

Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency

Coordinates: 10.77°N 79.83°E

Nagapattinam is a Lok Sabha constituency in Tamil Nadu. Its Tamil Nadu Parliamentary Constituency number is 29 of 39. The seat is reserved for scheduled castes. The constituency is noted for being an historically communist stronghold, having elected Communist Party of India parliamentary representative seven times.

Location

The constituency is at the tail end of the Cauvery delta.^[1] The area is prone to both floods and droughts.^[2] The Cauvery water crisis, affecting agriculture in the area, remains high on the agenda in Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency.^[1] Apart from farming, there is an oil refinery and some minor industrial units.^[3]

Demography and dynamics

Scheduled Castes constitute about 32.95% of the population in the Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency.

Gender demographic of Erode East as of 20.01.2021,^[4] taken during the elections in 2021.

Year	Female	Male	Transgender	Total
2021	13,41,305	6,58,437	53	6,82,815

Assembly segments

The Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency is composed of six state assembly constituencies:

Nagapattinam	
Lok Sabha constituency	
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Constituency details	
Country	 India
Region	 South India
State	 Tamil Nadu
Assembly constituencies	 Nagapattinam <p> Kilvelur</p> Vedaranyam <p> Thiruthuraipoondi</p> Thiruvarur <p> Nannilam</p>
Established	1957-Present
Total electors	13,03,060
Reservation	 SC
Member of Parliament	
 17th Lok Sabha	
Incumbent	
 M. Selvarasu	

Party	<u>Communist Party of India</u>
Elected year	<u>2019</u>

No	Name	District	Member	Reserved for (SC/ST/None)	Party
163	<u>Nagapattinam</u>	<u>Nagapattinam</u>	<u>Aloor Shanavas</u>	None	<u>VCK</u>
164	<u>Kilvelur</u>		<u>Nagai Mali. P</u>	SC	<u>CPI(M)</u>
165	<u>Vedaranyam</u>		<u>O. S. Manian</u>	None	<u>AIDMK</u>
166	<u>Thiruthuraipoondi</u>	<u>Tiruvarur</u>	<u>K. Marimuthu</u>	SC	<u>CPI</u>
168	<u>Tiruvarur</u>		<u>K. Poondi Kalaivanan</u>	None	<u>DMK</u>
169	<u>Nannilam</u>		<u>R. Kamaraj</u>	None	<u>AIDMK</u>

Before 2009:

- 1.Nannilam (SC)
- 2.Thiruvarur (SC)
- 3.Nagapattinam
- 4.Vedharanyam
- 5.Thiruthuraipoondi (SC)

