CHAPTER III
PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA
COIMBATORE

Coimbatore also known as Kovai, is a city in India. It is the second largest city and urban agglomeration in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, after Chennai and the sixteenth largest urban agglomeration of India. It is one of the fastest growing tier-II cities in India and a major textile, industrial, commercial, educational, information technology, healthcare and manufacturing hub of Tamil Nadu. Other important industries include software services. It is the capital city in the Kongu Nadu region and is often referred to as the Manchester of South India. The city is located on the banks of the Noyyal River surrounded by the Western Ghats and is administered by the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. Coimbatore has been ranked 4th among Indian cities in investment climate by CII and ranked 17th among the top global outsourcing cities by Tholons. Coimbatore is the fourth largest metropolis in South India. Coimbatore city is the administrative capital of Coimbatore district.

3.1 Name

One theory for the city's name states that Coimbatore is a derivation of Coimbatore (lit. new town of Kovai), chieftain Kovan or Koyan, who ruled the region around the city. Kovaiputhor or Coimbatore evolved into Coimbatore or Coimbatore, which was anglicised as Coimbatore. Another suggested etymology involves the Dravidian root āru 'river' (DED 4233). Yet another theory states that the name could have been derived from Koniamman, the goddess whose temple is situated in the city. Henry Whitehead in his Village Gods of South India (1921) states that the goddess worshipped by Koyan came to be called as Koyamma which evolved into Kovaiamma and later Koniamma.

3.2 History

The region around Coimbatore was ruled by Sangam Cheras and it served as the eastern entrance to the Palakkad Gap, the principal trade route between the west coast and Tamil Nadu. The Kossar tribe mentioned in the second century CE Tamil
epic *Silappathikaram* and other poems in Sangam literature is associated with the Coimbatore region (Kongu Nadu). Large numbers of Roman coins and other artifacts have been unearthed around Coimbatore, indicating the region's ties with Roman traders. The Coimbatore region is in the middle of the "Roman trail" that extended from Muziris to Arikamedu. The medieval Cholas conquered the Kongu Nadu in the 10th century CE. A Chola highway called "RajakesariPeruvazhi" ran through the region. Much of Tamil Nadu came under the rule of the Vijayanagara Empire by the 15th century. The Vijayanagara reign brought new settlers from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In the 1550s, the military governors (Madurai Nayaks) of the Vijayanagara Empire took control of the region. After the Vijayanagara Empire fell in the 17th century, the Madurai Nayaks established their state as an independent kingdom, with other Vijayanagar offshoots forming new kingdoms in Vellore, Tanjore, Gingee, Chandragiri and Mysore. The Nayaks introduced the Palayakkarar system under which Kongunadu region was divided into 24 *Palayams*.

In the later part of the 18th century, the Coimbatore region came under the Kingdom of Mysore, following a series of wars with the Madurai Nayak Dynasty. When part of Kingdom of Mysore the region was under the administration of Hyder Ali and later Tipu Sultan of Mysore. After defeating Tipu Sultan in the Anglo-Mysore Wars, the British East India Company annexed Coimbatore to the Madras Presidency in 1799. The Coimbatore region played a prominent role in the Second Poligar War (1801) when it was the area of operations of Dheeran Chinnamalai. In 1865, Coimbatore was established as the capital of the newly formed Coimbatore district and in 1866 it was accorded municipality status. Sir Robert Stanes became the first Chairman of the Coimbatore City Council.

Industrialization of the region begins in 1888 and continued into the 20th century. The region was hard hit during the Great Famine of 1876–78 resulting in nearly 200,000 famine related fatalities. On 8 February 1900 an earthquake struck Coimbatore damaging many buildings. The first three decades of the 20th century, saw nearly 20,000 plague-related deaths and an acute water shortage. The city experienced a textile boom in the 1920s and 1930s due to the decline of the Cotton industry in Mumbai. The region played a significant role in the Indian independence movement. Post independence, Coimbatore has seen rapid growth due to industrialisation. In 1981, Coimbatore was constituted as a corporation.
3.3 Geography

Coimbatore is situated in the west of Tamil Nadu, bordering Palakkad district of the state of Kerala. It is surrounded by the Western Ghats mountain range to the West and the North, with reserve forests and the (Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve) on the northern side. The Noyyal River runs through Coimbatore and forms the southern boundary of the corporation. The city sits amidst Noyyal's basin area and has an extensive tank system fed by the river and rainwater. The eight major tanks / wetland areas of Coimbatore are – Singanallur, Valankulam, UkkadamPeriyakulam, Selvampathy, Narasampathi, Krishnampathi, Selvachinthamani, and Kumaraswami. Sanganurpallam, Kovilmedupallam, Vilankurichi-Singanallur Pallam, Karperayan Koilpallam, Railway feeder roadside drain, Tiruchy-Singanallur Check drain and Ganapathypallam are some of the streams that drain the city.

The eastern side of the Coimbatore district, which includes the city, is predominantly dry. The western and northern parts of the district border the Western Ghats the Nilgiri biosphere, the Anaimalai range and the Munnar range. A western pass to Kerala, popularly referred to as the Palghat Gap is the western boundary. Because of its close proximity to the Western Ghats, the district is rich in fauna. The Coimbatore urban wetlands harbours around 116 species of birds. Of these, 66 are resident, 17 are migratory and 33 are local migrants. Spot-billed Pelican, Painted Stork, Open Billed Stork, Ibis, Spot-billed Duck, Teal, Black Winged Stilt are some of the migratory birds that visit Coimbatore wetlands regularly.

Apart from the species common to the plains, wild elephants, wild boarsleopards, tigers, bison, various species of deer, NilgiriTahr, sloth bear and black-headed Oriole can also be found. The Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary 88 km (55 mi) in the Western Ghats at an altitude of 1,400 meters covers an area of 958 square kilometres (370 sq mi). More than 20% of the district is classified as forest, lying in the west and north. The forests here are abundant in commercially significant trees such as teak, sandalwood, rosewood and bamboo. The Nilgiris slope of the Mettapalayam range is rich in sandalwood trees and bamboo. They vary from rich tropical evergreen forests of the Punachi range to jungles of shrubs in southern ranges. Apart from the high altitude regions of Western Ghats, most of the forest area has come under Lantana invasion. The locals refer to this as SirikiChedi.
3.4 Climate

Coimbatore has a pleasant, salubrious climate due to its proximity to thickly forested mountain ranges and the cool breeze blowing through the Palghat gap which makes the consistently hot temperatures pleasant. Under the Köppen climate classification, the city has a tropical wet and dry climate, with the wet season being from October to December due to the northeast monsoon. Coimbatore is located at an elevation of about 411 meters. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 35 °C (95 °F) and 18 °C (64 °F). Highest temperature ever recorded is 41 °C (106 °F) and lowest is 12 °C (54 °F).

Due to the presence of the mountain pass, more elevated parts of the district benefit from the south-west monsoon in the months from June to August. After a warm, humid September, the main monsoon starts from October lasting till early November. These monsoons are brought about by the retreating monsoon. The average annual rainfall is around 700 mm (27.6 in) with the North East and the South West monsoons contributing to 47% and 28% respectively to the total rainfall. This rainfall is not enough to sustain the needs of the city for the entire year and the shortage is made up through water supply schemes like Siruvani, Pilloor and Athikadavu.

