

# DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS

## CITIZEN CHARTER

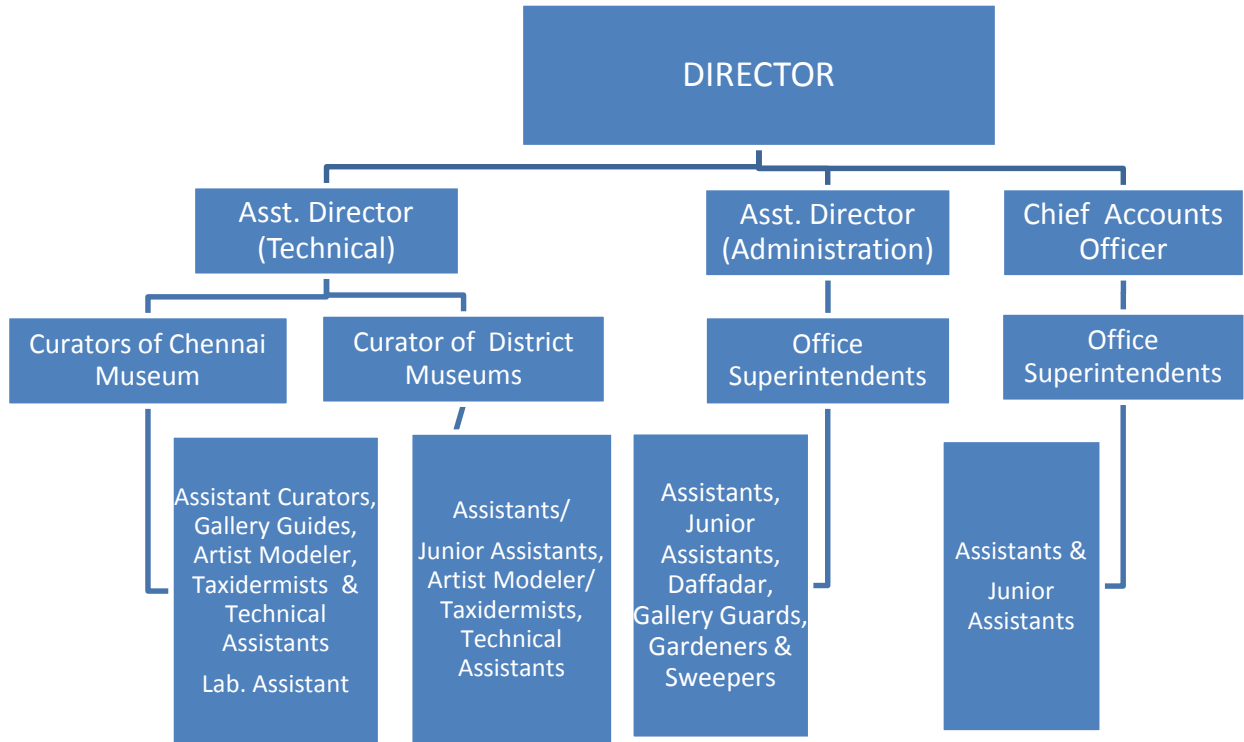
Tamil Nadu is located in the tip of peninsular India. It has an unbroken History commencing from Paleolithic period and was later ruled by various dynasties. Monarchs of the Tamil country built many high raised granite structures in different architectural modes and carved metal images with artistic styles in different time frames. Art, Architecture, Literature were cherished. Tamil is the only language in the whole world which got a royal patronage for many centuries. Tamil Nadu became an epicenter for all art forms. Geography of Tamil country is inherited with rich species of flora and fauna. Hence, the second largest and oldest Museum emerged in the erstwhile Madras Presidency in the year 1851 C.E. Government Museum, Chennai is a rich repository of artefacts of Archaeological importance, objects of Geology as well as Wet and dry specimens of natural science of the Indian subcontinent remembering poet Bharathi's version "*Sendriduveer Ettuthikkum kalaichelvangal yavum Konart hingu serpeer*" (Go all the eight directions<sup>1</sup> and bring valued artefacts)

Prior to the implementation of the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878 - Museum artefacts were collected through the field collection, gift, purchase and exchange with other museums. In 1880's gigantic whale skeleton and skeleton of an elephant were

brought to the museum which was the major attraction of that time. "Indian Treasure Trove Act 1878" expedited heavy inflow of art objects such as bronze images, stone sculptures and coins came to this museum. Excavated artefacts of Adhichanallur and Arikamedu gave a new dimension to the Museum in the field of Anthropology. After the Independence Bronze Gallery, Gallery of Contemporary Art and Children's Museum were newly constructed and dedicated to the public.

