ABOUT THIRUVARUR DISTRICT

Thanjavur district was bifurcated into three districts namely, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagappattinam in 1996 and real functioning of the new districts started in First January 1997.

Thanjavur attained prominence under the Chola rulers who were paramount in South India during 9th to 12th centuries. They were excellent rulers and mighty builders. Many examples are found in the district, which bear testimony to this. Many of these temples reflect the geniusness and architectural proficiency in sculpture, painting and wood – carving.

The administration of Thanjavur was given over to English fully under the treaty of 1799. The ruler of Thanjavur was allowed to retain the fort of Thanjavur with very limited powers. When the ruler died in 1841, without heir, the Thanjavur fort was also annexed by the British. Thanjavur remained under the British rule until 1947 when India attained freedom.

Thiruvarur District was carved out as a separate district by detaching Valangaiman taluk from Thanjavur District and the taluks of Thiruvarur, Nannilam, Kudavasal, Needamangalam, Mannargudi, Thirutturai Poondi from Nagappatinam 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.
Geographical situation

The Thiruvarur District is spread over 2079.99 sq.km covering northern latitude between 10.20° and 11.67° and eastern longitude between 79.15° and 79.45°.

Population and Pattern of Workers

According to Census 2001, the total population of Thiruvarur district was about 11,69,474 of which male population was 5,88,690. The rural population was 9,32,231 of which male population was 4,63,502 and female population was 4,68,728. So the urban population of this district was 2,37,243 consisting of 1,17,282 males and 1,19,916 females.

The main workers comprise of cultivators, engaged in household farming, agricultural labourers and other marginal workers. They are about 3,86,956 in number. The rural workers are about 3.2 lakhs and urban workers are 0.66 lakh. Among the total workers, agricultural labourers and cultivators numbering about 2.62 lakhs constitute 1.95 lakhs males and 0.87 lakh females.

The growth of population is 5.92 per cent. The male/ female ratio is 1014 which is considerably high. The population density is 492. The people generally speak Tamil, Telungu, Malayalam and Urdu.
According to population study undertaken in the year 2005-2006, there were 3,4089 births and 7336 deaths. The infant deaths were about 439. The birth rate was 17.5 and death rate 6.8. The infant mortality rate was 26.6.

**Literacy**

The general literate population in the district is 7,88,302, of which 4,35,421 are males and 3,52,881 are females. The rural literate population is 6,08,297 of which 3,40,202 are males and 2,68,095 are females. The urban literates are at 1,80,005 of which 95,219 are males and 84,786 are females.

**Rainfall and Temperature**

Generally, the district experiences a maximum temperature of 37ºC with a minimum of 30ºC. The average annual rainfall is 302 mm in south-west monsoon period and 665 mm in north-east monsoon period. But in the year, 2005-2006 the district experienced 285 mm in the south west monsoon and 806 mm in the north-east monsoon.

**Agricultural Activities**

The total area cultivated in the year 2005-2006 was about 237715 hectares. The rice production was about 243 lakh tonnes. The pulses produced were around 22 lakh tonnes. Sugarcane production at (gur) about 4 lakhs tonnes, groundnut at about 7 lakh tonnes, gingilly at about 0.7 lakhs tonnes and cotton at one lakh tonne. The important food crops are rice, green gram and black gram. The important non-food crops are cotton, groundnut, coconut, gingili, palm, flowers and oilseeds.
Irrigation

The whole area is irrigated by the rivers Odampokki, Vettar, Vennar, Koraiyar, Valanvaikkal, Kaattar, Pandavaiar, Arichandranthi, Mullaiyar and Pamaniyar.

The area also gets irrigation from the lakes at Vaduvur, Thirumeni, Ayyampettai, Udayamarthandapuram and Moovannallur.

Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development

There are 8 veterinary hospitals and 30 veterinary dispensaries with 62 sub centres. According to livestock census 2004, there were 332022 cattles, 56666 buffaloes, 16050 sheeps, 375318 goats and 255845 poultry birds. There are 20 milk co-operative societies producing 32.82 lakh litres in flush seasons and 30.82 lakhs litres in lean seasons.

