CHAPTER II

THE PROFILE OF SOUTH INDIAN STATES
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2.1 INTRODUCTION

Study made on the socio-economic conditions and cultural related information for the sustainable development of tourism in the four States of South India namely – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu respectively, has been described in this chapter with appropriate data collected from various sources along with tourism map of South India.

FIGURE 2.1: SOUTH INDIA MAP
2.1.1 Economy

The following Table 2.1 gives details about the GDP of South Indian States at market prices estimated by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with figures in millions of Indian Rupees. We find that the growth rate is skewed.

### Table 2.1 GDP Table of South Indian States (in Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Andra Pradesh</th>
<th>Karnataka</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>81,910</td>
<td>62,100</td>
<td>43697.11</td>
<td>80,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>152,660</td>
<td>115,750</td>
<td>48245.13</td>
<td>156,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>333,360</td>
<td>233,000</td>
<td>57607.21</td>
<td>313,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>798,540</td>
<td>562,150</td>
<td>70087.97</td>
<td>782,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,401,190</td>
<td>1,045,410</td>
<td>89451.99</td>
<td>1,411,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1.2 Logistics of South India

The table 2.2 logistics of South India shows that sustainable tourism development can happen in South India, only if proper attention is given towards improvement of transportation facilities, airliners and railway facilities connecting tourist destinations effectively. Employing right people with right knowledge of tourist’s needs and tourism knowledge of the southern state’s tourism destinations and their specialities is inevitable.
### Table 2.2 Logistics of south India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
<th>Karnataka</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>Thiruvananthapuram</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>275,068 square Kilometres</td>
<td>191,791 square Kilometres</td>
<td>38,863 square Kilometres</td>
<td>130,058 square Kilometres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy</strong></td>
<td>60.47% (2001)</td>
<td>66.64% (2001)</td>
<td>90.86% (2001)</td>
<td>73.45% (2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>Telugu, Urdu</td>
<td>Kannada</td>
<td>Malayalam</td>
<td>Tamil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roads</strong></td>
<td>172,669 Kms</td>
<td>142,754 Kms</td>
<td>139,042 Kms</td>
<td>205,706 Kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Railways</strong></td>
<td>5,057 Kms</td>
<td>3,059 Kms</td>
<td>1,053 Kms</td>
<td>3,999 Kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Airport</strong></td>
<td>Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Pulicat, Tirupati, Tirupati, Rajahmundry, Cuddapah, Warangal, Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Bangalore, Belgaum, Bellary, Hubli, Mysore, Mangalore</td>
<td>Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Karipoor.</td>
<td>Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Thanjavur, Tiruchchirappalli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seaport</strong></td>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Karwar, Mangalore</td>
<td>Kochi, Kozhikode</td>
<td>Chennai, Nagappattinam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate</strong></td>
<td>Summer (41°C - 20°C), Winter (32°C - 13°C)</td>
<td>Summer (35°C - 26°C), Winter (25°C - 14°C)</td>
<td>Summer (35°C - 21°C), Winter (35°C - 21°C)</td>
<td>Summer (43°C - 25°C), Winter (25°C - 18°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monsoon</strong></td>
<td>June - December</td>
<td>June to September</td>
<td>June to September</td>
<td>October to December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Season</strong></td>
<td>November to March</td>
<td>October to April</td>
<td>November to April</td>
<td>November to March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1.3 Politics

The table 2.3 politics of South India signifies the presence of a strong democracy based society, which is attractive and helpful to tourism industry compared to other destinations existing in the different parts of the world. These factors which are highly favourable for tourism must be highlighted and utilised to the maximum benefit of tourism promotion in South Indian states by the stake holders of the tourism circuit, government and people. The political parties existing in all the four states of South India are also strong supporters of tourism industry in general. Hence an earnest attempt to garner and foster tourism promotion must be undertaken immediately.
Table 2.3 Politics of South India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Parties</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
<th>Karnataka</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
<th>Tamil Nadu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Narayan Dutt Tiwari</td>
<td>Rameshwar Thukur</td>
<td>R.S. Gavai</td>
<td>S. S. Barnala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Minister</td>
<td>Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy</td>
<td>B. S. Yeddyurappa</td>
<td>V.S. Achuthanandan</td>
<td>M. Karunanidhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>K.V.Suresh Reddy</td>
<td>Jagadish Shettar</td>
<td>K. Radhakrishnan</td>
<td>Aavudaiappan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telugu Desam Party (TDP)</th>
<th>Indian National Congress</th>
<th>Left Democratic Front</th>
<th>United Democratic Front</th>
<th>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh Congress Party (APCC)</td>
<td>Janata Dal (Secular)</td>
<td>Communist Party of India (Marxist)</td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>Bharatiya Forward Bloc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bharateeya Janatha Party (BJP)</td>
<td>Bharatiya Janata Party</td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>Indian Union Muslim League</td>
<td>Congress Jananayaka Peravai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>Janata Dal (Secular)</td>
<td>Kerala Congress (Mani)</td>
<td>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communist Party (M)</td>
<td>Revolutionary Socialist Party</td>
<td>Kerala Congress (B)</td>
<td>MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telanga Rastra Samithi</td>
<td>Kerala Congress (Joseph)</td>
<td>JSS</td>
<td>Marxist Periarist Communist Party</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janatha Dal</td>
<td>Indian National League</td>
<td>RSP (M)</td>
<td>Pattali Makkal Katchi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTR Telugu Desam Party (Lakshmi Parvathi)</td>
<td>Nationalist Congress Party</td>
<td>RSP (S)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON (Secular)</td>
<td>CMP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A brief idea about each state with reference to the state’s, politics, people, culture, GDP, population, important tourist centres, geographic and climatic conditions including suitable seasons for visiting, waterfalls, resorts, hill stations, festivals and temples etc are given separately.
2.2. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh: is a combination of age-old traditions of the Dravidian Hindus with the Muslim cultural Heritage that came from western & Central Asia, leaving their imprints on this land rich in natural resources. This is the land that gave the world such forms of art as Kalamkari, dance such as Kuchipudi, toys such as Kondapalli and jewellery such as the Nizam's. The state is rapidly transforming into a pulsating, modern and dynamic industrial economy. Tradition and technology joins hands with nature to provide the tourist a rich and varied feast of the old and the new. The state is also known as 'The Rice Bowl of the South', as some of the finest varieties of rice are grown here in the deltas of Krishna and Godavari River.

