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Chapter – III

Profile of the Study Area
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PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

HISTORY OF TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Tiruchirappalli, better called as Trichy, is the fourth largest city of Tamil Nadu and the transportation center of the State. It is located on the banks of the River Cauvery on which the first man-made dam Kallanaiwas built across. The city is of great antiquity and has been ruled by the Early Cholas, the Early Pandyas, Pallavas, Medieval Cholas, Later Cholas, Later Pandyas, Delhi Sultanate, Madurai Sultanate, Vijayanagar Empire, Madurai Nayaks, the Carnatic state and the British at different times. The archaeologically important town of Uraiyur which served as the capital of the Early Cholas is a suburb of Tiruchirapalli.

The municipality of Trichinopoly was created in 1866 as per the Town Improvements Act of 1865 followed by the municipality of Srirangam in 1871 and Golden Rock in 1972. The three municipalities were merged in 1994 to form the Tiruchirappalli municipal corporation. The first Indian census conducted in 1871 returned a population of 76,530 for Tiruchirappalli making it the second largest city in Madras Presidency, next only to the capital city of Madras.

The world famous landmark in Tiruchirappalli is the 85m tall Rock Fort right in the middle of the City, which used to be a military fort during the Pre-British era. Trichirappalli is a fine blend of temples and monuments and is a great
travel destination. Dominated by the granite rock soaring 84 meters into the skyline, it also hosts the Golden Rock Locomotive Workshop, an Ordinance Factory, and NIT (National Institute of Technology). It is one of the most famous temple towns of Tamilnadu. The important temples are Rock Fort Temple, Ranganathaswamy Temple and Jambukeshwaram Temple. Apart from the fort there are several churches, colleges and missions dating back to the 1760s. It is also famous for artificial diamonds, cigars, handloom cloth, glass bangles and wooden and clay toys. With its excellent infrastructural facilities Tiruchirappalli will serve as a good base to see central Tamilnadu.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

Tiruchirappali is located at 10.8050°N 78.6856°E. The city is at a distance of 325 kilometres (202 mi) south-west of Chennai and 402 kilometres (250 mi) north of Kanniyakumari on the National Highway NH 45 and 200 kilometres (120 mi) south-east of Coimbatore and 128 kilometres (80 mi) west from the Bay of Bengal coast. The city of Madurai is situated 161 kilometres (100 mi) south of Tiruchirappalli.

TOPOLOGY

The topology of Trichy is flat. It lies at an altitude of 78 m above sea level. The area of the city is 167.23 sq.kms while the urban agglomeration is spread over an area of 180 sq.kms. The river Cauvery flows along WNW-SSE direction through the city. The city is divided into three parts: the Cantonment area to the south, the temples to the north and the bazaar in the centre of the city. Most of
Tiruchirapalli’s hotels and government and post offices are situated in the cantonment area while most of Tiruchirapalli’s temples are located in the north. The Rockfort and its temple are situated in the centre of the city.

Fig. 3.1

Tiruchirappalli District Map
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Trichy has very hot climate, with humidity slightly above normal. The city experiences mild winters and humid summers. The timing of the monsoon in this part of the country has lately become unpredictable, with the rainy season starting from mid-October until early-November and the rains then extending until early or mid-January.

- Summer temperature : 41.10°C (maximum) 36.40°C (minimum)
- Winter temperature : 21.31°C (maximum) 18.60°C (minimum)

During the summer months of March to May, Tiruchirappalli is extremely hot and dry during daytime. However, the evenings are rendered cool by cold winds that blow from the south-east. It is quite sultry during September and October but cool and pleasant from November to February. According to a popular saying, the climate of Tiruchirappalli is "eight months hot and four hotter." The city receives an average annual rainfall of 83 centimetres (33 in).

DEMOGRAPHY

Trichy population is predominantly Hindus, and there are sizable population of Christians and Muslims. Sikhs and Jains are also present in smaller numbers. Tamil is the official language of the city. The dialect of the Tamil language spoken here is the standard version of the language with a blend of Kongu Tamil. Madurai Tamil may be heard as one travels through the eastern and southern-eastern boundaries of the city. One may also hear eelathamil / Sri Lankan
Tamil spoken in some parts of the city. Other language spoken here is English, Hindi.

