

Bill No. 149 of 2021

THE SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ANCIENT
MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
AND REMAINS IN THE STATE OF
TAMIL NADU BILL, 2021

By

SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND, M.P.

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BILL

to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the costs of repairs, renovations and preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains including excavation of new archaeological sites and remains situated in the State of Tamil Nadu.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Special Financial Assistance for Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains in the State of Tamil Nadu Act, 2021.

Short title and commencement.

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1. (1) This Act may be called the Special Financial Assistance for Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains in the State of Tamil Nadu Act, 2021.

Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires “ancient monument” means any structure, erection or monument, or 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 and includes:— 5

(i) remains of an ancient monument;

(ii) site of an ancient monument;

(iii) such portion of land adjoining the site of an ancient monument as may be required for fencing or covering in or otherwise preserving such monument; and 10

(iv) the means of access to, and convenient inspection of, an ancient monument.

Special
Financial
Assistance to
the State of
Tamil Nadu.

3. There shall be paid such sums of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India, every year, as Parliament may by due appropriation provide, as special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the costs of repairs, renovations and preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains including excavation of new archaeological sites and remains situated in the State of Tamil Nadu, as may be undertaken by the State with the approval of the Central Government. 15
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Act not in
derogation of
any other law.

4. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The State of Tamil Nadu is one of the most favourite destinations of tourists, both domestic and foreign, famous for its rich ancient architecture, art, culture and tradition, fairs and festivals worldwide. The different tourist destinations attract the tourists because of various reasons including its ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains.

At present, the Archaeological Survey of India is looking after the maintenance and conservation of 242 centrally protected monuments/sites in the State of Tamil Nadu. Besides more than 500 monuments and buildings have been notified as protected monuments in the State of Tamil Nadu. These monuments and archaeological remains of diverse nature are located in the region since pre-historic times and are scattered from the Palaeolithic site at Gudiyam in Tiruvallur District to the Microlithic or Mesolithic sites in Teri Sand in Southern districts of Tirunelveli and Thuthukudi. There are splendid array of Megalithic monuments, Pre-historic and historic monuments, the exquisite stone architecture of the Pallavas, Cholas, Pandiyas and the Nayaks. There are hundreds of archaic buildings constructed during the rule of Nawabs of Arcot and the British. The great repertoire of ancient monuments and plethora of ancient temples makes Tamil Nadu the greatest treasure of ancient world. The grand Vellore Fort and the Jalakandeswarar temple complex situated in my Vellore Parliamentary constituency is world renowned and attracts great attention.

Taking care of the monuments is an important duty that devolves on the respective State Government as well as the Central Government. It needs adequate funds to engage people who can look after monuments, ensure that the miscreants do not harm them, as also to get the damaged portion repaired from expert designers and engineers. The Central Government must provide adequate funds for each monument.

The proper upkeep and maintenance of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains in the State of Tamil Nadu shall boost heritage tourism which will in turn increase employment, revenue generation and local business in Tamil Nadu.

It is, therefore, necessary that the Central Government should provide special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the costs of repairs, renovations and preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains including excavation of new archaeological sites and remains situated in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
November 22, 2021.

D.M. KATHIR ANAND

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides that there shall be paid such sums of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India, every year, as Parliament may by due appropriation provide, as special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the costs of repairs, renovations and preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains including excavation of new archaeological sites and remains situated in the State of Tamil Nadu, as may be undertaken by the State with the approval of the Government of India.

The Bill, therefore, on enactment, will involve expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund of India. As the sums of moneys which will be given to the State of Tamil Nadu as special financial assistance by appropriation by law made by Parliament will be known only after the plans to be implemented by the State Government with the approval of Government of India are identified, it is not possible at present to give the estimates of recurring expenditure, which would be involved out of the Consolidated Fund of India at this stage.

No non-recurring expenditure is likely to be incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India.

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to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the costs of repairs, renovations and preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains including excavation of new archaeological sites and remains situated in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(Shri D.M. Kathir Anand, M.P.)