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**Volume - 7**

**HISTORY & CULTURE OF  
TAMILNADU**



# TAMILNADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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# 1 CHAPTER

## Unit - 1

**History of Tamil Society, related Archaeological discoveries, Tamil Literature from Sangam age till contemporary times.**

### Sources for the study of early Tamil culture

- **Tamil culture** - Dated back **three centuries before the Common Era (CE)**.
- **Tamil traders and sailors** - commercial and cultural linkages across the oceans as maritime people.
- **Foreign merchants** - visited the **Tamil peninsula**.
- Cultural, mercantile activities and internal developments - Together contributed in the **region's urbanisation**.
- **Cities and ports arose**.
- **Coins and paper money** - began to **circulate**.
- There were written materials produced.
- The Tamil language was written using the **Tamil Brahmi script**.
- Subsequently, **classical Tamil poetry was written**.

### Prehistoric Tamilagam

#### Lemuria Continent

- **Similarities between Africa, India, and Madagascar** in the **nineteenth century** were explained.
- Group of **European and American scholars** - proposed the presence of a submerged continent called **Lemuria**.
- This notion was developed by a group of **Tamil revivalists**.
- They **linked it to Pandyan traditions** of territories considered lost to the sea.
- It is documented in ancient **Tamil and Sanskrit literature**.
- **Lemuria - Tamil civilization flourished** before it was wiped out by a natural disaster.
- **Tamil writers** - Referred to this submerged continent as "**Kumari Kandam**" in the **20th century**.
- **The continental drift - (plate tectonics) theory** - Made Lemuria theory obsolete.
- It became popular among **Tamil revivalists** in the **20th century**.
- According to them, during the Pandyan dynasty, **Kumari Kandam** was the site of the **first two Tamil literary academies** (sangams).
- Scholars declared **Kumari Kandam** as the **cradle of civilization**.

#### Highlights

- According to some experts - This is the place where the **first human** was born.
- **Pandians** ruled this region **30,000 years ago**.
- It was made up of **49 countries**.
- **Paleru and Kumari** - **Two highly resourceful rivers** which flowed through Kumari Kandam.
- **Kumari and Mani Mountains** are **two mountain ranges**.
- **Madurai and Kabalapuram** - The most **economically developed cities**.
- **This territory was ruled by the Pandiyans**.
- The first **three Tamil Sangams** took place.

- The majority of the **top Tamil literature was produced here.**
- They are as follows "**Purananooru, Kalarivezhi Agathiyam, Tholkapiyam, Agananooru, Naaladiyarr, and Thirukural etc.**
- It is considered to be the '**Golden Period**' where the continent sank due to a large **flood or global warming.**

### **The following materials can be used to recreate the ancient Tamils' history:**

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1. Classical Tamil literature
2. **Scriptorium (inscriptions)**
3. Material culture and archaeological excavations
4. Non-Tamil and International Literature.

#### **Classical Tamil Literature (Sangam)**

The Tholkappiyam, Pathinen Melkanakku (**18 major works**), Pathinen Kilkanakku (**18 minor works**), and the **five epics** make up the **Classical Sangam corpus (collection).**

#### **Tholkappiyam**

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- **Tholkappiyam** - Earliest written book by **Tholkappiyar.**
- The **Third section of Tholkappiyam** - Provides information about **Tamil social life** and **elaborates the grammar standards.**
- Pathinen Melkanakku contains,  
The manuscripts -**Pathupattu- (ten long songs)**  
Ettuthogai (**eight anthologies**).
- These are considered to be **oldest among Tamil Classical Texts.**
- **Pathinen Kilkanakku's** texts are from a later period.