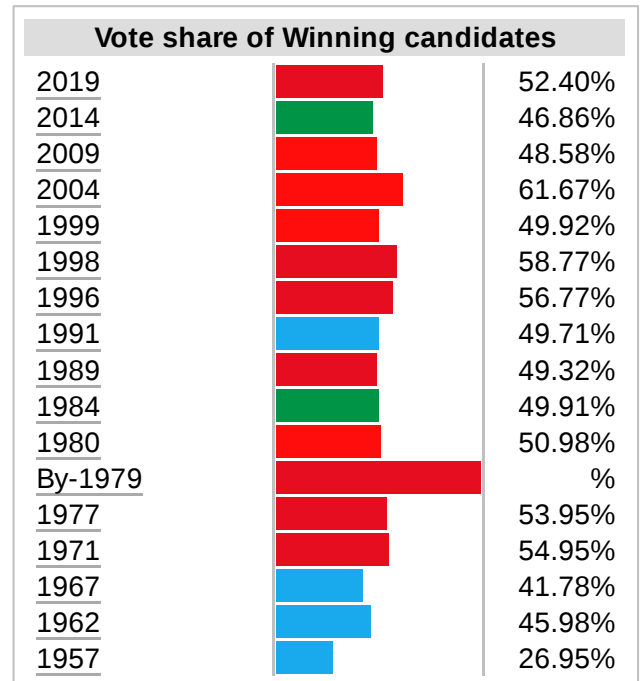
Members of Parliament

Year	Winner	Party
<u>1957</u>	<u>M. Ayyakannu</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>
	<u>K.R. Sambandam</u>	
<u>1962</u>	Gopalsamy Thenkondar	
<u>1967</u>	V. Sambasivan	
<u>1971</u>	<u>M. Kathamuthu</u>	<u>Communist Party of India</u>
<u>1977</u>	<u>S.G. Murugaiyan</u>	
<u>1979*</u> (by-election)	<u>K. Murugaiyan</u>	
<u>1980</u>	Karunanithi Thazhai	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
<u>1984</u>	M. Mahalingam	<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
<u>1989</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	<u>Communist Party of India</u>
<u>1991</u>	<u>Padma</u>	<u>Indian National Congress</u>
<u>1996</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	<u>Communist Party of India</u>
<u>1998</u>		
<u>1999</u>	<u>A.K.S. Vijayan</u>	<u>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
<u>2004</u>		
<u>2009</u>		
<u>2014</u>	<u>K. Gopal(AIADMK politician)</u>	<u>All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</u>
<u>2019</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u> ^[5]	<u>Communist Party of India</u>

- Due to the death of S.G. Murugaiyan, a by-election was held.

Election results

General Elections 2019



2019 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	522,892	52.40%	42.65%
<u>AIADMK</u>	M. Saravanan	3,11,539	31.22%	-15.64%
<u>Independent</u>	T. Sengodi	70,307	7.05%	
<u>NTK</u>	P. Malathi	51,448	5.16%	
<u>MNM</u>	K. Guruviah	14,503	1.45%	
<u>NOTA</u>	None of the above	9,463	0.95%	-0.74%
<u>BSP</u>	V. Anitha	5,412	0.54%	
Margin of victory		2,11,353	21.18%	9.73%
Turnout		9,97,843	76.93%	0.01%
Registered electors		13,03,649		7.68%
<u>CPI gain from AIADMK</u>	Swing		5.54%	

General Elections 2014

2014 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>AIADMK</u>	<u>Dr. K. Gopal</u>	434,174	46.86%	
<u>DMK</u>	<u>A. K. S. Vijayan</u>	3,28,095	35.41%	-13.17%
<u>CPI</u>	G. Palanisamy	90,313	9.75%	-32.54%

<u>PMK</u>	Vadivel Ramanan	43,506	4.70%	
<u>INC</u>	Thalai T. A. P. Senthilpandian	23,967	2.59%	
<u>NOTA</u>	None of the above	15,662	1.69%	
Margin of victory		1,06,079	11.45%	5.15%
Turnout		9,26,540	77.86%	-0.97%
Registered electors		12,10,626		23.24%
<u>AIADMK gain from DMK</u>		Swing	-1.72%	

General Elections 2009

2009 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>DMK</u>	<u>A. K. S. Vijayan</u>	369,915	48.58%	-13.08%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	3,21,953	42.28%	
<u>DMDK</u>	<u>M. Muthukumar</u>	51,376	6.75%	
<u>Independent</u>	<u>P. Veerasamy</u>	8,769	1.15%	
<u>BSP</u>	<u>G. Veeramuthu</u>	5,123	0.67%	0.11%
Margin of victory		47,962	6.30%	-22.48%
Turnout		7,61,391	77.71%	5.87%
Registered electors		9,82,352		-6.35%
<u>DMK hold</u>		Swing	-13.08%	

General Elections 2004

2004 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>DMK</u>	<u>A. K. S. Vijayan</u>	463,389	61.67%	11.74%
<u>AIADMK</u>	<u>P. J. Archunan</u>	2,47,166	32.89%	
<u>JD(U)</u>	<u>S. G. M. Ramesh</u>	17,090	2.27%	
<u>Independent</u>	<u>K. Murugesan</u>	9,480	1.26%	
<u>BSP</u>	<u>A. Balaguru</u>	4,207	0.56%	
<u>Independent</u>	<u>T. Kumar</u>	3,811	0.51%	
Margin of victory		2,16,223	28.77%	25.50%
Turnout		7,51,436	71.65%	5.61%
Registered electors		10,49,004		-0.54%
<u>DMK hold</u>		Swing	11.74%	

