

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 31

TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

Installation of statues of Tamil freedom fighters

31 Shri S. Kalyanasundaram:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of statues of Tamil freedom-fighters installed in New Delhi and the number of streets or roads officially named after them, with a list of names and dates of installation/notification;
- (b) whether the recent submission by Tamil Nadu, including thousands of names identified by Raj Bhavan as those in the INA, is considered for such national commemorations;
- (c) whether there is a plan to install a statue of Raja Raja Chola, builder of Thanjavur's Brihadeeswarar temple, in New Delhi; and
- (d) the steps taken to preserve and promote Chola-dynasty art, culture, history and heritage, including research, museums, festivals, publications and global exhibitions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Naming of streets is not the mandate of Ministry of Culture. No such record is maintained by the Ministry of Culture.
- (b) At present, no such recommendation is pending. Ministry of Culture under its Centenaries & Anniversaries Scheme commemorates birth centenaries and special anniversaries such as 50th/75th/100th/125th/150th/175th etc. of eminent personalities and events of historical importance of the country.
- (c) No.

(d) 1) Ministry of Culture, South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur Celebrated the “Commemoration of 1000th years of King Rajendra Chola-I Maritime Expedition in South East Asia and Commencement of Construction of Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple” at Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple , Ariyalur district , Tamil Nadu from 23rd July to 29th July,2025.

2) The King Raja Raja Chola I Great played a pivotal role in reviving Tamil Shaivite hymns Devaram and Thiruvagasam during his rule and earning of him the title Thirumuari Kanda Cholan. Hence, South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur Conducts workshops and recital programmes of Devaram and Thiruvagasam by othuvans for revival of Tamil hymns in the Various Saivite temples in Tamil Nadu viz , Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur , Thiruvarur district and Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 in Varanasi. Weekly training class of Devaram and Thiruvagasam with Students one hundred and fifty students learning at Karanthani Tamil Sangamam, Thanjavur since April,2023 to till date.

3) Ministry of Culture, South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur conducts procession and programmes of old traditional Tamil artforms like Bharatanatyam, Thappattam, Karagattam and Kavadiattam in Sathayavizha (Celebrating the Anniversary of the great Chola Emperor Raja Raja Cholan I), Navarathiri Vizha, Temple car festivals in Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur every year.

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