CHAPTER - IV

PROFILE OF SELECT STATE UNIVERSITIES
AND TAMIL NADU

4.1 Profile of Select State Universities

Annamalai University

The Annamalai University owes its existence to the wisdom, benefaction and philanthropy of a far-sighted visionary - Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad. As early as 1920, he founded Sri Minakshi College in Chidambaram, a great pilgrimage centre and also a centre for South Indian traditional culture and learning. In 1928, the Annamalai University Act was passed and Sri Minakshi College paved the way for the establishment of Annamalai University.

Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, during his tenure as Pro-chancellor for 19 years, paid great attention to the growth and development of the University and took immense care to appoint able Vice-Chancellors of extraordinary calibre and learned and enlightened staff members who were scholars and scientists of great repute as Professors and Heads of Departments.
Growth and Development

After the demise of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, his eldest son, Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, a multifaceted personality of rare calibre, strove with sustained vigour and zeal to lead the University into new horizons by setting new directions and goals. The Directorate of Distance Education of the University is his brainchild and a definite asset to the University. It was set up in 1979 and has been rendering yeoman service in continuing education to all age groups across the country. The Faculty of Medicine along with the Dental College, Nursing and Pharmacy Departments were initiated in 1980, and thus the cherished desire of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar to set up a Medical college under the umbrella of the Faculty of Medicine was fulfilled in 1985. During the span of 36 years as Pro-Chancellor he nurtured and nourished the continuous growth and development of the University.

The University that started with only seven departments in 1929 has over the years developed into a famed institution of higher learning with 49 departments under 10 faculties thus gaining the reputation of being one of the few Institutions in India with all faculties under one roof. The University has the advantage of a well equipped Central Library and Laboratories that provide excellent facilities for undertaking research projects for Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral work. Several research projects, funded by national and international funding agencies including the State and Central Government, has been carried out by the various Faculties, in addition to which close
co-operation has been developed with neighbouring industries for promotion of research and training programmes.

The University thus promotes the spirit of learning, fulfils the aspirations of enlightenment as aptly observed by Dr.S.Radhakrishnan when he headed the Indian University Grants Commission that “Annamalai University is eminently fitted to be a genuine centre of learning and culture by virtue of its situation and its beautiful campus”.

Numerous infrastructure facilities have been created to cope with the voluminous increase in enrolment of students in various on-campus programmes. New laboratory facilities in terms of space and quality equipments have been provided to cater to the needs of the learners and researchers. Video conferencing Edusat, Campus wide network, high-tech class room are some of the added new facilities.

An Internal Quality Assurance Cell has been created to monitor the quality of academic output. The departments of study conduct national and international seminars, symposia, workshops and conferences so as to expose teachers of the University to new trends in teaching and research at the global level. Students Progression Cell has also been created to coach students for taking **IAS, IPS, IFS or Civil Services** examinations. In keeping with the national policy of public health, the concept of ‘No smoking Zone’ has been put into practice. A Students Welfare Cell, for on-campus students, has been set up to develop the individual’s personality.
With a view to preparing the student for their profession and, in particular, to impart right attitudes and specific skills, the placement cells are functioning in three different locations. One to cater to the needs of the students in the Faculty of Engineering & Technology, the second in the Faculty of Agriculture and the third, in the Department of Business Administration for the students of Arts, Science, Education, Fine Arts and Marine Science. These cells advise students with regard to the choice of careers and higher studies. They help students to undergo in-plant training during semester holidays and also find suitable placement through campus interviews. They also conduct seminars and training courses periodically on Entrepreneurial Development and Career Guidance Programme.

The 1250-bedded teaching hospital with a built-up area of about 4,00,000 sq. ft. provides basic as well as specialized healthcare services to various sections of the community in and around the campus.

Students can opt to attach themselves to any of the extra curricular services like NSS, NCC or YRC so as to develop social awareness, an interest in the community and with a clear ambition to improve their personality. To improve upon the physical fitness of the students, a sports pavilion with many infrastructure facilities has been established.

The University Library named after the eminent Scholar statesman and former Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sir C.P.Ramaswami Aiyer, is a key resource for the students and the staff. The Library is equipped with
INTERNET connectivity and CD NETWORK station. Quite a good number of journals can be accessed through the INFONET facility.

The University has Memorandum of Understanding with many foreign Universities on research collaboration and exchange of students and staff as well.

There are sufficient numbers of hostels for the convenience of the students to pursue their studies on campus. Modern kitchen facilities, with safe drinking water, are available to ensure the hygienic conditions in the hostels.

**Annamalai University Library**

The seed of main library germinated in 1920 with a token deposit of 200 books, when Sri Meenakshi college and founded. Then the main library was initially housed in the eastern wing of the administrative building. It moved to its present premises in 1959, opening a new chapter in its history. The present building was opened by Excellency Shri. Bishnuram medhi, the then governor of Madras, on 22nd October 1959 within a building is a ‘H’ shaped structure, with a well-controlled entrance lobby, a spacious control reading hall, reference hall, periodicals hall and Bindery on the Eastern Wing and Administrative sections, closed access stack-rooms, reprographic sections in the western wing and open access stack rooms on both the wings.

**World Bank Collections**

The Annamalai University library has the unique privilege of being selected as a full fledged Depository for the world Bank publications over
since 1986, and through this offer, our library gets the entire publications of the bank at free of cost, and its getting renewed over two year, based on the utility of the collections. The World Bank cell is kept opened on all working days for reference. The photocopy service available inside the library is useful for the researchers to get Xerox copy of the collections. The compact discs (CD) contain information collected by the international bank for reconstruction and development and the index of publications’ and guide to information products, and services of the World Bank are available in discs.

**UGC study centre**

The UGC study centre was established in 1975. The main aim of the study centre is to cater to the text book needs of the students for reference by extending the reading hours from 8 AM to 11 AM and 4 PM to 8 PM.

Separate reading room to meet the demand of the users who are preparing for the civil service examinations and other entrance examinations such as TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, GATE, CAT has been created and this sections is kept open from 8 AM to 8 PM

**Computer Division**

The library is one of the few University libraries in the country to have modernized its entire operations.

The automation project was started in the year 1995. With a special grand of fifty lakhs rupees received from the UGC-INFONET.

Through the following facilities, the user community will have the unique advantage of availing of the library services round the clock.
1. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)
2. Circulation service (Issue, Return & Nil arrears)
3. Internet (Browsing & Mailing) Service
4. CD-ROM service – (Medline subscription)
5. Orientation programmes.

**Services**

The library is kept open from 8 AM to 8 PM daily, and the central reading fall is kept open up to 10 PM during the days prior to the examination. The library work through the year, on all Sundays, and on all holidays (except national Holidays).