General Elections 1999

1999 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>DMK</u>	<u>A. K. S. Vijayan</u>	342,237	49.92%	
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	3,19,771	46.65%	-12.12%
<u>PT</u>	<u>T. Nadaiyazhagan</u>	22,346	3.26%	
Margin of victory		22,466	3.28%	-17.27%
Turnout		6,85,512	66.02%	-8.10%
Registered electors		10,54,666		3.29%
<u>DMK gain</u> from <u>CPI</u>		Swing	-6.85%	

General Elections 1998

1998 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	375,589	58.77%	2.00%
<u>AIADMK</u>	<u>Dr. K. Gopal</u>	2,44,286	38.23%	
<u>INC</u>	<u>M. Thiagarajan</u>	15,837	2.48%	-22.43%
<u>PT</u>	<u>G. Jeevanandam</u>	3,354	0.52%	
Margin of victory		1,31,303	20.55%	-11.32%
Turnout		6,39,066	64.75%	-9.37%
Registered electors		10,21,037		3.97%
<u>CPI hold</u>		Swing	2.00%	

General Elections 1996

1996 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	394,330	56.77%	10.97%
<u>INC</u>	<u>M. Kannivannan</u>	1,72,984	24.90%	-24.80%
<u>CPI(M)</u>	<u>V. Thambusamy</u>	1,08,069	15.56%	
<u>BJP</u>	<u>S. Rajamani</u>	16,582	2.39%	
Margin of victory		2,21,346	31.87%	27.96%
Turnout		6,94,577	74.12%	0.68%
Registered electors		9,82,040		6.48%
<u>CPI gain</u> from <u>INC</u>		Swing	7.07%	

General Elections 1991

1991 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>INC</u>	<u>Padma</u>	327,413	49.71%	3.49%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	3,01,697	45.80%	-3.52%
<u>PMK</u>	<u>U. Kasinathan</u>	28,098	4.27%	0.58%
Margin of victory		25,716	3.90%	0.80%
Turnout		6,58,707	73.44%	-1.77%
Registered electors		9,22,262		-1.04%
<u>INC gain from CPI</u>		Swing	0.38%	

General Elections 1989

1989 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Selvarasu</u>	341,921	49.32%	-0.21%
<u>INC</u>	<u>N. S. Veeramurasu</u>	3,20,398	46.22%	
<u>PMK</u>	<u>V. S. Thagaraju</u>	25,516	3.68%	
Margin of victory		21,523	3.10%	2.73%
Turnout		6,93,243	75.22%	-7.06%
Registered electors		9,31,916		23.29%
<u>CPI gain from AIADMK</u>		Swing	-0.59%	

General Elections 1984

1984 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>AIADMK</u>	<u>M. Mahalingam</u>	300,912	49.91%	
<u>CPI</u>	<u>K. Murugaiyan</u>	2,98,623	49.53%	0.51%
<u>Independent</u>	<u>S. Arumugam</u>	3,376	0.56%	
Margin of victory		2,289	0.38%	-1.57%
Turnout		6,02,911	82.27%	1.42%
Registered electors		7,55,903		10.46%
<u>AIADMK gain from DMK</u>		Swing	-1.07%	

General Elections 1980

1980 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>DMK</u>	<u>Thazhai Karunanithi</u>	278,561	50.98%	4.93%

	<u>CPI</u>	<u>K. Murugaiyan</u>	2,67,887	49.02%	-4.93%
Margin of victory			10,674	1.95%	-5.96%
Turnout			5,46,448	80.86%	1.89%
Registered electors			6,84,297		3.14%
	<u>DMK gain from CPI</u>		Swing	-2.98%	

