

VADALUR SATHYAGNANA SABAI



Arutprakasa Vallalar Chidambaram Ramalingam (5 October 1823 - 30 January 1874 [Attained Immortality]), whose pre-monastic name was Ramalingam, is commonly known in India and across the world as Vallalar. He was one of the most famous Tamil Saints

and also one of the Greatest Tamil poets of the 19th century[2] and belongs to a line of Tamil Saints known as "gnana siddhars" (gnana means higher wisdom).

The Samarasa Suddha Sanmarga Sathiya was spread and passed on by him not only in theory but mainly in practice by his own way of living which by itself is an inspiration for his followers. Through the notion of Suddha Sanmarga Sangam, the saint endeavored to eliminate the caste system.[4] According to Suddha Sanmarga, the prime aspects of human life should be love connected with charity and divine practice leading to achievement of pure knowledge.

Ramalinga swami advocated the concept of worshipping the flame of lighted lamp as a symbol of the eternal power.

CHIDAMBARAM - ABODE OF COSMIC DANCER

Tall and towering temples mark the landscape of Tamilnadu. They remain as preserves of cultural heritage, and protectors and promoters of inner urge of people for eternal bliss and blessings of the Almighty. Not only that the temples inspired promotion of art and culture., and in fact human life revolved around these centres of worship in ancient period. Chidambaram is one such sacred place with Lord Nataraja temple.

"Salutation to Shiva whose glory is immense, Who resembles sky. Incleanness, to whom are attributed The theme of all creations.

So sings a saint-patriot of India in a hymn dedicated to the Divine Dancer. Here in Chidambaram, one of the holy cities in Tamil Nadu. Lord Nataraja, otherwise known as Lord Shiva, the benign and the fiery dancer, expounds the myth and mythology of Hinduism and the rhythm of human life through His Cosmic dance.

Access

- Air - Nearest Airport is Tiruchi (168 kms)
- Rail - It is connected by Rail with Thanjavur, Trichi, Madurai and Chennai.
- Road - It is well connected with all major towns

For further information contact :

The Tourist Officer

Government of Tamilnadu Tourist Office
Chidambaram - 608 001.
Phone : 04144 - 238739



Tamil Nadu Tourism



Tamil Nadu Tourism Complex,
No: 2, Wallajah road, Chennai - 600 002. INDIA
Phone: (044) 2533 3785, 2533 3583, 2533 3640
Fax: (044) 2533 3772 E-mail: dotdepartment@gmail.com
Website: www.tamilnadutourism.org
For online booking log on: ttdonline.com
Toll Free Number: 1800 4253 1111

Incredible India



Cuddalore

TAMIL NADU - INDIA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area	: 3,564 km ²
Population	: 2,605,914 (2011 census)
Altitude	: 5.97m
Climate	: Summer - Max 37.1°C - Min 36.4°C Winter - Max 21.3°C - Min 20.1°C
Rainfall	: 83.5 cms average
Clothing	: Tropical Languages
Spoken	: Tamil and English
Season	: Throughout the year
STD	: 04144

NATARAJA TEMPLE, CHIDAMBARAM



Nataraja Temple, also referred to Chidambaram Nataraja temple or Thillai Nataraja temple. This temple dedicated to Nataraja Shiva as the lord of dance. The Temple has mythical roots and a Shiva shrine existed at the site when the town was known as Thillai. Chidambaram, the name of the city and the temple literally means "atmosphere of wisdom". The temple wall carvings display all the 108 karanas from the natya Shastra by Bharata Muni, and these postures from a foundation of Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance.

The present temple was built in the 10th century when Chidambaram was the capital of the Chola dynasty, making it one of the oldest surviving active temple complexes in South India. While Shiva as Nataraja is the primary deity of the temple, it reverentially presents major themes from Shaktism, Vaishnavism, and other traditions of Hinduism. The Chidambaram temple complex, for example, has the earliest known Amman or Devi temple in South India, a pre-13th century Surya shrine with chariot, shrines for Ganesha, Murugan and Vishnu one of the earliest known Shiva Ganga sacred pool, large mandabam for the convenience of pilgrims (choultry, ambalam or sabhai) and other moments. Shiva himself is presented as the Nataraja performing the Ananda Tandava ("Dance of Delight") in the golden hall of the shrine Pon Ambalam.