**Statistics**

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Audio cassettes</td>
<td>500</td>
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Bharathidasan University

Bharathidasan University established in February 1982, and was named after the great revolutionary Tamil Poet, Bharathidasan (1891-1968). The motto of the University “We will create a brave new world” has been framed from Bharathidasan's poetic words. The University endeavours to be true to such a vision by creating in the region a brave new world of academic innovation for social change"(NAAC, - 2005, p.69). The year 2006-07 is the Silver Jubilee year for this great and vibrant University.

The University's main Campus was initially located in a sprawling area of over 1000 acres in Palkalaiperur. However, as years passed on, the South Campus at Palkalaiperur with the available infrastructure was donated to the newly started Anna University of Technology. Very recently, another portion of the land has been allotted to the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Tiruchirappalli. Also, the University has a downtown campus at Khajamalai, which housed originally the Autonomous Post-Graduate Centre of the University of Madras at Tiruchirappalli. In addition to the administrative complex, which includes the Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat, Registrar's Office, Finance and Examination offices, most of the academic departments and research laboratories are located in the main Palkalaiperur
Campus. Among the academic units in the Palkalaiperur Campus are Schools of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Basic Medical Sciences, Geosciences, Social Sciences, Marine Sciences and the Schools of Languages. In addition, the Campus also has the Central Library, Informatics Centre, Hostels, Staff Quarters, Health Centre, Canteen and others. The downtown campus has the Departments of Economics, Social Work, Computer Science, the Centre for Remote Sensing, the Academic Staff College and others. Besides these, the Bharathidasan Institute of Management popularly known as BIM (adjudged as one of the top business schools in the country) is located within the BHEL premises, a public sector undertaking at Tiruverumbur.

The University has totally 4 Faculties, 16 Schools, 34 Departments and 11 Specialized Research Centres. There are 195 faculty members catering to 2372 students and scholars in the University. The University Departments/Schools are offering 177 programmes including 40 PG programmes in M.A., M.Sc. and M.Tech. The above programmes are conducted under the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in Semesters: 31 M.Phil., 33 Ph.D., 19 P.G. Diploma, 11 Diploma and 10 Certificates. The University's supporting staff strength is 521. In addition to the regular teaching programmes in the Departments and Schools, the University under its Distance Education mode is conducting 15 UG and 26 PG programmes. All the UG programmes are conducted under non-semester system and all the PG programmes are conducted under semester system along with the
regular programmes. The MCA and MBA programmes conducted under this mode are very popular. Totally 15 UG Programmes and 26 PG Programmes are conducted under this mode.

The research work going on in some of the departments and research centres (Physics, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics) are internationally recognized because of their high quality. Some of the research centres of the university are strongly supported by scientific agencies in India. The Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics is supported by DST and DAE and the National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria is supported by DBT. The number of ongoing research projects at the moment in various Departments and Research Centres are 119 with a total outlay of Rs.3,200.29 lakhs. The faculty members have made substantial contribution in their fields of research in terms of quality publication in reputed international journals with high impact factor. During the last 5 years, the faculty members have published 1014 papers in international journals, 476 papers in national journals and have published 46 books. Also, during the above period, the Departments have organized 10 international conferences and 76 conferences at the national level. The faculty members also regularly participate in national and international conferences. Six of the University Departments are generously supported by DST under its FIST programme and seven Departments are supported by UGC under its Special Assistance Programme (SAP). Bharathidasan University is also selected by DST for a generous support of Rs.9.0 crores under its PURSE programme in
recognition of the high quality publications by some of the Science Departments.

The University is an affiliating one with the jurisdiction over the eight districts of Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam. The University area lies in the strategic central part of Tamil Nadu, covering the cauvery delta, traditionally known as intellectual capital of the state. There are 123 colleges affiliated to the University including 120 Arts and Science Colleges and 3 Colleges of Fine Arts. Among them 8 government and 11 government aided colleges have autonomous status. There are nine constituent colleges in Perambalur, Orathanadu, Lalgudi, Aranthangi, Inamkulathur-Srirangam Taluk, Vedaranayam, Thiruthuraipoondi, Nannilam and Nagapattinam. There are totally 55 UG programmes and 62 PG programmes conducted in the affiliated colleges and the total strength of the students studying in the affiliated colleges is 1, 14, 276. The extension services rendered by the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Career Development (IECD) and the Department of Women Studies to community, especially to the under-privileged are commendable.

The affiliating jurisdiction is over 7 Districts with 104 Arts & Science and Fine Arts Colleges and 13 Approved Institutions. Eighteen of the affiliated colleges are autonomous. Among the affiliated colleges, more than 50% are offering PG programmes and 25% are offering M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes. A good number of them are nationally recognized for quality
education. The programmes offered through affiliated colleges are so diversified that they number more than 250. The student strength in the affiliated colleges is over 1.50 lakhs.

**Department of Library and Information Science**

The established Central Library became as teaching and research department full time from the academic year 2007-2008 by offering integrated MLIS (2 years) Academic Programme and full time and part time research programme. The courses offered by the Department are well updated with an industry need based curriculum. The Department has well versed faculty in current areas of LIS and Information Technology.

The Students are trained by the faculty members and external experts in the newer technologies like Digital Libraries, Institutional Repositories, Content Management systems, Knowledge Management, E-Learning and Web Technologies etc., with practical relevance to meet the current needs of the information industry and libraries. The Department is arranging suitable placement facilities for the students in various libraries/Information Industries. These programmes with updated curriculum in meeting present needs of government, academic, corporate libraries and information industries to ensure the cent present employability. Our degree programmes provide a solid foundation in core and emerging areas of Library and Information Science and trains students to become independent researchers.
Bharathidasan University Library

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Bharathiar University Profile

The Bharathiar University was established at Coimbatore by the Government of Tamil Nadu in February, 1982 under the provision of the Bharathiar University Act, 1981 (Act 1 of 1982). The postgraduate centre of the University of Madras, which was functioning in Coimbatore before 1982 formed the core of the Bharathiar University. In May, 1985 the University received the recognition from University Grants Commission (UGC) New Delhi for the purpose of grants.

The University named after the great national poet Subramania Bharathi is enshrined with the motto "Educate to Elevate". In the University, every effort is harnessed to realize his dream of making educational institutions as temple of learning. It is the aim of the University to participate in the task of inculcating necessary knowledge, skills and creative Attitudes and values among the youth of the country to contribute more effectively towards establishing an equitable social and economic and secular ideal of our nation.
The University is situated at the backdrop of Maruthamalai Hills in the Western Ghat range, in a sprawling campus of 1000 acres of land. 15kms. from the city of Coimbatore. As of now the University has 119 affiliated colleges, 81 Arts and Science Colleges, 30 are Colleges of Education, 7 Management institutions and 1 Air Force Administration College. In addition, there are 19 Research Institutes of the State and Central Governments, which are recognized by this University for research purpose. And all these institutions cater to the educational needs of more than 1,50,000 students and research scholars.

