

VILUPPURAM DISTRICT PROFILE

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Viluppuram District is the 23rd district of the State of Tamil Nadu. The Viluppuram district had commenced its function on 30th September 1993 with headquarters at Viluppuram that was part of erstwhile South Arcot district. It has been recently bifurcated into Viluppuram and Kallakuruchi district on 12.11.2019 which had combined extent of 7245.91Sq.Km. Viluppuram district is well connected through roadways,railways and waterways.

LOCATION

The District is situated in the northern part of Tamil Nadu and close to State Capital at Chennai at a distance of about 100 kms from its Northern Border. The district headquarters located at Viluppuram which is about 160 kms from Chennai. The boundaries of the district are Tiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram districts in the North, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi districts in the South and Dharmapuri, Salem districts in the west and Puducherry and Bay of Bengal in the east.

ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP

There are two Revenue Divisions, Nine Revenue Taluks, Two Municipalities (Viluppuram and Tindivanam), Eight Town Panchayats, 13 Panchayat Unions and 688 Village Panchayats in the District.

Number of Revenue Divisions	02
Number of Taluks	09
Number of Firkas	34
Number of Revenue Villages	928
Number of Village Panchayats	688
Number of Municipalities	2
Number of Town Panchayats	8
Number of Panchayat Unions	13

PHYSICAL / GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

AREA AND TOPOGRAPHY

The total geographical area of the district is around 3715.33 sq.kms. Major portion of the district is characterized by plains which is predominantly utilized for agricultural purpose. In the hilly regions trees like teakwood, sandalwood, rose wood

etc., are found to be grown. Most of the forest in the district is spread over in Gingee and Thiruvenneinallur Taluks. There are Reserve forest in Thiruvenneinallur and Gingee Taluk. On the east, the Bay Bengal coastline extends to about 36 kms in Marakkanam and Vanur taluks.



POPULATION

As per 2011 census, the total population of the combined district is 3463284, of which 17.45 lakhs are males and 17.18 lakhs are females. The urban population was 509876 and rural population was 2953408 as per census 2011. Thus, 85.28 percent of the total population reside in rural areas, while only 14.72 percent of the total population is urban based. This suggests that the degree of urbanization in the district is lesser when compared to the state average which stands at 48.45 percent.

The present population details of Viluppuram district is given below:

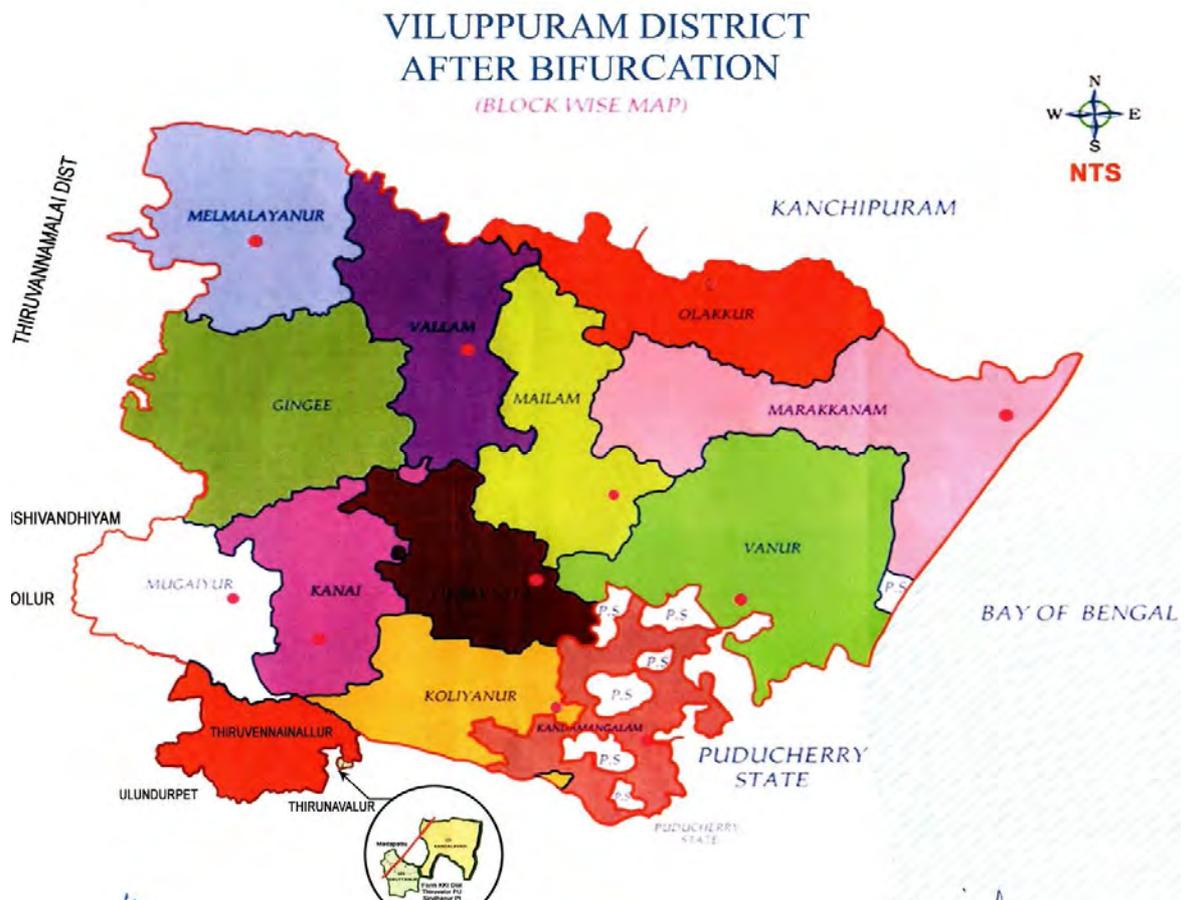
Viluppuram	421957
Vikkiravandi	293454
Vanur	195476
Kandachipuram	151027
Thiruvannainallur	153741
Tindivanam	316342
Gingee	283025
Melmalaiyanur	139728
Marakkanam	131040
Total	2085790

