

MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

ARIYALUR DISTRICT

Ariyalur district came into existence by bifurcating Perambalur as per G.O.Ms.No.683 Revenue RA1(1) Department dated 19.11.07. It is bounded on the North by Cuddalore, South by Thanjavur, East by Cuddalore and Thanjavur and West by Perambalur and Tiruchirapalli districts. The new Ariyalur district is functioning from 23.11.2007. Ariyalur district consists of 2 divisions viz., Ariyalur and Udayarpalayam, three Taluks viz., Ariyalur, Udayarpalayam and Sendurai and six blocks.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

In 1741 the Marathas invaded Tiruchirapalli and took Chanda Saheb as captive. Chanda Saheb succeeded in securing freedom in 1748 and soon got involved in famous war for the Nawabs place in the Carnatic against Anwardeen, the Nawab of Arcot and his son Mohammed Ali.

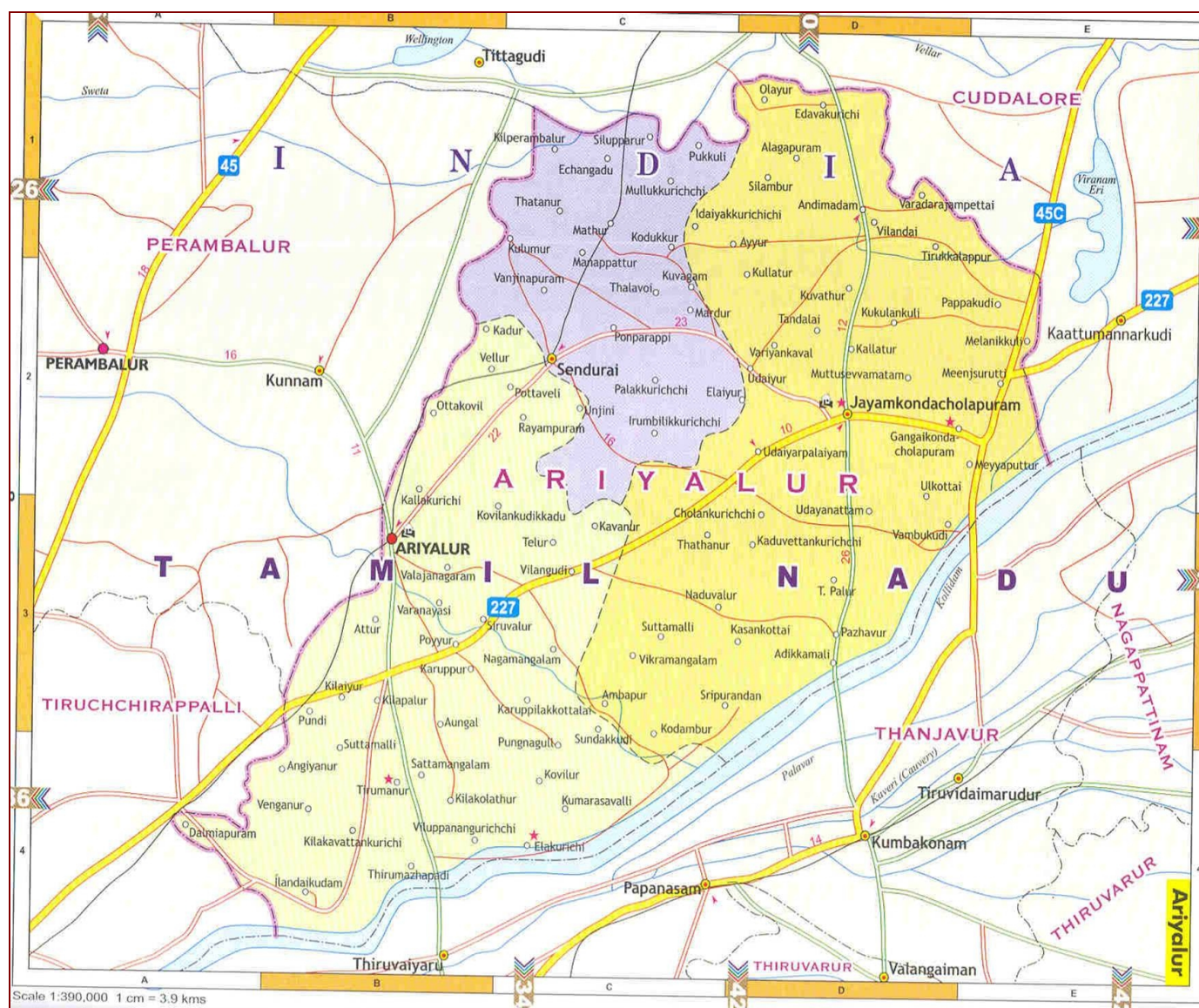
In 1995 Tiruchirappalli was trifurcated and the Perambalur and Karur districts were formed. Perambalur district was divided into Perambalur and Ariyalur district in the year 2001 and merged with Perambalur in the year 2002. Then now the district is bifurcated from Perambalur and .now functioning from 23.11.2007.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

As per 2001 census, the population of Ariyalur is 695524, with male 346763 and female 348761. Ariyalur District is centrally located in Tamil Nadu and is 265 K.M. away in southern direction from Chennai. The District has an area of 1949 Sq.Km. It is an inland district without coastal line. The District has Vellar River in the North and Kollidam River in the South and it has no well marked natural divisions.

AGRICULTURE

Sugar cane is grown as a major commercial crop. One private sugar factory near keelapalur is functioning in the district with a capacity of crushing 3000 Tonnes per day. One of the main crop in Ariyalur district is cashew. The pre-dominant soil in the district is red sanding with scattered packers of black soil. The soil in the district is best suited for raising dry crops. The district has a high means of temperature and low degree of humidity.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

CHENNAI DISTRICT

HISTORY:

Chennai, originally known as Madras Patnam, was located in the province of Tondaimandalam, an area lying between Pennar river of Nellore and the Pennar river of Cuddalore. The capital of the province was Kancheepuram. Tondaimandalam was ruled in the 2nd century A.D. by Tondaiman Ilam Tiraiyan, who was a representative of the Chola family at Kancheepuram. It is believed that Ilam Tiraiyan must have subdued Kurumbas, the original inhabitants of the region and established his rule over Tondaimandalam.

LOCATION :

Chennai is situated on the north-east end of Tamil Nadu on the coast of Bay of Bengal. It lies between 12° 9' and 13° 9' of the northern latitude and 80° 12' and 80° 19' of the southern longitude on a 'sandy shelving breaker swept beach'. It stretches nearly 25.60 kms. along the Bay coast from Thiruvanmiyur in the south to Thiruvottiyur in the north and runs inland in a rugged semi-circular fashion. It is bounded on the east by the Bay of Bengal and on the remaining three sides by Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur Districts.

RIVERS

The city is intersected by two languid streams, the Cooum and the Adyar. Cooum runs through the heart of the city and enters the sea in-between the university buildings and the Fort. St. George underneath the Napier Bridge, while the latter wends its way through the southern part of the city and enters the sea near Adyar. These two rivers are almost stagnant and do not carry enough water except during rainy seasons. Cooum river starts from Kesavaram Anicut in Kesavaram village built across Kortaliyar river.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

COIMBATORE DISTRICT

HISTORY:

Originally Coimbatore district formed part of the Kongu country, the history of which dates back to the Sangam age. It is found that in early days the area was inhabited by tribes, the most predominant among them being the Kosars who are reported to have had their headquarters at Kosampathur which probably later became the present Coimbatore. However, tribal predominance did not last long as they were over-run by the Rashtra Kutas. From Rashtrakutas the region fell into the hands of the Cholas who were in prominence at the time of Raja Raja Chola. On the decline of Cholas the Kongu territory was occupied by the Chalukyas and then by the Pandyas and the cysalas. Due to internal strife in the Pandyan kingdom the Muslim rulers from Delhi happened to interfere. Thus the area fell into the hands of Madurai Sultanate from whom the Vijayanagar rulers wrestled for the region during 1377-78 after overthrowing the Madurai Sultanate.

LOCATION:

The third largest city of the state, Coimbatore, is one of the most industrialized cities in Tamil Nadu, known as the textile capital of South India or the Manchester of the South, the city is situated on the banks of the river Noyyal, Coimbatore existed even prior to the 2nd or 3rd century AD by Karikalan, the first of the early Cholas. Among its other great rulers were Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas, Pandyas, Hoysalas and the Vijayanagara kings. When Kongunadu fell to the British along with the rest of the state, its name was changed to Coimbatore and it is by this name that it is known today, except in Tamil, in which it is called Kovai.

In the rain shadow region of the Western ghats, Coimbatore enjoys a very pleasant climate all the year round, aided by the fresh breeze that flows through the 25 kms long Palakkad gap. The rich black soil of the region has contributed to Coimbatore's flourishing agriculture industry and, it is in fact the successful growth of cotton that served as a foundation for the establishment of its famous textile industry.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMILNADU

CUDDALORE DISTRICT

HISTORY:

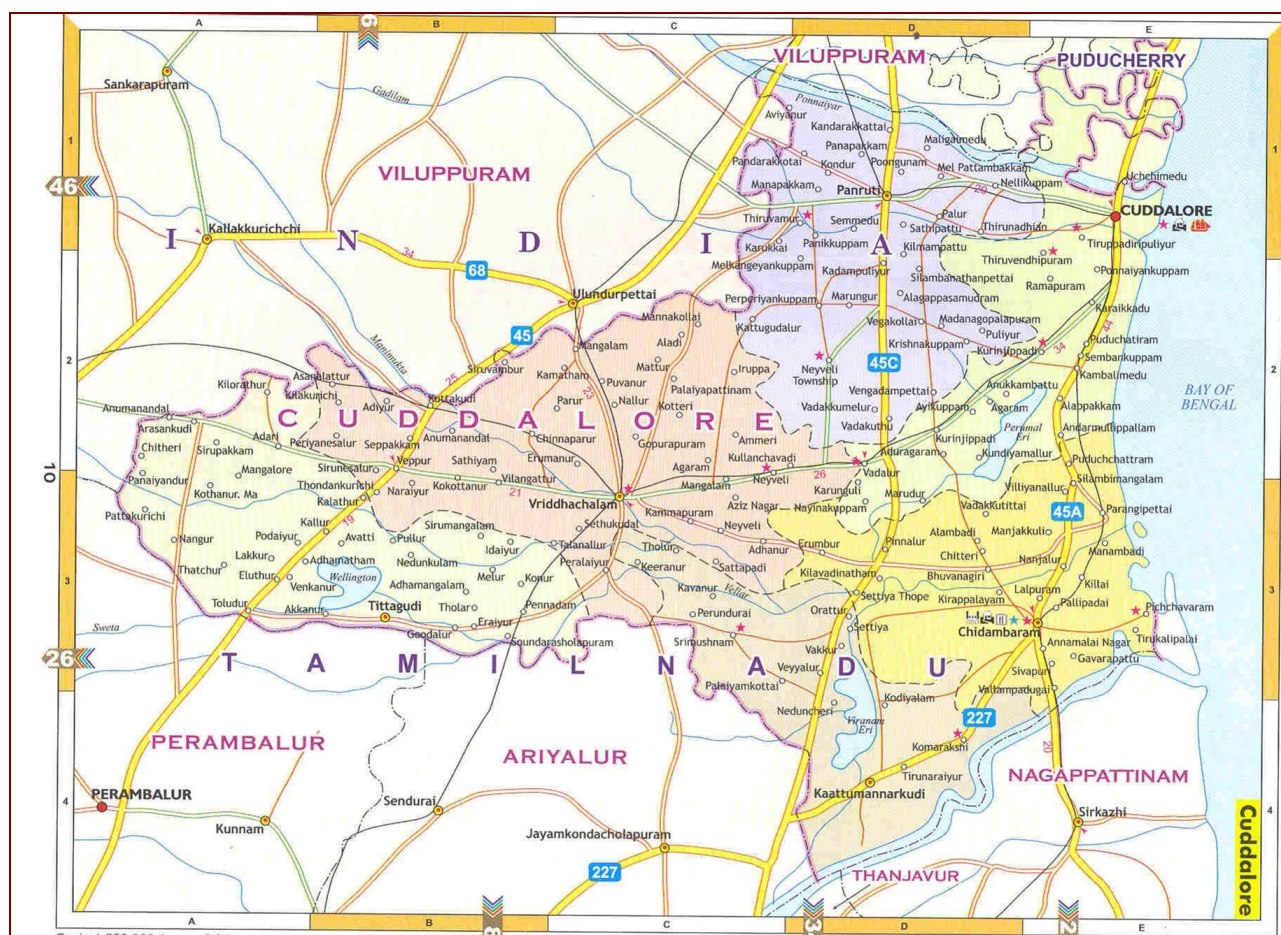
The history of the systematic administration of the Land Revenue of erstwhile South Arcot District begins with the acquisition from the Nawab in 1801, when the Nawab made over the Carnatic to the Company, Captain Graham was appointed to take charge of the District lying between Palar and Portonovo rivers and become the *first Collector South Arcot*. The then district consisted of the 21 Taluks of Arcot, Vellore, Thiruvathur, Polur, Arani (The Jagir of that name) Wandiwash, Chetpet, Thiruvannamalai, Gingee, Tindivanam, Valudavur, Villupuram, Anniyur, Tirukoilur, Thiruvannainallur, Tiruvadi, Elavanasur, Kallakurichi, Vridhachalam, Tittagudi and Bhuvanagiri but excluded the form of Fort St.David and the territory of Pondicherry, both of which had been separately acquired and were separately administered. In April 1805, the then Taluk of Mannarkudi (which is included in what is now known as Chidambaram) was added from Tiruchirapalli to this huge charge. In 1808, However Arcot, Vellore, Thiruvathur, Polur, and Arani Jagir were transferred to North Arcot and Wandiwash to Cheingelput while the Fort St.David and Pondicherry villages (which at different time had been under both, the Collector and the commercial resident at Cuddalore) were incorporated with the District. In 1816, Pondicherry was finally restored to the French and erstwhile South Arcot assumed practically its position. **Cuddalore**, which is District Headquarters for South Arcot District for more than a century. This has been mentioned everywhere in the history. The present Cuddalore District has been formed on 30.9.1993.

