



# Thanjavur Periya Kovil

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- 10TH STD



# Introduction

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- "Thanjavur Periya Kovil," also known as the Brihadeeswarar Temple or Rajarajeswara Temple, is a renowned Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is located in Thanjavur (formerly known as Tanjore), a city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The temple is an excellent example of Dravidian architecture and is one of the largest temples in India.





# Construction:

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- The temple was built by Raja Raja Chola I, who was a Chola emperor. The construction of the temple started in 1002 CE and was completed in 1010 CE. The temple is a masterpiece of Chola architecture and is considered one of the greatest achievements of the Chola dynasty.



## **Architectural Significance:**

- The Thanjavur Periya Kovil is known for its towering vimana (temple tower), which is about 66 meters high. The vimana is capped with a monolithic cupola weighing around 80 tons. The temple is known for its intricate carvings, exquisite sculptures, and the grandeur of its architecture.



# Raja Raja Chola I:

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- Raja Raja Chola I, also known as Arunmozhi Varman, was a prominent ruler of the Chola dynasty. The construction of the Brihadeeswarar Temple was a testament to his patronage of the arts and his devotion to Lord Shiva. The temple was built to celebrate the Chola victory over the Chalukya dynasty





# Architectural Features:

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- The temple complex is vast and includes a large pillared hall, a Nandi (sacred bull) mandapa, and various shrines dedicated to different deities. The sanctum sanctorum houses a lingam (a symbolic representation of Lord Shiva). The walls of the temple are adorned with intricate carvings depicting various scenes from Hindu mythology and daily life during the Chola period.



## World Heritage Site:

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- In 1987, the Brihadeeswarar Temple, along with the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram and the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram, were collectively designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the "Great Living Chola Temples."



Thank You !!!