General Elections 1977

1977 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>S. G. Murugaiyan</u>	278,419	53.95%	-0.99%
<u>DMK</u>	Thazhai Karunanithi	2,37,609	46.05%	
Margin of victory		40,810	7.91%	-14.03%
Turnout		5,16,028	78.97%	-1.62%
Registered electors		6,63,463		28.27%
	<u>CPI hold</u>	Swing	-0.99%	

General Elections 1971

1971 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Kathamuthu</u>	219,684	54.95%	35.65%
<u>INC(O)</u>	V. Sabasivam	1,31,957	33.00%	
<u>CPI(M)</u>	G. Bharathimohan	48,171	12.05%	-26.88%
Margin of victory		87,727	21.94%	19.09%
Turnout		3,99,812	80.59%	-4.10%
Registered electors		5,17,251		8.43%
	<u>CPI gain from INC</u>	Swing	13.17%	

General Elections 1967

1967 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
<u>INC</u>	<u>V. Sambasivam</u>	164,167	41.78%	-4.20%
<u>CPI(M)</u>	V. P. Chintan	1,52,948	38.93%	
<u>CPI</u>	<u>M. Kathamuthu</u>	75,812	19.29%	-17.45%
Margin of victory		11,219	2.86%	-6.38%
Turnout		3,92,927	84.69%	4.00%

	Registered electors	4,77,019		6.39%
	INC hold	Swing	-4.20%	

General Elections 1962

1962 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
INC	Gopalsamy Thenkondar	161,421	45.98%	19.03%
<u>CPI</u>	C. Kandasamy Thevar	1,29,004	36.74%	20.54%
<u>IUML</u>	A. M. Mytheen Sayabu	56,412	16.07%	
<u>Independent</u>	Mohamed Cassim Rowther	4,252	1.21%	
	Margin of victory	32,417	9.23%	5.45%
	Turnout	3,51,089	80.68%	-28.80%
	Registered electors	4,48,355		-47.57%
	INC hold	Swing	19.03%	

General Elections 1957

1957 Indian general election : Nagapattinam

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
INC	K. R. Sambandam	252,275	26.95%	
INC	M. Ayyakkannu	216,890	23.17%	
<u>CPI</u>	A. K. Subbiah	1,51,704	16.20%	
<u>CPI</u>	P. Ramamoorthy	1,24,205	13.27%	
<u>Independent</u>	K. Manoharam	78,983	8.44%	
<u>Independent</u>	S. M. R. Arumugam Pillai	57,507	6.14%	
<u>Independent</u>	V. Veerasamy	54,597	5.83%	
	Margin of victory	35,385	3.78%	
	Turnout	9,36,161	109.48%	
	Registered electors	8,55,083		
	INC win (new seat)			

Detailed election history

Double-seat constituency

Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency, then in the Madras State, was constituted for the 1957 Indian general election. In the 1957 election Nagapattinam elected two parliamentarians, one general seat and one seat reserved for Scheduled Castes. CPI fielded two prominent leaders, P. Ramamurthi and A.K. Subbiah,

in Nagapattinam.^[3] Nevertheless, both seats were won by Indian National Congress candidates.^[3] For the Scheduled Caste seat M. Ayyakkannu of Congress obtained 216,890 votes (51.25%), A.K. Subbiah 151,704 votes (35.85%) and independent candidate V. Veeraswamy 54,597 votes (12.90%).^[6] For the general seat K.R. Sambandam of Congress obtained 252,275 votes (49.18%), P. Ramamurthi of CPI 124,205 votes (24.21%), independent candidate K. Manoharam 78,983 votes (15.40%) and independent candidate S.M.R. Arumugan Pillai 57,507 (11.21%).^[7]

1960s

In the 1962 Indian general election Congress fielded Gopalsamy Thenkondar as its candidate in Nagapattinam. Thenkondar won the seat, obtaining 45.98% of the vote, defeating C. Kandasamy Thevar of CPI (36.74%), A.M. Mytheen Sayabu of the Muslim League (16.07%) and independent candidate Mohamed Cassim Rowther (1.21%).^[8]