#### **The Ettuthogai or the eight anthologies are**

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- (1) Natrinai
- (2) Kurunthogai
- (3) Paripaadal
- (4) Pathittrupathu
- (5) Aingurunuru
- (6) Kalithogai
- (7) Akanaanuru
- (8) Puranaanuru

#### **Pathupattu collection includes ten long songs**

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- (1) Thirumurugatrupadai
  - (2) Porunaraturpadai
  - (3) Perumpanatruppadai
  - (4) Sirupanatrupadai
  - (5) Mullaipaattu
  - (6) Nedunalvaadai
  - (7) Maduraikanchi
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- (8) Kurinjipaattu
- (9) Pattinappaalai
- (10) Malaipadukadam

### Pathinen Kilkanakku(18 minor works)

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- **The Pathinen Kilkanakku** - Collection of eighteen texts about ethics and morals.
- **Thirukkural, created by Thiruvalluvar**, is the most famous of these works.
- In **1330 couplets**, **Thirukkural** is concerned with **morality, statecraft, and love**.
- The **Five Epics** or Kappiyams are long narrative poems of very high quality.

**They are**

- (1) Silappathikaaram
- (2) Manimekalai
- (3) Seevaka Chinthamani
- (4) Valaiyapathi
- (5) Kundalakesi

### Epigraphy

- **Study of inscriptions - epigraphy.**
- **Documents scripted on stone, copper plates**, and other media such as **coins, rings** are known as **inscriptions**.
- The beginning of the historical period is marked by the development of the script.
- The prehistoric period is defined as the period **prior to the use of the written script**.
- **Tamil-Brahmi was the first script** - Tamil Nadu for writing.
- **Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions - Discovered in caves, rock shelters, pottery** and other items (**coins, rings & seals**).

### Tamil Brahmi Script:

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- Inscriptions in **Tamil-Brahmi** have been discovered in **more than 30 locations in Tamil Nadu**.
- They are engraved mostly on **cave surfaces and rock shelters**.
- **Monks, primarily Jain monks, lived in these caverns**.
- By cutting a drip line to keep rainwater away from the cave.
- Thus **natural caves were turned into homes**.
- **Inscriptions** are frequently found beneath driplines.
- The monks who lived in these shelters maintained a modest existence and slept in **smooth stone beds chiseled from the rock surface**.
- **Monks** who had **renounced worldly life** were housed in these natural formations by **merchants and rulers**.
- Some of the notable sites of such caves with **Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions include Mangulam, Muthupatti, Pugalur, Arachalur, Kongarpuliyankulam, and Jambai**.
- Many caves with **Tamil-Brahmi** inscriptions can still be found around **Madurai**.

## 2 CHAPTER

# THE SANGAM AGE

- The term 'Sangam' refers to a group of poets - **Flourished at Madurai** under the royal patronage of the **Pandya monarchs**.
- **Sangam literature** - Refers to the collection of poems written by the poets.
- The **Sangam Age** is the time period during which these **poems were written**.
- The **first three centuries of the Common era** - Commonly considered the **Sangam period**.
- **Epigraphical, archaeological evidence and literary evidence** available for this period.
- The **Sangam Period in South India** - the area south of the **Krishna and Tungabhadra** rivers.
- It runs roughly from the **3rd century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D.**
- It was named after the **Sangam academies** that flourished **under the royal patronage** of the **Pandya kings of Madurai** during that time period.
- **Eminent intellectuals** - Gathered at the **sangams to act as censors**, and the best writing was **rendered in the form of anthologies**.
- The earliest examples of **Tamil literature** were these literary works.
- According to Tamil traditions, **three Sangams (academies of Tamil poets)** were held in the ancient **South Indian region known as Muchchangam**.

### Three Sangams

- **The First Sangam** - Took place at **Madurai (Gods and legendary sages in attendance)**.
- **First Sangam's literary work is unavailable**.
- Only **Tolkappiyam** - Survived from the **Second Sangam**.
- **The Second Sangam** - Held in **Kapadapuram**.
- **Madurai** - Hosted the **Third Sangam**.
- A few of these Tamil literary works have survived.
- This can be used to recreate the Sangam period's history.

### Sources

**Copper Plates: Velvikudi and Chinnamanur copper plates**

**Coins** - Coinage of the **Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas, and Sangam Age chieftains**, and also **Roman coins**

**Burials and Hero Stones** - **Megalithic Monuments**

- **Adichanallur, Arikamedu, Kodumanal, Puhar, Korkai, Alagankulam, Uraiyur** - **Excavated Materials**
- **Some of the literary sources** - **Tholkappiyam, Ettuthogai (eight anthologies), Pathupattu (ten idylls), PathinanKeezhkanakku (eighteen poetic works), Pattinapalai, and Madurai Kanji**.
- **Silapathikaram and Manimegalai are two epics**.
- **Foreign accounts** - **The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea, Pliny's Natural History, Ptolemy's Geography, Megasthenes' Indica, Rajavali, Mahavamsa, and Dipavamsa**.

