

= Nagapattinam =

Nagapattinam (நகப்பட்டினம் , previously spelt Nagapatnam or Negapatam) is a town in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and the administrative headquarters of Nagapattinam District . The town came to prominence during the period of Medieval Cholas (9th ? 12th century CE) and served as their important port for commerce and east @-@ bound naval expeditions . The Chudamani Vihara in Nagapattinam constructed by the Sri Lankan king with the help of Chola kingdom is an important Buddhist structure of the times . Nagapattinam was settled by the Portuguese and , later , the Dutch under whom it served as the capital of Dutch Coromandel from 1660 to 1781 . In November 1781 , the town was conquered by the British East India Company . It served as the capital of Tanjore district from 1799 to 1845 under Madras Presidency of the British . It continued to be a part of Thanjavur district in Independent India . In 1991 , it was made the headquarters of the newly created Nagapattinam District . Nagapattinam is administered by a Selection @-@ grade municipality covering an area of 14 @. @ 92 km² (5 @. @ 76 sq mi) and had a population of 102 @, @ 905 as of 2011 .

A majority of the people of Nagapattinam are employed in sea @-@ borne trading , fishing , agriculture and tourism . Kayarohanaswami Temple and Soundararajaperumal Temple , Nagapattinam are the major Hindu pilgrimage sites . Nagapattinam is the base for tourism for Sikkal , Velankanni , Poompuhar , Kodiyaikkarai , Vedaranyam , Mannargudi and Tharangambadi . Roadways is the major mode of transport to Nagapattinam , while the city also has rail and sea transport . The town , along with the district , was severely damaged by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 .

= = Etymology = =

Nagapattinam is derived from Nagar referring to people from Sri Lanka who settled here and pattinam referring to town . It was also called Cholakula Vallipattinam during the Chola period , when it was one of the important ports . Ptolemy refers to Nagapattinam as Nikam and mentions it as one of the most important trade centres of the ancient Tamil country . This view is doubtful as there are no contemporary evidences to prove the existence of a metropolis in the name of " Nikama " or " Nikam " . Nagapattinam was referred by early writers and the Portuguese as " the city of Coromandel " . Appar and Tirugnanasambandar , the 7th @-@ century saint poets refer to the city as Nagai in their verses in Tevaram . The town was originally called " Nagai " and the word Pattinam was attached during the Chola era when it emerged as an important port .

= = History = =

There are urn burials in and around the city from the Sangam period indicating some level of human habitation . There are no direct references to Nagapattinam during the c (3rd century BCE to 3rd century CE) . The neighbouring port , Kaveripoompattinam (modern day Poompuhar) , was the capital of the Chola kingdom of the Sangam Age , referred to widely in Tamil scriptures like Pa???app?lai .

The early works of Tevaram by the 7th @-@ century poets Appar and Tirugnanasambandar mention the town had fortified walls , busy road building and a busy port . The inscriptions from the Kayarohanswami temple indicate the construction was initiated during the reign of the Pallava king , Narasimha Pallava II (691 ? 729 CE) . A Buddhist pagoda was built under Chinese influence by the Pallava king and the town was frequented by Buddhist travelers . Thirumangai Azhwar , the 9th century vaishnavite saint poet , is believed to have stolen the golden Buddha statue to fund the Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam ; the authenticity of the theory is questionable .

In the 11th century CE , Chudamani Vihara , a Buddhist monastery , was built by Javanese king Sri Vijaya Soolamanivarman with the patronage of Raja Raja Chola . Nagapattinam was the prominent port of Cholas for trade and a conquering gateway to the east .

In the early 16th century the Portuguese made commercial contacts with the town and established

a commercial centre in 1554 CE . The Portuguese also conducted missionary enterprise here . In 1658 , the Dutch made an agreement with King Vijaya Nayakkar of Thanjavur on 5 January 1662 , by which ten villages were transferred from the Portuguese to the Dutch ? Nagapattinam Port , Puthur , Muttam , Poruvalancheri , Anthanappettai , Karureppankadu , AzhingiMangalam , Sangamangalam , Thiruthinamangalam , Manjakollai , Nariyankudi . Ten Christian churches and a hospital were built by the Dutch . They released Pagoda coins with the name Nagapattinam engraved in Tamil . As per agreement between the first Maratta King Egoji of Thanjavur and the Dutch , Naagapattinam and surrounding villages were handed over to the Dutch on 30 December 1676 . In 1690 , the capital of Dutch Coromandel changed from Pulicat to Nagapattinam .

