

= Sivakasi =

Sivakasi is a town and municipality in Virudhunagar District in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu . The town is known for its fire cracker , match and printing industries . The industries in Sivakasi employ over 25 @, @ 000 people with an estimated turn over of ? 20 billion (US \$ 300 million) .

Sivakasi was established in the 15th century during the reign of the Pandya king Harikesari Parakkirama Pandian . The town was a part of Madurai empire and has been ruled at various times by the Later Pandyas , Vijayanagar Empire , Madurai Nayaks , Chanda Sahib , Carnatic kingdom and the British . A major riot during the British Raj took place in 1899 .

Sivakasi has a dry weather , making it suitable for dry crops like cotton , chillies and millets . Badhrkali Amman temple is one of the most prominent landmarks of the town . Sivakasi is a part of Sivakasi constituency and elects its member of legislative assembly every five years , and a part of the Virudhunagar constituency that elects its member of parliament . Sivakasi is locally administered by a special @-@ grade municipality which covers an area of 6 @. @ 8 km2 (2 @. @ 6 sq mi) . Roadways is the major mode of transport to the town , while there is also railroad connectivity . In 2011 , Sivakasi had a population of 71 @, @ 040 .

= = History = =

Sivakasi was established during the early 15th century CE . Between 1428 and 1460 , a Pandya king Harikesari Parakkirama Pandian ruled the southern part of Madurai region (comprising modern day Sivakasi and its surroundings) . As per Hindu legend , he wanted to construct a temple for Hindu god Shiva at Tenkasi and went to Kasi to bring a lingam (an iconic representation of Shiva) . While returning to his palace with the prized lingam , he rested under the grove of a vilva tree , the favourite tree of Shiva . When a cow carrying the lingam refused to move from the point , the king realised that the wishes of Shiva were different from his own , and he placed the lingam in the place where the cow halted . The place where the " shivalingam brought from Kasi " was installed came to be known as Sivakasi . Sivakasi was a part of Madurai region during the 16th century . Madurai became independent from Vijayanagar Empire in 1559 under the Nayaks . Nayak rule ended in 1736 and Madurai was repeatedly captured several times by Chanda Sahib (1740 ? 1754) , Arcot Nawab and Muhammed Yusuf Khan (1725 ? 1764) in the middle of 18th century . In 1801 , Madurai came under the direct control of the British East India Company and was annexed to the Madras Presidency .

During the 1800s , Nadars , then aspiring business community , established their commercial base in the town . By the end of the 19th century , the Nadars ? rapid rise as a business community and pursuit for higher social status caused resentment in higher castes . The mutual confrontation between the Maravars and Nadars reached its peak in 1899 , leading to a series of riots which became to be known as the Sivakasi riots . A total of 22 people were killed , as many as 800 houses and Big chariot in center of the city (used by temple during festival) were burnt during the riots . Eventually the riots came to an end after the intervention of the military in mid @-@ July 1899 .

The Sivakasi municipality was established in 1920 . After India 's independence from the British in 1947 , Sivakasi continued to be a municipality under the Madras state and later a part of Tamil Nadu , when the state was split on linguistic lines during 1953 , 1956 and 1960 and renamed in 1968 . It was promoted to a second @-@ grade municipality in 1978 , first @-@ grade in 1978 , selection @-@ grade in 1998 and special @-@ grade in 2013 @. @ a Over the decades after independence , Sivakasi grew as an industrial town specialising in firecracker , match and printing industries . Several incidents of fire and blasts have occurred in the firework factories .

= = Geography = =

Sivakasi is located at 9 @. @ 45 ° N 77 @. @ 8167 ° E ? / 9 @. @ 45 ; 77 @. @ 8167 and has an average elevation of 101 metres (331 feet) . The town is located in Virudhunagar district of the South Indian state , Tamil Nadu , at a distance of 74 km (46 mi) from Madurai . Sivakasi is located