### Literature

- **Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku, and (two epics) Silappathikaram and Manimegalai are among the Sangam literature**.

- **Tolkappiyam** (Tamil literary work) - **written by Tolkappiyar.**
- **A primary study on Tamil language** - Contains information about the **political and socio - economic conditions of the ancient Tamil period.**
- **The eight works that make up Ettutogai (Eight Anthologies)** - **Aingurunooru, Narrinai, Aganaooru, Purananooru, Kuruntogai, Kalittogai, Paripadal, and Padirruppatu.**
- **The 10 works that make up the Pattuppattu (Ten Idylls)** - **Thirumurugarruppadai, Porunarruppadai, Sirupanarruppadai, Perumpanarruppadai, Mullaippattu, Nedunalvadai, Maduraikkanji, Kurinjippattu, Pattinappalai, and Malaipadukadam are**
- **Eighteen texts on ethics and morals** - **Pathinenkilkanakku.**
- **Thirukkural, written by Thiruvalluvar.**
- **Thiruvalluvar** - A great Tamil poet and philosopher.
- The two sagas;
- **Elango Adigal** wrote **Silappathikaram.**
- **Sittalai Sattanar** wrote **Manimegalai.**
- Provides useful information about **Sangam society and politics.**

## **The Muvendhar**

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- **The Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas** were known as **Muvendar.**
- They are '**the three crowned kings,**'
- They ruled over key **agrarian tracts, commercial routes, and towns.**
- The Sangam **poetry-** the **Satiyaputra (same as Athiyaman)** recorded in the **Asokan inscription** with the above three dwellings is a **Velir chief.**

## **The Cholas**

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- **The Cholas** - ruled **Tamil Nadu's centre and northern regions.**
  - **The Kaveri delta** - **Cholamandalam.**
  - **Capital was Uraiyyur** (near **Thiruchirapalli town**), with **Puhar or Kaviripattinam** serving as **secondary royal residence and major port.**
  - **Mascot** was a **tiger.**
  - **Pattinappalai** - **Written by poet Katiyalur Uruttirankannanar.**
  - Provides detailed accounts - Especially about the lively commerce activities that took place during **Karikalan's reign.**
  - **Karikalan (the son of Ilanjetchenni)** - **Described as the most powerful Chola of the Sangam period.**
  - **Pattinappalai** - **Describes his reign in graphic detail.**
  - **Karikalan's greatest notable military victory** was at **Venni** - He defeated the **Cheras and Pandyas with the help of as many as eleven Velir chieftains.**
  - He is credited with **converting forests into habitable areas.**
  - He **developed agriculture by providing irrigation.**
  - He also **built reservoirs along the Kaveri's embankment.**
  - During his time, **Kaviripattinam** was a **thriving port.**
  - **Perunarkilli**, another king, is said to have carried out the **Vedic sacrifice Rajasuyam.**
  - Following **Karikalan's death**, the **Puhar and Uraiyyur** branches of the **Chola royal family had a succession dispute.**
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## The Cheras

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- The **Cheras** ruled **Kerala's central and northern regions**.
- It also ruled **Tamil Nadu's Kongu region**.
- **Capital was Vanji**.
  - **Controlled the ports of Musiri and Tondi** on the west coast.
  - Scholars associate **Vanji with Karur**.
  - While others associate it with **Tiruvanchaikalam in Kerala**.
  - **Most scholars** - Agrees that the Chera family had two main branches.
  - They are - **The Poraiya branch** ruling from **Karur in modern-day Tamil Nadu**.
  - **The Patitrupathu** - **Mentions eight Chera monarchs, their kingdoms, and their renown**.
  - **Three generations of Chera rulers** - **Mentioned in the inscriptions at Pugalur in Karur**.
  - In his honour, **Chellirumporai cast coins**.
  - **Chera monarchs like Imayavaramban Nedun-cheralthan and Chenguttuvan are well-known**.
  - **Chenguttuvan** - Reported to have vanquished several chieftains and put down piracy to protect the safety of the **major port Musiri**.
  - The great **northern Indian expedition of Chenguttuvan** is recounted in **Silappathikaram**.
  - But this is not found in the **Sangam poems**.
  - He is supposed to have ruled for **56 years** and was a patron of **both orthodox and heterodox religions**.
  - **Copper and lead coins were issued by several Cheras**.
  - Legends in **Tamil-Brahmi** imitating Roman coins.
  - **Numerous Chera coins with the bow and arrow emblem are found without writing**.