The soil is predominantly black, which is suitable for cotton cultivation, but some red loamy soil is also found. Coimbatore falls under the Class III/IV Seismic Zone, having experienced a 6.0 Richter scale earthquake in 1900.
### Climate data for Coimbatore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record high °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>33 (91)</td>
<td>37 (99)</td>
<td>39 (102)</td>
<td>40 (104)</td>
<td>41 (106)</td>
<td>38 (100)</td>
<td>37 (99)</td>
<td>38 (100)</td>
<td>37 (99)</td>
<td>37 (99)</td>
<td>33 (91)</td>
<td>33 (91)</td>
<td>41 (106)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average high °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>30 (86)</td>
<td>32 (90)</td>
<td>35 (95)</td>
<td>35 (95)</td>
<td>34 (93)</td>
<td>31 (88)</td>
<td>30 (86)</td>
<td>31 (88)</td>
<td>32 (90)</td>
<td>31 (88)</td>
<td>30 (84)</td>
<td>29 (84)</td>
<td>31.6 (88.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average low °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>19 (66)</td>
<td>19 (66)</td>
<td>21 (70)</td>
<td>23 (73)</td>
<td>23 (73)</td>
<td>22 (72)</td>
<td>22 (72)</td>
<td>22 (72)</td>
<td>22 (72)</td>
<td>21 (70)</td>
<td>19 (66)</td>
<td>21.3 (70.3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record low °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>15 (59)</td>
<td>15 (59)</td>
<td>17 (63)</td>
<td>20 (68)</td>
<td>20 (68)</td>
<td>20 (68)</td>
<td>21 (70)</td>
<td>20 (68)</td>
<td>16 (61)</td>
<td>15 (59)</td>
<td>12 (54)</td>
<td>12 (54)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rainfall mm (inches)</strong></td>
<td>14 (0.55)</td>
<td>12 (0.47)</td>
<td>19 (0.75)</td>
<td>53 (2.09)</td>
<td>76 (2.99)</td>
<td>38 (1.5)</td>
<td>57 (2.24)</td>
<td>42 (1.65)</td>
<td>56 (2.2)</td>
<td>153 (6.02)</td>
<td>123 (4.84)</td>
<td>50 (1.97)</td>
<td>693 (27.27)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Indian Meteorological Department*

#### 3.5 Demographics

According to 2011 census, Coimbatore had a population of 1,050,721 with a sex-ratio of 997 females for every 1,000 males, much above the national average of 929. A total of 102,069 were under the age of six, constituting 52,275 males and 49,794 females. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 10.27% and 0.07% of the population respectively. The average literacy of the city was 82.43%, compared to the national average of 72.99%. There were a total of 425,115 workers, comprising 1,539 cultivators, 2,908 main agricultural labourers, 11,789 in house hold industries, 385,802 other workers, 23,077 marginal workers, 531 marginal cultivators, 500 marginal agricultural labourers, 1,169 marginal workers in household industries and 20,877 other marginal workers.

As per the 2001 census, Coimbatore had a population of 1,565,797 within Municipal Corporation limits. The population of the urban agglomeration as per 2011 census is 2,136,916. In the urban agglomeration, males constitute 50.08% of the population and females 49.92%. Coimbatore has an average literacy rate of 89.23%, higher than the national average of 74.04%. Male literacy is 93.17% and female literacy is 85.3% with 8.9% of the population under 6 years of age. The Sex ratio was 964 females per 1000 males. In 2005, the crime rate in the city was 265.9 per 100,000 people, accounting for 1.2% of all crimes reported in major cities in India. It ranked 21st among 35 major cities in India in the incidence of crimes. In 2011, the population density in the city was 10,052 per km² (26,035 per mi²).

The native language spoken in the Coimbatore city is Tamil. The city's population is predominantly Hindu, along with a small group of Muslim population. Christians, Sikhs and
Jains are also present in small numbers. Coimbatore also has a large number of Kannadigas / Telugus, Malayalis, mainly from Palakkad and North Indians, mainly Gujaratis, who are engaged in trade and commerce. During the 1970s the city witnessed a population explosion as a result of migration fuelled by increased economic growth and job opportunities. Around 8% of the city's population lives in slums.

3.6 Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corporation officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coimbatore is a Municipal corporation as well as the headquarters of the Coimbatore District. The city is divided into five administrative zones – East, West, North, South and Central, each further subdivided into 20 wards. Each ward is represented by a councillor who is elected by direct election. Councillors from each zone also elect a Zonal Ward Committee chairman and most importantly the Deputy Mayor through their numbers. The Mayor of Coimbatore is elected by the city's voters directly (During 2006–2011, the Mayor was elected through indirect election). The executive wing of the corporation is headed by a Corporation Commissioner. The corporation runs and maintains basic services like water, sewage and roads. In the last local body elections in 2011, AIADMK won majority of the council seats and AIADMK’s S.M.Velusamy became Coimbatore's mayor. The District itself is administered by the District Collector. The District court is the highest court of appeal in Coimbatore. The Coimbatore City Police is headed by a Commissioner and there are 18 Police stations in the city.

3.7 Urban structure

Coimbatore is divided into four broad regions: North, Central, South and East. Coimbatore East and its surrounding region is primarily a textile and industrial hub. Central Coimbatore is the commercial heart of the city. Coimbatore is surrounded by the mountains on the west, and the reserve forests on the northern side. The western and northern part of the district borders the Western Ghats with the Nilgiri biosphere. A western pass to Kerala, popularly referred to as the Palghat Gap provides its boundary with the metropolitan area limits.
3.8 Suburban areas

A large part of the Coimbatore urban agglomeration falls outside the Municipal corporation limits. These suburbs are governed by local bodies called Village Panchayats and Town Panchayats. Besides the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation, the Coimbatore UA comprises the town panchayats of Vellalur, Irugur, Sulur, Pallapalayam, Kannampalayam, Chinna Thadagam Veerapandi, Periyanaiickenpalayam, Narasimhanaickenpalayam, Idikarai, Vedapatti, Perur, Kuniyamuthur, Madukkarai, Ettimadai, Dhaliyur, Thondamuthur, Thirumalayampalayam, Othakalmandapam, Podanur, Chettipalayam, Alanthurai, Pooluvapatti, Thenkarai, Karumathamampatti, Sarcarsamakulam, Mopperipalayam and Gudalur and census towns of Ashokapuram, Kurudampalayam, Malumichampatti, Selvapuram, Chettipalayam, Sulur, Chinniapalayam, Somayampalayam, MuthugundunPudur, Arasur, Kaniyur and Neelambur[1] These local bodies are in turn split into wards each electing a councillor through direct election. The head of the local body known as president is elected by the councillors from among their number.

3.9 Politics

Coimbatore elects five members to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and one member to the Indian Parliament. The five legislative assembly constituencies in the city are Coimbatore North, Coimbatore South, Kaundampalayam, Singanallur and Sulur. All five are part of the Coimbatore Parliamentary Constituency. Till 2009, there were only four assembly constituencies in Coimbatore – Coimbatore East, Coimbatore West, Singanallur, and Perur. Also about 20% of the urban agglomeration came under the Nilgiris constituency which runs into the northern part of the city and about 10% came under the Pollachi (LokSabha constituency). In the last LokSabha election held in 2009, Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) candidate won in the Coimbatore LokSabha constituency. In the last legislative assembly election held in 2011, the ADMK led front won in all five assembly constituencies.

3.10 Economy

With more than 25,000 small, medium and large industries, the city's primary industries are engineering and textiles. Coimbatore is called the "Manchester of South India" due to its extensive textile industry, fed by the surrounding cotton fields. The district also houses the country's largest amount of hosiery and poultry industries.

The city has two special economic zones (SEZ), the Coimbatore Hi-Tech Infrastructure (CHIL) SEZ at Saravanampatti and the TIDEL Park near Peelamedu, and at least five more
SEZs are in the pipeline. As of 2005, when Tirupur was a part of Coimbatore district, Coimbatore was the highest revenue earning district in Tamil Nadu. In 2010, Coimbatore ranked 15th in the list of most competitive (by business environment) Indian cities. An insignificant little town prone to droughts and earthquakes till the early years of the 20th century, Coimbatore region experienced a textile boom in the 1920s and 1930s. Though, Robert Stanes had established Coimbatore’s first textile mills as early as the late 19th century, it was during this period that Coimbatore emerged as a prominent industrial centre.

