

GEOGRAPHY OF TAMILNADU

UNIT-I

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING –PHYSICAL DIVISIONS-CLIMATE-RIVERS-SOILS AND NATURAL VEGETATIONS

Tamil Nadu is a state in southern India. Its capital and largest city is Chennai. Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian subcontinent and is bordered by the union territory of Puducherry and the South Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. It is bounded by the Eastern Ghats on the north, by the Nilgiri Mountains, the Meghamalai Hills, and Kerala on the west, by the Bay of Bengal in the east, by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait on the southeast, and by the Indian Ocean on the south. The state shares a maritime border with the nation of Sri Lanka.

The region was ruled by several empires, including the three great empires – Chera, Chola and Pandyan empires, which shape the region's cuisine, culture, and architecture. After the fall of Kingdom of Mysore, the British Colonial rule during the modern period led to the emergence of Chennai, then known as Madras, as a metropolitan city. Modern-day Tamil Nadu was formed in 1956 after the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines. The state is home to a number of historic buildings, multi-religious pilgrimage sites, hill stations and three World Heritage sites.

Tamil Nadu is the tenth largest Indian state by area and the sixth largest by population. The economy of Tamil Nadu is the second-largest state economy in India with ₹18.45 trillion (US\$260 billion) in gross domestic product with a per capita GDP of ₹218,000 (US\$3,100). It ranks 11th among all Indian states in human development index.^[5] Tamil Nadu is the most urbanised state in India, and one of the most industrialised states; the manufacturing sector accounts for more than one-third of the state's GDP.^[11] Its official language is Tamil, which is one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world.

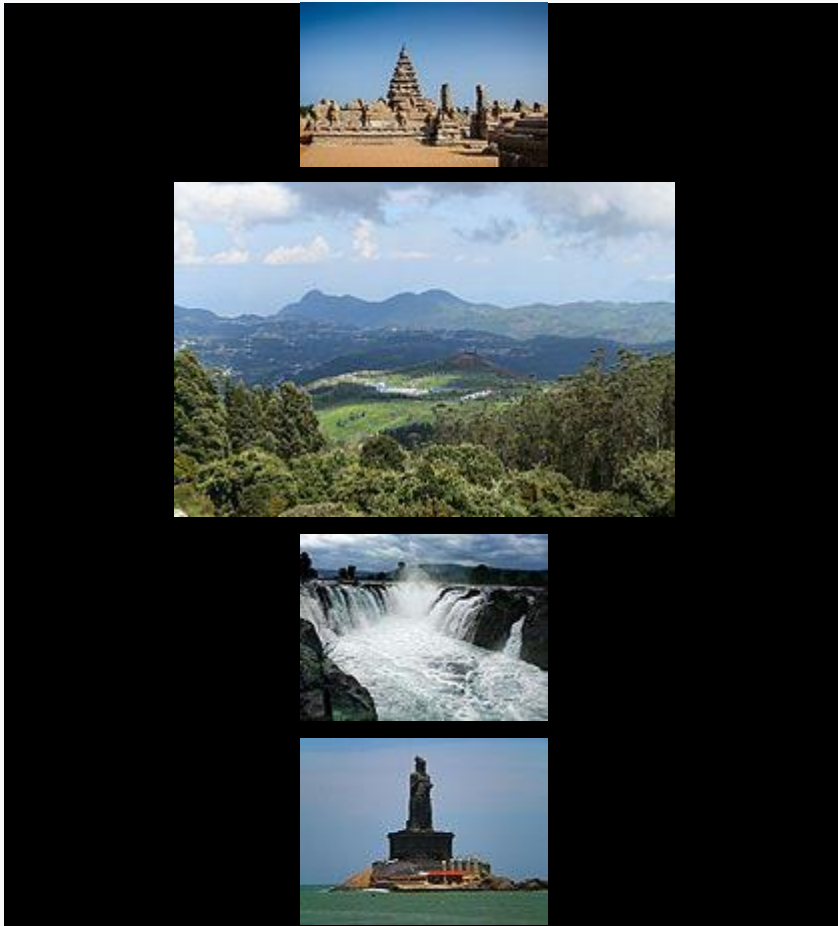
Tamil Nadu

State



Geography Governance
and administration

Main articles: Government of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Legislature



From top, left to right:

Brihadisvara Temple, Shore Temple, Ranganathaswamy Temple, Nilgiri Mountains from Doddabetta Peak, Hogenakkal Falls and Thiruvalluvar Statue



Emblem



Motto(s):


Vaymaiye Vellum
(*Truth alone triumphs*)