This town fell into the hands of the British in 1781 after the two naval battles between British and French fleets were fought off the coast of Negapatam , as it was then known : the first in 1758 as part of the Seven Years ' War and the second in 1782 as part of the Fourth Anglo @-@ Dutch War . The town was taken by the British from the Dutch in 1781 (who had been formally brought into the war in 1780) . When the Dutch and British reached a peace agreement in 1784 , Nagapattinam was formally ceded to the British . 277 villages , with Nagore as the headquarters , were handed over to the East India Company .

From 1799 to 1845 CE Nagapattinam was the headquarters of Tanjore district . Nagapattinam and Nagore were incorporated as a single municipality in 1866 CE . The town remained one of the chief ports to the Madras Presidency . The port suffered decline after the inclusion of Tranquebar and Tuticorin ports . After India 's independence , Sirkazhi continued to be a part of Thanjavur district until 1991 , and later became part of the newly created Nagapattinam district . Nagapattinam was severely affected by the tsunami which followed the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake .

= = Geography = =

Nagapattinam lies at 10 @. @ 77 ° N 79 @. @ 83 ° E ? / 10 @. @ 77 ; 79 @. @ 83 . The town is bounded by Bay of Bengal in the east , Uppanar river in the south , Thiruvarur district in the west , Thanjavur district in the north west and Karaikkal & Puducherry in the north . The town lies in the sea level . The municipality covers an area of 14 @. @ 92 km² (5 @. @ 76 sq mi) Nagapattinam is situated at a distance of 350 km (220 mi) from Chennai , 14 km (8 @. @ 7 mi) from Karaikal , 40 km (25 mi) from Mayiladuthurai , 40 km (25 mi) from Kumbakonam , 80 km (50 mi) from Thanjavur and 25 km (16 mi) from Thiruvarur . The town receives an annual rainfall of 350 mm (14 in) . Nagapattinam has a tropical climate during the summer months of March to May . The proximity to the sea results in a high humidity throughout the year , which reaches 70 % during August to May . The town has a plain terrain of alluvial soil consisting of sand , silt and clay . Vettar , the tributaries of river Cauvery are the major water bodies . Paddy is the major crop in the region , followed by groundnut , pulses , sugarcane , cotton and sesame . The town is one of the cyclone @-@ prone zones and was devastated during the 2004 tsunami . A very fine layer of high saline soil was deposited in the paddy fields .

= = 2004 tsunami = = =

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake was an undersea megathrust earthquake that on 26 December 2004 , with an epicentre off the west coast of Sumatra , Indonesia , which triggered a series of devastating tsunamis along the coasts of most landmasses bordering the Indian Ocean . Nagapattinam district was the most affected part in Tamil Nadu , accounting for 6 @, @ 064 off the 8 @, @ 009 casualties in the state . A large number of the casualties were from the fishing community , who resided close to the seashore . The property losses impacted the fishing industry , as most of the boats were damaged by the inundation . The immediate aftermath created a lull in tourism .

= = Demographics = =

According to 2011 census , Nagapattinam had a population of 102 @, @ 905 with a sex @-@ ratio

of 1 @, @ 026 females for every 1 @, @ 000 males , much above the national average of 929 . A total of 11 @, @ 884 were under the age of six , constituting 6 @, @ 089 males and 5 @, @ 795 females . Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 8 @. @ 67 % and 0 @. @ 62 % of the population respectively . The average literacy of the town was 78 @. @ 74 % , compared to the national average of 72 @. @ 99 % . The town had 24688 households . There were 33 @, @ 532 workers , comprising 209 cultivators , 320 main agricultural labourers , 605 in house hold industries , 29 @, @ 875 other workers , 2 @, @ 523 marginal workers , 35 marginal cultivators , 130 marginal agricultural labourers , 64 marginal workers in household industries and 2 @, @ 294 other marginal workers . As per the religious census of 2011 , Nagapattinam had 71 @. @ 4 % Hindus , 24 @. @ 79 % Muslims , 3 @. @ 68 % Christians , 0 @. @ 01 % Sikhs , 0 @. @ 02 % Buddhists , 0 @. @ 01 % Jains and 0 @. @ 08 % following other religions .