Coimbatore has trade associations such as CODISSIA, COINDIA, SITRA and COJEWEL representing industries in the city. Coimbatore also has a 160,000 square feet (15,000 m²) trade fair ground, built in 1999. It was named COINTEC due to its hosting of INTEC (Small Industries Exhibition). The Trade Fair complex, one of the country's largest, was built in six months, and is owned by CODISSIA (Coimbatore District Small Industries Association). It is also the country's largest pillar-free hall, according to the Limca Book of Records.

Coimbatore houses a large number of medium and large textile mills. It also has central textile research institutes like the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) and Sardar Vallabhai Patel International School of Textiles and Management. The South Indian Textiles Research Association (SITRA) is also based in Coimbatore. The city also houses two of the Centers of Excellences (COE) for technical textiles proposed by Government of India, namely Meditech, a medical textile research centre based at SITRA, and Indu Tech based in PSG College of Engineering and Technology. The neighbouring city of Tirupur is home to some of Asia’s largest garment manufacturing companies, exporting hosiery clothes worth more than ₹50,000 million.

The city is the second largest software producer in Tamil Nadu, next only to Chennai. IT and BPO industry in the city has grown greatly with the launch of TIDEL park and other planned IT parks in and around the city. It is ranked at 17th among the global outsourcing cities. Companies like Tata Consultancy Services, Cognizant Technology Solutions, IBM, Robert Bosch GmbH, Cameron International Corporation, Dell, Wipro having a presence in the city. Coimbatore is already the second largest hub in India for Cognizant Technology Solutions as it employs around 5000 people in its Coimbatore centre and is planning to double its capacity here. Software exports stood at ₹710.66 Crores (7.1 billion) for the financial year 2009–10 up 90% from the previous year. Apart from this, there are also lots of healthcare BPOs (Medical Transcription, Coding and Billing) in and around Coimbatore serving the US Healthcare industry.
Coimbatore has a large and a diversified manufacturing sector facilitated by the presence of research institutes like Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, SITRA and large number of engineering colleges producing about 50,000 engineers.

Manufacturing of automotive components is also important to Coimbatore's economy. MarutiUdyog and Tata Motors source up to 30% of their automotive components from Coimbatore. Coimbatore has more than 700 wet grinder manufacturers with a monthly output As of March 2005 of 75,000 units. And is home to a common facility for the manufacturers of wet grinders. Coimbatore motor and pump manufacturing industry supplies 40% of India’s requirements. The city boasts some prominent auto component companies such as Pricol and L.G. Balakrishnan& Bros, which are listed on the stock exchanges. The city also has a number of tier-I, II and III suppliers catering to the needs of the entire gamut of the automobile industry, ranging from two-wheelers and four-wheelers to commercial vehicles and tractors.

Coimbatore is one of the major gold jewellery manufacturing hubs in India, renowned for making cast jewellery and machine made jewellery is also a major diamond cutting centre in South India. The city is home to about 3000 jewellery manufacturing companies and to over 40,000 goldsmiths, who have an active association called Coimbatore Jewellery Manufacturers' Association, and Coimbatore Gem and Jewellery Industries Private Limited (Cojewel), which is a common facility with niche goldsmith machinery to be used by the members of the association. Owing to the presence of a large number of jewellery manufacturers and the strong engineering base, the city is home to a number of companies manufacturing jewellery making machinery.

Coimbatore has some of the oldest flour mills in India. The large scale flour mills, which cater to all the southern states, have a combined grinding capacity of more than 50,000 MT per month. In the recent years, the city has seen growth in the hospitality industry with more upscale hotels being set up. Coimbatore is the largest non-metro city for e-commerce in South India.

3.11 Culture

Coimbatore and its people have a reputation for entrepreneurship. Though it is generally considered a traditional city, Coimbatore is more diverse and cosmopolitan than other cities in Tamil Nadu. The city conducts its own music festival every year. Art, dance and music concerts are held annually during the months of September and December (Tamil calendar month – Margazhi). The heavy industrialisation of the city has also resulted in the growth of trade unions. There are numerous temples in and
around the city including the Perur Patteeswarar Temple, Konniamman temple, Thandu Mariamman temple, Vazhai Thottathu Ayyan temple, ISKCON Temple, Echanaari Ganesh temple, Karamadai temple, Marudamalai Murugan temple, Panchamuga Anjaneya Temple (Hanuman with 5 Faces) and the Dhyanalinga Yogic Temple. The Mariamman festivals, at the city’s numerous Amman temples, are major events in summer. The mosques on Oppanakara Street and Big Bazaar Street date back to the period of Hyder Ali. Christian missions date back to 1647 when permission was granted by the Nayak rulers to set up a small church in Karumathampatti 12 km (7.5 mi). It was destroyed by Tipu Sultan’s army resulting in a new church in 1804. In 1886, Coimbatore was constituted as a diocese after bifurcating with Puducherry. Sikh Gurudwaras and Jain Temples are also present in Coimbatore.

3.12 Cuisine

Coimbatore cuisine is predominantly south Indian with rice as its base. However, the population of Coimbatore is multi-cultural due to the influx of migrant population from various regions of the country. Most locals still retain their rural flavour, with many restaurants serving food over a banana leaf. North Indian, Chinese and continental cuisines are also available. Mysorepa (a sweet made from lentil flour and ghee), idly, dosa, Halwa (a sweet made of different ingredients like milk, wheat, rice) and vada-sambar and biryani are popular among the locals.

3.13 Transport

Mettupalayam Road Bus Station, all north bound buses towards Nilgiris district start from here Anintra city bus operated by Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Coimbatore North trumpet flyover

3.14 Air

The city is served by the Coimbatore International Airport at Peelamedu 15 km (9.3 mi) from the city and an air-force base at Sulur 23 km (14 mi). The Coimbatore International Airport caters to domestic flights to major Indian cities like Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, etc., and international flights to Sharjah and Singapore. Its runway is 9,760 feet (2,970 m) in
length and is capable of handling wide-bodied and “fat-bellied” aircraft used for international flights.

3.15 Rail

Train service in Coimbatore started in 1863, upon construction of the Podanur – Madras line connecting Kerala and the west coast with the rest of India. Broad gauge trains connect Coimbatore to all parts of India and Tamil Nadu. Meter gauge line existed between Podanur and Dindigul got closed on May 2009 and is under gauge conversion. The Coimbatore Junction is well connected to all the major Indian cities. The Coimbatore Junction comes under the Jurisdiction of the Salem Division and contributes 43.5% of its divisional income. This is the second largest income generating station in the Southern Railway zone of Indian Railways after Chennai Central. Coimbatore North Junction is another important railway junction in the city apart from Coimbatore Junction and Podanur Junction. The other stations include Peelamedu, Singanallur, Irukur, Perianaikanpalayam, Madukkarai, Somanur and Sulur.

3.16 Monorail

Three monorail routes have been proposed. Two circular routes, in the northern and southern parts of the city and a dual linear line connecting the Eastern and Western parts. The Northern Route starts from Gandhipuram via Ganapathy, Sivanandha colony, Saibaba colony, RS Puram, Townhall, City Railway Station and ends in Gandhipuram. The second circular Route starts from Podanur via Trichy Road, Sungam, Redfields, Race Course, City Railway Station, Ukkadam and ends at Podanur. A linear line was also proposed from Chinniampalayam, Airport, CODISSIA, PSG tech, Lakshmi Mill Junction, Gandhipuram, North Coimbatore, Cowley Brown Road and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Recently Vadavalli and Thondamuthur are the two new areas that has been included in the linear line as part of the phase extension.