Fisheries

Thiruvarur District covers 47 km of coastal line consisting of 1 coastal block and 14 coastal centres. The marine fish production is about 2500 tonnes and inland fish production is about 8700 tonnes per year. The fishermen engaged in marine fishing are about 3973 and in inland fishing are about 3802.

Forest

The reserved forest area in the district is 2542 hectares. The production of timber was 1214 cu.m, fire wood 40.9 M tonnes, pulp wood 1298.46 M tonnes and bamboo 5.040 tonnes in the year 2004.
Electricity and Power Consumption

The electricity generated and purchased was about 2400 M.U. The pattern of power consumption by agricultural activities are 67.177 M.U, industries 15.758 M.U, commercial 27.534 M.U, domestic 107.998 M.U, public lighting and water works 7.535 M.U and miscellaneous 6.578 M.U.

The number of pump sets energized are 17315. About 573 villages and 1546 hamlets were electrified in recent year.

Industries

There are 107 small scale factories with 1427 workers. There are 6 medium scale industries, 675 small scale industries and 807 cottage Industries.

Medical Facility and Health

Eight government hospitals are situated in this district. There are 39 primary health centres with 195 health sub centres.

The doctors and nurses are working in the hospitals and dispensaries are 76 and 224 respectively.

Education

According to 2004-2005, the pre-primary schools are 696. Middle schools are 190, high schools are 10 and higher secondary schools are 56.
There are 2 engineering colleges, seven arts colleges, 3 technical institutions, 1 musical school and 2 teacher training colleges in the district.

**Transport**

The national high ways is about 45.000 km in length. The state high ways are about 196.440 km in length. The municipality roads are about 224.358 km. The registered commercial vehicles running are 4407 whereas non-commercial vehicles are about 23657. The railway track length is about 114.2 km of which broad gauge is 40 km. there are 22 railway stations in both the tracks.

**Communication**

There are 152 post offices in the district with 35 telephone exchanges having 52486 subscribers.

**Co-operative Banks**

There are 2 district central co-operative banks. The primary land development banks are 6 in number and 137 primary agricultural credit societies are spread over the whole district. The other co-operative societies are about 250. There are 14 commercial banks and 137 primary co-operative societies all over the district. Three life insurance offices with a sum assurance of Rs. 298.83 crores are serving for the benefits of people.
**District Administration**

The district is divided into two divisions with 7 taluks and 27 firkas with 573 villages. The district is divided into 10 community development blocks comprising of four municipalities, 7 town panchayats and 430 village panchayats.

The district has two revenue divisions viz Thiruvarur Division and Mannarkudi Division. The Thiruvarur Division has taluks such as Thiruvarur, Nannilam, Kudavasal, and Valangaiman and Mannargudi Division has Mannargudi, Needamangalam and Thiruthturai poondi Taluks.

**Police and Fire Stations Prisons**

There are 30 police stations, 5 prisons and 9 fire stations.

**Natural resources**

The oil exploring company ONGC is exploring the possible availability of natural gas and crude oil in the Cauvery basin in the district. The main natural resources are crude oil and natural gas.
Thiruvarur Taluk

Geography

Thiruvarur is located at 10°46’N 79°39’ E 10.77,79.65
Thiruvarur is a town and a municipality in Thiruvarur District of Tamil Nadu. Thiruvarur is the administrative head quarters of Thiruvarur District. Thiruvarur is one of the oldest towns, which has been popular as cultural head quarters for many centuries.

Thiruvarur is located on the eastern part of Tamil Nadu, roughly halfway between the northern and southern borders. It has an average elevation of 3 metres Thiruvarur is situated at a distance of 24 km from the closest major town, Nagapattinam, 56 km from Mayiladudurai, 27 km from Mannargudi and 28 km from Thiruthuraipoondi.