SAMIYARPETTAI BEACH



Samiyarpettai is a Village on the Indian east coast about 50 Kilometres (31 mi) south of Pondicherry and 210 kilometers (130mi) south of Chennai, located on the Coromandel coast of the Bay of Bengal. The coastal village of Samiyarpettai, lies midway between Cuddalore and Chidambaram east of pudhuchattiram. The village is surrounded by coconut trees, with brooks running alongside the village. It also hosts a famous Temple "Shri Pinnai Vazhi Amman Shrine" Its one of the biggest temple's alongside the Cuddalore coast. Recently, Samiyarpettai beach is getting crowd's attention and has become one of the popular holiday spot.

SILVER BEACH

It is Located 2 km from downtown Cuddalore. However, is untouched by the busy life of the city. It is the second longest beach on the Coromandel Coast and one of the longest beaches in Asia. The 57km long Stretch of beach faces severe seafront erosion. There are town buses which fly frequently between Cuddalore town bus stand and Silver Beach. It is also accessible by Taxis and Autos from different parts of the town. To the south of the beach the south Cuddalore Bay area appears as if it is a separate island. The backwater separating the main beach from the island-like structure is a safe place for water sports. To the west a river flows into dense mangrove forests teeming with birds. On the coast there is century-old lighthouse.



VEERANAM LAKE



Veeranam Lake (Veeranayanapuram Lake) is located 14 km of Nattarmangalam in Cuddalore district. 1 km from

kattumannarkoli. The lake located 235 km from Chennai, and it's one of the water reservoirs from where water is planned to be supplied to Chennai. The length is 14 km, this is the longest man made lake in the world. Veeranam Lake was built in the Tenth Century during the time of Greater Cholas. It was created by Rajaditya Chola. He named it after a title of his father Parantaka I Chola. This veeranam lake gets water from Kollidam via Vadavaru River. The lake remains dry for the major part of the year. Chola princess KUNDAVI used to come for refreshment at the banks of veeranam lake during spring season.

DEVANATHASWAMY TEMPLE



Devanathaswamy temple (also called Thiruvanthipuram Kovil) is located in Thiruvanthipuram. This temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the temple is glorified in the Divya Prabandha, the early medieval Tamil canon of the Azhwar saint from the 6th, 9th centuries AD. It is one of the 108 Divyadesam dedicated to Vishnu, who is worshiped as Devanathaswamy and his consort Lakshmi as Hemabhujavalli.

The temple in its current form is believed to have been during the Medieval Cholas, with later expansion from Pandyas, Hoysala Empire and vijayanagara Empire. The temple has fifty inscriptions from kulothunga Chola I (1070 - 1120), Vikrama Pandya, Vira Pandya III, Vijayanagar king Achyuta Deva Raya (1529 - 1542) CE and koperunjinga.

The Epigraphical Department has found more than 50 inscriptions in the temple belonging to the Medieval Chola period. The inscriptions indicate grants to the temple from Kulothunga Chola I (1070 - 1120), Vikrama Chola (1118 - 1135), Rajaraja Chola III (1216 - 1256), Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan (1251 - 1268), Vikrama Pandya, Vira Pandya III, Vijayanagar king Achyuta Deva Raya (1529 - 1542 CE) and Koperunjinga. The Chola country was under siege during the rule of Rajaraja Chola III and he was imprisoned by

Koperunjinga, a Pallava scion. Vira Narasimha II (1220 - 1234) came to the rescue of the Chola and ultimately killed the Ceylon king Parakramabahu. A temple tower was erected during the reign of Koperunjinga, while the procedures of worship were accorded similar to other temples during the reign of Maravarman Sundara Pandyan. The descendants of Ramanuja were given special provisions for worship during the period of Vijayanara Empire. In modern times, The temple is maintained and administered by the Hindu Religious and Endowments Board of the Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

FORT St. DAVID



Fort St David, now in ruins, was a British fort near the town of Cuddalore. It is Located near silver beach.