After the 1964 split in the CPI, the break-away Communist Party of India (Marxist) emerged as the dominant communist faction in Nagapattinam taluk whilst CPI remained the larger party in the other taluks in the area.^{[9][10]} In 1964 CPI(M) formed the Tamil Nadu Tillers Association in Nagapattinam.^[11]

Congress had support from middle-class sectors and middle-caste farmers.^[9] The Swatantra Party had a presence in the area, based amongst Brahmin *mirasdars*.^[9]

In the 1967 Indian general election three candidates contested the Nagapattinam seat.^[12] CPI(M) had fielded the prominent trade union leader V.P. Sinthan.^[13] CPI fielded M. Kathamuthu and Congress fielded V. Sambasivam.^[12] Together the CPI and CPI(M) candidates accounted for the majority of the votes, but the Congress candidate won.^[14] CPI argued that it had withdrawn its candidate in Coimbatore but that CPI(M) had not responded well to that gesture, and thus CPI insisted on fielding a candidate of its own in Nagapattinam.^[14] Notably Nagapattinam recorded the highest voter turnout nationwide with 84.69% in the 1967 election.^{[15][12]}

1970s

In the 1971 Indian general election three candidates contested the Nagapattinam seat: the incumbent V. Sambasivan (now representing Congress(O)), M. Kathamuthu (CPI) and G. Bharatimohan (CPI(M)).^[16] M. Kathamuthu won the seat with 54.95% of the votes, with V. Sambasivan and G. Bharatimohan obtaining 33% and 12.05% respectively.^[16]

Ahead of the 1977 Indian general election CPI was allocated Nagapattinam as part of the Congress-AIADMK seat sharing alliance.^[17] For this election Nagapattinam had been identified as reserved for Scheduled Castes.^[18] There were only two candidates in the fray, S.G. Murugaiyan of CPI and Thazhai M. Karunanidhi of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.^[18] S.G. Murugaiyan won the seat, obtaining 53.95% of the vote.^[18]

In January 1979 S.G. Murugaiyan was assassinated.^{[19][20]} CPI blamed 'AIADMK goondas' for the murder.^[21] A mass protest was held in Mannargudi after the killing, CPI claimed around a 100,000 people took part in the rally.^[22] A by-election was held in Nagapattinam, which was won by fellow CPI member K. Murugaiyan (supported by DMK and CPI(M)), who defeated the AIADMK candidate M. Mahalingam (supported by Congress).^{[23][24]}

1980s

In the 1980 Indian general election two candidates contested the Nagapattinam seat: the incumbent K. Murugaiyan from CPI and Thazhai M. Karunanidhi from DMK.^[25] Thazai M. Karunanidhi won the seat, obtaining 50.98% of the votes.^[25]

The 1984 Indian general election saw K. Murugaiyan (CPI) and M. Mahalingam (AIADMK) face each other again.^[26] M. Mahalingam narrowly won the seat, obtaining 49.91% of the votes, with 49.53% going to K. Murugaiyan and 0.56% to independent candidate S. Arumugam.^[26]

Six candidates contested the Nagapattinam seat in the 1989 Indian general election, with the two main candidates being M. Selvarasu of CPI and N.S. Veeramurasu of Congress.^[27] The CPI candidate was supported by DMK whilst the Congress candidate was backed by AIADMK.^[28] M. Selvarasu won the seat with 49.32% against 46.22% for N.S. Veeramurasu.^[27] The victory in Nagapattinam was the sole successful contest for the DMK-led front in Tamil Nadu in 1989, against 38 seats won by the AIADMK-Congress combine.^[28]

In the 1991 Indian general election four candidates contested Nagapattinam: the winning Congress candidate Padma (49.71%), the defeated CPI incumbent M. Selvarasu (45.80%), Pattali Makkal Katchi candidate U. Kasinathan (4.27%) and independent candidate K. Ambikapathi (0.23%).^[29] Padma was the second woman to be elected to the Lok Sabha from the central districts of Tamil Nadu since Independence.^[30]