History of Temples

According to history, the central temple in Thiruvarur was installed by Muchukanda Chola. Thiruvarur is also associated with another legendary king, Manuneedhi Cholan.

Thiruvarur is mentioned in the works of Thirugnana Sambanthar and Tirunavukkarasu the foremost saivite saints of 7th century CE. Tirunavukkarasu mentions several Thiruvarur temple traditions, such as Marghazhi Aathirai Vizha, Panguni Uttirai Perunal and Veedhivitakanin Veedhi Panni. The granite structure of the Thyagaraja Swami temple was first constructed by Aditya Chola I in 9th century and revamped during the reign of Rajaraja Chola I. The temple was upgraded and rebuilt with stone by Rajendra Chola I. The royal
patronage continued and the town flourished as a cultural centre during the rule of the Nayaka, Vijayanagar kings and Marathas. This temple is one of the biggest in the country and this has the biggest temple chariot in Tamil Nadu. The chariot is very beautiful and Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy car festival celebrated here in the months of March – April attracts large crowds. Thiruvarur car is very famous one and it is called as Aalither in Tamil meaning ocean car.

In this temple there is an excellent and unique musical instrument called Panchamuga Vadyam with five faces. Each of the faces are ornamented; one with a snake, another with lotus and another one is plain without decorations. One has a swastik sign. Over each face leather is spread and over the central one Deerskin is spread. It is said that Lord Shiva danced when Nanachi Devi played on this instrument.

Thiruvarur was part of the Thanjavur District until 1991 and Nagappatinam District until 1997. Thiruvarur was made the headquarters of Thiruvarur District when it was carved out of Nagappattinam in 1997.

A region inside the town called Kodikkal Palayam forms a major Muslim dominated area.

Thiruvarur car festival is celebrated in every year in a grand manner. People come from all the surrounding areas.

**Demography and Literacy**

As per 2001 Indian census, Thiruvarur had a population of 56,280 males constituting 51 per cent of the population and females 49 per cent. Thiruvarur has an average literacy rate of 81 per cent which is
higher than the national average of 59.5 per cent. Male literacy rate is 85 per cent and female literacy rate is 76 per cent. Ten per cent of the population is under 6 years of age.

**Economy**

Thiruvanur lies in the Cauvery River basin and the main occupation of the inhabitants of Thiruvanur and surrounding areas is agriculture.

**Education**

A government medical college and health care centre have been started in Thiruvanur in the year 2010. There is only one university in this taluk. This is the first Central University in Tamil Nad. There is one Medical College and two Paramedical colleges in Thiruvanur. There are 3 catering colleges and only one Polytechnic college and 2 ITI institutions. There is one government arts college and 5 arts and science college and one co-operative college and 2 engineering colleges in this Taluk.

**Temples**

The ancient Sri Thyagaraja temple at Thiruvanur is dedicated to the Somaskanda aspect of Shiva. The temple complex has shrines dedicated to Vanmikanathar, Tyagarajar and the Kamalaamba and covers an area of over 20 acres. The Kamalalayam temple tank which covers around 25 acres, is one of largest temples in the country. The temple chariot is the largest of its kind in Tamil Nadu. The annual car festival is celebrated in the month of Chitrai (April – May). Every year after the car festival, the Theppam festival is celebrated here. The temple’s *Kumbabishekam* is performed every twelve years, most recently in 2001.
Nannilam Taluk

Geography

Nannilam is located at 10.88°N 79.62°E 10.88; 76.62. It has an average elevation of 7 metres. Nannilam and the surrounding area is home to many temples like Madhuvaneshwarar temple, and old Shiva temple which is located at the centre of the town. This is the central place surrounded by Navagraham. If one starts from this place in the morning he can complete the total Navagraham at the end of the day. A small village 2 km away from Nannilam has an old Shri Svarnakalimman temple and Sandhuveli Mariamman Kovil famous for its festival. Nallamaangudi is a small village about 2 km away from Nannilam. This is the place where Raavana came as a Deer to take Seetha in Ramayanam. Seetha said to Rama Athu Nallamaan Padiyunga. These words became the name of the small village. This is a very big panchayat in Nannilam Taluk. Three kilometres from Nannilam in the north-west direction there is a small village called Vadagudi. Dheeksthar families who perform spiritual discourses and yagnas are here. They are proudly known as nithyagnihothris since they perform agnihothram daily. Vitaldas Jayakrishna Dekshithar is from this village.

