Tirunelveli

Tirunelveli pronunciation) , also known as Nellai and historically (during British rule) as Tinnevelly , is a city in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu . It is the administrative headquarters of the Tirunelveli District . It is the sixth @-@ largest municipal corporation in the state (after Chennai , Madurai , Coimbatore , Tiruchirappalli , Salem) . Tirunelveli is located 700 km (430 mi) southwest of the state capital , Chennai and 58 km (36 mi) away from Thoothukudi .

The city is located on the west bank of the Thamirabarani River ; its twin city Palayamkottai is on the east bank . Tirunelveli is believed to be an ancient settlement ; it has been ruled at different times by the Early Pandyas , the Medieval and Later Cholas , the later Pandyas , the Ma 'bar and Tirunelveli sultanates , the Vijayanagar Empire , the Madurai Nayaks , Chanda Sahib , the Carnatic kingdom and the British . The Polygar War , involving Palaiyakkarars led by Veerapandiya Kattabomman and forces of the British East India Company , was waged on the city 's outskirts from 1797 to 1801 . Tirunelveli has a number of historical monuments , the Nellaiappar Temple being the most prominent .

Industries in Tirunelveli include administrative services , agricultural trading , tourism , banking , agricultural machinery and educational services . The city is an educational hub of southern Tamil Nadu , with institutions such as Tirunelveli Medical College , the Veterinary College and Research Institution , Tirunelveli Law College and the Government College of Engineering . Tirunelveli is administered by a municipal corporation , established in 1994 by the Municipal Corporation Act . The city covers an area of 169 @.@ 9 km2 (65 @.@ 6 sq mi) , and had a population of 473 @,@ 637 in 2011 . Tirunelveli is well @-@ connected by road and rail with the rest of Tamil Nadu .

Etymology

Tirunelveli was known in Sambandar 's seventh @-@ century Saiva canonical work Tevaram as Thirunelveli . Nellaiappar temple inscriptions indicate that Shiva (as Vrihivritesvara) descended in the form of a hedge and roof to save the paddy crop of a devotee . In Hindu legend , the place was known as Venuvana (" forest of bamboo ") due to the presence of bamboo in the temple under which the deity is believed to have appeared . The early Pandyas named the city Thenpandiyanadu , the Cholas Mudikonda Cholamandalam and the Nayaks Tirunelveli Seemai ; it was known as Tinnelvelly by the British , and Thirunelveli after independence . The word Tirunelveli is derived from three Tamil words : thiru , nel and veli , meaning " sacred paddy hedge " .

History

The history of Tirunelveli was researched by Robert Caldwell (1814 ? 91) , a Christian missionary who visited the area . Tirunelveli was under the rule of Pandya kings as their secondary capital ; Madurai was the empire 's primary capital . The Pandya dynasty in the region dates to several centuries before the Christian era from inscriptions by Ashoka (304 ? 232 BCE) and mention in the Mahavamsa , the Brihat @-@ Samhita and the writings of Megasthenes (350 ? 290 CE) . The province came under the rule of Cholas under Rajendra Chola I in 1064 CE ; however , it is unclear whether he conquered the region or obtained it voluntarily . Tirunelveli remained under control of the Cholas until the early 13th century , when the second Pandyan empire was established with Madurai as its capital .

The Nellaiappar temple was the royal shrine of the later Pandyas during the 13th and 14th centuries , and the city benefited from dams constructed with royal patronage during the period . After the death of Kulasekara Pandian (1268 ? 1308) , the region was occupied by Vijayangara rulers and Marava chieftains (palayakarars , or poligars) during the 16th century . The Maravars occupied the western foothills and the Telugas , and the Kannadigas settled in the black @-@ soil @-@ rich eastern portion . Tirunelveli was the subsidiary capital of the Madurai Nayaks ; under Viswanatha Nayak (1529 ? 64) , the city was rebuilt about 1560 . Inscriptions from the Nellaiappar temple indicate generous contributions to the temple . Nayak rule ended in 1736 , and the region

was captured by Chanda Sahib (1740 ? 1754) , Arcot Nawab and Muhammed Yusuf Khan (1725 ? 1764) during the mid @-@ 18th century .