LOCATION AND MAJOR CROPS:

Located between North Latitude between $15^{\circ} 5' / 11^{\circ} 11'$ and $12^{\circ} 35'$ East Longitude between $78^{\circ} 38'$ and 80° . Major crops are Paddy, Groundnut, Sugarcane, Cholam, Cambu, Redgram, Cotton, Gingelly, Tapioca, Greengram, Blackgram, Coriander, Banana, Maize, Varagu, Cashewnut. Cotton, Groundnet, Coconut.

RAIN FALL:

Normal rainfall N E Monsoon : 716.5, S W Monsoon : 373.6, Actual: N E Monsoon : 1346.1, S W Monsoon : 340.3



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

DHARMAPURI DISTRICT

Dharmapuri District is a district in Tamil Nadu state in southern India. Which came into existence from 02.10.1965. Dharmapuri is the district headquarters. Dharmapuri town is historically called as Thakadoor.

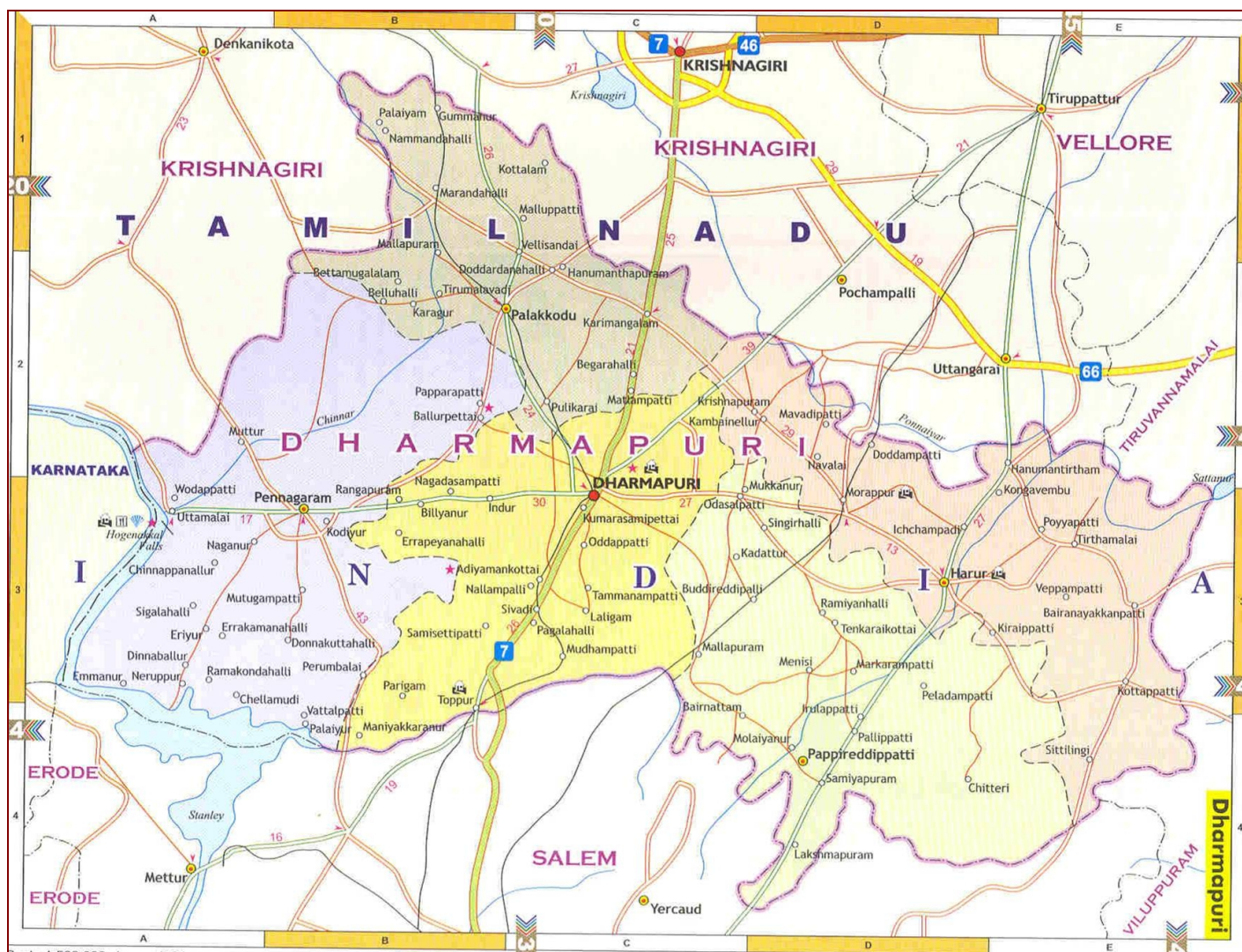
History

Tippu Sultan succeeded Hyder Ali and proved to be a formidable power. The British made an alliance with the Marathas and the Nizam and started the third Mysore war in 1790 A.D., in order to curb the power of Tippu Sultan. A wing of the British forces stationed itself fully reinforced at Kaveripattinam. Even though Tippu Sultan rushed to this spot with his full force, he could not dislodge the British. A number of alternations took place between the commanding forces in the Baramahal area. In 1791, Hosur, Anjetti, Nilgiri and Ratnagiri came under the British Royakotta and many other small forts fell without much resistance. In 1791 Tippu sent a force from the South along the Tippu pass. In the battle at Pennagaram they surrendered to the British. In 1792 A.D., a peace treaty was signed between Tippu and English. According to this, a half of the dominion of Tippu was taken away. The whole of Salem District except the Balaghat and a portion of Hosur came into the hands of the British. The first British Collector had is headquarters at Krishnagiri on strategic consideration. The last Mysore war in 1799 added up several places in Hosur Taluk like Nilgiri, Anjetti, Durgam, Ratnagiri and Kelamangalam which were recaptured by British. After the fall of Srirangapatnam in which Tippu Sultan lost his life, the Balaghat area was also added to Salem District.

The present Dharmapuri district was then a part of the Salem district. During the British rule in the country and even till 1947 Dharmapuri was one of the Taluks of Salem District. The Dharmapuri district was formed as a separate district on 02/10/1965 with its headquarters at Dharmapuri. The district has a literacy of 61.39%. This district is one of most under developed districts in Tamil Nadu and lags in all parameters of development. The government has set up a plan to improve the development of the district, including investment. Dharmapuri is famous for Mangoes. Hogenakal water falls is the famous tourist spot in Dharmapuri District.

Geography and Climate

The district is located between latitudes n 11 47' and 12 33' and longitudes e 77 02' and 78 40'. Occupies an area of 4497.77 km²(i.e. 3.46% of tamil nadu) and has a population of 2,856,300 (as of 2001). It is bounded on the north by krishnagiri district, on the east by tiruvannamalai and viluppuram districts, on the south by salem district, and on the west by karnataka's Chamarajanagar district.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

DINDIGUL DISTRICT

Dindigul District is an administrative region in the south of Tamil Nadu, India. The district was carved out of Madurai District in the year 1985. The district is famous for its lock and tannery industries. The district of Dindigul has 8 taluks Dindigul Palani Athoor , Kodaikanal ,Oddanchatram ,Vedasandur ,Nattam ,Nilakkottai

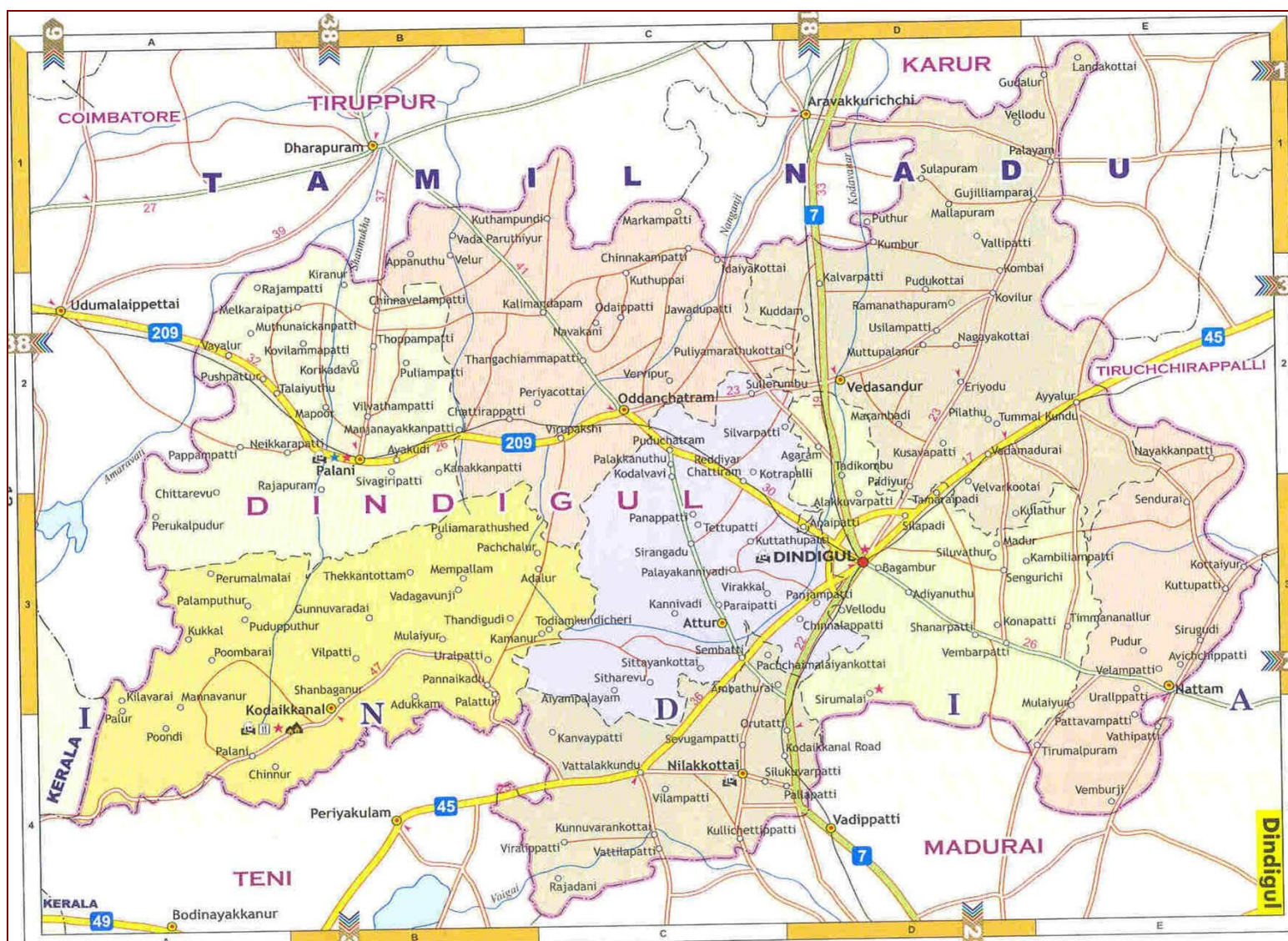
Geography and Climate

It is bounded on the north by Erode and Karur districts, on the east by Tiruchirappalli District, on the southeast and south by Madurai District, on the southeast by Theni District, and on the west by the state of Kerala and Tiruppur District. The Palani and Kodaikanal taluks are famous tourist regions in South India. These taluks are cooler compared to other regions of Tamil Nadu. Climate details are given below

4 TEMPERATURE (IN CELCIOUS)		
i. Plains		
a. i. Maximum		33.25
b. ii. Minimum		21.50
ii. Hill Stations (Kodaikanal)		
a. Maximum		22.4
b. Minimum		9.2
5 RAIN FALL (in mm)		
i. Normal		
a. South West Monsoon		251.4
b. North East Monsoon		399.2
ii. Actual		
a. South West Monsoon		233.4
b. North East Monsoon		590.2

Demographics

It had a population of 1,923,014 as of 2001. It is 35.01% urbanised as per Census 2001. The district has a literacy of 69.83% and is below the average in the state.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

ERODE DISTRICT

Erode District is a northern district of the state of Tamil Nadu, India, with Erode as its headquarters. Until the year 1996, Erode district was named as **Periyar District**. Erode District was a part of Coimbatore District until Coimbatore was bifurcated on August 31, 1979. It is also the home of social reformer Periyar (E.V. Ramasamy) and mathematician Ramanujan.

Geography and Climate

The district is bounded by Karnataka to the north, and by Kaveri River to the east. Across the Kaveri lies Salem, Namakkal and Karur districts. Dindigul District lies immediately to the south, and Coimbatore and the Nilgiris district lies to the west. Erode District is landlocked and is situated at between 10 36'' and 11 58'' north latitude and between 76 49'' and 77 58'' east longitude.

The district comprises a long undulating plain, sloping gently towards the Kaveri river in the south-east. Three major tributaries of river Kaveri, the Bhavani, Noyyal and Amaravati, drain the long stretch of mountains in the north. Other significant rivers are Palar in the north and Vatamalaikarai odai and Uppar rivers in the south. The Palar constitutes the boundary between Erode district and Karnataka in the north. The Bhavanisagar main canal along with these rivers provide proper drainage and facilities for assured irrigation in the district.