In the 1996 Indian general election, local issues dominated the campaigns in Nagapattinam.^[31] Amongst the 39 Lok Sabha constituencies in Tamil Nadu, Nagapattinam had the lowest number of candidates (6).^[31] In 1996 election Nagapattinam had the highest voter turnout percentage in Tamil Nadu at 74%.^[32] M. Selvarasu of CPI regained the seat with 56.77% of the votes.^[33] The runner-up was M. Kannivannan of Congress (24.90%), followed by V. Thambusamy of CPI(M) (15.56%), S. Rajamani of the Bharatiya Janata Party (2.39%) and two independents.^[33]

In 1998 election Nagapattinam was the sole seat allocated to CPI in the DMK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu.^[34] Four candidates contested the election.^[35] M. Selvarasu of CPI retained the seat, obtaining 58.77% of the votes.^[35] The main runner-up was Dr. K. Gopal of AIADMK, a medical doctor and Nannilam state legislator 1991–1996.^{[35][36]} K. Gopal got 38.23% of the votes, Congress candidate M. Thiagarajan 2.48% and PT candidate G. Jeevanadam 0.52%.^[35]

CPI lost the seat in the 1999 Indian general election, by a margin of 22,466 votes.^[37] The outcome was unexpected, as the CPI historically had strong support in the area and the backing of AIADMK in this election.^[37] Nagapattinam had elected a CPI parliamentarian in 1989 and 1998, when the state-wide trend

had been negative for CPI.^[38] DMK candidate A.K.S. Vijayan won the seat with 49.92% of the votes, followed by M. Selvarasu with 46.65%, PT candidate T. Nadaiyazhagan with 3.26% and independent candidate Durai Balaguru with 0.17%.^[39] A.K.S. Vijayan is the son of CPI leader A.K. Subbiah.^[3]

2000s

In the 2004 Indian general election campaign, water shortages were a major concern in Nagapattinam.^[3] By the time, the area had experienced drought since 2001, with ground water levels decreasing.^[40] CPI supported DMK candidate A.K.S. Vijayan, the Nagapattinam District Secretary of DMK.^{[40][3]} A.K.S. Vijayan retained the seat, defeating the AIADMK candidate P.J. Archunan, Janata Dal (United) candidate S.G.M. Ramesh and eight others.^[41]

On 10 August 2007 the Delimitation Commission issued an order, retaining Nagapattinam as a constituency reserved for Scheduled Castes.^{[42][43]} Initial drafts for delimitation had the Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency abolished, but in the final decision the constituency remained.^[43] After delimitation the communist influence in Nagapattinam decreased, as the Mannargudi segment (with strong CPI and AIADMK influences) was removed from the Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency.^[2]

In the 2009 Indian general election Nagapattinam again had the lowest number of candidates in Tamil Nadu (7).^[42] Apart from the water crisis, two key concerns in the constituency were price rises and insufficiencies in electric power supply.^[2] A.K.S. Vijayan of DMK retained the seat with 48.48% of the votes, followed by M. Selvarasu of CPI with 42.20% and M. Muthukumar of DMDK with 6.73%.^[44]

Nine candidates contested the Nagapattinam seat in the 2014 Indian general election.^[45] CPI contested the Nagapattinam seat without support from neither AIADMK nor DMK for the first time since 1962.^[1] Nagapattinam the sole seat in central Tamil Nadu contested by CPI.^[28] The party nominated G. Palanisamy, four-time state legislator of Thiruthuraiipoondi assembly constituency.^[28] His main contenders were Dr. K. Gopal of AIADMK and A.K.S. Vijayan from DMK.^{[45][36]} Dr. K. Gopal won the seat with 46.06%, followed by 34.81% for A.K.S. Vijayan.^[45] Whilst the performance of CPI and CPI(M) candidates in Tamil Nadu in 2014 was generally far below expectations of the left parties, G. Palanisamy managed to come in third place in Nagapattinam with votes in double digits (9.58%).^{[45][46]}



Dr. K. Gopal, elected Member of Parliament in 2014

See also

- Nagapatnam
- List of constituencies of the Lok Sabha

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