

About Chennai

Chennai situated on the shores of the Bay of Bengal is the capital of the Tamilnadu state and it is the fourth largest metropolis in India. It's older name 'Madras' is officially changed to 'Chennai' in 1996.

2. Chennai Metropolis [with latitude between 12°50'49" and 13°17'24", and longitude between 79°59'53" and 80°20'12"] is located on the coramandal coast in South India and the land is a flat coastal plain. Three rivers viz. Kosasthalaiyar, Cooum and Adyar pass through Chennai Metropolitan Area and these rivers are placid and meander on their way to the sea. Buckingham Canal, a man made canal, is another large waterway which runs North-South through this metropolis. Sholavaram lake, Red Hills lake and Chembarambakkam lake are the three large lakes in the area.

3. Chennai lies on the thermal equator and most of the year it is hot and humid. Highest temperature attained in May-June is usually about 40°C (104 °F) for a few days. The coldest time of the year is early January and during that month the temperatures are about 20°C (68°F). Predominant wind direction is from South East to North West.

4. Chennai Metropolitan Area comprises of the area covered by Chennai City Corporation (Chennai District), 16 Municipalities, 20 Town Panchayats and 214 villages forming part of 10 Panchayat Unions in Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts. It extends over 1189 Sq.Kms.

5. Majority of people in Chennai are Tamil speaking with sizeable population who speak Telugu language. Since Madras (presently Chennai) was the capital of the erstwhile Madras Presidency covering most of the areas now under the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala it has inherited a mix of languages [viz. Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam]. Chennai has become progressively more cosmopolitan after independence with people from north mainly from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab settling in this metropolis for business. Theosophical Society and Kalakshetra School of Music and Dance located in south Chennai attracted foreigners to settle in Chennai. Recently the growth of IT industries in this metropolis is also attracting a mix of people from other states and also from other countries to Chennai.

6. Chennai is famous for its classical dance called Bharathanatyam and the 'carnatic music season' event held every year during December and January is one of the world's longest cultural events attracting people not only from various places in India but also from foreign countries.

7. Chennai has a very heterogeneous mix of architectural style ranging from ancient temples to British colonial era buildings and to latest modern buildings. Most of the buildings constructed during colonial era are of Indo-Saracenic style.

8. Chennai is a major transportation hub for road, rail, air and sea transport connecting major cities inland and abroad.

9. Chennai is one of the major educational centres in India with a number of colleges and research institutions.