The capital is Hyderabad. The state was created in 1956 from the Telugu-speaking portions of Madras (now Tamil Nadu) and Hyderabad states. Although the interior is mountainous, Andhra Pradesh is largely on a coastal plain drained by the Penner, Krishna, and Godavari rivers. Rice, sugarcane, peanuts, and cotton are raised; coal, chrome, and manganese are mined. India's largest shipyard is located in Vishakhapatnam, and a satellite launch centre is on Sriharikota Island. The state takes its name from the Andhra people, the indigenous inhabitants of the area. A chief minister and cabinet responsible to a bicameral legislature with one elected house and by a governor appointed by the president of India govern the state.

During the 17th century, the British acquired the Coastal Andhra region along the Bay of Bengal, then known as the Northern Circars, from the Nizams, which became part of the British Madras Presidency. The
Nizams retained control of the interior provinces as the Princely state of Hyderabad, acknowledging British rule in return for local autonomy.

The provinces were at the time governed in a feudal manner, with Zamindars in areas such as Kulla and other parts of the Godavari acting as lords under the Nizam. The feudal or zamindari system was removed after independence.

The Andhras (or Telugu) were at the forefront of Indian nationalism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Potti Sriramulu fought for independence alongside Mahatma Gandhi, and later fought for Andhra unification.

**Regions**

Kosta occupies the coastal plain between Eastern Ghats ranges, which run the length of the state, and the Bay of Bengal.

Telangana lies west of the Ghats on the Deccan plateau. The Godavari and Krishna rivers rise in the Western Ghats of Karnataka and Maharashtra and flow east across Telangana to empty into the Bay of Bengal in a combined river delta.

Rayalaseema lies in the southeast of the state on the Deccan plateau, in the basin of the Penner River. It is separated from Telangana by the low Erramala hills and from Coastal Andhra by the Eastern Ghats.

The Krishna and Godavari rivers together irrigate thousands of square kilometers of land, and create the largest perennial cultivable area in the country. Andhra Pradesh leads in the production of rice (paddy) and is called India's Rice Bowl.
**Important Cities/Towns**

- Hyderabad is the capital of the state and, along with its twin town of Secunderabad, is the largest city.
- Visakhapatnam is the second largest city, India's fourth largest port, an important Naval Centre and an industrial hub.
- Tirupati features the famous Venkateswara temple, is a major pilgrimage centre.
- Vijayawada is the third largest city and an important trading centre and a prominent railway junction.
- Guntur City is the fourth largest in the state; it is the heart of the tobacco, cotton industry, features the famous Amravati.
- Warangal was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- Nellore is famous for its sea food and rice quality. Also famous for mica industry and space research centre.
- Kurnool was the capital city of the Andhra state.
- Kakinada is the hub of natural gas exploration and industrial activity.
- Rajahmundry is known for the Godavari barrage which is the largest bridge in the state.
- Ramagundam is an industrial town in the upper Godavari valley

**Districts**

Andhra Pradesh has 23 districts.

**Languages in Andhra Pradesh**

Telugu is the regional and official language of the state, spoken by 84.86% of the population. The major linguistic minority groups in the State include the speakers of Urdu (7.86%), Hindi (2.65%) and Tamil
The minority language speakers who constitute less than 1% are the speakers of Kannada (0.94%), Marathi (0.84%), Oriya (0.42%), Malayalam (0.10%), Gondi (0.21%), and Koya (0.30%).

The state government has notified the areas where the population of linguistic minority constitutes 15% or more of the local population. 38% of Urdu speaking population in Andhra Pradesh is bilingual in Telugu as well.

**Recent Economic Progress**

In the last decade, the state has emerged at the forefront of India’s progress in the following fields and has emerged as a land of immense business opportunities. In spite of some liberalization since 1990, Andhra's economy still faces many challenges, especially in the drought-hit agricultural sector.

- Information Technology
- Biotechnology,
- Pharmaceuticals,
- Business Management, and
- Construction,

Agriculture has been the chief source of income for the state's economy. Two important rivers of India, the Godavari and Krishna, flow through the state. Rice, sugarcane, cotton, mirchi, and tobacco are the local crops. The state has also started to focus on the fields of information technology and biotechnology.

In 2004-2005 Andhra Pradesh is at the fifth position in the list of top IT exporting states of India. The IT exports from the state are 1.8 billion
during the year. The service sector of the state already accounts for 43% of the GSDP and employs 20% of the work force.

Andhra Pradesh is a mineral rich state ranked second in the country containing a vast and variety of mineral wealth.

**Urban Centres of Economic Importance**

Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, is the sixth largest cosmopolitan city in India, rich in culture, enduring history and industrial growth. It is unique in being one of the few cities where tradition and technology co-exist. Hyderabad, like Bangalore, has become a center for outsourcing. Notable amongst the multinational companies in Hyderabad are Microsoft, Google, Bank of America, Intergraph and Oracle.

Vizag, Andhra's main port, is home to the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command. The city's shipyards, fisheries, docks, and steel works make it an economic powerhouse. Recently, Vizag has seen a rise in investment as industry in Andhra begins to turn towards the lucrative export market. Also, because of its highly valuable geographic location, and because of recent political movement towards a creation of a separate Telangana state, Vizag has seen a massive rise in investment in the city's real estate market.

**Language History**

Telugu words appear in a Maharashtra Prakrit anthology of poems (the Gathasaptashathi) collected by a first century BC Satavahana King Hala. Telugu speakers were probably oldest peoples inhabiting a land between a Krishna with Godavari Rivers.
Andhra society is one of the ancient societies of India; with a name Andhra has remained unchanged since antiquity. This is confirmed by tales about Andhras in epics like Mahabharatam with Ramayana, in great puranas, with in Buddhist Jataka Tales. The first clear historical inscriptions in Telugu appear about an 7th century AD with known literature starts with Nannaya writing an Telugu Mahabharata in an 11th century AD. There has been prolific literature ever since, but a golden age is considered by many to be an 16th century, under a patronage of an Vijayanagar Emperor Krishna Deva Raya.

Classification

Telugu is the Dravidian language, related to Kannada, Malayalam, with Tamil, all of which are national languages of India. Other closely related Dravidian languages are Chenchu, Savara, with Waddar. Like all Dravidian languages, there has been substantial historical borrowing of words from Sanskrit.

