

= Mannargudi =

Mannargudi is a town in Tiruvarur district in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu . It is the headquarters of the Mannargudi taluk . The town is located at a distance of 20 km (12 mi) from the district headquarters Tiruvarur and 310 km (190 mi) from the state capital Chennai . Mannargudi is known for the Rajagopalaswamy temple , a prominent Vaishnavite shrine .

Mannargudi was founded as an agraharam village by the Medieval Cholas during the 11th century . The town was subsequently ruled by various dynasties including the Vijayanagar Empire , Delhi Sultanate , Thanjavur Nayaks , Thanjavur Marathas and the British Empire . Mannargudi was a part of the erstwhile Tanjore district until India 's independence in 1947 and Thanjavur district until 1991 and subsequently a part of the newly formed Tiruvarur district . The town is known for agriculture , metal working and weaving . The region around Mannargudi has considerable mineral deposits .

Mannargudi is administered by a municipality established in 1866 . As of 2011 , the municipality covered an area of 11 @. @ 55 km² (4 @. @ 46 sq mi) and had a population of 66 @, @ 999 . Mannargudi comes under the Mannargudi assembly constituency which elects a member to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly once every five years and it is a part of the Nagappattinam constituency which elects its Member of Parliament (MP) once in five years . Roadways are the major mode of transportation to the town and it also has rail connectivity . The nearest seaport , Nagapattinam Port , is located 52 km (32 mi) from Mannargudi , while the nearest airport , Tiruchirappalli International Airport , is located 97 km (60 mi) from the town .

= = Etymology = =

The word Mannargudi is derived from the Tamil word Mannar referring to Vishnu and gudi referring to a place , meaning the " Place of Vishnu " . The town was also called " Mannarkovil " or " Rajamannarkoil " after the Rajagopalaswamy temple . The town is locally referred as " Mannai " . Hindus refer the place as " Dakshina Dwarka " , meaning Southern Dwarka . The town was known during the period of Nayaks for the 25 ft (7 @. @ 6 m) tall compound wall around the Rajagopalaswamy temple , leading to the adage Mannargudi Mathil Azhagu , (meaning " the walls of Mannargudi are beautiful ") . The town is also called " Koil mattrum Madil Nagaram " referring to the compound wall around the temple .

= = History = =

Mannargudi was founded as an agraharam village as Rajadhiraja Chaturvedimangalam by the Medieval Chola king Rajadhiraja Chola (1018 ? 1054 CE) , who constructed the Jayam Kondanathar temple and the Rajathirajeswara temple . The Rajagopalaswami temple is believed to have been constructed by Kulothunga Chola I (1070 ? 1125 CE) , with bricks and mortar , indicated by various stone inscriptions found at the site . The town started to grow around the temple . Successive kings of the Chola empire , Rajaraja Chola III (1216 ? 56 CE) and Rajendra Chola III (1246 ? 79 CE) , and Thanjavur Nayak king Achyuta Deva Raya (1529 ? 1542 CE) expanded the temple . The temple contains inscriptions of the Hoysala kings and information about grants by Vijayanagara kings , and many records of the later Nayaks and Marathas . A fort was constructed under the rule of the Hoysala kings , and Hindu temples were built under the leadership of both Hoysala and Pandya rulers .

Mannargudi was conquered by the Delhi Sultanate in 1311 CE . Following brief occupations by the Madurai Sultanate and the Hoysalas , it became a part of the Vijayanagar Empire . After the decline of Vijayanagar Empire , Mannargudi was ruled by the Thanjavur Nayaks . The Thanjavur Nayaks made the temple as their dynastic and primary shrine and made significant additions . The current temple structure , hall of thousand pillars , main gopuram (temple gateway tower) and the big compound wall around the temple were built by the king Vijaya Raghava Nayak (1532 ? 1575 CE) . Raghunathabhyudayam , a doctrine by Nayaks explains the donation of an armour studded with precious stones to the main deity of the temple by the king . It is believed Vijaya Raghava Nayak

erected the large tower in front of the temple so that he could view the Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple . He was also called " Mannarudasan " as he carried out extensive renovations of the Rajagopalaswami temple complex and is credited by some to have reclaimed the land from the surrounding forest .

