Chapter - 2

Physical Features
PHYSICAL FEATURES

This chapter explains the geographical features of the Madras State and the divisions of the districts. The natural resources available in the areas are also mentioned.

The Madras Presidency or the Presidency of Fort St. George, occupied the southern portion of the peninsula from latitude $20\degree 18'$ on the eastern coast and latitude $14\degree$ on the western coast to Cape Comorin in latitude $8\degree 4'$ the longitude ranges from $74\degree 9'$ to $85\degree 15'$. The extreme linear length of the Presidency from north-east to south-west was 950 miles; its extreme linear breadth was 450 miles.¹

The coast line on the east commences north at the confines of the large salt lagoon called the Chilka lake in the Bengal district of Cuttack. It gave a boundary successively to the Ganjam, Vizagapatnam Godavary, Krishna, Nellore, Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot, Thanjavur, Madras and Tirunelveli districts and a small portion of Travancore State. This makes 1,250 miles of coast washed by the Bay of Bengal, Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.²

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On the extreme north-east was the Bengal Province of Orissa; next come the highlands of the Central Provinces; then across the greater part of the Peninsula, the Dominions of the Nizam of Hyderabad, separated from Madras by the Krishna river and its tributary the Tunghabadra; lastly on the north-west by the districts of Dharwar and North Canara in the Bombay Presidency.\(^3\)

This description leaves out of account the Mysore and Coorg territories which geographically speaking from as much a portion of the Presidency as do the tributary States of Travancore and Cochin on the south.\(^4\)

The Amindivy and Laccadive Islands formed for administrative purposes and a part of Madras Presidency being attached to the districts of South Canara and Malabar respectively. Off the south-east lies the British colony of Ceylon separated by a shallow strait across which runs the string of rocks and sandbanks known as “Adam’s Bridge”.\(^5\)

**Mountains, Rivers and Lakes:**

From a physical point of view the Presidency was divided into three portions, the long and broad eastern coast, the shorter and narrower

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4. Ibid.,
Western Coast and the high tableland in the interior. These divisions are determined by the two great mountain ranges of the Eastern and Western Ghats, which give the key to the configuration of all Southern India.⁶

The Eastern Ghats which lie entirely within this Presidency, form a continuation of the hill system of Chota Nagpore. They run in a south westerly direction almost through the entire length of Madras until they lose themselves in the Nilgiris and there join with the western range.⁷ Their average height is 1,500 feet and for the most part they leave a broad expanse of low land between their base and the sea.

The Western Ghats on the other hand, which stretch southwards continuously along the shore of the Indian Ocean from the north of Bombay, satisfy all the characteristics of a mountain range.⁸

Rising steeply at a distance of 10 to 50 miles in the Madras district from the coast they catch the greater part of the rainfall of the monsoon and in the south no stream breaks through them. Some of their peaks attain an elevation from 5000 to 8000 feet.⁹

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⁸ Ibid.
⁹ S.Y.Krishnaswamy, op.cit., p.5.
There are also outlying spurs and masses of hills of which the Shevroys in Salem, the Anaimalai hills in Coimbatore and the Palani hills in Madurai are the most important. The Anaimudi Mountain in the Anaimalai range is now known to be the highest mountain in Southern India.¹⁰

The chain of the Western Ghats begins when all the other large rivers flow eastward into the Bay of Bengal. The principal of these are the Godavary, the Krishna and the Cauvery; all sacred in the eyes of the Hindus and truly valuable by their services to irrigation and commerce.

They spread over alluvial deltas before they reach the sea and at that stage become capable of being restrained and utilized by the agricultural engineer. The estimated basin area of the Godavary is 1,12,200 square miles and its length is 898 miles.¹¹

The estimated basin area of the Krishna is 94,500 square miles and its length is 800 miles. The estimated basin area of the Cauvery is 3,27,700 square miles and its length is 472 miles.¹² Each of these rivers

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¹¹. Ibid.,
has a large tributary system of its own. Other rivers on the east coast of similar character but smaller dimensions are the North and South Pennar, the Palar, the Vellaur, the Vaigai and the Tambraparani. The area of country drained by rivers running westward is only the narrow strip of territory between the Western Ghats and the sea.\textsuperscript{13}

\textbf{Soils:}

Soil is defined as the “Outer weathered layer of the solid crust of the earth”. The soils of the Presidency can be divided into four main types:- 1. The alluvial soils; 2. The black cotton soils 3. The red soils and 4. The laterite soils.