Vision

Our vision is to provide Internationally comparable quality higher education to the youth. The aim is not only focused on imparting subject knowledge and skills, but also to could the students with better conduct and character committed to the societal needs and national development. Enshrined with the motto "Educate to Elevate". The University strives to realize the vision of India and excel in promoting and protecting the rich heritage of our past and secular ideals of the nation.

Mission

- To be innovative, inclusive and international University, committed to excellence in teaching, research and knowledge transfer and to serve the social, cultural and economic needs of the nation".
- To innovate and offer educational programs in various disciplines with synergistic interaction with the industry and society.

- To impart knowledge and skills to students equipping them to be ready to face the emerging challenges to the knowledge era.

- To provide equal opportunity to women students and prepare them to be equal partners in meeting the scientific and technological demands of the nation.

- To contribute to the advancement to knowledge through applied research leading to newer products and process.

**Bharathiar University Library**

The seating capacity currently is about 300, and has over 1,20,000 volumes covering all disciplines. The library subscribes to 163 National and International journals and seven leading newspapers. 150 journals magazines and periodicals are received on gratis. Back issues of journals are available some dating back to 1880's. Photocopying facility is also available inside the library.
Madurai Kamaraj University

Madurai Kamaraj University, established in 1966, has 18 Schools comprising 73 Departments. The Directorate of Distance Education of the University has a student strength of about 1.30 lakhs. The University has 109 affiliated Colleges (9 Autonomous) including other approved institutions and 7 evening colleges. There are centres which promote research potential of teachers. Extension activities are carried out through Department of Youth Welfare, NSS, SC/ST cell and Adult Education programmes.

Madurai Kamaraj University, (originally known as Madurai University) was named after the historical city of Madurai, the ancient capital of the Pandyan rulers and the seat of three famous Tamil academies going back to the beginnings of the Christian and even perhaps an earlier Era, was inaugurated on 6th February 1966 at the heart of the city. Its nucleus was the Extension centre of the University of Madras located at Madurai.
Two years later, the foundation stone for a new campus was laid by Dr. Zakir Hussain, the then President of India on Madurai-Theni road, 13 kilometers to the west of the city. Since then the campus has grown into a beautiful University township with an extensive area of about 750 acres, appropriately called in Tamil "Palkalainagar". And in 1978, the name of the University was changed to Madurai Kamaraj University to honour one of the most illustrious sons of our country. The two components of the name may signify the pride in the hoary tradition of the Tamils and the present concern to live up to their ideals.

**Motto**

The motto of the University is "To seek truth is knowledge" and this has been taken from Tirukkural. The various items shown in the coat of Arms of the Emblem signify and represent the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pandya Gopuram</td>
<td>Represents Madurai as an Ancient City of learning in Tamil Nadu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burning Lamp &amp; Open Book</td>
<td>Represents knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Rocket</td>
<td>Represents ancient tradition and modern technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotus</td>
<td>Represents purity and clarity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two fishes</td>
<td>Represents the symbol on the Flag of the Pandya King.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The occasion was marked with the establishment of a small library with Prof. S. Gnanamuthu as the Librarian, who later became the first University Librarian. On 2nd February, 1957, Dr. C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar laid the foundation stone for a new library building at the N.M.R. Subbaraman Park adjacent to the Pandyan Hotel. The building was opened by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, the then chairman of the University Grants Commission on 16th October, 1961.

In view of the growing number of colleges in the southern districts encircling Madurai as an academic pivotal point, the Government of Tamilnadu pronounced the opening of a University, bifurcating from the University of Madras. That was the Madurai University which breathed in on 1st February 1966. The University of Madras Extension Centre Library was renamed as the Madurai University Library.

The city complex could not cater to the growing needs of the new born university, the authorities decided to shift to a new venue named
Palkalainagar near Vadapalanji village, on the Theni Main Road. The new building was declared open on November 20, 1973 by Thiru V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, the then Pro-chancellor of the University. The total cost of the building and furniture came upto Rs. 14,04,251. The library was constructed with the financial assistance of the UGC and the Government of Tamilnadu. The University Library was shifted from the old campus at Tallakulam to Palkalainagar and it started functioning in the new building from April 3, 1974. It is called “Dr. T. P. Meenakshisundaranar Library” after our first Vice- Chancellor.
4.2 Profile of Tamil Nadu State

Geography

Tamil Nadu covers an area of 130,058 km² (50,216 sq mi), and is the eleventh largest state in India. The bordering states are Kerala to the west, Karnataka to the north west and Andhra Pradesh to the north. To the east is the Bay of Bengal and the union territory of Puducherry. The southernmost tip of the Indian Peninsula is located in Tamil Nadu. At this point is the town of Kanyakumari which is the meeting point of the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean. The south boundary of India is Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

Topographic map of Tamil Nadu

The western, southern and the north western parts are hilly and rich in vegetation. The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats and they both meet at the Nilgiri hills. The Western Ghats dominate the entire western border with Kerala, effectively blocking much of the rain bearing clouds of the south west monsoon from entering the state. The eastern parts are fertile coastal plains and the northern parts are a mix of hills and plains. The central and
the south central regions are arid plains and receive less rainfall than the other regions.

Tamil Nadu has a coastline of about 910 km (570 mi) which is the country’s third longest coastline. Tamil Nadu’s coastline bore the brunt of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami when it hit India, which caused 7,793 direct deaths in the state. Tamil Nadu falls mostly in a region of low seismic hazard with the exception of the western border areas that lie in a low to moderate hazard zone; as per the 2002 Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) map, Tamil Nadu falls in Zones II & III. Historically, parts of this region have experienced seismic activity in the M5.0 range.

**Flora and fauna**

There are about 2000 species of wildlife that are native to Tamil Nadu. Protected areas provide safe habitat for large mammals including elephants, tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, gaur, lion-tailed macaques, Nilgiri Langurs, Nilgiri Tahrs, Grizzled Giant Squirrels and Sambar deer, resident and migratory birds such as cormorants, darters, herons, egrets, Open-billed storks, Spoonbills and White Ibises, Little Grebes, Indian Moorhen, Black-winged Stilts, a few migratory Ducks and occasionally Grey pelicans, marine species such as the Dugongs, turtles, dolphins and Balanoglossus and a wide variety of fish and insects. The endangered Lion-tailed Macaque is found in a few forests in southern India.
Indian Angiosperm diversity comprises 17,672 species with Tamil Nadu leading all states in the country, with 5640 species accounting for 1/3 of the total flora of India. This includes 1559 species of medicinal plants, 533 endemic species, 260 species of wild relatives of cultivated plants and 230 red-listed species. The Gymnosperm diversity of the country is 64 species of which Tamil Nadu has four indigenous species and about 60 introduced species. The Pteridophytes diversity of India includes 1022 species of which Tamil Nadu has about 184 species. Vast numbers of bryophytes, lichen, fungi, algae and bacteria are among the wild plant diversity of Tamil Nadu.