The decadal growth rate was higher during the decade ending in 1981 , due to an increase in the town limits from 8 @. @ 7 km² (3 @. @ 4 sq mi) to 14 @. @ 95 km² (5 @. @ 77 sq mi) . The overall growth rate has declined over the period due to migration of people to other urban centres . There are 40 slums in the town as of 2001 , with an estimated 44 % residing in these slums . Out of 40 slums , 14 were affected by the 2004 tsunami . With the help of grant schemes and tsunami assistance programmes , these were rebuilt to tsunami @-@ proof houses .

= = Economy = =

The main occupation of Nagapattinam is fishing in the waters of Bay of Bengal . The fish are sold in the daily and weekly fish markets in the town . There is a large number of ice factories for preserving the fish . The industry suffered a setback after the tsunami that struck the coast on 26 December 2004 .

There is limited agricultural activity , but much agricultural commerce is conducted in the town . A majority of the people are employed in service industry , belonging to the tertiary sector . The town is also the centre of retail provisions trading for the towns and villages surrounding Nagapattinam .

Tourism is a major economic driver with the presence of heritage and historic points like Nagore , Velankanni , Sikkal , Kodikkarai , Vedaranyam , Mannargudi and Tharangambadi .

There is limited industrial activity ? the major industries are household , tailoring , embroidery , plastic wire and metal manufacturing . Cauvery Basin Refinery , a subsidiary of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) is near Nagapattinam . Established in 1993 , it is a major contributor to the economy of the town . The development of industries is constrained by the town being linear and by the applicability of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) regulations that prevent large @-@ scale construction and industrial buildings .

All major nationalised banks such as State Bank of India , Indian Bank , Central Bank of India , Punjab National Bank , Indian Overseas Bank and private banks like ICICI Bank , City Union Bank have branches in Nagapattinam . All these banks have their automated teller machines located in various parts of the town .

= = Transport = =

Nagapattinam municipality accommodates 104 @. @ 539 km (64 @. @ 958 mi) of roads ; 27 @. @ 328 km (16 @. @ 981 mi) of cement roads , 72 @. @ 993 km (45 @. @ 356 mi) of bituminous roads , 1 @. @ 2 km (0 @. @ 75 mi) of WBM roads and 3 @. @ 018 km (1 @. @ 875 mi) of earthen roads . Nagapattinam is connected by two national highways , NH 45A to Villupuram and NH 67 to Coimbatore and Gundlupete in Karnataka state . Nagapattinam is connected with Chennai , Vellore , Coimbatore , Tiruchirapalli , Karaikal and other major towns of Tamil Nadu through the state highways SH 22 from Grand Anaicut to Kaveripoompattinam , SH 23 from Mayiladuthurai to Thiruthuraipoondi , SH 64 from Kumbakonam to Sirkazhi , SH 67 from Nagore to Nachiyar Koil , SH 147 from Kumbakonam to Karaikkal , SH 148 from Nagore to Vettar . SH 149 from Sembanarkoil to Nalladai , SH 150 from Vaitheeswarankoil to Lower Anaicut and SH 151 from Kilvelur to Kachanam . The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation operates close to 175 daily services connecting

various cities to Nagapattinam . Most of the buses via Nagapattinam operated by the corporation ply between Trichy and Velankanni . The corporation operates a computerised reservation centre in the municipal bus stand of Nagapattinam . It operates 25 town buses satisfying the local transport needs of Nagapattinam and the neighbouring villages . The State Express Transport Corporation operates long distance buses connecting Nagapattinam to Bengaluru , Thiruvananthapuram and Marthandam .