In 1743 Nizam @-@ ul @-@ mulk , lieutenant of the Deccan Plateau , displaced most of the Marathas from the region and Tirunelveli came under the rule of the Nawabs of Arcot . The original power lay in the hands of the polygars , who were originally military chiefs of the Nayaks . The city was the chief commercial town during the Nawab and Nayak era . The city was known as Nellai Cheemai , with Cheemai meaning " a developed foreign town " . The polygars built forts in the hills , had 30 @,@ 000 troops and waged war among themselves . In 1755 , the British government sent a mission under Major Heron and Mahfuz Khan which restored some order and bestowed the city to Mahfuz Khan . The poligars waged war against Mahfuz Khan seven miles from Tirunelveli , but were defeated . The failure of Mahfuz Khan led the East India Company to send Muhammed Yusuf for help . Khan became ruler , rebelled in 1763 and was hanged in 1764 . In 1758 , British troops under Colonel Fullarton reduced the polygar stronghold under Veerapandiya Kattabomman . In 1797 , the first Polygar war broke out between the British (under Major Bannerman) and the polygars (headed by Kattabomman) . Some polygars (such as the head of Ettaiyapuram) aided the British ; Kattabomman was defeated and hanged in his home province of Panchalaguruchi . Two years later , another rebellion became known as the Second Polygar War . Panchalankuruchi fell to the British , after stiff resistance . The Carnatic region came under British rule following a treaty with the Nawab of Carnatic .

After acquiring Tirunelveli from the Nawab of Arcot in 1801 , the British anglicised its name to " Tinnevelly " and made it the headquarters of Tinnelvelli District . The administrative and military headquarters was located in Palayamkottai (anglicised as " Palankottah ") , from which attacks against the polygars were launched . After independence both cities reverted to their original names , and Tirunelveli remained the capital of Tirunelveli district . A separate Thoothukudi district was split off in 1986 . And now 30 April 2015 by BJP government it 's known to be said as the one of the 100 smart cities of India

= = Geography and climate = =

Tirunelveli is located at 8 @.@ 73 ° N 77 @.@ 7 ° E ? / 8 @.@ 73 ; 77 @.@ 7 , and its average elevation is 47 metres (154 ft) . It is located at the southernmost tip of the Deccan plateau . The Tamirabarani River divides the city into the Tirunelveli quarter and the Palayamkottai area . The river (with its tributaries , such as the Chittar) is the major source of irrigation , and is fed by the northeast and southwest monsoons . The major lakes in the city are Nainar Lake and Udayarpetti Lake . The area around the Tamirabarani River and the Chittar has five streams : Kodagan , Palayan , Tirunelveli , Marudur East and Marudur West , and the Chittar feeds fifteen other channels . The soil is friable , red and sandy .

The climate of Tirunelveli is generally hot and humid . The average temperature during summer (March to June) ranges from 25 ° C (77 ° F) to 41 ° C (106 ° F) , and 18 ° C (64 ° F) to 29 ° C (84 ° F) during the rest of the year . The average annual rainfall is 680 millimetres (27 in) . Maximum precipitation occurs during the northeast monsoon (October ? December) . Since the economy of the district is primarily based on agriculture , flooding of the Tamarabarani River or a fluctuation in monsoon rain has an immediate impact on the local economy . The primary crops grown in the region are paddy and cotton . Pineapples were introduced during the 16th century , chilly and tobacco during the late 16th and potatoes during the early 17th centuries . The most common tree is the palmyra palm , a raw material in cottage industries . Other trees grown in the region are teak , wild jack , manjakadambu , venteak , vengai , pillaimaruthu , karimaruthu and bamboo . Livestock of the city and district comprises cattle , buffalo , goats , sheep and other animals in smaller numbers .

