CHAPTER – III
PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

TAMIL NADU STATE

INTRODUCTION

Tamil Nadu State is situated at the South Eastern extremity of the Indian Peninsula bounded on the north by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on the east by Bay of Bengal, on the South by the Indian Ocean and on the West by Kerala State.

LAND

The State can be divided broadly into two natural divisions

(a) the Coastal plains of South India and

(b) the hilly western area.

Parallel to the coast and gradually rising from it is the broad strip of plain country. It can further be sub-divided into coromandal plains comprising the districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore and Vellore. The alluvial plains of the Cauvery Delta extending over Thanjavur and part of Tiruchirappalli districts and dry southern plains in Madurai, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Virudhnagar, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts. It extends a little beyond Western Ghats in Kanyakumari District.

The Cauvery Delta presents some extremely distinctive physical and human features, its power being a main factor in the remarkable growth, the towns of Tamil Nadu have witnessed. It is associated intimately with the life of all its broader regions.
In the east the low country 500 feet below, varies from 50 to 80 miles in width. This plain extends almost up to the feet of the Ghats and only minor elevation can be found here and there. For instance the Valanad hills. The Eastern Ghats enter the State from Andhra Pradesh in the north cut across the State and merge with The Nilgiris Hills on the Western Ghats. The region is bounded on South-West by the crest of the Cardamom hills and on the North-West by the slopes of the plateau. The region is in the form of a Rhombus and the longer diagonal of its stretches from the Pulicat lake in the north to Cape Comorin in the South and the shorter diagonal from the Palghat ghat in the west to point calimere in the east.

The State has an uninterrupted coastline of 922 Kms. It includes the coastline of Pondicherry and Karaikkal. The coastline is a lengthy boundary on the east. Not a single natural harbour capable of accommodating ocean-going vessels can be found on the coast. Madras City has an artificial harbour. While it is a major Port and Tuticorin a medium one, several smaller ports like Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Colochel are found.

HILLS

The Western Ghats averaging 3000 to 8000 feet height run along the western part with the hill group of the Nilgiris and Anaimalai on either side of it. Palani Hills, Varushanad and Andipatti ranges are the major offshoots of the Ghat. The other prominent hill group comprises the Javadir, the Shevaroys, the Kalrayan and the Pachaimalai. These ranges continue south of the river Cauvery. A plateau is found between these
hills and the Western Ghats with an average elevation of 1000 feet rising westward. The highest peak of Doddabetta in the Nilgiris is 8650 feet above sea level. The characteristic feature of the hills of Tamil Nadu is that they have flatfish surface at the height. In general the summits are higher than those of Mysore Plateau area. A detailed description of the hill ranges in the State is given below.

**a. EASTERN GHATS**

With an average elevation of 2000 feet, the Eastern Ghats beginning in Orissa State run through all the districts lying between Ganjam and The Nilgiris plateau. No river of any great importance runs from these ranges.

**b. WESTERN GHATS**

The Western Ghats are 1000 Miles in length and run southward and terminate at Cape Comorin, the southern most extremity. They are joined by the Eastern Ghat and at the point of junction, from the high plateau of The Nilgiris. Near Coimbatore district the range is interrupted by the Palghat Gap. The south of the gap is known as Anaimalais (Elephant Hill) and the east as Palanis. The river Cauvery, Vaigai and Tamiraparani originate from the Anaimalai ranges.

**c. SHEVAROY HILLS**

The range is in Salem District with an area of 150 Square miles. The Vanniar Stream divided the range and the western portion consists of three plateaus of which Pachaimalai (Green Hills) is the largest. Hardly any forest of importance is found in the range.
d. PALANI HILLS

Palani Hills measuring 54 miles in length and the 15 miles in width and occupying an area of 800 Square miles is found in Dindigul District. The hills' health resort Kodaikanal is 7200 feet above sea level. The ranges are steep in the south and slope more gradually down the plains in the north. Teak and black-wood are found in the higher level forests, while coffee is cultivated in the lower Palani.

e. ANAIMALAI

The range covering 80 to 100 Square miles consists of a plateau 7000 feet above sea level, with peaks of over 8000 feet. The Anaimalai peak of 8837 feet height is the highest point in South India. Coffee is grown on a considerable area on the lower ranges. The forest contains a teak belt and elephants are found in abundance.

