

TOURISM POTENTIALS IN PERAMBALUR – A STUDY

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In 1741, the Marathas invaded Trichirappalli and took Chanda Saheb as captive. Chanda Saheb succeeded in securing freedom in 1748 and soon got involved in famous war for the Nawabs place in the Carnatic against Anwardeen, the Nawab of Arcot and his son Mohammed Ali.

Mohammed Ali annexed the two palayams of Ariyalur and Udaiyarpalayam located within present Perambalur District on the grounds of default payment of tributes and failure to assist him in quelling the rebellion of Yusuf Khan. In November 1764, Mohammed Ali represented the issue Madras Council and obtained military assistance on 3rd January 1765. The forces led by Umdat-ul-Umara and Donald Campbell entered Ariyalur and captured it.¹

The young Poligar together with his followers there up on fled to Udaiyarpalayam. The poligar's troops were defeated and the palayams were occupied. The two poligars fled their town and took refuge in Tharangambadi, then a Danish Settlement. The annexation of the palayam gave the Nawab un-interrupted possession of all his territories extending Arcot to Trichirapalli.²

The history was followed a power struggle between Hyder Ali and later Tippu Sultan with the British. After the death of Tippu Sultan the English took civil and military Administration of the Carnatic in 1801. In 1995 Trichirapalli came in to the hands of the English and the District was formed in 1801. In 1995 Trichirapalli was trifurcated and the Perambalur and Karur districts were formed. Thiru.N.Nanda kishore IAS, was the first collector of the District. Perambalur was divided

into Perambalur and Ariyalur district in the year 2001. Ariyalur was merged with Perambalur in the year 2002. Now Perambalur is bifurcated into Perambalur Ariyalur district in this year 2008.³

Geographical Settings (Features)

Perambalur is one of the district of TamilNadu which has its head quarters at perambalur. The geographical area of this place is 3690.07 Km² or 369137 ha

It lies between northern latitude and eastern longitude .ie.; Northern lalitude 10.54° to 11.30°. Eastern longitude 78.40°10 79.30°. It was trifurcated 30.09.1995 as per G.O MS. No 913 Revenue/Y3 dated 30.09.1995. from Trichirapalli District and came to be known as Perambalur District.⁴

Boundaries, Taluks, Villages.

This district is bound on north by Cuddalore District, on the south by Trichirapalli district , on the east by Tanjore district, and Nammakkal, Trichirapalli District on the west.

Perambalur district has been divided into six Taluks(Prambalur, Kunnam Vppanthattir, Arriyalur, Sendhurai and Jeyamkondam), and ten blocks, viz, Perambalur, Veppanthatai Veppur, Alathur, Ariyalur, Thirumanus, Senthurai Jeyamkandam, Andimadam and T.palur

This district comprises of 345 Revenue villages 322 village panchayats and Nine Town Panchayats and 3 Revenue Divisions.⁵

TOURIST CENTERS

Brahmapureeshawarar, Madhanagopalaswamy Temples at Perambalur Town, Bala Dhandayutha bani temple at Chettikulam, Madhura Kaliyamman Temple at Sruvatchoor , and Gangaikonda cholapuram are some of the Pilgrim centers of this district. Apart from this, there are some tourist centres like Sathanur fossil tree at Ariyalur Ranjankudi fort, Karaivatti Birds Sanctuary

and Elakkuruchi attract the people and earn reasonable income to this district. Some of these places are narrated hereunder as they are historically very important.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram

The great monument of Gangai kondacholapuram, which is the second Gangaikonda choleshwara temple rears its head nobly. It speaks the capital that Rajendra (1012-44) the Son of RajaRaja, established after his victorious march to North East India up to the river Ganga. Notable contribution made by Rajendra, to temple architecture is the Siva temple at Gangaikonda cholapuram. Rajendra Chola built this Temple to commemorate the Victory of his invasion up to Orissa and defeated the ruler of Bengal. He had a successful campaign in north India and assumed the title of Gangi konda chola . The temple is 54.86 m high and an average of Tanjore temple. Now it's maintenance is under Archeological survey of India.

Siruvatchoor Madhura Kaliyamman Temple

Siruvatchoor Madhura Kaliyamman temple at Siruvatchoor in Perambalur District is one of the most popular Shrine. The presiding deity of the temple is known as Sree Madhura Kaliasman. She is one of the forms of kali. Poojas are performed on every Monday, Friday. The main annual festival commences on the end in Panguni, last month of Tamil Year. The Car festival is celebrated in the first week in "chittrai" Chettikulam Bala Dhandayuthabani and Arulmigu Egambareshwar temples.

The ancient Arulmigu Egambareshwarar and Shree Bala Dhandayuthabani Temples are situated in Chettikulam village , Perambalur district. The above temples were built by King Kulasekara Pandiyan Some 500 years ago(7). These temples are situated 22km away from Perambalur and 8 Km west of Alathurgate in Trichi -Chennai National Highway (NH 45). These Temples reflects the architecture of cholas. In Egambareshwarar Temple "Thai Poosam" festival is

celebrated every year in the month of January in full moon day for ten days. In Bala Dhandayuthabani Temple Panguni uthiram" Car festival is very famous and celebrated in the month of Panguni the last month of Tamil year for ten days.⁶

Ranjankudi fort

Ranjankudi lies 11.21° North latitude and 78.57°E longitude and it is located 17 kms away North of perambalur. This fort was built by a Jagirdhar under Nawab of Carnatic in 17th century A.D. 8 .The fort was the scene of the battle of Valikondah between the English and Mohamed Ali on one side and Chandha Sahib and the French on other side in 1751 AD. This Fort is under protection of the Archeological Survey of India. The fort walls are built neatly, without store block. There are three fortification walls different heights and the bottom most is the main Rajpath. It is oblong on plan with semi circular bastions and enriched on the southern side. The fort contains palace, residential building underground chambers, mosque and flag mast.

Karaivetti Birds Sanctuary

The karaivetti Birds sanctuary located about 35 kms to the north of Tanjore in Ariyalur taluk of Perambalur District. The total area of the sanctuary is 454 ha. This Sanctuary is significant in the sense that it has been attracting the largest congregation of water birds Calimer sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. The peak congregation takes place in the month of November, when over 2.5 lakhs birds arrive in this sanctuary about 50 species of resident and migratory water birds visit this seasonal lake. Important visitors include the highflying Bareheaded Goose, Rosy and Grey pelican, white necked stork, Spoon bill, Shoveller etc , Another important aspect of this sanctuary is the presence of water till the month of May as other water bodies dry up by the month of march, this sanctuary offer home to the water birds till may end.⁷

Even though the place is surrounded by hills, it has its own cultural heritage as all other district posses.

END NOTES

1. www.profileperambalur.com.
2. Ibid.
3. www.Historyof Perambalur.com.
4. www.rediffperambalur.com.
5. <http://www.censusindiamaps.netpageinIndia>
6. Register- Primary Health Centre - (Govt of Tamil Nadu) Page no.35.
7. www.perambalur.com profile of Perambalur District, p. 13.

