

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.502**  
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

**CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS IN TAMIL NADU**

502. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ASI protected monuments under Chennai and Trichy circles and year-wise budget allocated for maintenance thereof, during the last five years;
- (b) the progress made in digital documentation and 3D scanning of Tamil Nadu's inscriptions, sculptures and architecture under heritage digitization;
- (c) the details and findings of recent ASI excavations in Chennai and Trichy circles and expenditure incurred thereon; and
- (d) the details of budget allocated for modern conservation techniques like laser cleaning, structural stabilization, and climate-controlled systems at major ASI sites in Tamil Nadu during the last five years, year-wise?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) There are 412 (250 under Chennai Circle and 162 Trichy Circle) ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance in the State of Tamil Nadu. The details of fund allocated for their conservation and maintenance during the last five years is as under:

Year	Allocation (amount in crore)
2020-21	7.25
2021-22	12.00
2022-23	19.95
2023-24	22.50
2024-25	12.65

- (b) As per mandate of National Mission on Monuments Antiquity (NMMA) total 3931 antiquities and 922 built heritage sites have been documented and published from the State of Tamil Nadu. Further, total 13740 Tamil estampages have been scanned.
- (c) Details and findings of recent Archaeological excavations carried out by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under Chennai and Trichy circles and related expenditure are given at **Annexure**.
- (d) There is no specific allotment for such works. However, based on the requirement of such techniques; funds are provided to the Circles to carry out specification studies at the protected monuments and sites.

**ANNEXURE**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.502 FOR 04.12.2025.**

**DETAILS OF FINDINGS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS DONE BY  
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU.**

**1. Vadakapattu, District, Kanchipuram- (2022-23 to 2023-24):-** Vadakkupattu is a village in Kundrathur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu. The habitation and excavation site lies 5 km north-east of the Palar River. The Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle conducted excavations for two consecutive seasons. A total of 8 trenches were laid, comprising 21 quadrants. The excavation revealed structural remains, including roof tiles, datable from the Early Historic to the Medieval period along with Pallava and Chola coins, a copper pot, terracotta human and animal figurines, incised clay tablets, ear ornaments, gamesmen, loom weights, spindle whorls, tiles, lamps, seals, amulets, and glass beads and bangles. The lowest layer produced lithic tools including large cutting tools, cores, retouched tools, debitage, and hammer stones, indicating Middle Paleolithic occupation. Based on stratigraphy and artefact correlation, the lower level dates to the Middle Paleolithic period.

**2. Amur, District Chengalpattu-(2024-25):-** Three megalithic stone-circle burials were excavated in the Amur Reserve Forest buffer zone. They yielded iron objects, a small amount of Black-and-Red Ware and Black Ware pottery, and three glass beads from Burial III. No cists, urns, or sarcophagi were found, and the lack of grave goods suggests these were likely symbolic burials.

**3. Adichanallur, District, Thoothukudi-(2021-22):-** Three trenches were laid in the south-east of the locality. Three burial types were identified: pit-burials, urns, and cairn packing with urns. Seven pit-burials (circular and irregular) were recorded—three cut into rock, four in red gravel soil. Finds include bone and charred bone fragments, teeth, black-and-red ware (BRW), and red ware bowls, pots, and jars. Two of seven urns are partially exposed; varied in size and shape, the lidded red ware urns yielded skeletal remains and associated ceramics. One urn was capped and enclosed within a small cairn packing. Iron/magnesium slags occur in large quantity. A trench in the slag concentration revealed metallurgical evidence: tapered slags, crucible fragments, and magnesium rods, with BRW and red wares. A Pandya dynasty coin of the Early Historic period was recovered near the slag and furnace evidence area.

**4. Habitation Mound at Kodumbalur, District, Pudukkottai-(2024-25):-** Excavation was carried out in 2 trenches divided into 6 quadrants, yielding deposits from the Early Historic period to the 18th century CE. Findings include glass and carnelian beads, pottery of Early Historic, Medieval, and Late Medieval phases, and a 18th-century brick house at the top layer with mud flooring. Iron objects (nails), broken terracotta torso fragments, animal figurines, 17th-century copper coins, and 1954 Dutch coins were also recovered.

**BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR EXCAVATION & EXPLORATION INCURRED  
DURING LAST FIVE YEARS**

Year	Expenditure (Amount in laks)
2021-22	41.00
2022-23	95.00
2023-24	121.67
2024-25	107.50
2025-26	33.50

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