

# VILLUPURAM DISTRICT

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## 1. Introduction

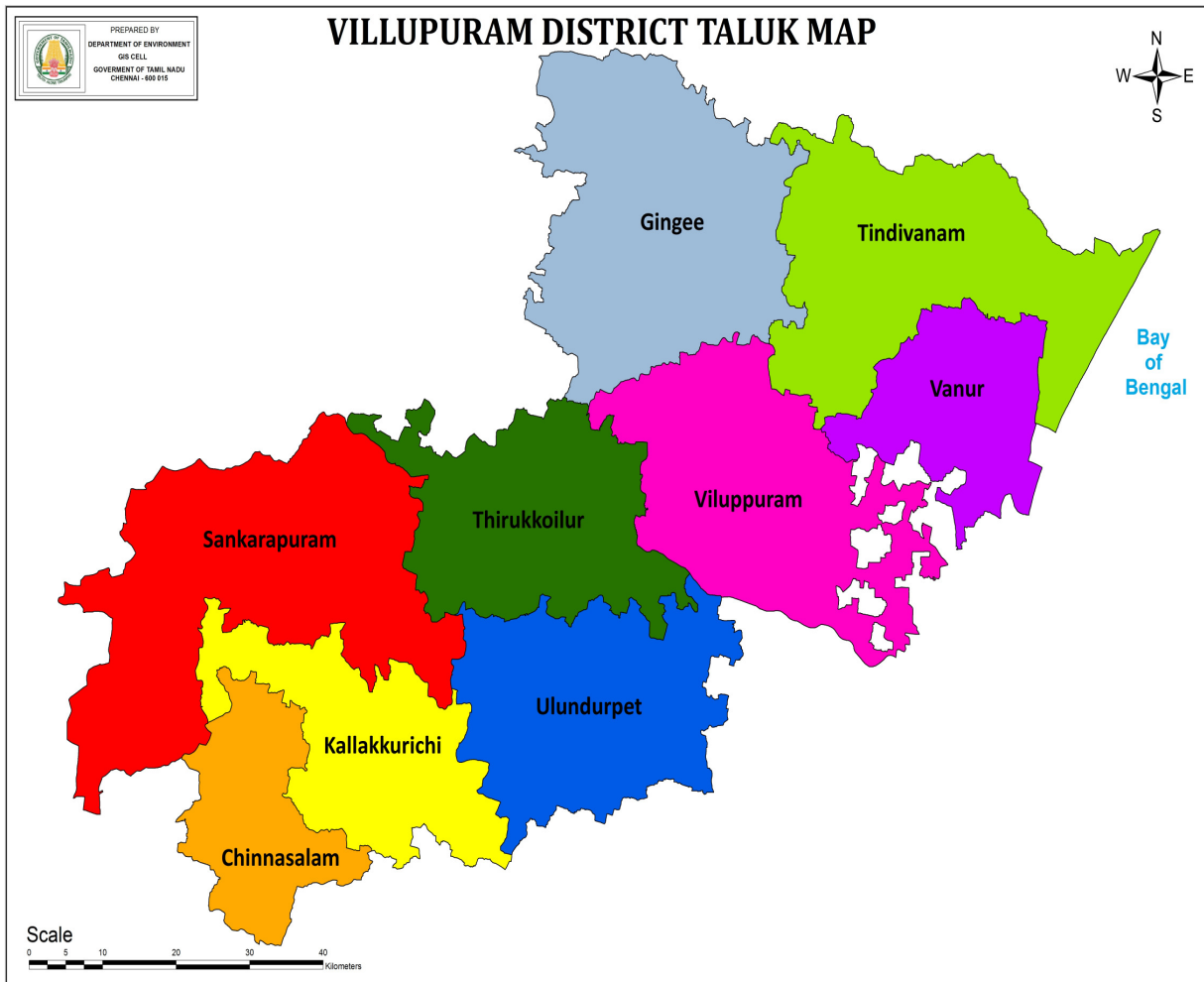
### i) Geographical location of the district

Villuppuram District lies between 11 38' 25" N and 12 20' 44" S; 78 15' 00" W and 79 42' 55" E with an area of 7194 sq. km. It was carved out from the South Arcot District on 30.09.1993 and was rechristened as Villuppuram District. The residual part of the erstwhile South Arcot district was named as Cuddalore District. It is

surrounded on East and South by Cuddalore District; the West by Salem and Dharmapuri districts and on the North by Thiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram districts.

### ii) Administrative profile

At present Villuppuram district comprises of 1,490 revenue villages, 4 revenue divisions, 9 administrative taluks, 22 blocks, 15 town panchayat unions, 1,104 village panchayats and 3 municipalities.