The alluvial soils in both coastal and deltaic areas being of a transported nature bear no relation to the rock on which they lie in respect of chemical and mineralogical propertied.

They are found in the deltaic tracts of Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery and in portions of South Arcot and Tinnevelly (Tirunelveli). Paddy is the main crop grown though sugarcane, plantains and turmeric are also cultivated in the higher reaches.

The black cotton soils form roughly one third of the cultivated area of the province and are estimated to cover million acres.

\textsuperscript{13} Vadilal Dagli, \textit{op.cit.}, p.294.
They are found extensively, Guntur and Krishna in Northern Circars and in Ramnad, Trichinopoly and Thanjavur in the south. Cotton and sorghum are the important crops of the black soils in the northern districts and cumbu in the southern districts.\textsuperscript{14}

Red soils from two-thirds of the cultivable area being 20 million acres in extent. The red soil areas are particularly confined to the west coast and the central districts. Almost all crops are grown in red soil.\textsuperscript{15}

The term laterite was first used in 1807 by Buchanan to apply to the brick coloured earth which is suitable for making air dried bricks. The laterites are formed in regions which are subjected to alternate heavy precipitation of over 100 inches of rainfall per annum and a dry hot period. The two terms refer merely to the position occupied by the two varieties on the highlands or near the coast. Paddy is the chief crop grown in these soils. Other crops are ginger, pepper and plantains.\textsuperscript{16}

\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.,
Natural Calamities - 1951-1967:

Owing to the failure of the North-East Monsoon and the inadequacy of rains during the South-West Monsoon in Fasli 1360 there was a widespread failure of crops. As many as 18 districts were adversely affected. 17

Generally no scarcity of drinking water was felt except in Tirunelveli district where the North-East Monsoon failed during 1956-57 over a large part of the district and there was acute drought in parts of Nanguneri, Tiruchendur, Tirunelveli and Sankarankoil in the earlier part of the year 1957. 18

Due to heavy rains from the 17th to 25th July 1951 in the West Godavari district, the levels in Yerracalva and in Yenamaduru rose very high resulting in extensive floods in the lands by the side of the river in the West Godavari district. There were many breaches in the flood banks and extensive damage was caused to the standing crops. The worst affected villages was Durva, Varighedu, Tirupatipuram and Kommarru in Tanuku taluk. 19

The rainfall was very heavy from 3rd to 5th November 1957 and several low-lying areas in the city were submerged and many thatched huts put up by harijans and other poor people were damaged. The total number of huts damaged was reported to be 2,231.20

In Chingleput there were slight damages due to floods in the northern areas of the district. Due to heavy rains in the catchment area of the Araniar and sudden rise of water level in the river there were a few branches in the embankment causing damages to 72 villages on the river margin.21

In Coimbatore some jungle streams and tanks breached due to heavy rainfall in October and November 1957 causing loss to property. Loss of two lives was also reported. There were breaches in two irrigation channels, one irrigation tank, one pond and three jungle streams. Crops worth Rs.39,400 were damaged. Many houses in the low-lying affected areas collapsed.22

There were heavy rains accompanied by heavy winds all over the coastal districts of the State during October and December 1963.

   John P. Mencher, Agriculture and Social Structure in Tamil Nadu, Allied Publisher Private Ltd., 1978, p.47.
21. Ibid.,
22. A.Gopal Singh, op.cit., p.286.
The damages due to the cyclonic winds were heavy in the districts of Thanjavur and South Arcot.\textsuperscript{23}

The severe cyclone of December 1964, the tidal waves and unprecedented heavy rains caused considerable damage to property and lives particularly in the Rameshwaram Island and adjoining areas. There had been widespread calamities in several villages beyond Paramakudi and upto Dhanushkodi.\textsuperscript{24}

The huts were washed away. A train proceeding from Rameshwaram to Dhanushkodi was hit by tidal waves. Several miles of railway track in the Island were eroded. The Pamban Bridge, except for a few spans was washed away in 1964.