Anthem: "Tamil Thai Valthu"^[2]
(*Invocation to Mother Tamil*)










Location of Tamil Nadu in India

Coordinates:  13.09°N 80.27°ECoordinates:  13.09°N 80.27°E

Country	 India
Formation	26 January 1950
Capital and largest city	Chennai
Districts	38
Government	
• Body	Government of Tamil Nadu
• Governor	Banwarilal Purohit
• Chief Minister	Edappadi K. Palaniswami (AIADMK)
• Deputy Chief Minister	O. Panneerselvam (AIADMK)
• Legislature	Unicameral (234 seats) ^[1]
• Parliamentary constituency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lok Sabha (39 seats)• Rajya Sabha (18 seats)

Area	
• Total Area rank	130,058 km ² (50,216 sq mi) 10th
Population (2011) ^[2]	
• Total	72,147,030
• Rank	6th
• Density	550/km ² (1,400/sq mi)
Demonym(s)	Tamilar
GDP (2019–20) ^[3]	
• Total	₹18.45 trillion (US\$260 billion)
• Per capita	₹218,599 (US\$3,100)
Languages	
• Official	Tamil ^[4]
• Additional official	English ^[4]
Time zone	UTC+05:30 (IST)
ISO 3166 code	IN-TN
Vehicle registration	TN
HDI (2018)	▲ 0.708 ^[5] high · 11th
Literacy (2011)	80.33% ^[6]
Sex ratio (2019)	996 ♀/1000 ♂
Coastline	1,076 km (669 mi)
Website	www.tn.gov.in
Symbols of Tamil Nadu	
Emblem	 Emblem of Tamil Nadu Tiruwilliputhur Andal Temple
Song	"Invocation to Goddess Tamil"
Dance	 Bharatanatyam

Mammal	 Nilgiri Tahr
Bird	 Emerald dove
Insect	 Tamil Yeoman
Flower	 Gloriosa lily
Fruit	 Jackfruit
Tree	 Palm Tree
Sport	 Kabaddi

^# Jana Gana Mana is the national anthem, while Invocation to Mother Tamil is the state song/anthem.

^† Established in 1773; Madras State was formed in 1950 and renamed as Tamil Nadu on 14 January 1969^[7]



Madras High Court, Chennai

The governor is the constitutional head of the state while the Chief Minister is the head of the government and the head of the council of ministers.^[73] The Chief Justice of the Madras High Court is the head of the judiciary.^[73] The present Governor, Chief Minister and the Chief Justice are Banwarilal Purohit,^[74] Edappadi K. Palaniswami^[75] and Sanjib Banerjee^[76] respectively. Administratively the state is divided into 38 districts. Chennai, the capital of the state is the fourth largest urban agglomeration in India and is also one of the major metropolitan cities of India. The state comprises 39 Lok Sabha constituencies and 234 Legislative Assembly constituencies.^[77]

Tamil Nadu had a bicameral legislature until 1986, when it was replaced with a unicameral legislature, like most other states in India. The term length of the government is five years. The present government is headed by Edappadi K. Palaniswami, after the demise of former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, J. Jayalithaa of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. The Tamil Nadu legislative assembly is housed at the Fort St. George in Chennai. The state had come under the president's rule on four occasions – first from 1976 to 1977, next for a short period in 1980, then from 1988 to 1989 and the latest in 1991.

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneering state of E-Governance initiatives in India. A large part of the government records like land ownership records are digitised and all major offices of the state government like Urban Local Bodies – all the corporations and municipal office activities – revenue collection, land registration offices, and transport offices have been computerised. Tamil Nadu is one of the states where law and order has been maintained largely successfully.^[78] The Tamil Nadu Police Force is over 140 years old. It is the fifth-largest state police force in India (as of 2015, total police force of TN is 1,11,448) and has the highest proportion of women police personnel in the country (total women police personnel of TN is 13,842 which is about 12.42%) to specifically handled violence against women in Tamil Nadu.^{[79][80]} In 2003, the state had a total police population ratio of 1:668, higher than the national average of 1:717.

