this Library. The library has more than 450 publications in different languages. Under the National Mission for Manuscripts Programme 1880 Siddha manuscripts in Tamil language have been digitized.

NEW SCHEMES

During the year 2009-2010 under Part II Schemes the following six schemes are proposed, to implement at a total cost of Rs.25.30 lakhs.

1. Purchase of Polymer Printer, three Computers with accessories, Cutting Machine and Storage device for department Printing Press.
2. Excavation of historical site at Rajakkal Mangalam in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli District.
3. Publication of two Epigraphy books, four monographs by Students of Epigraphy, Reprinting of three important books, three Museum Guide books, a book on Archaeological excavation and Pamphlets for ten Districts.

4. Purchase of eight Computers with accessories and Printer.
5. Purchase of fumigation chambers, chemicals, computer accessories, Lamination sheets and binding materials for Government Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Centre.
6. Exhibiting laminated photographs for five Archaeological Museums. The Archaeology Department strives continuously to unearth the ancient civilization of Tamil Nadu and makes efforts to preserve them for posterity.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS

The Government Museum, Chennai, one of the best Museums in the country was started in 1851. The Department of Museums has 20 district museums under its control. It is an institution of repute, known for its rich collection of South Indian Bronzes, pre-historic and protohistoric antiquities particularly those of Robert Bruce Foote collections, Adichanallur megalithic collections and Buddhist, Jain and Hindu sculptures. Of these the maravati collections are note worthy. Rich collections of rare zoological and botanical specimens are also available. The Bronze gallery consisting of very rare collection is a major attraction for foreign tourists.

The Museum collects objects of scientific, aesthetic and historical importance, cares for them, studies, interprets and exhibits them for the purpose of public education and advancement of knowledge.

The Chennai Museum and the District Museums act as extension centres of education for the general public and students. Museums as institutions are dedicated to help the people understand and appreciate the natural world, history and the record of artistic, scientific and technological achievements. They act as educational institutions and Archaeological libraries offering opportunities for learning and exploration by people of diverse ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities.

Museum is a window, which helps its visitors to enrich their knowledge, to understand about the culture. Students ranging from School level to University, visit the Museums, do research and get benefited.

The main activities undertaken by the Department of Museums include:

- a. Collection and preservation of objects,
- b. Scientific storage and aesthetic display of objects for visitors,
- c. Undertaking research activities individually or in association with other Institutions, Universities and facilitate the research scholars and students by giving access to the collections and information.
- d. Documenting the collections, including cataloguing, publishing of printed catalogues, books, journals, etc.,
- e. Conducting periodical exhibitions, lectures and programmes as part of the educational activities.
- f. Conservation and restoration of objects through its chemical conservation research laboratory. Promoting awareness on manuscripts conservation through the Manuscripts Conservation Centre functioning under the auspices of the National Manuscripts Mission.

Government Museum, Chennai

The repairs and refurbishment of the front building and its Anthropology galleries were taken up under Part II schemes for the years 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 at a total estimated cost of Rs.100.00 lakhs.

Building renovation work has been completed. Electrical work both in the Galleries and in the showcases are nearing completion.

District Museums

There are 20 district Museums located in Pudukottai, Salem, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Vellore, Erode, Cuddalore, Uthagamandalam, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Sivaganga, Tiruvarur, Palani, Nagappattinam, Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram, Karur and Virudhunagar. Except the one at Pudukottai, which has been in existence from the time of the erstwhile Pudukottai State, all the others are of recent origin.

In view of Centenary Celebrations of Pudukkottai District Museum various developmental works at a total cost of Rs.80.00 lakhs is proposed under Part II Scheme for

the year 2009-2010. With the assistance of Government of India, a major portion of the record room construction work has been completed. A sum of Rs.35.00 lakhs has been received for installation of HT Transformer in Government Museum, Chennai under Twelfth Finance Commission Grants and the work is to be taken up by PWD (Electrical Wing).

Under the Scheme "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums" Ministry of Culture, Government of India have sanctioned a sum of Rs.42.00 lakhs to implement various works in Chennai and Tirunelveli Museum during 2009-2010. The share of Government of Tamil Nadu for the above works is Rs.14.00 lakhs. All works are in progress.

Museum Department is always a forerunner in providing salient features about Tamil Nadu to the tourists and by widening the knowledge base of scholars. Historians explore them, students and scholars analyse them and litterateurs admire them.

M. KARUNANIDHI
Chief Minister