The Thanjavur Marathas gained control during the later part of 18th century until its annexation by the British East India Company in 1799 . It was constituted as a municipality during 1866 and was a part of the erstwhile Tanjore district . The town was the headquarters and the only town in Mannargudi taluk . The town emerged as one of the chief centres of inland trade in the district during the British rule . Rice , betel leaves , groundnut , oil , metal articles and clothes were the major exports . A Methodist mission was established in the town during the third decade of the 19th century . During 1944 , Chinese copper coins were unearthed from Thalicketti village in the region , dated to Sui period (585 CE) to the end of Song period (1275 CE) . The coins indicate a possible Buddhist influence in the region . Mannargudi continued to be part of Tanjore district until India 's independence in 1947 and Thanjavur district until 1991 and subsequently a part of the newly formed Tiruvarur district .

= = Geography and climate = =

Mannargudi is located at 10 @. @ 67 ° N 79 @. @ 43 ° E ? / 10 @. @ 67 ; 79 @. @ 43 . It has an average elevation of 6 m (20 ft) . Mannargudi is situated on the banks of Pamaniyar River , a tributary of the Vettar and is covered with fertile soil conducive for rice cultivation . The topography is completely flat and the town is a part of the fertile Cauvery Delta . Mannargudi is situated at a distance of 300 km (190 mi) from the state capital Chennai and 28 km (17 mi) from Tiruvarur , the district headquarters . The nearest airport is at Tiruchirappalli , 90 km (56 mi) away from the town . The nearest seaport is at Nagappattinam , located 52 km (32 mi) from Mannargudi .

Like in the rest of the state , the period from November to February in Mannargudi has a climate full of warm days and cool nights . The onset of summer is from March to the end of June . The average temperature range from 37 ° C (99 ° F) in January to 22 @. @ 5 ° C (72 @. @ 5 ° F) in May and June . Summer rains are sparse and the first monsoon , the South @- @ West monsoon , usually sets in June and continues until September . North @- @ East monsoon usually sets in October and continues until January . The rainfall during North @- @ East monsoon is relatively higher and is beneficial to the district at large because of the heavy rainfall and the Western ghats feeding the river Cauvery . The average rainfall is 37 inches (940 mm) , most of which is contributed by the North @- @ East monsoon . The most common trees planted in the town are jack fruit , coconut , tamarind and palmirah .

= = Economy = =

Agriculture is the principal occupation of the people of Mannargudi . Mannargudi is also known for cloth weaving and metal industries . Being an agricultural town , Mannargudi 's economy largely depends on the income from agriculture . The crops cultivated include paddy , cotton , sugarcane , and pulses like urad and mung bean . The agriculture around the town mainly depends on the rivers Koraiyar , Mullaiyar and Pamaniyar , while the other sources of irrigation are bore @- @ wells . There are no big industries around the town , while there are a few small scale industries like a sugarcane factory , a fertilizer industry , a beer factory and a chemical factory in and around the town . There is a gas treatment and filling plant in Edayarnatham , a village in the outskirts of Mannargudi . A 107 @. @ 8 MW Combined Cycle Power plant of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) functions at Thirumakkottai , a village 18 km (11 mi) away from Mannargudi .

Mannargudi town has one of the largest coal reserves in the country . The total quantity of lignite reserves identified in the area is around 19 @, @ 500 million tonnes . Exploration of coal bed methane in the area was not started until 2008 . The commercial exploration of the coal bed methane reserves located under built up and agricultural areas became difficult with the protest of farmers in the region .