In 1746 Fort St David became the British headquarters for the Southern India, and attacks by French forces under Dupleix were successfully repulsed. Robert Clive was appointed its governor in 1756; in 1758 the french captured it, but abandoned it two years later to Sir Eyre Cotte, KB.

THILLAI KALI TEMPLE, CHIDAMBARAM



Thillai Kali Temple located on the outskirts of the town of Chidambaram, was built by Chola king Kopperunjingan who ruled between 1229 and 1278. Legend says that Goddess

Kalli Devi Moved here after losing to Lord Siva in the celestial dance contest.

It was an argument that who is superior, either 'Sivam' (Lord Siva) or Shakthi (Parvathi). In order to resolve this, they performed a dance program at Chidambaram in front of Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma and other deities. While they were playing dance, Siva was about to be Defeated.

But knowing fully well Siva played " Oorthuva Taandava " i.e. Raising one leg above his head. This " Oorthuva Taandava " is one of the posture in the dance. It could not be played by the women folk due to their modesty and shyness. In this Parvathi could not play equally well to this posture and agreed her defeat. She has to go outside the borders of the town in order to contain her haughtiness and to teach a lesson that Sivam and Shakthi are both equally important in our life.

' Thillai Kali ' is a deity in anger. This anger was pacified by Brahma by Chanting Veda and also praising by Lord Brahma ' Kali ' became cool. So that Goddess " Thillai Amman " in this temple seems with four faces.

VIRDUHAGIREESWARAR TEMPLE



In the remotest past when Brahma thought of creating the earth, he created water. Lord Vishnu happened to cut down the evil Madhukaidavas. The cut pieces of the bodies floated on water created by brahma. On seeing that Brahma prayed to Lord Shiva to create the earth out of the hardened compound from the water and the flesh of the bodies. Lord Shiva appeared as a mountain. Lord Brahma who did not know this created many different mountains. As they did not have space to exist, he was sorrowful. The paranava God appeared and conveyed Brahma the truth through gestures. Brahma worshiped Lord Shiva who was in the form of mountain. Shiva created the earth combining the flesh and the water compounded in a hardened form. He called it medhini. He gave space for the mountains of Brahma. He told Brahma that he was not different from the mountain. The mountains of Brahma came after that mountain hence the mountain of Shiva was named Pazha malai (old mountain). According to him, that Pazhamalai would be hard pressed on the earth appearing as shiva linga above. Those who worshiped it would get all they wished for. The stone inscriptions have the names of kings. Paranthaga chola, kandariththa chola, his wife Chembianmaadevi, uthama chola, Raja Raja chola, Rajendra chola, Rajaji Raja Chola, Vikrama Chola, Raja Raja chola the second, Kulothunga Chola the third, Ezhisai Mohanana kulothunga chola kadavarathithan, Veerasekara kadavarthithan, Arasa Narayanan kachirayan, Koperum singam, Kachirayan alias, Arasa Narayanan, Ezhisai Mohan, Vikrama pandian, Verra pandiya, Sundara pandiyan, Mavarma Pandiyan, konerinami pandiyan, Ariyanna udayar, Pokkana udayar, Kambana udayar, Veeravijayarayar, Muppidi Krishnapathi.

PATALEESWARAR TEMPLE



Pataleeswarar Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva is in the town of Cuddalore. It was constructed during the Pallava and Medieval Chola periods. The Saivite saint Appar is believed to have adopted Saivism at this temple. There is a belief / myth that by worshipping this God single

time is equal to 16 times worshipping the Shiva in Kasi, 8 times in Thiruvannamalai and 3 times in Chidambaram. Thirupathripuliyur in Cuddalore is one of the ancient temples in Tamil Nadu. It is named after the Pathiri Tree and the Puliyur, a tiger - legged saint who obtained absolution in the area. Devaara Thiruthalam is a show on Peppers Tv that features Shiva temples that have been mentioned in the Thirumurai.