The town is a main hub for the nearby villages. This is the native place of Tamil film director Kailasam Balachander. Nannilam is located at 30 km west of Karaikal and 30 km east of Kumbakonam. A major population of this village is engaged in farming.
Demography

According to census 2001 the total population of this taluk is about 108060 of which 53996 are males and 54064 are females. The rural population is about 91162 of which 45556 are males and 44606 are females. So the urban population of this taluk is 16898 consisting of 8440 males and 8458 females.

Literacy

The literates in the taluk are 75543 of which 41510 are males and 34033 are females. The rural literate population is 62713 of which 34660 are males and 28053 are females. The urban literate population is 12830 of which 6850 are males and 5980 are females.

Composition of Workers

The main workers comprise of cultivators, agricultural labourers and other marginal workers. In the rural areas there are 26318 male and 11157 female workers, and among the urban workers, 4335 are males and 1293 are females.

Irrigation

This taluk is irrigated by rivers and wells. There are 2502 wells in this taluk. Net area irrigated is 14414 hectares and the gross area irrigated are 15656, whereas the net area sown is 14681 hectares and the gross area sown is 25671 hectares.
Livestock:

Nannilam Taluk is bestowed with a large population of livestock which is around 1,10,664. The total poultry population in this taluk is 1,12,131. Among the cattle, 1,604 are males and 2,432 are females. There are 6,807 male buffaloes and 19,782 are female buffalos making a total of 26,589. Also there are 3,150 sheeps, 4,121 goats, 1,779 pigs and 15 horse ponies.

Rural Electrification

This taluk covers 58 villages and 2 towns and 246 hamlets with a population of 108,060. Totally 6,414 street lights are provided by the government in this taluk.

Communication

In this taluk there are 36 post offices functioning for the benefit of the people. According to census 2001, there are 15 post and telegraph offices, 3 telegraph offices 153 letter boxes and 4 telephone exchanges or sub exchanges providing services to the people in this taluk. The total number of telephone connection are 5,905 and public telephones are 59.

Temples and Places of Interaction

Nannilam is very famous for temples located around it. The famous temples are Sri Maha Saraswathi temple and Vanginathan temple. Nannilam is a main hub for the nearby villages. The place of interest is the famous Madhuveneshwarar temple, which is located at centre of the town. The famous temple is Koothanoor Saraswathi
Amman temple located between Peralam to Poonthottam. Saraswathi Amman is the popular Goddess of education.

**Kudavasal Taluk**

Kudavasal Taluk in Thiruvarur District of Tamil Nadu State is located at 16 km distance from Thiruvarur and 28 km from Kumbakonam 33 km from Mayiladuthurai and 28 km from Nagapattinam.

**Demography**

As per 2001 Indian census, Kudavasal had a population of 170224. The total male population are 84910 and female are 85314. There were 1005 women for every 1000 men. The total number of households were 39872.

**Literacy**

The number of general literates in the taluk is 79556 of which 42456 are males and 37100 are females. There are 69630 literates in the rural area of which males are 37248 and females are 32382. At the same time in the urban area there are 5208 literate males and 4718 females.