3.17 Road
There are six major arterial roads in the city: Avinashi Road, Trichy Road, Sathyamangalam Road, Mettupalayam Road, Palakkad Road and Pollachi Road. There are three National Highways passing through the city:

- NH-47 – Salem to Kanyakumari (via Palakkad, Kochi, Trivandrum)
- NH-67 – Nagapattinam to Gundlupet (via Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Karur, Udagamandalam)
- NH 209- Dindigal to Bangalore (via Palani, Pollachi, Sathyamangalam, Chamrajnagar, Kollegal)

Apart from state and National Highways, the city corporation maintains a 635.32 kilometres (394.77 miles) long road network. Coimbatore has several major bus stations. The town buses (intra-city) operate from the town bus stand in Gandhipuram to other bus stations across the city. Inter-city and intra-city buses that connect Coimbatore operate from different bus stands:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus station</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gandhipuram Central</td>
<td>Erode, Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam, Tirupur, Salem etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandhipuram Town</td>
<td>All town services touching Gandhipuram.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singanallur</td>
<td>Trichy, Pudukkottai, Karaikudi, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Sivakasi, Tirunelveli etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukkadam</td>
<td>Palakkad, Palani, Pollachi, Udumalpet etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mettupalayam Road</td>
<td>Mettupalayam, Ooty, Mysooru etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETC, Gandhipuram</td>
<td>Express buses to Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pondicherry, Trivandrum etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omni Bus Stand, Gandhipuram</td>
<td>Private moffusil buses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The city has a very high vehicle-to-population ratio. Town buses started operations in 1921. Town bus services serve most parts of the city, as well as other towns and villages in the district. Buses also connect the district with all major towns in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh. The number of inter-city routes operated by Coimbatore division is 119 with a fleet of more than 500 buses. A large number of intra-city private buses operate within the city. The number
of intra city buses in the city is around 800 in 228 different routes. The city is also served by auto rickshaws. The growth of call taxis is also on the rise where more sophisticated taxi services are started emerging with more emphasis in luxury and technology by using GPS tracking units in their taxi cabs. Some of the primary service providers like Hello Taxi, Taxi Taxi and many more are emerging in recent months. Daily Mofussil buses on these National Highways are run by Government and as well as Private bus operators. Major routes comprises Coimbatore to Sathyamangalam, Coimbatore to Pazhani, etc.

Also Coimbatore Metropolitcan Area comes under the Judistriction of 7 RTO offices:

1. RTO-COIMBATORE(SOUTH)-TN-37
2. RTO-COIMBATORE(NORTH)-TN-38
3. RTO-COIMBATORE(CENTRAL)-TN-66
4. RTO-METTUPALAYAM(north suburbs)-TN-40
5. RTO-POLLACHI(rural parts)-TN-41
6. UNIT OFFICE-SULUR (southern suburbs)-TN-37Z
7. RTO-UDUMALPET (rural parts)-TN-78

3.18 Education

Coimbatore is an educational hub of south India. As of 2010, the Coimbatore district is home to 7 universities, 78 engineering colleges, 3 medical colleges, 35 polytechnics Colleges and more than 150 Arts and Science Colleges and a large number of schools. The city has reputed universities like Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (est. 1971), Bharathiar University (1982) and Anna University Coimbatore (2007). The city also houses research institutes like Central Institute for Cotton Research, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Institute for Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education and Tamil Nadu Institute of Urban Studies. There are also plans to establish a world class university in the region and to convert the Government Arts college into a unitary type university.

The first college opened in Coimbatore was the Government Arts College (1875–76). The forest college and research institute was opened in 1916. The first engineering college in the city was started by G.D. Naidu as the Arthur Hope College of Technology in 1945. Later it became the Government College of Technology,
Coimbatore. PSG College of Technology was established later in 1951. The Air Force Administrative College was established in 1949 to train Indian Air Force personnel. Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT) was started in the 1950s. Coimbatore Medical College was opened in 1966 and the Government law college started functioning from 1978. The agricultural school established in 1868 was converted into a full-fledged agricultural university (Tamil Nadu Agricultural University) in 1971 and the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History was opened in 1990. Several private engineering and arts & science colleges were started during the education boom in the 1990s.

In 1867, the first group of students appeared for the SSLC Examinations from Coimbatore. Presently there are three types of schools in Coimbatore – 1) government run schools (corporation schools) 2) schools funded by the government but run by private trusts (aided schools) and 3) schools funded and administered by private trusts. They are classified as Tamil Nadu Anglo Indian School Board, Tamil Nadu State Board, Matriculation and CBSE schools according to the syllabus taught in them. The Coimbatore Education District (not the same as the revenue district) is the unit of administration for education in the city. In 2010, the number of students who wrote the SSLC (Standard 10) and Higher Secondary (Standard 12) examinations was both around 30,000. The literacy rate in the city is 80%.

3.19 Media and communication

Four major English newspapers The Hindu, The Times of India, Deccan Chronicle and The New Indian Express bring out editions from the city. Business Line, a business newspaper also brings out a Coimbatore edition. Tamil newspapers which have Coimbatore editions include Dina Malar, Dina Thanthi, Dina Mani, Dinakaran (all morning newspapers) and Tamil Murasu and Malai Malar (both evening newspapers). Two Malayalam newspapers – Malayala Manorama and Mathrubhumi also have considerable circulation in the city.

A Medium wave radio station is operated by All India Radio, with most programs in Tamil, English and Hindi. Five FM radio stations operate from Coimbatore – Rainbow FM from All India Radio, Suryan FM from Sun Network, Radio Mirchi, Radio City, and Hello FM. All these private radio stations air exclusively Tamil based programs, including film music. The range of these stations
cover Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode and Nilgiri districts of Tamil Nadu and Palakkad and Wayanad districts of Kerala. Television relay started in 1985 from Delhi Doordarshan. In 1986, after inception of a repeater tower at Kodaikanal, telecast from Madras Doordarshan commenced. The people of Coimbatore witnessed the 1980 Olympics and 1983 Cricket World Cup on a giant screen in VOC Park when the city-based UMS developed a dish antenna for satellite signal reception. Currently television reception is through DTH or by cable, while Doordarshan reception is still available using an external antenna. In 2005, Doordarshan opened its studio in Coimbatore.

Coimbatore has a well-connected communications infrastructure. Till the 1990s the state owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was the only telecommunication service provider in the city. In the 1990s, private telecom companies too started offering their services. Currently besides BSNL, fixed line telephone services are offered by Reliance Communications and Bharti Airtel. Dial up internet connections were first introduced (by HCL and BPL) in 1996 and broadband internet (by BSNL) in 2005. As of 2010, BSNL, Reliance Communications, Bharti Airtel, Tata Teleservices all offer broadband service through fixed lines and mobiles; MTS offers mobile broadband alone. Cellular telephony was first introduced in 1997. Coimbatore is the headquarters of the Tamil Nadu circle of cellular service providers. The telecom company Aircel is headquartered in the city. Mobile telephone services available in the city include both CDMA and GSM connections.

Coimbatore is home to some of the oldest film studios in South India. Swamikannu Vincent, a film exhibitor, set up the first movie studios in the city. Rangaswamy Naidu established the Central Studios in 1935 while S. M. Sriramulu Naidu set up the Pakshiraja Studios in 1945.