== Demographics ==

According to 2011 census , Mannargudi had a population of 66 @, @ 999 with a sex @-@ ratio of 1 @, @ 018 females for every 1 @, @ 000 males , much above the national average of 929 . A total of 6 @, @ 174 were under the age of six , constituting 3 @, @ 135 males and 3 @, @ 039 females . Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 8 @. @ 39 % and 1 @. @ 16 % of the population respectively . The average literacy of the town was 82 @. @ 92 % , compared to the national average of 72 @. @ 99 % . The town had a total of 17372 households . There were a total of 22 @, @ 640 workers , comprising 1 @, @ 131 cultivators , 1 @, @ 546 main agricultural labourers , 534 in house hold industries , 17 @, @ 682 other workers , 1 @, @ 747 marginal workers , 66 marginal cultivators , 215 marginal agricultural labourers , 75 marginal workers in household industries and 1 @, @ 391 other marginal workers . Like in the rest of the state , Tamil is the most common language spoken in the town .

As per the religious census of 2011 , Mannargudi had 90 @. @ 13 % Hindus , 6 @. @ 82 % Muslims , 2 @. @ 62 % Christians , 0 @. @ 08 % Sikhs , 0 @. @ 01 % Buddhists , 0 @. @ 22 % Jains , 0 @. @ 1 % following other religions and 0 @. @ 02 % following no religion or did not indicate any religious preference .

As of 2008 , a total 4 @. @ 006 km² (990 acres) (34 @. @ 68 %) of the land was used for residential , 0 @. @ 314 km² (78 acres) (2 @. @ 72 %) for commercial , 0 @. @ 35 km² (86 acres) (3 @. @ 07 %) for industrial , 4 @. @ 136 km² (1 @, @ 022 acres) (35 @. @ 81 %) for public & semi public purposes including educational and open spaces . As of 2008 , there were a total of 28 notified slums , with 12 @, @ 275 comprising 19 @. @ 97 % of the total population residing in those .

== Culture ==

Mannargudi has three prominent Hindu temples , namely , Jayamgondanatha temple , Rajathi Rajeswara temple and Raja Gopalaswamy temple . Rajagopalaswamy temple is the most prominent landmark in the town . During the Tamil months of Panguni (March ? April) , the most prominent festival of the temple , namely , Pangunith Thirivuzha , is celebrated . Theppothsavam , the float festival , celebrated during the Tamil month of Aani (June ? July) and Adipooram , the chariot festival , celebrated during the Tamil month of Aadi (July @-@ Aug) are other prominent festivals of the temple that attract visitors from nearby villages and towns to Mannargudi . The Nayak kings of the 15th century promoted music in the temples . Instruments like Mukhavina , Dande , Kombu , Chandravallaya , Bheri and Nagaswaram were commonly used in the temple service . Haridra Nadhi , the temple tank associated with the Rajagopalaswamy temple , is one of the largest temple tanks in the state . Hindu pilgrims take a holy dip in the tank during festive occasions .

Mannargudi has four mosques , located at Theradi , Keela Raja Veethi , Big Bazar Street and Thamari Kuzlam Vada Karai .

Mallinatha Swamy temple is a Jain temple located in the town . Mallinathar is the 19th Tirthankara of the Jainism . It is an ancient temple built during the reign of the Chola dynasty in the twelfth century and is one of the prominent ancient Jain temples in the state . Apart from the idol of Mallinathar , there are idols of Dharma Devi , Saraswathi Devi , Padmavathy Devi , Jawalamalini Amman among others .

The Vaduvor Bird Sanctuary , located 12 km (7 @. @ 5 mi) is a prominent visitor attraction for the people of Mannargudi . Muthupet Lagoon , a mangrove forest located 29 km (18 mi) away from the town , is another tourist attraction for the citizens of the town .

== Administration and politics ==

The municipality of Mannargudi was established in 1866 with a committee of twelve members during British rule . Until the early years of the 20th century , Mannargudi remained the smallest

municipality in erstwhile Tanjore district . As of 2008 , the municipality covered an area of 11 @. @ 55 km² (4 @. @ 46 sq mi) and had a total of 33 members . The functions of the municipality is devolved into six departments : General , Engineering , Revenue , Public Health , Town planning and the Computer Wing . 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 33 members , one each from the 33 wards . The legislative body is headed by an elected Chairperson assisted by a Deputy Chairperson . The municipality has allocated a budget of ? 8 @, @ 751 @, @ 164 for the year 2010 ? 11 .

