3.1 Introduction

Tiruchirappalli district is an important region in the state and had been a Centre of activities for many historical events from the days of the early Cholas. Rock Fort, Thayumana Swamy, Pillaiyar Temple, Teppakulam, the Nawab’s palace, the Nadir Shah Mosque, Sri Rangam Temple, Thiruvanai Koil, Subramanyaswami Temple, Upper Anicut and Grand Anicut are some of the important monuments, and temples reflecting the history, culture and traditions of the district.

Tiruchirappalli district is one of the important districts in Tamil Nadu and had a population of 24,18,366 as per 2001 census. The density of population is 549 per Sq. Km. In terms of urbanization level, according to the composition of urban and rural population, Tiruchirappalli district ranks 10th place among the other districts in Tamil Nadu.

3.2 Geographical location

Tiruchirappalli district is a centrally located district in Tamil Nadu State, has an area of 4403.83 Sq. Km stretching between 10 and 11.30 of the Northern Latitude and 74.858 of the Eastern Longitude. Altitude is 78m above sea level bounded by Namakkal and Perambalur districts on the North, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai in the east, Sivaganga, Madurai and Dindugal districts in the South and Karur district in the west. It is not only an Inland district without any coastal line but also most centrally located district in the state. The district has no marked natural divisions.
The topography of Tiruchirappalli district is almost plain except for the short range of Pachaimalai hills in the North. Cauvery is the major river flowing across the central portion of the district. Alluvial sandy loam and loamy soil constitutes major portion of the Delta regions bordering the river. In Lalgudi, Mannachanallur and Andanallur Blocks, loamy soils are predominant. In dry tracks Red soil is predominant, followed by Black soil.

The Pachamalai Hill is situated partly in Perambalur district and Thuraiyur Taluk and is the important hill in the district. The Cauvery and Colroon are the major rivers and there are other small rivers, which are contributed to the irrigation potential of the district. The presence of innumerable streams and river lets in the region, drainage has not been a problem for the district. It is subjected to extremes of climates. The normal rainfall works out to be 727.5 mm.

3.3 Meteorological information

The variation of temperature throughout the year exhibits hot and dry climate with high temperature and low degree of humidity.

*The region experiences four main seasons:*

- **Cool Months** - December to February
- **Hot Months** - March to May
- **Windy Months** - June to August and
- **Rainy Months** - September to November

Generally, the region has a long spell of hot climate with a short spell of rainy season and winter.

3.4 Temperature

Temperature is low during the month of January with average mean daily temperature of 28°C. The maximum daily temperature recorded during the hot season in the month of May is 42°C.
3.5 Rainfall

The district receives seasonal rainfall from September to December. The average annual rainfall is in North East monsoon 356.1 mm and South West monsoon 270.3 mm. The Northeast Monsoon period is from October to December. Southwest monsoon generally sets in at the beginning of June and blows with great force till the end of August.

3.6 Administrative arrangement in the district

Tiruchirappalli district consists of eight taluks viz., Manapparai, Manachanallur, Thuraiyur, Thottiayam, Musiri, Laligudi, Srirangam and Tiruchirappalli. It contains three municipalities, 14 panchayat unions and 17 town panchayats. The revenue administration is carried out through corporation, 408 village panchayats and 1590 villages. There is one community development division. It’s covered 14 blocks.

3.7 Education

There are two universities functioning in the district such as Bharathidasan University and Anna University. These universities have covered on 22 Arts & Science Colleges, and 12 Engineering Colleges. And, one law college and one agriculture college is also available in this district.

3.8 Demographic details

The population of Tiruchirappalli district was 10,72,756 in 1951, which increased to 24,18,366 persons in 2001. Among the taluk, the maximum population is concentrated in the Tiruchirappalli taluk, which accounts for 45 per cent to the total population of the district.

The trend in death rate and infant mortality rate in the district was recorded as 12.09 and 48.30 in 1951, this rate has declined to 5.8, and 28.2 respectively in 2001. The birth rate has decreased from 31.82 in 1951 to 16.6 in 1991 due to improved medical facilities in the district.
3.9 Land utilization

The total geographical area of Tiruchirappalli district is 4,40,383 hectares, of which net sown area occupy 1,78,076 hectares and this account for 40 per cent of the total area in the district. Area not under available for cultivation accounts for 21 per cent of the total land in the district, i.e. 93,492 hectares. Nearly 26 per cent of the area is classified under fallow lands and six per cent of the lands are under forest coverage. The remaining lands are classified under groves and orchards category.

3.10 Agriculture and Horticulture

Basically, Tiruchirappalli district is agriculturally rich due to the availability of fertile lands and presence of perennial rivers. Cauvery with numerous tributaries forms the basis of sustained paddy cultivation on an extensive scale throughout the year. Cereals, Pulses and Oil Seeds are the Major crops cultivated in the district and majority of the area is used for the production of Cereals and Pulse.

