

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2524
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2026

PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TAMIL NADU

**2524. SHRI SELVAM G: SHRI C N ANNADURAI:
DR. RANI SRIKUMAR::**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any schemes for the preservation, conservation and promotion of cultural heritage in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, and if so, the details thereof along with projects approved, funds sanctioned, released and utilised, district-wise;
- (b) the details of specific heritage conservation and development projects undertaken in Tamil Nadu for protected monuments, historic temples, archaeological sites, museums, maritime heritage, cultural landscapes and other heritage destinations, along with their present status of implementation;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of these initiatives on heritage conservation, employment generation, livelihoods of artisans and traditional craftsmen and tourist footfall in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to undertake additional initiatives for the conservation of lesser-known heritage sites, promotion of cultural tourism, capacity building of artisans and sustainable heritage management in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) There are 412 Centrally Protected Monuments and Sites in the State of Tamil Nadu under to the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Conservation, maintenance and development of visitor amenities at these monuments are undertaken regularly as per requirement and availability of resources. The details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred for conservation and preservation on these monuments in the last three years are given as under:
- (c)

(Amount Rs. in Crore)			
S. No.	Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1.	2023-24	22.50	22.50
2.	2024-25	18.95	18.94
3.	2025-26	16.60	16.60

The details of developmental works carried out under National Culture Fund (NCF) and Adopt a Heritage Scheme 2.0 in the last three years are given at Annexure-I.

The details of proposals received during last three years from Tamil Nadu State

Government for development of ASI protected monument /site along with their present status are given in Annexure-II.

The Government of India, through the South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), organises various cultural programmes and activities in its member States with the support of annual grant-in-aid. SZCC engages folk/tribal artists, including those from Tamil Nadu, for various cultural activities and programmes organized by them. SZCC organizes major cultural events such as Salangai Naadham and the Summer Festival at Thanjavur, in addition to flagship initiative of the Ministry of Culture such as the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM). These events provide traditional artisans and craftsmen from Tamil Nadu with a national platform to showcase and market their products, thereby generating livelihood opportunities, promoting traditional crafts and contributing to the preservation and promotion of the State's rich cultural heritage.

The number of cultural activities/programmes organized by SZCC in Tamil Nadu and expenditure incurred thereon are as under:

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)			
Sl. No.	Year	No. of cultural activities/ Programmes organized in Tamil Nadu	Expenditure incurred
1.	2023-24	120	228.79
2.	2024-25	131	169.43
3.	2025-26	95	194.23

- (d) All Centrally Protected Monuments, including lesser-known monuments are inspected periodically and conservation works are taken up based on their condition and priority, subject to availability of resources.

Regular maintenance, periodic conservation and management of centrally protected monuments promotes cultural tourism, capacity building of artisans and sustainable heritage management.

Further, development of the archaeological site at Adichanallur is proposed under the Development of Selected Excavation Sites and Heritage Complexes (DESH) Scheme.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2524 FOR 03.08.2026.

The details of development works done under National Culture Fund in the last three years.

S.No	Name of the Monument/ State/ District	Name of Work	Funds received from
1.	Sivaganga Little fort enclosing the Great temple, Thanjavur, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu	Expanding the illumination to the exterior portion of the prakara wall and entrance area of Brihadisvara temple, Thanjavur.	AVNL contribution to NCF under CSR initiative

The details of development works done under Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Scheme in the last three years in respect of ASI, Trichy Circle

S.No	Name of the Monument/ State/ District	Details of Work
1.	Airavatesvarar temple, Darasuram, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu	Development of amenities by Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd., Chennai

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE LOK
SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2524 FOR 03.08.2026.**

**Details of proposals received during last three years from Tamil Nadu State
Government for development of ASI protected monument /site**

(2023-24 to 2025-26)

Sl. No.	Monument/ Site	Proposal	Department/ Agency	Status
1.	Kailashnathar Temple, district Kanchipuram	Development of visitor amenities under Adopt A Heritage 2.0 Program	Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd.	MoU signed on March 2024
2.	Arjuna's Penance, Mahabalipuram, district Chengalpattu	Sound and light Show (via Projection mapping)	Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation	Approval conveyed on 21.10.2024.
3.	Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram, district Chengalpattu	Development of visitor amenities under Swadesh Darshan 2.0	Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation	Letter with comments sent on 04.12.2024.
4.	Brihadeswara Temple, Gangaikonda, Cholapuram, district Thanjavur	Development of tourist amenities	India Tourism Development Corporation	Letter with comments sent on 05.02.2026.
5.	Brihadeswara Temple, district Thanjavur	Enhancement of amenities under Challenge Based Destination Development Scheme (a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0)	Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation	Approval conveyed on 20.02.2026.
6.	Vellore Fort, district Vellore	Sound and Light Show	Vellore Municipal Corporation, Vellore	Letter with comments sent on 02.06.2026.