History and culture are always relayed on inscriptions, copper plates and coins as their main source. Prime duty of a Museum is to preserve such source materials for posterity. First evident specimens of animals and extinct animals were preserved in the Museum. Museum laboratories extends the life span of artefacts and also restores them for the future generation. Museum is a silent class room wherein education takes place in a noiseless manner. If school children couldn't reach the Museum, then Museum will reach their schools in remote Villages through Museo' bus. In the recent years the Government Museum Chennai provides better service through modern facilities such as animated models, LED illumination, attractive signages and informative labelling.

# Organisation



## District Museums

In addition to the Government Museum, Chennai, there are 20 District Museums functioning in Pudukottai, Salem, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Vellore, Erode, Cuddalore, Uthagamandalam, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Sivaganga, Tiruvarur, Palani, Nagappattinam, Kancheepuram, Ramanathapuram, Karur and Virudhunagar.

S.No.	Name of the Dist. Museum	Address	Telephone No.
1.	Pudukkottai	Curator, Government Museum, Big Street, Thirugokarnam, Pudukkottai – 622002.	04322 - 236247
2.	Salem	Curator, Government Museum, Sarada College Road, Fairlands, Salem-636 016	0427- 2449998
3.	Madurai	Curator, Government Museum, Gandhi Museum Complex, Thamukkam, Madurai – 625020.	0452-2529298
4.	Tiruchirapalli	Curator, Government Museum, Rani Mangammal Palace, Thiruchirapalli.	0431 - 2708809
5.	Vellore	Curator, Government Museum, Fort, Vellore – 632 004.	0416- 2220088
6.	Erode	Curator, Government Museum, V.O.C.Park, Karungalpalayam Post Erode – 638 001.	0424- 2261160

7.	Cuddalore	Curator, Government Museum, Hospital Road, Cuddalore – 607 001.	04142- 231232
8.	Uthagamandalam	Curator, Black Wood Cottage, West Berrie Road, Mysore Road, Udhagamandalam.	0423- 2441402
9.	Coimbatore	Curator, Government Museum, Shop No.21, Nehru Sports Stadium, V.O.C.Park Opp, Coimbatore –641018.	0422- 2212050
10.	Kanniyakumari	Curator, Government Museum, Gandhi Memorial Road, Kanniyakumari – 622702.	04652- 246233
11.	Krishnagiri	Curator, Government Museum, Gandhi Road, Krishnagiri- 635001	04343- 235802
12.	Tirunelveli	Curator, Government Museum, Marks Road, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli.- 2	0462- 2561915
13.	Sivaganga	Curator, Government Museum, Weekly Market Road, Sivaganga – 630 561.	04575- 245510
14.	Thiruvarur	Curator, Government Museum, A/M. Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Thiruvarur – 610 002.	04366- 243475

15.	Palani	Curator, Government Museum, Foot of the Hill, Palani – 624 601.	04545- 241990
16.	Nagapattinam	Curator, Government Museum, 35, First Line Beach, Nagapattinam– 609001.	04365- 241279
17.	Kanchipuram	Curator, Government Museum, 117, Munusamy Mudaliar Avenue, Kanchipuram – 636 501	044- 27231858
18.	Ramanathapuram	Curator, Government Museum, Jawans Bhavan Building, 1st Floor, 102/26, Devi Pattinam Road, Kenikarai, Ramanathapuram-623 501.	04567- 222246
19.	Karur	Curator, Government Museum, 5/7,Dindigul Road (Amaravati Co-op. Store Opp) Jawahar Bazaar Karur-639001	04324- 264223
20.	Virudhunagar	Curator Government Museum, 40/1, Link Road, V.V.R. Arangam, Virudhunagar- 626 001	04562-268681

## **MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE MUSEUMS**

1. Collection of artefacts.
2. Documenting the collections including cataloguing, publishing of printed catalogues.
3. Undertaking Research Activities individually or in association with other Institutions, Universities and facilitate the research scholars and students by giving access to the collections and information.
4. Scientific preservation and aesthetic display of exhibits.
5. Conducting thematic exhibitions, lectures, seminars and programmes as educational activities and bringing out publications.

### **You may reach us through:**

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Chennai-600 008.

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Director  
Department of Museums