

Urban Scenario in Tamil Nadu

Introduction

State:

Tamil Nadu State is situated at the South Eastern extremity of the Indian Peninsula bounded on the north by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on the east by Bay of Bengal, on the South by the Indian Ocean and on the West by Kerala State. It lies between 8°5' and 13°35' of northern latitude and 76°15' and 80°20' of eastern longitude with an area of 1,30,058 square kilometers. It is the 11th largest State in India in area forming 4.11 percent of the country. The State has a coastline of about 1076 Kms, country's third longest coast line.

Administrative Units:

The Tamil Nadu State came into existence as a separate State on 01st March 1952. The major administrative units of the state comprise of 32 Districts, with 10 City Corporations, 148 Municipalities, 561 Town Panchayats, 73 Revenue Divisions, 208 Taluks, 1120 Firkas, 16563 Revenue Villages and 12,618 Village Panchayats. The State has 39 Lok Sabha Constituencies, 234 Assembly Constituencies. Chennai (formerly known as Madras) is the state capital. It is the fourth largest city in India and is also one of the five A1 Metropolitan cities of India. It extends over an area of 174 sq. km. As per G.O (D) No.256 Dt. 26.12.2009; it is proposed to expand the limits of the Chennai Corporation by incorporating 9 Municipalities, 8 Town Panchayats and 25 Panchayats Unions. It is proposed to expand the city during 2011, by which the City will have an area of 426 sq. km.

Population:

According to the provisional figures of census of India, 2001, the population of India is 1027 million and that of Tamil Nadu is 62.11 million. The urban population of India and Tamil Nadu are 285.4 and 27.48 million

respectively. Tamil Nadu thus accounts for 6% of the country's total population and 9.6% of country's urban population.

Tamil Nadu ranks first in urbanisation among the fifteen major States in the country. Urbanisation has been on the increase since 1901. According to the 2001 Census, Tamil Nadu has emerged as the State with the highest level of urbanisation (44%) in the country among the larger States. While the percentage of urban population in the country increased from 10.85% to 27.78% during 1901-2001, Tamil Nadu registered a much higher percentage increase i.e., from 14.15% to 44.04% during the above period.

Urbanisation Levels and Growth Trends

Over a century period, since 1901 to 2001, it can be witnessed a gradual increase in the urbanisation levels and growth of urban population in Tamil Nadu, comparatively higher than the all India's level.

