

KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

1. Introduction

i) Geographical location of the district

Kanyakumari is the Southern most district of Tamil Nadu. The district lies between 77° 15' and 77° 36' of the Eastern Longitudes and 8° 03' and 8° 35' of the Northern Latitudes. The district is bound by Tirunelveli district on the North and the East. The South eastern boundary is the Gulf of Mannar. On the South and the South West, the boundaries are the Indian Ocean and the Arabian sea. On the west and North

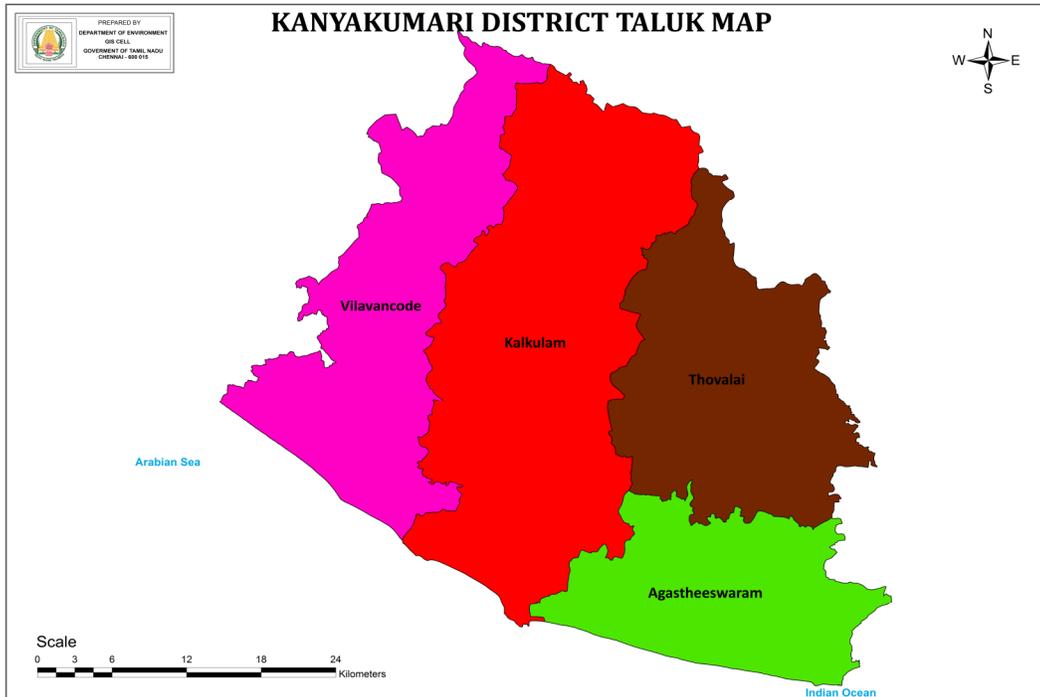
West it is bound by Kerala. With an area of 1672 sq.km it occupies 1.29% of the total area of Tamil Nadu. It ranks first in literacy among the districts in Tamil Nadu.

ii) Administrative profile

The administrative profile of Kanyakumari district is given in the table below

Sl. No.	Name of the division	Name of taluk		No. of firka	No. of revenue villages
1	Nagercoil	1	Agastheeswaram	4	43
		2	Thovalai	3	24
2	Padmanabhapuram	3	Kalkulam	6	66
		4	Vilavancode	5	55
		Total		18	188

ii)



Meteorological information

Based on the agro-climatic and topographic conditions, the district can be divided into three regions, namely: the uplands, the middle and the low lands, which are suitable for growing a number of crops. The proximity of equator, its topography and other climate factors favour the growth of various crops. Minimum temperature prevailing is 24°C and maximum temperature is 34°C. Unlike other district in Tamil Nadu, it has a rainfall both during the South West and the North East monsoons. The South West monsoon period starts from the month of June and ends in September. The North East monsoon period starts from October and ends in the middle of December. The average rainfall of the district is 1456.8 mm per annum. From 2005 onwards the annual rainfall is estimated to be 1006 mm. Unlike other districts in Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari receives a fairly good rainfall from both southwest and northeast monsoons. Southwest monsoon accounts for 32.6%, Northeast monsoon being 42.5%, winter being 3.3% and summer being 21.6% of total rainfall.