## The Pandyas

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- **Madurai** was the **capital** of the **Pandyas**.
  - **Korkai** - Near the confluence of **Thamraparani with the Bay of Bengal**.
  - It is considered to be the **principal port**.
  - It was **well-known for its pearls**.
  - **Chank diving and fishing Korkai** is a term used to describe a group of people.
  - **Kolkoi** is referred to in the **Periplus**.
  - **Fish was the main course**.
  - The **Pandyas' insignia**.
  - **Banknotes** have on **one side - an elephant**.
  - Other side - and a **school of fish** on the other.
  - **They invaded the southern states**.
  - **Kerala, as well as the port of Nelkynda, were under their authority**.
  - **The vicinity of Kottayam Tradition dictates**.
  - There were **patrons of Tamil Sangams** and aided in the **creation of the Sangam poems**.
  - The Sangam poems make reference to the **Several kings'** names being mentioned, but their order is unclear.
  - **The regnal years are unknown**.
-

- The **second-century BCE Pandya ruler Nedunchezhiyan** is mentioned in the **Mangulam Tamil-Brahmi inscription**.
- **Mudukudumi-Peruvazhuthi** and another **Nedunchezhiyan** are referred to as **Maduraikanchi**.
- **Talaiyalanganam's victory** and few other **Pandya rulers Mudukudimi-Peruvazhuthi** - Mentioned in the **eighth-century Velvikkudi copper plates for granting land to Brahmins**.
- To commemorate his **many Vedic sacrifices** - He appears to have **minted coins with the legend Peruvazhuthi**.
- **Talayalanganam** - **Nedunchezhiyan** defeated the combined force of the **Chera, Chola, and five Velir chieftains (Thithiyan, Elini, Erumaiyuran, Irungovenman, and Porunan)**.
- He is also credited for taking **Milalai and Mutthuru (both in the Pudukottai area)** from a **Vel chief**.
- He is known as the **lord of Korkai** and the overlord of the **10 others**, a **Tirunelveli coast martial and fishing town**.

### Social Formation in Tamil Eco-zones

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- **Tamilagam was split into five landscapes or eco-regions**.
- It is based on the **thinai** concept:
- **Kurinji, Marutam, Mullai, Neytal, and Palai**.
- According to the natural conditions, each region had distinct characteristics - a **presiding deity, people, and cultural life**.
- **Kurinji** - It is a **steep place** where people go **hunting and collecting**.
- **Marutham** - It is a **riverine tract** where **agriculture** is practised with **plough and irrigation**.
- **Mullai** - A **forested region** where **pastoralism and shifting farming** coexist.
- **Neythal** - **Fishing and salt production** on the coast.
- **Palai** - It is a Greek word that means "**parched country**."
- It is due to that the land was unsuitable for farming, people turned to **livestock rustling and thievery**.

### Velirs and Chieftains

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- Apart from the **Vendhars**, there were **Velirs** and a **slew of other chieftains**.
- They used to inhabit territory on the **Muvendhar's outskirts**.
- **Pari, Kari, Ori, Nalli, Pegan, Ai, and Athiyaman** were the seven **velirs**.
- The **generosity of these Velirs** is well-documented in **Sangam poetry**.
- These chiefs were famed for their **large-heartedness**.
- They had **close relationships with the poets of the day**.
- These **chieftains were allies of one of the Muvendar**.
- They assisted them in their fights against the other **Vendhars**.