Table No. 1. Urbanisation Levels and Growth

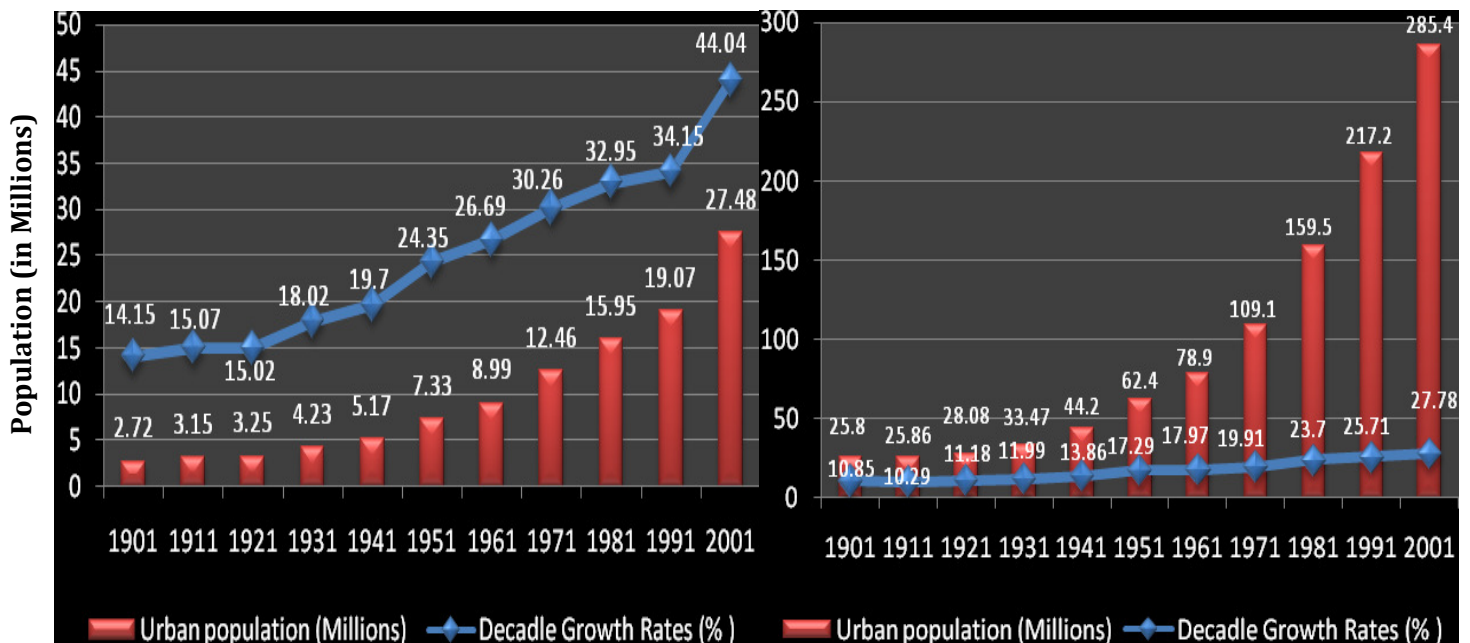
Year	Tamil Nadu			India		
	Urban Population (Millions)	Share of Urban Population (%)	Decadal Growth Rates (%)	Urban Population (Millions)	Share of Urban Population (%)	Decadal Growth Rates (%)
1901	2.72	14.15	-	25.80	10.85	-
1911	3.15	15.07	15.51	25.86	10.29	0.36
1921	3.25	15.02	8.86	28.08	11.18	8.26
1931	4.23	18.02	23.40	33.47	11.99	19.12
1941	5.17	19.70	22.30	44.2	13.86	31.98
1951	7.33	24.35	8.39	62.40	17.29	41.40
1961	8.99	26.69	22.59	78.90	17.97	26.44
1971	12.46	30.26	38.64	109.10	19.91	38.22
1981	15.95	32.95	27.98	159.50	23.70	46.23
1991	19.07	34.65	19.59	217.20	25.71	36.09
2001	27.48	44.04	44.06	285.40	27.78	21.36

Source: Census of India

Tamil Nadu State is steadily transforming into a predominantly urban society. At the beginning of this century, Tamil Nadu's population was 20.9 million, of which about 0.31 million was living in urban areas. Over the years, the share of urban population has gone up to 44 percent and stood at 27.4 million. The last four decades saw an almost three and a half times increase in urban population of the state (from 8.99 million in 1961 to 27.48 million in 2001).

Chart No. 1

Chart No. 2



Tamil Nadu

India

Source: Data from Table No. 1. Urbanisation Levels and Growth

It can be seen from the above chart and table that the urban population in the state has increased from 15.07% during the year 1911 to 34.15% during the 1991 census and further to 44.04% during 2001 census. The decadal growth of the urban population for the state during the period from 1991 to 2001 has shown a massive increase of about 44.06%.

Tamil Nadu Urban Rural Share 1911-2001

Over the decades the share of incremental population going to urban areas has shown a fluctuating trend. Of the total increment in the population during the period 1991-2001 a gigantic 128 percent went to urban areas pushing back the rural areas.

