

KanyaKumari / Tamil Nadu Notes April, 2021,

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1. Some of the Largest Windmill farms of India are in Kanyakumari /Thirunelveli districts. Largest windmill numbers are in Kanyakumari after Gujrat in India, and 4th largest Windmill farms in the World are here .
2. Its a rich district on several parameters .
3. Nadu means land or Country.
4. Water is in plenty, agriculture too is good, Western Ghats infact start from Kanyakumari and it is amongst the earliest places in India to get Monsoon rains in June .
5. District is a mix of Kerala and Tamil Nadu .
6. Gold and Jewellery is big business here. Ladies wear good amount of gold jewellery showing that there are more riches here and also Excellent Law and order. It is safe to wear Gold here.
7. Thiru means Sri and Tmt is for ladies meaning Thirumati. Selvi means " Miss " in Tamil .
8. Ladies of Self Help Groups like the Mahila Mandals in HP are a strong organisation which do lot of Micro financing work to sustain financial needs of households. Govt gives initial seed money and then these groups themselves take loans from banks and sustain their activities.
9. Making Kollam ie Alpana ie Aapan in our Pahari language is an important cultural activity sustained by women .
10. Deepawali and Pongal are the main functions of Tamil Nadu. Deepawalis celebrated in morning, Deepaks are lighted in morning, Pooja of all Gods done at home and in temples. Deepawali is a local holiday widely celebrated and called Deepawali in Tamil. Shivratri too widely celebrated especially in Kanyakumari.

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11. There are nearly 10 Thousand CCTVs in the district, which further helps in controlling Law and order.
12. NREGA is not popular in K Kumari
13. Labour rates in private sector very high at Rs 700 per day, Ladies get Rs 400 /500 per day rate. PWD mazdoor rate is Rs. 502. Mason Govt. rate is Rs. 752.
14. Like Kerala, here too many people working in Gulf Countries .
15. Nagercoil is the district headquarter.
16. Public Transport and State Bus Transport is excellent.
17. Kanyakumari town itself is entirely a Tourist destination, fancied more by North, West, Central Indians. Covid has badly affected Tourism in Kanyakumari town .
18. Tamil Nadu Hindus probably fancy Varanasi as their religious destination. There is a place called Tenkasi, also a newly created District, which means Dakshin Kashi. There is a big temple Kasi Vishwanathan in Tenkashi, which is over 900 years old. Tamil Nadu has this important Shiv Temple in Tenkasi ieKashi of the South." Ten" means "South "in Tamil. We have the Uttarkashi In Uttarakhand, Chottikashi in Mandi HP. And of course Varanasi the real Kashi. For Tamil Hindu believers, it's a dream to be able to go to Kashi .
19. Rameshvaram / Kanyakumari are frequented and visited by mostly North Indians, less by locals.
20. Tamil Nadu has 5 Ancient Epics, written in 5th to 10th CE, of which 3 Epics are attributed to Jains and 2 to Buddhist teachings. In Madurai too , there is an ancient Jain Cave. Archanai, Prasadam and Teertham are Temple rituals as in North. Prasadam is not meant for eating but to paste on one's foreheads. Teertham water is like Charanamrit in North Temples.
22. In Kanyakumari right now in March, Paddy was being harvested . 2 crops , both paddy ,are being grown in Kanyakumari as water is sufficient.
23. Cow dung cakes not visible , normally it is sold to Coconut plantations or recycled into farms .
24. 1st 100 Electricity units are free for all Households .

