CHAPTER - IV
PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

History

Sivagangai District has been carved out from composite Ramnad District (G.O. MS. No. 1122 Rev. Dept. Dated. 6.7.84) and the District was functioning from 15.3.85 (G.O Ms.No. 346 Rev. dept. Dated: 8.3.85).

Sivagangai district was within the composite district of Ramanathapuram until 1984. This district was initially named as Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar district with Sivaganga as its headquarters. Devakottai, Tiruppathur, Karaikudi, Sivaganga, Manamadurai and Ilayangudi taluks were formed part of this district. Only one village i.e., Emaneswaram village in Ilayangudi taluk got transferred to Paramakudi taluk of Ramanathapuram district (vide G.O.Ms.No.393 Revenue, dated 15.03.1985). The name of the district was changed into “Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan District” (vide G.O.Ms.No.488, dated 5.4.1989) and finally further changed as “Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar District” (vide G.O.Ms.No.1044, dated 18.7.1991). Again the name was changed as Sivagangai district (vide Revenue Dept.1 (1) G.O.No.618, dt.1.7.1997). Ilayangudi taluk was upgraded as a full-fledged taluk (vide G.O.Ms.No.157, dated 13.7.1991). In 2012, Manamadurai taluk has been bifurcated to create a new taluk with Thiruppuvanam as its headquaters. Recently, Kalaiyarkoil has been upgraded as a new taluk.
Geographical location

Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu spreads over 4,189 km². This constitutes 3.22 percent of the area of the State. The geographical position of Sivagangai district is between 9° 43' and 10° 2' North Latitude and between 77° 47' and 78° 49' East Longitude. It is bounded by Pudukkottai district on the North East, Tiruchirapalli district on the North, Ramanathapuram district on South East, Virudhunagar district on South West and Madurai District on the West.
Demographics

According to the 2011 census, Sivagangai district has a population of 1,339,101 with a sex-ratio of 1,003 females for every 1,000 males, much above the national average of 929. A total of 137,235 are under the age of six, constituting 70,022 males and 67,213 females. In addition, the average literacy of the district is 71.67 percent, compared to the national average of 72.99 percent. The district has a total of 338,938 households. On the other hand, there is a total of 620,171 workers, comprising 117,030 cultivators, 122,166 main agricultural labourers, 9,864 in household industries, 212,042 other workers, 159,069 marginal workers, 23,973 marginal cultivators, 77,397 marginal agricultural labourers, 4,792 marginal workers in household industries and 52,907 other marginal workers.

Administration

Sivaganga is the district headquarters, which has 8 taluks in 2 revenue division.

Table No. 4.1
TALUKS OF SIVAGANGAI DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Division</th>
<th>Taluks</th>
<th>No. of revenue villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sivaganga</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Sivaganga, Manamadurai, Ilayankudi, Thiruppuvanam, Kalaiyarkovil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devakottai</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Devakottai, Karaikudi, Tiruppattur)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Topography

*Climate and Rainfall*

The district experiences a very dry and hot climate with low degree of humidity. Normally the temperature varies from $22^\circ C$ to $39^\circ C$. During the year 2011-2012 this district experienced 1030mm of rainfall.

*Soil*

Soil of the district is predominantly black. Part of Sivagangai district has red soil also. The classification of soil in the Sivagangai district is given below:

**Table No. 4.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Type of Soil</th>
<th>Place in the District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lateritic soil and red sterile soil</td>
<td>Western part of Devakottai, Karaikudi and Entire Thiruppathur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Black soil</td>
<td>Western part of Sivaganga, Manamadurai in North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alluvium soil</td>
<td>Eastern part of Devakottai, Northern part of Ilayangudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Red soil</td>
<td>Central part of Sivaganga, Northern part of Manamadurai, Southern portion of Ilayangudi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rivers*

There are no perennial rivers in the district. The river Vaigai is the only major one which enters the district near Tiruppuvanam and flows through Sivaganga taluk. The other seasonal rivers and minor streams flowing through the district are Sarugani, Bambar, Kottagudi, Manimuthar, Uppar, Uppargundam and Thenar in Thiruppathur taluk.
**Major Industries**

Tamil Nadu  Chemical Industries at Karaikudi, Central Electro Chemical Research Institute at Karaikudi, Sakthi Sugar Factory at Padamathur, Tamil Nadu  Gears and Softs at Singampunari, Tamil Nadu  Mineral Limited, Bricks, Brick tiles and Pot making centres at Manamadurai and Thiruppuvanam, Coir Manufacture Industries are some of the major industries in and around Sivagangai district.

**Tourist places**

Heritage sites, known for Nagarathar palaces at Kanadukathan, Kottaiyur, Pallathur, Puduvayal, Kandanur, Chettinad and Devakottai, Arulmigu Kannudaia Nayagi Amman temple and Kambar Samathi at Nattarasankottai, Arulmigu Muthumariamman temple and Koppudaiyamman temple at Karaikudi, Gowrivilasam palace at Sivagangai, Thirukkanaper Sornakaleeswarar temple at Kalaiyarkovil, Picturesque location such as Cave temple at Piranmali, Car festival at Kandadevi, Birds Sanctuary at Vettangudi, Anjanamaar Panch Shaheedh Waliyullah dargah, Kannaar Street, Manamadurai, Roman Catholic Church at Idaikattur, Arulmigu Vettudaiya kaliamman temple at Kundrakkudi are some of the tourist places in and around Sivagangai district.

**Type of Industries**

Graphite, Wax Candles, Paper plates, Paper Bags, Paper Cups, Paver Blocks, Yarn, Areca plate, Flooring tiles, Hollow blocks, Jewellery, Fire clay bricks, Biscuits, Cookies, Papad, Bakery, Fruit Canning, Soft drinks, Packed drinking water, Atta, Flour Milling, Rice Milling, Hatching of Eggs, Sattu Energy powder, Mfg of Chicken, Fish frozen, dresses are the types of industries in Sivagangai District.
Economy

In 2006, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Sivagangai as one of the country's 250 most backward districts out of a total of 640. Consequently, it is one of the six districts in Tamil Nadu currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF).