Table No. 2 – Tamil Nadu population Urban Rural Share 1911-2001

Year	Population			Addition during the decade			% of Population added during the decade	
	Total (Numbers)	Rural (Numbers)	Urban (Numbers)	in Total Population (Numbers)	in Rural Population (Numbers)	in Urban Population (Numbers)	in rural popn. (%)	in urban popn. (%)
1911	2,09,02,616	1,77,53,479	31,49,137	---	---	---	---	---
1921	2,16,28,518	1,82,00,439	32,48,079	7,25,902	4,46,960	98,942	61.57	13.63
1931	2,34,72,099	1,92,41,717	42,30,382	18,43,581	10,41,278	9,82,303	56.48	53.28
1941	2,62,67,507	2,10,93,825	51,73,682	27,95,408	18,52,108	9,43,300	66.26	33.74
1951	3,01,19,047	2,27,85,522	73,33,525	38,51,540	16,91,697	21,59,843	43.92	56.08
1961	3,36,86,953	2,46,96,425	89,90,528	35,67,906	19,10,903	16,57,003	53.56	46.44
1971	4,11,99,168	2,87,34,334	1,24,64,834	75,12,215	40,37,909	34,74,306	53.75	46.25
1981	4,84,08,077	3,24,56,202	1,59,51,875	72,08,909	37,21,868	34,87,041	51.63	48.37
1991	5,58,58,946	3,67,81,354	1,90,77,592	74,50,869	43,25,152	31,25,717	58.05	41.95
2001	6,24,05,679	3,49,21,681	2,74,83,998	65,46,733	-18,59,673	84,06,406	-28.41	128.41

Source: Census of India

During the period 1901-1911 a meager 13 percent went to urban areas. The subsequent decades revealed a mixed trend of increasing and declining growth of percentage of population added to urban areas. With a slowdown during 1981-91, it stood at a massive high during 1991-2001. With these trends continuing, forecasts suggest that, by 2026, 54 million people constituting nearly 74.8 percent of the state population would be residing in urban Tamil Nadu (Source: Population Projections for India and States 2001-2026, Census of India).

Table No. 3 – Tamil Nadu Urban Population Growth, 1901-2001

Year	No. of Towns	Total Population	Urban Population	Percentage to Total Population (%)
1901	133	1,92,52,630	27,24,247	14.15
1911	162	20,902,616	31,49,137	15.07
1921	189	2,16,28,518	32,48,079	15.02
1931	222	2,34,72,099	42,30,382	18.02
1941	257	2,62,67,507	51,73,682	19.70
1951	297	3,01,19,047	73,33,525	24.35
1961	339	3,36,86,953	89,90,528	26.69
1971	439	4,11,99,168	1,24,64,834	30.26
1981	434	4,84,08,077	1,59,51,875	32.95
1991	469	5,58,58,946	1,90,77,592	34.15
2001	832	6,24,05,679	2,74,83,998	44.04

Source: Census of India

During the period 1991 to 2001, inclusion of Town Panchayats has increased the urban towns 363 (77 %) as well as urban population.

With the introduction of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1994, all Town Panchayats irrespective of whether they satisfy the demographic and economic criteria were brought under the urban fold with Municipal Corporation, Municipality and Cantonment by 2001 Census. This resulted in great boost in the number of towns during 1991 to 2001 period for Tamil Nadu, increased from 469 to 832 urban towns.

Index of Primacy

Tamil Nadu has a very dispersed pattern of urbanisation with municipalities in virtually every district. The boundaries of Chennai District are contiguous with the Chennai Municipal Corporation. However, the Chennai Metropolitan Area is a larger area which includes several municipalities and Town Panchayats in Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts. The spatial distribution (by district) of the Ten City Corporations,

148 Municipalities, and 561 Town Panchayats, clearly illustrates that urbanization is not limited to anyone part of the State. However the urban population is concentrated along certain urban corridors.

Table No. 4 – Index of Primacy

Municipality / Corporation	Population Within Municipal Limits (2001)	Percentage to State Urban Population	Population of Urban Agglomeration	Percentage to State Urban Population
Chennai	43,43,645	15.8	65,60,242	23.87
Coimbatore	9,30,882	3.39	14,61,139	5.32
Madurai	9,28,869	3.38	12,03,095	4.38
Tiruchirappalli	7,52,066	2.74	8,66,354	3.15
Salem	6,96,760	2.54	7,51,438	2.73
Tirunelveli	4,11,831	1.5	4,33,352	1.58
Erode	3,89,906	1.42	3,89,906	1.42
Vellore	3,86,746	1.41	3,86,746	1.41
Tiruppur	3,44,543	1.25	5,50,826	2.00
Thoothukkudi	2,16,054	0.79	2,43,415	0.89
Total of 10 Cities	94,01,302	34.21	1,28,46,513	46.74

Source: Census of India, 2001

<http://www.citypopulation.de/India-TamilNadu.html>

(Note: All towns and agglomerations in Tamil Nadu having more than 20,000 inhabitants.)