Pattukottai and Arantangi taluks of Thanjavur district were also hit by the cyclone wind and heavy rains. The houses were damaged, salt pans in Arantangi, a few heads of cattle, fishing boats etc., were washed away. Floods in Velar River caused obstruction to traffic.\textsuperscript{25}

Cyclonic wind and heavy rains hit several parts of Madurai district on 23\textsuperscript{rd} December 1964. In Kodai Road 66 tanks breached as a result of

\textsuperscript{25} Ibid.
which 2 adults and a child was washed away. Houses and standing crops of paddy, plantain, sugarcane and betelwine were damaged. In the taluk of Nilakottai and Dindigul 1,100 heads of cattle including 550 sheep were lost. The total loss as a result of cyclone was estimated at Rs.2 lakhs.26

Due to rains in October and November 1964, many minor irrigation tanks in Salem breached and there were heavy floods in Thirumanimuttar River.27 In the Madras city, due to the incessant rains and stormy weather, 1,589 huts in low lying areas were badly damaged in the inundation of rain waters during November 1964.28

There were heavy and widespread rains during the end of November and early December 1965, which resulted in the flooding of rivers and tanks in the districts of South Arcot, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and also parts of Ramanathapuram district.29

Geographical Features of the Madras State:

Madras is the one of the 28 states of the new Indian Republic. The Madras State covers an area of 126,166 square miles. Geographically the State can be divided into two natural divisions - the vast plains along the eastern coast line and the mountainous region in the north and the west.30

The Eastern Ghats, the Western Ghats and the Nilgiris ranges constitute the main mountainous region. The State has got an uninterrupted coast line of 620 miles.31 The State has divided into 5 divisions:

1. Northern Districts, 2. Western Districts, 3. Central Districts,

Northern Districts:

The northern districts are Chingleput, Madras and North Arcot. The northern districts lies between 11°55' and 13°15' Northern Latitude and 78°20' and 80°20' Eastern Latitude. It is bounded on the east by the Bay of Bengal; on the north by Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh; on the south by South Arcot district; on the west by Salem district.32

30. B.Natarajan, op.cit.,
31. Ibid.,
DIVISIONS OF THE DISTRICTS

NORTHERN DISTRICTS
Madras, Chingleput, North Arcot

WESTERN DISTRICTS
Coimbatore, Nilgiris

CENTRAL DISTRICTS
Salem, Tiruchirappalli

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS
Madurai
Ramanathapuram
Tirunelveli
Kanyakumari

EASTERN DISTRICTS
South Arcot, Thanjavur
The Palar rises in Mysore State and after flowing through Chittoor and North Arcot districts enters Chingleput district from a few miles to the west of Kanchipuram.\(^{33}\)

The Kortalaiyar has its source from the Calingula of the Kaveripakkam tank in the North Arcot district and the surplus water of the tank flows through this river. Madras city gets its supply of water from the Red Hills tank.\(^{34}\)

The Cooum has its rise in the surplus from the tank of the same name in Kancheepuram taluk. The other rivers of the northern districts are the Palar, the South Pennar, the Cheyyar and Ponnai which is a tributary of the Palar.\(^{35}\)

A few of the cyclonic thunder storm were accompanied by heavy squalls of rain with winds which may have a speed of 50 to 85 miles per hour. The danger of cyclonic storms was mainly from the Bay of Bengal which moves west or north-west towards the east coast.\(^{36}\)

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35. Ibid., p.249.
The North Arcot district got the heaviest rainfall during the North-East Monsoon period. The average rainfall of the northern districts was 2017.50 millimetres.\textsuperscript{37}

**Western Districts:**

Coimbatore and the Nilgiris are the western districts of the Madras State. The Western Districts lies between $10^\circ10'$ and $11^\circ55'$ Northern Latitude and $76^\circ13'$ and $77^\circ30'$ of Eastern Longitude in the extreme west of Madras State. It is bounded on the north by Mysore State. On the south by Travancore-Cochin State; on the east by Tiruchirappalli and Salem districts; on the west by Malabar district.\textsuperscript{38}

Nilgiri means “Blue Mountains”. The entire area of the Blue Mountains constitutes the present district of Nilgiri. Ootacamound is the headquarters of the district and it is popularly known as the ‘Queen of Hills’.\textsuperscript{39}

The Coimbatore district consisted of upland regions. The highest temperature recorded early in April-May. The importance of the district Nilgiri is not confined to its beautiful scenery and climate alone.