Official Status

Telugu is the state’s official language. Telugu is the second most widely spoken language in India after the national language, Hindi. It is known for its mellifluous nature and has also been called Italian of the East. An Urdu-speaking and predominantly Muslim minority lives mostly in Hyderabad. Among the many tribal languages, Banjara, Koyi, and Gondi have the greatest number of speakers.

State Symbols

- State Language - Telugu.
- State Symbol - Poorna Kumbham
• State Song - Maa telugu talliki by Sankarambadi Sundarachari,
• State Animal - Krishna Jinka,
• State Bird - Paala Pitta,
• State Tree - Neem(vepa), and
• State Sport - Kabaddi,

Movies

Andhra has 1,500 movie theaters, the second-most in India. The state also produces about 100 movies a year. Now it also houses IMAX theatre with a big 3D screen and also 3-5 multiplexes

Music

The state has a rich cultural heritage. The great composers of carnatic music Annamacharya, Tyagaraja and many others were of Telugu descent that chose Telugu as their language of composition, thus enriching the language.

Literature

Nannayya, Tikkana, and Yerrapragada form the trinity who translated the great epic Mahabharatha into Telugu. Modern writers include Jnanpith Award winners Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana and Dr. C.Narayana Reddy.

Cultural Institutions

Andhra Pradesh has many museums, including the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad, which features a varied collection of sculptures, paintings, and religious artifacts, and the Visakha Museum in Vizag
Visakhapatnam), which displays the history of the pre-Independence Madras Presidency in a rehabilitated Dutch bungalow.

Tourism

Andhra Pradesh is the home of many religious pilgrim centers. Tirupati, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, has the richest and most visited Hindu temple in India. Srisailam, the abode of Sri Mallikarjuna, is one of twelve Jyothirlingalu in India and Yadagirigutta, the abode of an avatar of Vishnu, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha. Puttaparthi hosts the ashram of popular guru Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The Ramappa temple at Warangal is famous for some fine temple carvings. The state has numerous Buddhist centers at Amaravati, Bhattiprolu, Nagarjuna Konda, and Phanigiri. The one-million-year old limestone caves at Borra, picturesque Araku Valley, hill resorts of Horsley Hills, Godavari racing through a narrow gorge at Papi Kondalu, waterfalls and rich bio-diversity at Talakona, the beaches of Vizag are some of the natural attractions of the state. Charminar, Golconda Fort, Chandragiri Fort, and Falaknuma Palace are some of the monuments in the state. Following statistics provides AP state information in quantitative terms.6

2.3 THE STATE OF KARNATAKA

Karnataka: The name Karnataka is derived from 'Karunadu', which literally means 'lofty land' as it is situated on the western edge of the Deccan plateau and opens out on the Arabian Sea. Karnataka has seen many great empires like the Maurya Empire in 4th century B.C., the Satavahanas, the Kadambas, the Chulakyas, the Yadavas, the Hoysalas, the great Vijayanagar empire in the 14th century, rule of Wodeyar dynasty,

6 State Government: http://www.aponline.gov.in
Hyder Ali & Tipu Sultan. Karnataka is predominantly rural and agrarian. There are a number of big industries. The state is well known for its grand palaces, beautiful gardens, ornate temples and historical monuments. It's attractions are varied and diverting. The ‘Garden City’ of Bangalore is also called the 'Silicon Valley of India'.

Geography

Karnataka is situated in the Deccan Plateau and is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west, Goa to the northwest, Maharashtra to the north, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the east and southeast, and Kerala to the southwest. It is situated at the angle where the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats of South India converge into the Nilgiri Hills. The state has three principal physical zones:

- The coastal strip, between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, which is lowland, with moderate to high rainfall levels. This strip is around 320 km in length and 48-64 km wide.
- The Western Ghats, a mountain range inland from the Arabian Sea, rising to about 900 m average height and with moderate to high rainfall levels.
- The Deccan Plateau, comprising the main inland region of the state, which is drier and verging on the semi-arid. The humidity in these plains or maidans never exceeds 50 percent.

Karnataka has one of the highest average elevations of Indian states at 1,500 feet. The highest recorded temperature was 45.6 C (114.08 F) at Raichur on May 23, 1928. The lowest recorded temperature was 2.8 C (37.04 F) at Bidar on December 16, 1918. [4]
Districts

Karnataka state is comprised of 28 districts, grouped into four divisions.

Language

Language was the so-called basis for the formation of the Indian states after independence and the present day Karnataka was formed by unifying majority Kannada speaking regions from the many districts of erstwhile Madras State (present day Tamil Nadu), erstwhile Bombay presidency (present day Maharashtra) and the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad (present day Andhra Pradesh) to the former Kingdom of Mysore, known as the Mysore State (post independence) around the years 1950-1957. In 1973, the Mysore State was officially declared as Karnataka. There are a total of 27 districts. The languages of Karnataka are Kannada, Urdu, Kodava Takk, Tulu and Sankethi. Kannada is the official language of the state. Other languages also spoken by linguistic minorities are Marathi, Konkani, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Malayalam.

Agriculture and Industry

Over 90% of India's gold production comes from south Karnataka. Recently there has been a lot of activity in the extraction of manganese ore from the districts of Bellary and Hospet. Karnataka is the largest producer of coffee, raw silk and sandalwood based products like perfumes and 75% of Indian floriculture industry is located in Karnataka.

Karnataka accounts for 59% of the country’s coffee production and 47% of the country’s ragi production. The state holds the fifth rank in national level in oilseed production.
Information technology

Karnataka is one of the most industrialised states in India. Its capital, Bangalore has become a major worldwide hub of the Information Technology industry and is the IT capital of India producing approximately 38% of India's software which amounts to about $9 billion in 2006. In the mid 1970's R.K. Baliga, Chairman and Managing Director of Keonics, who was a visionary, planned to make Bangalore the alternative Silicon Valley. Bangalore is dubbed as the Silicon Valley of India with more than 50% of all software companies based here. This is about 1700 companies in all. The Hardware industry is also growing at the same rate as the software industry and presently produces about $500 million in exports. Bangalore has approximately 40% of India's Biotechnology companies. Also, Bangalore is one of the fast growing cities in the world with more than 6 million people.

Music

Karnataka gave the world carnatic music. The Kannada haridasa movement sowed the seeds of this art in the 13th-15th century AD. With the rise of Vaishnavism and the Haridasa movement came Karnataka composers like Purandaradasa, whose Kannada language works were complex, devotional and philosophical. Other haridasas of medieval times were Kanakadasa, Vijayadasa and Jagannathadasa, Vyasatirtha and others.