Agriculture

The vast majority of the workforce is dependent on agriculture (72.8 percent). In fact, the principal crop of Sivagangai district is paddy while majority of the district has red soil. The other crops that are grown are sugarcane, groundnut, pulses, millets and cereals. In response, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University sets up the State's first Red Soil Dryland Research Centre in Sivagangai district.

Economic profile

Sivagangai contributes USD 0.9 billion in GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of Tamil Nadu. Service industry has been playing a vital role in the economy of this district. It has contributed 68 percent to the district's GDP in 2011-12. The investments have been made in Trade, Hotel & Restaurants, Banking & Insurance and Construction and Real estate. Tertiary sector is growing at the rate of 9 percent.

As the study is confined to Sivaganga taluk, profile of Sivaganga taluk is presented in the following pages.
SIVAGANGA TALUK

Sivaganga taluk is a taluk of Sivagangai district of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The headquarters of the taluk is the town of Sivaganga. The town is located at a distance of 48 km from Madurai and 449 km from the state capital Chennai.

History

Sivaganga kingdom was founded by Sasivarna Periya Oodaya Thevar in 1730. The town was subsequently ruled by his successors and ultimately by Velu Nachiyar under the stewardship of Maruthu Pandiyar. They were against the British Empire, but ultimately lost to them in 1790. The Company appointed Gowry Vallaba Periya Oodaya Thevar as the Zamindar of Sivaganga in 1801, whose successors continued with chaos until India's independence in 1947. It was under Ramnad district until 1984 and subsequently a part of the newly formed Sivaganga district.

Geographical location

Sivaganga taluk spreads over 1591 sq.km. Sivaganga has an average elevation of 102 metres.

Demographics

According to the 2011 census, the taluk of Sivaganga has a population of 288,674 with 142,979 males and 145,695 females. Child population in the age group below 6 is 15,523 males and 14,730 females. The number of male literates is 111,685 and that of females is 92,623.
Administration

Sivaganga is administered by a municipality established in 1965. As of 2011, the municipality covered an area of 6.97 km\(^2\) and has a population of 40,403. Sivaganga comes under the Sivagangai assembly constituency. Roadways are the major mode of transportation to the town and it also has rail connectivity. The nearest seaport, Thoothukudi Port, is located 189 km from Sivaganga, while the nearest airport, Madurai International Airport, is located 53 km from the town. Sivaganga has 67 revenue villages and 43 panchayat villages. The District Court of Sivagangai is present in the town.

Economy

Graphite

Graphite is one of the common resources in Sivaganga. Graphite is used as an industrial lubricant and as a moderator in nuclear reactors. Very valuable graphite is available in Sivaganga and its surrounding areas. The Sivaganga graphite is of flaky variety with 14 percent average Fixed Carbon used in the manufacture of refractory bricks, expanded graphite, crucibles and carbon brushes. TAMIN has over 600 acres of graphite bearing land in Pudupatti, Kumaripatti and Senthiudayanathapuram of Sivaganga taluk, Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu. Estimated reserve of graphite ore in leasehold area is three million tonnes.(recoverable graphite from 14 percent F.C is approximately 3 lakh tonnes).

Various Industries

- M/s. Sree Kannathal Textiles (P) Limited, Okkur, Sivaganga Taluk.
- M/s. Sree Vadivambigai Textile Mills Limited, Sakkanthi, Sivaganga Taluk
- Sree Jaya Soundaram Textile Mills (P) Ltd, Madagupatti, Sivaganga Taluk.
Chindhamani Textile Mills, Arasanoor, Sivagangai are some of the important industries located in Sivaganga taluk.

**Spices Park**

As of December 2010, the Spices Board has also set up a new spices park at Sivaganga with an investment of ₹180 million. It would be of immense help to farmers of chili, turmeric, medicinal plants and tamarind, as the focus would be to export their products. The spices park would establish machinery for cleaning, sorting, grading, packaging, storing, and sterilizing among others. The focus is to encourage the farmers to plant chili, a leading crop in Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and nearby districts, as well as turmeric crops. Medicinal plants, being raised in and around Madurai district, would also get a boost, as it is planned to patronize farmers of medicinal plants.

**Sugar Industry**

The Sakthi Sugar Factory is also located in Sivaganga. It provides employment to more than 1,000 labourers directly and indirectly. With this, it has the capability to produce more than 5,000 tons of sugar per day.

**Solar Power Farm**

Moser Baer Clean Energy Limited (MBCEL) has commissioned a 5 MW grid connected solar PV project at Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu. The project is given to Sapphire Industrial Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the farm, through a competitive bidding process conducted by the Tamil Nadu Renewable Development Agency. The project is, then, implemented under the 50 MW power generation based incentive scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
Places of Interest

**Sivaganga Palace** is a palace in Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu, southern India, about 40 kilometres from Madurai. It is an old royal palace, with many historical connections. The palace was used as residence by queens Rani Velu Nachiar, (1772–80), Rani Vellachi Nachiar (1780–90) and Rani Kaathama Nachiar (1864–77). No remains of the original Sivaganga Palace exist, but a new palace, known as "Gowri Vilasam", was built by Padamathur Gowry Vallabha Thevar (1801-1829) in 19th century. As a heritage site of Chettinad, it was the property of Rani Velu Nachiar.

An interesting feature in the Sivaganga palace is a miniature swimming pool called "Nadai Kinaru". The tank is said to have direct connections to provide it with fresh water and provisions to fill two huge tanks. This was meant mainly for the women of the royal family. In front of it is an architectural splendor, in shambles. Paintings on the dome and sides in natural colours are still intact. The town of Sivaganga was formed surrounding this palace with the octagon shaped tank which is on the northern side of the palace. There is a well, known as ‘Nadu Theppakkulam’ at the centre of the tank with other six small wells around it.

The other intact part is the compound wall, the Grand Wall, 18 feet high and 5 feet wide, though one portion of it has been demolished to construct shops. There is a palanquin in a decrepit condition in front of the palace.

