

OVERVIEW

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This Report contains a Compliance Audit on the preservation and conservation of monuments and antiquities by the Archaeology Department and 14 Compliance Audit Paragraphs.

Compliance Audit on the preservation and conservation of monuments and antiquities by the Archaeology Department

Department of Archaeology was established with the objective to identify, conserve and preserve ancient monuments in the State and to conduct archaeological exploration and excavation at the historically important places. Compliance Audit on the preservation and conservation of monuments and antiquities by the Department revealed the following:

- Department could not undertake comprehensive survey to identify historical monuments for protecting and conserving them.

(Paragraph No. 2.1.7.1)

- There was inordinate delay in declaring the identified monuments as protected monuments. Further, Department failed to acquire ownership of the 99 *per cent* of the declared protected monuments.

(Paragraph Nos. 2.1.7.2 and 2.1.9.1)

- There were deficiencies in creation of heritage database of monuments and antiquities available in the State.

(Paragraph No. 2.1.9.2)

- During Joint inspection of selected monuments, various deficiencies were noted in preservation and maintenance of these protected monuments *viz.*, human vandalism, oil accretion, soot formation, vegetative growth and lack of physical protection.

(Paragraph No. 2.1.10)

- Joint inspection also disclosed huge shortfalls in provision of basic amenities for visitors.

(Paragraph No. 2.1.11)

- There were delays in completion of research activities *viz.*, exploration, excavation, epigraphy and publication of excavation reports.

(Paragraph No. 2.1.12)

- Shortage of technical personnel coupled with insignificant budget provisions hindered the protection of monuments and the development activities.

(Paragraph No. 2.1.13)

- There were some gaps in monitoring the activities of the field offices.

(Paragraph No. 2.1.14)

Thus, these limitations impacted the achievement of the objectives of the Department in preservation and conservation of ancient monuments.

Compliance Audit Paragraphs

- Construction of hostel without assessing the requirement of Law College students led to unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 2.76 crore

(Paragraph No. 2.2)

- Non-adherence to Codal provisions and delay in approval of revised lease rent resulted in short collection of ₹ 1.49 crore as lease rent besides unauthorised possession of Government lands without lease agreement.

(Paragraph No. 2.3)

- Commencement of works without acquiring land led to foreclosure of bridge works despite an expenditure of ₹ 14.74 crore and non-achievement of the envisaged objectives for 14 years.

(Paragraph No. 2.4)

- Commencement of bridge works without adhering to the manual provisions and Government instructions on acquisition of land resulted in blocking of funds of ₹ 10.85 crore besides non-achievement of envisaged objectives.

(Paragraph No. 2.5)

- Handing over of online collection of taxes and revenue to a private contractor without agreement resulted in unauthorised retention of the collected revenue besides arbitrary levy of maintenance charges.

(Paragraph No. 3.2)

- Integrated solid waste management facility conceived in the year 2008 was not implemented even after lapse of 12 years due to technology issues in conversion of waste-to-energy project. This resulted in accumulation of 1.55 lakh cubic metres of solid waste without processing besides unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 17.54 crore.

(Paragraph No. 3.3)

- Excess usage of Sodium hypochlorite solution beyond the permitted level by the Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation resulted in wasteful expenditure of ₹ 1.53 crore and also exposed the general public to the health hazards for three years.

(Paragraph No. 3.4)

- Decision to purchase a centralised waste processing plant despite modified rules for processing the waste through micro processing units resulted in idling of plant purchased at a cost of ₹ 1.10 crore.

(Paragraph No. 3.5)

- Incorrect site selection for construction of Municipality office building resulted in blockage of fund of ₹ 75 lakh for the past 10 years.

(Paragraph No. 3.6)

- Non-provision of allied facilities for three slaughter houses resulted in non-usage for more than seven years besides blockage of fund of ₹ 60.00 lakh.

(Paragraph No. 3.6)

- **Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited failed to:**

- factor the transmission loss in the Energy Purchase Agreements with Solar Power Generators resulted in additional expenditure of ₹ 245.27 crore.

(Paragraph No. 4.2.1)

- revise the quantum of power allotted based on the outage of Open Access Generators and to restrict the adjustment to entitled quantum, resulted in excess adjustment of power to consumers leading to loss of ₹ 53.05 crore.

(Paragraph No. 4.2.2)

- monitor the connected load of LT Tariff IIIA consumers and revise the tariff to LT IIIB for exceeding the prescribed level of 12 KW had resulted in loss of revenue of ₹ 9.11 crore.

(Paragraph No. 4.2.3)

- **Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited** failed to assess the demand before developing new industrial estates resulted in unproductive investment of ₹ 28.47 crore.

(Paragraph No. 4.2.4)

- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited** failed to inspect the actual receipt of machineries at the factory site before disbursement resulted in non-realisation of dues of ₹ 1.18 crore.

(Paragraph No. 4.2.5)