= = Demographics = =

According to 2011 census , Tirunelveli had a population of 473 @,@ 637 with a sex @-@ ratio of 1

@,@ 027 females for every 1 @,@ 000 males , much above the national average of 929 . A total of 46 @,@ 624 were under the age of six , constituting 23 @,@ 894 males and 22 @,@ 730 females . Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 13 @.@ 17 % and .32 % of the population respectively . The average literacy of the city was 81 @.@ 49 % , compared to the national average of 72 @.@ 99 % . The city had a total of 120 @,@ 466 households . There were a total of 182 @,@ 471 workers , comprising 2 @,@ 088 cultivators , 5 @,@ 515 main agricultural labourers , 18 @,@ 914 in house hold industries , 142 @,@ 435 other workers , 13 @,@ 519 marginal workers , 166 marginal cultivators , 913 marginal agricultural labourers , 1 @,@ 828 marginal workers in household industries and 10 @,@ 612 other marginal workers .

According to provisional data from the 2011 census the Tirunelveli urban agglomeration had a population of 498 @,@ 984 , with 246 @,@ 710 males and 252 @,@ 274 females . The overall sex ratio in the city was 1023 , and the child sex ratio was 957 . Tirunelveli had a literacy rate of 91 percent , with male literacy 95 percent and female literacy 87 percent . A total of 42 @,@ 756 of the city 's population was under age six .

As per the religious census of 2011 , Tirunelveli had 69 @.@ 0 % Hindus , 20 @.@ 02 % Muslims , 10 @.@ 59 % Christians , 0 @.@ 01 % Sikhs , 0 @.@ 01 % Buddhists , 0 @.@ 02 % Jains and 0 @.@ 35 % following other religions .

The city covers an area of 108 @.@ 65 square kilometres (41 @.@ 95 sq mi) . The population density of the city in the 2001 census was 3 @,@ 781 persons per square kilometre , compared with 2 @,@ 218 persons per square kilometre in 1971 . Hindus form the majority of the urban population , followed by Muslims and Christians . Tamil is the main language spoken in the city , but the use of English is relatively common ; English is the medium of instruction in most educational institutions and offices in the service sector . The Tamil dialect spoken in this region is distinct , and is widely spoken throughout Tamil Nadu .

= = Economy = =

Inscriptions from the eighth to the 14th centuries (during the rule of the Pandyas , Cholas and later Tenkasi Pandyas) indicate the growth of Tirunelveli as a centre of economic growth which developed around the Nellaiappar temple . The drier parts of the province also flourished during the rule of the Vijayanagara kings . From 1550 until the early modern era , migration to the city from other parts of the state was common and the urban regions became hubs of manufacturing and commerce . Tirunelveli was a strategic point , connecting the eastern and western parts of the peninsula , as well as a trading centre . Records of sea and overland trade between 1700 and 1850 indicate close trading connections with Sri Lanka and Kerala . During the 1840s , cotton produced in the region was in demand for British mills . The chief exports during British rule were cotton , jaggery , chillies , tobacco , palmyra fibre , salt , dried saltwater fish and cattle .

Occupations in Tirunelveli include service @-@ sector activities such as administration , agricultural trading , tourism , banking , agro @-@ machinery and educational services . In 1991 , the Tirunelveli region ranked second in the number of women workers . Service sectors such as tourism have developed , due to a growth in religious tourism . Tirunelveli has beedi and cement factories , tobacco companies , workshops for steel @-@ based products and mills for cotton textiles , spinning and weaving ; there are also small @-@ scale industries , such as tanneries and brick kilns . The agricultural areas , hand @-@ woven clothes and household industries contribute to the economic growth of the city . Food @-@ processing industries have developed since the late 1990s ; at the district level , it is the foremost industrial segment . Industries involving rice @-@ making , blue @-@ jelly metal manufacturing and jem power generating are located on the outskirts of the city . The major agricultural produce in the region is paddy and cotton . Beedi production during the 1990s earned an annual revenue of ? 190 billion and a foreign exchange of ? 8 billion across the three districts of Tirunelveli , Tiruchirapalli and Vellore .