At the back is a small hall supported by ‘black marble squares’. Inside the hall was a seat of stone carved entirely out of black marble and the coronations took place here. Now, a
large portrait of Rani Velu Nachiyar along with a valari kambu (a wooden weapon like a boomerang) and some swords and weapons are kept in this hall.

Vishwanatha Swamy temple, Perumal kovil, Alangara Matha church, Walajah Navab pallivasal, Adam pallivasal are other places of worship in Sivaganga taluk.

A Government museum is also located here.

**Education**

Government Sivagangai Medical College and Hospital is an educational institution located in the outskirts of Sivaganga municipality. It was started in the year 2012-13.

**MANAMADURAI TALUK**

**Geography**

Manamadurai is located at 9.7°N 78.48°E. Manamadurai taluk spreads over 675 sq km. It has an average elevation of 70 metres. The Vaigai river flows from north to south through Manamadurai. It is located 21 Km towards South from District head quarters Sivaganga. 495 Km from State capital Chennai towards North.

Manamadurai Taluk is bounded by by Narikudi Taluk towards West, Sivaganga Taluk towards North, Ilayankudi Taluk towards East, Paramakkudi Taluk towards East. Sivaganga, Paramakudi, Thirupuvanam, Aruppukkottai are the nearby places to Manamadurai.
**Demographics**

According to the 2011 census, the taluk of Manamadurai has a population of 207,223 with 104,428 males and 102,795 females. Child population in the age group below 6 is 11,436 males and 10,967 females. The number of male literates is 81,392 and that of females is 63,660.

**Administration**

Manamadurai is a town panchayat. There are 39 Panchayat villages and 41 revenue villages in manamadurai taluk.

**Industry**

This small town is famous for manufacturing ghatam and pots. The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) Limited is here. Manamadurai was famous for production of jasmine flowers. This industry has diminished over time due to the destruction of gardens throughout the city. It is a major junction for people going to Rameshwaram. 'Chithirai Thiruvizha' is celebrated every year and it draws a lot of people.

It has a head post office since 1972. It has a majestic departmental building in front of Gandhi statue in the eastern bank of Manamadurai.

**Videocon Manufacturing unit**

SIPCOT has allocated 70 acres of land to the India's No. 3 electronic goods seller Videocon near Manamadurai to set up its manufacturing unit for Refrigerators, washing machines and television sets. The company has plans to set up a mobile phone manufacturing unit here during its expansion. This industry is first of its kind in the volume
of Rs.2,000 crore in south Tamil Nadu and comes as a boon to the skilled unemployed youth in South Tamil Nadu.

**Places of Interest**

Tourism industry is one of the minor revenue generators for Manamadurai. There are various places of interest.

In the Perumal Temple Hanuman is enshrined, with the highly unusual feature of a crown on his head, reflecting the local belief that Hanuman was crowned here before leaving for Lanka. According to one account the name of the town is derived from the visit, which in Tamil is described as Vanara Veera Madurai, which has become Manamadurai. The crowned Hanuman is enshrined near the entrance of the Vaishnavite Veera Alagar Koil temple on the east bank of the river.

**The Holy Paanch peer (Anjanamar) Five Shuhadaas Dargah**

The Panchpeer dargah is at Kannar road, on the Manamadurai-Ilhayangudi State Highway. The Graves of Five Martyrs who came with Badusha Sulthan Syed Ibrahim Shaheed of Ervadi is found here. Today this dargah stands as a symbol of religious harmony and an important tourist location of Manamadurai for all and Muslims in particular yielding much revenue to the people in the town.

**Urus Santhanakoodu Festival**

The Anniversary sandanakoodu ursus festival of Manamadurai Five Shuhadaas Dargha is held on 17 Jamadil Awwal (Jumada al-awwal) every Hijri year. Thousands of people from all over Tamil Nadu and Kerala visit this dargah on the day of Urs.
**Idaikkatur**

Idaikkattur is 16 km ahead of Manamadurai. The site is famous for its church. Here Thiru Iruthaya Andavar Church is located which is built by angels of god.

**Panchabhutheswaram**

Panchabhutheswaram, known as Vedhiyanendal vilakku, 5 km from Manamadurai is on the way to Paramakudi via Elaiyankudi, the route in which Lord Rama went to Sri Lanka to confront Ravan. This place is known for its hard cut-rock( granite) temple dedicated to Shri Maha Panchamukha Prathyangira Devi. It houses the big deity of Shri Maha Panchamukha Prathyangira Devi. There are two more sannidhies for Lakshmi Ganapathi and Sornagarshna Bhairavar. Kumbhabhishekham was performed on 24 June 2010. Sahasra Sandi Maha Yagnam was also recently performed during 25 June 2010 to 29 June 2010. It has come in a total area of about 5.5 acres. Within the temple premises, ten more sannidhies are for Dasamaha Vidya. Non-stop annadharmam starts right from 2000 since inception.

**Transport**

The town is well connected by road to all the cities and towns in Tamil Nadu. The Manamadurai Panchayat town bus terminus situated at the Madurai - Rameswaram national highway caters to the road transportation of the town.

**Rail**

Manamadurai is connected with State capital Chennai and Industrial Cities Coimbatore and Tiruppur. The Silambu express starting from Manamadurai connects the town with Chennai. The Rameswaram express and Sethu express run through Manamadurai
also connects the town with state capital. Also there are good number of Passenger trains from Madurai and Trichy passing through Manamadurai towards Rameswaram.

**ILAYANGUDI TALUK**

**Geography**

Ilayangudi or Ilaiyangudi, (Endrum Ilaiyaatha Ilaiyaingudiyaargal) is a taluk headquarters and sub town situated 21 km south-east of Manamadurai, in Sivagangai district, India. Sivaganga is around 37 km north-west. Nearest airport is at Madurai. Paramakudi Junction Railway Station serves Ilaiyangudi. The nearest town is Paramakudi which is 11 km away. Ilayangudi is 66 km from Karaikudi and 70 km from Madurai. Ilaiyankudi is located at 9.63°N 78.63°E. Ilayangudi taluk spreads over 438 sq.km. It has an average elevation of 43.6 m.