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25. Fishing communities are mostly Christian. Fishermen here are more prosperous because of deep sea fishing to Oman /Gulf. On the other hand, Rameshwaram /Madurai fishermen are less prosperous since they are daily fishermen and constrained by Sri Lanka waters. They are unable to access Deep Seas because of Sri Lankan objections .
26. Local Economy is based on fishing , banana, cloves, coconut, Cashew, tapioca and rubber plantations .
27. Tapioca and fish is a popular food in Kerala
28. All farmers have cows. There are no Cow sanctuaries or Go Sadan. Cows are disposed / used for meat once they go barren or old .
29. Temples are exquisite ,old, historical and beautiful.
30. Churches are relatively new, also in good numbers, none too old since Christianity arrived only. They are about about 150 to 200 years old. Large numbers of Fishermen families and also Nadars became Christian. Nadars, a dominant community here are both Hindus and Christians. Hindu and Christian populations are evenly balanced at 47 % each in the District .
31. Mother is " Matha" in Tamil too. Mother Mary is Matha Mary for Christians.
32. Mangalsutra ieThali is worn by Christian women too in marriage.
33. There are however no major inter religious disputes in the district.
34. There is very little crime, very few murders and little crime against women.
35. 2 Language Formula is followed in T Nadu, unlike 3 Language formula in other States. Only Tamil and English taught. There is a conscious attempt at teaching Tamil till Class 12 and higher levels .
36. Tamil Nadu has over 550 Engineering Colleges and very high number of Medical Colleges. Each household will normally have at least 1 Engineer in his house.
37. Women percentage is very high in Police and Teaching Institutions. In schools women constitute 70 % of the Teaching Staff .
38. There is 33 % reservation in Govt jobs for women in Tamil Nadu.
39. Houses are well made, well finished, well painted. showing higher income levels in the district and superior Construction skills .

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40. As in North India, new houses especially of the Hindus have "Drishtibomai" meaning "Fixed Gaze", a alisman, like "Nazarbattu" installed on the houses , to ward off evil spirits.

41. Journalist KP Nayyar , in Tribune has recently commented that for the 1st time in 40 years , Sri Lankan Tamils issue was not an Election Talking point .He attributes it to the strong handling of the issue by Sri Lanka Government , Much water having flown since the deployment of the IPKF in Sri Lanka and greater assertion of Union Govt autonomy in deciding Foreign Policy issues .

Major Freebies Cash /Outgoes from Govt

- 1 Free rice for all irrespective of income. Sambhar dal ,palm oil sugar is given at subsidised rates .
2. Electricity is free up to 100 units for all domestic consumers. Electricity rates in higher slabs too is quite modestly priced .
3. Free Laptop to all class 11 students in Govt schools.
4. Free cycle for class 11 students in Govt schools.
5. Liberal marriage grants of Rs 50,000 for first daughter and also 5 gm mangalsutra gold is given based on Income criteria.
6. 20% subsidy on 2 wheelers purchase is given for ladies .
7. Free bus travel for all school students, of both pvt and govt schools in Tamil Nadu State Transport buses is allowed .
8. Pregnant women get Rs. 20,000 per pregnancy in Govt hospitals for upto 2 children .
9. In 2007 Karunanidhi gave 14 inch Colour TV which was given to all Ration card holders , irrespective of income or status .
10. In 2016, Jayalalita gave Table Fan, Mixie , Grinder to all Families .
11. Rs 2000 is given to each family on Pongal .
12. In Govt schools , MidDay meal is given till Class 10. Free Text books for all classes, uniforms till class 10, Chappals till Class 10, free pencil /text Books,/ copies, Free cycle in Class 10 and free Laptop in Class 11 .
13. Rs 20,000 cash grant is given to 1st Child taking admission in an Under Graduate College

Impressions of Tamil Culture

A very old and uninterrupted culture, polity, economy. Tamil civilisation never saw any big external invasions. The first big interruption came through the East India Company and later the British but they possibly didn't really interfere with local cultures. There is also greater social, gender and educational equity in the State due to various social reforms movements.

It is the real Indic civilisation in so many ways ,possibly more Indic than many Northern parts of India .All major Gods and festivals including Shiv Parvati, Shakti Mata, Vinayak, Vishnu, Krishna, Ram, Hanuman, Saraswati etc are worshipped which underlines the civilisation and cultural unity with rest of India.

The temples here are fabulous, which were never desecrated or demolished, they were always the centre of all local activities and tradition, are beautifully designed and very symmetrical and they house immense number of sculptures. The Temples also have been continuing their Rituals and Spiritual activities, uninterruptedly for ages, unlike temples in the North. The State also has very strong Jain and Buddhist traditions, further pointing to the cultural unity of the State with other regions of India. A very recent interview on Republic TV of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev on his efforts to grant greater autonomy to Hindu Temples management in Tamil Nadu testifies to the importance of these historical and ancient temples.

This possibly explains the local population efforts to ward off extraneous, even national efforts to impose cultures and values alien to Tamils including the 3 Language formula. The Dravidian culture is thus sought to be protected assiduously.

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