One of the earliest and prominent composers in South India was the saint, and wandering divine singer of yore Purandara Dasa (1480-1564 AD). Purandara Dasa is believed to have composed 475,000 songs in Kannada and was a source of inspiration to the later composers like Tyagaraja. He
also invented the tala system of Carnatic music. Owing to his contribution to the Carnatic Music he is referred to as the Father of Carnatic Music or *Karnataka Sangeethada Pitamaha*. Karnataka has achieved a prominent place in the world of Hindusthani music as well.


**Literature**

Kannada has had an unbroken literary tradition of atleast 1500 years. Though the earliest extant book on Kannada literature is *Kavirajamarga* 850AD, references made in this book refer back to early Kannada literature of 6th century. For information on Kannada and Sanskrit classics and writers through the span of Kannada kingdoms, please refer to Karnataka Literature. *Chudamani* (96,000 verse-measures), a commentary on logic *Tatwarthamahashastra* by Tambulacharya belonged to the 7th century.

**Religion**

Karnataka played a very important role in shaping present day Indian religion and philosophy. Udupi, Sringeri, Gokarna and Melkote are well known places of Sanskrit learning.

The great saint Madhvacharya (1238-1317 AD), proponent of dvaita philosophy and Raghavendra Swami (1601-1671 AD) were born here. Adi Sankara (8th century AD), proponent of advaita found enlightenment in Sringeri which became the first of four mathas he established in India. Ramanujacharya (1017-1137 AD) fearing persecution from the Tamil Cholas fled Tamil Nadu and came to Karnataka during the rule of the Hoysala dynasty and preached his philosophy from Melkote.
In the 12th century AD, Virashaivism spread from northern Karnataka across the Deccan. Many of its founders, such as Basavanna came from the region.

It was here the Jain religion got a warm welcome and enjoyed a glorious growth during the medieval period. It is also here where the current day Dzogchen Monastery and the Dhondeling Tibetan Refugee camps are setup and the Tibetans are very well absorbed in the kannadiga culture.

**Natural areas**

Karnataka is home to several national parks, including Bandipur National Park in Mysore District, Bannerghatta National Park in Bangalore, Nagarhole National Park in Mysore and Kodagu districts, Kudremukh National Park in Dakshina Kannada and Chickmagalur districts, Dandeli & Anshi National Park in Uttara Kannada district, Gudavi and Mandegadde bird sanctuaries and Sharavati WLS in Shimoga district, B.R Hills WLS in Chamarajanagar district, Rangantittu bird sanctuary in Mandya district, Brahmagiri and Pushpagiri WL sanctuaries in Kodagu district.

**Wildlife sanctuaries and nature preserves:**

Recently, UNESCO has been considering designating some areas like Kudremukh NP as UN world heritage site for its natural beauty. As such, the Western Ghats that runs south-north through the state is considered as one among the twenty five bio-diversity hotspots of the world.
**Water Falls and Caves**

**Jog Falls**

Jog falls of Shimoga District is one of the highest waterfalls in Asia. Karnataka is famous for its waterfalls. Some well known ones are Magod falls, Lalgulli falls, Sathodi falls, Unchalli falls, Lushington falls, Shivaganga falls, Ulavi falls, Iruppu falls, Shivanasamudra falls, Balmuri falls, Gokak falls, Abbe falls, Achakanya falls, Chunchanakatte Falls, Hebbe falls, Kallathigiri falls, Vajrapoha falls, Sogal falls, Godchinamalaki falls etc. In fact the waterfalls of Karnataka and Kudremukh National Park are listed as *must see* places in Michael Bright's *1001 Natural Wonders of the World*, by Barrons Educational Series Inc., published by Quinted Inc., 2005.

Some well known caves in Karnataka are Yana caves and Kavala caves and Syntheri rocks in Uttara Kannada district, Sugriva's cave in Hampi holds similarity to the descriptions of 'Kishkinda' in the epic Ramayana, hundreds of caves in Basava Kalyana in Bidar district.

**Eco-Tourism**

Karnataka boasts of the highest elephant and Gaur bison population (greater than 6000 & 8000 respectively) in India. Its forests hold some of the largest remaining populations of the endangered tiger and leopard. Th Niligiri Biosphere Reserve (also a designated UNESCO Biosphere reserve) is located at the junction of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerela. Nagarahole WLS and Bandipur NP in Karnataka fall in this region.

Eco-tourism is a very popular activity in the state. Karnataka leads other states in eco-tourism. 'Jungle Lodges & Resorts', a state run organization has camping and safari facilities in several wildlife sanctuaries. Private
safari providers have sprung up in several places along the Western Ghats. Several NGO's (youth groups) are actively involved in birding and other conservation activities.

**Unique Tourism Activities**

Karnataka is a rock climber’s paradise. Yana in Uttara Kannada, Ramnagara near Bangalore district, Shivagange in Tumkur district and Tekal in Kolar district are rock climbers heaven. A climbing academy has been formed in Ramnagara called General Thimmaiah Rock Climbing Academy. The Nisarga Organisation for Wildlife and Adventure Academy is based in Bangalore. It organizes eco-tourism, adventure activities and wildlife tours.

**Sun and Sea**

Karnataka is blessed with over 300kms of pristine coastal stretch. Nethrani Island of Uttara Kannada is well known for coral reefs. St. Mary's Island, a few kilometers from Udupi is famous for its basalt rock formations. Sunny beaches at places like Kaup, Maple, Murdeshwara, Maravanthe, Gokarna, Kumta are complimented by spectacular mountains slightly to the east. Agumbe, Kodachadri hills, Kemmangundi, are just a few of many hill stations that straddle the coast providing tourists the best of sun and greenery. Unlike many crowded hill stations in South India, the hill stations of Karnataka are still mostly undiscovered and pristine.

2.4 **THE STATE OF KERALA**

Kerala: is one of the most beautiful states sandwiched between the Western Ghats on the east and the Arabian Sea on the West. Kerala has notified tourism as an industry. It offers one of the best beaches in the
country at Kovalam and one of the finest wildlife sanctuaries. The state is an abode of temples, mosques and churches. Alleppey (Alappuzha) is known as the 'Venice of the East'. And once a year, its canal banks are thronged with cheering crowds, as Kerala's sleek snake-boats vie with one another to win the Prime Minister's Trophy. Kerala is also known for its various classical dance forms like the dance-drama Kathakali, the dance of the enchantress', Mohiniyattam and Thullal, the solo dance exposition.