Tirunelveli is a major area for wind @-@ power generation . Most wind @-@ power @-@ generation units in Tamil Nadu are located in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts . In 2005 they contributed 2036 @.@ 9 MW to the state power @-@ generation capacity . Many private ,

multinational wind companies are located on the outskirts of the city . In June 2007 the Tata Group signed a memorandum of understanding with the state government to open a titanium dioxide plant , with an estimated value of ? 25 billion , in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts . However , the state government put the project on hold after increasing protests against it .

= = Administration and politics = =

 The Tirunelveli Corporation was established in 1866 during British rule . It became a municipal corporation in 1994 , bringing the Palayamkottai and Melapalayam municipalities , the Thatchanallur town panchayat and eleven other village panchayats within the city limits . The municipal corporation has four zones : Tirunelveli , Thatchanallur , Palayamkottai and Melapalayam . The corporation has 55 wards , with an elected councillor for each ward . The corporation has six departments : general administration and personnel , engineering , revenue , public health , city planning and information technology (IT) . All departments are under the control of a municipal commissioner . Legislative power is vested in a body of 55 members , one from each ward . The legislative body is headed by an elected chairperson , assisted by a deputy . Tirunelveli city is district headquarters for the Tirunelveli district .
 The city is part of the Tirunelveli assembly constituency , electing a member to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly every five years . Since the 1977 elections , the assembly seat was held by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) for three terms (following the 1989 , 1996 and 2006 elections and the All India Anna Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) for six terms following the 1977 , 1980 , 1984 , 1991 , 2001 and 2011 elections . The current MLA is Nainar Nagendran , ex @-@ minister and a leader of AIADMK .
 Tirunelveli is a part of the Tirunelveli Lok Sabha constituency , with ten assembly constituencies : Tirunelveli , Vasudevanallur (SC) , Sankarankoil (SC) , Kalayanallur , Nanguneri , Ambasamudram , Tenkasi , Alangulam , Radhapuram and Palayamkottai . The current Member of Parliament from the constituency is K.R.P. Prabakaran of the AIADMK . Since 1957 , the Tirunelveli parliament seat was held by the Indian National Congress for four terms : 1957 ? 1961 , 1962 ? 67 , 2004 ? 09 and 2009 @-@ 14 . The Swantantra Party and the CPI won once each , from 1967 ? 71 and 1971 ? 77 respectively . The DMK won the seat twice : 1980 ? 84 and 1996 ? 98 . The ADMK won the seat seven times : 1977 ? 80 , 1984 ? 89 , 1989 ? 91 , 1991 ? 96 , 1998 , 1999 ? 2004 and 2014 elections .
 Order in the city is maintained by the Tirunelveli division of the Tamil Nadu Police , headed by a commissioner . There are units for prohibition enforcement , district crime , social justice and human rights , district crime records and a special branch operating at the district level , each headed by a deputy superintendent of police .