Some of the socio-economic indicators of Viluppuram district in comparison with Tamil Nadu as per census 2011 is indicated below: -

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATOR	TAMILNADU	VILUPPURAM DISTRICT
Population (lakh Nos)	721.39	34.63
Literacy rate	80.33	72.08
Density (Number of persons per sq.km)	555	482
Sex ratio (Number of females to 1000 males)	995	985
Literacy ratio (Number of females to 1000 males)	740	531

There are totally 13 blocks in the district and the block wise population as per census 2011 is given below:

S.No	Name of the block	Population
1	Mugaiyur	196414
2	Tiruvonnainallur	135304
3	Kanai	139738
4	Koliyanur	119915
5	Kandamangalam	145181
6	Vikravandi	122462
7	Olakkur	86700
8	Mailam	117439
9	Marakkanam	147713
10	Vanur	164696
11	Gingee	139580
12	Vallam	109270
13	Melmalayanur	141155



SOIL

The soil formation of the district is mainly of red soil, sandy loam and black cotton soil.

WATER SOURCES

Malattar River	Joins Gedilam before flowing into the Bay of Bengal
Pennar River	Flows through Thiruvannainallur Taluk and Viluppuram Taluks.
Sankarabarani River	Originate in Gingee Taluk and flows through Tindivanam, Vikkiravandi and Vanur Taluk.

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

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL:

The climate in Viluppuram district is mostly humid and hot. The district is characterized by semi-arid tropical climate. The temperature is moderate. The climate during summer season is very hot and the temperature can go up to 40 °C. The winter climate is moderate with temperature ranging between 30 °C and 35 °C. The average temperature varies from 30°C to 41°C. The humidity is high in the order of 80 per cent. The wind speed is high in the months of July and August and it ranges from 7.4 to 12.6 km/hr. The district, on an average receives a rainfall of 4.96 mm (0.4 per cent) during the winter season, 139.56 mm (11.32 per cent) during the summer season, 410.54 mm (33.31 per cent) during the south west monsoon season and 677.54 mm (54.96 per cent) during the north east monsoon season. The district receives the maximum rainfall during the north east monsoon season.

The average rainfall of the district is 1060.3 mm. The rainfall is heavier in the coastal area compared to interior areas. About 93.82% of the normal rainfall is received during the Northeast and South west monsoon seasons. Normally the district does not get heavy rainfall except Marakkanam and Vanur taluks.