The climate is dry and characterised by scanty rainfall. The maximum rainfall is recorded in sullithottam and Bhavani taluks. Unlike nearby Coimbatore district, Erode District has dry weather throughout the year except during the monsoons. The Palghat Gap in Western Ghats, which has a moderating effect on the climate of Coimbatore district, does not help in bringing down the dry climate in this area. The cool moist wind that gushes out of the west coast through Palghat gap loses its coolness and becomes dry by the time it crosses Coimbatore district and reaches Erode.

Generally the first two months of the year are pleasant, but in March the temperature begins to rise, which persists till the end of May. The highest temperatures are normally recorded during May. The scanty showers during this period do not provide much relief from the oppressive heat. However there is a slight improvement in the climate during the June-August period. During the pre-monsoon period, the temperature reverses its trend. By September the sky gets heavily overcast, although the rains are meagre. The northeast monsoon sets in vigorously only during October-November, and by December the rains disappear, rendering the climate clear but pleasant.

Demographics

Erode district had a population of 2,581,500 as of 2001. It is 46.25% urbanised as per Census 2001. The district has a literacy rate of 75.51% and is on the rise.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT

Kancheepuram, Kanchi, or Kancheepuram (also sometimes Conjeevaram) is a district in the northeast of Tamil Nadu, adjacent to the Bay of Bengal. It is bounded in the west by Vellore and Thiruvannamalai districts, in the north by Thiruvallur District and Chennai District, in the south by Viluppuram District. It lies between 11° 00' to 12° 00' North latitudes and 77° 28' to 78° 50' East longitudes. The district has a total geographical area of 4,432 km² and coastline of 57 km. The town of Kancheepuram is the district headquarters.

History

The history of Kanchi can be traced back to several centuries before the advent of the Christian era.. As regards learning, Kanchi stood second in glory only to Banaras. Once the seat of learning and religious fervour, it started its climb down with the Mughal invasions followed by three centuries of colonial rule under the British. The British coined the name Conjeevaram, the anglicised version of Kancheepuram. Under the British regime, a Collector to the district. Post Indian Independence, Kancheepuram city became the headquarters of Chengalpattu district with effect from 1 July 1968. Then the Chengalpattu-MGR district was split into two as Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur Districts from 01.07.1997. Thus the new Kancheepuram District was formed from 01.07.1997, comprising of 8 Taluks, viz, Kancheepuram, Sriperumbudur, Uthiramerur, Chengalpattu, Tambaram, Tirukalukundram, Madrandakam and Cheyyur.

Geography and Climate

Kancheepuram district is situated on the North East coast of Tamil Nadu. It is bound by Bay of Bengal in the East, Vellore and Thiruvannamalai districts in the west, Thiruvallur and Chennai districts in the north, and Villuppuram district in the south. It lies between 11° 00' to 12° 00' North latitudes and 77° 28' to 78° 50' East longitudes. The district has a total geographical area of 4,43,210 hectares and a coastline of 57 km. The table below shows the maximum and minimum temperatures experienced in the district during different seasons.

	Summer	Winter
Max.	45.0 °C (113.0 °F)	28.7 °C (83.7 °F)
Min.	21.1 °C (70.0 °F)	14.0 °C (57.2 °F)

The pre-monsoon rainfall is almost uniform throughout the district. The coastal regions receive more rainfall than the interior ones. The district is mainly dependent on the monsoon rains. Failure of monsoon leads to distress condition. Northeast and Southwest monsoon are the major donors, with 54% and 36% contribution each to the total annual rainfall. During normal monsoon, the district receives a rainfall of 1200 mm.

Demographics

The Kancheepuram district had a population of 28,77,468 as of 2001. It is 53.34% urbanised. The literacy of the district is 77.61%



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

Kanyakumari District(also spelled *Kanniyakumari* or *Kanniakumari District*) is a district of Tamil Nadu state, India; it is the southernmost land area of mainland India. Kanyakumari District is the smallest of the 32 districts of Tamil Nadu state. The district takes its name from the tourist town of Kanyakumari, which is at the tip of the Indian Peninsula and faces the Indian Ocean. The administrative capital of the district is Nagercoil, which is 20 km from Kanyakumari town. The district has the best literacy rate in the state and is considered the best educated district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu by the HRD Ministry. It is the third most developed district in the state and is leading in most of the parameters.

History

The town of Kanyakumari is geographically a cape, and it was known earlier as *Cape Comorin*. Since ancient times, Kanyakumari District has consisted of two geographical areas, known locally as *Nanjilnadu* and *Idainadu*. The etymologists interpret the word *Nanjilnadu* as the country ("nadu") where there were (and still has) several agriculture plantations and fields. *Nanjilnadu* is mentioned in old Tamil literature as a rich agrarian area, where the town of Kottar, (today, a locality in Nagercoil) as a major commercial centre. For about four centuries, Venad was ruled by powerful kings who were consistently making incursions into the Pandyan territories. As a result the Vijayanagar kings proceeded against Venad. In 1609 Kanyakumari fell into the hands of Viswanatha Nayak of Madurai, while the remaining parts of Nanjilnadu was under Venad. Later Venad was expanded towards the Northern Kerala, and came to be known as Thiruvithankoor or Travancore. Padmanabhapuram near Nagercoil was the capital of Travancore. The rule of the Travancore royals finally ceased in 1947 when Travancore had to join the independent Indian Union. In 1949, Kanyakumari district became part of the newly constituted Travancore-Cochin state. The majority of the people of South Travancore Taluks (Kanyakumari District) were Tamil-speaking and a popular agitation for merging the Tamil majority areas of South Travancore to Madras State (now Tamil Nadu) was started during this period. The State Reorganisation Commission of India also recommended this. Accordingly, the Indian *States Reorganisation Act of 1956* was passed and Kanyakumari District was formed on 1 November 1956 with the four Taluks, Viz., Agasteeswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode from Travancore, merged with Tamil Nadu.

Geography and Climate

Kanyakumari is the smallest district in Tamil Nadu, with a land spread of 1,684 km² and has varied ecosystems - forests, wetlands, freshwater resources and marine as similar to Kerala. Based on a 50 year study, it is found that during the North-East monsoon, between October and December, a precipitation of 549 mm is received in 24 rainy days and during the South-West Monsoon 537 mm is received from June to September in 27 rainy days. In summer, 332 mm of rainfall is received in 11 rainy days between March and May. The annual average rainfall in the district is 1465 mm with a maximum of around 247 mm in October and a minimum of 21 mm in February. Relative humidity ranges between 60 to 100%.

Demographics

As of 2001, the district had a population of 1,676,034 and 65.2% of the district is urbanised. It has a high population density of 995.7 persons per km² and is one of the highest literate regions with a total literacy rate of 87.6. The district also has a high female sex ratio of 1014 females born to every 1000 males.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

KARUR DISTRICT

Karur District is located center along the Kaveri & Amaravathi rivers in Tamil Nadu India. The main town in Karur District is the city of Karur. It had a population of 935,686 as of 2001. It is 33.27% urbanized as per Census 2001. The district has a literacy of 81.74%.

History

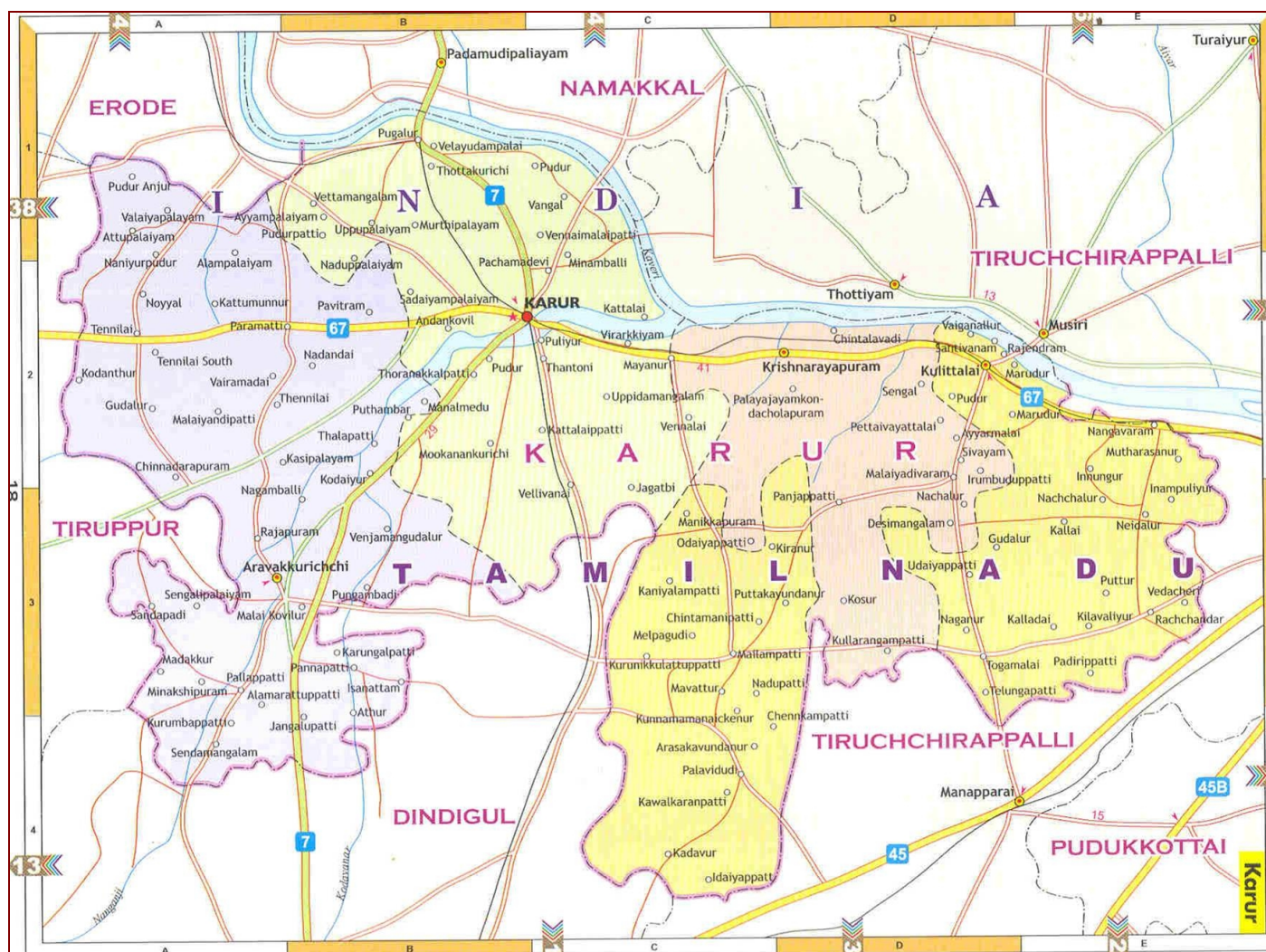
Karur was built on the banks of River Amaravathi which was called *Aanporunai* during the Sangam days. The names of the early Chera kings who ruled from Karur, have been found in the rock inscriptions in Aru Nattar Malai close to Karur. The Tamil epic Silapathikaram mentions that the famous Chera King Senguttuvan ruled from Karur. In 150 AD Greek scholar Ptolemy mentioned **Korevora** (Karur) as a very famous inland trading center in Tamil Nadu. After the Sangam Cheras, Kongus (Gangas), a Chera related native clan ruled Karur. After them, their arch rivals Cholas conquered Karur and ruled it for next forty years. The Kongus (Gangas) again conquered Karur as vassals of Hoysalas. The Muslim looter Malik Kafur ended the Hoysalas and Vijayanagara empire absorbed Karur. Thereafter, Karur was a part of the Mysore state. The hanging of Tipu and defeat of Dheeran Chinnamalai broke up Kongu Nadu and Karur was absorbed into the Tiruchirappalli district by the British. Karur is also a part of Kongu Nadu. The history of Kongu nadu dates back to the 8th century. The name Kongunadu originated from the term "Kongu", meaning nectar or honey. Kongu came to be called as Kongu nadu with the growth of civilization. The ancient Kongunadu country was made up of various districts and taluks which are currently known as Palani, Dharapuram, Karur, Nammakkal, Thiruchengodu, Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Satyamangalam, Nilgiris, Avinashi, Coimbatore, Pollachi and Udumalpet.

Geography and Climate

Karur is located at 10°57' N 78°4' E has an average elevation of 122 metres (400 feet). Its about 371 km south west of Chennai (Madras), the capital of Tamil Nadu. The highest temperature is obtained in early May to early June usually about 34°C, though it usually exceeds 38°C for a few days most years. Average daily temperature in Karur during January is around 23°C, though the temperature rarely falls below 17°C. The average annual rainfall is about 725 mm. It gets most of its seasonal rainfall from the north-east monsoon winds, from late September to mid November.

Demographics

As of 2001, the district had a population of 935,686. It is 33.27% urbanized population. The district has a literacy of 81.74%.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

KRISHNAGIRI DISTRICT

The **Krishnagiri District** is a district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. The city of Krishnagiri is the district headquarters.

History

Krishnagiri District has a prehistoric importance. Archaeological sources confirm the presence of habitats of man kind during Paleolithic, Neolithic and Mesolithic Ages. Various rock paintings and rock carvings of Indus Valley civilization and Iron Age seen in this district support the historical significance of this district. The majestic fort built on the Krishnagiri hill by the Vijayanagar Emperors, stands as testimony even now. Kundani, a place in Krishnagiri District was once the head quarters of the Hoysala King Veera Ramanathan in the 13th Century AD. Jagadevarayan, a Hoysala king made 'Jagadevi' (one of the 'Bara Mahal' forts) as his capital. Rayakottai, once a strong hold of the British, lost its importance for defense by 1880 AD. Many soldiers from Krishnagiri region took part in the World War and lost their lives. Even today a large number of youth from this district are in the services of the Indian army. Krishnagiri district had its fair share of freedom fighters in the Indian freedom struggle. Prominent amongst them was Dr. C. Rajagopalachari, who, from a small village in this district rose to become the first Governor General of independent India and also the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Till the year 2004 Krishnagiri was a part of the Dharmapuri district. It was then separated from Dharmapuri district and formed as the 30th district separate district of Tamil Nadu in 2004.