Great South Indian Railway Company (GSIR) had its headquarters at Nagapattinam between 1861 and 1875 . A broad gauge railway [BG] line was operated between Nagapattinam and Tiruchirapalli via Tiruvarur , Thanjavur between 1861 and 1875 . During 1875 it was converted into a meter gauge (MG) line . The GSIR headquarters was shifted to Tiruchirapalli during 1875 . The railway workshop was at Nagapattinam till 1929 and contributed to the growth of the town . It was also moved to Golden rock [Ponmalai] during 1929 . Nagapattinam railway junction connects Tiruvarur in the west , Nagore in the north and Velankanni in the south . There are passenger trains to Trichy , Thanjavur , Mayiladuthurai , Karaikal , Mannargudi and Thiruthuraipoondi . There is a daily express train to Chennai via Mayiladuthurai and Ernakulam via Coimbatore . There are two triweekly trains from Mannargudi to Tirupati and Velankanni to Goa that pass via Nagapattinam .

The port of Nagapattinam is in the Bay of Bengal in the mouth of river Kuduvayyar . Nagapattinam was the most important port of the Chola empire . All the eastern naval expeditions of Rajendra Chola I (1012 ? 44 CE) were through the port . The port was widely used by the Dutch , Portuguese and British as one of the major ports of the Coromandel Coast for trading purposes . Most of the principal exports to Sri Lanka from the port during the British period were rice , piece goods , livestock , cigars , tobacco and hides . The trade of Nagapattinam was mostly with Sri Lanka , Straits Settlements , Burma and to a small extent to the United Kingdom and Spain . The port also served passenger traffic to Singapore , but this was suspended due to a fire accident . The modern day port has a commercial port complex and a dockyard that are protected by a river mouth sand bar facing the port . The port handles only a limited amount of edible oil imports . The Nagapattinam lighthouse is the first conventional 20 @-@ metre @-@ high (66 ft) lighthouse tower , built inside the port premises by the British in 1869 . The port and the lighthouse are maintained by the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board under the Government of India .

The nearest Airport is Tiruchirapalli Airport , located 145 km (90 mi) away from the town .

= = Culture and tourism = =

Tourism plays a key economic role for the town , even though fishing is the major occupation . Nagapattinam is a base for heritage and historic points like Nagore , Velankanni , Sikkal , Kodyakkarai , Vedaranyam , Mannargudi and Tharangambadi .

Nagore Durga , a 16th @-@ century minaret located in Nagore , is one of the important pilgrimage centres of the town . Kanduri festival is a 14 @-@ day event celebrated for the annual urs (anniversary) of the saint Hajrath Shahul Hamid (1490 ? 1579 CE) , in honor of whom the minaret was built . The festival is celebrated in commemoration of the anniversary of the saint 's death , and pilgrims from various religions participate in the rituals and rites . The festival is also seen as a sacred exchange between Hindus and Muslims expressing solidarity of mixed faith in the region . It is believed that 60 percent of the shrines were built by Hindus and historically the minaret garners many domestic and international visitors . There are three other prominent mosques ; one near Nagai Pudhur Road , one near the new bus stand , and another at Moolakadai Street .

Kayarohanaswami Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva . The temple has been in existence from the 6th century CE and has been revered by the verses of Tevaram , the 7th ? 8th century Saiva canonical work by Appar , Campantar and Sundarar . The temple is one of the seven temples of the Thyagaraja cult , classified as Saptha Vidangam , where the presiding deity Thyagaraja is believed to portray different dance styles . The temple is also known for the shrine of Neelayadakshi , the consort of Kayarohanaswami .

Soundararajaperumal Temple is a Hindu temple in the town dedicated to Vishnu . It is one of the Divya Desams , the 108 temples of Vishnu revered in Nalayira Divya Prabandham by Thirumangai

Azhwar , one of the 12 poet saints called Azhwars belonging to the 6th ? 9th century . Nagapattinam is base to some of the prominent Hindu temples like Sikkal Singaravelan Temple at Sikkal , Vedaranyeswarar Temple at Vedaranyam , Ettukudi Murugan Temple and Koothanur Maha Saraswathi Temple .