**History**

Ilayangudi is an ancient township, its history goes back to 3\(^{rd}\) and 2\(^{nd}\) century BC, the Golden Era of Zainism (Samanam) and Buddhism flourished in Tamil Land.

The foot prints of Samanam and Buddham can be still witnessed in the township. Mahavirar Statue (Ammana Samy - as we call it locally) can be seen outside the Shivaite Temple, which proves that this temple might be one among the Zains (Samana Palli) Temple, which was converted as Hindu Temple during 7th Century by Sambhanthar.

Same way, the foot prints of Buddhism can be witnessed, as we still call our Public Water tank in the city, neat bus stop – Theavoorani, which is a slang of Thearar Ooran. Thearar is the terminology used to call Buddhist Monk in Tamil.
Islam was introduced to this township during 6th and 7th Century by Arab Traders during the life time of Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him). During that period tamil land was undergoing religious genocide between Vedic (Brahmins) and Zains (Samanar) & Buddhists. Government sponsored genocide forced Zains (Samanars) and Buddhist for a mass exodus or to change their faiths. Quiet a large members of these religious sect embraced Islam. During that tenure, the Muslims were enjoying good relationship with Tamil Kings as they were commanding their Calvary and Naval forces thus they were called as Rawoothers and Marakkayars. Also, many Islamic groups were migrated to Ilayangudi from Sivalperi, Udangudi, Sundarapandiyapattinam, Thenmalai, Thirunelveli and other parts of South India. Since then Islam remains the Major Force in the Township bringing prosperity and peace to the land, benefiting the people of Ilayangudi and its surrounding villages.

Thus the root of Ilayangudi has been influenced by different historical, religious, social and economical factors. The old and new city of Ilayangudi was conceived and moulded by Islam. The olden Muslim Community was performing three major trades such as textile weaving, transportation and plantation of Betel Leaves. Based on their trades each Jamath were identified as Nesavu Pattadai, Eruthu Pattadai, Kodikal Pattadai. The adjacent suburban of Salaiyur were having two jamaths based on their Madhgabs as Hanafi and Shafi.

To conclude, the literal meaning of Ilayangudi in Tamil is not an inferior society, which is the nature of these sons of soil.
**Demographics**

According to the 2011 census, the taluk of Ilayangudi has a population of 109,267 with 53,988 males and 55,279 females. Child population in the age group below 6 is 5,109 males and 5,158 females. The number of male literates is 41,894 and that of females is 33,661.

**Administration**

Ilayangudi is a town panchayat. There are 52 revenue villages in Ilayangudi taluk. Ilayangudi is surrounded by more than 30 villages. Among them Pudur, Sodukudi, Karunchuthi, Keelayur, Malli pattinam, Thiruvallur are Muslim dominated villages and other villages are dominated by Maravar, Konars, Udaiaar and pallars. These entire villages livelihood thrives from Ilayangudi town. The notable surrounded villages are Karumpakootam, Keeranur, Kongampatti, Idayavalasai, Pavandan, Manikkavasaga Nagar, Melayur, Nagamugundhangudi, Peachatthai, Seethoorani, Ariyandipuram, Kannamangalam, Thayamangalam, Melayur, Athikarai, Alimadurai, Meiyananthal, Kottaiyur, Sirupalai, Perumbalai, Aranaiyur, etc.

**Legends**

Late. P.N.Abuthalib was Joint Secretary of Indian Union Muslim League and served as a faithful advisor to Qaiet-e-Millath Ismail Sahib.

Late. Hajee. V.M.Peer Mohamed, the great scholar, statesman, administrator, philanthropist, businessman of Ilayangudi was the founder of Dr. Zakir Hussain College, founder of Girls School in Ilayangudi. Above all he was the great Trustee of INP Jamath.
Late. T.K.A. Dewan Mohamed, IAS, was the first IAS officer from this town who contributed in various administrative levels in Government of Tamil Nadu including Collector and Additional Chief Secretary.

Late. Capt. T.K.S. Mohamed Iqbal IPS, who was killed along with Rajiv Gandhi was the first IPS officer of this town, who served the Indian Army as Captain during 1972 Pakistan war.

Charitable Organizations

Sal Sabeel Trust established during early 90's in Mallipattinam, Ilayangudi is the leading Charitable Trust managing Orphan Child of Islamic faith. The trust is managing more than 100 children boarding, lodging and their education. Mr.Sheik Kutty (Haji Janab Sheik Mohideen), well known philanthropist is Chairman of the Trust.

Sabeel is taking care of orphans of Islamic society by providing them food, shelter, and education (both academic and Islamic). The organization is well known for its simplicity and efficient management. Since it is raised and managed on the basis of Islamic faith, they do not accept non Islamic earning as donation.

In 2013, the Sal Sabeel Orphanage is undertaken by Tamil Nadu Towhead Jama’ath. And also TNTJ management launch Old Age Home for orphans named as AR. Rahim Madharasa. They upgrade the orphanage, run successfully and served the people world wide.

Slum Level Federation (SLF), a minority conglomeration of women self-help groups is successfully running a silk yarn unit here.
Literature

Ilayangudi is known as Pulumai Perur meaning literates’ town. Ilayangudi delivered lot of poets, wisemen, writers etc. In Tamil literature, we can find many poets praised the talents of Ilayangudians and their contribution to the Tamil Literature. Zawwadu Pulavar, famous poet of yesteryears, who lived in Emeneshwaram near Paramakudi, praised Ilayangudians in his various poems.

Thenmalaikhan Mathura Kavi Batcha Pulavar lived approximately during 1860-1930. He was titled as Mathura Kavi by Sivagangai Raja as his poems were so sweet. He was rewarded with a Pattayam by his dynasty. Mathura Kavi was ancestor for Late. Calcutta. T.S. Abdul Rahim, Late. T.M. Meera Hussain and T.S. Jainulabdeen (Thablic). There is a memorial Madarasa Building in the name of Mathura Kavi at Ilayangudi built by his grandson Late. T.S. Abdul Rahim.