In terms of productivity, paddy has increased over the years, due to better utilization of seeds, improved methods of cultivation, intensive use of fertilizer and pesticides.

Among the Oil Seeds, coconut is the most important crop followed by groundnut and contributions of pulses are also marked at significant level in the district. The consumption of chemical fertilizers is high when compared to Bio-fertilizers for agriculture production in the district.

Banana is the major fruit crop and the cultivation of land under plantation extends an area of 10136 hectares. Tapioca and onion covers more than 60 per cent of the total area under vegetable crops. Chilies and coriander are the predominant crops under the spices. Nearly, 2358 hectares of lands are used for cultivation of spices in the district.
3.11 Soil

In Tiruchirappalli district, majority of the area is under Red Sandy soil and this soil type covers 18 per cent of the total area in the district. Black soil is distributed along the rivers of Cauvery and Ayacuts near big tanks, this soil type cover 14 per cent of the total area in the district. The other soil types like Clay, Red Ferruginous, etc., are occupying the remaining extent of land cover the district. Out of the total area nearly 91549 hectar. Of lands are identified as soil problem area with Salinity and Alkalinity, which is 29 per cent to total area of the district. More over, nearly 1,31,785 hectar of lands are identified to be prone to soil erosion in the district.

The district has been provided with 463 percolation ponds in order to safeguard the agricultural practices in the region. Soil conservation practices have been undertaken in about 13934 hectares.

3.12 Forest Resources

Tiruchirappalli district has a forest coverage area of 27254 hectar. Which is 6 per cent to the total area of the district and the forest areas are classified under Reserve Forest Category. However, the Green cover classification, for the composite Tiruchirappalli district comprising the undivided Tiruchirappalli and Pudukkottai districts indicate that only 25.505 of the forest area are either under dense or sparse forest cover and nearly 35 per cent of the recorded forests are under plantations. Conversion of 2717.41 hectar of forest land by Indian Army for shooting range in Veeramalai R.F and 2.10 hectar of land by the Southern Railway for the formation of Broad gauge line in Minnalkadu RF area.
3.13 Irrigation

Nearly 0.89 hectare of forest land is converted for formation of tank by Public Works Department (PWD) in Sembianatham RF in Tiruchirappalli Division. Laying of pipeline and construction of shed for the water supply project in Mayanur RF was done by Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD), Namakal. Laying of pipeline in Evur RF was done by Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD), Musiri.

3.14 Mineral

Tiruchirappalli district is not endowed with any remarkable mineral wealth except multi colour granites, which is found in Togamalai and Naganoor area. Moreover, after trifurcation this area fall under Karur District, therefore these areas are no more part of Tiruchirappalli district.

3.15 Water resource

The Cauvery river is the most important river in the district and the tributaries of Cauvery, i.e. Coleroon river, Koraiyar river, Ariyar, Malattar channel, Uyyakondan channel also drain in this district.

3.16 Upper Anicut

A dam known as upper Anicut was constructed in 1836 at a place where the Cauvery branches off into two at the West End of Srirangam, to regulate the flow of water in the Cauvery and Coleroon rivers. In its original form, the upper Anicut consisted of a simple masonry dam 230 meters in length divided into three parts. Below the Grand Anicut, the Cauvery further split into two, one is being called the Cauvery and the other, the Vennar River. These channels are utilized as the Main Canals for irrigation.
3.17 Grand Anicut

Karikala Cholan, an early Chola King, constructed the grand Anicut. It is situated on the northern bank of Cauvery about 16 km east of Tiruchirappalli town and mainly used for irrigation purpose. Details of other dams and reservoirs are furnished in Table 28. With regard to water spread area, an about 75 system tanks and 99 seasonal / rainfed tanks are exist which cover 5751.14 hector and 9164.16 hector respectively in the district.

3.18 Biological Resources

Tiruchirappalli district is located in the inland area of Tamil Nadu, therefore the significance of marine fisheries are completely absent in the district. The scope for fish production in this district fully depends on inland fisheries and extends to an area of 117.35 hectares. It is seen that inland fish production and fish fingerlings production has shown considerable fluctuations.

3.19 Heritage Resources

The protected and conserved movements in the Tiruchirappalli district consists of

1. Government Museum - Tiruchirappalli
2. Rock Fort Temple - Tiruchirappalli
3. Srirangam Temple - Srirangam
4. Grand Anicut - Tiruchirappalli
5. The Nawab’s Palace - Tiruchirappalli
6. The Nadir Shah Mosque - Tiruchirappalli

The Government of Tamil Nadu maintains the above monuments of Historical, Religious and Archeological importance. The important tourist attractive places and major tourist area includes in the district are Museum, Rock Fort, Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Thiruvanaikovil, Grand Anicut,
Kumaravayalur, Manapparai and Samayapuram are the important tourist places in the district.