Administrative subdivisions

Districts of Tamil Nadu



Districts of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is divided into four major divisions as per the ancient Tamil kings namely Pallava Nadu division, Chera Nadu division, Chola Nadu division and Pandya Nadu division and the four divisions are further subdivided into 38 districts, which are listed below. A district is administered by a District Collector who is mostly an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) member, appointed by State Government. Districts are further divided into 226 Taluks administered by Tahsildars comprising 1127 Revenue blocks administered by Revenue Inspector (RI). A District has also one or more Revenue Divisions (in total 76) administered by Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), constituted by many Revenue Blocks. 16,564 Revenue villages (Village Panchayat) are the primary grassroots level administrative units which in turn might include many villages and administered by a Village Administrative Officer (VAO), many of which form a Revenue Block. Cities and towns are administered by Municipal corporations and Municipalities respectively. The urban bodies include 15 city corporations, 152 municipalities and 529 town panchayats.^{[81][82][83]} The rural bodies include 31 district panchayats, 385 panchayat unions and 12,524 village panchayats.^{[84][85][86]}

- North
 - Chennai-(01)
 - Vellore-(18)
 - Tiruvannamalai-(19)
 - Cuddalore-(22)
 - Villuppuram-(23)
- West
 - Coimbatore-(02)
 - Nilgiris-(05)
 - Salem-(07)
 - Dharmapuri-(11)
 - Erode-(13)
- Central
 - Thanjavur-(08)
 - Tiruchirappalli-(09)
 - Pudukkottai-(12)
 - Nagapattinam-(20)
 - Tiruvarur-(21)
- South
 - Kanyakumari-(03)
 - Madurai-(04)
 - Ramanathapuram-(06)
 - Tirunelveli-(10)
 - Virudhunagar-(14)

- Kancheepuram- (28)
- Tiruvallur-(29)
- Kallakurichi- (33)
- Chengalpattu- (36)
- Tirupattur -(35)
- Ranipet -(37)
- Dindigul- (16)
- Karur-(24)
- Namakkal- (27)
- Krishnagiri- (30)
- Tirupur- (32)
- Perambalur- (25)
- Ariyalur-(31)
- Mayiladuthurai -(38)
- Sivagangai-(15)
- Thoothukudi- (17)
- Theni-(26)
- Tenkasi-(34)

Districts of Tamil Nadu hide

	District	Headquarters	Area (km ²)	Altitude m/ft	Population (2011)	Population density (/km ²)
1	<u>Ariyalur</u>	<u>Ariyalur</u>	1,944	76/250	752,481	387
2	<u>Chengalpattu</u>	<u>Chengalpattu</u>	2,945	36/118	2,556,423	870
3	<u>Chennai</u>	<u>Chennai</u>	426	6.7/21.9	7,088,000	26,903
4	<u>Coimbatore</u>	<u>Coimbatore</u>	4,642	411/1348	3,172,578	648
5	<u>Cuddalore</u>	<u>Cuddalore</u>	3,705	1/3.2	2,600,880	702
6	<u>Dharmapuri</u>	<u>Dharmapuri</u>	4,527	457/1500	1,502,900	332
7	<u>Dindigul</u>	<u>Dindigul</u>	6,054	268/880	2,161,367	357
8	<u>Erode</u>	<u>Erode</u>	5,692	176/577	2,259,608	397
9	<u>Kallakurichi</u>	<u>Kallakurichi</u>	2,174	130/426	548,950	254
10	<u>Kanyakumari</u>	<u>Nagercoil</u>	1,685	40/131	1,863,174	1,106
11	<u>Kanchipuram</u>	<u>Kanchipuram</u>	1,448		1,441,829	1,000
12	<u>Karur</u>	<u>Karur</u>	2,902		1,076,588	371
13	<u>Krishnagiri</u>	<u>Krishnagiri</u>	5,091		1,883,731	370
14	<u>Madurai</u>	<u>Madurai</u>	3,695		2,441,038	663
15	<u>Mayiladuthurai</u>	<u>Mayiladuthurai</u>	1,172		917,000	782
16	<u>Nagapattinam</u>	<u>Nagapattinam</u>	1,397		697,069	498
17	<u>Namakkal</u>	<u>Namakkal</u>	3,402		1,721,179	506
18	<u>Nilgiris</u>	<u>Udagamandalam</u>	2,552		735,071	288
19	<u>Perambalur</u>	<u>Perambalur</u>	1,748		564,511	323
20	<u>Pudukkottai</u>	<u>Pudukkottai</u>	4,652		1,618,725	348