2. Resources availability

i) Land resources

Soil in the district is mostly of the red loam variety. However on the sea coasts, the sandy type of soil prevails and, near the mountain ranges, gravelly soil is generally seen. In low lands there is neither white sand nor sandy loam, while in the midlands and high lands there prevails fairly fertile soil of the fine type. The valley in the midland has loamy clay soil with high sand content. In the midlands, in general, the soil is clay-loam of laterite origin with a mixture of gravel and sand. Laterite soils found at Thiruvattar, Killiyoor, Munchirai, Rajakamangalam, Thuckalay blocks. Red

and alluvial soils are found at Agastheeswaram and Thovalai blocks.

ii) Agriculture and horticulture

Based on the agro-climatic and topographic conditions, the district can be divided into three regions, namely:-

1. The uplands : comprising of hills and hill bases suitable for growing crops like rubber, cloves, nutmeg, pepper, and pineapple etc.

2. The Middle: comprising of plains and valleys fit for growing crops like paddy, tapioca, banana, coconut etc.

3. The low lands: comprising the coastal belt ideal for growing coconut, cashew etc.

This district produces paddy, tapioca and oilseeds such as groundnut and coconut besides commercial crops like cashew, rubber, fruits and spices. The important feature of this district is the production of off season mangoes.

Paddy is the main crop of this district. It is grown in two seasons. First crop is sown in the month of April – June (kannipoo) and second crop is raised in the month of September – October (kumba poo). Tapioca is raised as a subsidiary food crop in this district. The main planting season is April-May. In some pockets, September – October planting is also done as second season crop. It is purely raised as rainfed crop in Kalkulam and Vilvancode taluks and as irrigated crop in some area of Agastheeswaram taluk of this district. Coconut is an important cash crop of this district. The main planting season is May to July.

Area and production of major crops (2006-07)

Sl. No.	Crops	Area (ha)	Production (Metric Tonnes)	Productivity kg/ha	% to the total area
A.	Cereals and millets				
1	Paddy	21158	0.9990	4721	26.67
2	Pulses	1761	0.1267	600	2.22
B.	Oilseeds				
	Coconut	24200	27.5 crore nuts	11375 nuts/ha	30.5
C.	Other crops				
		42562	--	--	40.61

Pulses are raised in rice-fallow and as intercrop in tapioca. The important pulses are blackgram, greengram, horsegram, cowpea and redgram. In the months of April–May and September – October pulses are grown as intercrop with tapioca. In the months of February – March pulses are raised as pure crop in rice-fallows. Vegetables are cultivated during January – February and July – August.

Vegetable is also grown as 3rd crop after the harvest of 2nd crop paddy in some pockets of this district. Banana is cultivated mainly during March – May and September - October. Groundnut is raised during March-April and October – November as rainfed crop in small extent. In addition, pepper, cloves, arecanut, betelvine, cocoa, gingelly, ginger, turmeric, arrowroot etc. is also grown in this district.

iii) Forest resources

The forests in Kanyakumari District are verdant and virgin forests and said to be of 75 million years old. Of the total district area of 1,67,130 ha government forests occupy an area of 50486 ha which comes to about 30.2% the total district geographic area.

The forests of Kanyakumari District were transferred from Kerala to Tamil Nadu on 1st November 1956 as a result

of the reorganization of states. The forests of this divisions (Part) i.e Boothapandy Mahendra-giri R.F. etc. were previously managed by the District Forest Officer, Tirunelveli South Division with Head quarters at Tirunelveli. Consequent on the formation of Kalakad and Mundathurai sanctuary, Kanyakumari division was formed exclusively to manage the forests of Kanyakumari district with headquarters at Nagercoil from 01.04.1977 as per G.O.Ms.No. 261, dated : 26.03.1977.

