

**A STUDY ON CHENNAI CULTURE AND HERITAGE: HISTORICAL
PERSPECTIVE**

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ABSTRACT

Chennai metropolitan city also called as Greater Chennai having rich in cultural heritage sites with highly urbanized population, capital of Tamilnadu. Situated on the coast of the Bay of Bengal the city is highly clammy but it has been selected as one of the fastest and safest cities for women in the country. The city needs no prologue but here are some facts. The present day Chennai is yesterday's Madras state. This great Chennai city came across remained under great ruling the influence of many great dynasties like the Pallav's, the Chola's, the Pandya's and the Vijaynagar Empire. Earlier it is well known place and it is called as fishing village known as 'Madraspatnam', the city became one of the most important city of the country, though slowly and steadily. The creation of city has long history goes to Francis Day and Andrew Cogan who established factory-cum-trading post in Chennai for the during the period 1639. It is also nicknamed as the 'Detroit of India' is home to many famous landmarks such as the Marina Beach, Kapaleeshwarar Temple, and the St. George Fort among others. In Chennai one can easily explore Temple, and architectural heritage. Chennai, houses many architectural wonders that have become synonymous with the city's heritage and history. Moreover there a lot of UNESCO heritage sites in Chennai too this adds another feather to the hat. Adding to this Chennai placed in the list of FORBES-Top 10 fastest growing cities in the world". This paper answer to the questions about a rich, varied, culture, tradition, heritage sites and marks of past history and symbolizes many places to remember and should be to taken to the next generation to our past unforgettable moments in our life and people sacrifice.

Keywords: History, rich, varied, culture, tradition, heritage sites.

1.1. INTRODUCTION

The greater Chennai today once upon popularly called the "Gateway to the South India". This Chennai enjoys for longer time with varied culture, distinctly different from other parts of the city in India. It is also known as cosmopolitan city. The culture that prevails in the city that reflects its dissimilar population which has shown a fabulous which are resulted in gaining it own uniqueness intermingle. Though a modern city, it continues to be traditional and conventional in certain ways. Traditional music, dance and all other art forms of Tamil Nadu are very popular in the city. This city can easily separated in the form of a) Unique blend of culture b). Conventional foods to fast foods, c). Ancient temple d). Architecture e). High-rises building f). Classical music and dance etc. We know that Chennai is popular for IIT and for being an IT and industrial hub. The city is also renowned for its passion for music. But, there's more to the city than you think. From its varied culture and tradition, vibrant festivals, dainty delicacies to its quintessential "Chennai Tamil", this city doesn't fail to mesmerize the locals and the outsiders living here.

1.2. HISTORY OF CHENNAI

Chennai city plays a critical role from the historical perspective and significant contributor towards administrative aspects, participation of military in the Second World War, and economic centre from first century. The kingdom like Pallava, Chola, Pandya and Vijaynagar are few noticeable dynasties which are administered many years. Mylapore much familiar historical place. Adding to this the Portuguese entry and their a port called as Sao Tome of thing of the past. Later who renamed St. Thomas who sermonize this location 52 and 70 A.D. Historians named Madeiros family who affirmed the Madre de Deus as a blessed place of worship in San Thome. This church destroy in the year 1997. 'A Madrasa' situated muslim college. Armenian and Portuguese whoi do trade and business /traders were stayed in the place of San Thome is now where we live in present-day Chennai city before the British people. Madras was the short form of the fishnet village Madraspatnam. British East India Company built and started functioning a fort and factory in 1639-40. The weaving of cotton fabrics was a local industry, and the English invited the weavers and native merchants to settle near the fort. By 1652 the factory of Fort St. George was recognized as a presidency and between 1668 and 1749 the company expanded its control.

1.2.1. DETROIT OF INDIA: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CHENNAI CITY

The Madras harbour led the city to be converted into the most momentous centre for buy and sell between India and Europe in the 18th Century. The so called city marked its beginning as an English resolution in Fort St. George. The English carrying weapons their resolution followed by the collapsing Dutch and Portuguese. During World War- 1, Madraspattinamn was only city witnessed by the German light cruiser. The fact-sheet about the present Chennai.

- According to global consultancy firm Mercer survey report statement result revels that “Going by the low crime rate, better law enforcement” the city was declared one of the safest in country.
- Air transport came in to existence during in 1917.
- Banking system a century old business in Chennai city before the commencement of first commercial bank.
- Banking system: Started functioning in Chennai is home to first European style banking system in India with the establishment of the Madras Bank, June, 1906
- Bus transport was started in 1925
- Cancer Institute [CI]established in 1920
- Centre for Movie Making: South Indian movie industry not just the Tamil movie industry alone but other regional languages Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam movie industries operated out of Chennai.
- Chennai Corporation functioning since 1687. The Corporation is run by a mayor, who presides over 155 councillors. This city consists of 155 wards of the city.
- Chennai Corporation: Chennai is the oldest Corporation in the world after London.
- Chennai gave birth to South Indian Cinema- Kollywood movie world.