During the pre-independence era, Anglo-Indians, many of whom worked in the 'South-Indian Railways', started settling in 'Golden Rock-Township' and 'Crawford' located within the city. Crawford is considered as one of the expensive areas in the city. The place is predominantly Christian. It has been situated at the edge of the Cauvery Delta, the culture of Tiruchirappalli is similar to the Brahminical culture common elsewhere in the delta. Some of the Christian denominations have a presence in Tiruchirapalli, thereby giving it the name "Rome of the East". With a significant population of students and the industrial workers from many states of India, Tiruchirappalli has a more number of Carnatic musicians and has been the home for many film artistes.

TOURISM

ROCK FORT

The 83 meter high Rock Fort is the only outcrop in the otherwise flat land of the city. The rock is one of the oldest in the world approximately 3,800 million years, which makes it as old as the rocks of Greenland and older than the Himalayas.

THIRUVANAIKKAVAL

It is located 5 km away from Trichy. The Sri Jambukeshwara Temple is dedicated to Lord Siva and has five concentric walls and seven Gopurams. It is
built around a Siva Lingam partly submerged in water that comes from a spring in the sanctum sanctorum, Non Hindus are not allowed inside the temple.

**AYYAPAN TEMPLE**

The temple is located near the district court of Trichy, is a peaceful temple and attracts many people in all week days. This temple is famous for it discipline and neatness. Special pooja’s are conducted for unmarried, people expecting children. Open : 5 a.m. to 10.50 a.m. & 5 p.m. to 8.50 p.m.

**ATHMANATHASWAMY TEMPLE**

This temple contains graceful life-size sculptures and is noted for its zephyr (granite roof) work. This temple was built in the 10th century A.D.

**SAMAYAPURAM**

The State of Tamil Nadu has several divine abodes of Goddess Shakthi. Shakthi cults prevalent in different ages are manifested in the temples. One of such divine abodes is Arulmighu Mariamman, Samayapuram in Trichy District.

**OOMAIYANKOTTAI**

This is here captured rebels were imprisoned by the British. It was built in the year 1687 by King Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram. The Siva temple has some inscriptions of music. There are two shrines in the Vishnu temple, and one here the Lord is represented in a reclining posture is particularly remarkable as it is the largest of its kind in the country. On the walls behind the idol arc beautiful carvings depicting Vishnu and the serpent Adisesha chasing away rakshasas (demons) by spewing fire and poison.
VAYALUR TEMPLE

8 km from Trichy. Located on the outskirts of Trichy. There is a small Lord Muruga Temple set in the midst of lush green vegetation.

URAIYUR

This is the second of the two Sthalams in Tiruchirappalli, the first being the Rock Fort Temple. Uraiyur was the ancient capital of the early Cholas and the ancient city is believed to have been destroyed by a sand storm. Pugazh Chola Nayanar and Go Chenkan Cholan were born here, as was Tiruppaanaazhwar. Uraiyur is also known as Kozhimanagaram as legend holds that a fowl blessed with divine powers defeated an elephant in a duel. Go Chenkan Cholan the builder of 78 Maadakkovils is said to have born here. Ph 0431-2761869.

UTHAMARKOIL

Uthamar Koil in Karumbanur is one of the most famous shrines in 108 Vaishnavik Padalshtalam. This temple is situated eight kilometers North of Trichy Fort Station, 4 km North of Srirangam Railway station.

NADHIRSHADHARGA

The dharga is the important holy place for muslims in Trichy. It was built more than 1000 years. A famous festival ‘urs’ is celebrated in the mosque. Devotees from many places visit this Dharga and believe that they get self satisfaction.
PLANETARIUM

5 Km from Trichy. Anna Science Centre/Planetarium is located on Pudukkottai Road, near Airport. Programmed in Tamil and English versions are shown daily. Time: In Tamil 10.30am, 1.00pm, and 3.30p.m. In English 11.45a.m., 2.15p.m. and 4.45p.m. Ph: 0431-2331921.

LOURDES CHURCH

This church is located near to Rock-Fort Teppakulam. Church of our Lady of Lourdes is the replica of the Basillica of Lourdes, the world famous place of pilgrimage in Southern France.

