

## Society & Culture

- The Pallava society was based on Aryan culture.
- Brahmins were greatly patronised by the kings and they received land and villages. This was called Brahmadeya. The Brahmin status greatly enhanced during this reign. The caste system became rigid.
- The Pallava kings were orthodox Hindus and worshipped Shiva and Vishnu. They were tolerant of Buddhism and Jainism too although both these faiths lost their relevance and popularity.
- Kanchipuram was a great centre of learning. The University of Kanchi played a great part in the propagation of Aryan culture in the South. It can be said that the aryanisation of southern India was completed during the Pallava reign.
- Vatsyayana who wrote Nyaya Bhashya was a teacher at Kanchi University (Ghatika).
- Bharavi and Dandin lived in Pallava courts. Bharavi wrote Kiratarjuneeyam. Dandin composed Dashakumaracharita. Both were masterpieces.
- The Vaishnava and Saiva literature flourished during this period.
- Sanskrit was the chief language among the royals and the scholars.
- Some of the inscriptions are in a mix of Tamil and Sanskrit.
- Vedic traditions were superimposed on the local ones.
- Many Tamil saints belonging to either Saivite (Nayannars) or the Vaishnavaites (Alvars) sects lived during the 6th and 7th centuries. **Saivite saints:** Appar, Sambandar, Sundarar and Manikkavasagar. **Vaishnava saint:** Andal (the only female Alvar saint). These saints composed hymns in Tamil.
- Dancers were being maintained by all big temples.
- There were three types of places during this time:
  1. **Ur:** where peasants lived and was headed by a headman who collected and paid the taxes.
  2. **Sabha:** land granted to Brahmins and was also called Agrahara villages. These were tax-free.
  3. **Nagaram:** where merchants and traders resided.
- During the Pallava period, Hindu culture spread to many places in Southeast Asia as well. Pallava influence is evident from the ancient architecture seen in Cambodia and Java.

## Pallava Architecture

### Architecture

- The beautiful and grand **Pallava style of architecture** can be divided into four phases or styles:
  1. Mahendra style (600-625 AD)
  2. Mammala style (625-674 AD)
  3. Rajasimha and Nadivarman style (674-800 AD)
  4. Aparajita style (early 9th century)
- The Pallava era witnesses a transition from rock cut to free-standing temples.
- Mahendravarman was a pioneer in rock-cut architecture. Mandagapattu rock-cut temple was the first rock-cut temple built by him.
- Narasimhaverman II also known as Rajasimha built the **Kanchi Kailasanatha Temple** during the late 7th century AD.

- The **Shore Temple** at Mahabalipuram was also built by Narasimhaverman II. It is the oldest structural temple in South India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984. It is also called Seven Pagodas.
- The Vaikuntha Perumal at Kanchipuram was built by Nandivarman II.
- The Dravidian style of architecture begins with the Pallava reign.