RAGAVENDRA TEMPLE



Bhuvanagiri is the birthplace of the Sri Raghavendra Swami. The Town is also closed to the birthplace of Saint Ramalinga Adigalar (town Maruthur). The word Bhuvanagiri is a combination of two Tamilized - Sanskrit words - Bhuvanam (means World) and Giri (means Mountain or Unmovable). Hence, the name Bhuvanagiri can mean " the place (world) that does not move " Bhuvanagiri is Internally referred to by the local population as " mel Bhuvanagiri " (western Segment) and " Kezh Bhuvanagiri " (Eastern Segment). A river Vellaru (a tributary of river Cauvery) provides water for irrigation. The town is also known for handloom products (such as lungies, hand kerchiefs, saris, dhotis, etc.) It is also known for its Silk saris and Silk Textiles which are referred to as " Bhuvanagiri Pattu ".

PICHAVARAM



Pichavaram is situated in the southeast coast of India in the Tamil Nadu State. It is located at about 225 km south of Chennai and 15 km north east of Chidambaram, Cuddalore district, at the confluence of Uppanar, a tributary of the Coleroon River. Fishing villages, croplands, and Aquaculture ponds surround the area. The Pichavaram mangrove wetland has 51 islets and the total area of the

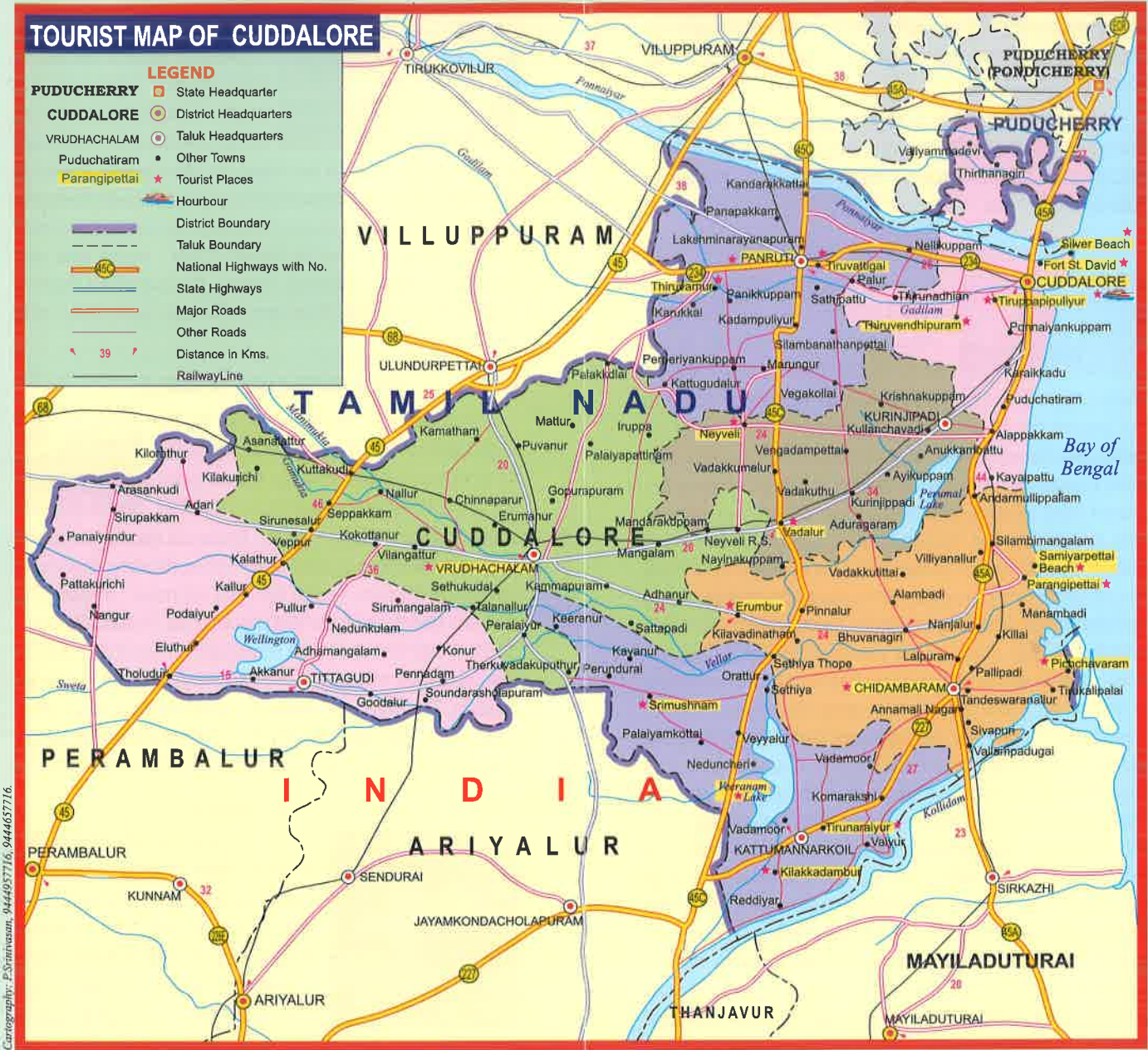


tamil Nadu tourism

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TOURIST MAP OF CUDDALORE

- LEGEND**
- PUDUCHERRY**
 - State Headquarter
 - CUDDALORE**
 - District Headquarters
 - VRUDHACHALAM**
 - Taluk Headquarters
 - Puduchatiram**
 - Other Towns
 - Parangipettai**
 - Tourist Places
 - Hourbour
 - District Boundary
 - Taluk Boundary
 - National Highways with No.
 - State Highways
 - Major Roads
 - Other Roads
 - Distance In Kms.
 - Railway Line



Cartography: P. Srinivasan, 9444957716, 9444657716

Scale : 1cm = 5.5 kms Appx.