Rock Fort Vinayaka temple at the top can be reached by climbing 437 steps, which is cut in a tunnel in the rock. Sri Thayumansawamy Temple dedicated to Lord Siva is also located within the Rock Fort temple, which has a 100-pillar hall and a Vimana covered in gold leaf. Ranganathaswamy temple is located in Srirangam Town, 10 Km away from Tiruchirappalli town. The town and temple covers an area of 250 hectar, in the island area, which is connected to mainland by a bridge.

Srirangam Temple was build in 13th Century and has 21 Gopurams, surrounded by seven concentric walls within which the town is located. The temple complex is very well preserved and has beautiful carvings, painted walls and ceilings. Thiruvanaikkaval is situated at a distance of 7km north east of Tiruchirappalli Town. The temple here has a Sivalingam at most submerged in water, which flows from a subterranean spring. Grand Anicut, an irrigation dam built across the river Cauvery by Karikala Cholan in the Second Century AD has a picnic spot located at 24 km away from Tiruchirappalli.

Jambukeswarar temple, Vayalur Murugan temple, Vekkali amman temple, and Samayapuram Mariamman temple are the other important religious places in the district.

3.20 Energy Resources

No power plant is located in Tiruchirappalli district. The Mettur Hydro Electric power meets the electricity needs of the district. The power distribution in the district is made through the electricity sub-stations at Tiruchirappalli. The consumption of electricity is highest in the case of Domestic sector, which accounts for 55 per cent to the total consumption
and Agriculture is the next important category registered with 16 per cent of power consumption and 17 per cent of the electricity are utilized by industrial and commercial purposes. Streetlights and other purposes consume 12 per cent of electricity in the district. According to the electricity department sources, all the villages in the district are electrified. Data on non-conventional energy sources are not available.

3.21 Urbanization

Urbanization in Tiruchirappalli district registered an increasing trend. As per 2001 census, the district had an urban population of 7.3 lakhs, which is 38.64 per cent to total population and distributed in Tiruchirappalli Corporation, 4 municipalities and 14 Town panchayats in the district. The growth of urban population has gradually increased. Tiruchirappalli Corporation is largest urban centre with the population and Srirangam, next largest town.

3.22 Transportation

Tiruchirappalli district is well connected with major cities in Tamil Nadu by rail and road network. By virtue of very central location, Tiruchirappalli City has become the meeting place of Transportation lines (both road and rail) from north to south and east to west while traveling across the state.

Tiruchirappalli, Srirangam and Golden rock are part of Tiruchirappalli urban agglomeration and also developing as regional metropolis, extending its influence over the entire Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur districts. The influence of Tiruchirappalli extends upto Cuddalore, Villupuram, Vellore, Salem, Erode, Dindigul Anna, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar and Pudukottai districts.
Tiruchirappalli City is one of the progressive industrial areas of the state. Tiruchirappalli, Manapparai, Srirangam (part of Tiruchirappalli), Thuraiyur and Ponmalai (part of Tiruchirappalli) are the important urban centre in the district and are well connected by roads.

The other important roads are the bye-pass roads, which connect Chennai and Madurai road along the eastern side of the city boundary and Kumbakonam road along the banks of the river Cauvery.

Tiruchirappalli district has a well-developed system of communication network, nearly 202.6 Kms of National Highways and 210.24 Kms of state highways are being maintained by highways department. The Local bodies maintain 2816.92 Kms, of roads under the classification of major and other district roads.

3.23 Railways

Tiruchirappalli is an important railway junction and is also a divisional head quarters of the Southern Railways. There are all broad gauge lines radiating from Tiruchirappalli junction Via Main line, a broad gauge line to Chennai, Madurai and Rameswaram and Bangalore. Tiruchirappalli junction is the main station for passenger as well as goods movement.

3.24 Airways

Tiruchirappalli has international airport facility and located on the Pudukkottai road at a distance of 6 km from Tiruchirappalli railway junction. Airline services are being operated to Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and so on.

3.25 Industrial activities

There are several medium and large scale industrial units in the district like the BHEL manufacturing high pressure boilers, Lalgudi taluk has spinning mills, sugar mills in Manapparai. These units provide
opportunities for new ancillary units. There is also one small arms factory. The district is noted for synthetic gems cutting industry concentrated in and around Tiruchirappalli town and also in Lalgudi, Manachanallur, and Manapparai taluks. Leather tanning is also an important activity in the district. Tiruchirappalli town is located on the main railway line, connecting Chennai and other important northern centres to Kanyakumari.

3.26 Conclusion

This chapter (profile of the study area) is lucidly giving an overall view about the industrial infrastructure and other details related to the resources, demography, location of industries etc. This gives broad background reference for the intensive analysis of sample SSI units in the study area.
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