### iii) Meteorological information

The district does not get heavy rainfall with the exception of Marakanam and Vanur blocks, In Kandamangalam and Koliyaur blocks, the rainfall is moderate it is scarce in Kallakurichi and Sankarapuram. The total rainfall during the year 2002-03 was 617.4mm against 1030 mm of normal rainfall. The percentage of deviation was (-) 38.9 mm. The average maximum and minimum temperatures for the district have been 32.78<sup>0</sup> C in May and 24.08<sup>0</sup> C in January respectively.

## 2. Resources-availability

### i) Land resources

The soil types found in the district are red, black cotton and coastal sand. The topography is almost plain in major areas. The Kalrayan hills and Gingee hills are with undulating terrainches

### Types of soil in the district

Red soil - Ulundurpet, Vanur, Gingee, Tindivanam

Black soil - Kallakurichi, Chinnasalem

Red sandy soil - Kanai , Thiruvannainallur

### ii) Agriculture and horticulture

The major crops grown in the district are paddy, groundnut, sugarcane, cumbu, gingelly and tapioca. Out of the total geographical area of 7.22 lakh ha the net area sown was 3.31 lakh ha in 2006-07. Forest area accounts for about 10 per cent. Sericulture is also coming up in this district in a modest way.

### Major crops and their area in Villupuram district

| Sl. No.      | Name of the crop | 2005-2006<br>(in Tones) | 2006-2007<br>(in Tones) | 2007-2008<br>(upto Feb'08)<br>( in Tones) |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1            | Paddy            | 168435                  | 166400                  | 166363                                    |
| 2            | Cholam           | 1465                    | 1000                    | 1151                                      |
| 3            | Cumbu            | 14810                   | 12700                   | 19870                                     |
| 4            | Ragi             | 959                     | 3600                    | 2297                                      |
| 5            | Maize            | 1377                    | 7800                    | 11353                                     |
| 6            | Pulses           | 21476                   | 48500                   | 51455                                     |
| 7            | Cotton           | 5023                    | 9800                    | 8387                                      |
| 8            | Sugarcane        | 56564                   | 54500                   | 46444                                     |
| 9            | Groundnut        | 58252                   | 70500                   | 84111                                     |
| 10           | Gingelly         | 6840                    | 12400                   | 12231                                     |
| 11           | Sunflower        | 995                     | 2900                    | 2496                                      |
| 12           | Castor           | 147                     | 400                     | 414                                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                  | <b>336343</b>           | <b>390500</b>           | <b>406572</b>                             |

Paddy occupies the maximum area of 1.66 lakh ha, followed by groundnut (0.84 lakh ha), pulses (0.52 lakh ha), sugarcane (0.46 lakh ha) and cumbu ( 0.20 lakh ha) in 2007-08. Maize, gingelly and cotton are grown in an area of about 10,000 ha each. The area of cumbu, ragi, maize and pulses has increased dramatically in the three years period from 2005-06 to 2007-08. The area of paddy and sugarcane is more or less constant over the years. The oilseed crops like groundnut, sunflower and castor have increased markedly over the years.

### iii) Forest resources

Total forest area under Villupuram Forest Division is 48,703.13 ha Out of this 24,017.24 ha has been leased out to Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation (TAFCON).

Out of the balance of 24,685.89 ha 20,707.92, ha fall under Villupuram District and 3,977.97 ha under Cuddalore District. Villupuram Forest Division consists of 26 Reserve Forest areas. Gingee and Kalrayan Hills are the two hills in the district. Forest area in the district constitutes about 9.9% of the total area of the district and lies in the areas bordering Salem, Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai Districts.

### Kalrayan Hills



Teak wood, rose wood and sandal wood trees are grown in the hills. In the Kalrayan Hills and Gingee areas some medicinal plants are also grown. In the social forest areas, trees raised are mainly for firewood and paper making. Babul, *Eucalyptus* and *Casuarina* are grown in the district. In some pockets of the district, cashew is also grown.

### iv) Mineral resources

Silica sand, river sand, black granite, blue metal and gravel are the mineral resources found in the district.

### v) Water resources

The major rivers flowing through the district are indicated below.

- Gadilam River flows through Thirukoilur Taluk. Malattar River joins Gadilam before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- Pennar River flows through Thirukoilur and Villupuram Taluks
- Sankaraparani rises in Gingee Taluk and flows through Villupuram Taluk.
- Gomukhi the of main tributary of Manimuktha River joins into Vellar River in Cuddalore District.

The rivers are only seasonal, mostly carrying flood waters and none of them are perennial. These rivers can not be used for irrigation purpose to the expected level because of low precipitation.

