

Tanjavur
Brhadīśvara  **temple** *The Monument and
the Living Tradition*

MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

This interactive multimedia DVD presents the content exploration system on the Brhadīśvara temple to intensify cultural learning and visualisation. Through this DVD users can access the sections of the architectural layout, both horizontally and vertically with respective images and a brief description about each section.

The Brhadīśvara temple includes a great number of iconographic representations. The distribution of these icons in the temple, their description, their reference in the text(s) and voiceover of the Dhyān shloka has been integrated for a better understanding. On the upper floor of the Central sanctum, are sculptures representing the dance-karaṇās, as described in the Bharata's Nāṭyaśāstra. These images can be explored in the DVD with their relevant shloka.

The mural paintings in the temple, belonging to three different historical periods have been presented here, with their storyline (wherever possible), to understand these paintings in their context.

In various parts of the temple are remarkable inscriptions that record several aspects of the temple. The details of these inscriptions; their location indexed on the plan have been provided here in this DVD.

Daily and periodical worships and temple festivals (including Kumbhabhishekam) have been documented by the IGNCA and are integrated in this DVD. The videos of the several interviews conducted with people closely associated with the temple are also presented here.

Several alterations and additions in temple, reflecting its growth have been presented in the form of a timeline. 360 degree panoramic views of the temple from select locations have also been provided for the users.

Recent techniques and tools have been utilized to integrate the information available, in an interactive manner, for easy navigation by the users.

This is the first time when such a project has been conceptualised and fulfilled, to make the ancient knowledge and achievements accessible through a modern multimedia platform, for understanding our past.