Geography & Climate

Krishnagiri district covers an area of 5143 km². Krishnagiri district is bound by **vellore** and **thiruvannamalai** districts to the east, state of **karnataka** to the west, state of **andhra pradesh** to the north and **dharmapuri district** to the south. This district is elevated from 300m to 1400m above the mean sea level. It is located between 11° 12'n to 12° 49'n latitude, 77° 27'e to 78° 38'e longitude. It basically has a mountainous terrain. The flatlands are irrigated by the south pennar river. The eastern part of the district experiences hot climate and the western part contrastingly has a pleasant climate. The average rainfall is 830 mm per annum. March - June is the summer season. July - November is the rainy season and during December - February winter prevails.

Demographics

The district has a population of 15,46,700. It has a literacy of 58.11%, one of the lowest in the state. It is only 16.42% urbanised as per Census 2001, while Tamil Nadu state is the most urbanized state in India.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

MADURAI DISTRICT

Madurai district is one of the 32 districts of the state of Tamil Nadu, in southeastern India. The city of Madurai serves as the district headquarters. It houses the world famous Sri Meenakshi Sundareshwarar temple and is situated on the banks of river Vaigai. The temple with its four big towers (gopurams) and many other small towers is a treat to the eyes.

History

It is narrated in legend that Madurai was originally a forest known as Kadambavanam. One day, a farmer named Dhananjaya who was passing through the forest, saw Indra (The king of the gods), worshipping a swayambhu (self created Lingam) under kadamba tree. Dhananjaya, the farmer immediately reported this to King Kulasekara Pandya. Kulasekara Pandya cleared the forest and built a temple around the Lingam. A city was soon planned with the temple as its centre. On the day the city was to be named, Lord Shiva is said to have appeared and drops of nectar from his hair fell on the town. So, the place was named Madurai - mathuram meaning "sweetness" in Tamil. Madurai, also known as "Athens of the East", is the third largest city in Tamil Nadu. The main kingdoms which ruled Madurai during various times are the Pandyas and the Nayaks. Obviously Madurai is called as "Thoonga Nagaram" Madurai called as temple city. Now after India's independence, Madurai is one of the major districts of Tamilnadu State. In 1984, the Vast Madurai district was bifurcated into two districts namely Madurai and Dindugul Districts. Subsequently in 1997, Madurai district was bifurcated into two districts namely Madurai and Theni Districts. In Madurai District, there are 10 State Assembly constituencies and two parliament constituencies.

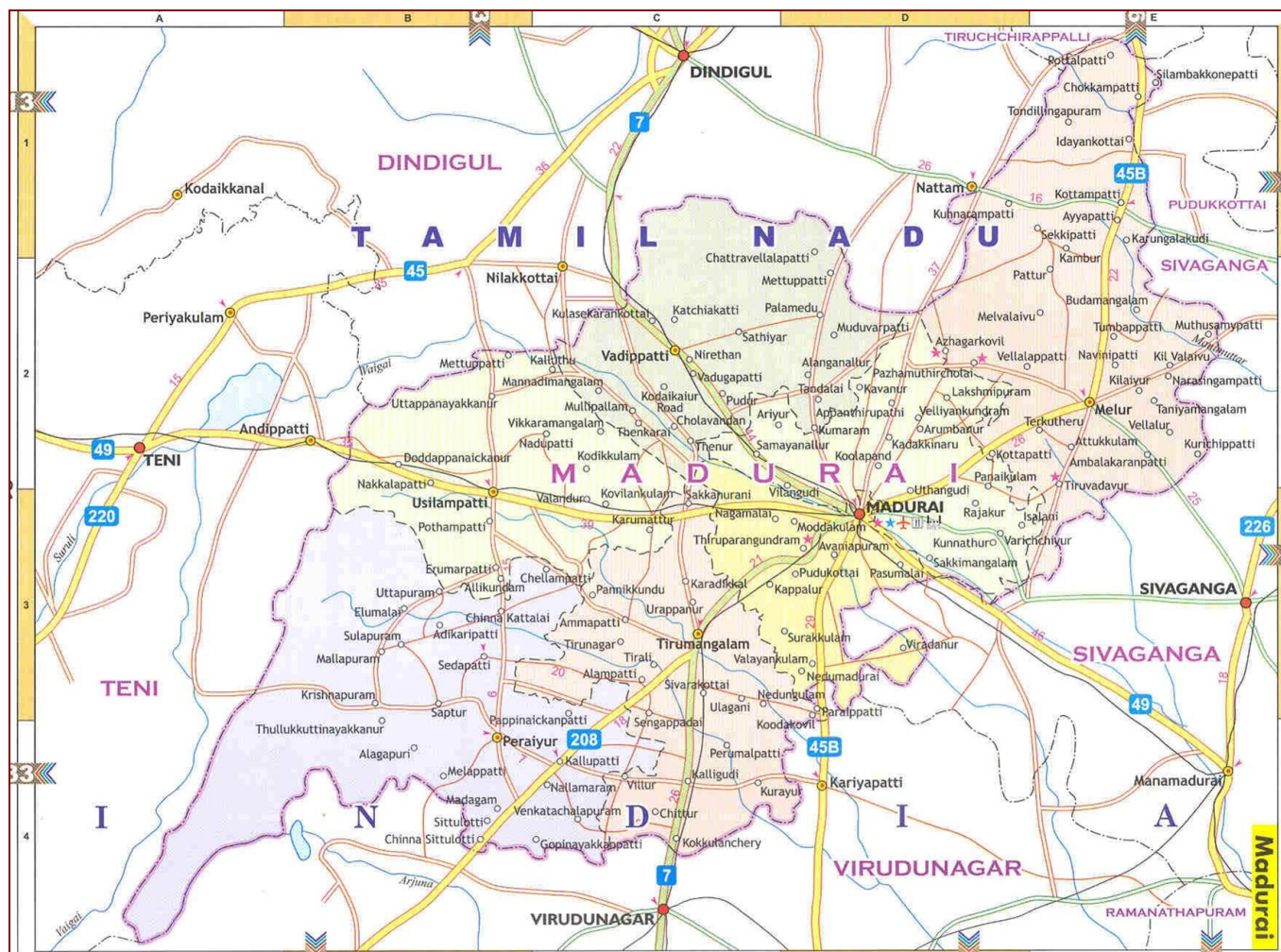
Geography and Climate

Madurai district **located between** 9°30.00 and 10°30.00 North Latitude and 77°00.00 and 78°30.00 East Latitude. It has an area of 3741.73 Square K.m.

Demographics

As per the 2001 census data the district's population details are given in the table below.

Population	25,78,201
(a) Males	13,03,363
(b) Females	12,74,838
(c) Rural	11,34,025
(d) Urban	14,44,176



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT

Nagapattinam District is a coastal district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. The town of Nagapattinam is the district headquarters

History

Nagapattinam District was formerly a part of Thanjavur District. The district boundary is shared by Tiruvarur, Karaikal, Tanjore and Cuddalore districts. Its population at the 2001 Census was nearly 1.5 million. It is divided into seven taluks. All but two of them are coastal, and all are named after their main towns, which are their administrative centres. From north to south, they are Sirkazhi, Tharangambadi, Mayiladuthurai (non-coastal), Nagapattinam, Kilvelur, Thirukkuvalai (non-coastal), and Vedaranyam. It is bordered on the east by the Bay of Bengal and on the south by the Palk Strait. On the coast between Tharamgambadi and Nagapattinam lies the small district of Karaikal, an enclave belonging administratively to the Pondicherry Union Territory.

This is the only district in Tamil Nadu to be formed out of two disjoint regions. The district headquarters Nagapattinam is located in the southern part which is less populated than the northern one. But people from the most populous northern part have to come down all the way to headquarters either by entering other district (Thiruvarur) or other Union territory (Karaikal of Puducherry) for any official purposes.

Geography and Climate

The District of Nagapattinam lies on the shores of the Bay of Bengal between Northern Latitude 10.7906 degrees and 79.8428 Degrees Eastern Longitude an area of 2715. Velankanni is tourism place of Tamil Nadu 83 Square kilometers in its fold. The District capital, Nagapattinam lies on the eastern coast, 350 kilometers down south of the State capital Chennai and 145 kilometers east of Tiruchirappalli. The climate details of the district are given below

Temperature	Maximum	32.00°C
	Minimum	24.60°C
Rain fall		
South West	Normal	265.0 mm
North East	Normal	908.8 mm

Demographics

It had a population of 1,488,839 as of 2001. It is 22.18% urbanised as per Census 2001. The district has a literacy of 76.89%, around the average in the state.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

NAMAKKAL DISTRICT

Namakkal District is an administrative district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. The district was bifurcated from Salem District with Namakkal town as Head Quarters on 25-07-1996 and started to function independently from 01-01-1997. The district has 4 taluks (subdivisions); Tiruchengode, Namakkal, Rasipuram and Velur (in descending order of population) and has two Revenue Divisions; Namakkal and Tiruchengode. It was ranked second in a comprehensive Economic Environment index ranking of districts in Tamil Nadu not including Chennai prepared by Institute for Financial Management and Research in August 2009.

History

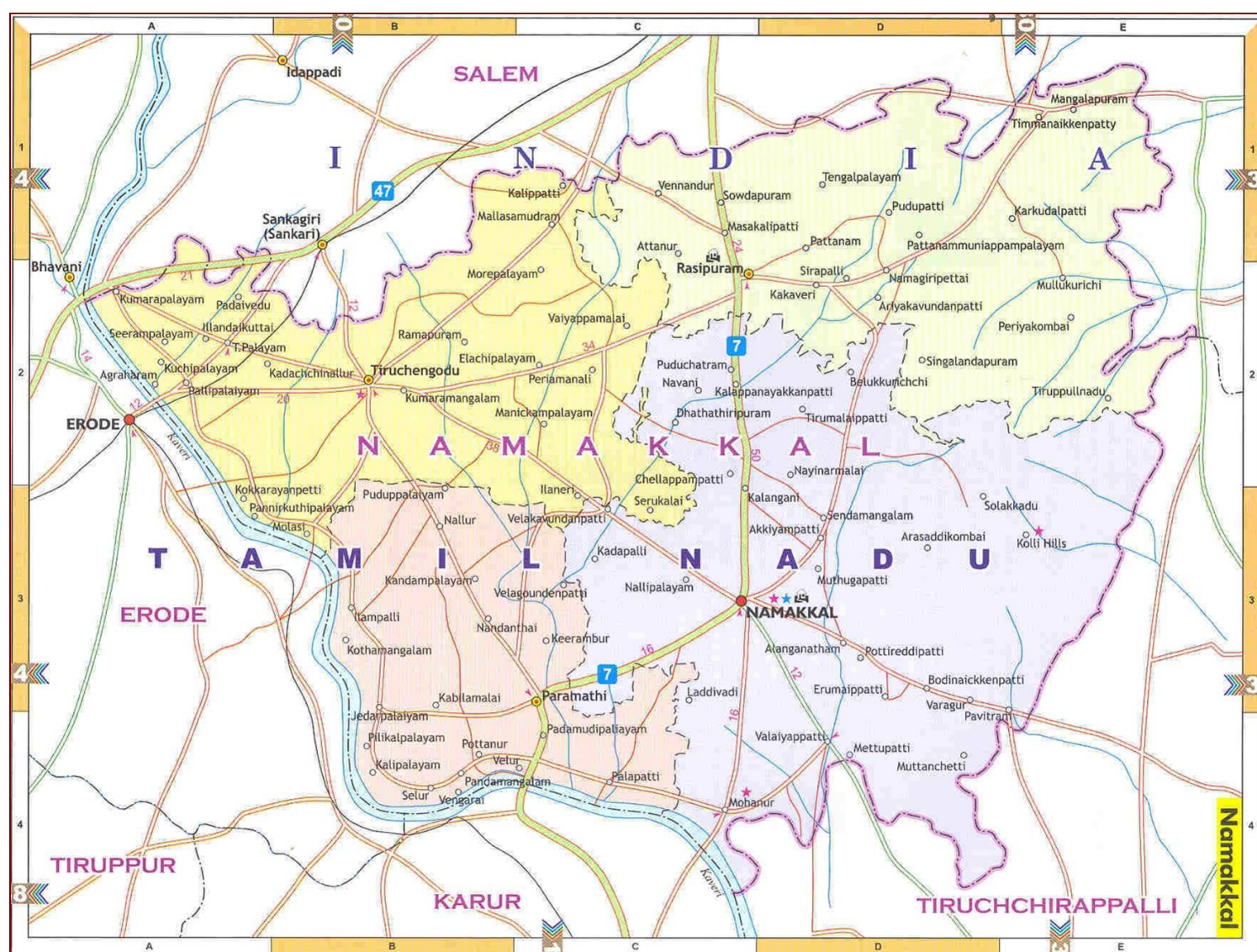
After the struggle between the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas, the Hoysalas rose to power and had control till the 14th century followed by Vijayanagara Empire till 1565 AD. Then the Madurai Nayakas came to power in 1623 AD. Two of the Poligans of Tirumalai Nayak namely, Ramachandra Nayaka and Gatti Mudaliars ruled the Salem area. The Namakkal fort is reported to have been built by Ramchandra Nayaka. After about 1635 AD, the area came successively under the rule of Muslim Sultans of Bijapur and Golkonda, Mysore kings and then the Marattas, when about the year 1750 AD Hyder Ali came to power. During this period, it was a history of power struggle between Hyder Ali and later Tippu Sultan, with the British.