IRRIGATION

As the rivers in the district are not perennial, the major sources of irrigation are tube wells and open dug wells. The net irrigated area in the district is 3.22 lakhs hectares which forms 30 % of the total area of the district and 65 % is the total cultivated area in the district.

River irrigation accounts for less than 5% of the total irrigated area and the district is largely dependent on tanks and groundwater resources.

The major sources of irrigation and extent of coverage are given below: -

Sources of Irrigation	Coverage (In hectares)
Dug Wells	73,293
Tube Wells	46,171
Tanks	44,729
Canals	9,115

The number of well estimated in the district is 1,31,405 and there are 510 reservoirs in the district.

PWD TANKS:

There are 501 PWD micro irrigations tanks and 842 DRDA micro irrigation tanks available in the district. Veedur Dam is an important source of water storage in the district, which is located on Sangraparani river and caters to 2200 acres of agricultural land in Viluppuram district.

EDUCATION

As per census data 2011:

Literacy rate	72.08%
Male	80.58%
Female	63.51%

There are several numbers of educational institutes in the district. Newly inaugurated Thiruvalluvar University and newly opened law college in the district are few to be mentioned. Two Government Engineering Colleges (Viluppuram and Tindivanam

under the Control of Anna University) and 8 private Engineering Colleges are functioning in the District.

The total number of schools in Viluppuram district is given below:

1)	Total No. of Higher Secondary Schools	186
2)	Total No. of High School	197
3)	Total No. of Middle School	281
4)	Total No. of Elementary School	1152

There are totally 19 ITIs in Viluppuram district in which, 1 government ITI and 18 private ITIs. There is also 5 private polytechnique colleges in Viluppuram.

OCCUPATION:

The main occupation of the people of the district as per 2001 population is Agriculture. More than 86% of the main workers in the district are engaged in Agriculture. The main working population of the district is over 7 lakhs which constitutes 27.4% of the district population well below the level of State average of 40.8 %. There is a good potential existing for tapping unskilled labor force.

Category of workers	Male	Female	Total
Main workers	5,85,120	5,40,109	11,25,229
Cultivators	2,13,568	1,97,138	4,10,706
Agriculturist	2,58,454	1,72,302	4,30,756
Household workers	15,646	10,485	26,131
Other workers	1,33,971	1,23,665	2,57,636
Marginal workers	1,66,373	1,53,575	3,19,948
Non-Workers	8,33,358	6,81,838	15,15,196

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the predominant occupation of the people in the district. The major crops grown in the district are paddy, groundnut, sugarcane, tapioca and cumbu.

The production of some of the major crops with extent of coverage is shown below: -

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DURING 2018-2019

Major Crops	Area (in Hect) 2018-2019	Production Lakh Tonnes
Paddy	110520	4.752
Groundnut	51532	1.081
Sugarcane (as Gur)	48000	0.945
Cotton Kapas	55000	0.0532
Cumbu ,Ragi&Maize	42757	2.071
Pulse	113877	1.094

The other important crops are Cashewnut, Blackgram, Guava, Banana, Turmeric, Chillies, Coriander, Brinjal, Coconut etc., and other Horticulture crops also Cultivated. The important feature of the district to be noted is that there is a diverse pattern of cultivation and many number of crops are seen to be cultivated in the district.

HORTICULTURE:

Apart from agriculture crops, Viluppuram district also contributes to the state's share on horticulture crops significantly. Yam, watermelon, coleus, turmeric, guava, and tapioca are the predominantly cultivated horticulture crops in the district.

SERICULTURE:

The scope for improving sericulture further is bright in Viluppuram as the demand for silk yarn has been growing every day. Self-help groups were best promoters of sericulture, which would generate rural employment on a large-scale. 1120 acres of land is under mulberry cultivation in combined Viluppuram District. Training in Mulberry farming, Rearing Silkworms is done through a large network of Govt. Departmental Institutions of Sericulture such as Silk quality development farms, Govt. Sericulture training centre, Govt. Sericulture Farm, Base seedlings (grain age) development farms, Govt. Bivoltine grain age centres, govt. cocoon markets, silk

reeling unit, silk twisting unit, technical support and service centre for rearing silkworm, with the above maintained facilities sericulture industry has good scope in this district.