Kerala state (2001 provisional pop. 31,838,619), 15,003 sq mi (38,858 sq km), SW India, on the Arabian Sea. Thiruvananthapuram is the capital. A wet tropical climate and coastal lowlands support cultivation of rice, coconuts, tapioca, and spices; the interior hills produce rubber, coffee, and tea. A densely populated state, Kerala was created in 1956 from the Malayalam-speaking former princely states of Cochin and Travancore and Malayalam-speaking areas formerly in Madras state (now Tamil Nadu). About 60% of the population is Hindu; Christians and Muslims each make up about 20% of the remaining inhabitants. Although Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India (1981 est. 70%), it suffers from economic underdevelopment and unemployment. In 1957, India's first Communist state administration was elected in Kerala, and a Communist coalition was again elected in 1967, 1970, and 1987. Maoist Naxalite groups were active in the state. Kerala takes its name from the ancient Tamil kingdom of Kerala (Chera), which traded with the Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans. Some coastal areas of Kerala were hard-hit by the Dec., 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami. The state is governed by a chief minister responsible to an elected unicameral legislature and by a governor appointed by the president of India.
Geography

The terrain around Munnar in Idukki is among the most mountainous in Kerala.

Kerala’s 38,863 km² landmass (1.18% of India) is wedged between the Arabian Sea to the west and the Western Ghats — identified as one of the world's twenty-five biodiversity hotspots to the east. Lying between north latitudes 8°18' and 12°48' and east longitudes 74°52' and 72°22', Kerala is well within the humid equatorial tropics. Kerala’s coast runs for some 580 km, while the state itself varies between 35–120 km in width. Geographically, Kerala can be divided into three climatically distinct regions: the eastern highlands (rugged and cool mountainous terrain), the central midlands (rolling hills), and the western lowlands (coastal plains). Located at the extreme southern tip of the Indian subcontinent, Kerala lies near the centre of the Indian tectonic plate; as such, most of the state (notwithstanding isolated regions) is subject to comparatively little seismic and volcanic activity. Geologically, pre-Cambrian and Pleistocene formations comprise the bulk of Kerala’s terrain.

Flora and fauna

Kerala harbours significant biodiversity, most of which is concentrated in the east. The state's 10,035 plant species comprise a disproportionately large 22% of India's total; these include 3,872 flowering plants (1,272 of which are endemic to Kerala and 159 threatened), among which exist 900 species of highly-sought medicinal plants. Its 9,400 km² of forests include tropical wet evergreen and semi-evergreen forests (lower and middle elevations — 3,470 km²), tropical moist and dry deciduous forests (mid-elevations — 4,100 km² and 100 km², respectively), and montane subtropical and temperate (shola) forests (highest elevations — 100 km²).
Altogether, 24% of Kerala is forested. Two of the world’s Ramsar Convention-listed wetlands — Lake Sasthamkotta and the Vembanad-Kol wetlands — are in Kerala, as well as 1455.4 km² of the vast Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Subjected to extensive clearing for cultivation in the 20th century, much of Kerala’s forest cover is now protected from clearfelling. Kerala’s fauna are notable for their diversity and high rates of endemism: 102 species of mammals (56 of which are endemic), 476 species of birds, 202 species of freshwater fishes, 169 species of reptiles (139 of them endemic), and 89 species of amphibians (86 endemic). These are threatened by extensive habitat destruction (including soil erosion, landslides, salinization, and resource extraction).

Subdivisions

Kerala’s fourteen districts are distributed among Kerala’s three historical regions: Malabar (northern Kerala), Kochi (central Kerala), and Travancore (southern Kerala). Malabar includes (from north to south) Kasargod, Kannur (Cannanore), Wayanad (Wynad), Kozhikode (Calicut), Malappuram, and Palakkad (Palghat). Kochi includes Thrissur (Trichur) and Ernakulam (Cochin) districts. Travancore consists of Idukki, Alappuzha (Alleppey), Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Kollam (Quilon), and Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum).

Mahe, a part of the Indian union territory of Pondicherry, is a coastal exclave surrounded by Kerala on all of its landward approaches. Thiruvananthapuram is the state capital and most populous city; Kochi (the most populous urban agglomeration) and Kozhikode are major commercial centres of the state. The High Court of Kerala is situated at Ernakulam. Kerala’s districts, which serve as the administrative regions used for taxation purposes, are further subdivided into a total of 63
taluks; these have fiscal and administrative powers over settlements within their borders, including maintenance of local land records.

**Demographics**

The 3.18 crore (31.8 million) of Kerala’s compound population is predominantly of Malayali Dravidian ethnicity, while the rest is mostly made up of Indo-Aryan, Jewish, and Arab elements in both culture and blood. Kerala is also home to 321,000 indigenous tribal Adivasis (1.10% of the populace), who are mostly concentrated in the eastern districts. Malayalam is Kerala’s official language; Tamil and various Adivasi languages are also spoken by ethnic minorities. Kerala is home to 3.44% of India's people, and — at 819 persons per km² — its land is three times as densely settled as the rest of India.

However, Kerala's population growth rate is India's lowest; Indeed, Kerala's decadal growth (9.42% in 2001) is less than half the all-India average of 21.34%. Additionally, whereas Kerala's population more than doubled between 1951 and 1991 — adding 156 lakh (15.6 million) people to reach a total of 291 lakh (29.1 million) residents in 1991 — the population stood at less than 320 lakh (32 million) by 2001. Kerala's people are most densely settled in the coastal region, leaving the eastern hills and mountains comparatively sparsely populated.

Women comprise 51.42% of the population, while Kerala's principal religions are Hinduism (56.1%), Islam (24.7%), and Christianity (19%). Remnants of a once substantial Cochin Jewish population — most of which made aliyah to Israel — also practice Judaism. In comparison with the rest of India, Kerala experiences relatively little sectarianism. Nevertheless, there have been signs of increasing influences from
religious extremist organisations. In addition, Kerala has among the highest rates of criminality — including rates of rape and violent crime far above national averages — in India, ranking third among Indian states.