Geography

Namakkal district is bounded by Salem district on the north; on the east by Attur taluk of Salem district, Perambalur and Tiruchirapalli District's; by Karur district on the south and on the west by Erode district. Namakkal District comes under the North Western Agro climatic zone of Tamil Nadu. It is situated in the dividing portion of two watersheds between Cauvery and the Vellar System with the Taluks of Attur, Rasipuram and Namakkal on the East and Salem, Omalur and Mettur on the West. Tiruchengode taluk alone is placed under Western Agro-climatic zone. Besides the above two zones, Kolli and a few isolated hills and ridges are scattered over Namakkal, Rasipuram and Tiruchengode and along with the valleys and rolling hills, make up the characteristic topography of the district.

Demographics

The district has a population of 1,493,462 as of 2001. It is 36.51% urbanised as per Census 2001. The literacy level of Namakkal district according to figures available for the year 1996 is 48.97% with male literacy level being more than the female literacy level. It is also observed while the male literacy level has grown steadily from 51.85% in 1981 to 57.61% in 1996, there has been a significant increase of female literacy level from 27.51% in 1981 to 39.89% in 1996.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

NILGIRIS DISTRICT

The **Nilgiris District** is in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. (**Nilgiri** or **Blue Mountains** when translated into English) is also the name given to a range of mountains spread across the states of Tamilnadu as well as Karnataka and Kerala. The Nilgiri Hills are part of a larger mountain chain known as the Western Ghats. The highest point is the mountain of Doddabetta, with a height of 2,623 m. The district is mainly contained within this mountain range. The district headquarters is Udhagamandalam, popularly know as Ooty. It was ranked first in a comprehensive Economic Environment index ranking of districts in Tamil Nadu not including Chennai prepared by Institute for Financial Management and Research in August 2009.

History

The Nilgiri hills have a history going back a good many centuries. It is not known why they were called the Blue Mountains. Several sources cite the reason as the smoky haze enveloping the area, while other sources say it is because of the *kurunji* flower, which blooms every twelve years giving the slopes a bluish tinge.

It was only around the beginning of the 1800s that the English unsuccessfully considered surveying this area. Around 1810 or so the East India Company decided to delve into the jungles here. John Sullivan who was then the Collector of Coimbatore, just south of the Nilgiris, sent two surveyors to make a comprehensive study of the hills. They went as far as the lower level of Ooty, but failed to see the complete valley..The original discovery however, is attributed to J.C. Whish and N.W. Kindersley, working for the Madras Civil Service, who made a journey in 1819 and who reported back to their superiors that they had discovered "the existence of a tableland possessing a European climate."

Geography and climate

The district has an area of 2,452.50 sq.km.^[3] The district is basically a hilly region, situated at an elevation of 2000 to 2,600 meters above MSL. Almost the entire district lies in the Western ghats. Its latitudinal and longitudinal dimensions being 130 KM (Latitude : 10 - 38 WP 11-49N) by 185 KM (Longitude : 76.0 E to 77.15 E). The Nilgiris district is bounded by Mysore district of Karnataka and Wayanad district of Kerala in the North, Malappuram and Palakkad districts of Kerala in the West, Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu in the South and Erode district of Tamil Nadu and Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka in the East. During summer the temperature remains to the maximum of 25°C and reaches a minimum of 10°C. During winter the temperature reaches a maximum of 20°C and a minimum of 0°C. The district usually receives rain both during South West Monsoon and North East Monsoon. The entire Gudalur and Pandalaur, Kundah Taluks and portion of Udhagamandalam Taluk receive rain by the South West Monsoon and some portion of Udhagamandalam Taluk and the entire Coonoor and Kotagiri Taluks are benefited by the rains of North East Monsoon. There are 16 rainfall registering stations in the district The average annual rainfall of the district is 1,920.80 mm.

Demographics

It had a population of 7,62,141 as of 2001 and is 59.65% urbanised.^[4] The district has a literacy of 81.44%, one of the highest in the state. There are several tribes living in the Nilgiris, whose origins are uncertain. The best known of these are the Toda people, whose culture is based upon cattle, and whose red, black and white embroidered shawls, and silver jewelry is much sought after. The district is also home to the Paniya tribes and the Badaga people



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

PERAMBALUR DISTRICT

Perambalur is an administrative district in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. The district headquarters are located at Perambalur. The district occupies an area of 1,752 km² and has a population of 4,93,646 (as of 2001). It is 16.05% urbanised as per the 2001 Census. Perambalur district is a centrally located inland district of Tamilnadu, spread over 3,69,007 ha, which was trifurcated from the erstwhile composite Tiruchirappalli district and was formed on 1 November 1995. The district is bounded by Cuddalore district in the north, Tiruchirappalli district in the south, Thanjavur in the east and Namakkal and Tiruchirappalli districts in the west. The total geographical area of the district is 3,69,007 ha, and net sown area and gross sown area are 2,16,422 ha and 2,37,136 ha, respectively. The net area under irrigation is 71,624 ha.

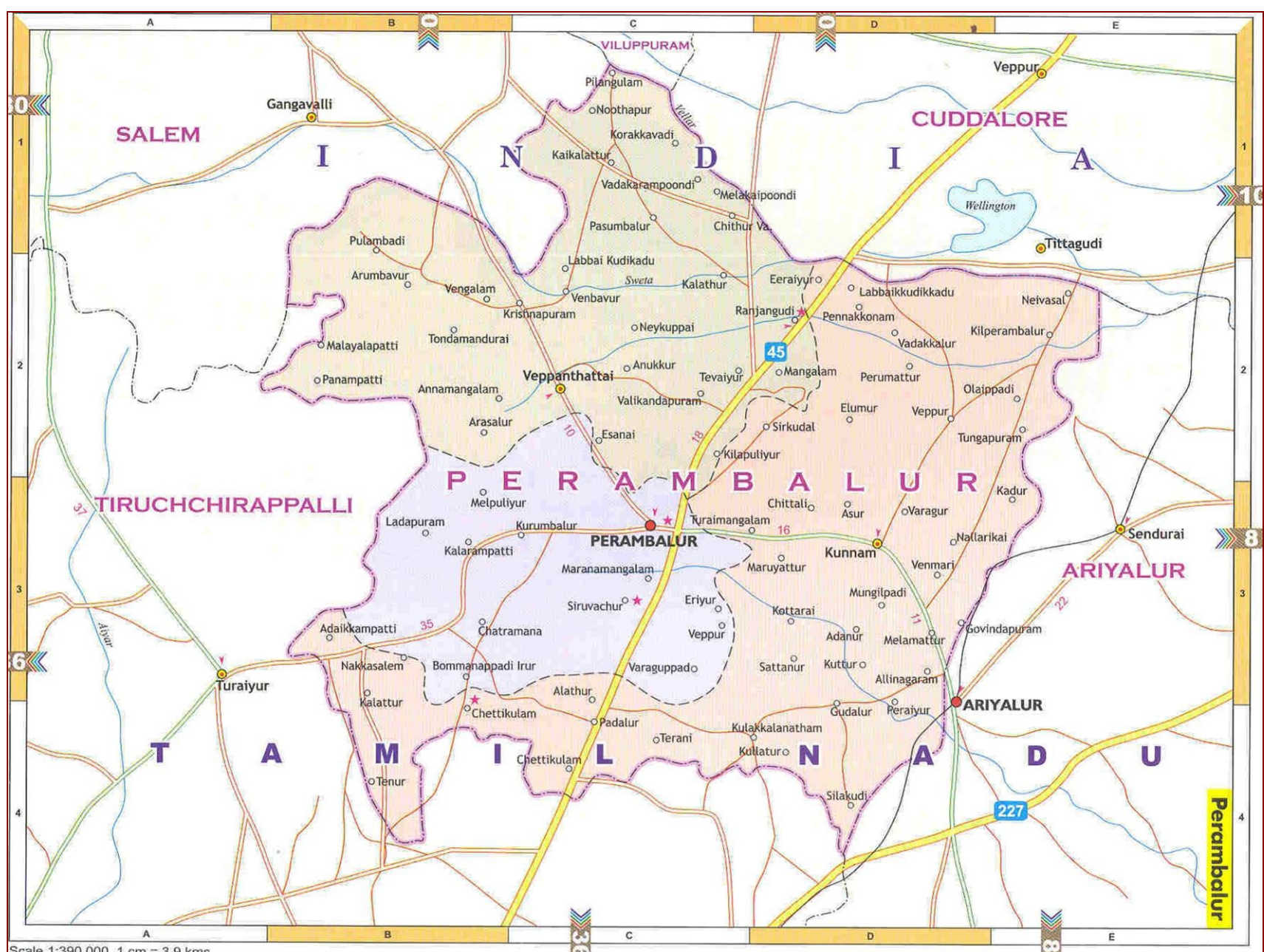
Geography

The district lies in the Southern plateau & hill zone of Agro-climate regional planning with characteristics of semi-arid climate. The soil is predominantly red loamy and black soil. The normal rainfall of the district is 908 mm which is less than 946.9 mm, the normal rainfall of the State. The precipitation during northeast monsoon, southwest monsoon and remaining winter & hot weather period account for 52%, 34% and 14% of annual rainfall, respectively.

Cauvery is the major river flowing in the region and the composite district has a canal system covering just 47 km stretch and ayacut of 11,610 ha. The ground water resource through tubewells and wells contribute nearly 68% of irrigated area command. The major crops grown in the district are paddy, groundnut, sugarcane and millets. Cashew is the major plantation crop.

Demographics

The total population of the district as per the 2001 census is 11,81,029 of which 5,88,441 are males and 5,92,588 are females. The birth rate is at 21.6 and the death rate at 7.7. The density of population of the district per sq. km is 281 persons, against the state average of 429 persons. The district has a literacy of 65.88%, one of the lowest in the state



TAMILNADU

PUDUKOTAI DISTRICT

PUDUKOTAI District is a district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. The city of PUDUKOTAI is the district headquarters. It is also known colloquially as *Pudhugai*. PUDUKOTAI district is bounded on the northeast and east by Thanjavur District, on the southeast by the Palk Strait, on the southwest by Ramanathapuram and SHIVAGANGA districts, and on the west and northwest by Tiruchirappalli District

History

PUDUKOTAI was formerly one of the princely states of India. It was under different dynasties during the first half of the 15th century and under Mughals till the 17th century. Thereafter PUDUKOTAI came under the suzerainty of the Thondaiman Kings who had reigned the state till it was merged with the Government of India after independence. The Thondaiman Kings were noted for the able and clean administration. During their rule they have augmented creation of irrigation sources for agriculture, evolved a sound revenue administration, education systems etc., The palatial administrative buildings for public offices constructed during their period are still remaining as monuments and serving the same purpose till date. The noted British administrator Alexander Loftus Tottenham was the administrative executive under the Thondaiman rulers. He evolved the famous "Tottenham System" of file maintenance and other office procedures, which are still being followed by government departments with a little change then and there.

Geography and Climate

PUDUKOTAI District was carved out of Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur districts in January 1974. The district has an area of 4663 Sq. Km. with a coast line of 39 Kms. The district lies between 78.25' and 79.15' of the Eastern Longitude and between 9.50' and 10.40' of the Northern Latitude. It is bounded by Tiruchirappalli district in the North and West, SHIVAGANGA district in the South, Bay of Bengal in the East and Thanjavur district in the North East

PUDUKOTAI receives 350mm rains during south-west monsoon and 418mm rains in north east monsoon. Mean Maximum temperature of the district is 38.6 degree Celsius and minimum mean temperature is 19.5 degree Celsius.

Demographics

According to 2001 Population census the total population of the District is 14,59,601 out of which 7,24,300 are males and 7,35,301 are females.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

Ramanathapuram District is an administrative district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. The city of Ramanathapuram is the district headquarters..

History

The early 15th Century the present territories of Ramanathapuram district comprising of taluks Tiruvadana, Paramakudi, Kamuthi, Mudukulathur, Ramanathapuram and Rameswaram were included in Pandyan Empire. For a short period, this area was under the Chola Kings when Rajendra Chola brought it under his territory in 1063 AD. In 1520 AD., the Nayaks of Vijaynagar took over this area under their control from the Pandyan dynasty for about two centuries, Marava chieftains-Sethupathis who were Lords under Pandiyan Kings and reigned over this part (17th century). At the beginning of the 18th century, family disputes over succession resulted in the division of Ramanathapuram.

After the period of Sethupathis, in 1910, Ramanathapuram was formed by clubbing portions from Madurai and Tirunelveli district. This district was named as Ramanathapuram. During the British period this district was called "Ramnad". The name continued after independence. Later the district was renamed as Ramanathapuram to be in conformity with the Tamil Name for this region. Now Chittarkottai is a Panchayat in the district. Couple of years back Indian Archaeological Department found some ancient potteries in Theriruvveli which is 32 KM away from Ramanathapuram. So it proves that, it have the ancient history.

Geography and Climate

Ramanathapuram district has an area of 4123 km². It is bounded on the north by SHIVAGANGA district, on the northeast by PUDUKOTAI district, on the east by the palk strait, on the south by the gulf of mannar, on the west by thoothukudi district, and on the northwest by virudhunagar district. North latitude between 9 05 and 9 50, east longitude between 78 10 and 79.27. The district contains the Indian portion of Pamban's Bridge, an east-west chain of low islands and shallow reefs that extend between India and the island nation of Sri Lanka, and separate the Palk Strait from the Gulf of Mannar. The Palk Strait is presently navigable only by shallow-draft vessels. The district has a hot tropical climate temperature ranging from 22.3 C (min) to 37.8 C (max) and the relative humidity is high at 79% on an average and it ranges between 80% to 90% in coastal areas

Demographics

It has a population of 11,87,604 (as of 2001). It is 25.46% urbanised. The district has a literacy of 73.05%, slightly below the average for the state. Hindus form the majority of the population with 78.15%, followed by Muslims at 14.66%, Christians at 7.08% and others at 0.11%



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

SALEM DISTRICT

Salem District is a district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. The city of Salem is the district headquarters. Other major towns in the district are Mettur, Omalur and Attur. The district is well connected by rail and road networks. Salem district is known for its mangoes, steel and Mettur dam, which is a major source of irrigation and drinking water for the state of Tamil Nadu.

