

Environmental protection of heritage places - Pudukottai district - Viralimalai Union - Viralimalai village - Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Koil - Declaring Viralimalai as a heritage place.

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Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.2) Department

G.O. (Ms) No.19

Dated: 23.1.2008

Read:

1. The District Collector, Pudukottai Lr. No.3226/2006/V3 dated 27.2.2006.
2. The Director of Town and Country Planning Lr. Roc. No.2911/2006/UP.1 dated 5.4.2007.

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**ORDER:**

The Viralimalai Village Panchayat council in their Resolution No.64 dated 25.1.2006 have decided to request the Government to declare the Viralimalai as a heritage place. The District Collector, Pudukottai forwarded the above proposal of the Viralimalai Panchayat Union and stated that Viralimalai is located on the Chennai-Kanniyakumari National Highway and is a Grade I Village Panchayat and the present Arulmighu Subramaniaswamy Temple located atop the Virali Hills was built by Vijaya Nagar Empire and is about 600 years old. Saint Arunagirinathar had composed Thirupugazh in praise of the presiding deity of this temple, Lord Murugar. Evidences are there to show that several siddhar had lived in this place in the caves. It is said that saint Arunagirinathar was gifted with eight siddhis (divine powers) by Lord Muruga himself. Mentioning of this temple is found even in Thirumurugatrupadai, a longer poem composed by Nakkeerar who lived 2000 years before. The sanctity of the temple is celebrated in Sangam literatures. During festival periods more than 50,000 pilgrims visit the place. On average, about 1000 people visit this temple daily. Despite this, the place is bereft of basic amenities. There is also a Peacock sanctuary in this place. Therefore, he has requested to declare the place as heritage town and sought financial assistance as grant to provide basic amenities and also submitted proposals for taking up certain projects to improve the civic conditions at a total cost of Rs.50.00 lakhs.

2. The Director of Town and Country Planning has stated that the District Collector, Pudukottai has included the following facilities and amenities.

Sl. No.	Details	Estimate in Rs.
1.	Multi purpose community hall	4,10,000
2.	Provision of public toilet 2 blocks @ Rs.2.70,000/-	5,40,000
3.	Laying of cement concrete pavement on all the 4 streets (total 14)	14,44,000
4.	Construction of drainage in South car street from South of Manapparai salai (opp. to Panchayat Union Office) upto Chettikulam vari, on the Madurai road (915 mts.)	9,90,000
5.	Construction of drainage in East car street: On both sides opposite to Adivaram upto Marriage hall in North Street (525 mts)	5,67,000
6.	Construction of Drainage in North car street: On Manapparai Salai from Bus stand towards east upto North street and in the North street upto Shandy (360 mts)	4,35,000

7.	Construction of Drainage in the West car street: From MGR Nagar 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street in the west upto Manapparai road (385 mtrs)	2,90,000
8.	Construction of drainage in Kamarajar Nagar from District Library building on Trichy-Madurai road upto S.K. House (300 mts)	3,24,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>50,00,000</b>

3. The Director of Town and Country Planning has also stated that it could be seen that out of Rs.50.00 lakhs estimate, Rs.26.00 lakhs i.e. more than 50% of the estimate has been allocated for provision of Drainage facility and the balance Rs.24.00 lakhs in allocated for the facilities likely to be useful to the pilgrims. Even the multipurpose hall is not a dormitory, sanitations is generally given importance.

4. The Director of Town and Country Planning has further stated that the above proposal for declaring Viralimalai as heritage place and to provide financial assistance for taking up projects to provide basic amenities in the Viralimalai Village Panchayat to the tune of Rs.50.00 lakhs as 100% grant from Town and Country Planning Development Fund was placed before the Committee of Town and Country Planning Board at its 66<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 14.2.2007 as Agenda item No.7 and resolved as follows:

- The Committee decided to recommend to Government in Rural Development Department to issue orders declaring Viralimalai as a heritage place in view of its religious importance and heritage value.
- Further accepting the proposal of the District Collector, Pudukottai, the Committee recommended to Government to issue orders in Housing and Urban Development Department for implementation of heritage place development projects in Viralimalai with the financial assistance of Rs.50.00 lakhs as grant from the Town and Country Planning Development Fund.

5. The Director of Town and Country Planning has, therefore, requested to issue orders declaring Viralimalai as a heritage town in view of its religious importance and heritage value.

6. The Government have carefully examined the proposal of the District Collector, Pudukottai and the Director of Town and Country Planning and decided to approve the above proposal. The Government accordingly declare the Viralimalai as a heritage place in order to make them eligible for the grant of a maximum Rs.50/- lakhs from the Town and Country Planning Development Fund for the Heritage improvement projects, after obtaining necessary approval from Government in the Housing and Urban Development Department by the Director of Town and Country Planning, which is the nodal agency.

7. The Director of Town and Country Planning is requested to take follow up action in the matter and also send a report on the action taken in the matter to Government.

(By order of the Governor)

**K. ASHOK VARDHAN SHETTY**  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT