An appeal for support

Tamil Knowledge Campus
தமிழ் அறிவு வளாகம்

மெய்ப்பொருள் காண்ப தறிவு

RMRL

The Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) has been a pioneer in the areas of documentation and preservation of material related to Tamil Studies, since its inception in 1994. Over the years, it has expanded its activities into research, development of educational tools, curation, and publishing, adapting itself to the changing technologies and knowledge consumption patterns.
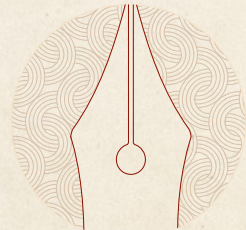
RMRL hosts an extensive collection of five lakh literary gems, which include books, magazines, audio-visual collections, ephemeral items, and digital collections. The digital resources can be accessed through the RMRL's Digital Library. The library has ensured world standards in documentation and preservation. **The Museum of Print Culture** in RMRL celebrates 500 years of Tamil print culture with a vast collection of print-related material. RMRL is headed by Sundar Ganesan.

The Indus Research Centre (IRC) conducts evidence-based investigations into the various aspects of the Indus Valley civilization. IRC is headed by R. Balakrishnan.

Centre for Study in Public Sphere (CSPS) explores areas of social sciences and the contemporary aspects of culture and modernity. CSPS is headed by A. S. Panneerselvan.

Unique Contributions

RMRL has developed a union catalogue of all public libraries in the State with the support of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The digital restoration of the notebooks of mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan is a testimony to its technical innovation. Subsequently, in a similar effort, the library has also digitally restored the first edition (1812) of Tirukkural and printed it as a collector's edition. It is important to note that only five copies of this edition of Tirukkural have been found around the world.

RMRL developed a dedicated web application to analyse the enigmatic Indus script. This application is based on the Indus Concordance of Iravatham Mahadevan, which was published in 1977.

More than 200 doctoral theses and 300 books have been produced using the RMRL collection.

The RMRL's digital collections can be accessed through the British Library, the Internet Archives, the South Asia Open Archives and the Center for Research Libraries in the U.S.A., in addition to its digital library platform.

Tamil Knowledge Campus
a new journey

Thirty years of experience at RMRL culminated in the
idea of creating a Tamil Knowledge Campus (TKC) which
would provide a space, physical as well as virtual, for public
engagement. This space will provide the users access to archival
resources for learning, researching, observing, deliberating and
co-creating knowledge. It will a vibrant space dedicated to
research, knowledge building, and showcasing Tamil culture.

The establishment of TKC will be done in two phases. In the first phase, an institutional space will be created with the following facilities: a library with enhanced reference services capable of accommodating up to 100 researchers; the research facilities such as the Indus Research Centre and the Centre for Study in Public Sphere; and a dedicated space for organizing workshops for students and independent researchers. Residential facilities will be provided for visiting scholars which will further enhance the research environment.

In the second phase, a modern auditorium, contemporary classrooms, an amphitheatre, and two exhibition halls will be created. Plans include creating a permanent museum for print culture and an Indus Interpretation Centre.

TKC will be an umbrella organisation encompassing

- Roja Muthiah Research Library & Museum of Print Culture
- Indus Research Centre & Indus Interpretation Centre
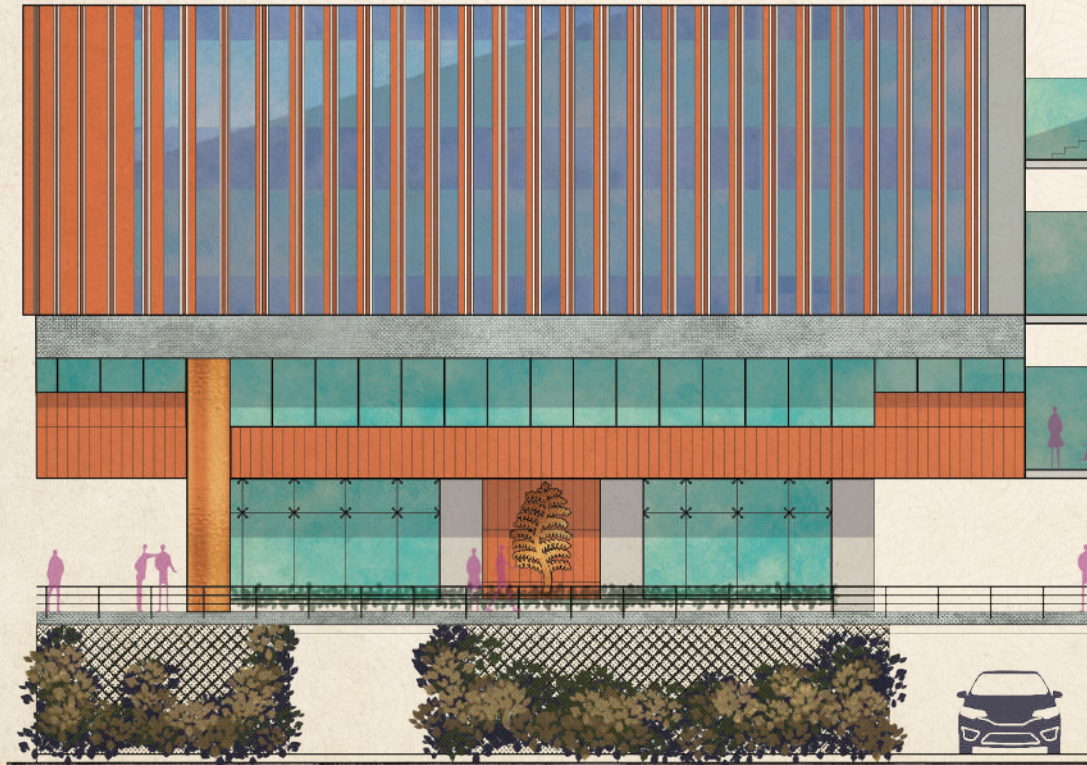- Centre for Study in Public Sphere

TKC will also work on the various facets of Tamil civilizational repertoire. In TKC, the archive, the library, the museum and the research centres will be integrated in such a way as to offer comprehensive learning experience which will be both immersive and explorative. Such an integrated space is a long felt need in Tamil Nadu and TKC will meet that need. TKC is committed to democratizing knowledge, with an emphasis on inclusivity and plural values.