The state of Tamil Nadu has a very wide urban base. Unlike some other states, the problem of over dependency on one city does not exist. From the index of primacy Chennai, the largest city, which is de-facto state capital, accounts for over 15.8 percent of urban population. About one third of the urban population of the State lives in ten municipal corporation areas and their urban agglomeration.

Effect of Urbanisation in Tamil Nadu

On account of Industrial revolution and technological breakthrough during the last two centuries, the employment potential and industrial production have promoted the development of urban centres. This has resulted in the concentration of social, economic and commercial activities in the towns and cities, thereby necessitating the creation of an effective mechanism for managing the urban planning and development with provision of adequate basic amenities.

Urbanisation results in the growth of small and medium towns and mega cities. The effects are:

- Land prices have increased tremendously,
- Increase in sale of land for commercial uses
- Kuchcha houses are being converted to pucca houses.

As there is highly accelerated phase of urbanization, the cities and the towns are exposed to the problems of overcrowding, congestion, slums and inadequate transportation facilities. In order to find solution to the problems of urban areas the Government have initiated a series of measures which would certainly improve the urban profile and regulate urban expansion.

Urban Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu

The Municipal Administration in Madras, was first introduced in the year 1687, on 30th December in India, when a corporation was set up to levy certain direct taxes and to provide certain amenities like education, cleaning the roads etc.

The 74th Amendment Act aims transformation in the 'structure' of urban service delivery. The starting point for the same is municipal governance. The Act envisages three types of Municipalities: Municipal Corporations for large cities, Municipal Councils for smaller cities and towns, and Nagar Panchayats for areas in transition form 'rural' to 'urban'. Accordingly, the state governments have re-categorized different areas by notifying the criteria for classification of municipal bodies.

Table No. 5 – Urban Local Bodies of Tamil Nadu 1991-2001

Category	Number		Population (in Lakh)		Increase in population (in Lakh)	Decadal Growth Rate (%)
	1991	2001	1991	2001	(1991-2001)	
Corporation	3	6	71.35	79.12	7.77	10.90
Municipalities	108	104	72.37	82.46	10.09	13.95
Town Panchayats	224	561	37.81	95.75	57.94	60.07
Census Towns	134	111	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	--
Total	469	782	181.53	257.33	75.80	40.03

Source: Tamil Nadu Development Report, 2005

As evident from the Table No. 5 the inclusion of all the Town Panchayats resulted in an increase from 1991-2001 of 57.94 lakhs in that category alone. The increase in the Town Panchayat population accounted for about 76 per cent of the total increase of 75.80 lakh from 1991-2001.

Classification of Municipalities and Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has 5 different categories of Municipalities based on the annual income /population. Grade – III Municipalities have been added when some of the Town Panchayats were upgraded as Municipalities. The Government under the Tamil Nadu Municipalities (Norms for Classification of Municipalities) Rules 2008, has reclassified and upgraded 26 Municipalities.

Table No. 6 – Classification of Municipalities in Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Grade	Annual Income (Rs. in Crore)	No. of Municipalities
1	Special Grade Municipality	Above 10.00	20
2	Selection Grade Municipality	6.00 – 10.00	29
3	First Grade Municipality	4.00 – 6.00	29
4	Second Grade Municipality	Below 4.00	21
5	Third Grade Municipality	Population Exceeding 30,000	49
Total			148

Reference: Municipal Administration & Water Supply (Election), Department G.O. (Ms.) No. 237, MAWS Dept dated 2.12.2008.

The following table highlights the population of the municipality and municipal corporations, District wise and Municipality wise.