Coleroon estuarine complex is 2335.5 ha of which only 241 ha. is occupied by dense mangrove vegetation. Nearly 593 ha, of this wetland is occupied by helophytic vegetation like Suaeda, 262.5 ha. by barren mud flats and 1238.50 ha, by barren high saline soil. Of this, the mangrove wetland occupies only 1100 ha, comprising the entire mangrove vegetation located in the middle portion of the vellar pichavaram - Coleroon wetland which has been declared on 15th December 1987 as a reserved forest by the Department of Forest, Government of Tamil Nadu. Two major rivers viz. Vellar and Coleroon drain into the Bay of Bengal in this area. The area between the two rivers has brackishwater with mangrove vegetation. Inter connected with about 4000 channels and minor cracks.

Pichavaram it is one of the unique eco-tourism spots in South India. The backwaters, interconnected by the Vellar and Coleroon river systems, offer abundant scope for water sports such as rowing, kayaking and canoeing. The Pichavaram forest not only offers waterscape and backwater cruises, but also another very rare sight - the mangrove forest trees are permanently rooted in a few feet of water.

Birds

Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem attracts a number of true migratory and local migratory birds. Favorable season for the vist of birds is from September to April every year and the peak population could be observed between November and January . Shallow water area with high density of macrobenthos serve as excellent feeding grounds for the birds. Macrobenthos form staple diet for shore birds. Common occurrence of piscivorus birds (member of Ardeidae and Laridae) is due to occurrence of many species of fishes in plenty which form their diet. In the food web, egrets, herons, storks, gulls, terns and raptors hold top position owing to their habit of feeding on fishes. As many as 57 species of birds are reported from this area.

Boating

Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation operates pleasure boating service.