RIVERS

The Western Ghats form complete water shed and no river pierces through them. The main stream viz., Paralliyar and Vattaseri Phazhayar are 37 and 23 miles respectively in length and fall in the Arabian Sea. All the other rivers are east flowing rivers. The Eastern Ghats are not a complete watershed and as a result the river piercing through them and notable among them is the river Cauvery.

a. CAUVERY

The river is 475 miles long and drains an area of 28,000 square miles. It takes its origin on the Brahragiri in Coorg in the Western Ghats.
After travelling some distance in Karnataka State, the river enters Tamil Nadu. Across the river a huge reservoir has been constructed called the Mettur Dam. Near Tiruchirappalli there is an Anaicut called “Grand Anaicut”. The Cauvery has been so well utilized that its drainage channel, the coleroon is always dry. The tributaries of the river Cauvery are Bhavani, Amaravathy and Noyal.

b. VAIGAI

This is the second most important river in Tamil Nadu. It originates in Varushanad hills and receives much of the drainage from the upper and lower plains. The river has been dammed in Madurai close to Theni and there is also an anaicut at Anaipatti in Manamadurai.

c. THAMIRAPARANI

This river which is 70 miles long, rises in the southern portion of the Western Ghats and drains an area equal to 1937 Square miles. The valley of the river contains some of the richest lands in the State. The chief tributaries of the river are Ramanadhi, Ghatana, Pachaiyar and Chittar.

d. PALAR

The river palar rises in Nandhi Hills of Kolar, Karnataka State. It is 182 miles long and runs through Chingleput and North Arcot districts. Its chief tributaries are Cheyyar and Ponni.

e. PONNIYAR

This river rises very near to Nandhi Hills in Karnataka State. It enters Tamil Nadu near Dharmapuri and runs 200 miles before joining sea near Pondicherry with a drainage area of 620 square miles. The river has no delta on its mouth.
f. VELLAR

This river rises in Kalrayan hills flows in the easterly districts and
joins the Sea near Port- Nova. The length of the river is 134 miles and
drains an area of 266 square miles.

g. SMALL RIVERS

Among the small rivers worth mentioning in the context is
Couralayar, which flows from the surplus waters of Kaveripakkam tank.
The river runs through Chennai City and joins the sea.

AREA

It lies between 8 5' and 13 35' of northern latitude and 76 15' and
80 20' of eastern longitude with an area of 1,30,058 square kilometres. It
is the 11th State in India in area forming 4.11 percent of the Union areas.

POPULATION

The provisional population of India (2001 Census) is 1,027,015,247
comprising of 531,277,078 males and 495,738,169 females. The
population of Tamil Nadu stood at 62,110,839 comprising of 31,268,654
males and 30,842,185 females. The population of Tamil Nadu constitutes
6.05% of the India’s population.

It ranks 6th among the States/Uts. The population, which was
55,858,946 in 1991, has gone up by 6,251,893 over the last ten years.
This represents an increase of 11.19% during the period 1991-2001 as
against the growth rate of 15.39% during the period 1981-91. The density
of population per Sq. Km. is 478 in 2001 as against 429 in 1991.
In 1991, there were only 21 districts in the State of Tamil Nadu. In 2001, new districts were created by reorganizing the territorial jurisdiction. The population and its growth trend are important economic factors in a developing economy. As the development programme and policies depend on its growth, trend in the growth of population and its constituents are analysed here.

**Table 3.1 General Profile of Tamil Nadu**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
<th>Sex Ratio</th>
<th>Literacy</th>
<th>Density</th>
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<td>Growth Rate</td>
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<td>Literacy</td>
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<td>79.85 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr. No.</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
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**Literacy Rate**

Literacy standard in Tamil Nadu State as per 2001 census is 73.47% as against 62.66% in 1991 census. This shows the good growth rate in literacy. This growth rate is in tune with All India growth rates and literacy population is 65.38% in 2001 Census as against 52.21% in 1991 Census. The comparative analysis of literacy percentage rate in Tamil Nadu vis-à-vis, all India percentage from 1941 census upto 2001 census is given below:

**CLIMATE AND TEMPERATURE**

The Tamil Nadu has an equatorial, tropical climate in the inland and an equatorial, maritime climate in its coastal regions. In the inland, the
temperature may go to extreme in some places while it tends to be moderate in the coastal areas.

By and large, the average temperature for most parts of the state ranges between 28º C and 40ºC in the summer season and between 18º C and 26º C in the short-lived winter seasons. In the more hilly terrain, the maximum temperature may be as low as 26º C and the minimum temperature may go down to 3º C. The normal rainfall is 945.0 mm.

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS**

The State of Tamil Nadu is divided into 29 administrative districts, which in turn are further bifurcated into smaller divisions and sub-divisions, including a total of 16,317 villages. The state capital, Madras now renamed, as Chennai is the fourth largest city in the Indian Sub-continent and 30th largest city in the world. It extends over an area of 174 sq. km.

**THE LANGUAGES**

This history of Tamil Nadu dates back to Paleolithic age. The Official languages spoken in the state is Tamil one of the oldest languages greatly influenced by its rich and colourful past. Concerted efforts have been made over the last decade or so to preserve the purity and identity of the Tamil language. More recently, there has been a steady stream of people migrating into the state from all parts of India, particularly to the state’s urban centres, making Tamil Nadu truly cosmopolitan in its composition. Today, one can hear several languages such as Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi and other Indian languages being spoken in the state. Above all, the foreign
visitor need have no fear of not being understood as English is spoken with considerable fluency in most parts of the state. Two prominent English newspapers and a number of economic dailies besides several newspapers in the local vernacular are brought out here.