Common plant species include the state tree: Palmyra Palm, Eucalyptus, Rubber, Cinchona, Clumping Bamboos (Bambusa Arundinacea), Common teak, Anogeissus latifolia, Indian Laurel, Grewia, and blooming trees like Indian labumumum, Ardisia, and Solanaceae. Rare and unique plant life includes Combretum ovalifolium, Ebony (Diospyros nilagrica), Habenaria rariflora (Orchid), Alsophila, Impatiens elegans, Ranunculus reniformis, and Royal fern.

National and State Parks

Tamil Nadu has a wide range of Biomes extending east from the South Western Ghats montane rain forests in the Western Ghats through the South Deccan Plateau dry deciduous forests and Deccan thorn scrub forests to tropical dry broadleaf forests and then to the beaches, estuaries, salt marshes, mangroves, and coral reefs of the Bay of Bengal.
Kodayar Shola Forests in the Western Ghats of Kanyakumari District

The state has a range of flora and fauna with many species and habitats. To protect this diversity of wildlife there are Protected areas of Tamil Nadu as well as biospheres which protect larger areas of natural habitat often include one or more National Parks. The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve established in 1986 is a marine ecosystem with seaweed and sea grass communities, coral reefs, salt marshes and mangrove forests. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve located in the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hills comprises part of adjoining states of Kerala and Karnataka. The Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve is in the south west of the state bordering Kerala in the Western Ghats. Tamil Nadu is home to five declared National parks located in Anamalai, Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Gulf of Mannar and Guindy located in the center of Chennai city. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Mukurthi National Park and Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve are the tiger reserves in the state. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve has the largest elephant population in India. Besides these bio reserves, there are many state and central run wild life sanctuaries for tiger, elephant and birds.
Climate

A semi-arid wasteland near Tirunelveli. Monsoon clouds pour torrents of rain on windward-facing Kerala, but are prevented from reaching Tirunelveli by the Agasthyamalai Range of the Western Ghats (background).

Tamil Nadu is mostly dependent on monsoon rains, and thereby is prone to droughts when the monsoons fail. The climate of the state ranges from dry sub-humid to semi-arid. The state has three distinct periods of rainfall:

- advancing monsoon period, south west monsoon from June to September, with strong southwest winds;
- North east monsoon from October to December, with dominant north east winds;
- dry season from January to May.

The annual rainfall of the state is about 945 mm (37.2 in) of which 48 per cent is through the north east monsoon, and 32 per cent through the south west monsoon. Since the state is entirely dependent on rains for recharging its water resources, monsoon failures lead to acute water scarcity and severe drought.
Tamil Nadu is classified into seven agro-climatic zones: north east, north west, west, southern, high rainfall, high altitude hilly, and Cauvery Delta (the most fertile agricultural zone).

**Governance and administration**

**State symbols of Tamil Nadu**

- **Song**: Invocation to Goddess Tamil
- **Dance**: Bharathanattiyam
- **Animal**: Nilgiri Tahr
- **Bird**: Emerald Dove
- **Flower**: Gloriosa Lily
- **Tree**: Palm Tree
- **Sport**: Kabaddi

The Governor is the constitutional head of the state while the Chief Minister is the head of the government and the head of the council of ministers. The Chief Justice of the Madras High Court is the head of the judiciary. The present Governor, Chief Minister and the Chief Justice are Konijeti Rosaiah, J. Jayalalitha M. Y. Eqbal respectively. Administratively the state is divided into 32 districts. It has 10 city corporations, 125 municipalities, 529 town panchayats and 12,524 village panchayats. Chennai (formerly known as Madras) is the state capital. It is the fourth largest city in India and is also one of the eight Metropolitan cities of India. The state comprises 40 Lok Sabha constituencies and 234 Legislative Assembly constituencies.
Tamil Nadu had a bicameral legislature until 1986, when it was replaced with a unicameral legislature, like most other states in India. The term length of the government is five years, as is elsewhere in India. The present government run by the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)-led alliance came to power in 2011 and consists of a council of 33 ministers, headed by the Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha. The Tamil Nadu legislative assembly is housed at the Fort St. George in Chennai.

The local administration is divided into revenue administration and developmental administration. Revenue administrative units are classified based on the district. Each of the 32 districts in Tamil Nadu is divided into divisions, which are further divided to Taluks. Each of these Taluks have a list of revenue villages under them. Tahsildar is the head of these Taluks. Developmental administration, in contrast, is carried out by Panchayat Unions (called blocks) in rural areas. These panchayat unions have a set of panchayat villages under them. In urban areas, the governance is done by municipal corporations, municipalities or town panchayats based on the size of the town. Tamil Nadu has 10 municipal corporations: Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli, Tirupur, Erode, Thoothukudi and Vellore. Dindigul and Thanjavur are soon going to be upgraded as the next two Municipal corporations.

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneering state of E-Governance initiatives in India. A large part of the government records like land ownership records
are digitised and all major offices of the state government like Urban Local Bodies - all the corporations and municipal office activities - revenue collection, land registration offices, and transport offices have been computerised. Tamil Nadu is one of the states where law and order has been maintained largely successfully. The Tamil Nadu Police Force is over 140 years old. It is the fifth largest state police force in India and has the largest strength of women police personnel in the country. As of 2003, the state had a total police population ratio of 1:668, higher than the national average of 1:717. The current Director General of Police (law and order) of Tamil Nadu is K. Ramanujan.

**Districts**

Tamil Nadu is subdivided into 32 districts, which are listed below. The numbers in the first column correspond to those on the map:
Districts of Tamil Nadu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Headquarters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ariyalur</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Cuddalore</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Dharmapuri</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dindigul</td>
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<td>Erode</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Kanchipuram</td>
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<td>Kanyakumari</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Krishnagiri</td>
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<td>Madurai</td>
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<td>Nagapattinam</td>
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<td>Namakkal</td>
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<td>Nilgiris</td>
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<td>Perambalur</td>
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<td>Pudukkottai</td>
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<td>Thoothukudi</td>
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<td>Tiruvannamalai</td>
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<td>Tiruvurur</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Vellore</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Viluppuram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Virudhunagar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demographics

Historical population

Tamil Nadu is the seventh most populous state in India. 44 per cent of the state's population live in urban areas, the highest among large states in India. The state has registered the lowest fertility rate in India in year
2005-06 with 1.7 children born for each woman, lower than required for population sustainability.

