

Tamil Nadu govt hikes pension for retired temple employees

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CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government on Monday hiked the pension for retired employees of temple managed by Hindu religious and charitable endowments department from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 per month.

A statement issued by chief minister J Jayalithaa said, "Following demands from HR&CE pensioners, I have ordered increase of their pension, and the government will incur an extra expenditure of Rs 4.44 crore per annum. This will benefit 3,700 pensioners."

The government also sanctioned Rs 5 crore towards a scheme to promote age-old art and architecture present in temples.

"The government will include 241 more temples for performing single-time pooja. The scheme introduced in 1993 has 12,504 temples under it, and Rs 2.41 crore would be spent in total out of which Rs 24.10 lakh will be from devotees," said the chief minister.

Rs 2.5 crore will be spent on procuring articles for 10,000 small temples. Last year, the government allocated Rs 2.5 crore to procure pooja articles for 10,000 temples.

Wooden chariots of four temples will either be refurbished or new ones will be built at a cost of Rs 1.1 crore.