### Tamil Polity

- This **Thinai classification** is said to reflect the differences in socio-economic development among the various locations.
- They can also be seen in **political forms**.
- There are three levels of rulers:
- **Kizhar** is number **one**.
- **Velir** is number **two**.

- **Vendhar** is number **three**.
- **Kizhar** - They were the chiefs of **villages or small territories**.
- They were **tribal chiefs** who ruled over certain tribal communities.
- **The Vendhar** - Rulers who ruled over vast **lush lands**.
- **The Velir** - Ruled over territories of varying geographical character, primarily **hilly and forested lands**.
- Lay between the **fertile territories of the Muvendar**.
- **Athiyaman, Pari, Ay, Evvi, and Irungo**, for example, each ruled over a vast territory rich in natural riches.
- Scholars - Varied opinions on how the three kingdoms should be organized politically.
- The traditional and widely held belief is that the **Sangam Age culture was a well-organized state society**.
- **Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas polities were pre-state chiefdoms**.
- The following are the justifications for the latter viewpoint:
  1. No social stratification is apparent.
  2. There is no proper territorial association.
  3. Destructive conflict hampered the development of agriculture and surplus output necessary for the establishment of a state.
  4. There is **no sign of taxes, as there is in North Indian regimes**.

### **Political Ascendancy of the Vendhar**

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- The **Vendhar** of the **early historic period emerged** from the **Iron Age chiefs (c. 1100-300 BCE)**.
  - Vendhar rose to higher status by taking dominance over the **agricultural and pastoral regions**.
  - **Athiyaman** is referred to as **Satiyaputra** in **Ashoka inscriptions**
  - He did not achieve the rank of kings like the **Chola, Pandya, and Chera Vendhar**.
  - The Vendhar defeated the chieftains and engaged in combat with the other two Vendhars.
  - They did this by mobilizing their own soldiers and enlisting the help of some Velir chiefs.
  - **Sangam Age Vendar** to demonstrate their power **they adopted various titles**.
  - **Kadungo, Imayavaramban, Vanavaramban** and **Peruvazhuthi**. set themselves apart from ordinary people and Velirs.
  - Monarchs usually promoted their names and reputations by **patronizing bards and Poets**.
  - For example, the **Chola monarch Karikalan** is claimed to have offered **Uruttirankannanar, the composer of Pattinappalai, a large sum of gold coins**.
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# 3 CHAPTER

## TAMIL SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

### Society and Economy

- Vendhar's conflicts throughout the Sangam Age were focused on increasing their geographical base by annexing the enemy's lands.
- Endemic fighting is thought to have exacerbated social inequalities.
- It is stated that some war captives are serving in cult centres.
- Some references to slavery.
- Women - Extensively involved in economic output throughout the Sangam Age.
- and there were many female poets.
- Bronze vessels, beads and goldwork, textiles, shell bangles and jewellery, glass, iron smithy, and pottery manufacture are all examples of craft output.
- Craft production - Widespread in Kerala's major cities, including Arikamedu, Uraiyur, Kanchipuram, Kaviripattinam, Madurai, Korkai, and Pattanam.
- Maduraikanchi - Mentions both day and night marketplaces that sell a variety of handicrafts.
- Raw materials for making various objects and ornaments were not always readily available.
- Stones, both precious and semi-precious, were collected and exchanged for other goods.
- Raw materials - Transformed into numerous products in industrial centres.
- The presence of non-Tamil speakers, especially traders, in various craft centres and towns is revealed by the names of people mentioned in inscriptions on ceramics.
- Traders from all over the world - were present in Tamil Nadu.
- Magadha artisans, Maratha mechanics, Malva smiths, and Yavana carpenters collaborate with Tamil craftsmen under the name Manimegalai.
- Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions - Phrases like vanikan, chattan, and nigama appear to be tied to trade.
- The barter system - Quite popular in trade.
- Coins were also used.
- As bullion - Roman coins circulated.
- Long-distance trade - Existed and several archaeological sites provide evidence of ties with the Roman empire and Southeast Asia.
- The southern section of India - Played a significant role in outside connections.
- Because of its easy access to the coast.
- Evidence of Roman amphora, glassware, and other items imply robust nautical activities in the important early historic ports.
- Archaeology and literature - Both document the prosperity brought by the Romans and the presence of foreign merchants.