CULTURE AND TRADITION

Tamil Nadu has a legacy of ancient tradition and rich cultural heritage. Dance forms like Bharathanatyam and various forms of music, including carnatic music, have flourished here for centuries. The awe-inspiring sculptures at the Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram and other similar art forms and sculptors found in the state date as far back as the 7th century AD famous temples, which still stand in all their pristine glory in several parts of this land, speak for themselves of the rich heritage of the Tamil people. Handicrafts include the most intricately carved designs in wood, stone and metal. The exquisitely carved Bronze and Tanjore plates deserve special mention here.

LIFESTYLES

The people of Tamil Nadu lead, by and large, relaxed lifestyles. The urban social recreations include clubs, golf, links, beach resorts, theme parks, racecourses, art and theatre. Visits to game reserves, holiday resorts, long sandy beaches, zoological and entertainment parks are the other way of social pastimes available. Tourists’ spots include hill stations like Ooty and Kodaikanal, which are all time favourites.

TAMIL NADU: ECONOMIC PROFILE

The GSDP at constant (1993-94) prices which was at Rs.70513 crores in 1996-97 has increased to Rs.90760 crores in 2000-2001 (AE) registering...
an annual average growth of 6.21%. During these period, the primary sector consisting of Agriculture and allied activities, forestry, fishing and mining & quarrying has registered an annual average increase of 2.54%. A high growth performance by 8.54% was exhibited in 1997-98 and 8.46% in 1998-99. However, in 1999-2000 the performance of this sector has a negative growth of 5%.

The value added by the Secondary Sector consisting of Manufacturing, Construction, Electricity, gas and water supply has been satisfactory. It has 2001. High recorded an annual average growth of 4.14% during the period 1996-97 to 2000-growth was noticed in this sector during the year 1999-2000 as 11.09%.

All the sub groups of the tertiary sector have performed well during the period from 1996-97 to 2000-2001. Trade, transport, storage and communication sectors have recorded a high growth in 1999-2000 as 8.36 percent and a minimum of 3.48 per cent in 2000-01. Banking and Insurance, real estates and business services sectors have registered a maximum growth of 21.80 per cent in 1996-97 and a minimum growth of 8.00% in 1998-99. The high growth of 16.05% was noticed for the year 1997-98 in the services sector, namely, Public Administration and Other.

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Tamil Nadu is gifted with 33 river basins, the largest one’s being, Cauvery, Pennaiaru, Vaigai and Tamaraparani. Of the total area in the state, 59.2% is under (not including forestlands). Rice and various pulses
are grown extensively here. The annual food-grain production exceeds 10 million tonnes; with rice alone contributing average 8 million tonnes. The main cash crops grown in the state are sugarcane, tobacco, chillies, and cotton, giving rich scope for the growth and development of the sugar, alcohol-based and textile industries. Other state-sponsored schemes include the large-scale cultivation of spices and oil seeds particularly groundnut, seasmum, castor and coconut. Sunflower has become increasingly popular in recent times. The diverse Agro-ecological conditions also make this land ideal for growing fruits and vegetables. The state ranks first in the yield of mangoes and fourth in bananas and grapes.

Tamil Nadu has six diverse Agro-climate conditions and it grows partially every type of fruit or vegetable. Of late, a number of hi-tech horticulture projects are mushrooming in different parts of Tamil Nadu. Rich resource endowments base offers vast vistas of opportunities for setting up of food processing industries to produce value added products. Tamil Nadu has a large bovine population and produces about 3.9 million MT of milk per year. Also, Tamil Nadu has a large poultry population and is ranked second among Indian states. Annual production of eggs is 3,050 million. All these offer excellent investment opportunities in milk and poultry-based industries in Tamil Nadu.

RESOURCES PROFILE

A Wealth in Minerals

Minerals like limestone, lignite, granite, clay, gypsum, feldspar and
graphite found abundantly in Tamil Nadu. Besides these, small quantities of gold, copper, magnesite, kaolin, bauxite, asbestos, etc. are also found here. Many industrial units have been set up for optimum utilization of these mineral resources. The total area under forest cover is 17%. Of the 22,742.42 sq.kms of forest, timber and sandal wood are the main produce while tea, wattle bark and cashew are some of the minor products.

**Marine Resources**

Tamil Nadu has 1000 Kms. long coastline with its equatorial climate permitting year round conducive fishery and farming. It is estimated that an offshore region of 22 lakh hectares is yet to be exploited. Tamil Nadu has 362 fish landing centres and annual fish catch is around 0.5 million m.t. The state has a fairly stable presence in this sector with abundant skilled labour available, over 200 registered exporters of marine products, 29 freezing plants and 36 cold storages. Investment opportunities in this sector include, shrimp farming and processing, crab culture, seaweed culture, etc., in addition to opportunities in infrastructure like air freight services, cold storage facilities, freezing plant, etc.

