

INVESTMENT
OPPORTUNITIES
IN
NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT
A REPORT

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A.M. SWAMINATHAN

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Till about the 1970s Nagapattinam district was a moderately developed one. It lies in the Cauvery delta area and, with plenty of water, farmers raised two or even three crops per year. There were no mechanized boats and fishermen on country crafts were thriving. Nagapattinam harbour handled both passenger and cargo ships. However, all these changed in the last three decades.
- 1.2 With the implementation of the Land Ceiling Act and fragmentation of the holdings, followed by partitions over two generations, the number of marginal and small farmers increased and most of the holdings became totally unviable. The Cauvery releases by Karnataka were much below the requirements and in one or two years, no crops could be raised at all. The protest by the environmentalists about the aquaculture farms resulted in hostility among two groups of farmers. Some of these farms seriously damaged the water table. Large number of mechanized fishing boats are being operated and the catches have been declining over the last few years. Stricter pollution control norms and local opposition to chemical units in general ensured that no new chemical units were to be put up in this area. The near closure of the Nagapattinam harbour and the railway system for about 10 years added to the woes of the public in general and industries in particular. The tsunami of 2004 was a cruel shock and the district is yet to recover from the same.

1.3 The various relief Agencies assisted the people in recovering from the tsunami damage. The UN Agencies rendered valuable service in relief and rehabilitation. Now the stage has come when efforts have to be taken to generate sustainable long term income sources for the affected poor people. In this context the Project “Building Community Resilience to industrial disasters through partnership” is implemented by UNESCAP, which aims to identify self-sustaining alternatives that, inter alia, have the potential to attract private investment and are capable of generating gainful employment to the community members especially the poor. Against this background this study is attempted to identify possible industrial projects that could be put up in Nagapattinam district to attain in short to medium term the above objective. The study was taken during the period February and March 2008.

CHAPTER 2

NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT – AN OVERVIEW

2.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE DISTRICT :

Nagapattinam District lies on the East Coast of Tamilnadu. It is bounded by Thanjavur District and Thiruvarur District on the West, Cuddalore District on the North and the Bay of Bengal on the South and the East.

The District lies between 10.25° and 11.4° North Latitude and 76.49° and 80.01° East Longitude. The general geological formation of the District is plain coastal. Cauvery and its tributaries are the principal rivers. The District occupies a major portion of the Cauvery river delta consisting of narrow strips of wet lands split by various rivers and channels. The coastal land is generally plain except for a few sand dunes. Apart from these, the Vedaranyam Salt Swamp (the largest Swamp in Tamilnadu) also lies in this District. There are no hills in this District. The total geographical area of the District is 3,536.38 Sq.Kms. (2.08% of the State area)

2.2 POPULATION:

As per the 2001 Census, the total population of the District was 14,88,839, which is 2.39% of the State population. In this district there are 7,39,074 males and 7,49,765 females indicating a sex ratio of 1014. The various parameters of the district population in the context of Tamilnadu State's population are exhibited in the table¹ below:

¹ Directorate of Census Operations – Primary Census Abstract – Census 2001.

Parameter	NAGAPATTINAM - TOTAL				TAMILNADU - TOTAL			
	Total	Male	Female	%age	Total	Male	Female	%age
Population	1488839	739074	749765	100	62405679	31400909	31004770	100
Scheduled Castes	441231	219933	221298	29.64	11857504	5932925	5924579	19
Scheduled Tribes	3420	1734	1686	0.23	651321	328917	322404	1.04
Literates	996580	548142	448438	76.34	40524545	22809662	17714883	73.45
Workers	586734	410135	176599	39.41	27878282	18100397	9777885	44.67
Main Workers	468754	350045	118709	31.48	23757783	16303310	7454473	38.07
Main Cultivators	61426	51307	10119	13.10	4738819	3107543	1631276	19.95
Main Agricultural labourers	219427	138221	81206	46.81	6062786	3273642	2789144	25.52
Main Workers in household industries	8425	5224	3201	1.80	1261059	594025	667034	5.31
Main other Workers	179476	155293	24183	38.29	11695119	9328100	2367019	49.23
Marginal Workers	117980	60090	57890	7.92	4120499	1797087	2323412	15
Marginal Cultivators	10584	5632	4952	8.97	377220	154946	222274	9.15
Marginal Agricultural labourers	89341	42371	46970	75.73	2574844	982718	1592126	62.49
Marginal Workers in Household industries	3035	1170	1865	2.57	238702	54564	184138	5.79
Marginal other Workers	15020	10917	4103	12.73	929733	604859	324874	22.56
Non-Workers	902105	328939	573166	60.59	34527397	13300512	21226885	55.33
Households			343613				14665983	

Note: Total population is divided into Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-workers. Main workers are employed in a particular occupation throughout the year. The Marginal workers are employed only during a part of the year in the same or different occupations. Cultivators own the land and agricultural labourers work in other people's land. Categories of work are divided as agricultural, industrial, household and others. Non-workers are not wage earners.

The mid year estimate² of the District Population (2004) is 15,26,000 of which 77.8% is rural (State 55.9%). The population density is 548.

It may be seen that the literate population in the District is more than the State average. Similarly, the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the District is nearly 10% more than the State average. The predominant occupation of the population is Agriculture followed by Fisheries.

2.3 CLIMATE AND RAINFALL:

The average maximum temperature of the District, as a whole, is 32.46°C and the average minimum temperature is 24.75°C. The main monsoon, the North East monsoon (October to December) contributes about 60% of the total annual rainfall. The second one viz., the South West monsoon (June to September) contributes about 20% of the total annual rainfall. The summer rains account for the rest of the rainfall. The total average rainfall for the District³ is 1341.7 mm (2006).

The District is prone to cyclonic storms during the North East monsoon season. Once in three or four years, these storms bring very heavy rains with violent winds and affect the crops severely.

2.4 AGRICULTURE:

The total geographical area of the District is 3536.38 Sq.Kms. The cropped area accounts for 65.53% of that area. 74.5% of the agricultural holdings are less than 1 ha. The Forest cover is very minimum accounting for only 1.31% of the total area. The

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