Table No.7 District wise population in Tamil Nadu (as per 2001 census)

Sl. No.	Districts	Total Population			% of urban population to total population (Level of Urbanisation)	Population in the Municipality and corporations	% of municipality and corporation population to Total population	% of municipality and corporation population to urban population
		Total	Rural	Urban				
1	Chennai	4343645	0	4343645	100.00	4343645	100.00	100.00
2	Kancheepuram	2877468	1342502	1534966	53.34	834426	29.00	54.36
3	Thiruvallur	2754756	1254674	1500082	54.45	1123389	40.78	74.89
4	Cuddalore	2285395	1531034	754361	33.01	376099	16.46	49.86
5	Villupuram	2960373	2533456	426917	14.42	199985	6.76	46.84
6	Vellore	3477317	2169319	1307998	37.62	900726	25.90	68.86
7	Thiruvannamalai	2186125	1785364	400761	18.33	256193	11.72	63.93
8	Salem	3016346	1626162	1390184	46.09	875417	29.02	62.97
9	Namakkal	1493462	948230	545232	36.51	281075	18.82	51.55
10	Dharmapuri	2856300	2400354	455946	15.96	213477	7.47	46.82
11	Erode	2581500	1387537	1193963	46.25	581497	22.53	48.70
12	Coimbatore	4271856	1451653	2820203	66.02	1875316	43.90	66.50
13	The Nilgiris	762141	307532	454609	59.65	229116	30.06	50.40
14	Tiruchirappalli	2418366	1279204	1139162	47.10	854269	35.32	74.99
15	Karur	935686	624430	311256	33.27	179526	19.19	57.68
16	Perambalur	493646	414426	79220	16.05	37631	7.62	47.50
17	Ariyalur	695524	616539	78985	11.36	59090	8.50	74.81
18	Thanjavur	2216138	1467577	748561	33.78	420801	18.99	56.21
19	Nagapattinam	1488839	1158557	330282	22.18	241508	16.22	73.12
20	Thiruvarur	1169474	932231	237243	20.29	163719	14.00	69.01
21	Pudukottai	1459601	1211217	248384	17.02	143351	9.82	57.71
22	Madurai	2578201	1134025	1444176	56.01	1167346	45.28	80.83
23	Theni	1093950	502109	591841	54.10	333702	30.50	56.38
24	Dindigul	1923014	1249762	673252	35.01	297155	15.45	44.14
25	Ramanathapuram	1187604	885210	302394	25.46	214751	18.08	71.02
26	Virudhunagar	1751301	973956	777345	44.39	504401	28.80	64.89
27	Sivagangai	1155356	829272	326084	28.22	167313	14.48	51.31
28	Tirunelveli	2723988	1415742	1308246	48.03	772447	28.36	59.04
29	Thoothukudi	1572273	907500	664773	42.28	336168	21.38	50.57
30	Kanyakumari	1676034	582107	1093927	65.27	272544	16.26	24.91
	Total	62405679	34921681	27483998	44.04	18256083	29.25	66.42

Source: Census of India, 2001.

Table No. 8 Area and Population of the Municipalities and Corporations

Sl. No.	Name of the Municipality / Corporation	Grade	Area (in Sq.K.M.)	Population 2001 Census	Total No. of wards
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Chennai Corporation		174	4343645	155
Kancheepuram District					
1	Alandur	spl	19.50	146287	42
2	Kancheepuram	spl	11.72	153140	45
3	Chenglepet	I	6.09	62582	33
4	Pallavapuram	spl	18.00	144623	42
5	Tambaram	spl	20.42	137933	39
6	Madurantagam	II	21.67	29059	24
7	Anakaputhur	III	4.00	31918	18
8	Maramalainagar	III	58.08	48463	21
9	Pammal	III	13.80	49999	21
10	Ullagaram Puzhuthivakkam	III	8.50	30422	18
	Total			834426	303
Tiruvallur District					
11	Ambattur	Spl	40.36	310967	52
12	Avadi	spl	65.00	229403	48
13	Kathivakkam	sel	4.76	32590	24
14	Thiruvottiyur	spl	21.42	212281	48
15	Madhavaram	spl	17.40	76093	30
16	Tiruvallur	I	10.75	45732	27
17	Maduravayal	III	4.00	43609	15
18	Poondamalle	III	25.55	42604	21
19	Thiruthani	III	12.36	38314	21
20	Thiruverkadu	III	28.50	32221	18
21	Valasaravakkam	III	8.00	30978	18
22	Manali	III	16.00	28597	18
	Total			1123389	340
Cuddalore District					
23	Cuddalore	spl	27.69	158634	45
24	Chidambaram	sel	4.82	57733	33
25	Panruti	I	18.03	55346	33
26	Virudhachalam	I	25.57	60164	33
27	Nellikuppam	II	21.49	44222	30
	Total			376099	174
Vellore District					
28	Arakonam	I	9.06	78686	36
29	Gudiyatham	I	4.71	91452	36
30	Tirupathur	sel	4.66	60876	33
31	Arcot	I	7.49	49953	30