Sericulture production in Viluppuram district as of 2019:

Name of the Block	Area of Mulberry	Production of Cocoon
	In Acres	In Kgs
1) Kanai	102.25	27,795
2) Koliayanur	40.75	11,492
3) Marakkanam	15.50	4,221
4) Mugaiyur	90.75	23,051
5) Vanur	33.75	7,830
6) Gingee	144.50	42,422
7) Kandamangalam	37.00	10,064
8) Mailam	25.50	5,919
9) Melmalaiyanur	103.75	25,300
10) Olakkur	33.80	10,206
11) Thiruvannainallur	46.50	12,323
12) Vallam	55.20	14,035
13) Vikravandi	16.00	4,428

FISHERIES

The coastal length of the district is about 36 kms in Vanur and Marakkanam Taluks. There are about 19 landing places / Coastal habitation by active fishermen population of 4921. There are 19 marine fishermen, 17 marine fisherwomen and 47 inland fishermen co-operative societies functioning in the district. There is one fish kiosk in Thanthirayankuppam Village in Kottakuppam Town Panchayat in Vanur Taluk. There is no fishing harbor in the district. It is proposed by the Department of fisheries to develop two fish landing jetties, one each at Muttukadu Alagankuppam and Ekkiyarkuppam.

There are about 25 registered brackish water aquaculture farms in this district. The scope for inland fisheries is limited. It is mostly carried out on tanks and reservoirs owned by PWD.

INDUSTRIES

The contribution of industrial sector in this district is meagre. Only a handful of major industries are in the district. They are Co-Operative Sugar Mills at Periyasevalai, Thiruvannainallur Taluk.

Rajshreesugars Mills (Private Sector) at Mundiampakkam in Viluppuam Taluk and at Semmedu in Gingee Taluk is one of the major industry. Southern AgrifuraneIndustries Private Limitedengaged in Distillation and perforalproduction at Mundiampakkamand Vazhuthareddy in Viluppuram Taluk.

As the mainstay of the people is agriculture in this districtagro based industries like Modern Rice Mills and Sago factories have come up in large numbers in various parts of the district.

Polishing of black granite stones is being done in several units in Tindivanam and Vanur Taluks. The high-quality black granite stones are mined in large scale in Vanur Taluk. Besides, crushers to produce blue metal are established in more numbers in Marakkanamand Vanur Taluks due to the availability of rocks in these areas. Crushers in this district cater uptoNagapattinam district.

Glimpse of few important tourist spots of Viluppuram district:

1) Gingee fort:



Gingee Fort or Senji Fort (also known as Chenji, Jinji or Senchi) in Tamil Nadu, India is one of the surviving forts in Tamil Nadu, India.

Originally the site of a small fort built by the Chola dynasty during the 9th century AD, the fort was modified by Kurumbar during the 13th century. As per records and existing information, the fort was built during the 15–16th century by the Nayaks, the lieutenants of TheVijayanagara Empire and who later became independent kings.

The fort passed to the Marathas under the leadership of Shivaji in 1677 AD, Bijapur sultans, the Moghuls, Carnatic Nawabs, French and the British in 1761. The fort is closely associated with Raja Tej Singh, who unsuccessfully revolted against the Nawab of Arcot and eventually lost his life in a battle.

