

## KANCHIPURAM - "LAKE CITY OF TAMIL NADU"

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### INTRODUCTION

Kanchipuram is one of the towns in Tamil Nadu which have an ancient and remarkable ancient history. This is the capital town of the Old Pallava Kingdom. Kanchipuram is famous for temples and its architectural work, each one has its specialty, hence Kanchipuram is called as "City of Thousand Temples". Kanchipuram is also famous for silk, which is world-famous as "Kanchi Silks". Kanchipuram is well known for its lake and ponds. This has two main rivers, 38 major lakes and thousands of ponds and other water reservoirs. So, it is also called "The Lake City of Tamil Nadu". This article will focus on the lakes and water bodies of Kanchipuram.

### MAJOR RIVERS

There are two major rivers in Kanchipuram namely,

- Palar river
- Cheyyar river

#### River Palar

Palar is one of the rivers in South India. It originates from the Nandhi hills of Karnataka. The total length of this river is 348 km. It flows around 93 km in Karnataka, 33 km in Andhra Pradesh and 220 km in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, it covers the major districts of Vellore, Arcot, Ranipet, Kanchipuram and

Chengalpattu. In Kanchipuram it flows around 100 km. It is the main water source for Kanchipuram people. The flow of water in Palar River is irregular with considerable variations from year to year. Due to this reason this river is majorly affected by sand mining particularly in the region of Sevelimedu, Kuruvimalai, Muthiyalpettai, Iyyam pettai, Walajabad, Payasivaram and Palur. The last water flow of this river is 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with the water flow of 1 lakh volume which is recorded as the most in the last 21 years.

#### River Cheyyar

Cheyyar River is an important seasonal river that runs through the Thiruvannamalai district and joins to Palar River at Payasivaram. It originates in Jawadhu hills. The total length of the Cheyyar river is 348 km. This river receives most of its water from North-East and South-West monsoon and it is used for drinking and irrigation purposes in the villages around the town of Cheyyar and Vandavasi.

#### OTHER RIVERS

Other rivers are Vegavathi River, a branch from Cheyyar River now it is not drained due to occupying it. korattalaiyar and Tandiar drain this district partly on the northern and southern parts respectively.

## MAJOR LAKES

**Uthiramerur Lake:** It is the famous lake in Kanchipuram. It is around 1000 years old. It was built during Cholas period. It covers around 200 acres. It stores up to 958 million litres of water. The water from this river is used by the farmers of 18 villages. This is mainly used for irrigation purposes.

**Nathapettai Lake:** It is located in Nathapattai, 6 km from Kanchipuram. It is around 2 km in size. More than 120 species are observed in this lake. This lake is mainly used for fishing. The important fishes are Katla, Theli, Kendai, Keluthi, Koduva, Veraland Koravai. Kulla kendai is the most famous local one which is more taster than others.

**Periyatham Lake:** It is located at Periyatham, 9 km from Kanchipuram. It is around 1 km in size. The water from this lake is mainly used for irrigation purposes in the villages of kuruvimalai, Kalur, Vedal, Periyatham, Kilperamanalur, Asur and Avalur. It is also used for fishing under drought conditions. The major fish are Veral, Koravai, Kanda and Anameen.

**Kalakatur Lake:** It is located 7 km away from Kanchipuram. It is around 2 km in size and holds 4.5 lakh liters of water. The water in this lake is used for irrigation, fishing, washing clothes, bathing and other domestic purposes.

## OTHER PONDS

There are hundreds of ponds in Kanchipuram. Some famous ponds are Thamarai kulam, Sarvathreetha kulam, Vanna kuttai, Vathiyar kuttai, Retta kuttai, Iyakulam, Kampa pond, Padurpond, Alli kulam and Pattancherry pond.

## CONCLUSION

Kanchipuram is rich in water reservoirs, still, it is facing water scarcity due to the reasons like lack of management, discharging of sewage, occupying water reservoir areas, construction of schools and colleges, construction of new roads, bridges and sand mining. Water is essential for all living organisms. So, it is our main duty to save the water and hand it over to the future generation. Let us save water today for a bright tomorrow.