Sl. No.	Name of the Municipality / Corporation	Grade	Area (in Sq.K.M.)	Population 2001 Census	Total No. of wards
1	2	3	4	5	6
32	Ambur	sel	17.97	99624	36
33	Ranipet	sel	8.52	47243	30
34	Vaniyambadi	sel	9.53	85752	36
35	Walajapettai	II	2.64	29475	24
36	Dharapadavedu	III	12.94	30070	18
37	Jolarpet	III	13.06	27167	18
38	Melvisharam	III	8.67	36757	21
39	Pernambut	III	7.61	41499	21
40	Sathuvachari	III	16.06	44942	21
	Vellore corporation		11.65	177230	48
	Total			900726	408
Thiruvannamalai District					
41	Thiruvannamalai	spl	13.64	130567	39
42	Arani	I	11.62	60815	33
43	Thiruvathipuram	II	10.76	35201	27
44	Vandavasi	II	9.71	29610	24
	Total			256193	123
Villupuram District					
45	Villupuram	sel	8.36	95455	36
46	Tindivanam	sel	22.33	67737	33
47	Kallakurichi	III	11.69	36793	21
	Total			199985	90
Salem District					
48	Mettur	sel	14.55	53633	30
49	Attur	sel	27.62	57519	33
50	Idappadi	I	28.22	48815	30
51	Narasingapuram	III	14.83	18690	18
	Salem corporation		91.34	696760	60
	Total			875417	171
Namakkal District					
52	Namakkal	sel	10.24	53055	30
53	Tiruchengode	sel	25.20	80187	33
54	Komarapalayam	I	7.10	65868	33
55	Rasipuram	I	8.16	46330	27
56	Pallipalayam	III	4.70	35635	21
	Total			281075	144
Dharmapuri District					
57	Dharmapuri	sel	11.65	64496	33
58	Krishnagiri	I	11.50	64587	33
59	Hosur	sel	11.71	84394	30
	Total			213477	96
Karur District					
0	Karur	Spl	5.96	76336	36

Sl. No.	Name of the Municipality / Corporation	Grade	Area (in Sq.K.M.)	Population 2001 Census	Total No. of wards
1	2	3	4	5	6
61	Kulithalai	II	11.16	26161	24
62	Inamkarur	III	13.50	45437	21
63	Thanthoni	III	13.50	31592	18
	Total			179526	99
Thanjavur District					
64	Thanjavur	Spl	36.31	215314	51
65	Kumbakonam	Spl	12.58	139954	45
66	Pattukottai	sel	21.83	65533	33
	Total			420801	129
Nagapattinam District					
67	Mayiladuthurai	sel	11.26	84505	36
68	Nagapattinam	sel	14.90	93148	36
69	Sirkazhi	II	13.21	32228	24
70	Vedaranyam	III	36.26	31627	21
	Total			241508	117
Tiruvarur District					
71	Mannargudi	sel	11.55	61478	33
72	Tiruvarur	I	10.47	56341	30
73	Thiruthuraipoondi	II	11.93	22905	24
74	Koothanallur	II	12.31	22995	24
	Total			163719	111
Pudukottai District					
75	Pudukottai	sel	12.95	109217	39
76	Aranthangi	I	15.36	34134	27
	Total			143351	66
Tiruchirappalli District					
77	Thuraiyur	sel	14.55	31005	24
78	Manaparai	I	20.85	35770	27
79	Thuvakudi	III	14.37	35428	21
	Tiruchirappalli corporation		149.90	752066	60
	Total			854269	132
Perambalur District					
80	Perambalur	II	20.59	37631	21
	Total			37631	21
Ariyalur District					
81	Jayankondam	III	28.49	31268	21
82	Ariyalur	III	7.62	27822	18
	Total			59090	39
Madurai District					
83	Thirumangalam	II	10.70	43631	27
84	Melur	II	15.02	33881	27
85	Usilampatti	II	13.85	30601	24
86	Anaiyur	III	10.00	38310	18

