

4. The temples at Thanjavur and Darasuram have a tripartite management structure – the Central Agency, the state and hereditary trustee; the temple at Gangaikondacholapuram is managed by the Central Agency and the state.
5. Visitors to the monument – the pilgrims, local devotees, and casual and interested heritage tourists are the present and future stakeholders.
6. The last stakeholder is the World Heritage Committee, being the representative of humankind.

Management issues

The various management issues to be addressed in these monumental temples include their conservation, religious use, the provision of tourist facilities, visitor management, environmental context, risk preparedness, and other factors.

Conservation

As centrally protected monuments, the structural and physical management of the temples is monitored by the ASI through a series of well-established procedures, such as routine inspections and scientific investigations. This is substantiated by condition mapping, photo documentation and survey work. Based on this analysis, conservation works are implemented with funds allocated by the government.

The main conservation issues at Thanjavur were mainly due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance and included the following: growth of vegetation on the temple towers (*vimana* and *gopuras*); leaking towers and terraces; blockage of rainwater drainage systems; and lack of proper approach pathways.

The ASI has worked hard to return the temple to its original state and appearance. By removing new structures built during later periods, the original structures and spatial layout of the Thanjavur Temple were restored with minimal intervention. The leaks in the temple towers (*vimana* and *gopura*) and terraces stopped after the removal of vegetation. The sunken corridor (*mandapa*) on the north side was repaired and protected, and broken or cracked stones replaced as the temple is in everyday use. The earth that had accumulated in and around the temple complex has been removed; the original rainwater drainage system restored and inscriptions have been revealed.

Landscaping the open area around the temple and periodical chemical cleaning of the stone surfaces is also carried out.

The Chola paintings in the passageway around the sanctum (*garbhagriha*) of the temple were exposed by removing the later Nayak paintings which had been superimposed on them.