**INDUSTRIAL PROFILE**

**Existing Industrial foundations**

Traditionally, Tamil Nadu is one of the well developed states in terms of industrial development. In the post-liberalization era, Tamil Nadu has emerged as one of the front-runners by attracting a large number of
investment proposals particularly in recent times. Today, Tamil Nadu is the third largest economy in India and its current State Domestic Product is well over US $ 23 billion.

With the setting up of major automobile projects namely Ford-Mahindra, Hyundai Motors, Hindustan Motors, Mitsubishi, expansion plans of Ashok Leyland & TAFE, Chennai, emerges as the Detroit of south East Asia. Tamil Nadu has always been a fore-runner in the industrial process, both in terms of industrial output and in encouraging various new large scale products. Having recorded an impressive growth in industry in the post-reform span, it is poised for further industrial development and expansion. At present, the state accounts for over 11% of India's industrial output. Tamil Nadu's strength lies not only in its traditional industries, but also in several new emerging industries. In its efforts, to develop a strategy for industrial growth and development, the State Government is concentrating on promoting the development of industries in which the State already has a competitive edge and high impact industries in which advantages can easily be created.

**Mineral Based Industries**

The main mineral wealth of the state is granite, limestone and lignite. The availability of different varieties of granite in different parts of the State has resulted in a booming granite industry. Over the year, the granite industry has grown from strength to strength contributing more than 35% of the country's exports. During 1996-97, Tamil Nadu exported granite products valued at Rs.4.0 billion and other minerals; Rs.5.10
billion. The current annual production of cement is over 5 million tonnes. Lignite is being used to generate power. Graphite is yet another mineral offering opportunities for down-stream industries.

**Engineering**

A strong engineering base exists in the state involving products ranging from automobiles, bicycles, castings and forging, to textile machines, electrical and non-electrical machinery, pumps and transportation equipment. Engineering ancillary industries are concentrated in Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem and Tirupur. The exports of engineering products from Tamil Nadu is around Rs.11.50 billion (US $320 million) of which automobile ancillaries alone contribute around US $150 million. It is an established fact that the automobile industry in the state accounts for nearly 50% of the All India export market. The strong engineering base consists of a network of nearly 3,000 units, employing a skilled workforce of more than 2.5 lakh, making high quality inputs such as castings and forging and a wide variety of ancillary products. Intensive efforts are being made to boost further development of this industry.

**Textile and ready-made garments**

Tamil Nadu has etched a name for itself in the manufacture of cotton textile and its leading position in this area is well known not only in India but world over. The state contributes more than 22% of the country's exports of cotton yarn and fabrics. The exports of cotton textile in 1996-97 were US $2.1 billion and it is estimated that it will reach US $5.0 billion.
by the end of 2004 AD. USA, UK, France and Germany are among the principal buyers of cotton textile from Tamil Nadu.

Approximately 21% of India's exports of ready-made garments originates from Tamil Nadu. In actual terms its translates to around US $ 1.5 billion of garments being exported from the state, the two main centres being Chennai (Madras) and Tirupur. In fact, Tirupur has emerged strongly as a major industrially township. As a consequence, several important spin-off industries have emerged in neighbouring regions - the textile machinery industry is one such off-shoot. While Tamil Nadu continues to maintains commanding position in this industry, many international corporates, are looking at the state as a global sourcing point for readymade garments with an eye on the comparatively low production costs and high quality of output offered.

**Leather based industries**

Tamil Nadu has a dominant presence in the leather and leather based industries. The tanning industry in India has a total installed capacity of 225 million pieces of hide and skins of which Tamil Nadu alone contributes an inspiring 70%. The state accounts for more than 50% of the country's export of leather and leather-related products such as shoe uppers, shoes, garments, and so on. Leather exports by the end of the year 1996-97 was US $ 900 million and the ambitious target of US $ 4 billion for leather related products exports by the year 2004 for the country seem well within each. This translates into exports worth nearly US $ 2.2 billion from Tamil Nadu given the major share it has traditionally enjoyed. Rising to the
occasion, the state government is geared up to provide attractive incentives and infrastructural support in the form of setting up industrial estates and common effluent treatment plants. Thus Tamil Nadu's substantial share of the leather market in the years to come is ensured.

**Agro-based Industries**

Ideal climatic conditions for the growth of fruits and vegetables has given rise to a vibrant Agro-based food industry in the state. The Madurai-Dindigul belt in Tamil Nadu is endowed with favourable climatic conditions ideal for the cultivation of a variety of fruits and vegetables. The floriculture industry is also poised for a quantum leap in the next few years with the area around Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, and the Nilgiris being earmarked as places ideally suited for the cultivation of flowers like Rose and Chrysanthemum - of these Coimbatore has been identified as an intensive floriculture zone. Realizing the tremendous potential in the state, a number of joint ventures involving Dutch companies are, being set up in the area - some involving major corporates.