Velankanni is a pilgrimage centre located 10 km (6 @. @ 2 mi) from Nagapattinam . The town is known for the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health , a Roman Catholic church built during the 17th century . Pilgrimage to the basilica is common during September when people of many faiths , especially Hindus , Muslims and Christians of all denominations visit the basilica . The town has four prominent churches ; the Lourdhru Madha (Sindhathurai Madha) Church , the Madharasi Madha Church , T.E.L.C. Church and the Protestant Church .

= = Education and utility services = =

St. Joseph 's College , opened in Nagapattinam in 1846 and transferred to Tiruchirappalli in 1883 , is one of the oldest higher educational institutions in India . Nagapattinam has 12 elementary schools , 8 high schools and 7 higher secondary schools . There are 2 arts and science colleges , one engineering college , 2 polytechnic colleges and one industrial training institute (ITI) in the town .

The electricity supplied to the town is regulated and distributed by the Nagapattinam circle of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) . The water supply is provided by the Nagapattinam Municipality , through borewells from Vettar river ? the distribution is done through pumping stations located at Kurukathi , Andipalayam and Solomon Park . About 55 metric tonnes of solid waste are collected from the town every day . Nagapattinam municipality does not have an underground drainage system and the current sewerage system for disposal of sullage is through septic tanks and public conveniences . The storm water drainage system is made up of the natural river drainage and man @-@ made storm water drains .

Nagapattinam comes under the Nagapattinam telecom circle of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) , India 's state @-@ owned telecom and internet services provider . Apart from telecom , BSNL provides broadband internet service . There are six government hospitals in the town , with the largest being the District Government Hospital . There are 28 other private hospitals , clinics , and medical shops .

= = Politics = =

Nagapattinam was declared a municipality in 1866 during British times . It was promoted to a second grade municipality in 1986 and selection grade in 1998 . From 1991 , the municipal limits were expanded to include Nagore . The municipality has 36 wards and there is an elected councillor for each of those wards . The functions of the municipality are devolved into six departments : General administration / personnel , Engineering , Revenue , Public Health , Town planning and IT . All these departments are under the control of a Municipal Commissioner who is the supreme executive head . The legislative powers are vested in a body of 36 members , one from each of the 36 wards . The legislative body is headed by an elected chairperson , assisted by a deputy chairperson . The town became the district headquarters when the Nagapattinam district was created as a separate district .

Nagapattinam comes under the Nagapattinam assembly constituency and it elects a member to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly every five years . From the 1977 elections , the assembly seat was won by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) once during the 1996 elections , All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) twice during the 1991 and 2001 elections , and Communist Party of India (Marxist) five times during the 1977 , 1980 , 1984 , 1989 and 2006 elections . The current MLA of the constituency is K. A. Jayapal , the minister for fisheries in the Government of Tamil Nadu .

Nagapattinam is a part of the Nagapattinam (Lok Sabha constituency) ? it has the following six assembly constituencies ? Thiruvarur , Nagapattinam , Thiruthuraiipoondi , Vedaranyam , Kilvelur (

SC) and Nannilam . The current Member of Parliament from the constituency is Dr. K. Gopal from the AIADMK party . From 1957 , the Nagapattinam parliament seat was held by the Indian National Congress for five times during 1957 ? 1961 , 1962 ? 67 , 1967 ? 71 , 1991 ? 96 , and 1996 ? 98 elections . CPI won the seat for five times during 1971 ? 77 , 1977 ? 80 , 1989 ? 91 , 1996 ? 98 and 1998 elections . DMK won four times during 1980 ? 84 , 1999 ? 2004 , 2004 ? 09 and 2009 elections . AIADMK won the seat twice during the 1984 ? 89 elections and 2014 elections .

Law and order in the town is maintained by the Nagapattinam sub division of the Tamil Nadu Police headed by a Deputy Superintendent (DSP) . There are three police stations in the town , one of them being an all @-@ women police station . 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 (SP) .