Sl. No.	Name of the Municipality / Corporation	Grade	Area (in Sq.K.M.)	Population 2001 Census	Total No. of wards
1	2	3	4	5	6
87	Avaniapuram	III	16.00	53006	21
88	Thiruparangundram	III	13.26	39048	21
	Madurai corporation		51.96	928869	72
	Total			1167346	210
Theni-Allinagaram District					
89	Theni-Allinagaram	sel	22.23	85498	33
90	Periyakulam	II	2.11	42012	30
91	Chinnamanur	II	25.95	38360	27
92	Cumbum	I	6.58	58891	33
93	Bodinayakanur	I	7.23	73410	33
94	Gudalur	III	32.00	35531	21
	Total			333702	177
Sivaganga District					
95	Karaikudi	sel	13.75	86596	36
96	Devakottai	I	12.42	40497	27
97	Sivagangai	I	6.97	40220	27
	Total			167313	90
Ramanathapuram District					
98	Ramanathapuram	I	6.33	62050	33
99	Paramakudi	I	13.00	84321	36
100	Keelakarai	III	2.45	30412	21
101	Rameswaram	III	53.00	37968	21
	Total			214751	111
Dindigul District					
102	Dindigul	Spl	14.01	196955	48
103	Kodaikanal	Spl	21.45	32969	24
104	Palani	sel	6.63	67231	33
	Total			297155	105
Erode District					
105	Dharapuram	I	7.02	64984	30
106	Gobichettipalayam	sel	7.51	55158	30
107	Sathiamangalam	I	29.24	33722	27
108	Bhavani	II	2.17	38778	27
109	Kasipalayam (E)	III	48.64	52369	21
110	Periyasemur	III	10.10	32024	18
111	Punjaipuliyampatti	III	4.54	14832	18
112	Surampatti	III	3.85	31948	18
113	Veerappanchatiram	III	30.72	72703	21
114	Vellakoil	III	64.75	34438	21
	Erode corporation		8.44	150541	45
	Total			581497	276

Sl. No.	Name of the Municipality / Corporation	Grade	Area (in Sq.K.M.)	Population 2001 Census	Total No. of wards
1	2	3	4	5	6
Coimbatore District					
115	Pollachi	Spl	13.87	88302	36
116	Mettupalayam	sel	7.20	66595	33
117	Kavundampalayam	III	10.50	48276	18
118	Kuniamuthur	III	23.54	58900	21
119	Kurichi	III	20.30	77853	21
120	Nallur (S)	III	26.00	29495	15
121	Valparai	III	217.87	95107	21
122	15-Velampalayam	III	14.00	45679	21
123	Palldam	III	19.42	30016	18
124	Udumalaipetai	sel	7.41	59668	33
	Coimbatore corporation		105.60	930882	72
	Tiruppur corporation		27.19	344543	52
	Total			1875316	361
Nilgiri District					
125	Uthagamandalam	Spl	30.67	93987	36
126	Coonoor	sel	15.05	50196	30
127	Gudalur	III	47.71	43096	21
128	Nelliyalam	III	94.28	41837	21
	Total			229116	108
Tirunelveli District					
129	Kadayanallur	I	52.25	75612	33
130	Sankarankoil	I	12.37	53606	30
131	Tenkasi	I	26.13	63432	33
132	Puliangudi	II	55.16	60080	33
133	Sengottai	II	2.68	26838	24
134	Ambasamudram	III	17.84	32739	21
135	Vikramasingapuram	III	38.57	48309	21
	Tirunelveli corporation		108.65	411831	55
	Total			772447	250
Tuticorin District					
136	Kovilpatti	spl	12.58	87450	36
137	Kayalpattinam	III	12.50	32664	18
	Tuticorin corporation		13.47	216054	51
	Total			336168	105
Kanyakumari District					
138	Nagercoil	Spl	24.27	208179	51
139	Colachel	I	5.18	23787	24
140	Kuzhithurai	II	5.15	20503	21
141	Padmanabhapuram	II	6.47	20075	21
	Total			272544	117
Virudhunagar District					
142	Rajapalayam	spl	11.36	122307	42

