

= Sirkazhi =

Sirkazhi ([?si?rka??i?]) is a municipal town in Nagapattinam district in Tamil Nadu , India . It is located 13 km (8 @. @ 1 mi) from the coast of the Bay of Bengal , and 250 km (160 mi) from the state capital Chennai . Sirkazhi was a part of Thanjavur district until 1991 and has later been part of Nagapattinam district . The town covers an area of 13 @. @ 21 km² (5 @. @ 10 sq mi) and in 2011 had a population of 34 @, @ 927 . It is administered by a second grade municipality. a Sirkazhi is part of the Cauvery delta region and agriculture is the major occupation . Roads are the main means of transportation ; the town has 51 @. @ 47 km (31 @. @ 98 mi) of district roads , including a national highway .

The town is believed to be of significant antiquity and has been ruled by the Medieval Cholas , Later Cholas , Later Pandyas , the Vijayanagar Empire , the Marathas and the British . The Tamil trinity of Carnatic music ; Arunachala Kavirayar (1711 ? 78) , Muthu Thandavar (1525 ? 1600) and Marimutthu Pillai (1712 ? 87) , originated from Sirkazhi . The Saiva saint Tirugnanasambandar , foremost of the Saiva Nayanars , was born here in the seventh century . The history of the town is centred on the Sattainathar Temple , which is dedicated to Hindu god Shiva .

= = Etymology and origin = =

In ancient times , this town had twelve different names , including Brahmapuram , Venupuram , Thonipuram , Kazhumalam , Pugali , Sirkazhiswaram and Shri Kali . According to Hindu legend , during one of the biggest deluges that submerged the planet earth , Hindu god Shiva is said to have carried the 64 arts on a raft (called Thoni in Tamil) . The presiding deity in the temple , Shiva , is thus called " Thoniappar " (the one who carried the raft) and the region is called " Thonipuram " . The Hindu god Brahma is believed to have worshiped Shiva here , giving the name " Bhramapureeswarar " (the one worshipped by Brahma) and so the region is also referred as " Bhramapureeswaram " . Shiva is believed to have quelled the arrogance of Hindu god Vishnu , after showing his dominance over the three worlds and hence got the name " Sattainathar " here . The town is thus called " Sattainathapuram " , which in modern times , is a suburb within Sirkazhi . The town was known as " Kalumalam " during the early Chola period . Thirugnanasambandar , the seventh century Saiva nayanar , as an infant is believed to have been fed with the milk of wisdom by the divine mother Parvati on the banks of the temple tank . The child Sambandar started singing the anthology of Tevaram hymns from then on , commencing with " Todudaiya Seviyan " . Sambandar refers the town as " Kazhi " in his verses . It was called Shiyali during British rule , and after Independence , it was renamed " Sirkazhi " .

= = History = =

The earliest mention of Sirkazhi is found in the history of the Chola king Kocengannan from the Sangam Age (3rd century BCE to 4th century CE) , who is believed to have won a bloody battle here . During the 7th ? 8th century , there were widespread disputes between the Hindu sects of Saivism and Vaishnavism . Tirugnanasambandar and Thirumangai Azhwar , belonging to Saivism and Vaishnavism , respectively , and both natives of Sirkazhi , had disputes over their religious compositions and theologies during the period . The Chola Kings ruled over the region for more than four centuries , from 850 to 1280 , and were temple patrons . There 41 inscriptions from the Chola kings in the temple that record various gifts like land , sheep , cow and oil to the temple .

The region fell under the control of Pandyas in 1532 and later became part of the Thanjavur Nayak kingdom . The region was conquered in 1674 by Ekoji I (1675 ? 84) , the Maratha enemy of the Nawab of Bijapur and half @- @ brother of Shivaji (1674 ? 80) . The town and the region became part of the British East India Company during the mid @- @ 18th century . Tanjore district was constituted in 1799 when the Thanjavur Maratha ruler Serfoji II (1798 ? 1832) ceded most of his kingdom to the British East India Company in return for his restitution on the throne . After India 's independence , Sirkazhi continued to be a part of Thanjavur district until 1991 , when it became part

of the newly created Nagapattinam district .