\textsuperscript{37} Ibid.


The temperature and most equable climate further heighten the attractiveness of the place. During the South-West Monsoon, rainfall was most irregular except in Pollachi area which lies just opposite to Palghat Gate. During October and November the North-East Monsoon sets and provided most of the rains in this district.

The rainfall in Nilgiri district was not uniformly distributed and varies considerably from one place to another. The average annual rainfall in the district was 3195.00 mm.\(^{40}\)

The most important rivers are Bhavani and Amaravathy in Coimbatore district. Besides there were a number of smaller rivers such as Aliyar, Sholaiyar, Parambikulam, Palar, etc., originating in the Anaimalai hills and flowing westwards.

The Kundah river rising in the steep slopes of the Kundah mountain range. The river Mudukadu that drains the Orange Valley rises in the north east corner of the plateau with Coonoor Stream and the Kateri Stream.\(^{41}\)

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\(^{41}\) Ibid.,
Central Districts:

Salem and Tiruchirappalli are the central districts. The central districts lie between Northern Latitude 10° and 12°53' and between 77°33' and 78°53' Eastern Longitude. It is bounded by Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore State on the north; Thanjavur and South Arcot districts on the east; Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts on the south; Coimbatore district on the west.  

The district of Tiruchirappalli is rather irregular in shape. The Pachaimalai hills, Rangamalai, Toppasamimalai and Vellimalai hills situated in the district of Tiruchirappalli. Across morapur valley in Dharmapuri taluk is the Pikkili hills with peaks over 3,000 feet.

In the central region, the Shevroys covering 100 square miles are situated in the Yercaud taluk. The chief rivers are the Cauvery, the Vasishta nadhi, the Sweda nadhi and the South Pennar. The South Pennar River has been dammed near Krishnagiri to form the Krishnagiri reservoir.  

43. Ibid..
The Cauvery and its branch the Coleroon or Kollidam are the most important rivers of the Tiruchirappalli district. The other important rivers of the district are the Amaravathi and its tributaries.\textsuperscript{45}

Heavy showers accompanied by thunder occur during this period. The period from September to November was the North-East Monsoon period and during these months the district got its heaviest rain. The South-West monsoon was usually weak in the central district. The average annual rainfall of the central district was 2092.50 mm.\textsuperscript{46}

**Eastern Districts:**

South Arcot and Thanjavur are the eastern districts. The coastal districts of South Arcot and Thanjavur lies between $9^\circ 50'$ and $12^\circ 30'$ Northern Latitude and $78^\circ 37'$ and $80^\circ$ Eastern Longitude. It is bounded on the north by the North Arcot district; on the south by the Ramanathapuram district; on the west by the Salem and the Tiruchirappalli districts; on the east by the Bay of Bengal.\textsuperscript{47}

The Kalryayan hill range which divides South Arcot from Salem and stands on the extreme west of Kallakkurichi taluk.


\textsuperscript{46} N.Gopalswamy, Agricultural Meteorology, Rawat Publications, New Delhi, 1994, p.45.

The Gingee hills in the Gingee taluk run south – westwards. The Red hills which rise just west of Pondicherry can be called a prominent feature of this landscape. It is known as the ‘Granary of Madras State’. 48

The most important river of the district is Cauvery. The main branches of Cauvery are Vennar, Kadamuruttiyar and Arasalar. The principal river of South Arcot is the Pennar or the Ponnaiyar. The climate of Thanjavur was healthy. The climate of South Arcot was fairly dry. The temperature was moderate.49

The rainfall in Thanjavur was heavier than in the adjoining district. It was benefited by both the monsoons. Rainfall was heaviest along the coastal area. The average annual rainfall was recorded 1825 mm.50

**Southern Districts:**

Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari are the southern districts of the Madras State. The southern districts lies at the foot of the Western Ghats between 8°03' and 10°50' Northern Latitude and 77°05' and 79°25' Eastern Longitude.