Nagaimani Maalai Collection of poems praising Nagoor Meeran Shahib were written by Thenmalaikhan Mathurakavi Batcha Pulavar during Hijri 1314 Ramalan Month.(approx. During AD. 1892, 110 years ago). Pillai Thzamil Collection of poems written by Mathurakavi narrating Nagoor Shahul Hameed's childhood incidents contains four more short poems such as Kalithurai, Nagai Patthu, Nagai Kochagam and Nagai Thiruvagam. Arul Mani Malai were written in praise of Karaikal Hazarat Shahu Ali Masthan Oli Shahib by Mathurakavi.

Deen Vilakka Vannam were written by Mathura Kavi praising Ervadi. Handwritten copies of Pancha Rathina Vannangal written by Mathurakavi were preserved in his house.
Madaru Pulavar lived in Ilayangudi approximately during early 19th Century. He descended from Noordeen family. He is ancestor of Capt. N.A.Ameer Ali. To dignify his work Ilayangudi Panchayat Board named one street in his name. He wrote Kuthubu Manimalai, praising Mohideen Abdul Kadir Jailani.

Katchi Pillaiyammal was daughter of Lukman Rawoother who spends his life in search of wisdom. Katchi Pillaiyammal had written poems mostly about wisdom related subjects. She is the first recorded female poet of Ilayangudi.

Seeniyaval Rawoother is the brother-in-law of Kuppapitchai Ambalam. He has written this Singara Vazhi Lavani praising the Ilayangudi town and describing the various landmarks of Ilayangudi.

There are many living poets in Ilayangudi such as: Pulavar. Sheiko alias S.M.S. Mohamed Kassim, Porkizhi Kavingar Hidayathulla alias ex Shanmugam Thai, Ka. Kader Gani Kavingar, V.M. Shajahan Gani (He married in Ilayangudi)

**THIRUPPUVANAM TALUK**

Tiruppuvanam is a Taluk in Sivagangai District of Tamil Nadu State, India. The headquarters of Tiruppuvanam Taluk is Tiruppuvanam town. It is located 28 Km towards west from District head quarters Sivaganga, 491 Km from State capital Chennai towards North.
**Geography**

Tiruppuvanam Taluk is bounded by Madurai West Taluk towards North, Madurai East Taluk towards West, Tirupparangunram Taluk towards West, Kariapatti Taluk towards West. Thirupuvanam, Madurai, Sivaganga, Thirumangalam are the nearby places to Tiruppuvanam. It is in the 108 m elevation (altitude). This place is in the border of the Sivangangai District and Madurai District.

**Administration**

There are 45 panchayat villages and 43 revenue villages in Tiruppuvanam Taluk. Veeranendal, Tiruppachetti and Poovandhi are some of the villages in this taluk.

**Places of Interest**

Piramanoor (Piramanur / Brahmamur) is a village in Tiruppuvanam block, Sivangangai district, Tamil Nadu, India. The ancient Shree Kailasha Nathar Temple is situated in this village.

Poovandhi is a lovely and greeny village with hard working farmers. Poovandhi is improving more in all sources. LiveWell Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, located here is ideally suited to provide short-stay care.

**KALAIYARKOIL TALUK**

Kalaiyarkoil is a Taluk in Sivagangai District of Tamil Nadu State, India. The headquarters of Kalaiyarkoil Taluk is Kalaiyarkoil town. It is located 19 Km towards East from District headquarters Sivaganga, 467 Km from State capital Chennai towards North.
Geography

Kalaiyarkoil Taluk is bounded by by Sivaganga Taluk towards West, Kallal Taluk towards North, Ilayankudi Taluk towards South, Devakottai Taluk towards East. Sivaganga, Karaikudi, Paramakudi, Thirupuvanam are the nearby places to Kalaiyarkoil. It is in the 95 m elevation (altitude).

History

Kalaiyar Kovil was ruled by Maruthu Pandiyar. There is a very large Shiva temple. Kalaiyar Kovil is owned by the family of the Rajah of Sivaganga. It is run by their devasthanam, and a trust of the zamindar family of Devakottai. Kalaiyar Kovil derived its name from the Kaleeswarar temple of the place. Kalaiyar is a corruption of the word Kaleeswaran. During the Sangam period, this place was known as Kaanapair as is seen from the 21st verse in the purananooru sung by Iyur moolakizhar, a poet of the Sangam period. In the 9th Century A.D. Saint Sundara moorthy nayanar described the presiding deity in his devotional songs as Kaalai. Since then the deity was known as Kalaiyar, with the Tamil suf ix yar added to it denoting respect. The temple came to be known as Kalaiyar Kovil and this was later adapted to the place also.

Administration

Kalaiyarkoil is a village panchayat. There are 43 panchayat villages and 67 revenue villages in kalayarkoil taluk. Mallal, silukappatti, kadaneri, usilangulam are some of the villages in this taluk.
Places of Interest

Kadaneri is a wonderful natured village in Sivagangai district. It contains one panchayat union elementary school and good temple of Marudhudaya Iyyanar.

Eriyayal is a beautiful village. Eriyayal Panchayat contains three villages namely Eriyayal, Kanjiram and Sakkur. Eriyayal is situated around cultivation lands. Most of the villagers are farmers. They are cultivating rice, chilly and vegetables, but they are dependent on rain water for irrigation.

DEVAKOTTAI TALUK

Devakottai taluk is a taluk of Sivagangai district of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The headquarters of the taluk is the town of Devakottai.

Geography

It is located 45 Km towards East from District headquarters Sivaganga, 444 Km from State capital Chennai towards North.

Devakottai Taluk is bounded by Kannankudi Taluk towards North, Kallal Taluk towards West, Sakkottai Taluk towards North, Tiruvadanai Taluk towards South. Karaikudi, Sivaganga, Pudukkottai, Paramakudi are the nearby places to Devakottai. Devakottai taluk spreads over 482 sq.km. It is in the 77 m elevation(altitude).