= = Geography = =

Sirkazhi is located at 11 @. @ 23 ° N 79 @. @ 73 ° E ? / 11 @. @ 23 ; 79 @. @ 73 , on the eastern flank of the Kumbakonam @-@ Shiyali ridge , which runs along the Kollidam River . Sirkazhi has an average elevation of 5 @. @ 18 m (17 @. @ 0 ft) above sea level and is located at 13 km (8 @. @ 1 mi) west of Bay of Bengal . It is located 95 km (59 mi) north @-@ east of Thanjavur , 24 km (15 mi) north of Mayiladuthurai and 20 kilometres (12 mi) south of Chidambaram .

The town experiences long summers and short winters , and receives an average yearly rainfall of 1 @, @ 250 mm (49 in) , mainly from the north @-@ east monsoon between October and December . Its close proximity to the sea means that Sirkazhi receives more rainfall than neighbouring towns . Sirkazhi is part of the Cauvery delta region and has irrigation channels , called the Kollidam channels , which carry water from the rivers and provide a rich deposit of fertile silt before reaching the sea . The soil is black and contains fertile alluvial sediment . The area 's main crop is rice ; other crops grown in the area are coconut , tamarind and neem . The landscape mostly consists of plain lands with fields and small portions of scrub jungle . Antelope , spotted deer , wild hog , jackal and fox are present in the jungles and outlying areas of the town . Crow and ordinary game birds are found in large numbers in the town .

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake was an undersea , megathrust earthquake that occurred on 26 December 2004 , with an epicentre off the west coast of Sumatra , Indonesia , triggering a series of devastating tsunamis along coastal fringes of the Indian Ocean . Nagapattinam district was the most affected part of Tamil Nadu , accounting for 6 @, @ 064 off the 8 @, @ 009 casualties in the state . Sirkazhi remained mostly unaffected by the tsunami , but the groundwater quality deteriorated where aquifers were close to the water bodies . There was heavy salt water intrusion inland .

= = Demographics = =

According to 2011 census , Sirkali had a population of 34 @, @ 927 with a sex @-@ ratio of 1 @, @ 028 females for every 1 @, @ 000 males , much above the national average of 929 . A total of 3 @, @ 367 were under the age of six , constituting 1 @, @ 740 males and 1 @, @ 627 females . Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 23 @. @ 21 % and .13 % of the population respectively . The average literacy of the town was 81 @. @ 5 % , compared to the national average of 72 @. @ 99 % . The town had a total of : 8756 households . There were a total of 11 @, @ 476 workers , comprising 352 cultivators , 1 @, @ 398 main agricultural labourers , 150 in house hold industries , 7 @, @ 681 other workers , 1 @, @ 895 marginal workers , 88 marginal cultivators , 809 marginal agricultural labourers , 77 marginal workers in household industries and 921 other marginal workers .

As per the religious census of 2011 , Sirkazhi had 86 @. @ 91 % Hindus , 9 @. @ 46 % Muslims , 2 @. @ 16 % Christians , 0 @. @ 02 % Sikhs , 0 @. @ 46 % Buddhists , 0 @. @ 33 % Jains , 0 @. @ 63 % following other religions and 0 @. @ 04 % following no religion or did not indicate any religious preference .

In 1981 , there were 15 notified slums accommodating 4 @, @ 499 persons , constituting 17 @. @ 64 % of the population . In 2001 , there were still 15 slums accommodating 7 @, @ 533 persons , constituting 23 @. @ 37 % of the population . The slum area has remained static at 39 @. @ 45 acres (0 @. @ 1596 km2) . The town has a residential area of 2 @. @ 79 km2 (1 @. @ 08 sq mi) (20 @. @ 96 %) , commercial area of 0 @. @ 4 km2 (0 @. @ 15 sq mi) (3 @. @ 04 %) , industrial area of 0 @. @ 58 km2 (0 @. @ 22 sq mi) (4 @. @ 39 %) , public & semi public area of 1 @. @ 29 km2 (0 @. @ 50 sq mi) (9 @. @ 66 %) and undeveloped area of 8 @. @ 23 km2 (3 @. @ 18 sq mi) (38 @. @ 05 %) .