### vi) Fisheries production

Villupuram district has a coastal length of about 32 km in Vanur and Marakanam blocks in Bay of Bengal. Inland fresh water area spreads over 83,014 ha and estuarine & brackish water area is 2,072 ha There are about 19 landing centre patronized by active fishermen population of 2,986. Fishermen co-operatives societies, fisher women co-

operative societies and inland fishermen co-operative societies are functioning in the district. There is one fish net making unit in Vanur block. There are about 18 brackish water aquaculture farms in the district. The scope for inland fisheries in the district is limited. Inland fishing is mostly carried out in tanks and reservoirs owned by PWD.

#### **vii) Heritage sites**

#### **Ozhindiampattu**

This is the 31<sup>st</sup> temple in the Thondainadu region praised in Thevaram hymns. 10 day Vaikasi Brahmotsavam in May–June, Maha Shivrathri in February–March and Tiru- karthikai in November–December are the festivals celebrated in the temple.

"Abath Sahayeswarar Lord Shiva Temple" is located in the entrance of village. This temple is part of the Koperunchingam kadavarayan fort and it was destroyed many years ago. Now this temple has been undertaken by the Central government and the restoration work is progressing. This village is in NH 45 and is next to Gedilam river.

#### **Thirukoilur**

Thiruvikkrama Lord Vishnu Swamy & Vedavalli Thaayaar (Vaamana vatharam) temple is located in the center of this town. This temple comes under 108 Divya Desams. In the east of the town is the Sivan Temple situated on the banks of River Thenpennai. Near to the temple, in the river, there exists Kabilar (Saint) Kundru (tiny mountain). On the banks of River Pinakini, we can find the Moola brindavana of Sri Raghutthama Teertha (1595 AD) and Sri Satyapramoda Teertha (1997), very eminent pontiffs of the Uttaradi Mutt of Madhwa lineage. One of the famous Jyotir ling mutts

#### **Alambadi Perumal Temple**

of Sri Gnananda Tapovanam is on the Tirukoilur - Thiruvannamalai Road. This mutt was started by his holiness Sri Gnananda Swamigal and still continues to be thronged by pilgrims seeking his blessings.

#### **Melmalaiyanur**

Melmalaiyanur is famous for its Ankaala Parameswari temple which is thronged by devotees on new moon days.

#### **Anniyur**

Anniyur is famous for two important temples of Lord Shiva and Vishnu. They are located inside the village. The Saneeswaran statue inside an shiva temple is an important one.

#### **Mailam**

Mailam is famous for its Murugan temple atop a hillock. It is located off the National Highway proceeding to Chennai from Villupuram

#### **Thenpair**

Thenpair village is very near to Vikravandi are famous Kaaliyamman Kovil is located here.

#### **Kandachipuram**

The Lord Shiva temple decorates Kandachipuram. The legend is that the Shivalingam is made up of sand and it was installed by Lord Rama during his tenure in the forest as depicted in the Hindu epic, the Ramayana.

#### **Tiruvakkarai**

Tiruvakkarai, a small peaceful village situated on the banks of a river is famous for its Vakkara Kali Amman temple. Full moon days are considered auspicious days to visit this temple.

There is a Perumal temple (Kundusatti Perumal) here. The legend is that the Perumal idol is nothing but a stone, which has Sangu-chakra inside it. The speciality of this stone is that it is a part of the Lord Venkatchalapathy idol at the Tirumala-Tirupati temple. So worship at this temple is considered an equivalent to that of going to the Tirumala-Tirupati temple.

### **Perumpakkam**

It is a village located 8 km away from Villupuram town. There is a temple for Sri Yoga Hayavadhanar and Sri Vedanthadesikar. This village is located at the distance of 14 km of the villupuram to Thirukoilur road.

### **Poovarasankuppam**

A village located 17 km away from Villupuram. It hosts one of the famous Lakshmi Narashimhar temples in south India.

### **Siruvanthadu Mokshakulam**

Its original name is "sirubanthadu", later derived as siruvanthadu. This village is located 15 km away from villupuram town. It is famous for its silk weaving & silk saree production. Also plays a vital role in State's handloom silk saree production after Kancheepuram. It also has the famous Lakshmi Narayana Perumaal temples in south India. A famous temple of Lord shiva is also situated here.

### **Thiruvonnainallur**

A township is located on the road Villupuram towards Tirukoilur. It hosts the famous "Sundarar" Kirubapureswar temple.

### **Kalpattu**

This village is famous for St.Paul the Hermit's Catholic Church. The annual feast is celebrated every year on 8<sup>th</sup> of August.

### **ii) Industrial development**

People come from all walks of life to receive God's grace through this saint. There is a 21 ft Saneeswara Sannadhi was built in this village to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Maha Samadhi celebrations of Sri Swayam Prakasha Saraswathy Avadhutha Swamigal.

### **Thimmalai**

Thimmalai village is located 2 km away from the national highway from salem to Chennai..Ancient Lord Siva temple is located near the pond.