History

The name "Devakottai" is derived from the Tamil word "Devi Kottai", meaning the fort of a Goddess.
Devakottai was an active town in the Indian Independence Movement. The municipal court of Devakottai was burned to the ground during the Quit India Movement. This leads to the town becoming one of the historical landmarks of Tamil Nadu with typical building structures and monuments.

Devakottai is now under the Karaikudi constituency following the reformation of constituencies. However, for parliamentary elections, it comes under the Sivagangai constituency.

**Demographics**

According to the 2011 census, the taluk of Devakottai has a population of 157,631 with 79,606 males and 78,025 females. Child population in the age group below 6 is 7,540 males and 7,277 females. The number of male literates is 64,400 and that of females is 52,265.

**Administration**

Devakottai taluk is administered by Devakottai Municipality, a first grade municipality. Devakottai Taluk has 91 revenue villages and 42 panchayat villages.

**Transport**

Devakottai is situated on Tiruchirappalli-Rameswaram National Highway Road (NH-210). The nearest airport is in Madurai, about 92 km away. The nearest railway station is 'Devakottai Rastha' which comes under the city limit of Karaikudi, about 10 km from Devakottai, from where frequent bus services are available for Devakottai. Regular bus services are available to all important cities of Tamil Nadu.
Culture

The Kandar Sasti Vizha, a festival for the rich culture of Devakottai, has been conducted by Kandar Sasti Vizha Kazhagam for the past 70 years (as of the year 2015) at the Nagara Sivan Kovil, at Devakottai.

Notable people

- Charles Borromeo, a track and field athlete won a gold medal at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi with a record time of 1:46:81 seconds. He was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1982 and the Padma Shri in 1984 by the Government of India.

- A. R. Lakshmanan, the first Supreme Court Judge from Devakottai, particularly from Nagarathar Community, was also Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala and High Court of Andhra Pradesh. He was the president of the National Law Commission. Currently, he is the member representing Tamil Nadu in Mullaiperiyar Dam Commission headed by Justice A. Anand.

- M. Karpaga Vinayagam is a Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), Government of India. He was an honorable Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court and was a Judge in the Madras High Court.

- Sri.Rama.Dinamani Chettiar, a notable freedom fighter who fought against British quit India movement and subsequently convicted for several years.

- Devakottai Ramanathan, is a popular Tamil language orator and stand-up comedian based in the town of Devakottai in Tamil Nadu, India. Having participated and won in a number of oratorical competitions during his school days, Ramanathan became known to the Tamil TV viewers through Vijay TV's hit TV show Kalakka Povathu Yaru, a show promoting stand-up comedy in the Tamil Language.
KARAUKUDI TALUK

Karaikudi taluk is a taluk of Sivagangai district of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The headquarters of the taluk is the town of Karaikudi. Karaikudi is considered as the best place to live among other towns in the district, owing to its sound educational infrastructure, good ground water, better health care facilities, and lucrative business possibilities.

Geography

The Thennar River flows through South Karaikudi. It is 300 km from Coimbatore, 90 km from Trichi, 80 km from Madurai, and 400 km from Chennai, 40 km from Pudukottai.

Karaikudi is located at 10.07°N 78.78°E. Karaikudi taluk spreads over 231 sq.km. It has an average elevation of 82 metres. The terrain of Karaikudi is predominantly flat. Rocky areas are found in the surrounding areas of Karaikudi town and intensity of rocks is more towards western side of the town. The soil is hard red lateritic type and is not suitable for cultivation.

The water table in the area is generally at depths of 3 to 6 feet and rises to nearly 1m below the ground level during rainy seasons. Some bore wells operate at a depth of 100’ to 200’. The most important source of groundwater is from the deeper aquifer under artesian conditions. Locally known as "Semponootru" or "sembaiyootru" springs produce water near the Devakottai Rasta. Since the 1970s the water supply for the Karaikudi residents is dependent on the deeper aquifers. The average maximum temperature is about 34 °C and average minimum temperature is about 24 °C. The annual average rainfall in Karaikudi is about 920mm.
History

The town derives its name from thorny plant Karai referred in ancient literature as Kareekudi, which in modern times became Karaikudi. The town is believed to have been formed during the 1800s and the oldest structure in the town is the Koppudaiya Nayagi Amman Temple. Mahatma Gandhi delivered two speeches in Karaikudi in 1927. Bharathiyar, a freedom fighter and poet visited Karaikudi in 1919 to participate in a function organized by the Hindu Madhabhimana Sangam. Post independence, the town registered significant growth in the industrial sector.

The town is home to Nagarathar, a business community of Tamil Nadu. Karaikudi and surrounding areas are generally referred as "Chettinadu". Chettinadu is a collection of 76 villages and towns. Chettinad includes areas in modern day Ramanathapuram District and Pudukottai State of British India. The Chettiars are the financiers and trade facilitators. By the early 19th century finance had become their primary occupation and they became famed lenders to land-owning families and in underwriting the grain trade through the provision of hundis. Several members of the Chettiar community migrated to nearby Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, particularly Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Burma in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Demographics

According to the 2011 census, the taluk of Karaikudi has a population of 300,527 with 149,443 males and 151,084 females. Child population in the age group below 6 is 15,463 males and 14,841 females. The number of male literates is 121,406 and that of females is 107,187.
**Administration**

The Trichy-Rameswaram Highway passes through Karaikudi. Earlier, Karaikudi was a small village in Ramanathapuram District, and in 1928, its status changed from Panchayat to Grade III Municipality. The city became well connected by railways and roadways in 1930. Karaikudi was upgraded to Grade II Municipality in 1973 and later to Selection Grade Municipality in 1988 and now upgraded to Special Grade Municipality in 2013. The area of municipality is about 13.75 km², comprising the revenue villages of Kalanivasal, Sekkalai kottai, Eluppakudi Area, Ariyakudi Area and Senjai. There are 67 revenue villages.