= = Economy and transport = =

The service sector provides most employment in the town . Limited agriculture is carried out ; the main crop is paddy rice . During the British Raj , Sirkazhi was known for mats made with a kind of cyperus . The headquarters of the taluka and panchayat union administration , and many government offices are located in the town . There are no major industries within the town , except for several rice mills . Sirkazhi has many Hindu temples , which draw in tourism activity . Sirkali Coop Urban Bank , founded on 23 April 1918 is the oldest bank in Sirkali . All major nationalised banks and private banks have branches in the town , and all have atms .

Sirkazhi municipality has 51 @. @ 5 km (32 @. @ 0 mi) of roads : 18 @. @ 3 km (11 @. @ 4 mi) of BT roads , 30 @. @ 4 km (18 @. @ 9 mi) of cement roads , 2 @. @ 2 km (1 @. @ 4 mi) of water @- @ bound macadam surface and 0 @. @ 6 km (0 @. @ 37 mi) of other roads . Bullock carts are the traditional mode of transport ; as late as the 1950s , landlords and rich farmers travelled mostly by bullock carts except on rare , long journeys , which they undertook by buses or motor vehicles . Buses are the main mode of public transport from Sirkazhi . The municipality operates a B @- @ Class bus stand with 36 bays that accommodate local and intercity buses . The buses are operated by Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation , connecting the town to Chidambaram , Mayiladuthurai , Karaikkal and other cities in Tamil Nadu .

Sirkazhi 's railway station is on the main line between Chennai and Trichy via Cuddalore and Chidambaram . Daily express trains connect major cities in Tamil Nadu like Chennai , Madurai and Trichy , and weekly express trains connect Tirupathi , Varanasi , Tiruchendur and Bhubaneswar . There are also daily passenger trains to Mayiladuthurai , Salem , Villupuram and Bangalore daily . The nearest airport is Tiruchirapalli Airport which is 160 km (99 mi) from Sirkazhi .

= = Education and utility services = =

The first English school in the town was the Leipzig Evangelical Lutheran Mission School , which was opened by the Lutheran Mission in 1896 . The Lutheran mission was the earliest Protestant mission founded in Tanjore (present @- @ day Thajavur) by Rev. C.V. Schwartz in 1778 to promote Christian knowledge in the region . Of the 32 schools in Sirkazhi , there are nine municipal schools . There are three higher secondary schools , three middle schools , fourteen primary schools and three matriculation schools in the town . There are two arts and science colleges , BEST College of Arts and Science and Vivekananda College of Arts and Science . Srinivasa Subbaraya Polytechnic College (locally called Puttur Polytechnic) is located in Puttur , 7 kilometres (4 @. @ 3 mi) from Sirkali .

Electricity supply to the town is regulated and distributed by the Sirkazhi Circle of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) . Water supply is provided by the Sirkazhi municipality from the Kollidam river ; it is distributed through five water tanks which supply 2 million (two million) litres a day . Push carts and tricycles are used to collect solid waste , which is deposited in marsh lands located outside the town . Sirkazhi municipality is implementing underground drainage and the current sewerage system is through septic tanks and public conveniences . Roadside drains carry away untreated sewage , which is released into the sea or accumulates in low @- @ lying areas .

Sirkazhi comes under the Sirkazhi Telecom Circle of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) , India 's state @- @ owned telephone and internet services provider . BSNL also provides a broadband internet service The town has a government hospital , 12 private hospitals , clinics and medical shops .

= = Municipal administration and politics = =

During the British Raj , Shiyali (present @- @ day Sirkazhi) was the headquarters of a separate administrative division , or taluka . In 1972 the town was declared a third grade municipality , and was upgraded to a second grade municipality in 1980 . The municipality has 24 wards , each of which has an elected councillor . The functions of the municipality are devolved into six departments : general administration / personnel , engineering , revenue , public health , town planning and IT , which are controlled by a Municipal Commissioner , who is the supreme executive head . Legislative

powers are vested in a body of 24 members , one for each of the 24 wards . The legislative body is headed by an elected chairperson , who is assisted by a deputy . On the revenue administration side , Sirkazhi is a taluka headquarters having three revenue villages : Kavilancheri , Sirkazhi and Thadalan .