**Education**

In this taluk, 83 primary schools, 3 pre-primary schools, 16 middle schools, 9 high schools and 5 higher secondary schools are providing education. There are 722 teachers working institutions educating 20276 students as shown in Table 4.1.
Table 4.1
Educational Setup in Kudavasal Taluk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Institution</th>
<th>No.of Educational Institution</th>
<th>No.of Students</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre Primary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>6639</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4330</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3992</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4297</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Science College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>117</strong></td>
<td><strong>20276</strong></td>
<td><strong>722</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Computed from Secondary data

Land Cultivators and Workers

The total land cultivators are 48594 of which 47904 are males and 690 are females. In rural area there are 4459 male cultivators and 6558 female cultivators. At the same time in urban area 235 male and 32 females cultivators are there.

The total agricultural labourers are 15880 of which 11547 are males and are 4333 females. In rural area 10728 are male and 4138 are female agricultural labourers. The urban agricultural labourers are 819 males and 195 are females. The industrial labourers are 553 and 7304 workers are working in other institutions.
Health Centres

Only one government hospital and 4 primary health centres are providing health services to the people.

Livestock

The total cattle count in this taluk is 16355 and the buffaloes are 850 and the she Buffaloes are 5397. The total livestock is 66184 and the total poultry is 26716.

Other Facilities

There are 2 police stations, one telephone exchange, and a post office providing services to the people.

Famous Temples

An inscription of Rajendra Chola II, belonging to the 11th century, is found in Kailasanathar temple at Deepankudi in Kodavasal Taluk. The inscription belonging to the period of Rajendra chola II, is found in a pillar of 6ft height in the temple premises which is under renovation. Inscription is engraved in all the four sides of the pillar. It starts with the praising of the king. It registers about donations offered to the presiding deity, Kailasanatha of Siva temple by Arulmozhinangai, sister of Rajendra Chola II and the daughter of Rajendra Chola I. On her behalf, it was inscribed by Aramabanandi, a Jain who belonged to Deepankudi temple. The inscription also records about the donations for offering rice, vegetables and curd rice daily.
for the presiding deity. The Jain temple of Deepankudi is in worship now.

Sri Kalyana Varadharaja Perumal temple is located in the village of Avanam Paruthiyur, near Sengalipuram, about 3 km away from Kudavasal and Plavadi in Thiruvarur District. Adhi Varadharaja Perumal facing east in the Paruthiyur Temple is bestowing his grace with Prayoga-Chakra. This chakra is believed to have been sent to protect King Ambarisha, a Vishnu devotee, from the curse of the famous sage Duruvasa. In rage Duruvasa created a demon out of a strand of his hair to kill Ambarisha. King Ambarisha prayed to the Lord Narayana’s. Lord Narayana’s Sudarshana intervened and destroyed the demon and protected King Ambarisha. This implies that the Lord protects all devotees from any kind of evil.

Valangaiman Taluk

Valangaiman Taluk in Thiruvarur District of Tamil Nadu State is located at 38 km from Thiruvarur 13 km from Kumbakonam and also near to Needamangalam.

Geographical Situation

The taluk is spread over 203.24 sq.km. Total geographical area is 20.324 hectare. This taluk is covering northern latitude between 10°53 and 10°88 and eastern latitude between 79°23 and 79°38.

Demography

According to census 2001, the total population of this taluk is about 94,474 of which 46,949 is the male population and 47,525 is
the female population. The rural population is 83,193 of which 41,394 is male population and the female population is are 41799. The urban population of this taluk is 11,281 consisting of 5555 males and 5,726 females.

**Education**

The general literates in the taluk are 59,825 of which 33,547 are males and 26,278 are females. The literates among rural people are 51,705 of which 29,193 are males and 22,512 are females. The urban literates are 8120 of which 4354 are males and 3766 are females.

**Rainfall**

The monthly distribution of rainfall in the taluk for the year 2001 is shown in Table 4.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Rain fall (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>136.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>85.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>68.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>126.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>217.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>183.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>129.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed from Secondary data
It is seen that the taluk receives maximum rain in the north-east monsoon.

**Agricultural Activities**

Valangaiman lies in the Cauveri River basin and the main occupation of the inhabitants of this taluk is agriculture. This taluk is irrigated by rivers and bore wells. The important food crops are rice, green gram and black gram. The important nonfood crops are cotton, banana, flowers and sugarcane.