= = Transport = =

 Tirunelveli has an extensive transport network and is well @-@ connected to other major cities by road , rail and air . The corporation maintains a total of 763 @.@ 3 km (474 @.@ 3 mi) of roads . The city has 134 @.@ 88 km (83 @.@ 81 mi) of concrete roads , 375 @.@ 51 km (233 @.@ 33 mi) of BT roads , 94 @.@ 291 km (58 @.@ 590 mi) of water @-@ bound macadam roads , 76 @.@ 31 km (47 @.@ 42 mi) of unpaved roads and 82 @.@ 3 km (51 @.@ 1 mi) of highways . Twenty @-@ two kilometres (fourteen miles) of highway are maintained by the State Highways Department and thirty kilometres (nineteen miles) by the National Highways Department . In 1844 a bridge was built by Colonel Horsley across the Tamirabarani River , connecting Tirunelveli to Palayamkottai . The city is located on NH 7 , 150 km (93 mi) south of Madurai and 91 km (57 mi) north of Kanyakumari . NH 7A , an extension of NH 7 , connects Palayamkottai with Tuticorin Port . Tirunelveli is also connected by major highways to Kollam , Tiruchendur , Rajapalayam , Sankarankovil , Ambasamudram and Nazareth .
 The main bus stand (popularly known as the New Bus Stand) , opened in 2003 , is located in Veinthaankulam and there is regular bus service to and from the city . Other bus stands (for intracity

service) are the Junction and Palay bus stands . The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation has daily service to a number of cities , and the corporation operates a computerised reservation centre in the main bus stand . It also operates local buses serving the city and neighbouring villages . The State Express Transport Corporation has intercity service to Bangalore , Chennai , Kanyakumari and other cities .

Tirunelveli Junction railway station is one of the oldest railway stations in India . The line from Tirunelveli to Sengottai was opened in 1903 ; the connection to Quilon , which was completed later , was the most important trade route to Travancore province in British India . The city is connected to major cities in all four directions : Madurai and Sankarankovil to the north , Nagercoil to the south , Sengottai and Kollam to the west and Tiruchendur to the east . Tirunelveli is also connected to major Indian cities with daily service to Chennai , Coimbatore , Tiruchirappalli , Madurai , Salem , Kanyakumari , Mumbai , Guruvayur , Howrah , Delhi and Trivandrum . There is passenger service to Madurai , Tiruchendur , Tiruchirapalli and Kollam .

The nearest airport to Tirunelveli is Tuticorin Airport (TCR) at Vaagaikulam in Thoothukkudi District , 22 km (14 mi) east of the city , which offers daily flights to Chennai . The nearest international airports are Madurai International Airport , 150 km (93 mi) away and Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV) , about 130 km (81 mi) away .

= = Culture = =

Nellaiappar Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva in the form of Nellaiappar . The deity is revered in the verses of Tevaram , a seventh @-@ century Saiva work by Sambandar . The temple was greatly expanded during the 16th @-@ century Nayak period and has a number of architectural attractions , including musical pillars . The temple has several festivals , the foremost an annual festival when the temple chariot is brought around the streets near the temple . It is one of the Pancha Sabhai temples , the five royal courts of Nataraja (the dancing form of Shiva) , where he performed a cosmic dance . The Nataraja shrine in the temple represents copper , and features many copper sculptures . Tirunelveli has its fair share of temples , dating back to ancient times . It also prides itself as being the site where the Nellaiappar Temple is located , the state ? s largest Shiva Temple

Tirunelveli is also known for halwa , a sweet made of wheat , sugar and ghee . It originated during the mid @-@ 1800s at Lakshmi Vilas Stores , which still exist . The art of sweet @-@ making spread to other parts of Tamil Nadu , such as Nagercoil , Srivilliputhur and Thoothukudi . Tirunelveli halwa was popularised by Irutukadai Halwa , a shop opened in 1900 which sells the sweets only during twilight .

Tirunelveli has a number of cinemas which predominantly play Tamil movies . It is among the 40 cities in India with FM radio stations . Tirunelveli 's stations are Tirunelveli Vanoli Nilayam (All India Radio , from the Government of India) , Suryan FM (operated by Sun Network on 93 @.@ 5 MHz) and Hello FM (operated by the Malai Malar Group on 106 @.@ 4 MHz) .

A number of state- and national @-@ level sports events are sponsored in Tirunelveli annually . The VOC grounds (in central Palayamkottai) and the Anna Stadium (on St. Thomas Road) are popular venues in the city , and some events are held at scholastic sports facilities . As in India generally , the most popular sport is cricket . Also popular are football , volleyball , swimming and hockey , played on facilities provided by the Tirunelveli Division of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu .

