

Tiruchirappalli is the fourth most populous city of Tamil Nadu. It is situated in the centre of the state, on the banks of the Kaveri River. The city is a City corporation, the administrative headquarters of Tiruchirapalli District.

Trichy encompasses Srirangam , the foremost Vaishnavite temple and the biggest functioning Hindu temple in the world. Trichy also encompasses "ThiruAnaikka" (ThiruvAnaikkaval), one of the five main abodes ("Panchaboodha Sthalam") of Lord Shiva. ThiruvAnaikkaval is the House of Water.

Origins

The name of the town, "Tiruchirapalli", originated as a tribute (thiru in Tamil means respected) to a Jain monk called "Chira". There is also a belief that Tiruchirapalli was named after a three headed demon "Trishira" (the son of Ravana) who performed penance at the Siva temple here and obtained boons here.

There is yet another belief about the origins of the name Trichy. Apparently the name started out as Thiru Javvandhipuram (Place of Marigold flowers; javvandhi, the Tamil name for the flower Marigold which grew (and still does) in abundance in and around this region and the word puram refers to a place of dwelling) which over time became corrupted to Trichy.

History

Tiruchirapalli is home to many historic temples, monuments, churches and mosques. Uraiur (also pronounced as Oraiyur) which is the Old Tiruchy has a long tradition. With over 2,500 years of known history, it was the capital of the early Cholas. The oldest man made dam Kallanai was built by Karaikala Cholan across the river Kaveri about 10 miles from Uraiur. It was an important town in the days of the later Cholas, Nayaks as well as during the early days of the British East India Company. The conquest of Tiruchirapalli by the British East India Company marked a major step in the British conquest of India.