**Pattern of Workers**

The total number of main land cultivators is 6239 of which 5577 are males and 662 are females. Among them the rural cultivators are 5948 of which 5305 are males 643 are females. Among the 289 urban land cultivators, 272 are males 17 are females.

The total number of agricultural labourers is 26950 of which 15663 are males and 11287 are females. The rural workers are 25668 of which 14831 are males and 10837 are females. The urban workers are 1282 of which 832 are males 450 are females.

**Medical and Health Centres**

Only one government hospitals and three primary health centres are situated in Valangaiman Taluk.
Education

According to 2001 census, there are 58 primary schools, 24 middle schools, 4 high schools, one metriculation higher secondary school and 3 higher secondary schools and an IT college. The details of educational institutions functioning in Valangaiman Taluk are provided in Table 4.3

Table No: 4.3
Educational Institutions in Valangaiman Taluk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Institution</th>
<th>No.of. Institution</th>
<th>No.of Students</th>
<th>No.of Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3377</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4001</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2155</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matriculation School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MatriculationHigher Secondary School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1335</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>11826</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Computed from Secondary data
Rural Electrification

This taluk covers 70 villages one town and 144 hamlets with a population of 94474. Around 99 per cent area of the taluk has proper street light facility.

Police and Fire Stations

There are 2 police stations and one fire station providing protection to the public.

Co-operative Society

There are 15 financial institutions such as primary agriculture co-operative banks, primary land development banks, housing co-operative society and nationalized banks and scheduled banks.

Library

There are three public libraries functioning for the benefit of the people in this taluk.

Livestock

The total livestock population is 1,18252. The total poultry and the cattle populations are 35896 and 42298 respectively. There are 6939 buffaloes, 4925 sheep, 23768 goats 147 pigs and 26 horse and other live stock are 4253.

Temples

Arulmigu Abathsagayeswarar temple at Alangudi is famous as a Parihara Sthalam for Lord Guru Bhagavan. Or Lord
Dakshinamurthy, one of the "Navagras" is referred to the planet Jupiter as per Jyotisha Shastra. Kasi Aranyam, Thiru Erumpoolai, Jananatha Saruppedimangalam and Alangudi are the names by which this holy place is known. Alangudi is a small town in the Cauvery delta region, situated in the Thiruvarur District around 17 km south of Kumbakonam, on the way to Mannargudi, and 7 km north of Needamangalam. Kumbakonam is the nearest major town to reach Alangudi.

There are many buses available from Kumbakonam to Mannargudi with a bus stop at Alangudi town. The temple is just half a kilometer from the bus stand. There are also plenty of taxis available from Kumbakonam which can be hired for half a day. Needamangalam railway station, on the Thanjavur - Thiruvarur rail route, is the nearest railhead, which is 7 km from Alangudi. Kumbakonam is the major railway station. Devotees can reach Alangudi by road from either Needamangalam or Kumbakonam.

“Guru” is a Sanskrit word: 'Gu' means 'darkness' and 'Ru' means 'dispeller' thus arriving at the meaning as the dispeller of darkness. Lord Guru is one of the important planets in Jyotish Shastra and gives the people financial gains, family unity, marriage opportunities and children. In a person’s birth chart i.e. Jathagam or Kundli, if Lord Guru is placed in an excellent position they will lead a very peaceful and prosperous life, if not they would suffer all along their life.

The Mahamariyamman thirukkovil is a very famous temple in Valangaiman Taluk. This temple is 5 km away from Kumbakonam.
Mannargudi Taluk

Geography

Mannargudi is located at 10.67ºN 79.43º E 10.67; 79.43. It has average elevation of 6 metres. Mannargueli (also spelt Mannarkudi) is a municipality in Thiruvarur District. It is also known as Raja Mannargudi or Mannai. Mannargudi can be reached by road from Thanjavur, Kumbakonam and Pattukkottai are situated within 40 km from Mannargudi. The nearest railway station is 12 km away at Needamangalam.