Tamil Knowledge Campus seeks to enhance the appreciation and understanding of several aspects of Tamil Civilization

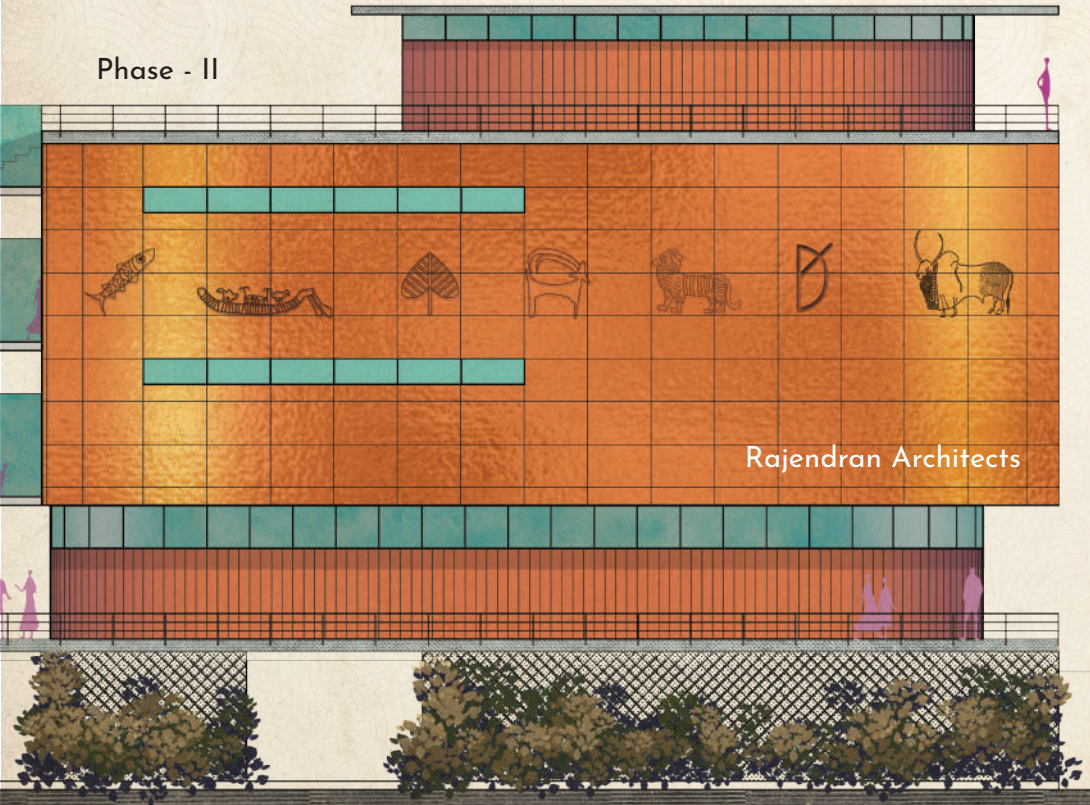*Democratizing knowledge will be the key motto of the TKC*

TKC is committed to inclusivity and plural values

Phase - I

The present campus of RMRL belongs to the School Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government has provided 14,989 sq. ft. of additional land adjacent to the current building for expansion. During the 2023 floods, it was realized that the building is in a disaster-prone area. Hence permission has been sought to pull down the old building and build the TKC in the consolidated space that will be disaster proof, environment friendly, and a green building.

Phase - II

Rajendran Architects

An appeal for support

We invite you to join us in the creation of TKC, a centre that will foster innovation and capacity building and become a valuable resource for exploring our language and history.

To achieve our vision, we are seeking generous financial support. We invite individuals, philanthropists, corporates, charitable organizations, scholars, and library users to join this transformative initiative. As Tamil tradition celebrates its patrons and heroes, we intend to honour our generous supporters by etching their names in our knowledge Campus.

Please note that donations to RMRL are eligible for tax exemption under Section 80 G of the IT Act. We thank you for considering our appeal. Let us together create the Tamil Knowledge Campus— an enduring space that nurtures the wellspring of Tamil civilization, supports groundbreaking research, and inspires future generations.

	Description	Amount (in crore ₹)
Phase I	Institutional Space	15
Phase II	Public Space	15
	Total	30

The government has agreed to grant Rs. 9.5 crores for constructing TKC. We require an additional amount of Rs. 20.5 crores to complete the project.

Donations within India shall be made to
Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust-Building Fund
Current A/C No. 42625211182
State Bank of India, Tidel Park Branch
4, Canal Bank Road, Taramani, Chennai 600113
Branch Code: 04285
IFS Code: SBIN0004285

Contributions from outside India shall be made to
Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust
(FCRA Savings A/C) A/C No. 40267751909
State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch
4th Floor, 11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110001
Branch Code: 04285
IFS Code: SBIN0000691
SWIFT Code: SBININBB104

Tamil Knowledge Campus

Library | Museum | Archives | Research | Interactive Space

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