3.20 Healthcare

The size of the Coimbatore health care industry has been estimated as ₹1500 Crore (150 million) in 2010. There are nearly 750 hospitals in and around Coimbatore with a capacity of 5000 beds. The first health care centre in the city was started in 1909. In 1969, it was upgraded to Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH). It is a government run hospital with a bed strength of 1020 and provides free health care. Including the CMCH, corporation maintains 16 dispensaries and 2 maternity
homes. The city also has many large multi-facility private hospitals like the PSG Hospitals, Kovai Medical Center and Hospital (KMCH), KG Hospital, Coimbatore Kidney Centre, G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital(GKNM), Sri Ramakrishna Hospital, Sheela Hospital, Kongunadu Hospital, Ganga Hospital, Aravind Eye Hospital, Sankara Netralaya, Sankara Eye Centre, Lotus Eye Hospital, Ashwin hospital, Vikram ENT hospital, Sheela Hospital, Coimbatore Cancer Foundation, G. P. Hospital, Diabetes Care and Research Centre. The city is also a major centre for medical tourism. The city remains the preferred healthcare destination for people from nearby districts and also from the neighbouring state of Kerala.

3.21 Sports

Motor sports plays a large part in the city, with Coimbatore often referred to as the "Motor sports Capital of India" and the "Backyard of Indian Motorsports". Some wealthy industrialists, such as S.Karivardhan, spearheaded motor racing, making Coimbatore the country's motor racing hub when he designed and built entry level racecars. The city has a Formula 3 Category circuit and few Go-Kart circuits, formula cars manufacturers and FIA member motorsport associations that conduct National Championship races and Rallies. National Champion races for Formula racing (Cars), Motorcycle racing, Go-Kart racing are held in Kari Motor Speedway.

The tyre manufacturer MRF assembles and builds Formula Ford cars in Coimbatore in association with former F3 Champion J. Anand. Super Speeds designs and constructs almost all Formula cars. Rallying is another major event with all teams based in Coimbatore. Rallies are conducted in closed roads around Coimbatore districts. Narain Karthikeyan, India’s most famous driver, became the first Indian to enter Formula One in 2005. Other famous motorsport personalities from Coimbatore are J. Anand, N. Leela Krishnan and V. R. Naren Kumar.

Nehru Stadium, built originally for football, can also host athletic meets. The stadium is undergoing a renovation with Korean grass in the centre and a synthetic track around it for athletics. Apart from the stadium, the city also has several sports clubs. The Coimbatore Golf Club is home to a major 18-hole golf course. The Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club, which is more than 100 years old, was founded for Indian members only, in response to the English Coimbatore Club which did not
admit Indians until the 1950s. The Coimbatore Flying Club is located in the Coimbatore airport premises. The city hosts its own annual marathon called Coimbatore Marathon as an event to raise cancer awareness. The prominent tennis player Nirupama Vaidyanathan hails from Coimbatore.

3.22 Recreation

Cross-cut road in Gandhipuram, one of the largest shopping hubs in Coimbatore

Coimbatore also houses a number of museums and art galleries like G.D. Naidu Museum & Industrial Exhibition, H A Gass Forest Museum, Government Museum, Kadhi Gandhi Gallery and Kasthuri Srinivasan Art Gallery and Textile Museum. A science park and a planetarium is being built near Codissia trade fair complex and will be inaugurated by May 2012.

There are several amusement parks in and around the city namely, Black Thunder water theme park near Mettupalayam, Kovai Kondattam amusement park at Perur and Maharaja Theme Park at Nillambur Since the 1980s, the city has had a few small shopping complexes.

Lately, malls have come up including Brooke fields Mall and Fun Republic Mall. The city also has a number of parks including VOC park, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University park, Race Course children's park, Bharathi park in Saibaba Colony and many more parks. Coimbatore Zoo houses a number of animals and birds and is located near VOC park. Singanallurlake is a popular tourist place and bird watcher destination. Though there are a lot of entertainment centres mushrooming in the city, visiting the cinema still remains the city's most popular recreational activity.

3.23 Environmental Issues

Air pollution, lack of proper waste management infrastructure and degradation of water bodies are the major environmental issues in Coimbatore. Steel foundries were established in 1950s and 1960s when there were no residential areas nearby, but growth of the city led to creation of residential areas around them.

In 1990s the State Government and pollution control board took major steps to re-locate the steel foundries out of the city. The textile mills are all equipped with
air treatment towers. Coimbatore has no proper underground drainage or sewage system. There is a sewage treatment plant at Ukkadam in operation with the capacity to process 70 mld of sewage water of which 20 mld is the current treating level. Garbage is collected by the Corporation and sometimes by systems developed by the local residents. Sewage is pumped into the water tanks and the Noyyal through streams. This along with garbage dumping and encroachments has led to degradation of the water bodies and depletion in the groundwater table. During the 80’s, the corporation planned on closing the tanks due to encroachment by filling them with waste. But as a result of outcries from civic associations, the plan was dropped. Currently the tanks are being renovated by the city's environmental groups with their own fund-raising and the corporation. Siruthuli, an environmental organisation founded by the city's industrial houses, undertakes de-silting of tanks and cleaning of the Noyyalriver. The corporation is also taking efforts to clear encroachment of the tanks.

3.24 Pollachi

Pollachi is a town and a taluk headquarters in Coimbatore Rural district of the Tamil Nadu state of India. It has the Regional Transport Office of Pollachi (Coimbatore Rural) (TN-41). It lies in the southern part of the Coimbatore city around 40 kilometres from Downtown Coimbatore. This is the second largest town in the district after Corporation of Coimbatore. Owing to the proximity to the Western Ghats, Pollachi has a pleasant climate throughout the year. Pollachi is very popular for its markets, especially for jaggery, fresh vegetables and cattle. The Jaggery Market in Pollachi is Asia's largest of its kind. The central part of Kerala totally depends upon the vegetables from Pollachi. The cattle market of Pollachi is the biggest of its kind in southern India.

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3.25 Etymology

During ancient times, Pollachi was known as "pozhilvaichi" (Tamil: பொழில்வைச்சி) which means "the land of natural wealth and prosperity."
(One can find this name in the Lord Subramanyar temple in Pollachi.) The name PozhilVaichi has changed into Pollachi over time. The historic town of Pollachi was
once known as MudiKonda CholaNallur during the period of Kulottunga Chola-III. The Subramanyar temple here is an ancient one, with a history that goes back about eight centuries. It is believed that the Subramanyar temple here was once a Shiva temple, enshrining Agastheeswaram Udaiyaar, with the festival deity being Subramanyar. Much of the construction in the temple belongs to the 20th century.

There is another story about the origin of the name. Pollachi was known as "PorullAatchi" (Tamil: பொருள்அட்சி) which means "the land of wealthy government". In the olden days, it was said that anything can be sold/bought in/from Pollachi market (including elephants) except one's parents. Pollachi Market, popularly known as "Pollachi Sandhai", is the most famous of its kind in Tamil Nadu.

3.26 Geography

Pollachi is located at 10°39′43″N 77°00′23″E 10.662°N 77.0065°E. It has an average elevation of 293 metres (961 feet).

3.27 Demographics

As of the census of India 2001, Pollachi had a population of 88,302 comprising 44,400 males and 43,902 females, making the sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) of the town to 989. A total of 8,679 people were under six years of age and the child sex ratio (number of females per thousand males under six years of age) stood at 967. The town had an average literacy of 85.65%, higher than the national average of 59.5%. A total of 9,112 comprising 11.44% of the population belonged to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 117 comprising 0.15% of the population belonged to Scheduled tribes (ST). There were are total of 21,797 households in the town. As of 2001, Pollachi had a total of 31,997 main workers: 1,199 cultivators, 901 agricultural labourers, 755 in household industries and 29,142 other workers. There was a total of 1,658 marginal workers: 11 marginal cultivators, 16 marginal agricultural labourers, 117 marginal workers in household industries and 1,514 other marginal workers.