The Government Exhibition , an annual event at Exhibition Grounds , attracts thousands of visitors from in and around Tirunelveli . Near the city are regional tourist attractions such as the Manimuthar and Papanasam Dams , the Ariakulam and Koonthakulam Bird Sanctuaries , Manjolai and Upper Kodaiyar .

= = Education = =

During the 1790s , Tamil Christians established a number of schools in Tirunelveli . The missionary

educational system included primary and boarding schools , seminaries , industrial schools , orphanages and colleges . The first boarding school for girls was opened in 1821 , but its efforts were hampered by the emphasis on Christian education . Thomas Munro (1761 ? 1827 CE) of the British East India Company established a two @-@ tier school system : district schools , teaching law , and sub @-@ district schools teaching vernacular languages in the Madras Presidency . Tirunelveli had four sub @-@ district schools : two teaching Tamil and one each for Telugu and Persian .

Tirunelveli has 80 schools : 29 higher secondary schools , 12 high schools , 22 middle schools and 17 primary schools ; the city corporation operates 33 of these schools . The city has eight arts and science colleges and six professional colleges . The Manonmaniam Sundaranar University is named for poet Manonmaniam Sundaranar , who wrote " Tamil Thai Vazhthu " the state anthem . Most Christian schools and colleges in the city are located in the Palayamkottai area .

Anna University of Technology Tirunelveli was established in 2007 , offering a variety of engineering and technology courses for undergraduate and graduate students . Tirunelveli Medical College , Veterinary College and Research Institution and the Government College of Engineering , Tirunelveli are professional colleges operated by the government of Tamil Nadu . The Jesuit St. Xavier 's College , and St. John 's College (operated by the Church of South India diocese) , MDT Hindu College , Sadakathulla Appa College and Sarah Tucker College are notable arts colleges .

The Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) operates a regional unit , the Equatorial Geophysical Research Laboratory , conducting research in geomagnetism and atmospheric and space sciences . The city has a District Science Centre (a satellite unit of Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum , Bangalore) with permanent exhibitions , science shows , interactive self @-@ guided tours , a mini @-@ planetarium and sky observation .

Tirunelveli and the district have a high rate of child labour . The drop in female school attendance between ages 15 and 19 is almost four times greater than that in the rest of Tamil Nadu .

= = Utilities = =

Electric service to Tirunelveli is regulated and distributed by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) . The city is headquarters for the Tirunelveli region of the four @-@ division TNEB and , with its suburbs , forms the Tirunelveli Electricity Distribution Circle . A chief distribution engineer is stationed at regional headquarters . Water supply is provided by the Tirunelveli City Corporation from the Tamirabarani River , throughout the city .

About 100 metric tonnes of solid waste are collected from the city daily in door @-@ to @-@ door collection ; source segregation and disposal is performed by the sanitary department of the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation . The underground drainage system was constituted in 1998 , covering 22 percent of the corporation area . The remaining system for disposal of sewage is through septic tanks and public conveniences . The corporation maintains a total of 184 @.@ 8 kilometres (114 @.@ 8 mi) of stormwater drains , 27 percent of the total road length . The clinics operated by the corporation provide primary health care to the urban poor through family @-@ welfare and immunisation programs . In addition , there are private hospitals and clinics providing health care to citizens .

Tirunelveli is part of the Tirunelveli Telecom District of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) , India 's state @-@ owned telecom and internet @-@ services provider . Both Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and Code division multiple access (CDMA) mobile services are available . In addition to telecommunications , BSNL also provides broadband internet service . Tirunelveli is one of a few cities in India where BSNL 's Caller Line Identification (CLI) -based internet service , Netone , is available . The city has a Passport Seva Kendra , a public @-@ private @-@ sector collaboration , which accepts passport applications from the Tirunelveli region for the passport office in Madurai .