Kerala's society is less patriarchal than the rest of the Third World. Many Keralites (some Hindus, and the Muslims of Malabar) follow a traditional matrilineal system known as marumakkathayam. However, Christians, Muslims, and some Hindu castes such as the Namboothiri and Ezhava follow makkathayam, a patrilineal system. Kerala's gender relations are among the most equitable in India and the Third World. However, this too is coming under threat, from such forces as patriarchy-enforced oppression of women (for example, 45% of Keralite women have experienced at least one incident of physical violence, while domestic violence against women is on the rise), globalisation, modernisation, and "Sanskritisation" (the subaltern poor's emulation of higher castes).

Kerala's human development indices — elimination of poverty, primary-level education, and healthcare — are among the best in India. For example, Kerala's literacy rate (91%) and life expectancy years) are now the highest in India. Meanwhile, Kerala's rural poverty rate fell from 69% (1970–1971) to 19% (1993–1994), while the overall (urban and rural) rate fell 36% during the 1970s and 1980s. These changes stem largely from efforts begun in the late 19th century by the kingdoms of Cochin and Travancore to boost social welfare. This focus was maintained by Kerala's post-independence government.

However, Kerala's unemployment and suicide rates are high by Indian standards. Kerala's above-unity female-to-male ratio — 1.058 — also
distinguishes it from the rest of India. The same is true of its sub-replacement fertility level and infant mortality rate (estimated at 12 to 14 deaths per 1,000 live births). However, Kerala's morbidity rate is higher than that of any other Indian state — 118 (rural Keralites) and 88 (urban) per 1,000 people; the corresponding all-India figures are 55 and 54 per 1,000, respectively. Kerala's 13.3% prevalence of low birth weight is substantially higher than that of First World nations. Further, outbreaks of water-borne diseases — including diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis, and typhoid — among the more than 50% of Keralites who rely on some 30 lakh (3 million) water wells constitutes another problem, a situation only exacerbated by the widespread lack of sewerage.

Kerala's healthcare system has garnered international acclaim, with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) designating Kerala the world's first "baby-friendly state" — for example, more than 95% of Keralite births are hospital-delivered. Aside from ayurveda (both elite and popular forms), siddha, and unani, many endangered and endemic modes of traditional medicine including kalari, marmachikitsa, and vishavaidyam are practiced.

These propagate via gurukula discipleship, and comprise a fusion of both medicinal and supernatural treatments, and are partly responsible for drawing increasing numbers of medical tourists. A steadily aging population 11.2% of Keralites are over age 60 and low birthrate per 1,000 among the under-developed world's lowest) make Kerala (together with Cuba) one of the few regions of the Third World to have undergone the "demographic transition" characteristic of such developed nations as Canada, Japan, and Norway.
Culture

Kalarippayattu, a form of martial art dating from 11th–12th-century Kerala is experiencing a revival. Here, experts use cane staffs (kettukari) in the kolthari style of combat.

Kerala's culture is mainly Dravidian in origin, deriving from a greater Tamil-heritage region known as Tamilakam. Later, Kerala's culture was elaborated on through centuries of contact with overseas cultures. Native performing arts include koodiyattom, kathakali – from katha ("story") and kali ("performance") and its offshoot Kerala natanam, koothu (akin to stand-up comedy), mohiniaattam ("dance of the enchantress"), thullal, padayani, and theyyam. Other arts are more religion- and tribal-themed. These include oppana (originally from Malabar), which combines dance, rhythmic hand clapping, and ishal vocalisations. However, many of these artforms largely play to tourists or at youth festivals, and are not as popular among most ordinary Keralites. These people look to more contemporary art and performance styles, including those employing mimicry and parody. Additionally, a substantial Malayalam film industry effectively competes against both Bollywood and Hollywood.

Malayalam literature is ancient in origin, and includes such figures as the 14th-century Niranam poets (Madhava Panikkar, Sankara Panikkar and Rama Panikkar), whose works mark the dawn of both modern Malayalam language and indigenous Keralite poetry. The "triumvirate of poets" (Kavithrayam: Kumaran Asan, Vallathol Narayana Menon, and Ulloor S. Parameswara Iyer) are recognised for moving Keralite poetry away from archaic sophistry and metaphysics, and towards a more lyrical mode. In the second half of the 19th century, Jnanpith awardees like G Sankara Kurup, S. K. Pottakkat, and M. T. Vasudevan Nair have added to
Malayalam literature. Later, such contemporary Keralite Indian English writers as Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy — whose 1996 semi-autobiographical bestseller The God of Small Things is set in the Kottayam town of Ayemenem — have garnered international recognition.

Kerala's music also has ancient roots. Carnatic music dominates Keralite traditional music; this was the result of Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma's popularisation of the genre in the 19th century. Raga-based renditions known as sopianam accompany kathakali performances. Melam (including the paandi and panchari variants) is a more percussive style of music; it is performed at mandir-centered festivals using the chenda. Melam ensembles comprise up to 150 musicians, and performances may last up to four hours. Panchavadyam is a different form of percussion ensemble, in which up to 100 artists use five types of percussion instrument. Kerala has various styles of folk and tribal music. The popular music of Kerala as in the rest of India is dominated by the filmi music of Indian cinema.

A procession of gold-caparisoned elephants at the Thrissur Pooram. Poorams are Hindu mandir-centered festivals popular among both Keralites and tourists.

Kerala has its own Malayalam calendar, which is used to plan agricultural and religious activities. Kerala's cuisine is typically served as a sadhya on green banana leaves; such spicy dishes as idli, payasam, pulisherry, puttucuddla, puzhukku, rasam, and sambar are typical. Keralites both men and women alike traditionally don flowing and unstitched garments. These include the mundu, a loose piece of cloth wrapped around men's waists. Women typically wear the sari, a long and elaborately wrapped banner of cloth, wearable in various styles.
Several ancient ritualised arts are Keralite in origin; these include kalaripayattu (kalari ("place", "threshing floor", or "battlefield") and payattu ("exercise" or "practice"). Among the world's oldest martial arts, oral tradition attributes kalaripayattu's emergence to Parasurama. Other ritual arts include theyyam and poorakkali. However, Keralites are increasingly turning to more modern activities like cricket, kabaddi, soccer, and badminton. Dozens of large stadiums including Kochi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Thiruvananthapuram's Chandrashekaran Nair Stadium attest to the mass appeal of such sports among Keralites. Television (especially "mega serials" and cartoons) and the Internet have impacted Keralite culture. Yet Keralites maintain high rates of newspaper subscription 50% spend an average of about seven hours a week reading novels and other books, host a sizeable "people's science" movement, and participate in such activities as writers' cooperatives.