As of 2001 India census, Tamil Nadu had a population of 62,405,679. The sex ratio of the state is 987 with 31,400,909 males and 31,004,770 females. There are a total of 14,665,983 households. The total children under the age of 6 is 7,235,160. A total of 11,857,504 people constituting 21.49 per cent of the total population belonged to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 651,321 people constituting 1.18 per cent of the population belonged to Scheduled tribes (ST).

The state has 40,524,545 literates, making the literacy rate to 73.45 per cent. There are a total of 27,878,282 workers, comprising 4,738,819 cultivators, 6,062,786 agricultural labourers, 1,261,059 in household industries, 11,695,119 other workers, 4,120,499 marginal workers, 377,220 marginal cultivators, 2,574,844 marginal agricultural labourers, 238,702 marginal workers in household industries and 929,733 other marginal workers.

India has a human development index calculated as 0.619, while the corresponding figure for Tamil Nadu is 0.736, placing it among the top states in the country. The life expectancy at birth for males is 65.2 years and for females it is 67.6 years. However, it has a high level of poverty especially in the rural areas. As of 2004–2005, the poverty line was set at ₹351.86/month for rural areas and ₹547.42/month for urban areas. Poverty in the state dropped from 51.7 per cent in 1983 to 21.1 per cent in
For the period 2004–2005, the Trend in Incidence of Poverty in the state was 22.5 per cent compared with the national figure of 27.5 per cent. The World Bank is currently assisting the state in reducing poverty, High drop-out and low completion of secondary schools continue to hinder the quality of training in the population. Other problems include class, gender, inter-district and urban-rural disparities. Based on URP – Consumption for the period 2004–2005, percentage of the state's population Below Poverty Line was 27.5 per cent. The Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative ranks Tamil Nadu to have a Multidimensional Poverty Index of 0.141, which is in the level of Ghana among the developing countries. Corruption is a major problem in the state with Transparency International ranking it the second most corrupt among the states of India.

**Religion**

Religions in Tamil Nadu
Hinduism
Islam
Christianity
Others

About 89 per cent of the population in Tamil Nadu are Hindus and the state is home to the core schools of medieval and modern Hinduism as well as several non-mainstream Hindu movements. These include Saiva Siddhanta, Ramanuja’s Vishishtadvaita, Alvars’ Sri Vaishnavism, Ayya-Vazhi and Saivisim. Several important Hindu Tamil figures became
important figures for Hinduism as a whole. In modern times, well known figures for Hinduism in the state include Ramana Maharishi and the Kanchi Sankaracharya.

![Madurai Meenakshi Temple](image)

**Madurai Meenakshi Temple**

All Hindu deities in various forms and a large number of village deities are worshiped by Hindus in Tamil Nadu. Murugan is considered to be the Tamil God. Tamil Nadu dominates the list of largest Hindu Temples in the world which include the Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple, Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple, Ekambaeswarar Temple at Kanchipuram, Chidambaram Nataraja Temple, Tiruvannamalai Arunachaleswar Temple among others. The emblem of Government of Tamil Nadu depicts the Gopuram (gateway tower) of the Andal Temple at Srivilliputhur.
**Thiruvannamalai Annamalaiyar temple**

Christians and Muslims together form over 11 per cent of the population. Christians are mainly concentrated in the southern districts of Kanyakumari (54 per cent of the population in 2001), Thoothukudi (17 per cent in 2001) and Tirunelveli (11 per cent in 2001). St. Thomas Mount in Chennai, the place where St. Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus, was believed to have been martyred, is an important pilgrimage site for Indian Christians. The Santhome Basilica, widely believed by Christians in India to have been built atop the tomb of St. Thomas, and the Vailankanni Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health are churches revered by Christians in India. The Church of South India and the Pentecostal Mission Church are headquartered in Chennai.

The Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health at Velankanni is a Christian pilgrimage centre.

Muslims are mainly concentrated in areas such as Nagore, Adirampattinam, Kayalpatnam, Kilakarai, Ambur, Vaniyambadi, and Melapalayam. Among Muslims, 97.5 per cent are Sunni and the rest
are Shias. The Sunnis adhere to either Hanafi or Shafi schools of thought. Erwadi in Ramanathapuram district and Nagore in Nagapattinam district are important pilgrimage sites for Muslims. Kazimar Big Mosque in Kazimar Street, Madurai and Karpudaiyar masjid in Kayalpatnam are among the earlier mosques in Tamil Nadu.

Ahle hadees mosque, Melpattampakkam, Cuddalore

Samanars or Tamil Jains have a legacy dating back 250 BCE. They made significant contributions to Tamil literature. According to the 2001 census there were 83,359 Jains in Tamil Nadu. Jains make up 0.13 per cent of the population. Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes comprise 19 per cent and 1 per cent of the population respectively. Though an overwhelming percentage of SC/ST population identify themselves as Hindu, the SC/STs are enumerated separately in the census and not as a subgroup of Hinduism. An anti-conversion law came into force in 2002. However, the law was repealed in June 2004 after the defeat of the Bharatiya Janata Party led coalition in the 2004 elections.
Language

Tamil is the official language of Tamil Nadu. English is also in common usage as an official language of India. When India adopted national standards, Tamil was the very first language to be recognised as a classical language of India. Minority languages include Telugu (5.65 per cent), Malayalam (0.89 per cent), Kannada (2.68 per cent), Urdu (1.51 per cent), Gujarati / Saurashtra (0.32 per cent), Hindi (0.30 per cent) and Marathi (0.10 per cent). As of the 2001 Census, Tamil is spoken as the first language by 89.43 per cent of the population followed by Telugu by 5.65 per cent, Kannada by 2.68 per cent, Urdu by 1.51 per cent and Malayalam by 0.89 per cent.

Education

Tamil Nadu is one of the most literate states in India. Tamil Nadu has performed reasonably well in terms of literacy growth during the decade 2001–2011. A survey conducted by the Industry body Assocham ranks Tamil Nadu top among Indian states with about 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in primary and upper primary education. One of the basic limitations for improvement in education in the state is the rate of absence of teachers in public schools, which at 21.4 per cent is significant. The analysis of primary school education in the state by Pratham shows a low drop-off rate but poor quality of state education compared to other states. Tamil Nadu has 37 universities, 455 engineering colleges, 449 Polytechnic Colleges and 566 arts and science colleges, 34335
elementary schools, 5167 high schools, 5054 higher secondary schools and 5000 hospitals. Some of the notable educational institutes present in Tamil Nadu are Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Indian Institute of Information Technology Design & Manufacturing Kancheepuram, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, International Institute of Market Research and Analytics (IIMRA), Madras Institute of Technology, College of Engineering, Guindy, PSG College of Technology Coimbatore, Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, Government College of Technology Coimbatore, Thiagarajar College of Engineering Madurai, SRM University, University of Madras, Loyola College, Kilpauk Medical College, Madras Medical College, Stanley Medical College, Christian Medical College, Tanjavur Medical College, Tanjavur SASTRA, Vellore Institute of Technology and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

District level literacy (2011 data)

Tamil Nadu now has 69 per cent reservation in educational institutions for socially backward section of the society, the highest among all Indian states.
The Midday Meal Scheme program in Tamil Nadu, initiated by Kamaraj, was expanded considerably during the rule of the AIADMK by MGR in 1983, although the state is among the 12 states in India that have an alarming level of hunger, according to the 2008 Global Hunger Index.