Districts of Tamil Nadu hide

	District	Headquarters	Area (km²)	Altitude m/ft	Population (2011)	Population density (/km²)
21	<u>Ramanathapuram</u>	<u>Ramanathapuram</u>	4,180		1,337,560	320
22	<u>Ranipet</u>	<u>Ranipet</u>	2,234		1,210,277	541
23	<u>Salem</u>	<u>Salem</u>	5,249		3,480,008	663
24	<u>Sivaganga</u>	<u>Sivaganga</u>	4,140		1,341,250	324
25	<u>Tenkasi</u>	<u>Tenkasi</u>	2,916		1,407,627	480
26	<u>Thanjavur</u>	<u>Thanjavur</u>	3,477		2,302,781	661
27	<u>Theni</u>	<u>Theni</u>	2,872		1,143,684	397
28	<u>Thoothukudi</u>	<u>Thoothukudi</u>	4,599		1,738,376	378
29	<u>Tiruchirappalli</u>	<u>Tiruchirappalli</u>	4,508		2,713,858	602
30	<u>Tirunelveli</u>	<u>Tirunelveli</u>	3,907		1,670,608	427
31	<u>Tirupathur</u>	<u>Tirupathur</u>	1,797		1,111,812	618
32	<u>Tirupur</u>	<u>Tirupur</u>	5,192		2,471,222	476
33	<u>Tiruvallur</u>	<u>Tiruvallur</u>	3,552		3,725,697	1,049
34	<u>Tiruvannamalai</u>	<u>Tiruvannamalai</u>	6,188		2,464,875	667
35	<u>Tiruvarur</u>	<u>Tiruvarur</u>	2,379		1,268,094	533
36	<u>Vellore</u>	<u>Vellore</u>	2,030		1,614,242	795
37	<u>Viluppuram</u>	<u>Viluppuram</u>	3,725		2,093,003	560
38	<u>Virudhunagar</u>	<u>Virudhunagar</u>	4,280		1,943,309	454



Topographic map of Tamil Nadu



Western Ghats traverse along the western border of Tamil Nadu

Geography of Tamil Nadu

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

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

Tamil Nadu has the country's third-longest coastline at about 906.9 km (563.5 mi).^[69] Pamban Island and a group of smaller limestone shoals make up the northern portion of Adam's Bridge, which was formerly a natural bridge linking India with Sri Lanka. Tamil Nadu's coastline bore the brunt of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami when it hit India, which caused 7,793 direct deaths in the state. Tamil Nadu falls mostly in a region of low seismic hazard with the exception of the western border areas that lie in a low to moderate hazard zone; as per the 2002 Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) map, Tamil Nadu falls in Zones II and III. Historically, parts of this region have experienced seismic activity in the M5.0 range.^[70]

Climate

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

- South west monsoon from June to September, with strong southwest winds;
- North east monsoon from October to December, with dominant northeast winds;

The annual rainfall of the state is about 945 mm (37.2 in) of which 48 per cent is through the northeast monsoon, and 32 per cent through the southwest monsoon. Since the state is entirely dependent on rains for recharging its water resources, monsoon failures lead to acute water scarcity and severe drought.^[71] Tamil Nadu is divided into seven agro-climatic zones: northeast, northwest, west, southern, high rainfall, high altitude hilly, and Kaveri Delta (the most fertile agricultural zone).

Flora and fauna

Wildlife of Tamil Nadu and List of birds of Tamil Nadu

There are about 2,000 species of wildlife that are native to Tamil Nadu. Protected areas provide safe habitat for large mammals including elephants, tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, gaurs, lion-tailed macaques, Nilgiri langurs, Nilgiri tahrs, grizzled giant squirrels and sambar deer, resident and migratory birds such as cormorants, darters, herons, egrets, open-billed storks, spoonbills and white ibises, little grebes, Indian moorhen, black-winged stilts, a few migratory ducks and occasionally grey pelicans, marine species such as the dugongs, turtles, dolphins, Balanoglossus and a wide variety of fish and insects.

Indian Angiosperm diversity comprises 17,672 species with Tamil Nadu leading all states in the country, with 5640 species accounting for 1/3 of the total flora of India. This includes 1,559 species of medicinal plants, 533 endemic species, 260 species of wild relatives of cultivated plants and 230 red-listed species. The gymnosperm diversity of the country is 64 species of which Tamil Nadu has four indigenous species and about 60 introduced species.

The Pteridophytes diversity of India includes 1,022 species of which Tamil Nadu has about 184 species. Vast numbers of bryophytes, lichen, fungi, algae, and bacteria are among the wild plant diversity of Tamil Nadu.

Common plant species include the state tree: palmyra palm, eucalyptus, rubber, cinchona, clumping bamboos (Bambusa arundinacea), common teak, Anogeissus latifolia, Indian laurel, grewia, and blooming trees like Indian laburnum, ardisia, and solanaceae. Rare and unique plant life includes Combretum ovalifolium, ebony (Diospyros nilagrica), Habenaria rariflora (orchid), Alsophila, Impatiens elegans, Ranunculus reniformis, and royal fern.^[72] lichen, fungi, algae, and bacteria are among the wild plant diversity of Tamil Nadu.