Forest in Kanyakumari division comparison of 14 types of forests from luxuriant tropical wet evergreen to tropical thorn forests. These occur in this district because of diverse locality factors; (according to Champion and Seths classification). Rainfall varies from 103 cm to 310 cm. Elevation from sea level is 1,829 m. The forest area is 30.2 % of total district geographical area which is next to Nilgiris district with 59% and Dharmapuri district with 38 % in the State. The district is having 52% of its forests as dense forests coming only second to Dharmapuri district with 58%.

The forests consist of soaring and lofty trees of *Mesua ferrea*, *Bischofia Javanica*, *Vitex altissima* to smaller trees of Dillini a species festooning climber, shrubs valuable herbs, variety of orchids, 2 types

canes many indigenous palms and cycas. The important timbers are teak, rosewood, vengai and aini and this district is worth mentioning here for the easy availability and quality of the above timbers. Various types of forest produces like bamboos, reeds, canes soft wood, tamarind, lemon grass, rubber, coconut, arecanut, kadukai, cinna momum bark, nelli, cardamom, mango and many medicinal plants of high value are harvested in this district.

The maruthuval-malai located among green paddy fields and fluttering coconut palms is famous for valuable medicinal plants. This is the only district in Tamil Nadu, where rubber and clove plantations have been raised in reserve forests in an area of 4785.70 ha and 110 ha respectively. The district is rich in wildlife with at least 25 types of mammals, about 60 species of birds including 14 species of migratory birds and many species of fishes, reptiles and amphibians. In short, these forests are a veritable trove of biological treasure.

From tourism angle, the forests are highly enchanting with pleasant shola hill top forests, beautiful grass lands, panoramic valleys, hillocks, singing streams, vast stretches of rubber plantations valuable teak plantations and excellent climate. Nobody should miss seeing Mahendragiri, Maramalai, Sea field and Balamore estate area, Ecology farm, Kalikesam, Pechiparai dam, Perunchani dam, Upper Kodayar, Maruthamparai and Mukkudal areas for their scenic beauty. All areas in forests are worth seeing in Kanyakumari district only.

Reserve Forests and the Area

The following are the reserve forests in this division:

Sl.No	Reserve forests	Area in ha
1	Therkumalai East and West	1,741

2	Thadagaimalai	797
3	Poigaimalai	1,243
4	Mahendragiri	4,360
5	Veerapuli	28,109
6	Velimalai	1,126
7	Old kulasekaram	694
8	Kilamalai	8,106
9	Asambu	4,310
	Total	50,486

Areas Leased for other activities (ha)

A	Area leased to Arasu Rubber Corporation Ltd for raising Rubber	4,785.00
B	Area leased to Arasu Rubber Corporation Ltd for raising Clove	110.00
C	Area leased for Space Research work to I.S.R.O.	1,199.20
D	Kodayar Hydro Electric Project T.N.E.B	133.24

Medicinal plants

Medicinal Plants Conservation Area Scheme is being implemented in this division with the assistance of Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore (FRLHT) from the year 1993 - 94 onwards.

iv) Mineral resources

Garnet sand, illmenite sands, salt and gypsum are the main mineral resources of this coast. In manavalakuruchi heavy minerals like illmenite, garnet, zircon and rutile occur and are mined. Sand dunes and teri soil occur along the coast and away from the coast of Kanyakumari. The southern part of the coast is sandy beaches with beach sands containing heavy minerals on the eastern and western sides of Kanyakumari. The sand dunes rise up to 67 m. The general relief goes over to 15 m above MSL. This stretch comprises mainly of archaeans, quaternary and recent geological formations.

Calcareous shell limestone of sub recent origin is seen near Kanyakumari. The area between Kanyakumari and Kuzhithurai is mainly covered by thick laterite soil dotted with few rock outcrops.