**Economy**

Tamil Nadu is the second largest contributor to India's GDP. Tamil Nadu's gross state domestic product for the year 2011-2012 was 4.28 lakh crore or $145,868 Million. The state has shown a growth of 9.4 per cent in the year 2011-2012. Tamil Nadu is the second most industrialised state in India. It ranks third in foreign direct investment (FDI) approvals (cumulative 1991–2002) of ₹ 225,826 million ($5,000 million), next only to Maharashtra and Delhi constituting 9.12 per cent of the total FDI in the country. The per capita income in 2007–2008 for the state was ₹ 72,993 ranking third among states with a population over 10 million and has steadily been above the national average.
According to the 2011 Census, Tamil Nadu is the most urbanised state in India (49 per cent), accounting for 9.6 per cent of the urban population while only comprising 6 per cent of India’s total population and is the most urbanised state in India. Services contributes to 45 per cent of the economic activity in the state, followed by manufacturing at 34 per cent and agriculture at 21 per cent. Government is the major investor in the state with 51 per cent of total investments, followed by private Indian investors at 29.9 per cent and foreign private investors at 14.9 per cent. Tamil Nadu has a network of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>GSDP</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
<th>Share in India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000–01</td>
<td>142,065</td>
<td>5.87%</td>
<td>7.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001–02</td>
<td>139,842</td>
<td>-1.56%</td>
<td>7.09%</td>
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<td>142,295</td>
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<td>150,815</td>
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<td>6.79%</td>
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<td>2004–05</td>
<td>219,003</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005–06</td>
<td>249,567</td>
<td>13.96%</td>
<td>7.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006–07</td>
<td>287,530</td>
<td>15.21%</td>
<td>8.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007–08</td>
<td>305,157</td>
<td>6.13%</td>
<td>7.83%</td>
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<td>2008–09</td>
<td>320,085</td>
<td>4.89%</td>
<td>7.70%</td>
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<td>2009–10</td>
<td>350,258</td>
<td>9.43%</td>
<td>7.77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>391,372</td>
<td>11.74%</td>
<td>8.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–12</td>
<td>428,109</td>
<td>9.39%</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
about 113 industrial parks and estates offering developed plots with supporting infrastructure.

According to the publications of the Tamil Nadu government the Gross State Domestic Product at Constant Prices (Base year 2004–2005) for the year 2011–2012 is ₹428,109 crores, an increase of 9.39 per cent over the previous year. The per capita income at current price is ₹72,993.

Agriculture

Tamil Nadu has historically been an agricultural state and is a leading producer of agricultural products in India. In 2008, Tamil Nadu was India's fifth biggest producer of Rice. The total cultivated area in the State was 5.60 million hectares in 2009–10. The Cauvery delta region is known as the Rice Bowl of South India. In terms of production, Tamil Nadu accounts for 10 per cent in fruits and 6 per cent in vegetables, in India. Annual food grains production in the year 2007–08 was 100.35 lakh mt. Mango and banana are the leading fruit crops in Tamil Nadu accounting for over 87 per cent of the total fruit production. The main vegetables grown are tapioca, tomato, onion, brinjal (eggplant), and drumstick. Tamil Nadu is also a leading state in the production of flowers with the total production of horticultural crops standing at ₹99.47 Lakhs during 2003–04. The main flowers grown in Tamil Nadu are jasmine, mullai, chrysanthemum, marigold and rose.

The state is the largest producer of bananas, flowers, tapioca, the second largest producer of mango, natural rubber, coconut, groundnut and the third largest producer of coffee, sapota, Tea and Sugarcane. Tamil
Nadu's sugarcane yield per hectare is the highest in India. The state has 17,000 hectares of land under oil palm cultivation, the second highest in India.

**Paddy fields at Nagercoil**

Tamil Nadu is the home to Dr M.S. Swaminathan, known as the "father of the Green Revolution" in India. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University with its seven colleges and thirty two research stations spread over the entire state contributes to evolving new crop varieties and technologies and disseminating through various extension agencies. Among states in India, Tamil Nadu is one of the leaders in livestock, poultry and fisheries production. Tamil Nadu had the second largest number of poultry amongst all the states and accounted for 17.7 per cent of the total poultry population in India. In 2003–2004, Tamil Nadu had produced 37,836 lakhs of eggs, which was the second highest in India representing 9.37 per cent of the total egg production in the country. With the third longest coastline in India, Tamil Nadu represented 27.54 per cent of the total value of fish and fishery products exported by India in 2006.
Leather industry

The state accounts for 70 per cent of leather tanning capacity in India and 38 per cent of leather footwear and components. The exports from Tamil Nadu are valued at about US $ 762 million, which accounts for 42 per cent of Indian leather exports. Hundreds of leather and tannery industries are located around Vellore, Dindigul and Erode its nearby towns such as Ranipet, Ambur, Perundurai and Vaniyambadi. The Vellore district is the top exporter of finished leather goods in the country. That leather accounts for more than 37 per cent of the country's Export of Leather and Leather related products such as finished leathers, shoes, garments, gloves and so on. The tanning industry in India has a total installed capacity of 225 million pieces of hide and skins of which Tamil Nadu alone contributes to an inspiring 70 per cent. Leather industry occupies a pride of place in the industrial map of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu enjoys a leading position with 40 per cent share in India’s export. It currently employs about 2.5 million persons. Leather exports by the end of the year 2000–2001 were ₹9000 crores. Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), a CSIR research laboratory is located in Chennai, the state capital. Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) -CHENNAIFDDI / Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Mission FDDI is the first training Institute to achieve the prestigious ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certification. The Institute believes that dedication, sincerity and hard work leads to excellence and therefore, its motto is “Dedication to Excellence.”
FDDI, Chennai Campus is located at Irungattukottai near SIPCOT Footwear Park, 40 minutes drive from Chennai. The campus area spread over 15 acres is situated in a calm and serene surrounding with the state-of-the-art Campus housing & buildings having a built-up area of more than 4 lacs sq. ft. Campus has an excellent infrastructure and modern facilities, which assists in conducting the various academic programmes. The Institute has a state-of-the-art library, computer lab, well furnished and centrally air-conditioned building, class rooms and lecture halls, latest multi-media audio-video, educational support for teaching and a fully equipped auditorium. The Campus is equipped with International Testing Laboratory. Chennai is the biggest hub of the world leather industry. Every exporter had an office in Chennai & most of the leather & footwear industry is located in and around Chennai. Tamil Nadu accounts for 30 per cent of leather exports and about 70 per cent of leather production in the country. The large scale presence of the Tanning industry has resulted in Tamil Nadu becoming a dominant production centre in the country for leather and leather based products. In Tamil Nadu 0.5 Million people are employed in the industries dealing with leather and leather based products. With the expansion and huge investment coming up in this from the national and international reputed brands the employment opportunities in this sector is going to increase many fold. It is estimated that leather industry will require at least one million additional manpower in the next five years. The skill gaps at the level of designers, technologists and management professionals are more
stark and demanding. It is where the prospective professionals can take advantage of the courses being offered by FDDI Chennai and opt for lucrative and promising career jobs.