- CI non-profit cancer treatment and research centre, 1974
- CI oldest Cancer hospitals in India.
- CMBT: Koyambedu Bus Stand is the largest bus terminal in Asia.
- Famous World bank: World Bank's permanent office in Chennai. It is s the biggest by the way of structure owned by World Bank after its headquarters in Washington DC.
- Fastest Growing city: Chennai is the highest growing Indian metro city and the only Indian city to be rated in the "FORBES magazine - Top TEN fastest emergent cities in the world".
- It supplies the 30% percent of total consumption of Indian tertiary. 4-wheeler vehicles in Chennai are the base of 30 percent of India's automobile industry and 35 percent of automobile component industry.
- It was declared as 'Centre of Excellence' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Library building in the name of Anna Centenary located in Kotturpuram, Chennai is the biggest in Asia.
- Longest Beach: Length of 13 km including a 6km promenade, situated in the heart of the city.
- Manufacturing hub: Chennai city is considered as is the automobile hub of the country where various companies operating and exporting world famous goods and attracts foreign language .
- Nicknamed as DEtroit of India: Chennai city has got another name as **DEtroit of India** due to massive presence of automobile industry.
- Safest and work place: Chennai has been considered and voted one of the best and safest places among cities to live in India.
- Tourist spot Marina Beach: Chennai city enjoying another glory that it has the second longest beach in the world-Marina Beach.
- Zoological park : In the name of Vandalur Zoo is the first public zoo and largest zoo In India

1.3. CULTURE OF CHENNAI

The entry point or sometimes called as the doorway to South India. Chennai city is a astonishing gift the land of Tamil Nadu embraces. It is widely recognized as unity in diversity, no one can deny the fact that it is drawing the quality of 'Unity in Diversity' from the homeland country India. Chennai city carries the legacy of rich cultural heritage and culmination of finest arts, music and dance forms, people and cuisines. Enjoying cosmocity, the attribute of being a cosmopolitan city, Chennai mirrors confluence of all the diverse cultures. By nature people maintain harmony each other by accepting their social values. If we look at majestic by the festivals and colour of Chennai city is filled with fun and joy. To say more about the historical city it has got a number of monuments and it adds its glory. By traditionally art forms they preserved much talked about all sorts of music and dance. The spirit of Chennai has got it own vibrant culture and evocative traditions all make the city wonderful and terrifically important as a part of Indian heritage.



(Source: <https://www.yatrablog.com/heritage-of-chennai>)

The popular traditionally rich culture of Chennai can be exemplified through different dance and its forms. All functions and celebration goes with traditional arts.



(Source: Author compilation)

1.4. CHENNAI HERITAGE

Most of the Chennai monuments are reflecting heritage city which resembles matching Dravidian temple structures. Rapid growth of Chennai takes new heights with globalization spreading its wings at rocket speed, the development of this city up-holding with our tradition. Few examples are listed hereunder:

- Anglo Indian houses: - Anglo Indian houses is fast dwindling in Chennai One can find a few houses in the locality nearby St.Thomas mount, Royapuram, Vepery and Pursalwalkam etc.
- British Bungalows: - Most of the government building occupied British bungalows.
- Some private owning British bungalows then you have a choice too
- 250 years old luz house situated in the bustling location of Mylapore.
- Architecture of Chennai can be identified with publication of an article from Madras week: about Luz House (A heritage bungalow).
- Vivekananda house:- This is not a religious site but also an example for Victorian construction in Chennai.

- ICE house is well known Britisher design. Britishers imported Ice from North America for about 30 years before the house got demolished.
- Government Offices: - Government offices are functioning now in Chennai city are the British era. Eg: Fort St George, General post office- Rajaji Salai etc, Ripon building.
- Churches: - Churches which are about 400 to 80 year old can be found in Chennai.
Advent Christian church –Velachery
Anderson Church- Parrys
Armenian Church of 17th century 120 years old CSI holy cross church
Eliots beach St Andrews Church
Luz church- Mylapore
Parangimalai, Descanso Church of 17th Century
Perambur, Velankani Church
Ponamalee high road
Santhome Cathedral
St Thomas mount Church
St.Marys Road, St.George Cathedral built in 1815-Gopalapuram
St.Patricks Cathedral
St Thomas mount, etc.,
- Temples:- Marudeswarar temple built in 50BC. Kapalesswarar temple (7th century AD), Thirunermalai temple(8th century AD), Parthasarathy temple (8th century AD) 1000 year old Dhandeswarar temple in Velachery and a lot more.
- Schools:- Lady Wellington School (Early 1900s), Mylapore, St.Patricks School in Adyar (1875) Church Park, Thousand lights (1842).
- Masjids:- Triplicane Big Masjid (1795), Thousand lights Masjid (1810).
- Colleges:- Pachiyappa's college (1842), Loyola college (1925) Presidency college (1840), Queen Mary's College (1914), Madras Christian College (1837) WCC- 104 years old, Madras medical college (1835), Stanley medical college (1920), College of engineering 225 years old, Ambedkar law college (1891), Music School at TTK road etc.
- Library and book shops- Connemara library(1896), Highinbothams(1844) etc.
- Railway Stations- Central station (1873), Egmore railway station(1905), Tambaram railway station (1900s), Royapuram railway station (1856).
- Business Centres- Old curiosity shop(more than 80 years old), Mercedes Benz showroom - Titanium motors (1916), EID PARRY company (1788), The Hindu office etc.
- Port trust, Light house, Govt museum, Govt art gallery, Victoria hall, Chepauk cricket stadium are also some of the well maintained buildings from the British era.
- Many buildings in Parrys, George Town, Flower bazaar, Anna Salai and Nungambakkam might interest you too.

1.5. CONCLUSION

The many aspects of heritage and the culture that has been passed down for several decades and centuries still relevant that is the symbol the Chennai city.

Colors of Chennai = traditions+ festivals +mentality and lifestyle

Antique temples, lively arts, unusual wonders and a bustling culinary scene make Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, one of the most popular tourist attractions in the southern fringes of the country. Located on the Coromandel Coast, this busy metropolis was formerly called Madras. From the resplendent classical dance form of bharatnatyam to the rich flavours of its iconic cuisine and from the lustrous silk sarees traded here to the gorgeous temples and churches, Chennai is the gatekeeper of South Indian art, culture and traditions. This attracts variety of UNESCO declared in and around Chennai and heritage sites.

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