The following coastal geomorphic features are observed along the coast of Kanyakumari district:

- Beach
- Beach ridges
- Cluffed coast
- Sand dunes
- Beach terraces

The marine landforms along the Kanyakumari district are restricted to the width of less than 1km due to high relief of inland areas which represent the slope of the Western Ghats when compared to the Eastern Coast.

v) Water resources

The major river in the district is Tamiraparani river locally known as Kuzhithuraiar. This river has two major tributaries with the Pechiparai dam and Perunchani dam respectively built across them, Kodayar and Paralayar. There are many tributaries for the Kodayar river of which Chittar river I and Chittar II, with their dams are the major ones. The origin of Thamirabarani River is in the Western ghats and the river confluences with Arabian Sea near Thengapattanam, about 56 km west of Kanyakumari town.

Valliar, another small river and its tributary Thoovalar, originate from the Vellimalai hills, collect the drainage from P.P. channel and its branches, ayacuts (irrigated area under a tank) and confluence with the Arabian sea near Manavalakurichi. The Pazhayar river, another small river, starts at Shorlacode, a place about 18 km north-west of Nagercoil. This is mainly a drainage river, mostly collecting the drainage of Thovalai, Ananthanar and N.P. Channels.

The Pahrli river also flows through the district. The Mathur hanging trough, the highest and longest aqueduct in Asia, was built over it near Mathur.

vi) Fisheries production

The coastal ecosystem of this District comprises 68 km in length and is studded with 44 coastal fishing villages. Since this district is situated at the extreme south of the Indian subcontinent, the coastline is formed nearly by three seas, namely, Arabian sea, Indian ocean and Bay of Bengal. But the main part of the coast faces the Arabian Sea. According to a report, 1,18,387 fisher-folks are distributed in the 44 villages of Kanyakumari coast which constitute about 26% of the total fishermen of Tamil Nadu. Fisher folks do not own land but put their hut on the seashore on unsurveyed land. Most of the villages are having tiled and thatched roofs. In each village a few houses have concrete roofing; the owners of these houses are working in some other countries as drivers, crane operators, etc. A few educated fishermen settled down in the inland are doing teaching and other office jobs. Still, the economy of the coastal villages is not satisfactory. The marine capture fisheries sector has an important place in the district's economy. It is sad to note that, among the fisherman population, only 44% is fully employed, 52% occasionally and 4% partially. The fishing job may not be secure during lean season particularly during June.

The mechanised boats can catch 15,000 to 25,000 kg of fish per day. But during non-seasonal months the catch per boat will be 700-8000 kg /day. It has been recorded that in seasonal landings in Kanyakumari fishing village nearly 81,000 kg per month was obtained.

vii) Heritage resources

Fountain at Kanyakumari

Kanyakumari district, which lies in the Southern most tip of Peninsular India, is famous for its majestic hills, virgin beaches, pristine rivers and meandering rivulets. The district has a fragrance of architecture, culture and customs of neighbouring Kerala mixed with the rich deep traditions, culture and architecture of Tamil Nadu. However, for want of promotional campaign and lack of basic amenities most of the tourists coming to this district return back after seeing just Kanyakumari and Padmanabhapuram Palace. It was at this juncture that the district administration decided to take up tourism promotion initiatives in a major way. Attempt has been made to put up basic amenities at the virgin beautiful spots so as to facilitate the inflow of the tourists.

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial

The place has been associated with great men like Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi in whose names memorials have been here. They are very beautiful and add to the attraction of this place. The beautiful Gandhi Memorial completed in 1956, is situated as a memorial to the Father of the Nation. An urn of Mahatma Gandhi was kept here for public to pay homage before immersion. Mahatma Gandhi visited Kanyakumari twice in 1925 and 1937. In 1948 his ashes were immersed in the sea waters in Kanyakumari. In commemoration of this event a beautiful monument has been constructed here. Its central shape is 79 ft high representing the age of the Mahatma. It has been constructed in such a way the sun at Mid day on 2nd October would fall on the peedam through a hole in the roof. The memorial was transferred to the administrative control of

the Public (Information and Public Relations) Department from Public Works Department of Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1978.