3.28 Municipal statistics

Population: 135,235
Area (km²): 13
Number of schools: 56 higher secondary schools
Number of maternity hospitals: 10
Number of other hospitals/dispensaries: 2 +others 15

3.29 Politics

Pollachi assembly constituency is part of Pollachi (LokSabha constituency). Pollachi, Udumalpet, Valparai, Kinathukadavu, Madathukulam and Thondamuthur form the Pollachi parliamentary constituency.

3.30 Agriculture and industry

Pollachi is an important commercial area in the region and has large industrial establishments and huge markets for agricultural products as well as cattle.

3.31 Agriculture

Pollachi is a major producer of vegetables especially tomatoes and coconuts as well as related products in the region. Coconuts, copra and tender coconuts are transported all over India from Pollachi.

Pollachi accommodates one of the largest coffee producers viz. Thalanar Agro situated near Valparai.

3.32 Industry

Film Industry

Pollachi is a popular movie shooting location for the Indian film industry. It has been estimated that over 1500 movies are being shot around Pollachi Region.

Many directors from Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Hindi movie prefer Pollachi for outdoor shooting because of its scenic beauty. Thousands of movies in Indian languages have been filmed here. Lot of Movies are filmed in the lush green outdoor of pollachi.

Pollachi is one of the most popular shooting spot where films like "Kaadhalika NeramIllai", "Raajathi Raja", "Thavasi", "VaanathaiPola", "Suriya Vamsam", "Winner", "Vedi", "Thamizhan", "Thirumathi Palanisamy" "Nattamai" "Chinna
Goundar” “Pollachi Mappillai” “Sangamam” “Dhammu” “DevarMagan” "Kilinjalgal” "Kuchelan" "Ponnumani” etc., were shot

Few other telugu films which were shot in Pollachi include Atharintiki Daredi, Kevvu Keka, Gabbar Singh, Gouravam, Dammu and Rebel.

Hindi films like Billu the Barber was also shot in Pollachi.

3.33 Infrastructure

Airport

Coimbatore International Airport about 48 km from Pollachi town. International flights are being operated to Singapore and Sharjah. Routine domestic flights are operated to all the major cities in India.

Bus stand

Pollachi has two bus stands, a central bus stand which is used by TNSTC and the private operators to long routes. It is inside the town. A new bus stand foundation stone was laid by the then local administration minister M.K. Stalin in November 2007, to construct an additional bus stand. It is just opposite to the existing bus stand. This new bus stand has buses to serve nearby areas. Central bus stand has a bus every 2 minutes to Ukkadam(Coimbatore) bus stand. It will take 50 minutes to 1 hour reach Ukkadam bus stand in Coimbatore.

Railway station

Pollachi has a railway junction. The largest one is Coimbatore Junction. Presently, due to gauge conversion, no trains are operated in this section, the major routes being Coimbatore – Pollachi –UdumalpetDindigul and Palakkad – Pollachi – Dindigul. Broad gauge conversion of this section has started and are expected to be completed shortly. Once this completion is over then Pollachi, Udumalai, Palani will get direct link to Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore and all other parts of India. Palghat Town - PollachiJn – Podanur section was added to the Palakkad Railway Division in 2007.
Broad gauge work from Palakkad side has been started by the Palakkad Division, soon Pollachi will be connected by BG trains. As part of this Gauge Conversion Project PALANI-DINDIGUL section already been converted and right now Only Passenger Services started from PALANI to DINDIGUL. Works towards Pollachi from Palani via Udumalai is being expedited and expected to be completed in this year 2013. It is expected to be completed in the year 2020 as per the dream of abdulkalam.

3.34 Dams

Pollachi is surrounded by numerous dams which add beauty. Some of the major dams in and around Pollachi are:

Azhiyar Dam: This dam is on the foothills of Anamalai (Tamil: அம்மலை), Western Ghats and near the 'Monkeyfalls' waterfalls. Azhiyar is a beautiful and fantastic picnic spot.

- Thriumurthi Dam
- Amaravathi Dam
- Parambikulam Dam
- Thunakaduvu Dam
- Peruvaripallam Dam
- Nirar Dam
- Kadamparai Dam

Meenkarai Dam: This dam is built for multipurpose project such as irrigation and hydroelectricity production.

Solaiyar Dam: This is on the top of mountains and very beautiful scenic spot. It is 15 km from Valparai town after Mudis. The Sholaiyar Dam is the second largest rock dam in Asia. The length of the reservoir it impounds is about 20 km.

Upper Azhiyar Dam

3.35 Mahalingapuram-Round Road alias Roundana

This Round Road is located in Mahalingapuram colony and it is the most favourite place for joggers, walkers, volleyball, basketball and badminton players. It is a get-together place for the community in Pollachi town. The Round Road Park opens at 5 am and most of the people come to walk and exercise. This place has a
playground for small children. It has a Jawaharlal Nehru statue where Nehru made a speech.

3.36 **Places of attraction**

**Valparai**

Valparai is about 65 km from Pollachi and is situated at an altitude of 3500 feet above the sea level. You can enjoy the ride from Pollachi to Valparai with lush green forest area. From Azhiyar it is about 40 Hair Pin Bends to Valparai.

Places to Visit around Valparai:

- Balaji Temple
- Solayar Dam
- PanchamugaVinayakar Temple
- Azhiyar Dam
- Monkey Falls
- Contour Canal

**Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary**

Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary is about 90 km from Coimbatore city and is situated at an altitude of 1,400 meters in the Western Ghats near Pollachi. The area of the sanctuary is 958 km². An ecological paradise, this sanctuary encompasses a National Park. It has recently been renamed as Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. Recently, it was converted into an integrated Anamalai Tiger Reserve. Vettaikaranpudur is en route to Topslip from Pollachi

**Top Slip**

Top Slip is a point located at an altitude of about 800 feet in the Anamalai mountain range. It is a picturesque location in the Anamalai Hills. It is about 37 km from Pollachi. This small town is an ideal picnic spot. Arrangements are available at Topslip to take tourists around the Sanctuary on elephant back or by van. Top Slip is a national park and a medical plant conservation area in Anamalai hills. It is famous
for its elephant camp and its wildlife at Kollikamuthi. It got its name during British era, as lots of its timber slipped down to the plains below. For thrill-seekers accommodation is also available in a tree house. There are bungalows available within the sanctuary to view natural scenery and wildlife.

Chinnakallar

Chinnakallar is renowned for receiving the highest rainfall in Tamil Nadu. There is a waterfall in Chinnakallar which sounds like a roaring lion.

Parambikulam National Park

The Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary is a reservoir of tranquil greenery ensconced in a valley between the Anaimalai Hills range of Tamil Nadu and the Nelliampathi Hills range of Kerala. The areas hilly and rocky, drained by several rivers, including the Parambikulam, the Sholayar and the Thekkady.

Thickly forested with stands of bamboo, sandalwood, rosewood and teak, the sanctuary has some marshy land and scattered patches of grassland. Parambikulam was once home to some of south India's finest stands of teak. Little remains of the original teak forests, other than the famous Kannimari teak tree, the largest in Asia as most of these have now been replaced by teak plantations. The tree is about 5 km from Thunakadavu, and is one of Parambikulam's prime attractions. The one of the oldest and largest teak trees in the world, is another attraction in the sanctuary. It has a girth of 6.52 metres, height of 48.25 metres when the measurement was taken in 2003. (It's claimed that the biggest teak in the world is in Uttaradit province of Thailand, with a girth of 10 metres and height of 47 metres.)

Parambikulam – Aliyar Multipurpose Project

Interlinking of Rivers

This project consists of a series of dams interconnected by tunnels and canals at various elevations to harness the Parambikulam, Aliyar, Nirar, Sholiyar, Thunkadavu, Thenkkadi and Palar rivers, laid for irrigation and power generation. The scheme is an outstanding example of engineering skill. It is located in the Anaimalai Hills range.
The Parambikulam-Aliyar Project is a complex multi-basin multipurpose project. Seven streams-five flowing westward and two towards the east- have been dammed and their reservoirs interlinked by tunnels. The water is ultimately delivered to the drought-prone areas in the Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu and the Chittur area of Kerala. The project has a command area of 1620 square kilometres with 185 MW of power generation capacity.