to the east of Western Ghats and to the west of Sattur . The topography is almost plain , with no major geological formation . There are no notable mineral resources available in and around the town . The soil types are black and red that are conducive for cotton , chillies and millets . These crops are predominant because of poor ground water supply and soil type . Sivakasi experiences hot and dry weather throughout the year . The temperature ranges from a maximum of 39 ° C (102 ° F) to a minimum of 23 ° C (73 ° F) . Like the rest of the state , April to June are the hottest months and December to January are the coldest . Sivakasi receives scanty rainfall with an average of 812 mm (32 @. @ 0 in) annually , which is lesser than the state average of 1 @, @ 008 mm (39 @. @ 7 in) . The South west monsoon , with an onset in June and lasting up to August , brings scanty rainfall . Bulk of the rainfall is received during the North East monsoon in the months of October , November and December . The average humidity of the town is 76 @. @ 2 % and varies between 65 @. @ 6 % to 79 @. @ 2 % . The municipality covers an area of 6 @. @ 8 km² (6 @, @ 800 @, @ 000 m²)

= = Demographics = =

According to 2011 census , Sivakasi had a population of 71 @, @ 040 with a sex @- @ ratio of 1 @, @ 009 females for every 1 @, @ 000 males , much above the national average of 929 . A total of 6 @, @ 963 were under the age of six , constituting 3 @, @ 474 males and 3 @, @ 489 females . Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 8 @. @ 35 % and .25 % of the population respectively . The average literacy of the town was 79 @. @ 62 % , compared to the national average of 72 @. @ 99 % . The town had a total of 18952 households . There were a total of 29 @, @ 342 workers , comprising 22 cultivators , 135 main agricultural labourers , 955 in house hold industries , 27 @, @ 662 other workers , 568 marginal workers , 6 marginal cultivators , 3 marginal agricultural labourers , 79 marginal workers in household industries and 480 other marginal workers .

As per the religious census of 2011 , Sivakasi had 85 @. @ 42 % Hindus , 9 @. @ 21 % Muslims , 5 @. @ 2 % Christians , 0 @. @ 01 % Sikhs , 0 @. @ 06 % Jains , 0 @. @ 08 % following other religions and 0 @. @ 01 % following no religion or did not indicate any religious preference .

In 2001 , 16 slums were identified in the town and a total of 34 @, @ 029 people resided in the slums . The slum population increased from 42 % to 47 % during the period of 1991 ? 2001 . The high decadal growth of population during the 1961 ? 71 period is attributed to the high level of industrialisation during the period . The density of population increased from 9 @, @ 646 persons per km² in 1991 to 10 @, @ 613 persons per km² in 2001 . The wards along the Virudhunagar , Sattur , Srivilliputhur and Vembakottai corridors have registered increased commercial and residential activity .

Majority of the residents are engaged in secondary sector involving match works , fireworks and printing industry . During the 2001 census , the occupational pattern indicated increasing presence of the tertiary sector . The agricultural output of the town is limited , due to the lack of favourable geographical and climatic conditions .

= = Municipal administration and politics = =

The Sivakasi municipality has 33 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 , city planning and Information Technology (IT) . All these departments are under the control of a Municipal Commissioner who is the 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 .

Sivakasi comes under the Sivakasi assembly constituency and it elects a member to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly once every five years . From the 1977 elections , All India Anna Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) won the assembly seat four times (in 1980 , 1984 @, @ 1991 , and 2011 elections) ; Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC) twice (1996 , 2001) . The seat was won

once by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK , 1989) , Janata Party (1977) , and Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK , 2006) . The current MLA of the constituency is K.T. Rajenthra Bhalaji from AIADMK .

During the 1957 elections , Sivakasi was a part of Srivilliputhur constituency and was held by the Indian National Congress and an independent after the by @-@ elections . During the 1962 elections , the town was a part of Aruppukkottai constituency and was held by the Forward Block party . Since 1967 , the town has been a part of Virudhunagar Lok sabha constituency ; the constituency was won by AIADMK five times (1980 , 1984 , 1989 , 1991 and 2014) , MDMK three times (1998 , 1999 and 2004) , and once each by Swathanthara Party (1967) , DMK (1971) , INC (1977) , and Communist Party of India (CPI , 1996) . The current Member of Parliament from the constituency is T. Radhakrishnan from the AIADMK .

Law and order in the town is maintained by the Sivakasi sub division of the Tamil Nadu Police headed by a Deputy Superintendent . 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 .