Thiruvalluvar Statue

Thiruvalluvar is the immortal poet of Tamil Nadu and has given to the world Thirukkural. The memorial statue of Thiruvalluvar is in Kanyakumari. The pedestal of the statue is of 38 ft high and the statue over it is 95 ft High with a grand total of 133 ft for the entire sculpture. The 3 tier pedestal known as Atharapeedam is surrounded by an artistic Mandapa known as Alankara Mandapam with 38 ft height. Surrounding the Alankara Mandapa stand 10 elephant statues signifying 8 directions with earth and space down. The father of Sri. Rama, the hero of Ramayana was called Dasaratha as he was able to charioteer in ten directions. To help the tourists to worship the holy feet of Thiruvalluvar 140 steps are constructed inside the Mandapa. The pedestal with a height of 38 ft represents the 38 chapters in the Book of Aram in Thirukural and the statue of 95 ft on the pedestal represents the total chapters in Porul (70 chapters) and Inbam (25 chapters). Thus the statue symbolically, and artistically signifies that the theme of Porul and Inbam are based on Aram.



**Thiruvalluvar Statue and
Vivekananda Rock Memorial**

Kamarajar Manimandapam

Another monument Kamarajar Manimandapam was raised and dedicated to Late Sri Kamarajar, the freedom fighter, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and the President of Indian National Congress. This monument was constructed where his ashes were kept here for public to pay homage before immersion into the sea.

Vivekananda Rock Memorial

Vivekananda Rock Memorial is another place in Kanyakumari which attracts large number of tourists. As its name implies, it is essentially a sacred monument, built by the Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee to commemorate the visit of Swamy Vivekananda to “Shripada Parai” during 24th, 25th and 26th December 1892 for deep meditation and enlightenment. From very ancient times, the rock has been regarded as sacred place. In Puranic tradition, it has been known as “Sripada Parai: meaning the rock that has been blessed by the touch of Shripada feet of the goddess. On the rock, is a projection similar in form to a human feet and a little brownish in complexion, which has traditionally, been revered as a symbol of Shripadam. According to legend, it was on this rock that Goddess Kanyakumari did Tapas. The memorial consists of two main structures, viz (i) Vivekananda Mandapam and (ii) Shripada Mandapam.

Sunrise and sunset

Sunrise can be seen in Kanyakumari throughout the year at Bay of Bengal. Sunset can be seen from View Tower throughout the year except the months of June, July and August.



Sunrise and Sunset in Kanyakumari



View Tower and Telescope house

Panoramic view of landscape, seashore, Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Thiruvalluvar Statue etc., can be seen at View Tower and through telescope.

Government museum

The Government museum, situated on the beach road offers a good collection of sculptured artifacts and crafts of South Indian Temples and is one of the “Must See” places in Kanyakumari.

Guganathaswamy Temple

This is a 1000 year old temple and is said to have been built by the King Raja Raja Chola. The architectural style of the Cholas is quiet apparent in this temple. It is located

near Railway Station. There are 16 inscriptions found in this temple that date back to the years 1038 A.D., 1044 A.D., 1045 .A.D.

Kumari - Hall of history

It is located south side of Kanyakumari Railway Station exhibits the pictures of historical wonders and also rare photographs of Kamarajar, Gandhiji and other freedom fighters.

Suchindrum

Suchindrum is a small village about 12 km from Kanyakumari and 7 km from Nagercoil. This holy place is located on the bank of the river Pazhayar, adjoining fertile fields and coconut groves and the temple is dedicated to Sri Sthanumalayan. The word denotes Siva, Vishnu and Brahma as Sthanu represents Siva, Mal represents Vishnu while Ayan represents Brahma i.e. Siva, Vishnu and Brahma in “One Form”.

