



TN - PSC

State Civil Services

Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission

Volume – 7

**HISTORY & CULTURE OF
TAMILNADU**



TAMILNADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

HISTORY & CULTURE OF TAMIL

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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, Tholkappiyam, 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:

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

- **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

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

Pathupattu collection includes ten long songs

- (1) Thirumurugatrupadai
- (2) Porunaratrupadai
- (3) Perumpanatruppadi
- (4) Sirupanatrupadai
- (5) Mullaipaattu
- (6) Nedunalvaadai
- (7) Maduraikanchi

- (8) Kurinjipaattu
- (9) Pattinappaalai
- (10) Malaipadukadam

Pathinen Kilkkanakku(18 minor works)

- **The Pathinen Kilkkanakku** - 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:

- 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, Pandya, and Sangam Age chieftains, and also Roman coins

Burials and Hero Stones - Megalithic Monuments

- Adichanallur, Arikamedu, Kodumanal, Puhar, Korkai, Alagankulam, Uraiyyur - Excavated Materials
- Some of the literary sources. - Tholkappiyam, Ettuthogai (eight anthologies), Pathuppattu (ten idylls), PathinanKeezhkanakku (eighteen poetic works), Pattinapalai, and Madurai Kanji.
- Silappathikaram 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** - Pathinenkilkankku.
- **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 Muvendar

- **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

- **The Cholas** - ruled Tamil Nadu's centre and northern regions.
- **The Kaveri delta** - Cholamandalam.
- Capital was Uraiur (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 **Uraiur** branches of the **Chola royal family** had a **succession dispute.**

The Cheras

- 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 Tiruvanchaikkalam 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 Patitrapathu - 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-cheralathan 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

- Madurai was the capital of the Pandyas.
- Korkai - Near the confluence of Thampraparani 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

- 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

- Apart from the Vendhars, there were Velirs and a slew of other chieftains.
- They used to inhabit territory on the Muvendar'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

- 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**.

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, Uraiyyur, 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

- 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

- **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

- **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

- **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

- 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

- 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**.

Traders

- 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

- **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

- 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 Poosam** 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-hytil 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**."

Kurinji Pattu

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

Pattinappalai

- 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:

- 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, Inthinali 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**.

Eraiyanar Kalaviyal

- Eraiyanar Kalaviyal is a text written by Iraiyanar that deals with the **subject of Agam**.
- "**Iraiyanar 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

- 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**.

Twins (Silambu and Mekalai):

- 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.
- **Eango 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.

Thaipoosam

- **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.