### Economy:

- The economy was mixed.
- People practised agriculture, pastoralism, trade and money exchange, hunting-gathering, and fishing.

## Agricultural Production

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- One of the main sources of subsistence was **agriculture**.
- **Paddy, sugarcane, and millets** were among the crops grown.
- **Farming** - Done on both **wet and dry terrain**.
- Paddy - It was cultivated in **riverine and tank-irrigated areas**.
- **Millets** - **Grown in arid climates**.
- In the literature, rice varieties such as **sennel (red rice)**, **Vennel (white rice)**, and **Aivananel (a variety of rice)** are described.
- **Rice grains** - Discovered in burial urns in **Adichanallur** and **Porunthal** excavations.
- **Punam or shifting cultivation** - It was used by people in the jungle.
- **Pastoralism** - It is a nomadic lifestyle in which people raise cattle, sheep, and goats for a living.

## Industries and Crafts of the Sangam Age

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- **Craft specialization** and **manufacturing** were significant features of urbanisation.
- There were professional groups that produced numerous commodities during the Sangam Age.
- The term "**industry**" - Refers to the **system of producing goods**.

## Pottery

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- **Pottery was used in a variety of settlements**.
- People employed pottery made by **Kalamceyko (potters)** in their daily lives.
- Enormous quantities were produced.
- Different varieties of pottery were utilised.
- It also includes **black ware, russet-coated painted ware, and black and redware potteries**.

## Iron Smelting Industry

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- **Iron production** - Significant artisanal activity.
- Traditional furnaces with **terracotta pipes and raw ore** were used to process iron.
- **Such furnaces have been discovered in many archaeological sites**.
- **Kodumanal** and **Guttur** - **Evidence of iron smelting** has been discovered.
- **Blacksmiths**, their tools, and their operations -Mentioned in Sangam literature.
- Agriculture and combat (**swords, daggers, and spears**) both required iron implements.

## Stone Ornaments

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- People throughout the Sangam Age wore a wide range of **jewellery**.
- The poor wore **clay, terracotta, iron, leaves and flowers as ornaments**.
- The wealthy donned **valuable stones, copper, and gold**.

## Gold

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- During this time, gold ornaments were very popular.
  - **Roman gold coins** were used to manufacture jewellery.
  - At **Pattanam** in Kerala, evidence of **gold smelting** has been discovered.
  - At the **megalithic sites** of **Suttukeni, Adichanallur, and Kodumanal, gold ornaments have been discovered**.
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## Traders

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- In Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions, the terms **Vanikan** and **Nigama (guild)** exist.
- **Gold merchants, textile merchants, and salt merchants** were among the several categories of merchants.
- **Salt merchants** were known as **Umanars**, and they travelled with their families on bullock carts.

## Means of Transport

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- **Bullock carts and animals** - utilised to **convey products across the land**.
- Different **settlements of Tamilagam** - Connected by **trade routes**.
- **Tamil literature** - Watercraft and seagoing vessels such as the **Kalam, Pahri, Odam, Toni, Teppam, and Navai** are mentioned.

## Coins and Barter

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- Means of the transaction - **Barter**.
- **Rice**, for example, was substituted for **fish**.
- The **Sangam's large coin hoards** are widely available.
- Several festivals were observed.
- Some of them included the **harvest festival (Pongal)** and the **spring festival (kaarthigai)**.
- **Thai Poesam** and **Vaikasi Visagam** were also given importance.

# 4 CHAPTER

## TAMIL LITERATURE

### TAMIL LITERATURE SANGAM AGE TO CONTEMPORARY TIMES

#### Introduction:

- According to scholarly studies, the **Sangam Age in Tamil Literature** dates between **B.C.30 and A.D. 300**.
- Sangam literature are the texts written during this time period.
- The literature was discussed below..