= = Education and utility services = =

In 2011 , there were five government schools : two primary schools , one middle school , one high school and one higher secondary school . There were ten other private schools within the town . There were two engineering colleges in the town , with the Mepco Schlenk Engineering College being the prominent among them . There were three arts and science colleges and three polytechnic colleges in the town .

Electricity supply to Sivakasi is regulated and distributed by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) . The town along with its suburbs forms the Sivakasi Electricity Distribution Circle . A Chief Distribution engineer is stationed at the regional headquarters . Water supply is provided by the Sivakasi Municipality from the Vaippar river through eight reservoirs and six feeders located in various parts of the town . In the period 2000 ? 2001 , a total of 6 @.@ 5 million litres of water was supplied everyday for households in the town .

As per the municipal data for 2011 , about 45 metric tonnes of solid waste were collected from Sivakasi every day by door @-@ to @-@ door collection and subsequently the source segregation and dumping was carried out by the sanitary department of the Sivakasi municipality . The coverage of solid waste management in the town by the municipality had an efficiency of 100 % in 2001 . There is no underground drainage system in the town and the sewerage system for disposal of sullage is through septic tanks , open drains and public conveniences . The municipality maintained a total of 85 @.@ 87 km (53 @.@ 36 mi) of storm water drains in 2011 . In 2011 , there was one government hospital , three municipal health centres , one municipal maternity home and 25 private hospitals and clinics that take care of the health care needs of the citizens . In 2011 , the municipality maintained a total of 2 @,@ 584 street lamps : 322 sodium lamps , 125 mercury vapour lamps , 2 @,@ 136 tube lights and one high mast beam lamp . The municipality operates two markets , namely the Anna Daily Market and Viswanatham Municipal Meat Market that cater to the needs of the town and the rural areas around it .

= = Economy = =

The economy of Sivakasi is dependent on three major industries : fire crackers , match manufacturing and printing . The town has 520 registered printing industries , 53 match factories , 32 chemical factories , seven soda factories , four flour mills and two rice and oil mills . The town is the nodal center for firecracker manufacturing at the national level . In 2011 , the industry employed over 25 @,@ 000 people and some of the private enterprises had an annual turnover of ? 5 billion (US \$ 74 million) . In 2011 , the combined estimated turnover of the firecracker , match making and printing industry in the town was around ? 20 billion (US \$ 300 million) . Approximately 70 % of the

firecrackers and matches produced in India are from Sivakasi . The hot and dry climate of the town is conducive for the firecracker and match making industries . The raw materials for these industries were procured from Sattur earlier , but was discontinued due to the high power and production cost . The source of raw materials is Kerala and Andaman . The paper for the printing industry is procured from various states . The town is a major producer of diaries , contributing to 30 % of the total diaries produced in India . Printing industry in the town was initially utilized for printing labels for the firecrackers and later evolved with modern machinery to grow as a printing hub . In 2012 , all the industries suffered 15 ? 20 % production loss due to power shortage and escalating labor cost .

The major issues in the fireworks industry in Sivakasi is child labour and frequent accidents . In a blast in 1991 in a factory , 39 people were killed and 65 others were injured . In July 2009 , more than 40 people were killed in a fire accident in a firecracker unit . The police traced out unregistered units and irregularities that led to the accident . In a fire accident in August 2011 , seven people were killed and five were seriously injured . A similar fire accident and blast in a private unit in September 2012 killed 40 people and injured 38 others . The common reasons cited for the accidents are inadequate training of workers and supervisors involved in different stages of production and marketing of firecracker items . Other reasons are found to be overstocking of explosives , raw material and finished goods , and employment of workers in excess of the permitted strength .