**Chemical and Petro-chemical industry**

The chemical industry has grown at a tremendous pace world-wide and in India as well. The state of Tamil Nadu traditionally has a strong base in the chemical industry. Manali, in the outskirts of Chennai (Madras) has emerged as a major petro-chemical complex. The mother refinery in the complex, Chennai (Madras) Refinery Ltd., has given rise to several petro-based units using a refinery feed-stock for the manufacture of a
large number of petro-chemical ranging from fertilizer to polyols, nylon chips and polybutanes. Major chemicals and fertilizer plants have also been established at Cuddalore and Tuticorin. Dupont, USA has recently commissioned a large plant for manufacture of nylon 6.6 at Gummipoondi near Chennai. Other major projects in pipeline are: Norsk Hydro (PVC), SPIC (PTA/PFY), etc. TIDCO is currently in the process of setting up a major petrochem park is an area of about 7,000 acres at Ennore, north of Chennai. TIDCO has also proposed to promote a Naphtha Cracker in this park; besides, TIDCO is currently implementing a LNG handling terminal at upcoming Ennore Satellite Port. Based on LNG terminal, a number of down-stream petro-chemical projects have been planned. Also, 3 new refineries are proposed to be set up at Cuddalore, Tuticorin and Ennore. Petrochemical industry in Tamil Nadu is in the threshold of rapid expansion.

**Electronics – A new and Upcoming Industry**

Electronics is an industry which is getting priority attention in recent years with a turnover of US $ 270 million. Apart from computers and associated hardware, there has been a boom in consumer electronics giving rise to a wide range of consumer products. Software development is currently a US $ 100 million industry in Tamil Nadu with several foreign companies entering into collaboration and joint ventures. Today, Indian software professionals are considered among the world's best.

Chennai is fast emerging as the second Silicon Valley. Chennai has
the largest number of Software professionals in India. It has abundant highly skilled professionals as computer science & software development have been introduced as part of curriculum in almost every technical educational institution in Tamil Nadu. Chennai has the largest mainframe computing capacity. Again, Chennai is the largest exporter computer hard-discs. Chennai is the center for development of advanced multimedia applications & communications software. A number of major companies like Dun & Bradstreet, TCS, Pentafour, Ramco, Singapore Airlines, Citibank, etc. have software development facilities at Chennai. New projects are currently being set by Alcatel, Infosys, etc.

To give an impetus to this Industry Government of Tamil Nadu has recently announced an attractive Information Technology Policy wherein attractive incentives and infrastructure support are offered by Govt. to investors. Currently, Government of Tamil Nadu is in the process of setting Information Technology Parks with state-of-the art facilities at 3 locations in Chennai. Besides, a similar park is being set up at Coimbatore. Consumer electronic is another promising area offering attractive investment avenues to investors. A number of MNCs like LG, Daewoo, Samsung, Matsushita etc. are in the process of setting up consumer electronics projects in Tamil Nadu.

**Financial Services**

Chennai is the financial capital of South India. The trade and industries in the city has spurred the growth of the financial sector in the
city. The city has a strong financial system, served by All India financial institutions like ICICI, IDBI, IFCI, Commercial Banks such as the State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Co-operative Banks and Non-banking financial companies such as chit funds and indigenous financiers. Foreign banks such as Citi Bank, Hongkong Bank, ABN-Amro Bank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Bank of America, etc., have also established offices in Chennai. With the capitalization of the Chennai Stock Exchange (MSE) growing strong: US $ 50 billion (Mumbai Stock Exchange Capitalization: US $ 160 billion), the financial services sector offers tremendous opportunities.

OVERALL ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE

Traditionally, Tamil Nadu is one of the most industrialized states. At present, Tamil Nadu is the third largest economy in India. Given the high current economic growth rate, Tamil Nadu is posed to emerge as the first largest economy before 2005 A.D. The State Domestic Product is about US $ 23 billion and current exports are around Rs. 225 billion. There has been visible change in the overall economic and industrial climate in the state. Coinciding with the new economic and industrial Policy of the Government of India, the state Government too has come up with its own Policy that outlines its main objectives and the strategies to achieve faster growth. The reforms at the state level comprise Policy level changes, setting up of organizational intervention mechanisms and most importantly, bringing about an
attitudinal change. These include amongst other things, expediting the whole process was set up to answer investor queries and guide them through various procedures.

To name a few:

- Procedural simplification and facilitation through a single window. Tamil Nadu has introduced an effective single window system to speed up per-project clearances through a single form.
- Incentives and concession package for investors.
- Industrial Promotion campaigns and seminars.
- Creation of nodal agencies for attracting investments.