#### Merkanakku Noolgal:

- "**Padhinenmerkanakku Noolgal**" is the name given to **Pathuppattu and Ettuthogai's** poetry.
- Pathuppattu is a **ten-hydil work** with long verses written in the **Agaval metre**.
- "**Ettuthogai**" - It is a large work consisting of eight separate texts comprising hundreds of songs.
- Most of which are written in **Agaval metre**.
- The majority of the songs in the "**Merkanakku**" texts are written in **Agavarpa style**.
- **It is one of the four types of Tamil prosody**.
- **Agam and Puram** categorize all of these songs based on their **textual content**.

#### Merkanakku Noolgal:

- Half of the texts in **Pathuppattu** belong to the "**Atruppadai**" category.
- It deals with the **outward aspects of existence**.
- These books direct people to approach kings or benefactors in order to gain fortune.
- "**Madhuraikanchi**," - Deals with exterior matters, other pieces of music Internal Agam texts include **Mullaippattu, Kurinjippattu, Pattinappalai, and Nedunalvadai**.

#### Ettuthogai:

- Natirai, Kurunthogai, Agananuru, Inkurunuru, and Kalithogai belong to Agam, internal, whereas **Pathitruppathu and Purananuru** deal with Puram, external, in Ettuthogai. Paripadal is an Agam and Puram text.
- **Ettuthogai** has **2381 songs and 473 poets**.

#### Pathitruppathu:

- This text has **10 x 10 songs** called **Pathitruppathu**.
- It tells the narrative of **ten Chera emperors** who previously ruled over Tamil Nadu's "**Chera**" area.
- The first and last chapters are **missing**.
- This text covers the **Chera dynasty from the second to the ninth century**.
- Every song concludes with **Thurai, Vannam, Thookku (Pann)**, and the song's title.
- The poet, the King, the presentation, and the King's regnal year are all stated at the end of each verse.
- This one comes before the Imperial Cholas' "**Meikkeerthi**."

## Kurinjipattu

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- **Kabilar** mentions **ninety-nine flower names** in his Agam book.

## Pattinappalai

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- This literature focuses on the **Sangam Age trade and business**, particularly during the **Karikalan period**.
- It depicts the early **Chola port of Puhar**.
- Karikalan on the eastern bank of the Bay of Bengal, and Sangam songs of Agam and Puram are known as "**Heroic Age**" songs.
- **They are on par with Eliot and Odyssey are two early Greek epics.**
- "**Two things bigger than all,**" as Homer puts it.
- Things are what they are; **one is Love, and the other is War.**"
- **Sangam Literature is total, as that adage goes.**
- Love and war's inner and outside emotions and sensations are shown in this painting.

## After the Sangam Age:

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- Tamil scholars refer to the time **3-5 A.D** as "**Sangam Maruviyakalam.**"
- **Eighteen texts** were gathered as "**Padhinan Keezhkanakku**" during this time period.
- They are categorized as Ethics: Agam Puram in numbers **12: 5: 1** and accordingly.
- **Thirukkural** is the most **ethical of the twelve ethical writings.**
- Naladiyar, Nanmanikkadigai, Enna Narpadhu, Eniyawai Narpadhu, Elathi, Thirikadugam, sirupanchamulam, pazhamozhi, Asavakkovai, Mudhumozhikanchi, and Innilai are among the other names.
- These are the texts of values that individuals adhere to in a proper manner.
- **Agam's texts include Kar Narpadhu, Thinaimozhi Imbathu, Thinaimalai Nootrimbathu, Inthinai Ezhupadhu, and Kaivilai.**
- Another is "**Kalavazhi Narpadhu,**" which is about **Puram.**
- It describes the conflict between the **Chera and Chola kings.**
- **Poygaiyar** is the name of the poet.
- It went on to say that the combat scenario and the success of **Kocheganan.**

## Eraiyana Kalaviyal

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- Eraiyana Kalaviyal is a text written by **Iraiyana** that deals with the **subject of Agam.**
- "**Iraiyana Kalaviyal Urai**" was **Nakkeerar's criticism of it.**
- First and foremost, this commentary is stated concerning the theory of the three Sangams.
- It also mentioned a lot of early music literature as well as **Tamil drama.**