**Culture**

Kundrakudi Shanmuganathan Temple, located 8 km away, Ariyakudi Thiruvengamudayan Temple located 3 km away, Pillayarpatti Karpagavinayagar temple located 10 km away, Thirumayam Permual Temple located 35 km away from Karaikudi are the prominent temples around the town. Kannadasan Mandapam, Kamban Manimandapam, Thousand windows house and Chettinad Raja Palace are other visitor attractions in Karaikudi. The first Temple for Mother Tamil is located in Karaikudi. The foundation stone for the temple was laid on 23-04-1975 and the construction was completed in 1993.

**Economy**

Karaikudi is a developing urban center in the backward Sivagangai district in Tamil Nadu. In May 2007, through the “Network of Indian Cities of Living Heritage,” UNESCO, in co-operation with the Chettinad Heritage Committee and with the support of Government of Tamil Nadu, organized a three-day international workshop in Karaikudi on the Heritage-Based Local Development of Chettinad. An early vision for the creation of a “Heritage
House” came to fruition in June 2009. UNESCO has offered to set up a ‘Chettinad Heritage Museum’ in Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu recognizing the unique style of architecture in the region. According to UNESCO India director, Minja Yang, a draft action plan to set up the museum has been put forward.

Chettinad Kottan are Palm leaf baskets woven in the Chettinad region by women of the Chettiar community as a hobby. Chettinad Kottan has been noted for its unique style and colors. It is used as a gift during festivals. The traditional 'Chettinad Kottans’ was granted Geographical Indication tag following efforts by Revive Kottan (Palm Leafs Knitting) Society.

Chettinadu Kandangi sarees are very popular type of sarees produced in the region. Athangudi tiles are basically cement tiles like mosaic used for building the palatial houses in the town and in modern times, is a source for handicraft industry. The intricate woodcraft made in the region by the local carpenters to produce delicately carved sculptures, statues and artifacts and temple chariots and mounts or vehicles for a deity in Hindu mythology, form an important industry in the area.

Indian Overseas Bank was founded on February 10, 1937 in Karaikudi by M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettiar with an objective of specializing in foreign exchange solutions required by Indian traders in South East Asia. The bank is a nationalised bank in modern times.

Chettinad

Chettinad is the homeland of the Nattukottai Chettiars (Nagarathar), a prosperous banking and business community. It is well known for its Chettinad cuisine, which is very
hot and spicy. In fact, Chettinad has one of the South Indian cuisines with large number of specialty restaurants. A typical meal will have meat, a large number of courses, and is served on a banana leaf.

Also, the old Chettiar mansions are rich in heritage, art and architecture. For example, Kanadukathan has one such beautiful palatial house. The affluence of the chettiars are shown off in their palatial houses. Carved teak wood doors and frames, marble floors, granite pillars, Belgian mirrors and Italian tiles are the norms.

There are also a few pandiya temples. For instance, the Karpaka Vinayakar Temple and Sri Sowmiyanarayana Perumal Kovil in Thirukoshtiyur attracts large number of pilgrims.

**Education**

"Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man."

– *Swami Vivekananda.*

Karaikudi is eternally indebted to one man – Padmabhushan Dr. R.M.Alagappa Chettiar. He is called 'Vallal' (philanthropist), more suitably as Vallal Alagappa Chettiar, who gave all his wealth to create an outstanding educational empire in pure nobility to provide affordable quality education to the rural masses; and without whom Karaikudi would have been a trivial town.

Vallal Alagappa Chettiar, founded the "Alagappa Chettiar Educational Trust" with the aim of developing the backward area of Karaikudi into a centre for higher education and provided necessary funds for the establishment of educational institutions.
The education development went to its peak around 1947 when, Vallal Alagappar established the Alagappa Arts College, Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering and Technology (A.C.C.E.T), and Alagappa technical institution and school. He was the key person in establishing the Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (C.E.C.R.I) in 1948 at Karaikudi by providing land and funding.

Karaikudi and its adjoining places have a growing array of educational services and facilities right from play school to doctorate.

**Arts and Crafts**

The arts and crafts in the Chettinadu region are a unique blend of tradition and modern, which are distinctive to this area. The Chettinadu's cookware, furniture, household articles, woodwork, handloom, culinary, and the exceptional Karaikudi Veenai tradition are a mark of this region.

There are various traditions in playing Veenai (a stringed musical instrument). One of the styles that still stand out in the generations of musicians is the Karaikudi style of Veenai playing. Some of the well-known veenai-players are – Malayappa Iyer, Venkatesa Iyer, Subbaraya Iyer, and Karaikudi Veenai brothers Subbarama Iyer and Sambasiva Iyer.

The woodwork, especially on doorframes, wooden panels is crafted decoratively with intricate patterns. The wood panel [placed above doorframe] is usually carved with Gajalakshmi, the Goddess of wealth, and a Kalasam (small pot) with coconut and sprouting mango leaves on top. Themes from Hindu mythology like Ramayana, Mahabharath, Thiruvilaiyadal are also carved elegantly on to these panels.
Athangudi Tiles – the terracotta tiles with flamboyant patterns, which are handmade and sun-dried. These tiles have a distinctive gloss finish. Athangudi is famous for its handmade (now modernised) tile works.

**Food**

India is well known for its spicy culinary delicacies around the world. Particularly in Tamil Nadu, the 'Chettinadu Samayal' is world-renowned. A unique blend of spices and ingredients and traditional cooking methods handed down from generations that standout from other styles of cooking. The Chettinadu Samayal (chettinadu culinary), also known as 'Achi Samayal', by tradition uses particular firewood for a particular food to be cooked; as the fumes from the firewood enhances the food's taste, if it is the right firewood.