With increasing competitiveness among states to attract investments, Tamil Nadu was one of the first states to carry out industrial campaigns in a few gulf countries as well as organize seminars in different parts of India. These initiatives have led to tremendous enthusiasm amongst investors about doing business in Tamil Nadu. The overall strategy includes the key thrust areas listed below:

- Focus on core infrastructure sector.
- Targeting strategic industries.
- Developing knowledge/technology-driven advantage in industries.
- Encouraging private sector initiative and participation in infrastructure projects.
These predicted efforts have had their impact on the market and have boosted investor confidence. It’s little wonder that Tamil Nadu is fast emerging ‘Blue Chip’ state for various investments. Tamil Nadu has done exceedingly well in attracting FDI inflows—ranking fourth among the states in terms of value of FDI investments and second in terms of the number of projects in the pipelines. Notably, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a leading state in South India in the area of attracting FDIs.
Table 3.2 Demographic Profile of Tamil Nadu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>Population size (Rural Females)</td>
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<td>Population size (Urban Males)</td>
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<td>Population size (Urban Females)</td>
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<td>Population density (Total, Persons per sq km)</td>
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<td>Sex ratio (Females per 1000 males)</td>
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General Notes:

- The figures for India and Manipur, include by sex, the estimated population, 0-6 population and literates of Paomata, Mao Maram and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur for Census 2001 and 2011.

- For working out density of India and the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the entire area and population of those portions of Jammu & Kashmir which are under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China have not been taken into account.

- For Census 2011, the population of "Others" has been clubbed with the "Males" for working out population, 0-6 population, literates and related rates and ratios.

- Rural Urban Areas: The data in the table on Provisional Population Totals are presented separately for rural and urban areas. The unit of classification in this regard is 'town' for urban areas and 'village' for rural areas. In the Census of India 2011, the definition of urban area adopted is as follows: (a) All statutory places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. (b) A place satisfying the following three criteria simultaneously:
  i) a minimum population of 5,000;
  ii) at least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
  iii) a density of population of at least 400 per sq. km. (1,000 per sq. mile).

For identification of places which would qualify to be classified as 'urban' all villages, which, as per the 2001 Census had a population of 4,000 and above, a population density of 400 persons per sq. km. and having at least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural activity were considered. An area is considered 'Rural' if it is not classified as 'Urban' as per the above definition.

* The area figure exclude 78,114 sq. km. under the illegal occupation of Pakistan, 5,180 sq. km. illegally handed over by Pakistan to China and 37,555 sq. km. under the illegal occupation of China in Ladakh district.
PROFILE OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

Kanyakumari is the southern - most district of the peninsular India, the seventh largest country in the world. In Kanyakumari, the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal embrace one another.

Kanyakumari district comprises of four taluks of the erstwhile Travancore - Cochin State. The present Kanyakumari district was formed on the first of November 1956, as a result of the reorganization of states on linguistic basis.

This district is the smallest in the state of Tamil Nadu (with the exception of the district of Madras) lying at the southern most tip of the country. As in the case of the rest of the districts in the state of Tamil Nadu, the economy of this district is also agriculture - based. However, it is endowed with a lovely coastline and rich mineral resources like ilmenite and retile.

Kanyakumari district is named after the goddess, “Kanyakumari”. The district headquarters is at Nagercoil, endowed with all kinds of natural resources from land, sea, forest, and mountains. This district is by nature and heritage, predominantly agrarian with 68 percent of the land utilized for agricultural purposes. This district is blessed with its vast stretches of green paddy fields, rich forests, coconut groves and coast line. This district has a coastline of about 68 km.
HISTORY

Kanyakumari has a hoary past in ancient history dating back to the Sangam age and was a cradle of civilization. The Tamil culture which had its origin in the Zumaurian continent, of which Kanyakumari was a part. The district has a large number of historic monuments and temples. A series of kingdoms under famous kings are known to have existed in Kanyakumari, the most important being the Chera, Chola and Pandia up to the early fifties of this century. This region was part of Travancore samasthanam, the present day Kerala, where the Tamil speaking population treated as second class citizens struggled to merge with Tamil Nadu. As per the recommendations of the state re-organizing commission, the regions of Agasteeswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode were grouped to form the “Kanyakumari district”. On November 1, 1956, Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu state came into existence with Nagercoil as its Head quarters, which crowned the struggle for separation from Kerala and merger with Tamil Nadu.

LOCATION AND ORIGIN

Kanyakumari is situated between 77° - 05’ and 77° - 36’ of eastern longitude and 8°- 03 and 8°-36 of the northern latitude, occupying a total area of 1672 sq. km. It is bordered with Tirunelveli district in the north and northeast, Kerala in the northwest and by the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal in the south and western sides respectively.
POPULATION

According to 2001 census, the district had a total population of 16,69,763 which comprised of 8,56,542 males and 8,40,221 females. The density of population was 999 per sq. km.