History

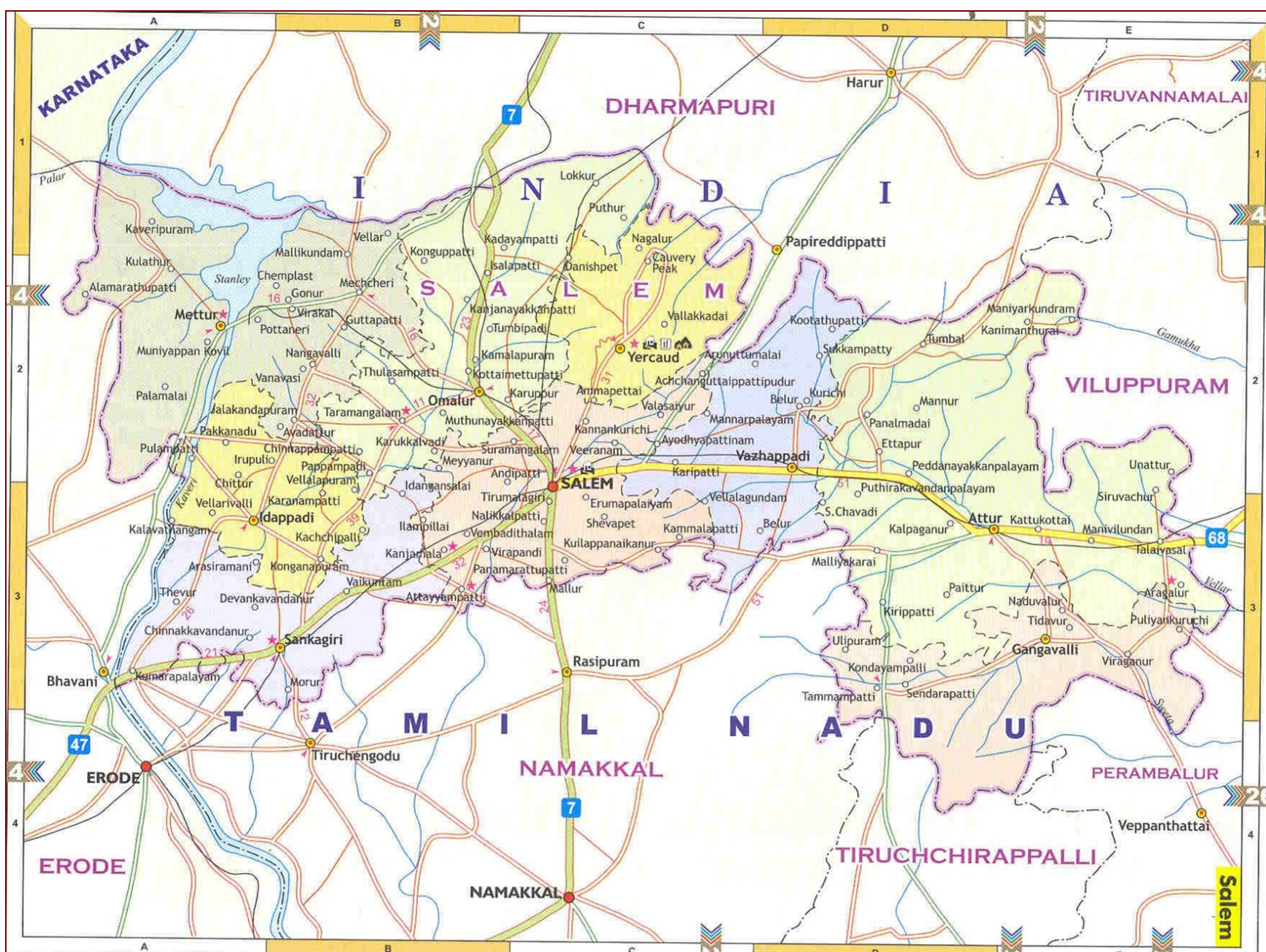
Salem was the largest district in Tamil Nadu before it was bifurcated into two districts: Salem and Dharmapuri. Later, Salem district was again divided with the formation of the Namakkal district. The first cinema theater named Modern Theaters was in Salem^[citation needed]. Salem is the fourth urbanized city next to Madurai, in Tamil Nadu

Geography and Climate

Salem is a geologist's paradise, surrounded by hills and the landscape dotted with hillocks. Salem has a vibrant culture dating back to the ancient Kongu Nadu. As a district, Salem has its significance in various aspects. Yercaud is one of the important tourism destinations in Salem district. North Latitude Between 11 14' and 12 53', East Longitude Between 77 44' and 78 50'. Salem has an area of 5205 Area (Sq.km). Salem records a maximum temperature of 37.9 degree Celsius and 18.9 degree Celsius as minimum. During south west monsoon Salem receives 380mm rains and 341mm in north east monsoon.

Demographics

It had a population of 30,16,346 as of the census of 2001. It is 46.09% urbanised.^[1] The district has a literacy rate of 65.72%, one of the lowest rates in the state. It has a large Gounder population.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

SHIVAGANGA DISTRICT

SHIVAGANGA District is an administrative district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. The city of SHIVAGANGA is the district headquarters. Karaikudi is another important city in the district. Karaikudi known as the capital of Chettinad, which includes Karaikudi and the surrounding 74 villages. Chettinad is named for the prominent "Nattukottai Chettiars" or Nagarathar. The Chettiars were a prosperous banking community who ventured overseas to do business in South and Southeast Asia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Karaikudi is also home of two famous Institutions, Alagappa University and CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute).

History

SHIVAGANGA District has been carved out from composite Ramnad District as per G.O. MS. No. 1122 Rev. Dept. Dated. 6.7.84 and the District was functioning from 15.3.85 as per G.O Ms.No. 346 Rev. dept. Dated: 8.3.85. The Kingdom of Ramnad originally comprised the territories of Ramnad, SHIVAGANGA and Pudukottai of today. Regunatha Sethupathy alias Kilavan Sethupathy, the 7th King of Ramnad reigned between 1674 and 1710. Kilavan Sethupathy, came to know of the bravery and valour of Peria Oodaya Thevar of Nalukottai, 4 Kilometres from Sholapuram near SHIVAGANGA. Kattaya Thevan divided Ramnad into five parts and retained three for himself. He granted the two parts to Sasivarna Thevar of Nalukottai conferring on him the title of "Rajah Muthu Vijaya Regunatha Peria Oodaya Thevar

Geography and Climate

SHIVAGANGA district of Tamil Nadu spreads over 4,189 km². The geographical position of SHIVAGANGA district is between 9° 43' and 10° 2' North Latitude and between 77° 47' and 78° 49' East Longitude. It is bounded on the north and northeast by PUDUKOTAI District, on the southeast and south by Ramanathapuram District, on the southwest by Virudhunagar District, and on the west by Madurai District, and on the northwest by Tiruchirappalli District. Sivagana receives 390mm rains during south-west monsoon and 300mm rains in north east monsoon.

Demographics

The district has a population of 1,150,753 with male population 565,594 and female 585,159 (as of 2001). Rural population is 826,427 and urban population is 324,326. It is 28.22% urbanised. ^[2] It has a population density of 274.7. The district has a literacy of 52.5%, below the average for the state. Tamil is the principal language spoken in the district. Hindus formed the majority of the population.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

THANJAVUR DISTRICT

Thanjavur District is one of the 32 districts of the state of Tamil Nadu, in southeastern India. Its headquarters is Thanjavur. Thanjavur District is the Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu. The Big Temple and the other famous temples in the district are known all over the world. Thanjavur was the cultural capital of the country in 1790. Thanjavur gained prominence during the period of Chola Kings, who made it as their capital. Thereafter, it was ruled by Nayaks and Maratta Kings, who nurtured art and culture. The cultural, the architectural and the scholarly pursuits of these rulers are reflected in the great monuments like Grand Anaicut, Big Temple and Serfoji Mahal Library etc. in the district.

History

Thanjavur district stands unique from time immemorial for its agricultural activities and is rightly acclaimed as the Granary of the South India lying in the deltaic region of the famous river Cauvery and criss-crossed by lengthy network of irrigation canals, this coastal district abounds in green paddy fields, tall coconut groves, vast gardens of mango and plantain trees and other verdant vegetation. Various testimonials available in the ancient Tamil literature referring to the Cauvery as possessing the sanctity of the Ganges in conformity with the legendry and mythological stories attributed to its divine origin, rightly point out why the river is popularly called the 'Mother Cauvery' and its sacredness is evident from 'Kaviri-Thala-Puranam'. The river has also been named 'Ponni' because it is yielding 'pon' -Gold in the form of paddy. That is why it is said with pride that every iota of the earth of Thanjavur is equal to an iota of gold. The tillers in Tamil literature have been rightly called as 'Kauvirippudhalvars' - the sons of the Cauvery as they alone are worthy of this title for the rich production of grains in this fertile soil.

Geography and Climate

Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu spreads over 3396.57 km² North Latitude 9.50' and 11.25', East Longitude 78.45' and 79.25', The district is in Central Tamil Nadu bounded on the northeast by Nagapattinam District, on the east by Tiruvarur District, on the south by the Palk Strait, of Bay of Bengal on the west by PUDUKOTAI District, and on the north by the river Kollidam, across which lie Tiruchirappalli and Perambalur districts.

Demographics

It had a population of 2,216,138 as of 2001. It is 33.78% urbanised. The district has a literacy rate of 75.45%, 10.51% above the average for the state. The Thanjavur district comprised the heartland of the Chola Empire and as a result, was an important centre of Brahminism. The *Imperial Gazetteer of India* 1908 lists Thanjavur, along with the South Canara and Ganjam districts, as the three districts of the Madras Presidency where Brahmins are most numerous



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

THENI DISTRICT

Theni District is a district of Tamil Nadu state in South India. The city of Theni is the district headquarters. The district is divided into two natural divisions: The hilly areas constituted by parts of the three taluks Periyakulam, Uthamapalayam and Andipatti with thick vegetation and perennial streams from the hills on the western side and Cumbum valley which lies in Uthamapalayam taluk.

History

Theni District was formed by the bifurcation from erstwhile Madurai District as per G.O. Ms. No. 679 Revenue Department Dated July 07, 1996. Consequent to the bifurcation, one new Revenue Division with headquarters at Uthamapalayam and two new Taluks at Theni and Bodinayakanur were also created with effect from January 1, 1997. Theni Municipal town was only a firka headquarters until December 31, 1996. Consequent to the formation of the new District, Theni Municipal Town was upgraded as the Taluk and District headquarters on January 01, 1997.

Geography

The 2,889 km² district lies at the foot of the **Western Ghats** between 9' 39' and 10' 30' North latitude and between 77' 00' and 78' 30' of East Longitude. Central location: **10°04'N 77°45'E**. The district is bounded by **Dindigul District** to the north, **Madurai District** to the east, **Virudhunagar District** to the southwest, and **Idukki** district of the **Kerala** State to the west. The district is home to Theni, **Periyakulam**, Bodinayakanur, **Cumbum**, Uthamapalayam, **Gudalur**, **Chinnamanur**, **Andipatti**, **Thevaram**, **Lakshmipuram** and several other small villages like **Kamatchipuram**. It is diversified by several ranges and hills. A range of hills which runs parallel to Western Ghats from north to south separate it from the neighboring state of **Kerala**. Climate- In the plains, the temperatures range from a minimum of 13 °C to a maximum of 39.5 °C. In the hills the temperatures can range from as low as 4-5 °C to 25 °C. The district is known for its salubrious climate, hills and lakes.

Demographics

As per Population Census 2001 total population of the district was 1093950 in which male were 552986, Females 540964



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

Thoothukudi District, also known as Tuticorin District, is a district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) is the district headquarters. It is also known for Pearl cultivation with abundance of pearls found in the seas of Thoothukudi.

History

Thoothukudi District carved out of the erstwhile Tirunelveli District on 20.10.1986 has certain rare features. The mixed landscape of the sea and the 'their (waste) lands has imbibed some special traits in the character of the sons of the soil. Valour and devotion with burning patriotism are the watchwords of the people here. The story of our country' freedom struggle cannot be complete without mentioning the supreme sacrifices of the illustrious sons of the district like V.O.Chidambaram Pillai who brought the first swadeshi ship "Galia" to the Tuticorin port and Veerapandi Kattabomman who waged a war against the British. The people's poet Subramania Bharathi ,born at Ettayapuram of this district were also the proud sons of the soil.

Geography and Climate

The area of the district is 4621 Sq.k.m. and the population is 1572273. The district has three revenue divisions, eight taluks, twelve blocks, two municipalities, twenty town panchayats and 468 revenue villages. Seven assembly constituencies are in this district. The No. of panchayat in the district is 408 The climate is hot and dry. The district has a coastal line of 135Kms. And territorial waters covering thousands of hectares. The district particularly in and around Tuticorin is the major salt producer in the state and contributes 30% of the total salt production of Tamil Nadu. Agriculture is the main occupation on which 70% of the people depend. But the recent boom in the industrial sector has put the district prominently in the country's industrial map. Heavy industries like Sterlite, SPIC, TAC, HWP and Thermal Power Plant promise hope for a bright future. Hundreds of ancillary units have also sprung up. Textile units and match industries crowd the Kovilpatti belt. The fast growing Tuticorin Port in the changing economic scenario has added pep to the development of the district.