2.5 THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu: The colourful, exuberant, friendly land of Tamils, finds its ultimate expression in stone, in music and in religion. Tamil Nadu, situated on the eastern coast at the southern tip of the Indian Peninsula, has a coastline of about 1000 Km long. It is the home of Dravidian art and culture. The most famous temples are the Meenakshi Temple at Madurai, the Kapalishwarar and Parthasarathy temples at Chennai, and the Srirangam temple in Tiruchchirappalli. The splendid festivals, the feast of carnatic music and famous dance form - Bharat Natyam, the shimmering silk of Kachipuram and the most delicious South Indian food lingers for long in the memory of the visitor. Other facets of Tamil Nadu are its wildlife and its hill resorts that dots the Nilgiris and the nearby range. It is also one of the country's major industrial and agricultural states.
Tamil Nadu is a state at the southern tip of India. The bordering states/territories are Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The island nation of Sri Lanka, which has a significant Tamil minority, lies off the southeast coast.

Tamil Nadu has the third largest urban agglomeration nationwide and the second most industrialized state in India. Unlike most other parts of the country, Tamil Nadu gets its rainfall largely from the "North-East monsoon" in the months of October-December. There is a long standing dispute with Karnataka over the matter of water from the Kaveri River. The river flows south from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, and both regions draw on water from the river, prompting concerns over whether the upper riparian Karnataka has released its fair share of river water to the lower riparian Tamil Nadu.

Chennai, which was known until 1996 as Madras, is the fourth largest city of India and the state capital. Also known as the auto capital of India, Chennai is the home of Marina Beach, the second longest beach in the world. Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Salem and Tirunelveli are other large cities of Tamil Nadu.

**Population**

Tamil Nadu's population stood at 62,110,839 as of 00.00 hours of March 1 2001. It is the sixth most populous State of the Indian Union behind Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. The State accounts for 6.05% of the country's population. Its population density at 478 persons per square kilometre, up from 429 in 1991, and much higher than the all-India density of 324, makes it the eleventh most densely populated State (1991 rank:10). Approximately 47% of Tamil
Nadu's population lives in urban areas, one of the highest percentages in India.

During the decade 1991-2001, Tamil Nadu reported the second lowest decadal growth in population after Kerala, among the group of States with population exceeding 20 million in 2001. While Kerala's population grew by 9.42% between 1991 and 2001, Tamil Nadu's grew by 11.19%. In fact, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Orissa are the only three States in this group to have shown a decline in decadal percentage change in population in every decade since 1971.

**Culture**

Festivals in Tamil Nadu start with traditional kolam

Tamil Civilization is one of the oldest in the World. Unique cultural features, like Tanjore paintings, Bharatanatyam and Tamil architecture, give Tamil Nadu a heritage to be proud of. Tamil Chola kings conquered lands as far North as the Himalayas, and as far East as Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia. The world's oldest dam was built across the Kaveri river in Tamil Nadu by King Karikala Chola. Today, the rapidly increasing IT boom in Tamil Nadu cities like Chennai and Coimbatore makes Tamil Nadu the economic hotspot of India. Today, the Tamil Indians preserve their Tamil culture, while being proud Indians and active global citizens.

Tamil Nadu is known for its rich tradition of literature, music and dance which continue to flourish today. It is one of the most progressive and industrialized states in India. Tamil is the official language of Tamil Nadu (as well as one of the official languages of India).
Tamil Nadu is also home to the large Tamil film industry, producing a huge number of Tamil films each year. Chennai has often been referred to as Kollywood, a conflation of Hollywood and Kodambakkam (the section of Chennai that houses the cinema related facilities).

Pongal, a four-day harvest festival, is the most celebrated festival of Tamil Nadu. It is then followed in importance by ThaiPucam, Tamil New Year which generally falls on the April 14 or 15 of the English calendar and DheepaVali (Diwali). The first month in the Tamil calendar is Chittirai. Apart from these, other national festivals like Saraswathi Poojai (Dasara) and Vinayaka Chathurthi are also celebrated.

The day of incarnation of Vaikundar, Ayya Vaikunda Avataram was celebrated in a grand scale in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. In addition the Velankanni Church and The Nagore mosque stand testimony to the secular and multi-religious nature of the state.

**Textiles**

The textile industry plays a significant role in the Indian economy by providing direct employment to an estimated 35 million people, and thereby contributing 4% of GDP and 35% of Gross Export Earnings. The textile sector contributes to 14% of the manufacturing sector. The city of Tirupur, in Tamil Nadu is the largest garment exporter in India and sometimes referred to as Textile valley of India. In 2004, the export turnover from the town was more than Rs 5,000 Crore ($1,100 million USD). Some 7,000 garment units in the town provide employment opportunity to 1 million people. 56% of India’s total knitwear exports come from Tirupur. The Export Import Policy of 2002-2007 acknowledges Tirupur for its contribution to the export efforts. Next to
Tirupur, the city of Karur generates around $300 million USD a year in foreign exchange through home textile exports such as bed linens, kitchen linens, toilet linens, table linens and wall hangings. Madurai and Kanchipuram is very famous for handloom sarees. This handloom sarees are on sale all over India. Tamilnadu, Karnataka, and Kerala are the main states for wholesale sarees. This sarees manufacturing raw materials are purchased from salem and coimbatore.

**Industry and manufacturing**

Many heavy engineering and manufacturing-based companies are centered in and around the suburbs of Chennai (nicknamed, "The Detroit of India"). Chennai boasts the presence of global vehicle manufacturing giants like Ford, Caterpillar, Hyundai, BMW and Mitsubishi as well as domestic heavyweights like MRF, TI cycles of India, Ashok Leyland, Royal'Enfield, TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited) and TVS. Everything from automobiles, railway coaches, battle-tanks, tractors, motorbikes and heavy vehicles are manufactured in Tamil Nadu. Karur is known for its bus body building industries where most of the buses used in south India are manufactured.

The Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant, Ennore Thermal Plant, Neyveli Lignite Power Plant, Vriddachalam Ceramics and the Narimanam Natural Gas Plants are major sources of Tamil Nadu's electricity. Tamil Nadu sources a significant proportion of its power needs from renewable sources with Wind Power contributing over 2000 MW or over 20% of the needs. As of 2005, Tamil Nadu is one of the few Indian states with surplus power electricity, enabling the electrical authority to sell it to neighbouring states. India's leading steel producer SAIL has a steel plant in Salem, Tamilnadu.
Electronics manufacturing is a growing industry in Tamil Nadu. Companies like Nokia, Flextronics and Foxconn have chosen Chennai as their South Asian manufacturing hub. Products manufactured include circuit boards and cellular phone handsets. Ericsson also has an R&D facility in Chennai.