POPULATION OF SC AND ST

Of the total population of Kanyakumari district, 4.60 percent belong to the scheduled caste and 0.31 percent to scheduled tribes. Kanyakumari has people belonging to different castes, such as, Brahmins, Vellalas, Nadars and a sizeable number of SC/ST people. From the table it is clear that Agastheeswaram block has the maximum number of SC people the total number being 13397. It is followed by Thovalai block with 11344. As far as ST people are concerned Thiruvattar block has the maximum of 2, 237 persons. In total there were 76,862 SC persons and 5,223 ST persons as per the 2001 census.

RELIGION

Tamil Nadu has people belonging to Hinduism, Islam and Christian religion with a sprinkling of saints. As elsewhere in the state, the district consists of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and others. However, Christian population is the largest in number in the district. Among Hindus, there is a separate religious sect known as “Ayya vazhi” based on the precepts propounded by “Ayya vaikundar”.

LANGUAGE

Kanyakumari is a bilingual state. Tamil and Malayalam are the two languages spoken in this district, though Tamil is the official language.
ADMINISTRATION SET UP

This district has been divided into two revenue divisions consisting of two taluks each, i.e., Padmanabhapuram revenue division consisting of Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks and Nagercoil revenue division consisting of Agasteeswaram and Thovalai taluks. There are four municipalities: Nagercoil, Padmanapapuram, Colachel and Kuzhithurai. For the purpose of better administration the district has been divided into 9 community development blocks, 155 panchayats (56 town panchayats and 99 village panchayats) and 1207 hamlets in 2001.

EDUCATION

Kanyakumari district ranks first in literacy level in Tamil Nadu and boasts of 100 percent literacy. The total number of educational institutions was 933 in 2005.

Recently there has been a mushrooming of many engineering colleges and colleges of education. From table 4.4 it can be easily inferred that women are almost at par with men as regards the number of persons who had registered. The total number of unemployed male persons was 121616 while the number of women who had registered was 117419. The largest number of them was those who had completed matriculation level of education and the number was 174733. Once again, it is evident from the table that the number of men and women belonging to this category were almost equal. The total number of youth who had registered with Higher Secondary education was 31883. Here women exceeded men. I.T.I holders came last with just 462 registered candidates. It has the largest number of professional and educational institutions.
LITERACY

Next to Ernakulam in Kerala, Kanyakumari achieved the enviable status of 100 percent literacy. In Kanyakumari district the literacy rate is very high. In this district the total number of literate persons is 13, 20, 564 out of which 6, 74, 939 are males and 6, 45,625 are females in the year 2001. Similarly the literacy rate has gone up from 82.06 in 1991 by 88.16 in 2001.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The district has been producing many educated persons. The educated youth duly register themselves in the Employment Exchange. The number of unemployed youths, who have registered their names in the Employment Exchange, exceeded two lakhs in 2001.

AGRICULTURE

The district economy depends mainly upon agriculture and its allied activities. The most important crops raised here are paddy, tapioca, coconut, banana, rubber, cashew nut, mango pineapple and pepper. Agriculture is the main source of income. The total area of land under cultivation has been estimated at 91507 hectares in this district in 2005.

LAND USE PATTERN

The total land in Kanyakumari district is 1672.67 hectares, of which 48.9 per cent is under cultivation, 32.2 per cent is forest and the remaining 18.5 per cent is occupied by dams, canals, roads and buildings. Total area cultivated in 2003 - 2004 is 94, 314 hectares and the area sown is 79,713. Area sown more than once is 14, 601 hectares.
OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN OF PEOPLE

The main occupations of the people in the district are agriculture, fishing, weaving, brick making, coir marking, cashew processing, and rubber tapping. The total number of workers in this district is 5,45,605 out of which 16,067 are cultivators, 81,099 occupy 32.39 percent of the total geographical area in this district. It is followed by 15.21 percent of area of non-agricultural land used as permanent pastures and grass lands by the agricultural labourers. 38,514 people work in household industries and 3,13,487 are other workers of whom 95,538 are marginal workers.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

Unlike other districts in Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari district has the unique advantage of good rain fall during the South west and Northeast Monsoons. The period of Northeast Monsoon is from June to September while that of Southwest Monsoon is from October to December. The annual rainfall ranges between 90 and 160 cm and the average is 140cm. The Monsoon winds, the proximity of the sea and mountains and forests of the Western Ghats greatly influence the climate of this district. The summer is not very hot; and the winter is also not very cold.

The district has had the good fortune of having more than normal monsoon rains, except during 2002 from north east monsoon.

SOIL CONDITION

In Kanyakumari district there are three main soil groups. They are laterite type, which occurs in the Blocks of Thiruvattar, Munchirai,
Kurnthencode, Rajakkamangalam, Killioor, Thuckalay and Melpuram. The mixed type of red loam and coastal alluvial soil is found in Agasteeswaram and Thovalai blocks.