Udayagiri fort

The fort was rebuilt in the reign of Marthandavarma, the Venad King, during 1741-44 under the supervision of De Lannoy, the Belgian General, who served as the Chief of the Travancore army; East India Company’s troops were stationed there till the middle of the 19th century. Foundry for the manufacture of guns, mortars and cannon balls were also established within the fort under the supervision of the General.

In the early days, the fort was of strategic importance. Prisoners captured in the campaign against Tippu were confined in this fort for some time. It is further said that a brass gun 16 ft long bored as a 22 pounder, found in the fort could not be removed even for a few yards by a large number of people, even with the help of 16 elephants.

A village has come up in front of the fort. The people who live here, are mostly agriculturists. A few of them are engaged in trade. Pottery making is the chief industry among a section of the people. Now, the district administration, with the help of forest department has set up a Biodiversity Park over here. Tourists can see deer, ducks, fountains, birds and over 100 varieties of trees inside the fort.

Mathoor Hanging Bridge

The Mathoor Hanging Trough is the tallest as well as the longest trough bridge in Asia, having a height of 115 ft and a length of one kilometre. Constructed in 1966, this bridge has become a place of tourist importance and hundreds of tourists visit this place. This is situated in Mathoor, hamlet of Aruvikkarai revenue village in Thiruvattar Panchayat Union.



Mathoor Hanging Bridge

The bridge has been constructed at Mathoor across the river Parazhiyar at a cost of Rs.12.90/- lakh and the trough canal (Pattanamkal canal) on the bridge carries water for irrigation from one side of a hill to the other side of a hill. The trough has a height of seven ft with a width of seven ft six inches. The canal is being shouldered by 28 huge pillars. By the unrelenting efforts of late Thiru.K.Kamaraj, the former Chief Minister

of Tamil Nadu, this canal was constructed as a drought relief measure and for the development of agriculture in Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks. The district administration has recently put up a staircase from top to the bottom of the bridge and also built a children's park and bathing platforms over here.

St. Xavier church

St. Xavier an outstanding and dedicated priest visited the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu from Goa. He never missed the opportunity of visiting Kottar in Kanyakumari district which was a celebrated commercial centre at that time. During his stay at Kottar, he used to worship St. Mary in the small temple. He was popularly known as “Valiya Pandaram” among the people of Kottar. While he was at Kottar, he averted the invasion of Padagas on the people of Venad which was appreciated by the king, who became closer to the Priest. In recognition of Xavier’s services, the king allotted a land to him for the purpose of constructing a catholic church at Kottar. There was already a church in 1544 in the same place, where the St. Xavier’s church stands now.

Padmanabhapuram palace

The ancient historical town Padmanabhapuram is one of the four municipalities in the district is 55 km (south) from Trivandrum, situated at a distance 2 km east of Thuckalay and 35 km from Kanyakumari on the Trivandrum-Cape Comerin road. This town is surrounded by a fort with an area of 187 acres. The ancient capital of Travancore might be constructed before AD 1601. The palace with an area of seven acres, is situated in the very centre on

the Padmanabhapuram Fort, amidst hills, dales and rivers. The palace which is situated in Kanyakumari district is under the control of a curator of the Archaeological Department of Kerala Government. The fort which was built with mud originally was dismantled and reconstructed with granite by Maharaja Marthanda Varma. The height of the walls vary from 15’ to 24’ according to the inclination of the ground.

Peer Mohammed Durgah

There is a durgah named ‘Peer Mohamed Oliyullah Durgah’ at Thuckalay named after the great philosopher Mohamed Appa, who was born in Tenkasi of Tirunelveli district. After spending sometime in spiritual pursuits in Peermedu of Kerala State he came and stayed at Thuckalay. Being a Tamil poet of great eminence, he wrote many books on philosophy.