There is wide array of delicacies for both the Vegetarians and Non-Vegetarians. Starting from Paalpaniyaram, Puttu, Idiyappam, Ilandhosai to Karakuzhlambu (hot spicy curry), Kurumakulambu (spicy curry mixed with coconut-paste), Vendakaimandi (ladyfinger sour curry), Melagurasam (Indian [pepper] soup) in Vegetarian food, and for Non-Vegetarian food, Karikulambu (mutton curry), Kozhlikulambu (chicken curry), Karuvattukulambu (dried-fish curry), Muttaikulambu (egg curry), Biryani, to name a few. Apart from these, there are snack items like Murukku, Adhirasam, Maaurundai, Seepucheedai, Theankuzhal, Karuppatti Paniyaram, Paalkozhlukattai, Cheeyam, Manakolam, and much more.

**Business**

The Chettiars are well known for their business acumen; it is no wonder that Karaikudi is next to Mumbai in stock-brokerage. Chettiars traditionally involve in occupations like money lending and wholesale trading. Karaikudi area, by its prominent
location between two major cities – Tiruchirappalli and Madurai, has become a lucrative business hub for education, healthcare, financial services, small-scale industries, construction companies, automobile dealers, textile dealers, jewellery, software and many more.

**THIRUPPATHUR TALUK**

Thiruppathur is a Taluk in Sivagangai District of Tamil Nadu State, India. The headquarters of Thiruppathur Taluk is Thiruppathur town. The Virusuliyar River flows through Kumangudi. It is located 36 Km towards North from District head quarters Sivaganga, 437 Km from State capital Chennai towards North.

**Geography**

Thiruppathur Taluk is bounded by Kallal Taluk towards South, Kannankudi Taluk towards East, Ponnamaravati Taluk towards North, Singampunari Taluk towards West. Karaikudi, Sivaganga, Pudukkottai, Natham are the nearby places to Tiruppathur. Thiruppathur taluk spreads over 720 sq.km. It is in the 88 m elevation. This Place is in the border of the Sivagangai District and Pudukkottai District. Ponnamaravati is North towards this place.

**Demographics**

According to the 2011 census, the taluk of Thiruppathur has a population of 275,779 with 138,228 males and 137,551 females. Child population in the age group below 6 is 14,951 males and 14,240 females. The number of male literates is 105,527 and that of females is 84,044.
Administration

Thiruppathur is one of the main towns in Sivaganga district on the Madurai - Tanjore Highway. Earlier it was a small village in Ramanathapuram District. It was changed from Panchayat to town panchayat. The city is connected only by Roadways. There are 40 panchayat villages and 100 revenue villages.

Tourist spots

- Pillaiyarpatti: Located near Thiruppathur. There is the famous Karpaka Vinayakar Temple which can be seen here. The presiding deity of the Temple is Karpaga Pillaiyar and from there comes the name of the village Pillaiyar Village.

- Vettangudi Bird Sanctuary: This 0.384 km² protected area, declared in June 1977, near Thiruppathur in Sivaganga district includes the Periya Kollukudi Patti, Chinna Kollukudi Patti and Vettangudi Patti Irrigation tanks. The sanctuary is the natural habitat of winter migratory and residential birds and provides a safe place for roosting, breeding and feeding. There is considerable diversity in their nesting and feeding behaviour. The best season is to visit from November to February.

- Vairavanpatti: Temple for Lord Bhairava, it is around 2 km from the Pillaiyarpatti Ganapathy temple.

- Thiruthalinathar temple, Sri Ninra Narayanaperumal temple, Piranmalai hills, Tirumayam fort, Marudhu brothers memorial place, Siravayal Jallikattu, Kunrakudi Temple, Thirukostiur Temple are other places of interest here.
Thiru. N.T.S. Arumugam Pillai, founder of Arumugam Pillai Seethaiammal College in Thiruppathur, hailing from Thiruppathur, a socially and educationally backward area, migrated to Malaysia to earn his fortune and became a business magnet and rose to eminence in Malaysia. Holding the conviction that education is the key to open the doors of upliftment, he started this College in July 1965 and thereby brought the unknown and unheard Thiruppathur in the educational map of Tamil Nadu. Born out of his benevolence, this College has made it possible for the poor people of Thiruppathur to gain access to the portals of higher education. The magnificent building like a temple, speaks of the noble and selfless desire of the founder that this citadel of learning could withstand the test of time and cater to the educational needs of the poor and downtrodden of Thiruppathur and its neighborhood century after century. But for this College, it would not have been possible for the people of Thiruppathur especially women to get higher education.

- APSA college of Education
- Arumugam Pillai Seethai Ammal Teacher Training Institute
- Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar College of Education for Women
- Vivekananda Polytechnic College
- Vivekananda College of Education
- S.M.S.Higher Secondary School, Kilasivalpatti
- Achrampatti Government School are other educational institutions located here.
Table No. 4.3
TALUK WISE POPULATION

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Table No. 4.4
TALUK WISE LITERATES

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As per 2011 census

Source: www.sivaganga.tn.nic.in
DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS – 2011 CENSUS

- Sivagangai District ranks 26th in terms of population.
- The district urban population share is 30.83 percent.
- Sivagangai district is the second least densely populated district, 316 per square kilometer.
- The district has recorded 2nd least Scheduled Tribes population among the districts.
- The sex ratio in the district is 1003, higher as compared with the State sex ratio of 996.
- The Child Sex Ratio (0-6 yrs) in the district is 960, which is higher as compared with State sex ratio of 943.
- The Scheduled Castes population in the district is 17.01 percent.
- The district has recorded literacy of 79.9 percent.
- The percentage of decadal variation in population during 2001-2011 is 15.9 percent.
- Sivaganga taluk has the highest number of inhabited villages (127) while Ilayangudi taluk has the lowest number (51) of such villages.
- Somanathamangalam village (L.C. No. 01345700) of Sivaganga taluk is the most populated (14490) and Thalanendal village (L.C.No. 01335100) of Devakottai taluk has the least population (8) in the district.
- Aranmanaisiruvayal village (L.C.No. 01328500) of Karaikudi taluk is the largest village with an area of 2888.67 hectares and Themmapatti village (L.C. No. 01319500) of Tirupathur taluk is the smallest village with an area of 13.36 hectares among villages of the district.