Demography

As per 2001 Indian census, Mannargudi had a population of 61,588. Males constitute 50 per cent. Mannargudi has an average literacy rate of 79 per cent which is higher than the national average of 59.5 per cent. Male literacy is 84 per cent and female literacy is 74 per cent. In Mannargudi 9 per cent of the population is under 6 years of age.

Mannargudi town has a mixture of Hindu, Muslim and Christian people. Hindu religion mainly comprises community subgroups of Kallar, Thevar, Vanniar, Mudaliar, Chettiyar and Nadars. The town’s main bazaar is run by Nadars and Muslims mainly dealing with consumer durable businesses. The shops and establishments cater to nearby village requirements.
Education

There are some of colleges in Mannargudi where students from nearby towns are studying. Apart from these, there is a government arts college catering to the educational needs of the people. Mannargudi has a number of primary, high and higher secondary schools. These include 3 higher secondary school, 1 matriculation school and 2 nursery and primary schools in Mannargudi Taluk.

Economy

Being an agricultural town, Mannargudi’s economy largely depends on the crops cultivated which include rice, cotton, sugarcane and pulses. The agriculture around this area mainly depends on the rivers Koraiyaru, Mullaiyar and Pamaniyar. Other sources of irrigation are bore-wells. There are no big industries around this town except a sugarcane mill and a fertilizer industry.

Mannargudi town has the largest coal reserve in Asia. The total quantity of lignite reserves in Mannargudi, has been identified at around 19,500 million tonnes. The lignite has 40 to 50 per cent moisture, 4 to 12 per cent ash, volatile matter 18 to 23 per cent, fixed carbon 17 to 20 per cent and calorific value of 2200 to 3200 k.cal/kg. The reserves are located under built up and agricultural areas making exploitation difficult. Steps are being taken to accelerate exploration and identify blocks which can be exploited in Mannargudi.
**Temples**

The most famous landmark in Mannarkudi is the thousand year old Hindu temple Sri Rajakobala Swami temple. This was build by Raja Raja Chola at 1000 A.D. A festival called *Panguni Tiruvizha* is celebrated every year during the Tamil Month of *Panguni*. Every year *Vennai – thaazhi* and ‘Chariot’ (*thiruther*) festival occur in April. These are very important days of *panguni utsavam*. People around the town gather in great number to celebrate this grand event. There is also *Ani thirumanjanam* held in the month of Ani (June-July).

Other important temples in and around this town are Kulandayi Mariyamman temple (at Ullikkottai), Kaliamman temple Neduvakkottai, Kailasannathar temple, Meenakshi Amman temple, Othaistreet Ananda Vinayagar temple and Sri Ramar temple (at Vaduvoor). Alangudi (*Gurusthalam* -one of the *Navagrahastalam*) temple is about twenty three kilometers, en route to Kumbakonam. Railway connection from Needamangalam was dismantled two decades age and hence no trains ply this route these days.

**Politics**

Prior to delimitation, it was 178th assembly constituency of Tamil Nadu State Assembly. It comes under Thanjavur Parliamentary constituency. Previously it was under Nagapattinam Loksabha Constituency.
Needamangalam Taluk

Needamangalam or Nidamagalam) is a panchayat town in Thiruvarur District. It is located 35 km from Thanjavur and 318 km away from Chennai.

Needamangalam a town panchayat surrounded by a lot of small villages. It has a police station, a railway station, bus terminal, fire service station, taluk office and banks.

Needamangalam is known for the temples which are located around it. Needamangalam is a main hub for the nearby villages. Majority of population constitutes farmers. Many people from Needamangalam are working in Gulf countries and United States.

This is the native place of musician Neelakanda Shastri and the former Chief Election Commissioner of India Gopalaswami.