For the purposes of state government , Sirkazhi is part of the Sirkazhi assembly constituency , which elects a member to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly once every five years . The constituency is reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates . The assembly seat has been won by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in 1977 , 1989 , 1996 and 2006 elections and Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (ADMK) in 1980 , 1984 , 1991 , 2001 and 2011 . As of 2011 , the MLA of the constituency is M. Sakthi from the ADMK .

In the national parliament , Sirkazhi is a part of the Mayiladuthurai (Lok Sabha constituency) , which has six assembly constituencies ? Mayiladuthurai , Sirkazhi , Poompuhar , Thiruvidadimarudur (SC) , Kumbakonam and Papanasam . The constituency was constituted during the third Lok Sabha (lower house) as Mayuram until the 1980 elections , when it was renamed Mayiladuthurai . During the first elections in 1957 , Sirkazhi was part of Chidambaram constituency and was held by the Indian National Congress party . The current Member of Parliament from the constituency is R.K. Bharathi Mohan of the ADMK party . From 1962 , the Mayiladuthurai parliament seat was held by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) twice between 1967 and 1971 , and from 1971 to 1977 , Tamil Maanila Congress for two terms between 1998 and 1999 and 1996 to 1998 , Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam twice during 2009 and 2014 , Indian National Congress for eight terms during 1962 ? 67 , 1977 ? 80 , 1980 ? 84 , 1984 ? 89 , 1989 ? 91 , 1991 ? 96 , 1999 ? 2004 and 2004 ? 09

Law and order in Sirkazhi is maintained by the Mayiladuthurai sub @-@ division of the Tamil Nadu Police , headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police . There is a police station in the town . There are special units like prohibition enforcement , district crime , social justice and human rights , district crime records and special branch that operate at the district level police division , headed by a Superintendent of Police .

= = Culture = =

The Bhramapureeswarar temple , also called Sattainathar temple , is an ancient temple complex dedicated to Shiva , and has three Shiva shrines . The temple is mentioned in the Saiva canonical work , Tevaram , by Thirugnana Sambanthar , Tirunavukkarasar and Sundarar , the foremost Saivite saints of 7th ? eighth century CE and is classified as Paadal Petra Sthalam . There is a separate shrine for Sambandar celebrating the miracle of Parvathi suckling the child Sambandar when he was crying for milk . Shiva is worshipped in three different forms ; the Shivalingam (Bhrammapureeswarar) , Uma Maheswarar (Toniappar) at the middle level , and Bhairavar (Sattanathar) at the upper level . The original temple was enlarged during the period of Kulothunga Chola I , Vikrama Chola , Kulothunga Chola II and Kulothunga Chola III (as in Chidambaram ? 11th through the 13th centuries) . Every year in the Tamil month of Chithirai (April ? May) , a 10 @-@ day festival is celebrated .

Kazheesirama Vinnagaram temple , also called Thadalan Koil , is dedicated to Vishnu in the form of Trivikrama . Sirkazhi is base to the outlying places like Poompuhar , and the temples Thirusaikkadu , Thiruppallavaneeswaram , Melapperumpallam , Keezhaperumpallam , Thiruvengadu and Thirunangur . Thirukkavalampadi , Thiruvanpurushothamam , Thiruarimeya Vinnagaram , Thiruchsemponsey , Thirumanimadam , Thiruvaikunda vinnagaram , Thiruthewanarthogai , Thiruthetriyambalam , Thirumanikkoodam , Annan Koil and Thiruppaarththanpalli are eleven Vishnu temples , called Nangur Divya Desams revered in Nalayira Divya Prabandham , located in the outskirts of Sirkazhi . The annual Garudasevai festival held during January attracts thousands of pilgrims .

Tamil Isai Moovar (meaning Tamil trinity of Carnatic music) namely , Arunachala Kavirayar (1711 ? 1778) , Muthu Thandavar (1525 ? 1600) and Marimutthu Pillai (1712 ? 1787) originated from Sirkazhi . Arunachala composed devotional songs , including Sirkazhi Sthalapuranam and Sirkazhi Kovai , eulogising the town . S. R. Ranganathan , considered to be the father of library science in

India , is from Sirkazhi .