SRIRANGAM

Srirangam is located 7 km from Trichy. Which is the district’s most important pilgrim centre. Srirangam, surrounded by the waters of river cauvery on one side and its tributary Kollidam on the other, is a 600 acre island-town enclosed within the seven walls of the gigantic Sri Ranganathaswami Temple.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE STUDY AREA

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full area (sq km)</td>
<td>4403.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(As per 2010 census)</td>
<td>2,722,290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban population</td>
<td>1,338,033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural population</td>
<td>1,384,257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Female 1,370,006
Birth rate (per 1000) 16.6
Death rate (per 1000) 5.8
Infant mortality ratio 28.2
Number of schools 40
Colleges 72
Hospitals 84
Banks 48

PROFILE OF THE SELECT HOSPITALS FOR STUDY

JANET HOSPITAL

The institution was founded in 1988 by Dr. Mrs. J. Susheela Devi, MD.,DGO., a leading Obstetrics and Gynaec consultant, who had worked at Trichy Government hospital, for 20yrs. She is the Managing Director of the institution and is assisted by her husband Dr. G. Jeyachandran, who is a TB and chest physician. The hospital was started as a purely obstetric and gynaec hospital with 20 beds.

In 1998, Dr. Johnston Gnanaraj, General and Laparoscopic surgeon, their son and Dr. Victoria Johnston, Obstetrician Gynaecologist and Infertolgist, wife of Dr. Johnston Gnanaraj joined the institute. It further expanded with another additional 15 beds. Later Dr. Janet Anita, consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, daughter of Dr. Susheela Devi, joined the institution. Subsequently in 2008, the new annexed building was inaugurated and the
infrastructure of the hospital was modernized with 50 beds which include a suite room, A/C deluxe rooms, Non A/C deluxe rooms, which has cable TV, intercoms and solar water heater. The hospital is located in the busy area of Puthur and is equipped with Colour Doppler Ultrasonogram, ECG and X ray machines as well as a pharmacy and canteen within the premises to take care of the needs of the patients. Over the span of more than two decades of health care delivery through specialized treatment, the hospital is specializing in all Obstetrics and Gynaecology related problems with Infertility and High Risk Pregnancy care also being undertaken.

JEGADHA HOSPITAL

The hospital was started in 1967 by Dr. Shakuntala, who was a famous Gynaecologist, with initially five beds in Thillai Nagar. It was a small hospital which attracted lower income group people especially from villages in and around Trichy district such as Jaya puram, Kavalkaranpatti, Illupur, Katoor, Ariyamanagalam, Kulumani and Thanjavur. Dr. Shakuntala was succeeded by her sister Dr. Kamalam who assisted her in her early years of practice. After her, it is now being successfully run by her nephew Dr. Veena Jegaram, Gynaecologist and Obstetrician. She is also assisted by her husband Jegaram. The bed strength of the hospital is currently 30 with two more consultant gynaecologists working round the clock in the absence of Dr. Veena. The average number of deliveries conducted is 100 per month. As there is continuous admission the patients are
discharged on the second day after a normal delivery during peak periods. A new hospital is being constructed beside with more rooms and better infrastructure to replace the existing old one.

PANKAJAM HOSPITAL

The hospital was started in the year 1971 by Dr. Pankajam Sitharaman, a Gynaecologist, in her own residence in East Srirangam. Most of the people in Srirangam and from various villages nearby such as Kambarasampettai, Mutharasanallur, Thalakudi, Keeramangalam, Puravi, Koothur approach this hospital for delivery. She is known for her professionalism and discipline. The hospital is usually crowded with an average of two to four deliveries per day. She has been administering the hospital for 35 years and is now succeeded by Dr. Kavitha Senthil - Gynaecologist & Obsterician. At present she only treats outpatients and all deliveries are being conducted by Dr. Kavitha. The hospital has been renovated and modernized with 30 spacious rooms, labour room, operation theatre, scanning rooms and laboratory and a canteen for the inpatients.

SHYAMALA HOSPITAL

It was started in 1979 by Dr. Kasthuri Mohan in the heart of the city, near Central bus stand with seven beds. She treats all patients with compassion and empathy in a homelike atmosphere which attracts many generations till today. The hospital is run with 26 beds today and three consultant gynaecologists are practicing along with her. She is also assisted by her husband Dr. Mohan in
administering the hospital. She shows keen interest in educating the women folk about the importance of healthy food habits and practices for having a normal delivery without complications. She addresses the student community to enlighten them about the various health issues they face in their teenage. Most of the people who approach her for treatment reside in Trichy and some of them come from areas such as Thalakudi, Kalkandar kottai, Pudukottai, Lalgudi, Purathakkudi, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Poongudi and so on.
End notes

https://www.trichycorporation.gov.in

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiruchirappalli_City_Municipal_Corporation

http://www.districtsofindia.com/tamilnadu/tiruchirappalli/healthandfamilywelfare/

index.aspx