Temple

Sri Ramalinga Sowdeshwari Amman temple

The temple is known as Sowndamman temple among the people. It belongs to the community of Devangar Chettiyar (Kannada). There are about 1000 of families of this community in and around Pollachi. The gods Sri Ramalingeshwarar and Sri Sowdeshwari Amman were the main gods and kasiSivagangaVinayagar, Sri Durgaiamman are the other gods in this temple. Navarathri is the main festival. It starts at the amavasya day of the Tamil month named puratasi. The festival consists of 10 days.

On the first day holy rituals at the shore "KATHI PODUTHAL" ceremony brings the God to the temple. Golu is kept. After that all nine days Sowdeshwariamman is dressed as different Gods and special prayers, bhajans are conducted. On the final day that is "dhasara" evening Sri Sowdeshwariamman is dressed as Sri Chamundeeshwariamman and kept in saparam with a BOW and ARROW. Then the saparam starts from the temple and goes to the battle field to kill the ghost. After the drama of killing the ghost is done, a vannimaram is tied along with banana tree and then it will be cut. After that procession Sri Sowdeshwariamman will go to various madths "madams" built by this community people. The next day holy water from various places are bought to reduce the anger of the God. This is called alaguseva. After that full moon day Annabishekam will be held to Lord Shiva in a grand manner.

Subramania Swamy Thirukoil

This temple is located at Pollachi. Konga Cholas built this temple of Lord Shiva and named it as 'Thiruvahatheswaramudayar' temple, 700 years ago. This
temple has a high architectural value. In due course, it came to be called 'Subramanyar Kovil' and 'Lord Subramanyar' is worshipped here.

**Maasani Amman Thirukoil – Anaimalai**

Lord Gowrishankarar temple is situated at Bg Farm, Anamalai. This temple is dedicated to Goddess Gowriammman; the idol was found during ploughing the fields in 1995. It has been ascertained by veteran GanpathiStapathi that the statue is intact and belongs to the Chola age. A new temple has been erected by GanapathiStapathi in 2004.

Legend tells of the origin of this temple. Anaimalai, a place near Pollachi, was earlier ruled by a king called Naanan. He had a very special mango tree in his farm on the Aaliyar riverside, which he was very fond of. He was so particular that nobody was allowed to use neither its mangoes nor its leaves. Once, a group of girls were having their bath in the Aaliyarriver and saw a mango floating on the river which belonged to this mango tree. In anxiety, one of the girls picked the mango and ate it; even after several pleadings made by her father, the king sentenced her to death. After some time, the villagers in that particular area made a female figure in lying state in remembrance of the innocent girl on the graveyard sand and started worshipping her. In due course, she was worshipped by the name "Maasani". Later Kozhinkhosargal defeated king Naanan and destroyed that particular mango tree.

It is believed that Lord Rama on his way in search of Seetha, was absorbed by the power of this temple, stopped here and performed meditation, adding glory to this temple.

**Alagunachi Amman Temple – Pollachi**

It is located in Pollachi town. It was built in early 18th century. During that time, a group of people moved from Valliarachal (nearly 80 kilometres from Pollachi), rested on a river side in Pollachi (now the river is no longer there). They had brought the statue of the family God (ArulmiguAlagunachi Amman) and placed it nearby and slept; in the morning they found the statue was missing and so they selected one brick and placed it in the same place and built a small temple, and then the family stayed in Pollachi. In 2002, the temple was rebuilt. It is the Kula Deivam (Sacred Deity) for certain clans belonging to the KonguVellalaGounder community.
Thiru Moorthy Temple – Thiru Moorthy Hills

It is situated at the foot of Thirumoorthy Hills adjoining the Thirumoorthy Reservoir and Dam. This is about 20 km from Udumalaipettai on the highway from Palani to Coimbatore. A perennial stream flows by the side of the Sri Amaralingeswarar temple and nearby there is the Thirumoorthy Falls. It is believed that a few thousand years ago, Athari Maharishi along with his wife Anushiya Devi lived here. Moved by their prayer, Lord Shiva together with Brahma and Vishnu (Thiru Moorthygal) came in disguise to test their devotion. Overwhelmed by their appearance, the couple offered them tributes. The Thiru Moorthygal refused to accept their offerings as such and demanded that the offering should be made by Anushiya Devi in nudity. She accepted their demand and with her power of devotion she changed the Thiru Moorthy's into 3 year old babies and fed them. On seeing the power of the devout Anushiya Devi, the ThiruMoorthy's blessed the couple and hence the place is known as ThiruMoorthy Hills.

Sulakkal Mariamman Thirukoil – Sulakkal

Three hundred years ago, Sulakal was amidst of dense forest nesting dangerous wild animals and poisonous reptiles. The nearby villagers used to feed their domestic animals in the forest. The owner of a particular cow, which was not giving milk followed it and found his cow shedding milk on a sandhill. On seeing this the cow started galloping. At that moment its legs were hit by the sandhill. He was shocked to see blood oozing out of the sandhill. He dreamed about the Goddess that night and was dictated to raise a temple in the name of the goddess (Sulakkal Mariamman). Till today, this temple stands as a cultural icon in this locality. Through generations, three families have vowed to take care and honour this great temple from neighbouring villages velayuthampalayam, zaminkaliyapuram and sulakkal.

Shree Velayudhaswamy Thirukoil – Senjerimalai

The 'Thenserigiri Sthalapuranam' relates: As Lord Muruga set out with his battalion to subdue the demon Surapadma, Lord Shiva summoned him to the Thenserigiri hills and, initiating him to certain mantras, endowed him with invincible powers to route and destroy the demon and his retinue.
This is the legendary origin of this temple. Since then Lord Muruga came to be worshipped as Manthragiri and Sri Velayudhaswami. This temple was originally built by Karikala Chola and renovated by Veeraballalai III dates back to 13th century. A holy spring called 'Gnanatheertha Sunai' and a sacred tree known as 'Karunochi' can be seen

**Echanari Vinayagar Thirukoil – Coimbatore**

The temple is among the oldest one in Coimbatore and dates back to 1500A.D. The *moolavar* at this temple was actually meant for PerurPatteshwarar temple and since it got stuck on its way from Madurai, Eachnari became the blessed place. The deity's height is 6 feet (2 m) and the width is 3 feet (1 m) and is one of the biggest in South India. The last *kumbabhishekam* was performed in 2006.

**Ambarampalayam Darga**

This Darga is situated on the banks of the river aliyar. A lot of devotees from Kerala and Tamil Nadu visit this Dargha with a belief that evil spirits will get away. The Name of Dargah is ChansaValliullahDargha, Ambarampalayam.

**Arulmigu Prasanda Vinayagar Temple**

ArulmiguPrasandaVinayagar Temple (Tamil: அருள்மிகு பிரசாண்ட விநாயகர் கோயில்) Located on the banks of River Aliyar, about 8 kilometres to the south of Pollachi, this temple was in a dilapidated condition about 2 years ago. The renovation work of this temple was initiated by the local public under the leadership of Tmt. Anandhi Elango. The renewed looking temple had its first *kumbhabhishekham* on 9 June 2007.