Mannargudi comes under the Mannargudi State Assembly Constituency and it elects a member to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly once every five years . From the 1977 elections , the assembly seat was won by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) twice during the 1989 and 2011 elections , the Communist Party of India five times during the 1977 , 1980 , 1996 , 2001 and 2006 elections and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) twice during the 1984 and 1991 elections . The current Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of the constituency is T. R. B. Rajaa from the DMK Party .

Mannargudi is a part of the Thanjavur Lok Sabha constituency and elects a member to the Lok Sabha , the lower house of the Parliament of India , once every five years . R. Venkataraman , who served as the President of India from 1987 to 1992 , was elected from the constituency during the 1951 elections .

= = Education = =

There are 17 schools and three arts colleges in Mannargudi . The Findlay Higher Secondary School (formerly Findlay College) , founded by the Wesleyan Mission in 1845 , is the oldest educational institution in the town . Originally started as a secondary school , the college was upgraded to a high school and a college in 1883 . It was affiliated to the Madras University in 1898 . There are two engineering colleges and two polytechnic colleges in the town . The Mannai Rajagopalaswami Government Arts College , founded in 1971 , and the Sengamala Thayar Educational Trust Women 's College are the two colleges in the town .

= = Utility services = =

Electricity supply to Mannargudi is regulated and distributed by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) . The town and its suburbs forms the Trichy Electricity Distribution Circle .

Historically , water supply to the town was provided from a 12 km (7 @. @ 5 mi) long channel dug from the Vadavar canal . Water supply is provided by the municipality of Mannargudi from groundwater through feeders . In 2010 ? 2011 , a total of 3 @. @ 53 million litres of water was supplied every day for households in the town .

About 24 metric tonnes of solid waste are collected from Mannargudi every day by door @-@ to @-@ door collection . Subsequently the source segregation and dumping is carried out by the sanitary department of the municipality . The coverage of solid waste management had an efficiency of 83 % as of 2001 . There is limited underground drainage system in the town and the major sewerage system for disposal of sullage is through septic tanks , open drains and public conveniences . The municipality maintains 15 km (9 @. @ 3 mi) of storm water drains and 35 km (22 mi) kutcha drains in Mannargudi .

There are three hospitals , two maternity centres and eight private hospitals and clinics . There are 2 @, @ 609 street lamps in Mannargudi : 584 sodium lamps , 2 @, @ 013 tube lights and five high mast beam lamp . The municipality operates four markets , namely vegetable markets , weekly market , farmer 's market (uzhavar santhai) and fish market that cater to the needs of the town and the rural areas around it .

= = Transportation = =

The State Highway SH @-@ 63 connecting Thanjavur with Kodikkarai , SH @-@ 66 connecting Kumbakonam with Adirampattinam , SH @-@ 202 connecting the district headquarters Tiruvarur with Muthupet and SH @-@ 146 connecting Mannargudi with Sethubavachatram , are the major highways connecting Mannargudi with other towns . There are two bus stands in the town , with the major bus stand having 19 bus bays and a TNSTC ticket reservation counter . The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation operates daily services connecting cities to Mannargudi . The corporation operates a computerised reservation centre in the bus stand . The State Express Transport Corporation operates long distance buses connecting the town to cities like Chennai and Bengaluru . The major inter @-@ city bus routes are to towns like Kumbakonam , Mayiladuthurai , Nagapattinam , Thanjavur , Tiruvarur , Karaikal , Muthupet , and Pattukottai . Now the Ring Road about 22 km is under progress due to reduce traffic .

Mannargudi is connected to Nidamangalam rail line by a branch line covering a distance of 18 km (11 mi) . The expansion of the line to broad gauge was completed and opened to passenger traffic on 27 September 2011 , with an express train to Chennai . The nearest railway junction is Needamangalam Junction . There are daily passenger trains to Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai and an express train each to Coimbatore and Chennai from Mannargudi. and Express Train to Rajasthan also from mannargudi . The Railway link from Mannargudi to Pattukkottai is under progress .

The nearest seaport is Nagapattinam Port , 52 km (32 mi) away , while the nearest airport is the Tiruchirappalli International Airport , 97 km (60 mi) from the town .