49. Ibid.

50. N.Gopalswamy, op.cit., p.47.
It is bounded on the north by Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur districts; on the east by Bay of Bengal; on the west by Kerala State; on the south by the Indian Ocean. The city of Madurai, known as the ‘Temple City’ had a great tradition behind it.\textsuperscript{51}

Courtallam in the Western Ghats in Tirunelveli is the Spa of the south.\textsuperscript{52} The Kanyakumari district is situated at the foot of the Western Ghats and has only a few hill ranges. Mahendragiri peak, Maruthuvamalai, Velimali and Chungankadai rock lies in this district. Rivers of the district are mostly non-perennial and short. Paralayar, Tiruvattar, Kothayar, Kuzhithurayar is also known as Tambraparani river are the water source of Kanyakumari.\textsuperscript{53}

There are five rivers flowing in different parts of the Ramanathapuram district. The important among them is Vaigai. These are two bridges built across the river at Manamadurai and Paramakkudi and two small dams are built at Veerkanoor and Parthuipanoor across the Vaigai River.


\textsuperscript{52} Ibid.,

The other rivers are Kottakkarai, Pambar, Virasuli and Gundar. The river Gundar assumes the name of ‘Reghunatha Cauvery’ from Kodumudi. In this river a dam was constructed across at Devakkottai in 1964.\textsuperscript{54} Tambraparani and its tributary, Chitar or Chitranadi are its tributary and the principal irrigating rivers of the Tirunelveli district.\textsuperscript{55}

The climate of Tirunelveli said to be equable. The highest temperature recorded during the decade was 108\degree Fahrenheit. Tirunelveli has got the minimum rainfall during the last fifty years. The beginning of North-East Monsoon period arrests the rising trend of the mercury level and thereafter the region experience a rather fair climate accompanied by showers.\textsuperscript{56}

The Kanyakumari district has a pleasant climate. The advent of North-East Monsoon through the gaps in the Western Ghats and over the low levels of the same ranges enable the district had fairly heavy showers from October. Ramanathapuram is a dry district. Rainfall during South-West Monsoon was rather poor. Even though the North-East Monsoon was not steady.\textsuperscript{57}

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{54} K.Sampath Kumar. District Census Hank Book-1991, Ramanathapuram, Part- XII.
\textsuperscript{55} Ibid.,
\textsuperscript{56} History of Land Revenue Settlement and Abolition of Intermediary Tenures in Tamil Nadu.
\textsuperscript{57} P.K.Nambiar, District Census Hand Book 1961, Vol- IX, Madurai, The Natarajah Printers,
Madras, 1966, p.3; N.Gopalswamy, \textit{op.cit.}, p.49.
\end{flushleft}
In Madurai there are four distinct seasons could be noticed. They are 1. The dry season (January – March) 2. The hot season (April-May) 3. The North-East Monsoon period and 4. The South-West Monsoon season. During the South-West Monsoon period the district recorded the maximum rainfall the annual average rainfall of the southern districts was 2685 mm.58

Table 2.1

Rainfall of Madras State (In Millimetres)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Northern Districts</strong> - Chingleput, North Arcot, Madras</td>
<td>2017.50</td>
<td>3491.80</td>
<td>4551.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Western Districts</strong> - Coimbatore, Nilgiris</td>
<td>3195</td>
<td>3501.70</td>
<td>2776.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Central Districts</strong> - Tiruchirappalli, Salem</td>
<td>2092.50</td>
<td>1522.60</td>
<td>3397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>Eastern Districts</strong> - South Arcot, Thanjavur</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>1918.90</td>
<td>2881.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td><strong>Southern Districts</strong> - Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari</td>
<td>2685</td>
<td>3787</td>
<td>4182.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Season and Crop Reports of the Madras State 1951-1967; Census Hand Books of Madras State.

RAINFALL OF MADRAS STATE (IN MILLIMETRES)

N : Northern District
W : Western Districts
C : Central Districts
E : Eastern Districts
S : Southern Districts

- Chingleput, North Arcot, Madras
- Coimbatore, Nilgiris
- Tiruchirappalli, Salem
- South Arcot, Thanjavur
- Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari
Political Changes (1951 – 67)

Madras State was administered by the Cabinet from 1952-67. The Cabinet members were directly elected by the people after Independence. The first general election was held in 1952. The Indian National Congress won the majority seats in the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Cabinet was formed under the leadership of C.Rajagopalachari. His Cabinet lasted between 1952 and 1954. Then a new Cabinet headed by K.Kamaraj was assumed the administration of the Madras State. After 1963 a new Cabinet under the leadership of M.Bhaktavatsalam administered the State from 1963 to 1967. The Five -Year Plans were implemented by all the three Cabinets.