## Yathirai Thagadu

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- This is thought to be a Sangam Age text written by an unknown author.
  - The **attack of Chera King on Adhiyaman** is the subject of this **praise poetry work**, which has just **44 poems.**
  - **Thagalur** is now known as **Dharmapuri.**
  - Its poetic style is similar to that of Sangam **hymns of Our Tamil Kings' valour.**
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## Twins (Silambu and Mekalai):

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- Tamil Literature's **twins** are **Silappadhikaram and Manimekalai**.
- These **two heroes, Hero and Heroin**, are not from the heavenly people of the palace, according to our earlier epics.
- They are members of the early **Chozha kingdom's** common people.
- **Elango Adigal, Cheran Senguttuvan's** younger brother, wrote the first **Silappathikaram**.
- He discusses three topics in this epic: **politics, chastity, and destiny**.
- The two main characters in the story are **Kovalan and Kannagi**.
- **Manimekalai - Kovalan and Madhavi's daughter**.
- Manimekalai transformed herself into a **Buddhist divinity**.
- She abandoned **Buddhism and became a non-believer**.
- Her sermons and teachings to the entire world are a lesson to humanity.
- She emphasizes the **importance of food, clothing, and shelter**.
- She said that a lifer provider is someone who feeds the poor.
- These two epics constitute the **pinnacle of Tamil literature**.
- Both are written in the **Agavarpa style**.
- It has blood ties to the **characters, and continues the narrative of both epics**.
- **Seethalai Sathanar**, the poet of Manimekalai, has Elangovadigal links the grounds for being referred to as "Twins"
- However, Silappathikaram discusses **secularism**.
- Whereas Manimekalai is a Buddhist epic. **"Silambu"**
- Elaborately discusses the hunters' and people's folk songs and dances.
- This is a **pastoral area**.
- It places a greater emphasis on the inhabitants of the inland and their arts.
- Mekalai - Completely discusses **Buddhism's Dharma**, which directs the divinity of ethical deeds.

# 5 CHAPTER

## Festivals and Entertainments

- **Indira vizha** was commemorated in the capital..
- Numerous amusements and activities are available.
- **Dances, festivals, bullfights, cockfights, dice, hunting, wrestling**, and other activities were included in **the swings**.
- Children enjoyed playing with the **toy cart** and the **sandcastles** they had built.
- People typically get into the **spirit of the event** and start an impromptu dance regardless of where they are during Tamil Nadu's **bright and colorful festivals**.
- They are **generally accompanied by loud joyful music and dance**.
- **People get together, visit each other's homes, create rangolis**, and put on new attire whether it's a **religious or cultural event**.
- Of course, delicious and mouthwatering food is cooked and consumed during this time.
- The celebrations seem to go on forever, therefore the holidays last many days.
- If you happen to be in Tamil Nadu during one of these festivals, you'll be astounded and startled by the level of celebration.
- Some of Tamil Nadu's festivals are below.

### Pongal

- **Pongal** - Tamil Nadu's most well-known event.
- **It is a four-day harvest festival** that takes place in the middle of January.
- The event is a **display of gratitude to the Sun God** for his **assistance with agriculture**.
- **Pongal preparations** - begin a month before the festival, in **the month of Margali**.
- The people **decorate** their **front doors** with **kolam**.
- **Kolam** - coloured rice powder, and meticulously clean and paint their homes.
- With a respect to the **Sun God**, the first rice of the season is boiled at this event.
- Each of the **four Pongal days is commemorated in a unique way**.
- **Lord Indra** is honored on the first day, which is known as **Bhogi**.
- **Second day** - known as **Thai Pongal**.
- It is when people dress up in **traditional attire** and make various **sugarcane** and **coconut offerings**.
- **Mattu Pongal** is the **third day** - Cows are worshipped and decorated with **beads, bells, and flowers**.
- Families visit one other and exchange presents on the last day, which is known as **Kannum Pongal**.
- **Pongal** - it is a **lovely celebration** that brings people together in general.

### Thaipooasam

- **Thaipusam is one of Tamil Nadu's festivities**.
- It is **observed on a full moon day** in the **Tamil calendar month of Thai**.
- **Thaipusam** - commemorates the **birth of Lord Subramaniam, Lord Shiva's younger son**.
- Faithful **people make and keep pledges**, and they pray to the Lord.