

Figure 8. Chola painting - Rajaraja I and his preceptor - Thanjavur.



Visitor management

Every temple in India has a particular approach way (*parikrama*), which generally follows a clockwise direction. The deities in the temples are planned and arranged in the manner codified in the texts (*Agamas*). All devotees are aware of the path they should follow once inside the temple. For the benefit of visitors, an information board provides details of the movement plan. To regulate and manage crowds, temporary barricades are put in place, which can be removed when not required. Vehicle parking is available opposite the temple entrance.

Environmental context

The protected or core areas of the temples are well maintained and are not immediately susceptible to environmental problems. The ground levels around the monuments have risen alarmingly and most of the storm water drains are clogged due to unplanned development. The temples are situated in the midst of towns, where rampant and haphazard development is ongoing. The traditional landscape is being replaced with concrete structures. The piling foundations adopted for these structures may affect the foundations of the monuments. The original ambience of the monuments has been lost. To mitigate the environmental issues of unplanned development around monumental areas, the government has prohibited any further structural development within 100 m of monumental areas and regulates any development in the next 200 m.

Threats from natural events such as floods, earthquakes and chemical factors such as pollution are minimal as far as these properties are