Chennai: The Evolution of the Southern Economic Hub

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Abstract: Chennai is the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu, located on the Coromandel Coast on the Bay of Bengal in eastern India. Formerly known as Madras. Chennai - the cultural capital of South India, is said to be one of the fastest growing metropolises in the world. It is the only Indian city to feature in Forbes magazine's list of "Top 10 Fastest Growing Cities in the World". Also, it is the only city in South Asia on the list of "52 Places to Travel around the World" by The New York Times. This makes it one of the best places to visit in India. Chennai is a city rich in cultural heritage with a highly urbanized population and a foodie's paradise. Located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal, the city is extremely humid, but it has been voted one of the safest cities in the country for women. The city needs no introduction, but here are some facts about the city. The recent expansion of the Chennai metropolitan area makes the urban area the second largest in the country after Delhi. However, the experience of cities across the country shows that increasing urban size does not guarantee better planning or improvement in quality of life. Chennai are not new free from problems it faces in terms of infra development, housing, clean Chennai, water management, etc are the major source is the cause for concern. The objective of this paper is explaining the numerous factors revolving the greater Chennai city. Interesting facts of Chennai history, growth pattern, religion, culture, heritage, tourism, growth of industries, premier educational institutions, music, dance and food etc are need to studied to learn the mega city who faces laths people travel on daily basis. An attempt has been made to draw the attention to unleash the ever expanding Chennai city in terms language, industry, education, job market etc are few things to be noted.

Keywords: Chennai city, Economic perspective, Evolution and Growth.

Introduction to Chennai City and its Pre-history

Chennai (the state capital of Tamil Nadu) remains a major tourist destination and consistently ranks among the top three Indian cities in terms of tourist arrivals in a year. In fact, this metropolis is known for its beautiful beaches, museums, parks, forts and its exquisite arts and crafts. A light house, walkways and gardens along the 15 km long marina beach evoke a sense of tranquillity.

Kowloon Beach has a cove and fort built by the Nawab of Karnataka. The Government Museum complex in Egmore consists of six buildings and forty-six galleries. Those interested in ancient history should visit this museum. Fort St. George was the first British fort built in India and today serves as the administrative headquarters of the Legislative Assembly. The Fort Museum houses many relics of the British Empire. For art lovers, Cholamandalam, located on the East Coast Road in Chennai, offers a unique display of artists and artisans through the Artists' Village. Guindy National Park is the smallest national park in India and is located entirely within the city. It is home to various endangered deer, monkeys and snakes. Chennai has many shopping malls and three amusement parks. It has a vibrant nightlife. Chennai is perhaps one of the best examples of a beautiful city where history and modernity blend together to provide an enchanting experience.

Chennai, the fourth largest city in India, is the capital of Tamil Nadu. The city has a rich historical background. Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas and Vijayanagara were some of the major dynasties that ruled the region. Mylapore was the main port of the Pallavas. The port of Sao Dom was built by the Portuguese in 1522. The port was named after the Christian reformer St. Thomas. He preached in the area from 52 to 70 AD. There are many beliefs about how this place got its name. The name Madras is said to have been derived from Madraspatnam, a fishing village north of Fort St. George. Some believe that the name Madre de deus was given to the place by the Portuguese who came there in the 16th century. A third belief, historians say, is the name of a prominent family, the Madeiros, who in 1575 proclaimed a holy church in San Thome as the Madre de deus. The church no longer exists as it was demolished in 1997. And the last theory suggests that the name was given after an Islamic school, also known as a madrasa, which was located nearby. Just as there are beliefs about the name Madras, there are also some beliefs about how Chennai got its name. The region was part of King Sunragiri's empire in 1639A.D, the time the British came to India. It is believed that the city was called Chennapatnam when the British took over the region from the head of the Vijayanagar dynasty, Chennappa Nayakar. There is some belief that the name derives from the Chenna Kesava Perumal Temple, which is known as the face of the city. The two cities of Madrasapatnam and Chennapatnam were merged in the 17th century. The British also conquered the region in the 17th century. The newly incorporated city had two names Madraspatnam and Chennapatnam respectively by the British and locals. Madras was ruled by the Portuguese and French in the 16th

and 18th centuries. 22nd August 1639 was the day when the British East India Company bought a piece of land near the Coromandel coast at Chandragiri from King Beda Venkata Rayar of the Vijayanagar dynasty. The land was purchased for commercial purposes. Tamarla Venkatapati, the ruler of Vandavasi Mandal, gave permission to the British to build a factory and a warehouse for commercial projects. Instead of a factory, however, it was named Fort St. George the following year. The fort became the centerpiece of the growing colonial city. Fort St. George and Madras were captured in 1746 by French General La Bourdonnais, Governor of Mauritius. But the British soon re-established control over the region through the Treaty of Aix-La-Chappelle in 1749. The walls of the fort were strengthened and raised to ward off further invasion from the French or other powerful monarchs such as Mysore Sultan Hyder Ali. The British succeeded in conquering other states like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka along with the state of Tamil Nadu till late 18th century. During this period the Madras Presidency was established, making Chennai its capital. The city became a major urban center and naval base. The railway came in the 19th century to connect the place with other major cities of India like Mumbai and Kolkata. Another important point to be noted in the history of Chennai during World War I is that Chennai was the only city that was hit by the German light cruiser SMS Emden during World War I, which attacked Chennai's oil depot. Destroyed shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. In 1947, India gained independence and Chennai became the capital of Madras State, which was renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969. Few historical facts and Chennai growth factors are presented hereunder with the following heads. They are:

- After London, Chennai is the second oldest corporation in the world, dating back to 1687.
- As we celebrate the founding of the city of Madras (now Chennai), here are some fun facts:
- BMW's first production plant was established.
- Built in 1678, St. Mary's Church in the Fort St. George complex is the oldest Anglican church in India.
- Chennai has the largest artificial sea port in India and the largest port in the Bay of Bengal region.
- Chennai is India's largest industrial complex
- Chennai is India's oldest municipal corporation still active. It was opened in 1688.

- Chennai is the fifth richest city in India with a GDP of $78.6 billion. Automobile sector contributes a lot to Chennai's economy. The city's economy is driven by IT and BPO sectors, automobile, medical, tourism and equipment manufacturing.

- Chennai is the oldest railway station in Asia. Rayapetta railway station was started in 1856.

- Chennai was earlier a fishing village named Madrasapatnam. Later, the East India Company made Fort St. George the first major English settlement in India. Thus, Chennai became the first British settlement on the Desi shores.

- Chennai was the only city in India to be attacked during World War I (28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918).

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- Chepakkam MA in this city. Chidambaram Stadium is the oldest cricket ground in India.

- Do you know where India's oldest jail is? It is Chennai Central Jail.

- For the first time in India, the University of Madras introduced a Bachelor of Music degree in 1930.

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- Here are some mind-blowing facts you need to know about Madras Day

- India's first cancer hospital was established in Chennai in 1920.

- India's oldest cricket stadium is Chepakkam MA in Chennai. It is called Chidambaram Maidan.

- India's oldest shopping mall was built in 1863 during British rule at Spencer Plaza in Annasalai.

- It was during this week in 1639 that Madrasapatnam was acquired by the East India Company, setting the ball rolling on the creation of the famous city that it is today. The year 2022 marks the 383rd anniversary of Chennai.

- Madras is the only Presidency not affected by Zamindari system.

- Madras was the first metropolis of India.

- Madras was the first to adopt Indian Standard Time, 5.30 hours ahead of GMT.
- Rayapuram railway station is located in Rayapuram area of Chennai. It started functioning in 1856 and is now the oldest railway station still in operation in India.
- The 'Bank of Madras' was established in 1683, heralding the first European-style banking system in India.
- The first city in India to get Wi-Fi network is none other than Chennai.
- The first village to be annexed to Chennai was the village of Triplicane, which was leased from the Sultan of Golconda in 1676.
- The Fort Museum in the Fort St. George complex holds the distinction of hoisting the first tricolor after Indian independence.
- The Madras High Court building is the second largest judicial structure in the world. The number one spot is occupied by a building in London.
- The Madras Regiment was the first regiment raised under the British Indian Army.
- The oldest shopping mall in India was built in 1863 during the British rule. It is Spencer Plaza in Annasalai.

Chennai is not only flourishing in few selected areas it has it own history and manages throughout history of India. Few note worthy points are the showcasing the importance of Chennai city. This can viewed with the following illustrations are given below in the figure 1.
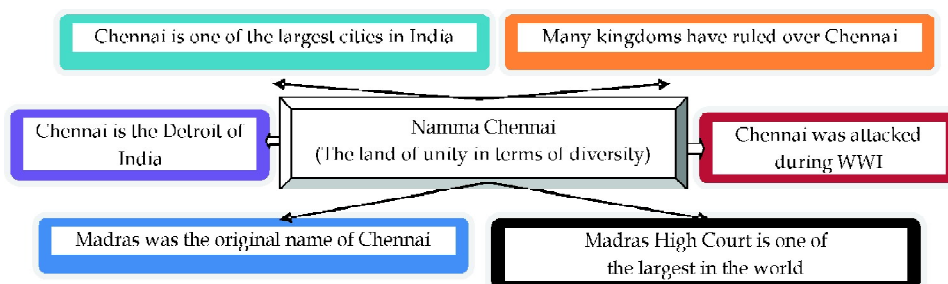

Figure 1.1: Major Land Mark and Multiple Faces of Chennai City

Source: Research scholar own constructs

Chennai Cultural Capital of South India

Chennai is the capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, formerly known as Madras. The metropolis is often called the cultural capital of India for its deep-

rooted traditions and long heritage. The city is the gateway to the rest of South India. The metropolis is often called the cultural capital of India for its deep-rooted traditions and long heritage. The city is the gateway to the rest of South India. It has the 2nd longest beach in the world located on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal. With a population of around six million, it is the fourth largest city in India. Chennai is also the largest city in South India, housing nearly 1 crore people. The city is full of car enthusiasts and has one of the best roads in the country, a large port and manufacturing facilities that cater to every need to cater to the automobile central market. Chennai region alone contributes 39% to the state's GDP and the automobile sector is a major contributor. Chennai is nicknamed the 'Detroit of India' due to its large number of automobile factories. Chennai accounts for 35% of the country's automobile component industry. Several tire manufacturing companies have invested 90% of the planned $5 billion investment in Tamil Nadu on the Chennai corridor. South India. It is also known as the cultural capital of South India.