The Madras Presidency was established by the East India Company after defeating the Mysore ruler Tipusultan. The Presidency was administered by the British East India Company from 1800 to 1857. Queen Victoria took over the administration of the Presidency in 1858.

British Raj ruled the Presidency between 1858 and 1947. At the dawn of Independence the Nationalist rule existed in the Madras Presidency.63

The first elected Ministry began its administration in 1952 after the publication of the report on the Reorganisation of States on the linguistics basis, Madras Presidency was bifurcated in 1953 and truncated. 64


The General election was held on 1952. The Congress formed the Ministry at Central and Madras Presidency. The Council of Ministers, sworn into office on the forenoon of 10th April 1952, consisting the following members:-
1. C. Rajagopalachari the Chief Minister.

The above Ministry resigned on 13th April 1954. The Ministry consisting of the following members who were sworn in on 14th April 1954, under the leadership of K.Kamaraj Nadar.
1. A.B. Shetty 2. M. Bhaktavatsalam
3. C. Subramaniam 4. M.A. Manickavelu
5. Shannuga Rajeswara Sethupathi 6. B.Parameswaran
7. S.S. Ramaswami Padayachi

The Kamaraj Ministry continued his office till October 1963. The new following members, excepting R.Venkataraman was sworn in on the afternoon of 2nd October 1963, under the leadership of M. Bhaktavatsalam.

Reorganization of the Madras Presidency:

The Telugu speaking people were struggling for the formation of a separate Andhra Province since the period of British, but could not succeed. When India attained Independence on the 15th of August, 1947, Andhra people hoped that the long-cherished desire could be realized soon. In spite of several renewed efforts put forth by the Andhra leaders before the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhai Patel the desire for a separate Andhra State remained as a dream itself.65

The Dar Commission, appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of S.K.Dar did not recommend for the creation of the states on the linguistic consideration. In the first General Elections of 1952, Andhra people expressed their resentment towards the Congress leaders by defeating them at the polls. Out of 140 seats from Andhra in the Madras Legislative Assembly, the Congress secured 43, while the Communist Party of India begged as many as 40 seats out of the 60 it contested. But the Governor nominated C.Rajagopalachari to the Legislative Council and had invited him to form the Ministry.66

MADRAS STATE IN 1956
Jawaharlal Nehru announced in the Lok Sabha that the Andhra State could be formed with the eleven undisputed Telugu districts and the three taluks of the Bellary District, but excluding Madras city on the 19\textsuperscript{th} December, 1952.\textsuperscript{67}

Andhra State came into existence on the 1\textsuperscript{st} of October, 1953. It consisted of the districts of Srikakulam, Vizakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Ananthapur, Kurnool, the taluks of Rayadurg, Adoni and Alur of the Bellari District. On the question of Bellari Taluk, it was included in the Mysore State on the recommendation of L.S.Mishra Commission. Kurnool became the capital of the new State.

The Recommendations of States Reorganization Commission for reorganization of the States in India, as accepted by the Parliament were given effect from 1\textsuperscript{st} November 1956.\textsuperscript{68} Following changes were brought about in Madras State:-

a) Malabar District and Kasargod Taluk of South Canara district were transferred from Madras to Kerala.

\textsuperscript{67} K.N.Wanchoo Report, 7\textsuperscript{th} February, 1953.

b) South Canara district and Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district were transferred from Madras to Mysore.

c) The Laccadive and Minicoy Island in the Malabar district and the Amindivi Island in the South Canara district were constituted into a new part C state: and
d) The territories comprised in the Agastheeswaram, Thovala, Kallukulam and Vilavancode taluks of Trivandrum district and the Shencottah taluk of Guilon district of the former Travancore – Cochin State were transferred to Madras State.

e) Above had been formed into a separate district named Kanyakumari district, with headquarters at Nagarcoil and the territories comprised in the Shencottah taluk had been incorporated in Tirunelveli district.