There are signs in this temple to show that the temple deity was Lord Siva initially. What made this temple to become a Ganapathy temple is still unknown. The Statue of Lord Vinayaka is believed to be more than 500 years old. It is sculptured in the style of the old Vijayanagaraempire. The Nandi statue found in front of the temple is believed to be 1000 years old. The statue of The deity is addressed as 'Prasanda Vinayakan' by the locals; the qualifier appears to be the mispronunciation of the Sanskrit term "Prachanda" meaning 'of fierce countenance, violently swift, etc.'; the most appropriate being the former.
There should have been temple elephants belonging to this temple in those days. This is evidenced by the naming of that part of the river as 'AnaiGajam' (Tamil: அணைக்காடம்: கொடு (அ)கொடு-அப்பாண்டகாச்செயின்பு) where the flight of steps leading from the temple meet the river. 'AnaiGajam' in Tamil means that part of river where water is so deep even to an elephant; the place where the mahouts used to take the temple elephants for bathing.

Due to its natural setting amidst lush green paddy fields, sugarcane fields, and Coconut trees, this temple is growing more and more popular among the devotees of Coimbatore.

References

Pollachi Urban Region Census 2011
Pollachi Tourism
Thrissur-Pollachi
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Kannimara,

3.37 Mettupalayam, Coimbatore

Mettupalayam is a taluk of Coimbatore Rural district, located to the north of the city of Coimbatore on the way to Ooty. It is located in the foot hills of Nilgiri hills about 38 km north of downtown Coimbatore, in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Mettupalayam is the third largest township in the district and one of the fast developing suburbs on the northern side of Coimbatore.
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History

Mettupalayam is a part of Kongu region.

Geography

Mettupalayam is located at 11°18′00″N 76°57′00″E 314 metres (1033 feet). Mettupalayam is situated on the bank of Bhavani River at the foot of the Nilgiri mountains.

3.38 Demographics

As per the census of India 2001, Mettupalayam had a population of 66,595 comprising 33,385 males and 33,210 females, making the sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) of the town to 995. A total of 7,287 people were under six years of age and the child sex ratio (number of females per thousand males under six years of age) stood at 1,024. The town had an average literacy of 81.96%, higher than the national average of 59.5%. A total of 8,178 comprising 13.79% of the population belonged to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 78 comprising 0.13% of the population belonged to Scheduled tribes (ST). There were are total of 15,951 households in the town. As of 2001, Mettupalayam had a total of 23,154 main workers: 260 cultivators, 967 agricultural labourers, 683 in house hold industries and 21,244 other workers. There was a total of 1,661 marginal workers: 4 marginal
cultivators, 162 marginal agricultural labourers, 266 marginal workers in household industries and 1,229 other marginal workers.[2]

3.39 Transport

Mettupalayam railway station is the originating place for the Nilagiri passenger (NMR), also called "Ooty Train", the only rack and pinion railway in Asia. Mettupalayam provides the interchange for passengers of this subline to the broad gauge railway. The Nilgiri Express (Blue Mountain Express) connects Mettupalayam to the state capital Chennai via Coimbatore.

Nilgiri Mountain Railway

Mettupalayam is the starting point for two of the Ghat Roads into the Nilgiri Hills. Subsequently it has established itself for the trade of fresh fruits & vegetables coming down from the hills and also for produce that grows on the plains and is destined for the hills. Fresh products from here is supplied to most parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Coimbatore (Manchester of South India) is 38 km by road from Mettupalayam. The nearest airport is Coimbatore International Airport which has regular (Air timings) flights from New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calicut, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Jammu, Pune, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Bahrain, Kuwait, Muscat, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Colombo, Dubai, Doha, Singapore, etc.

3.40 Places of interest

The Kotagiri road is a fabulous walking spot for Mettupalayam locals, where one can see spotted deer and elephants.

The Forest College is also situated on the Kotagiri road.

1. VanaBathrakali Amman Kovil,
2. IdugampalayamAanjineyar temple,
3. Madeshwarankovil (mahadevapuram),
4. Then Thirupathi and Dhasampalayam Vishnu temples.
5. Subramaniyaswamy temple,
6. Kurunthamalai Bala Thandayudapani Murugan Kovil,
7. Kumaran Kundru Murugan Kovil,
8. Shri Madheswara Temple in Annadasampalayam,
9. Karamadai Ranganathar Kovil are all famous temples located near Mettupalayam.

Karamadai Ranganathar temple is famous for its car festival every year, where thousands of people flock to see the holy car of RANGANATHAR and get his blessings. This car festival is also famous for its "THER MITTAI" which is available in different shapes and sizes. Matheswarar Temple Located at Kuttaiyur (on the way from Mettupalyam to Karamadai), is a very famous Temple for Lord Shiva.

Agriculture is the occupation of most of the people. Mettupalayam is surrounded by lot of villages, fertile enough for agriculture.

Black Thunder is a water theme park located 3 km from the town, that attracts many tourists. It has attractive rides such as The Lazy River, Wave Pool, Thrillarium, Surf Hill, Cannon Ball, Aqua Bowl, Side Winder etc.

For a magnificent view of the hillside covered with forests, a train journey from Mettupalayam to Ooty is recommended. This narrow gauge mountain train winds through 46 km of forests, tea plantations, 16 tunnels and crosses more than 250 bridges, starting from Mettupalayam on the plains. Moving at a pace that is just a little faster than walking, the journey takes four and half to five hours, but is more than compensated by stunning views of the hills and the plains. The train journey to Mettupalayam is one of the most fascinating experiences for tourists. This steam train was built during the British period.

Transportation business is also famous in Mettupalayam.

Potatoes for the world market are supplied from Mettupalayam market.

**Bypass Project**

An Eastern bypass road project from Sulur to Mettupalayam connecting NH-47 with NH-67, bypassing Coimbatore city is likely to begin on 2013 (mid-June). The stretch from Sulur would be from Kangayampalayam, Neelambur, Mayilampatty. Vehicles from Kangayam, Karur, Trichy, Dindigul, Madurai and
other southern districts, of Tamil Nadu could proceed to Mettupalayam and Ooty without having to enter Coimbatore city. Three rail-overbridges would come up at Sulur, Narasimhanaickenpalayam & Karamadai. The entire stretch of Mettupalayam bypass road from Coimbatore would be 53.95 km.

3.41 Politics

Mettupalayam assembly constituency is part of Nilgiris (LokSabha constituency). Mettupalayam ADMK 40% Mettupalayam DMK 30% Mettupalayam BJP 20% Mettupalayam Others 10%. MDMK Secured 2nd place alone in Mettupalayam Township Election during 2001 Local Body Election. BJP Secured 1st place in Mettupalayam Township Election during 2012 Local Body Election.

3.42 In Film Industry

Mettupalayam was an important shooting place in the 1980's and 1990's. It is well known for its natural locations and artificial places, specially because of Ooty. Film veterans such as Baghyaraj, Bharathiraja and few others have utilized this place for many films. Some of the well known movies shot at Mettupalayam are,

1. Bhairavi (Rajinikanth)
2. Kizhakepogumrayil (Sudhakar/Radhika)
3. Kaavalan (Vijay)
4. Bhagavathi (Vijay)
5. Uyire (Sharuk khan)
6. Ullathaiallitha (karthik)
7. Jodi(Prasanth)
8. Many Siva Kumar films And so on

Also many upcoming film buds were growing in this Area. Some of the well known short films are in progress.

References

1. Falling Rain Genomics, Inc - Mettuppalaiyam, India

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Kongu Nadu

Kongu Nadu is a region comprising the western part of the Tamil Nadu India. The region is currently bounded on the west and north-west by the states of Karnataka and Kerala while in the ancient Tamilakam, it was the seat of the Chera kings, bounded on the east by Tondai Nadu, on the south-east by Chola Nadu and on the south by Pandya Nadu regions of ancient Tamilakam. Kongu Nadu has the highest Urban area in the state of Tamil Nadu and contributes to two-thirds of the state's revenues.

Geo Hack - Mettupalayam, Coimbatore

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