Child labour in the industries , especially in match making factories , was at its peak during the 1970s and 1980s . In 1981 , the child work force in the age group 4 ? 16 was 30 % of the total work force , 90 % of whom were girls . In 1986 , the National Child Labour project estimated child labour in Sivakasi match making industries to be 14 @, @ 121 children . The estimates indicated 80 % of the child labour belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) , who were marginalised for centuries for cheap labour . Poverty and lack of farm produce were stated as the main reason for child labour . The employers also preferred children because of ease in management , discipline and lack of labour unions . The children in these industries suffered from back ache , neck ache , tuberculosis , malnutrition , gastrointestinal disorders , dermatitis , respiratory disorders , over @-@ exhaustion , burn injuries and water borne diseases due to exposure to harmful chemicals in the work environment . The situation of the child labour came to light during an accident of a bus transporting the children in 1976 . The central government appointed a one @-@ man committee under Harbans Singh in 1978 , who reported abolishing child labour would seriously impact the economy of the region . The National Policy on child labour was formulated by the central government in August 1987 , aiming at the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from these factories . In 1988 , the union labour ministry initiated a programme for providing informal education , free health care and free lunch for children working in the factories . The Supreme Court of India , in a judgement ruled on December 1996 indicating provisions for preventing child labour like compensation for the child employed , employment to the adult members of the family and contribution to the corpus fund by the state government . From the establishment of child labour Act in 1986 till 2011 , 150 @, @ 000 inspections on child labour have been conducted in the factories , 1 @, @ 500 cases have been registered and few prosecutions have been made . The results indicated small amount of child labour in cottage and house hold industries .

= = Transportation = =

The Sivakasi municipality maintains 65 @. @ 151 km (40 @. @ 483 mi) of road . The town has 13 @. @ 035 km (8 @. @ 100 mi) concrete road and 52 @. @ 116 km (32 @. @ 383 mi) bituminous road . A total of 2 @. @ 5 km (1 @. @ 6 mi) of state highways is maintained by the State Highways Department . Four major roads connect the town with Sattur , Virudhunagar , Srivilliputhur and Vembakottai ; there are no bypass roads around the town . There are eight major intersections located across different parts in these major roads .

Sivakasi is served by town bus service , which provides connectivity within the town and the suburbs . Minibus service operated by private companies cater to the local transport needs . The town bus routes to surrounding villages are to Puliparaipatti , Thayilpatti , Madathupatti Vilampatti ,

Alangulam , Vilampatti , Alangulam , M.Pudupatti , Alamarathupatti , Sengamalapatti , Muthalipatti and Meenampatti . The main bus stand covers an area of 1 @. @ 39 acres (5 @, @ 600 m²) and is located in the heart of the town . The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation operates daily services connecting various cities to Sivakasi . The State Express Transport Corporation operates long distance buses connecting the town to important cities like Chennai , Tiruppur and Thoothukudi . The major inter city bus routes from the town are to cities like Madurai , Chennai , Erode , Karur , Coimbatore , Karaikudi , Dindigul , Trichy , Ramanathapuram , Thanjavur , Sankarankovil , Sengottai , Rajapalayam , Tenkasi , Kovilpatti , Thoothukudi , Tiruchendur , Nagercoil and Tirunelveli . Being an industrial town , there is significant truck transport with around 400 ? 450 trucks entering the town for loading and unloading activities daily . Three wheelers , called autos are also a common public transport system .

Sivakasi railway station is located in the rail head from Madurai to Sengottai . It connects Tamil Nadu with Kerala through Rajapalayam and Sengottai . The Podhigai Express connects Sivakasi to Sengottai and Chennai Egmore in either directions . All other express trains ply from Virudhunagar station . There are also passenger trains running either side from Madurai to Shencottah .

= = Culture = =

Badhrakali Amman temple is the most prominent landmark of Sivakasi . The tower or Rajagopuram of this temple has a breadth of 66 ft (20 m) , width of 44 ft (13 m) and a height of 110 ft (34 m) . " Panguni Pongal " and " Chithirai Pongal " are the annual festivals celebrated for the deities Mariamman and Badrakali Amman in April and May respectively , both of which are celebrated for ten days .

Thiruthangal , located in the Virudhunagar @-@ Sivakasi road has the Nindra Narayana Perumal Temple , a Hindu temple dedicated to Vishnu on the hillock , attracting lot of pilgrims . Ayyanar Falls located on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats is a popular picnic spot for the residents of Sivakasi . The Venkatachalapathy temple located 25 km (16 mi) away from the town attracts pilgrims from southern Tamil Nadu . Periya Palli Vasal mosque and Chinna Palli Vasal mosque are two of the most prominent mosques in the town . The CSI Regland Memorial Church is the most prominent church in the town .

AJ Indoor Stadium on Velayutham Road , a coaching center for badminton , table tennis and basketball . This is a major sporting venue in Sivakasi . Many district , state and national level badminton championship matches are held in this stadium .