**Textiles**

Textile mills and engineering industries are present around the city of Coimbatore. It is home to textile, automotive spare parts and motor pump manufacturing units. Cities of Tirupur and Erode are the country's largest exporters of knitwear. They are well known for textile manufacturing industries and exports to such extent that the districts of Coimbatore, Tirupur, Karur, Erode, Namakkal and Salem. Coimbatore is known as the "Manchester of South India" for its cotton production. The region around Coimbatore, Tirupur, Karur and Erode is referred to as the "Textile Valley of India" with the export from the Tirupur ₹ 50,000 million ($1,000 million) and Karur generates around ₹ 35,500 million ($750 million) a year in foreign exchange. 56 per cent of India's total knitwear exports come from Tirupur and Karur make above 60 per cent of India's home textiles. Gobichettipalayam, Pollachi, Theni and Vedasandur are known for its cottonspinning mills. Rajapalayam is famous for its cotton market. Gobichettipalayam is a prominent producer of white silk with the country's first automated silk reeling unit present here. Kanchipuram and Arani are world famous for their pure zari silk sarees and handloom silk weaving industries. Aruppukottai, Salem, and Sathyamangalam are also famous for art-silk sarees. Andipatti, Tiruchengodu, Paramakudi, Kurinjipadi are major
handloom centres. Negamam, Cinnalapatti, Woraiyur, Pochampalli are famous for its soft cotton saree weavings. Madurai is well known for its Chungidi cotton saree. Bhavani is famous for carpet.

Automobiles

Tamil Nadu has seen major investments in the automobile industry over many decades manufacturing cars, railway coaches, battle-tanks, tractors, motorcycles, automobile spare parts and accessories, tyres and heavy vehicles. Major global automobile companies including BMW, Ford, RobertBosch, Renault-Nissan, Caterpillar, Hyundai, Mitsubishi Motors, and Michelin as well as Indian automobile majors like Mahindra & Mahindra, Ashok Leyland, Hindustan Motors, TVS Motors, Irizar-TVS, Royal Enfield, MRF, Apollo Tyres, TAFE Tractors, DaimlerChrysler AG Company also invested ₹4 billion for establishing new plant in Tamil Nadu. Karur is a hub for Bus body building industries. Namakkal is the major source of Heavy Vehicle and lorry body building and Educational wise. Tiruchengode is the major source of Borewells. Recently India Yamaha, Yamaha Motor Corporation's Indian subsidiary, has decided to set up a new factory in Tamil Nadu.

Heavy industries

Tamil Nadu is one of the highly industrialised states in India. Over 11.2 per cent of the S&P CNX 500 conglomerates have corporate offices in Tamil Nadu. Many heavy engineering and manufacturing companies are located in and around the suburbs of Chennai. Coimbatore is the largest
industrialized city in the state and is the largest producer of pump sets and wet grinders in India.

**Bharat Heavy Electricals at Tiruchirapalli.**

Bharat Heavy Electricals, one of India's largest electrical equipment manufacturing companies, has manufacturing plants at Tiruchirapalli and Ranipet. India's leading steel producer, the state-owned Steel Authority of India, has a steel plant in Salem. Sterlite Industries has a copper smelter at Tuticorin and an aluminium plant in Mettur. The Chennai Petroleum Corporation is a state-owned oil and gas corporation headquartered in Chennai, and owns refineries at Manali and Panangudi. The state government owns the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers, and the world's biggest bagasse based paper mills in Karur. Jointly with the Tata Group, the state owns the world's sixth largest manufacturer of watches, under the brand name of "Titan", at Hosur. A number of large cement manufacturers, including the Chettinad Group, Ramco Cements, Tancem, the Dalmia Group, UltraTech Cements and ACC are present across the state. Ariyalur is known as "the land of the cement industry" in the state.
**Electronics and software**

Electronics manufacturing is a growing industry in Tamil Nadu, with many telecommunications giants like Nokia, Flextronics, Motorola, Sony-Ericsson, Foxconn, Samsung, Cisco, Moser Baer and Dell having chosen Chennai as their south Asian manufacturing hub. Products manufactured include circuit boards and cellular phone handsets.

Infosys campus at Mahindra World City, near Chennai.

Tamil Nadu is the second largest software exporter by value in India, second only to Karnataka. Software exports from Tamil Nadu grew from ₹76 billion ($1.6 billion) in 2003–04 to ₹207 billion ($5 billion) by 2006–07 according to NASSCOM and to ₹366 billion in 2008–09 which shows 29 per cent growth in software exports according to STPI. Major national and global IT Companies such as Syntel, Infosys, Wipro, HCL, Tata Consultancy Services, Mahindra Satyam, Verizon, Hewlett-Packard, Amazon.com, Paypal, IBM, Accenture, Ramco Systems, Computer Sciences Corporation, Cognizant Technology solutions, Tech Mahindra, Polaris, Aricent, Mphasis, Mind Tree, BBM info 24/7 Customers, Hexaware Technologies and many others have offices in Tamil Nadu.
Others

Namakkal is also one of the main source of Egg production in India. Karur is also the major manufacturer of Nylon nets (HDPE) Filaments over 65 per cent of India. Sivakasi is a major centre of fireworks and safety match production and offset printing in India with over 60 per cent of firework production contributed from Sivakasi. Tiruppur district is famous for the Tiruppur banian industry, Cotton market and mills, the famous uthukkuli butter. Kanyakumari is famous for rubber production.

Infrastructure

Transport

Road

Pamban road (left) and rail (right) bridges, connecting the Indian mainland with the Pamban Island. The rail bridge was opened to traffic in 1914, and was considered an engineering marvel in its time.