Sl. No.	Name of the Municipality / Corporation	Grade	Area (in Sq.K.M.)	Population 2001 Census	Total No. of wards
1	2	3	4	5	6
143	Aruppukottai	I	14.96	84029	36
144	Sivakasi	sel	6.89	72168	33
145	Srivilliputhur	I	5.72	73183	33
146	Virudhunagar	sel	6.60	72081	36
147	Sattur	II	3.83	31443	24
148	Thiruthangal	III	13.00	49190	21
	Total			504401	225
	Grand Total			18256083	4853

Source: Census of India, 2001.

Town Panchayats:

Tamil Nadu has introduced a classification called 'Town Panchayat', which are a transitional body between Rural and Urban Local Bodies.

The Town Panchayats are governed by Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act 1920. There are 561 Town Panchayats in the state which are classified into four grades, based on the income criteria:

Table No. 9 – Classification of Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu

Grade	Income Criteria	No. of Town Panchayats
Special Grade	Above Rs. 20 Lakhs	13
Selection Grade	Above Rs.16 Lakhs	245
Grade I	Above Rs. 8 Lakhs	221
Grade II	Above Rs. 4 Lakhs	82
Total		561

Source: <http://www.tn.gov.in/dtp/introduction.htm>

Town Panchayats are under the administrative control Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, at the government level and are administrated by the Directorate of Town Panchatays. The Town Panchayats are places of importance such as Division / Taluk headquarters, Tourist Spots, Pilgrim Centers and Commercial/Industrial towns. This has necessitated special attention to the civic needs of the Town Panchayats.

Explanatory Note

Census of India defines all Towns, Cities and Urban Agglomerations as below:

i. Statutory Towns i.e. Municipal Corporation, Municipal Board, Cantonment Board, Notified Area etc.

ii. Census towns which are non-statutory towns and are actually rural areas but satisfy following criteria:

- Minimum Population of 5000
- Density of population of at least 400 per sq.km
- 75 percent of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural activity

iii. City:

- Class I Town - Population of 100000 and above
- Class II Town - Population of 50000 - 99999
- Class III Town - Population of 20000 - 49999
- Class IV Town - Population of 10000 - 19999
- Class V Town - Population of 5000 - 9999
- Class VI Town - Population below 5000

iv. Urban Agglomeration:

The JNNURM provides both incentives as well as support for undertaking reforms and infrastructure development at State and Cities level.

Three classes of cities/urban agglomerations have been identified for assistance under JNNURM:

1. Category A: Cities/urban agglomeration with population of 4 million and above as per 2001 census.
2. Category B: Cities/urban agglomeration with population of 1 million and above as per 2001 census.
3. Category C: Other selected cities/urban agglomeration, including state capitals and cities/UA of religious/historic and tourist importance

Sometimes two or more towns may be contiguous to each other, making it necessary to consider them together for studies on

urbanisation in the area. In some other cases there are large railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, military camps etc., just outside the statutory limits of a town, but adjoining it. Though these areas may not themselves qualify to be treated as towns, it would be realistic to treat them as urban. Such areas are termed as 'outgrowths' (O.G.). The above two types of contiguous urban areas are called 'Urban Agglomerations'. An urban agglomeration may comprise:

- A town and contiguous outgrowths; or
- Two or more towns and their outgrowths, if any; all of them forming a contiguous spread of urban area.

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