**SOURCES OF IRRIGATION**

As Kanyakumari is an agrarian district, and as paddy is the main crop, cultivation depends mainly on irrigation. In Kanyakumari District Rivers, dams and channels are the important sources of irrigation. Among the various sources of irrigation on which the cultivation of crops depends, tanks come first which irrigate the largest area of 15794 hectares, followed by canals which irrigate 11114 hectares. Compared to these two major sources of irrigation, wells also irrigate an area of 1420 hectares.

**LIVESTOCK RESOURCES**

Kanyakumari district offers a good agro-climate for the development of animal husbandry. Livestock resources along with dairying offer a more stable and sustainable income to the rural households of the district.

**FISHERIES**

Kanyakumari district is famous for fish production. It has both inland and marine fishing centers. It has a long coastal line of 68 kms. Fish has a prominent place in the diet of the people of Kanyakumari district. There are five coastal blocks and 42 coastal landing centers. In the district, the fish production has decreased from 49951 tons in 2001-02 to 16,308 tons in 2004-05. The total inland fish production has also decreased from 2,870 tons in 2001-02 to 2,159 tons in 2004-05.
INDUSTRIES

Though the district is educationally forward industrially it is backward. It has only 649 registered working factories. There were 645 large scale industries, 991 small scale industries and 121 cottage industries, which promote the development and welfare of the rural as well as the urban people of the district in 2004. Thus compared to other districts in Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari has very few industries.

WIND MILLS AND ENERGY

Kanyakumari is famous for its windmill and wind energy. Windmills are localized in and around Aralvoimozhi in Thovalai taluk. It can boast of the largest wind mill farm in Asia. It produced 226.950 M.V of electricity in 2003 - 2004. The total hydropower generalized in this district is 154. 230M.V. in 2003 - 2004. There is no thermal plant in this district.

MINERAL RESOURCES

As far as mineral resources are concerned the district is in a satisfactory position. Limestone deposits are there in Thovalai and Agasteeswaram blocks, while granite is available in Tiruvattar, Thuckalay, Kurunthocode and Agasteewaram blocks. Manavalakurichi, a coastal area, is naturally blessed with rare earth minerals like brown, ilmenite, monazite, rutile, garnet, silumerite and zircon. M/s Indian Rare Earth Ltd. Manavalakurichi, a Central Government Enterprise, is engaged in the separation of these minerals. Some minerals are exported to Japan and other countries from Colachel coast. This has secured Kanyakumari district a place in the map of the world. There is also a demand for setting up a Titanium factory.
FOREST RESOURCES

Forest occupied an area of 54155 hectares in 2003-2004 which forms 32.4 percent of the total geographical area of Kanyakumari district. The major portion of the forest area lies in Thovalai, Thiruvattar and Melpuram blocks. The elevation of the Forest Range from the sea level is estimated at 1850 m. Forest in Kanyakumari district has about 606 species of gigantic timber trees and 350 other plants many of which have high economic value. In the forest area the plantation crops such as coffee, tea, rubber, pepper and cardamom are grown in plenty.

TRANSPORT IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

Roadways connect the entire Kanyakumari district. There are no airports and seaports in this district.

BEE - KEEPING INDUSTRY

The development of Bee - keeping industry is primarily taken up through 27 State KVI Boards and 192 Registered Institutions and Co-operative Societies directly financed by KVIC. KVIC has launched a national programme for three years on Bee - keeping.

AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE DISTRICT:

The district depends entirely on agriculture for its income. Various agricultural commodities are cultivated in the district. In the Western Ghats, plantation crops like tea, coffee, rubber, spices and tobacco are raised, Where as in the plains paddy, banana, coconut and vegetables are grown.
Agriculture is the main source of income. There are about three thousand small scale industries in Kanyakumari district. There are about ninety different types of industries. Commercial banks play a vital role in catering to the financial needs of farmers and industries. Cooperative Housing Societies have also started functioning in different localities for providing loan to different crops.

FISHERIES

This district has a coastline of 68km spread over the west coast and east coast. About 8000 fishermen are actively engaged in fishing. An area of one lakh hectare is reported to be suitable for marine fishing. One of the richest fishing ground in the world, namely Wedge Banks, lies 88km south of Kanyakumari and extends to about 56km on either side of Cape comorin.

BANKS, INSURANCE COMPANIES, POST OFFICES, & OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Kanyakumari district is endowed with a very good network of Post Offices, Commercial Banks and other insurance companies. Commercial Banks play an important role in providing finance both to the agricultural and industrial sector. Indian Overseas Bank and its branches operate in most areas. State Bank of Travancore occupies the second position with 24 branches.
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The district has a metalled road length of 2621.70kms, and 167 post offices to take care of the present transport and communication needs. All the villages are connected by road and transport system. The head quarters of the district, Nagercoil is well connected with other major cites of the State both by Express Bus routes and Rail.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that Kanyakumari district is equipped with rich infrastructure like Educational Institutions, Industries, Fishing, and Tourist centers. It shows highly developed agricultural situations. The improvement in the agricultural sector shows that there is ample scope for the industrial development in this district with the help of the Bee Keeping industry.