Demographics

The total population of this district as per 2001 census is around fifteen lakhs. The density of population per Sq.km is 338 as against the 478 for the State. The sex ratio is 1049 females for every 1000 males. The percentage of literacy is 63. Fifty nine percent of the people live in the rural areas. The district has SC population of 2.5 lakhs which constitutes 17% of the total population.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMILNADU

TIRUCHIRAPALLI DISTRICT

Tiruchirapalli District (Tamil:) (also known as Tiruchchirapalli District / Trichy District) is located along the Kaveri River in Tamil Nadu India. The main town in Tiruchirapalli District is the city of Tiruchirapalli also known as Trichy.

History

Woraiyur , a part of present day Tiruchirappalli, was the capital city of Cholas from 300 B.C. onwards. This is supported by archaeological evidences and ancient literatures. There are also literary sources which tell that Woraiyur continued to be under the control of Cholas even during the days of Kalabhra interregnum (A.D. 300 - 575). Later, Woraiyur along with the present day Tiruchirappalli and its neighboring areas came under the control of Mahendra Varma Pallava I, who ascended the throne in A.D. 590. Till A.D. 880, according to the inscriptions, this region was under the hegemony of either the Pallvas or the Pandyas. It was in A.D. 880, Aditya Chola brought a downfall to the Pallava dynasty. From that time onwards Tiruchirappalli and its region became a part of Greater Cholas. In A.D. 1225 the area was occupied by the Hoysulas. Afterwards, it came under the rule of later Pandyas till the advent of Mughal Rule. Tiruchirappalli was for some time under the Mughal rule, which was put to an end by the Vijayanagar rulers. The Nayaks, the Governors of Vijayanagar empire, ruled this area till A.D. 1736. It was Viswanatha Nayaka who built the present day Teppakulam and the Fort. The Nayak dynasty came to an end during the days of Meenakshi. The Muslims rules this region again with the aid of either the French or the English armies. For some years, Tiruchirappalli was under the rule of Chanda Sahib and Mohamed Ali. Finally the English brought Tiruchirappalli and other areas under their control. Soon after the area was ceded to East India Company as per the agreement at the eve of the Kanatic war, Tiruchirappalli district was formed under the the Collectorship of Mr. John (Junior) Wallace in 1801. The district was then under the hegemony of British for about 150 years till the independence of India.

Geography and Climate

Tiruchirapalli district lies at the heart of Tamil Nadu. The district has an area of 4,404 square kilometers. It is bounded in the northwest by Namakkal District, in the northeast by Perambalur District, in the east by Thanjavur District, in the southeast by PUDUKOTAI District, in the south by Madurai district, in the southwest by Dindigul District and, in the west by Karur District. Kaveri river flows through the length of the district and is the principal source of irrigation and water supply. Maximum temperature of the district is 40.2 degree celsius and minimum temperature is 15.0 C. The district receives good rainfalls during North East Monsoon 356.1 in mm, South West Monsoon 270.3mm.

Demographics

It had a population of 2,418,366 as of 2001. It is 47.10% urbanised. The district has a literacy of 79.16%, higher than the state's average. Tamil is the principal language spoken and Tamils are the predominant linguistic group in the district. Considerable amount of Sri Lankan Tamils are found in the pockets of Tiruchirapalli. Hindus formed the majority of the population at 84.39% of the population followed by Christians at 9.02%, Muslims at 6.46% and others at 0.12%.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

Tirunelveli District is a district of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. The city of Tirunelveli is the district headquarters. A unique feature of this district is that it consists of all five geographical traditions of Tamil Literature; Kurinji (mountains), Mullai (forest), Marudham (paddy fields), Neithal (coastal) and Palai (desert). Tirunelveli District was formed on September 1, 1790^{[2][3]} by the East India Company (British Government) which comprises of present Tirunelveli and Tuticorin district and parts of Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram district. It is the second largest district as on October 2008 after Villupuram district.

History

Tirunelveli District was formed on September 1, 1790 (Tirunelveli Day) by the East India Company (British) and named it as Tinnevelly district though their headquarters was first located in Palayamkottai the adjacent city, where they had their military headquarters during their operations against the Palayakars. There are three reasons attributed for naming the district after Tirunelveli. The prime one is that it has been serving as the main city of the district and the second one is that it has been called as Tirunelveli Seemai under the Nayaks and Nawabs. Finally it served as the south capital in the period of Pandyan Empire. Both Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai grew as the twin cities of the district. In early 1900's, parts of Tirunelveli district was made as Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts. In 1986, Tirunelveli district was further split into two districts for administrative purpose such as Chidambaranar (present-day Thoothukudi) and Nellai-Kattabomman (later Tirunelveli-Kattabomman, present-day Tirunelveli) districts.

Geography and Climate

The district is located in the southern part of Tamil Nadu and surrounded by Virudhunagar District in the North, Western Ghats in the West, Kanyakumari District in the south and Thoothukudi District in the East. The district covers an area of 6,823 km². It lies between 8°.05' and 9°.30' of the Northern latitude and 77°.05' and 78°.25' of Eastern longitude. The district has diverse geographical and physical features. It has a lofty mountains a stretch of Western Ghats and low plains. It has a perennial river Tamirabarani and various other small seasonal rivers. This district is blessed with beautiful water falls and cascades. Its diverse features include sandy soil and fertile alluvium, a variety of flora, fauna and protected wild life. To add its beauty it has inland and mountainous forests.

The district has peculiar climate and receives rainfall in all the seasons which represent 953.1 mm in 2005-2006. Tirunelveli District benefits from both the North East Monsoon and the South West Monsoon. The maximum precipitation is contributed by the North East Monsoon at 548.7 mm followed by the South West Monsoon at 147.8 mm and the Summer 184.2 mm. The district is irrigated by several rivers originating in Western Ghats, like the Pachaiyar River which soon merges with the Tambaraparani River.

Demographics

It had a population of 2,723,988 in 2001. It is 48.03% urbanised with a population density of 410.5 persons per square kilometer. Tamil is the main language spoken here. As per the 2001 Census, Hindus form the majority of the population (79.76%), followed by Christians (10.89%), Muslims (9.26%) and others (0.09%).



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

THIRUPPUR DISTRICT

Tiruppur is a district of the Indian state Tamil Nadu, formed in October 2008. This district is formed with these taluks from Coimbatore district and Erode district: Tiruppur, Avanashi, Palladam, Dharapuram, Kangeyam and Udumalpet. Tiruppur city is the administrative headquarters of this district.

History

The formation of the new Tiruppur district was a decade old dream for the exporters and commoners of Tiruppur to form a new Tiruppur district with Tiruppur city and surrounding region where there is considerable industrial and business activities. This was to facilitate better administration to the region and take appropriate development measures. Tiruppur district has been carved out of the Coimbatore and Erode districts making it as the 32 nd district of Tamilnadu and one among the ten Well industrialised and economically developed districts of Tamilnadu. Before the formation of Tiruppur district, Avanashi, Tiruppur, Palladam and Udumalpet were taluks of Coimbatore district; and Dharapuram and Kangeyam were taluks of Erode district

Geography

Tiruppur [Dt] is located at [11°10'75"N 77.33°98'E](#)[11.1075; 77.33°98'](#). It has an average elevation of 295 [metres](#) (967 [feet](#)). The mean maximum and minimum temperatures for Coimbatore city during summer and winter vary between 35°C to 18°C . The average annual rainfall in the plains is around 700 mm with the North East and the South West monsoons contributing to 47% and 28%.

Demographics

As of 2001 India census,^[5] Tiruppur had a population of 346,551. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Tiruppur has an average literacy rate of 76%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 82%, and female literacy is 69%. In Tiruppur, 10% of the population is under 6 years of age. Tiruppur also has large people working for Textile and Dyeing industrial units who hire people mostly from various southern districts of Tamilnadu viz., Tirucharapalli, Dindigul, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Nagercoil]]. They are usually unskilled labours but still get a decent pay compared to other places in South India. Large number of people also from other South Indian states like Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

Tiruvallur district is an administrative district in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The town of Thiruvallur is the district headquarters.

History of Tiruvallur

Tiruvallur was originally known as Tiruvallur which specifies the sleeping position of the holy lord "Balaji", in the Veeraragava temple of Tiruvallur. Later people began to refer it by names such as Trivellore and Tiruvallur. Today Tiruvallur is well known, one of the reasons being the Veeraragava Temple. The new moon day is very auspicious day for the lord and so for the people of the town. The district of Tiruvallur has been carved out by bifurcating erstwhile Chengalpattu district (which was renamed as Chengalpattu-MGR/Kancheepuram at the time of 1991 Census). According to the said bifurcation Tiruvallur revenue division which included Tiruvallur, Tiruttani taluks and Uthukkottai and Pallipattu sub-taluks separated from Chengalpattu district along with Ponneri and Gummindipoondi taluks of Saidapet revenue division and formed this new district. At present this district is comprised of eight taluks namely Ambattur, Gummindipoondi, Ponneri, Uthukkottai, Tiruvallur, Poonamallee, Tiruttani and Pallipattu.

Geography and Climate

It is bounded on the north by Andhra Pradesh state, on the east by the Bay of Bengal, on the southeast by Chennai district, on the south by Kancheepuram and on the west by Vellore district. Tiruvallur district, a newly formed district bifurcated from the erstwhile Chengalpattu district (on 1st January 1997), is located in the North East part of Tamil Nadu. North Latitude between 12°15' and 13°15' East Longitude between 79°15' and 80°20'. The district is surrounded by Kancheepuram district in the South, Vellore district in the West, Bay of Bengal in the East and Andhra Pradesh State in the North. The district spreads over an area of about 3422 Sq.kms. An insight into the early history of this region shows that the region was reined by kingdoms such as the Pallavas, the Golkondas, the Mughals, the French, the Dutch and also the British. The average rainfall of the district is 1104.4 mm, of which the North East monsoon contributes to the tune of 690 mm. The actual rainfall received during the agricultural year 2001 - 02 is 1164.4mm. The average temperature of the district is Maximum 37.9°C Minimum 18.5°C. Like other parts of Tamil Nadu, hot climate prevails during the month of April - May and humid climate during the rest of the year except December - February when it is slightly cold.

Demographics

It occupies an area of 3424 km² and has a population of 2,754,756 as of 2001. It is 54.45% urbanised, The district has a literacy of 76.90%, higher than the state average. The population of the district is 27,38,866 persons with 51% male and 49% female as per the census 2001 (provisional).



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

TIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT

Tiruvannamalai District came into existence on 30th September 1989 after the bifurcation of the erstwhile North Arcot District. The District lies between 11° 55' and 13° 15' North latitude and 78° 20' to 79° 50' East longitude. The district is bounded on the north and west by Vellore District, on the southwest by Dharmapuri District, on the south by Villupuram District and on the east by Kancheepuram District.

History

Tiruvannamalai is one of the most venerated places in Tamil Nadu. In ancient times, the term "Annamalai" meant an inaccessible mountain. The word "Thiru" was prefixed to signify its greatness, and coupled with the two terms, it is called Tiruvannamalai.

The temple town of Tiruvannamalai is one of the most ancient heritage sites of India and is a centre of the Saiva religion. The Arunachala hill and its environs have been held in great regard by the Tamils for centuries. The temple is grand in conception and architecture and is rich in tradition, history and festivals. The main Deepam festival attracts devotees from far and wide throughout South India. It has historic places besides Tiruvannamalai, Arni, Vandavasi, Devigapuram connected to East India and French companies. In the late Chola period this district was ruled by the Cholan of Sambuvarayar having Padavedu near Arni as HQ. We can now find the fort and note along with a Shiva temple namely Kailasanathar in Arni town.

Geographical Position

- Latitude 11° 55' ~ 13° 15' N
- Longitude 78° 20' ~ 79° 50' E

Area

- Area (Sq. Km) 6191

Temperature (in Celsius)

- Plains
- Maximum 36.7
- Minimum 22.4

Rain Fall (in mm)

- 1. Normal
 - North East Monsoon 439.80
 - South West Monsoon 465.80
- 2. Actual
 - North East Monsoon 601.80
 - South West Monsoon 485.90



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

TIRUVARUR DISTRICT

The District of Tiruvarur was carved out as a separate district by detaching Valangaiman Taluk from Thanjavur District and Thiruvarur, Nannilam, Kudavasal, Needamangalam, Mannargudi, Thirutturaippundi Taluks from Nagappattinam District on 01.01.1997. There are 2 Revenue Divisions, 7 Taluks, 10 Community Development Blocks, 3 Municipalities and 7 Town Panchayats in Thiruvarur District. Thiru M. R. Mohan IAS was the first District Collector of Thiruvarur District. Latitude (NS) Between 10 20' And 11 07' Longitude (EW) Between 79 15' And 79 45' Mean Sea Level 10 meters Area (Sq. Km.) 2097.09.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION	
Date of District Formation	01.01.1997
Latitude (N-S)	Between 10 20' And 11 07'
Longitude (E-W)	Between 79 15' And 79 45'
Mean Sea Level	10 meters
Area (Sq. Km.)	2097.09
TEMPERATURE (in Degree Centigrades)	
Maximum	36.9
Minimum	29.8
Top	
RAINFALL(in mm)	
South West	
Normal	301.8
Actual	285.3
North East	
Normal	665.4
Actual	806.0
AGRICULTURE	
Total Cultivated Area (Hec)	237715
Net Area Sown (Hec)	153227
Area Sown more than once	84488



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA TAMIL NADU

VELLORE DISTRICT

Vellore had the privilege of being the seat of the Pallava, Chola, Nayak, Maratha, Arcot Nawabs and Bijapur Sultan Kindoms. It was described as the best and the strongest fortress in the Carnatic War in the 17th Century. It was witnessed the massacre of European soldier during the mutiny of 1806.