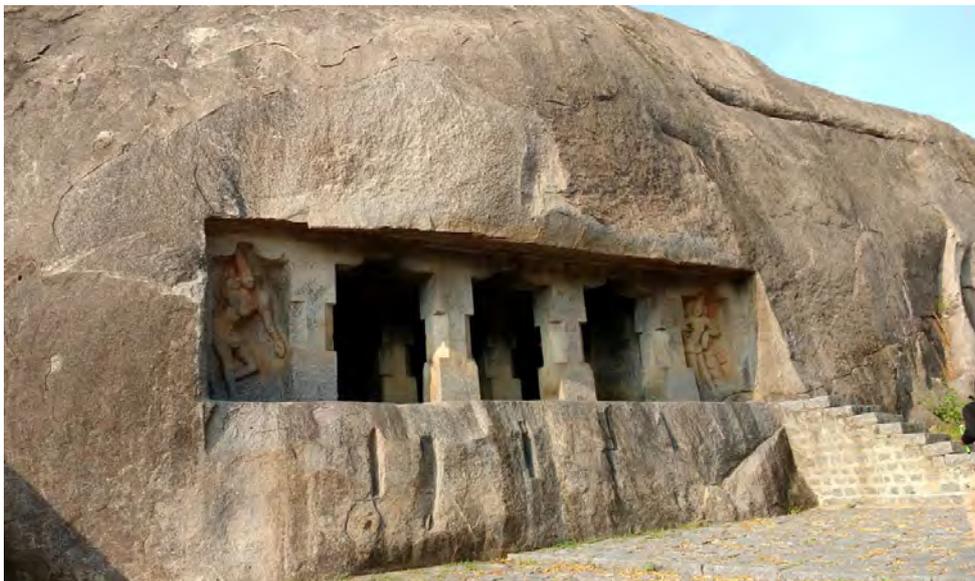
The fort complex is called 'Troy of the East', as the fort was very effective in keeping attackers at bay that it earned the quality of being 'impregnable' just like Troy. The Gingee Fort complex has been a Monument of national importance since 1921.

2) Mandagapattu rock cut temple:

MandagapattuTirumurti Temple is a Hindu temple situated in the village of Mandagapattu in the Viluppuram district. Pallava ruler Mahendravarman-I built this cave temple. There are two dvarpalas carved into the front facade. The dvarpala on eastern end is shown in tribhanga posture. His right hand is going all across the waist and under his left arm armpits over the handle of the club.

There is only one inscription found on front pillar of this cave. This Sanskrit language inscription is written in Pallava Grantha script, in Giti metre. This brick-less, timber-less, metal-less and mortar-less temple, Lakshita-yatna, which is mansion for the Brahma, Ishvara and Vishnu was caused to be made by the king Vicitra-cita (Pallava king).

These four pilasters on back wall forms three cells, each 3 feet deep, one for each in Hindu Trinity, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. There are few traces of painting seen on the back walls of the cells suggesting worship of painted deities.



3) Melsithamur Jain temple:

JinaKanchi Jain Math, Melsithamur, is a Jain Matha that is located near Gingee, Viluppuram district, Tamil Nadu, India. It is the primary religious center of the Tamil Jain community. It is headed by the primary religious head of this community, BhattarakaLaxmisenana Swami. The Viluppuram area has been an important centre of Jainism since ancient times. Historically, there was a Jain Math at Kanchipuram but it was shifted to its current location here.

It was since the rule of Vijaya Nagar kings that the parts around Gingee started flourishing one. Sri, VenkatappaNayakkar helped to renovate Pareesan Temple. He had also sanctioned permission to erect Maanasthambam.



4) Marakkanam beach:

Marakkanam Beach is located in Marakkanam which is a coastal panchayat town & Taluk in Viluppuram district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. To the west, Marakkanam is connected to the town of Tindivanam by the SH - 134. Marakkanam is situated on the declared National Waterways NW - 4. On materialization of National Waterways NW - 4, Marakkanam will be connected to two states Andhra Pradesh (Kakinada) and Puducherry through north and south

of Buckingham Canal. In the production of salt Marakkanam places second position in Tamil Nadu.



5) Auroville:

Auroville (City of Dawn) is an experimental township in Viluppuram district. It was founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa (known as "the Mother") and designed by architect Roger Anger. As stated in Alfassa's first public message in 1965, Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realize human unity.



6) Thiruvakkarai fossil park:



The National Fossil Wood Park, Thiruvakkarai is a geological park located in the Viluppuram District and is maintained by the Geological Survey of India.

The park contains petrified wood fossils approximately 20 million years old, scattered throughout the park, which covers about 247 acres (100 ha). The park consists of nine enclaves, but only a small portion of the 247 acres (approx 1 square km) is open to the public. Officials of the GSI believe the fossils were formed during massive flooding that occurred millions of years ago.

The park hosts about 200 fossilized trees. They range in size from 3 to 15 meters (9.8 to 49.2 ft) meters in length, some of which are up to 5 meters in width. They are strewn and partially buried in the park grounds. No branches or leaves remain on the fossilized trunks.

District Collector
Viluppuram