With the evolution of mesmerizing temples and musical instruments, dance forms began to evolve. One such dance form is Bharatanatyam, a dance form performed by temple devas. Some of the other dance forms of Tamil Nadu that have evolved over time include Kararakam (a dance form in praise of the rain god), Basava (circling a bull, an image of Lord Shiva), Pommalattam (or puppet show) and Silambattam (which resembles a martial art), to name a few. Thus, with the rapid change of dynasties, Chennai is at the forefront of change. It has culminated in the birth of a vibrant culture, rich heritage, sumptuous architecture and vibrant art forms. Hence, Chennai has all the reasons to be called the 'Cultural Capital of India'.

Chennai City Declartion of "Detroit of India"

The city not only enjoys a rich heritage but is also a bustling center of industrial and commercial development. A look at the tremendous industrial growth in Chennai, especially brought about by many automakers (almost 40% of their plants are located here), will help you understand why it is considered the "Detroit of India". Most of the big names in India's automobile industry have their plants here, as do many auto component makers.

Chennai Is Called "Gateway to South India"

From roadside tea shops to grand cafes and luxury hotels, from coffee (the famous South Indian filter coffee) to cappuccino, from street shopping to mega

malls, from western tradition, to friendship, to harmony, to freedom to safety, to culture to tradition, Chennai, ladies and gentlemen, All are there. A thoroughly traditional modern city. From all other places in India, Chennai can be your one and only destination for incredible experiences of a lifetime. I hope to pack your bags for Chennai soon.

IT Hub of Chennai

Chennai has a growing IT hub and corporate sector within its many suburbs. There are several IT parks around the city, including Tidal Park, which was once the largest IT park in Asia. It is also the base of operations for several financial institutions including Bank of America, Barclays, Deutsche Bank and Citibank, among others. This cultural capital of South India has various entertainment and shopping avenues as well as many renowned educational institutions.

Alarming Real Estate Boom: Sectoral Growth Paves the way for Overall Development

According to gsquarehousing.com Chennai Real Estate Reports as of 2022: In the second quarter of 2022, Chennai launched 1,950 units, up 51% year-on-year. Most of the launches this quarter occurred in residential hotspots near metro corridors. Leasing activity in Chennai has accelerated, with a growth rate almost double that of the previous quarter. The IT-BPM sector dominated the leasing activity during the quarter with a share of 42 percent. With so much
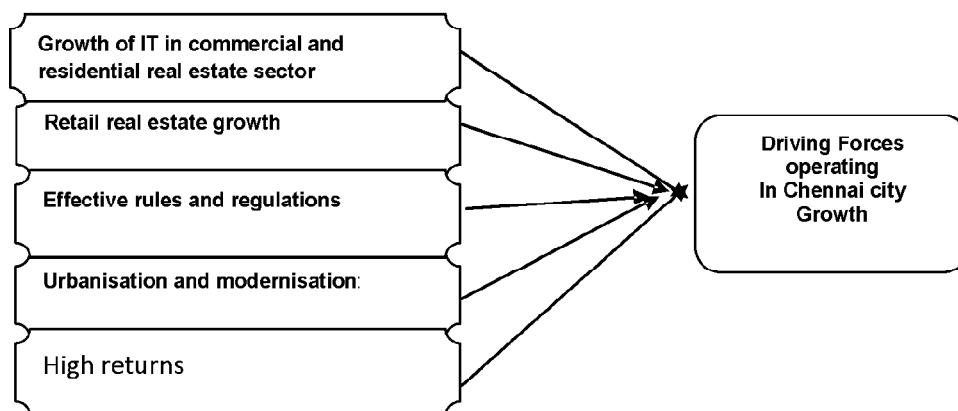

Figure 1.1: Factors Attributing Chennai City Growth

Source: Adopted from https://www.gsquarehousing.com

development going on in and around the city, the growing demand for real estate is quite obvious. Real estate in Chennai is one of the most rewarding investment options and with an increasing influx of home buyers and many new property launches every year, residential property in Chennai is one of the most sought after sectors in real estate.

Conclusion•

Chennai is a beautiful city that is the gateway to South India with a unique culture based on Tamil traditions. At the same time, it is a modern cosmopolitan city with a very diverse population. Chennai is the "Gateway of South India". Every Indian has a reason to love this place because it has not only embraced people from different backgrounds but also developed and shaped their culture with great respect and care. It is included as one of the four metropolitan siblings of the country. It has a rich and vast cultural and historical background. It blends perfectly with the metropolitan lifestyle. Besides, it is famous for its South Indian culture, British era museums, monuments, temples and more.

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