Vellore district lies between $12^{\circ} 15'$ to $13^{\circ} 15'$ North latitudes and $78^{\circ} 20'$ to $79^{\circ} 50'$ East longitudes in Tamilnadu State. The geographical area of this district is 6077 sq. k.m. The total population as per 1991 Census is 30,26,432.

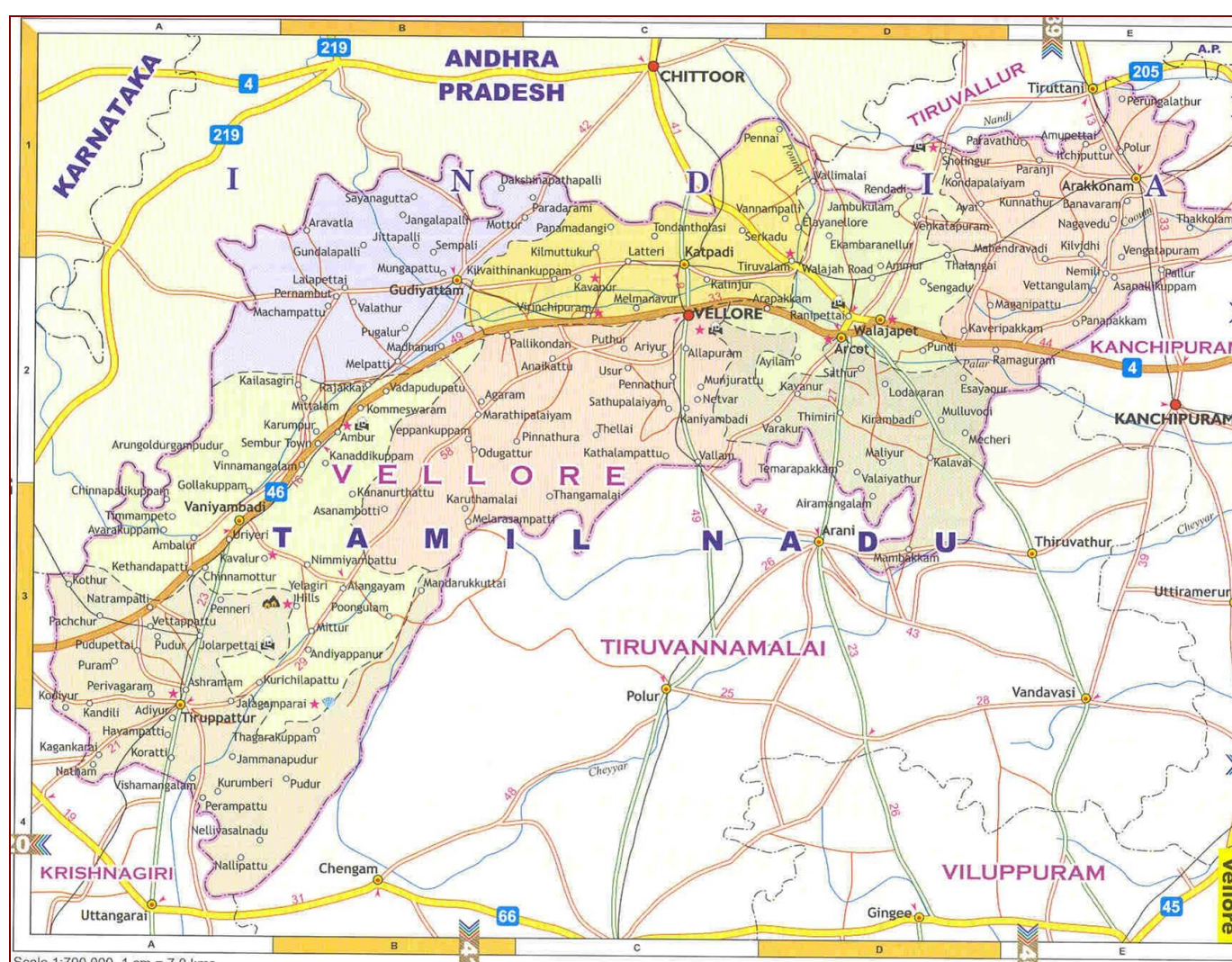
Vellore is the Head-Quarters of Vellore District is well connected by Rail and bus routes to major towns of the neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. The history of the District assumes a great significance and relevance, as we unfold the glorious past. The Monuments found in the district give a vivid picture of the town through the ages. In the 18th Century Vellore District was the scene of some of the decisive battles fought in Ambur 1749 A.D., Arcot 1751 A.D. and Vandavasi 1768 A.D. as a result of the long – drawn struggle between the English and the French for Supremacy.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

North Latitude	Between $12^{\circ} 15'$ and $13^{\circ} 15'$
East Longitude	Between $78^{\circ} 20'$ and $79^{\circ} 50'$

AREA AND POPULATION – (2001 CENSUS) (FINAL

i. Area (Sq.Km.)	:	5920.18
ii. Population	:	3477317
a. Male Population	:	1741083
b. Female Population	:	1736234
c. Rural Population	:	2169319
d. Urban Population	:	1307998
iii. Density	:	573 per Km.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

VILLUPURAM DISTRICT

Viluppuram District was earlier a part of Cuddalore District. It was then bifurcated from Cuddalore and became a separate district on 30th September 1993. Because of this, the history of Viluppuram district closely resembles that of Cuddalore.

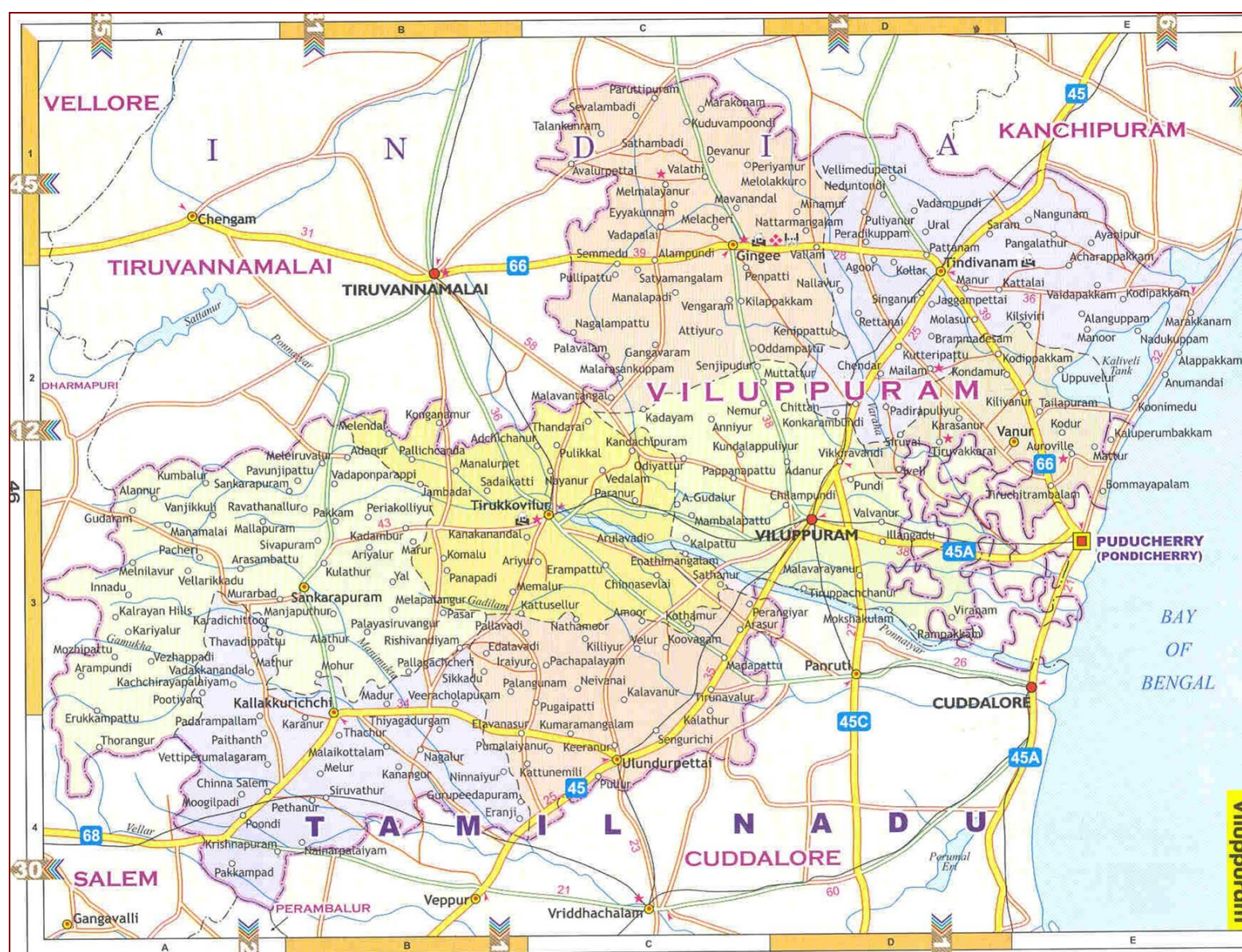
The Cholas were the early rulers. Among these rulers, **Karikala Chola** was the most famous and powerful. For a short period, the Cholas were overthrown by **Simha Vishnu Pallava** and the Region came under the Pallava rule for sometime. Vijayalaya Chola again revived Chola rule. This was the beginning of great Chola Empire. The later Chola rulers were weak and the power passed on to the hands of Eastern Chalukyas.

Cholas regained their lost position but with the rise of **Jatavarman Sundara Pandya-1 (1251 A.D)**, Chola supremacy came to an end. **The sway of Pandyas lasted for over 50 years, followed by Muslim domination from 1334 to 1378 A.D.** By 1378, the region came under the rule of Vijayanagar Kingdom and Nayaks were appointed as the rulers of the region.

In 1677 **Shivaji** took **Ginjee** area with the assistance of Golkonda forces. Then came the Mughals. During the Mughal regime, both the English and French acquired settlements in South Arcot. During the Anglo-French rivalry, the entire district was turned into a war land. After sometime, the entire area came under the control of East India Company. **It remained under British authority till 1947 when India became independent.**

Viluppuram District lies between 11 38' 25" N and 12 20' 44" S: 78 15' 00" W and 79 42' 55" E with an area of 7222.03 Hec. It was carved out from the South Arcot District on 30.09.1993 and was rehristened as Viluppuram District. The residual part of the erstwhile South Arcot district was named as Cuddalore District.

It is surrounded on East and South by Cuddalore District. The West by Salem and Dharmapuri District and on the North by Thiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram District.



MICROWATERSHED ATLAS OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU

VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT

Brief History

From the 19th century AD, District Collectors and Judges appointed by the British controlled the area. In 1910, the District of Ramanathapuram was created for reasons of administrative convenience, by carving-out territories from Madurai and Tirunelveli Districts. In 1948, after India attained independence, the zamins were abolished. In 1980, the Ramanathapuram District was trifurcated to create the districts of Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar Tirumagan (later renamed SHIVAGANGA) and Kamarajar District (later renamed Virudhunagar District). The District headquarters is Virudhunagar town. It covers an area of 4232 sq. km. and is divided into 8 taluks, namely Aruppukkottai, Kariapatti, Rajapalayam, Sattur, Sivakasi, Srivilliputtur, Tiruchuli and Virudhunagar.

Physical Features

Virudhunagar District is landlocked on all sides with no direct access to the sea. It is bound on the north by Madurai, on the north-east by SHIVAGANGA, on the east by Ramanathapuram and on the south by Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts. Physiographically it consists of two distinct regions. The eastern slopes of the Western Ghats in Srivilliputtur and Rajapalayam taluks and the black soil plains of Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, Sattur, Aruppukkottai, Tiruchuli and Kariapatti. The average height of the hills of the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats is 1500m, though a few peaks rise to 1700m. The highest peaks are Peyimalai Mottai and Kottamalai. The foothills have rich loamy soil with good vegetation cover. The plains with black cotton soil (locally known as karisal) have underlying cal carious formations. Virudhunagar does not have any perennial rivers. The Vaippar, Arjuna nadi, and Gundar constitute the river network of the District. Numerous streams and rivulets, activated by the monsoon, feed these rivers. The Mandiri odai and Girudhamal nadi flow into the Gundar, which irrigates the northeastern region of the District. The Sengundrapuram odai, Kausika manadi, Uppodai and Mannarkottaiyar are feeder streams of the Arjuna nadi, which flows through the central portion of the District. The Kayalkudiyar and Nichepa nadi join the Vaippar, which runs through the southern part of the District. The Arjuna and the Vaippar meet at Irukkangudi.

Climate

The climate of the region is semi-arid tropical monsoon type. It has a high mean temperature and a low degree of humidity. The temperatures range from 20° C to 37° C. April, May and June are the hottest months of the year. Virudhunagar receives scanty rainfall with an annual average of 812 mm. The South West monsoon which sets in June and lasts till August brings scanty rain. The bulk of the rainfall is received during the North East monsoon in the months of October, November and December

Forests, Fauna and Flora

The forests are found on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats. Only 6.3% of the total geographical area is under forests. The type range from west coast tropical evergreen forests, west coast semi evergreen forests, dry teak forests, southern mixed deciduous forests and dry grasslands.. The forests of Alagarkoil valley in Srivilliputtur taluk and Saduragiri are known for rare medicinal plants. The medicinal value of 275 plants has been recorded and reported. The forests host a rich variety of orchids and ferns.