Demography

As per 2001 Indian census, Needamangalam had a population of 8725. Males constitute 50 per cent of the population and females 50 per cent. Needamangalam has an average literacy rate of 78 per cent which is higher than the national average of 59.5 per cent. Male literacy is 83 per cent and female literacy is 72 per cent. In Needamangalam, 10 per cent of the population is under 6 years of age.
**Education**

Educational establishments includes only one engineering college and two higher secondary school, and one government higher secondary school in this Taluk.

**Places of Interest**

Santhana Ramaswamy temple, Kasi viswanatha temple, Anjaneya temple Drawbadhai Amman temple and Murugan temple are there. Guru temple in Alangudi is a *Navagrahastalam* which is located at a distance of 7 km from the town. Mondram Thalaipu is a location of scenic beauty and a junction of three rivers located at a distance of 2 km from the town.
Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk

Geography
Thiruthuraipoondi is located at N 10°32 and 10°53, E 79°39 and 79°65. Thiruthuraipoondi is a municipality in Thiruvur District. Thiruthuraipoondi is located 330 km south of Chennai, 40 km west of Nagapptinam and 65 km east of Thanjavur.

History
Thiruthuraipoondi is an agricultural town located south of the district Thiruvur. It covers more then 25 villages. Most of the people are doing agriculture. The famous Piravimarundeear temple is at the centre of the town. This temple is 200 years old. Satellite pictures and carbon dating of some beaches between Thiruthuraipoondi and Kodiaykarai show that Thiruthuraipoondi beach dates back to 6,000 years and the Kodiaykarai beach to 1,100 years. In other words, the sea was near Thiruthuraipoondi 6,000 years ago and reached Kodiaykarai around 1,100 years ago. A famous Anchaneyar Temple is also located at the centre of the town. The height of the Anchaneyar is 16 feets.

Demography
As per 2001 Indian census, Thiruthuraipoondi had a population of 22,905. Males (11,272) constitute 49 per cent of the population and females (11,633) 51 per cent. Thiruthuraipoondi has an average literacy rate of 74 per cent that is higher than the national average of
59.5 per cent. Male literacy is 79 per cent and female literacy is 70 per cent. In Thiruthuraipoondi 11 per cent of the population is under 6 years of age.

**Education**

A state board government boys higher secondary school is located at the Pattukottai road. It was built by the British government in the year 1936.

A government girls higher secondary school is also at the centre of the town, near the bus stand. There are also many elementary and primary schools in the town. Matriculation school and higher secondary school are near the new bus stand.

**Economy**

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people living in Thiruthuraipoondi and surrounding areas. Rice and dhal items are grown here. The short term kuruvai and long-term samba rice crops are cultivated depending on the adequate availability of water for irrigation.

**Places of Interest**

Sri Kodandaramar temple is at Thillaivilagam in Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk. It is 20km away from Thiruthuraipoondi. Jambavanodai Dharga in Thiruthuraipoondi taluk is a holy place for Muslims. This is 53 km from Tiruvarur and 25 km from Thiruthuripoondi. Muthupettai (Jambavanodi) Logoon in Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk is 56 km from Tiruvarur and 25 km from
Thiruthuraipoondi. Birds sanctuary at Udayamarthandapuram in Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk is located at 20 km from Thiruthuraipoondi town. The famous beach and church of Velankanni are 30 km from Thiruthuraipoondi.

Transport

It connects 5 major towns like Thiruvarur, Mannargudi, Pattukkottai, Nagappatinam and Vedaranyam.

Notable Personalities

Late cinematographer, Director Jeeva and Thiruthuraipoondi Subramania Srinivasan better known as S.S.Vasan were born here. Vasan was a writer, journalist, magazine editor, publisher and movie maker. He founded the Gemini Studio in 1940, which was one of the most successful film production units. Vasan made blockbusters in Tamil, Telugu and also Hindi. Vasan’s memorable films include Mangamma, Chandralekha, Aboorva Sahotharargal, Vanjikottai valiban, Nishan Gharana, Grihsati and Paigham. Chandralekha was his magnum opus and it was shot for 5 years.