### **Mel Sithamur Jain Math**

Mel Sithamur Jain Math or Jina Kanchi Jain Math, is a Jain Math that is located near Gingee in Villupuram district. It is the primary religious center of the Tamil Jain community.

## **3. Impacts**

### **i) Urbanization**

The proportion of urban population to total population has increased. Among the urban areas, Villupuram municipality accounts for a greater share of urban population when compared to the other urban areas. The estimated sewage generation is 31 lakh litres among municipalities and 54.32 lakh litres among town panchayats. There have been 13.30 lakh litres, sewerage disposal from Town Panchayats. The level of solid waste generated by municipalities and town panchayats are 12 tonnes and 40.80 tonnes respectively. The solid waste collection in municipalities and town panchayats is 90%. It was observed that 70% of the solid waste was compostable on wet basis, 6% of bricks and stones and 24% of rags, wooden matter, rubber & leather, plastics, etc., are compostable in the district.

Villuppuram district is developing in the industrial sector. Sugar is the major industry in the district. There are 4 sugar factories at Mundiampakkam, Periasevalai, Kacharapalliyam and Mungailthuraipattu. In the area of small scale industries there are 67 rice mills, 17 sago factories, 5 rice bran oil extracting units and 8 cotton ginning mills. Besides there mineral water, ceramics, automobile workshop are also running in the district.

### iii) Natural hazards

As any other coastal environment, coast of Villuppuram district also gets affected with regular erosion and accretion. Sea level rise and elevation in sea surface temperature are also seen here as the consequences of global climate change.

### iv) Natural disaster prone areas

It has been ascertained from the available information that only 8 taluks and 22 blocks were affected by flood in the years 1992-94 and affected by cyclone in the years 1993-94. Banana cultivation faces the cyclone havoc most frequently.

## 4. Government initiatives

### i) Initiatives to improve fisher folk livelihood

#### Key Areas of Intervention

- Mariculture activities such as cage culture of fin fishes and seaweed unit
- Development of Integrated Model for Coastal Aquaculture.
- Infrastructure development to modernize the existing marketing facilities in key areas
- Trainings are arranged to fish farmers to develop their knowledge in fish culture

### i) Coastal protection initiatives

#### Chinnakuppam

This area is experiencing marginal erosion. Two training walls upto a water depth of about 4 m near the mouth of the river Palar is recommended. The training walls of river Palar will stabilize the beaches of Chinnakuppam and Periyakuppam.

#### Sodanaikuppam - Nadu Kuppam

There is an existing seawall at Sodanaikuppam. There is a dispute between the local public of Sodanaikuppam and Rahamathnagar, which is adjacent to Sodanaikuppam. On the land ward side of the seawall a permanent road exists, were which a number of buildings have been damaged due to tsunami as this stretch of the coast, north of this seawall is unprotected. Two remedial solutions are suggested. One is to connect this seawall with the seawall in Nadukuppam which is north of Rahamathnagar. The distance between these two seawalls is about 850 m. The other option is to construct a short transition groynes.

#### Thanthiriyankuppam

From this village, a stretch of about 3.5 km north of this village (Muthialpet, Mudaliarchavadi, Bommayapalyam) is densely populated and hence need to be protected with a growing field. The growing field will consist of 9 groynes with an average length of 150 m. Sandy beaches are also available at few pockets, where, plantations may be requested as a long-term measure for the protection of the coast.

#### Mudaliarkuppam

This stretch exhibits the existence of sufficient beach width for which a soft

measure like plantation should be taken up immediately.

### iii) Awareness initiatives

Various awareness creation activities have been made among the fisher folk on 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 Villupuram district.

## 5. Summary / Conclusion

Villupuram district is surrounded on East and South by Cuddalore district; the West by Salem and Dharmapuri districts and on the North by Thiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram districts with an area of 7194 Sq. km

- At present Villupuram district comprises of 1490 revenue villages, 4 revenue divisions, 9 administrative taluks, 22 blocks, 15 town panchayat unions, 1104 village panchayats and 3 municipalities.
- The soil types found in the district are red, black cotton and costal sand. The topography is almost plain in major areas.
- The major crops grown in the district are paddy, groundnut, sugarcane, cumbu, gingelly and tapioca.
- Total area coming under Villupuram Forest Division is 48703.13 ha
- Gingee and Kalrayan Hills are the two hills in the district.
- Forest area in the district constitutes about 9.9% of the total area of the district, which lies in the areas bordering Salem, Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai Districts
- Silica sand, river sand, black Granite, blue metal and gravel are the mineral resources found in the district.
- Gadilam, Malattar, Pennar, Sankaraparani and Gomukhi are the rivers flowing in the district.
- The rivers are only seasonal, mostly carrying flood waters and none of them is perennial.
- Villupuram district has a coastal length of about 32 km.
- Villupuram district is developing in the industrial sector wise Sugar industry is the major industry in the district .