Tamil Nadu has a transportation system that connects all parts of the state. Tamil Nadu is served by an extensive road network, providing links between urban centres, agricultural market-places and rural areas. There are 28 national highways in the state, covering a total distance of 5,036 km
(3,129 mi). The state is also a terminus for the Golden Quadrilateral project. The state has a total road length of 167,000 km (104,000 mi), of which 60,628 km (37,672 mi) are maintained by Highways Department. This is nearly 2.5 times higher than the density of all-India road network. The major road junctions are Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Tuticorin, Salem, Karur, Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Kanyakumari.

**Rail**

Tamil Nadu has a well-developed rail network as part of Southern Railway. Headquartered at Chennai, the Southern Railway network extends over a large area of India's southern peninsula, covering the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, a small portion of Karnataka and a small portion of Andhra Pradesh.

![MRTS Train station in Chennai.](image)

Tamil Nadu has a total railway track length of 5,952 km (3,698 mi) and there are 532 railway stations in the state. The system connects it with most major cities in India. Chennai has a well-established suburban railway network and is in the process of developing a metro. Main rail junctions in the state include Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Erode,
Tiruchirapalli and Tirunelveli. Here Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore Junction, Madurai Junction, are upgraded to A1 grade level. Loco sheds are located at Erode, Arakkonam, Royapuram in Chennai and Tondaiyarpet in Chennai, Ponmalai (GOC) in Tiruchirappalli as Diesel Loco Shed. The loco shed at Erode is a huge composite Electric and Diesel Loco shed. There is a mountain railway connecting Ooty and Mettupalayam. MRTS which covers from Chennai Beach to Velachery.

**Airports**

The first flight in the country was from Mumbai to Chennai. Tamil Nadu has 3 international airports, a customs airport and 2 domestic airports. Chennai International Airport is a major international airport that is connected with 19 countries with more than 169 direct flights every week. This is the third largest airport in India after Mumbai and Delhi and has a passenger growth of 18 per cent. Other international and customs airports present in the state are Coimbatore Airport, Tiruchirapalli Airport and Madurai Airport. Salem Airport and Tuticorin Airport are domestic airports with daily flights. Increased industrial activity has given rise to an increase in passenger traffic as well as freight movement which has been growing at over 18 per cent per year.

**Seaport**

Tamil Nadu has three major seaports located at Chennai, Ennore and Tuticorin, as well as seven other minor ports including Cuddalore and Nagapattinam. Chennai Port is an artificial harbour situated
on the Coromandel Coast and is the second principal port in the country for handling containers. Ennore Port handles all the coal and ore traffic in Tamil Nadu. The volume of cargo in the ports grew by 13 per cent during 2005.

Energy

Windmills for Electricity Generation in Coimbatore District.

Tamil Nadu has the third largest established power generation capacity in the country. The Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant, Ennore Thermal Plant, Neyveli Lignite Power Plant, many hydroelectric plants including Mettur Dam, hundreds of windmills and the Narimanam Natural Gas Plants are major sources of Tamil Nadu's electricity. Tamil Nadu generates a significant proportion of its power needs from renewable sources with wind power installed capacity at over 6007 MW, accounting for 55 per cent of all wind-generated electricity in India. It is presently adding the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant to its energy grid, which on completion would be the largest atomic power plant in the country, in terms of capacity. The total installed capacity of electricity in the State is 17,656 MW. Tamil Nadu ranks first nationwide in diesel-based thermal electricity generation with a national market share of over 34 per cent. From a power surplus state in 2005-06, Tamil Nadu has become a state facing severe
power shortage over the recent years due to lack of power projects and delay in the starting of power generation at Kudankulam Atomic Power Project. The Thoothukudi Thermal Power Station has five 210 megawatt generators. The first generator was commissioned in July 1979. The thermal power plants under construction include the coal-based 1000 MW NLC TNEB Power Plant.

Tourism

Hogenakkal Falls on the Kaveri river in Dharmapuri district.

The tourism industry of Tamil Nadu is the second largest in India, with an annual growth rate of 16 per cent. Tourism in Tamil Nadu is promoted by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC), a Government of Tamil Nadu undertaking. Approximately 2,804,687 foreign and 111,637,104 domestic tourists visited the state in 2010.

Thiruvannamalai - Sathanoor dam park
The state boasts some of the grand Hindu temples built in Dravidian architecture. The Brihadishwara Temple in Thanjavur, built by the Cholas, the Airavateswara temple in Darasuram and the Shore Temple, along with the collection of other monuments in Mahabalipuram (also called Mamallapuram) have been declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The Dolphin's Nose at Kodaikanal.

Mandaikudu Beach at Nagercoil

Madurai is home to the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple. Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam. Tiruchendur is the largest functioning temple in the Tamil Nadu, Tiruchirappalli where the famous Rockfort Temple is located, Rameshwaram whose temple walk-ways corridor (Praagarams) are the longest 1.2 km (0.75 mi) of all Indian temples in the world, Kanchipuram and Palani are important pilgrimage sites for Hindus. Other popular temples in Tamil Nadu include those in keelaiyur (East...
Thirukoilur), Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Chidambaram, Thiruvannaamalai, Palani, Tiruvarur, Kumbakonam, Srivilliputhur, Tiruttani, Namakkal, Vellore, Karur, Bhavani, Coimbatore, Kanniyakumari. 

Sunrise in Kanyakumari with Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Thiruvalluvar statue in the foreground.

Tamil Nadu is also home to hill stations like Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Kodaikanal, Yercaud, Coonoor, Topslip, Valparai, Yelagiri and Manjolai. The Nilgiri hills, Palani hills, Shevaroy hills, Kolli Hills and Cardamom hills are all abodes of thick forests and wildlife. Tamil Nadu has many National Parks, Biosphere Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Elephant and Bird Sanctuaries, Reserved Forests, Zoos and Crocodile farms. Prominent among them are Mudumalai National Park, The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, Anaimalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and Arignar Anna Zoological Park. Themangrove forests at Pichavaram are also eco-tourism spots of importance.

Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of peninsular India, is famous for its beautiful sunrise, Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Thiruvalluvar's statue built off the coastline. Marina Beach in Chennai is one of the longest
beaches in the world. The stretch of beaches from Chennai to Mahabalipuram are home to many resorts, theme parks and eateries.

The prominent waterfalls in the state are Courtallam, Hogenakkal, Papanasam, Manimuthar, Thirparappu, Pykara and Silver Cascade. The Chettinad region of the state is renowned for its Palatial houses and cuisine. With medical care in Chennai, Vellore, Coimbatore and Madurai, Tamil Nadu has the largest numbers in Medical tourism in India.