In 1968, Madras adopted a new name Tamil Nadu. The capital city Madras was renamed as Chennai in 1996.69

Tamilians had taken for granted that Tiruttani was an inalienable part of Tamil Nadu. The Tamils of Tiruttani owe a debt of gratitude to M.P. Sivagnanam and his party, the Tamil Arasu Kazhagam, for restoring their identity within Tamil Nadu.

Madras Presidency was split into Andhra Pradesh and Madras State. Tiruttani, quite unexpectedly went to Andhra. Hence he started a movement. Though the claim for Tirupati was given up, Tiruttani, was regained after repeated hartals, demonstrations and representations.

When Andhra was excised from Madras Presidency, Madras city was assiduously wooed by the Telugus and the Tamils to be the capital for their respective States. This led to the birth of the war-cry—“Madras Namadhe Madras Manadhe” Madras is ours. The Tamils’ stance was clear — they had a linguistic majority, the 1951 Census showed that 67.92 per cent of the people in Madras were Tamils. Only 16.55 per cent spoke Telugu.

Following this, the Telugus suggested that Madras be made a joint capital Andhra State and Tamil Nadu or that it should be made into a Chief Commissioner’s Province like Delhi.

Another idea was to divide Madras into north and south zones, with the river Cooum as the boundary. On January 3, 1953, a special council meeting of the Madras Corporation was held and

71. The Indian Express, Madras, December 20, 1952.
72. Ibid.
M.P. Sivagnanam the alderman passed a resolution – “The city of Madras is an integral part of Tamil Nadu”. A copy of the resolution was sent to the Prime Minister, the President and the Chief Minister of Madras.\(^{73}\)

This matter effervesced again when Justice Wanchoo, who was appointed to make recommendations on the linguistic divisions, decided in favour of the Telugus and it was even likely to get Cabinet approval. Tamil Arasu Kazhagam swing into action. Nearly 2,000 telegrams were sent to Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Home Minister. Rajaji, who was the Chief Minister, threatened to quit office if the protest had not taken seriously.\(^{74}\)

Finally, Nehru announced that the temporary capital of Andhra State could be located in Andhra itself and Kurnool was chosen. Madras became the sole possession of Tamil Nadu.

If the formative years of Indian Independence saw the restructuring of the external boundary of India, the internal shake-up was effected by the States Reorganisation Commission in 1956.\(^{75}\)

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\(^{73}\) Maria John, *op.cit.* p.59.

\(^{74}\) David Arnold, *op.cit.* p.52.

\(^{75}\) Report of the States Reorganisation of Committee, 1956.
Madras State was linguistically homogenous except for the Malabar and South Canara districts. Malabar was transferred to Kerala and South Canara to Mysore. Mysore with a population of 19 million and 72,370 sq.miles, began its existence. It became Karnataka on April 1, 1960.76

The United States of Travancore and Cochin were a predominantly unilingual State. Even in the Tamil-speaking areas the Malayalam-speaking population was as high as 86.3 per cent. In taluks like Quilon, Tiruchur and Kottayam it averaged 94 per cent.77

The United States of Travancore was renamed as Kerala and it took over Malabar district with Cochin Fort from Madras. It also got the Kasargod taluk of South-Canara district. Kerala was born with a population of 13.6 million, an area of 14,890 sq.miles and a Malayalam-speaking population of 94 per cent.78

The Congress in its 1948 Jaipur Session under the Committee of Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhai Patel and Pattabi Sitaramayya was against the division of the provinces into linguistic basis. It felt that language was not only binding factor but also a separating one.

76. Ibid.,
The clamour for linguistic provinces started with Andhra. Soon after the first general elections in Hyderabad, Telugu Congressman Potti Sriramulu fasted for 58 days from October 19, 1952, to death in Madras for the creation of a separate Andhra State.\textsuperscript{79}

Andhra was the first linguistic State created on October 1, 1953, 18 days short of the first anniversary of Sriramulu beginning his fast. Eleven districts of the Madras Province were incorporated into the Andhra State. The Andhra State was renamed as Andhra Pradesh. The State of Andhra Pradesh came into being on November 1, 1956.\textsuperscript{80}

After explaining the geographical features of all the districts of the Madras State, the next chapter describes the agrarian structure of the State.

\textsuperscript{79} Ibid.,