Tirparappu Water Falls

The Kodayar makes its descend at Tirparappu and the water fall at this place is about 13 km from Pechiparai dam. The river bed is rocky and about 300 ft in length. The water falls from a height of nearly 50 ft and the water flows for about seven months in a year. The whole bed above the falls is one rocky mass which extends up to a distance of about quarter of a kilometer upstream where the famous Thirparappu weir has been constructed for supplying water to the paddy fields. On the left bank of the river in between the waterfalls and the weir, there is a temple dedicated to Siva enclosed by strong fortification. The district administration has recently constructed a swimming pool for children over here which is very popular among the children.



Thirparappu water falls

Maruthuva malai

The Maruthuva malai also known as the Marunthu Vazhum Malai the abode of medicinal herbs, forms part of the western ghats. According to tradition, the Maruthuva malai is a fragment of the Sanjeevi mountain, a piece of which fell down here as it was carried by Hanuman from Mahendragiri to Sri Lanka for healing the fatal wounds of Lakshmana, the brother of Rama. It stretches for more than a km reaching a height of 800 ft at the highest point. It is about 11 km from Nagercoil.

Chitharal

Chitharal is a small village situated at a distance of 7 km from Marthandam and 45 km from Kanyakumari. It is famous for the rock-cut temple. Hillock at Chitharal has a cave containing Rock-cut sculptures of Thirthankaras and attendant deities carved inside and outside dating back to 9th Century A.D. It was converted into Bagavathy Temple in the 13th Century A.D. Cars and Vans can go upto the foot of the hill. One has to walk for about 10 minutes to

reach the temple. The Jain images have been preserved by Central Archeological Survey of India.

Vattakottai (circular fort)

Vattakottai, a granite fort 6 km north-east of Kanyakumari, forms the terminal of a line of ramparts known as the South Travancore lines built by Marthanda Varma to serve as defence for Nanjil Nadu. It is rectangular in shape and covers an area of about three and a half acres. The fort is enclosed by walls of 25 to 26 ft high, including the parapet, 29 ft thick at the front, 18 ft at the corners and 6 ft at the rear. The portion running into the area is the most strongly built under the orders of De Lannoy during the reign of Mathandavarma (1729-58). About 1810 A.D. the British forces under the command of St. Leger marched into Nanjil Nadu through the Aramboly pass and demolished the defence lines. The small river by the side of the fort, and the green vegetation all around add to the scenery of the fort and has now become a holiday resort and picnic centre.

viii) Biodiversity

Manakudy estuary is formed by the confluence of river Pazhayar in between east and west Manakudy village. There is a well established mangrove forest in one of the mud flats of the Manakudi estuary. Three important small – scale industries are well established on the banks of this estuary.

3. Impacts

i) Natural disaster prone areas

Kanyakumari district was one of the worst affected districts in India during the tsunami that ravaged the coasts of various countries in South and South East Asia, on 26 December 2004. There were nearly 900 deaths and several hundreds missing and injured. Social organizations from several countries and the Government have since been working on rehabilitating the affected people and property.

1. Government initiatives

i) Initiatives to improve fisher folk livelihood

Under the fisherman free housing scheme, Tamil Nadu government has allotted 2487 houses in different coastal villages of Kanyakumari district. When detailed analysis was made from previous records (of census report from Director of Fisheries) it was evident that in housing, an improvement could be noted. During 1982 there were only 184 terraced houses with sanitary facilities in nine villages (Periavilai, Azhikkal, Maramadi, Kodimunai, Kurumbanai, Kadiapattinam, Melakurumbanai and Eraviputhenthurai).