The town of Sivakasi which is in Virudhunagar district is a leader in the areas of printing, fireworks, and safety matches. It was fondly called as Kutty Japan or "little Japan" by Dr. Jawaharlal Nehru. It contributes to 80% of India's production of safety matches as well as 90% of India's total fireworks production. Sivakasi provides over 60% of India's total offset printing solutions and ranks as one of the highest taxpaying towns in India. Sivakasi also is a 100% employed town, putting it in the company of very few towns in India. Virudhunagar district is famous for the oil and cotton industry. Kamarajar, a former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was born in Virudhunagar district.

Virudhunagar is the business city of Tamil Nadu, India.

Hosur houses a whole lot of industries from abrasives, automobiles, bakery to welding and wire mesh industries. TVS Motor Company and Ashok Leyland are famous Indian automobile companies which have their manufacturing units in Hosur.

There are 320 engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu, which is next to Maharashtra. It is famous in the transportation sector. There are also many private and government airways.
Agriculture

Tamil Nadu has historically been an agricultural state, while its advances in other fields launched the state into competition with other areas. Even so, Tamil Nadu is a leading producer of agricultural products in India. Tamil Nadu agriculture is heavily dependent on the river water and Monsoon rains. The perennial rivers are Palar, Cheyyar, Ponnaiyar, Kaveri, Meyar, Bhavani, Amaravati, Vaigai, and Chittar & Tamaraparani. Non-perennial rivers include the Vellar, Noyal, Suruli, Gundar, Vaipar, Valparai and Varshali. Tamil Nadu is also the leading producer of Kambu, Cholam, Rye, ground nuts, oil, seeds and sugar cane in India. At present Tamil Nadu is India's second biggest producer of rice, next to Punjab where there is perennial source of irrigation. Tamil Nadu is the home to Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, known as the "father of the Green Revolution" in India. The town of Namakkal is also known as the Poulty hub of India.

Software

Chennai is the second leading Software exporter in India, after Bangalore. India's largest IT park is housed at Chennai. Software exports from Tamil Nadu rose from Rs.7,600 Crore ($1,600 million) in 2003-04 to Rs.11,000 Crore ($2.4 Billion USD) in 2004-05. Chennai is a hub for e-publishing, as there are 47 e-publishing units registered with the STPI in Chennai and 25 in Bangalore. Companies such as HCL, Wipro, TCS, Satyam, Infosys, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Covansys, Ford Information Technology, Xansa, Verizon, iSoft, iNautix, Electronic Data Systems, Bally and many others have offices in Chennai. Infosys Technologies has set up India's largest software development centre to
house 25,000 software professionals at an estimated investment of Rs 1.250 Crore ($270 million USD) in Chennai. India's largest IT park is housed at Chennai, jointly made by Ascendas India Ltd, a Singapore-based company engaged in providing business space solutions, and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).

**Business Process Outsourcing Services**

Chennai is now emerging as the most preferred destination for high-end BPOs in financial services, healthcare and other back-office services for multinational companies. Companies like Congruent Solutions (back-end services for California-based retirement funds), Secova eServices (HR service provider for US clients), Lason India (data processing for healthcare and financial services clients in the US) and Office Tiger (outsourcing of creative works) have set up centres here to take advantage of Chennai's "quality talent pool and infrastructure". Stanchart, eServe (Citibank), ABN AMRO and World Bank have also chosen the city for their back-office functions.

In the recent surveys, Chennai has been rated as the most attractive city for Offshoring Services.

**Knowledge Process Outsourcing**

Chennai is also the preferred destination for companies outsourcing their high-end knowledge intensive operations. Testimony to this is the presence of major market research companies such as Frost & Sullivan and equity research companies such as Irevna in Chennai. This is the next high growth area that Chennai is witnessing.
Governance

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneering state in E-Governance initiatives in India. A large part of the government records like land ownership records are already digitised and all major offices of the state government like Urban Local Bodies - All the Corporations and Municipal Office activities - revenue collection etc, land registration offices, and transport offices have been computerized, thereby improving the quality of service and transparency in operations.

Districts

There are 30 Districts in Tamil Nadu, with Krishnagiri District being the thirtieth with headquarters at Krishnagiri, by bifurcating the Dharmapuri district.

Tourism

A view of temple tank and gopuram at Uthirakosamangai temple in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu, south India, has attracted many tourists from all over the world.

Tamil Nadu is a land of varied beauty. It is mostly famous for its numerous Hindu temples based on the Dravidian architecture. The temples are of a distinct style which is famous for its towering Gopuram. Popular temple towns include Madurai, Trichy, Tanjore, Kanchipuram, Palani, Swamithoppe, Tiruvallur and Mahabalipuram. The most famous temple is the Brahadeeswara temple in Thanjavur that is about 1000 years old and is on the UNESCO's World Heritage Site list. Tamil Nadu also has the Navagraha temples that are a popular pilgrim circuit. Kanyakumari, the southern most tip of peninsular India, is famous for its distinct and beautiful sunrise, Vivekanda Rock Memorial on the mid-sea,
Thiruvalluvar statue and has some very green hilly landscape and picture-postcard perfect sceneries around the district and Nagercoil. Hill stations like Kodaikanal and Nilgiris boast some of the stunning landscapes in India. The Nilgiris also has one of the two mountain Railways in India and is being evaluated for the UNESCO’s World Heritage Site list. The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary located in Gudalur near the border of Karnataka known for its elephants, tigers and deer and the Pitchavaram Mangrove forests located in Chidambaram are two of the many eco-tourism spots of importance.

The profile of the States depicts that all the four states have potential to develop the respective state to a sustainable tourism state and attract the foreign customers/clients. However, also has all the resources and opportunities to attract the domestic customers also repeatedly.

**Conclusion**

A brief idea as narrated about each state with reference to brief history of the state, politics, people, culture,GDP, population, important tourist centres, geographic and climatic conditions including suitable seasons for visiting, waterfalls, resorts, hill stations, festivals and temples etc convincingly presents the immensely existing tourism potentials in South Indian States which has not been tapped professionally and strategically to date.