

Chennai, India



Chennai, India - ACWW Triennial Conference September 26th -October 2nd 2013

The Society of Daughters Mary Immaculate and collaboration (DMI) is an apostolic life for women. DMI was founded on January 28th, 1984 in a remote village called Pandravedu near Tiruttani, 120 kms from Chennai. Their goal, "Loving God in serving the poor to be fully humans" is the charism and mission of the DMI. This goal drives and directs the organization to serve the needy, to enable the poor, especially the women and children to enjoy human values, love, justice, peace and equality through an empowerment process.

The 27th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World will be hosted by the Society of Daughters Mary Immaculate and held in Chennai, India, September 26th to October 2nd, 2013. The theme of the conference is "Empowering Women Worldwide Encourage, Educate, Enrich".

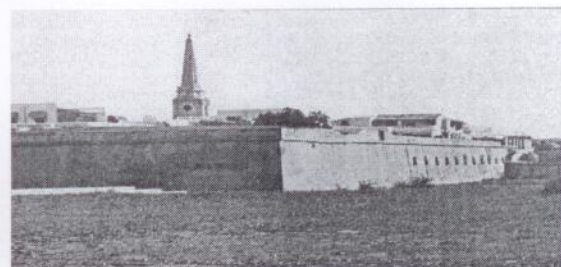
For more information of the Triennial Conference please refer to the following website, <http://acwwindia2013.com/>

Chennai, which was formerly known as Madras up until August 1996, is the capital city of the Indian state Tamil Nadu and located on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal. Chennai is the fourth most populous metropolitan area, the fifth most populous city in India and is also the world's 36th largest metropolitan area. Chennai is referred to the "gateway to South India". The city has been blessed with the wealth of arts and literature. It is famous for its various cultural events, showcasing the performing arts such as Dance, Music and Drama at its best. Chennai is also popular for the glitz and glamour of Kollywood, the Tamil film industry". Many Tamil films have won acclaim in the international film festivals and have brought fame to India

History:

Originally Chennai was a cluster of villages, perched amidst paddy fields, bordered by palm trees. The Pallavas, the Cholas, the Pandyas and the Vijaynager Empire, all the popular dynasties of South India, have had an influence over the city. The origin of the metropolitan city started in 1639, when Francis Day and Andrew Cogan, two merchants of the British East India Company, were granted permission to start a factory-trading-post. A year later the British built Fort. St. George, which became the nucleus of the growing colonial city.

Fort St. George houses the Tamil Nadu Assembly until the new Secretariat building was opened in 2010.



In 1746, Fort St. George and Madras (Chennai) was captured by the French, who plundered the town and its outlying villages. The British regain control in 1749. During the British rule, Chennai went under drastic changes, to become a prominent city, with strong naval base. With the introduction of railways in the late 19th century, Chennai got linked with other important cities like Mumbai. Facilities of trade and communication in the city boosted. Chennai was the only city of India that was attacked during the World War. When India became independent in 1947, the city was declared as the capital of Madras State which was later renamed as Tamil Nadu in 1969.

Geography:

Chennai is on the southeast coast of India in the northeast of Tamil Nadu on a flat coastal plain known as the Eastern Coastal Plains. Its average elevation is around 6.7 meters (22 Ft) and its highest point is 60 meters (200ft). The Marina Beach runs for 12 km along the shoreline of the city and is one of the longest beaches in the world. Two rivers meander through Chennai, the Cooum River (or Koovam) through the centre and the Adyar River to the south. Adyar and Cooum rivers are heavily polluted with effluents and waste from domestic and commercial sources. The state government periodically removes silt and pollution from the Adyar river, which is much less polluted than the Cooum. A protected estuary on the Adyar forms a natural habitat for several species of birds and animals.



Chennai's soil is mostly clay, shale, and sandstone. Chennai is divided into four broad regions: North, Central, South and West. North Chennai is primarily an industrial area. Central Chennai is the commercial heart of the city and includes an important business district, Parry's Corner. South Chennai and West Chennai, previously mostly residential, are fast becoming commercial, home to a growing number of information technology firms, financial companies and call center.

Climate and Population:

Chennai has a tropical climate, specifically a wet and dry climate. The city lies on the thermal climate and is also on the coast, which prevents extreme variation in seasonal temperature. The weather is hot and humid for most of the year. The hottest part of the year is late May to early June, known locally as Agni Nakshatram (fire star) with maximum temperatures around 38 - 42°C (100 - 108°F). The coolest part of the year is January with minimum temperatures of 18 - 20°C (64-68°F). The average rainfall is about 140 cm (55 inches). The city gets most of its seasonal rainfall from the north-east monsoon winds, from mid-October to mid-December. Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal sometimes hit the city. The highest annual rainfall recorded is 257 cm (101 inches) in 2005. Prevailing winds in Chennai are usually southwesterly between April and October and northeasterly during the rest of the year.

Chennai had a population of 4.34 million in the 2001 census within the area administered by the Corporation of Chennai and had an extended metropolitan population of 6.5 million. Since the 2001 census Chennai has had a growth rate of 7.8% in population increasing from 4.34 million to 4.68 million.

Economy:

According to Forbes magazine, Chennai is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. It has a diversified economic base anchored by the automobile, software services, hardware manufacturing, health care and financial services industries. Chennai is India's second largest exporter of software, information technology (IT) and information-technology-enabled services (ITES). Chennai Zone contributes 39% of the State's GDP. Chennai accounts for 60% of the country's automobile exports, which leads it to be called as "The Detroit of Asia". In 2001, the total workforce in Chennai was about 1.5 million, which was 31.2% of its population. Chennai metropolitan area accounts for over 75% of the sales tax revenue in the state. According to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Chennai is estimated to grow to a \$100-billion economy, 2.5 times its present size, by the year 2025.

Culture:

Chennai culture is firmly entrenched in traditions and customs; music and dance lie at the very heart of the Chennai culture. Tamil Nadu is a cosmopolitan state and the Chennai culture aptly reflects the multi-cultural mindset of the population of the state. Despite being a metropolitan city, Chennai is firmly rooted in its cultures and traditions. Chennai culture is unique in its own way and is distinctive from all other Indian cultures.

The city is known for its classical dance shows and Hindu temples. Every December, Chennai holds a five-week long music season celebrating the 1927 opening of the Madras Music Academy. It features performances of traditional carnatic music by hundreds of artists in and around the city. An arts festival called the Chennai Sangamam, which showcases various arts of Tamil Nadu is held in January every year.



Chennai, India Quiz

- 1) Chennai has had a growth rate of 7.8% since the 2001 census?
True or False
- 2) The hottest part of the year is during late June and early July?
True or False
- 3) Chennai was formerly known as Madras up until August 1994?
True or False
- 4) Music and dance lie at the very heart of the Chennai culture?
True or False
- 5) Chennai's economy base is anchored by the automobile, software services, hardware manufacturing, health care and financial service industries?
True or False
- 6) In 1749, Madras (Chennai) was captured by the French?
True or False
- 7) Chennai is also called the "Gateway to South India"
True or False
- 8) Chennai is the third most populous city in India?
True or False

Answers to Quiz

- 1) True
- 2) False - Hottest part of the year is late May early June
- 3) False - Madras was changed to Chennai in August 1996
- 4) True
- 5) True
- 6) False - They were captured by the French in 1749 and the British regained control in 1749.
- 7) True
- 8) False - Chennai is the fifth most populous city in India.