Now in these villages additional 470-terraced houses have been built. This indicates awareness among fisher-folks of

having better living places. Another survey in Kovalam village shows that concrete houses have gone upto 56% of the total houses of the village.

ii) Coastal protection initiatives

Neerodi

This stretch of the coast from Neerodi colony to Erayamunthurai, is situated in the west coast of Tamil Nadu state. A number of dwelling units just close to the coast are facing threat of erosion. The width of the beach along this stretch of the coast is about 30 m and gets washed away during the South-West (SW) monsoon leading to the entry of seawater occasionally into the dwelling units. It is observed that the beach slope in this stretch is quite steep. An existing sea wall for a length 1km is in a collapsing stage.

Colachel Jetty

The beach is found to be very flat on either side of the jetty. The beach can be used for plantations. A pair of groynes with a crest elevation of about 6.0 m from MSL locally called as thoondil valaivu can serve as a protective measure against severe waves particularly during cyclones and natural hazards. This proposal will also serve as a landing facility for boats and catamarans. The existing jetty can more effectively be used if the above proposal is implemented. The length of the coast that should be covered under this proposal will be about 1km

Kottilpadu Colachel

This is one of the worst affected villages in Kanyakumari district during tsunami and has resulted in a number of casualties about 200. About 4 rows of houses collapsed. The local public have reported that the canal, which is running

parallel to the shoreline has acted as a death trap, as the people trying to escape from the attack of the tsunami should have got drowned as the number of bridges or escape routes available are less. This area needs to be protected against wave run-up during cyclone and tsunami. Local people are strongly recommended to move on to the landward side of the canal. This has to be treated as the most urgent strategy.

Palayar river mouth

This village was badly affected during the tsunami. The existing seawall, near the mouth of river Palayar is not stable as there is considerable erosion at the tip of the seawall. As damages to property and life are quite severe in this village, it is suggested that all arrangements should be made to relocate the dwelling units.

Keezhamanakudithurai

This village is located on the eastern side of the river Palayar. The existing seawall is completely disturbed. A number of dwelling units and churches got damaged. Hence, a groyne field for upto distance of 1.5 km is recommended. Further, it is also recommended to raise the crest elevation of the existing seawall by 2 m. Western side of the Palayar river will be protected with groyne and the eastern side of this river with 3 groyne with a total average length of 200 m excluding the training walls.

iii) Awareness initiatives (tsunami / CRZ issues)

Various awareness creation activities have been made among the fisher folk about tsunami and CRZ issues by different Government and Non Government organizations. Attempts have been made to develop bioshields, rebuild livelihoods, and

reclaim soil in the tsunami affected agricultural fields in Kanyakumari district.

5. Summary / Conclusion

- Kanyakumari is the southern most district of Tamil Nadu is bound by Tirunelveli district on the North and the east. The south eastern boundary is the Gulf of Mannar. On the south and the south west, the boundaries are the Indian Ocean and the Arabian sea. On the west and north west it is bound by Kerala.
- With an area of 1672 sq.km it occupies 1.29% of the total extent of Tamil Nadu.
- The administrative profile of Kanyakumari district comprises 4 taluks, 18 firkas and 188 villages.
- Unlike other district in Tamil Nadu, it has a rainfall both during the south west and the north east monsoons.
- Soil in the district is mostly of the red loam variety. However on the sea coasts, the sandy type of soil prevails and, near the mountain ranges, gravelly soil is generally seen.
- This district produces paddy, tapioca and oilseeds such as groundnut and coconut besides commercial crops like cashew, rubber, fruits and spices.
- The Forests in Kanyakumari district is verdant and virgin forests are said to be of 75 million years old.
- Of the total district area of 167130ha government forests occupy an area of 50486 ha which comes to about 30.2% the total District geographic area.

- Garnet sand, illmenite sands, salt and gypsum are the main minerals resources of this coast
- The major river in the district is Thamirabarani river locally known as Kuzhithuraiar. This river has two major tributaries with the Pechiparai dam and Perunchani.
- The coast length of this district is 68 km in length and is studded with 44 coastal fishing villages.
- Manakudy estuary is formed by the confluence of river Pazhayar in between east and west Manakudy village. There is a well established mangrove forest in one of the mud flats of the Manakudi estuary.