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### **Department of Employment and Training**

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# Tamil Literature Sangam Age to Contemporary Times

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In the history of Tamil Literature Sangam Age is as per the researches of the scholars, B.C.30-A.D 300. The texts written in this period are called Sangam Literatures. Here we see about those literatures.

## **Merkanakku Noolgal**

- The verses of Pathuppattu and Ettuthogai are called “Padhinenmerkanakku Noolgal. Pathuppattu, is a whole text of Ten hydils, having lengthy verses in the metre of Agaval. “Ettuthogai” is a major work of eight individual texts containing hundreds of songs, majority in the metre of Agaval. Most of the songs of “Merkanakku” texts are written in the style of Agavarpa, one of the four kinds of Tamil Prosody. All these songs are classified by Agam and Puram as per their contents in the texts.

## **Pathuppattu**

- Half of this texts are belonging to “Atruppadaï” which deals with the external part of life. These texts guide a person to the kings or philanthropists for having wealth. “Madhuraikanchi” an another text deals with external matter other songs Mullaippattu, Kurinjippattu, Pattinappalai and Nedunalvadaï are the texts of internal Agam.

## **Ettuthogai**

- In this Anthology, Natirai, Kurunthogai, Agananuru, Inkurunuru, Kalithogai are belonged to Agam, internal, Pathitruppathu and Purananuru are dealing with Puram, external. Paripadal is a text of Agam and Puram. Total songs of Ettuthogai are 2381; poets 473.

The following schedule explains the complete Data of Pattuppattu and Ettuthogai.

Pattuppattu			
Text	Poet	King/God	Lines
Thirumurugatruppadaï	Nakkeerar	Murugan	317
Porunar Atruppadaï	Mudathama Kanniar	Karikalan	248
Sirupan Atruppadaï	Nallur Nathathanar	Nalliakkodan	269
Perumpan Atruppadaï	Kadiyalur Uruthirankannanar	Thondaimaan	500
Koothar Atruppadaï Or Malaipadukadam	Perunkowsikanar	Nannan	583
Nedunalvadai	Nakkeerar	Nedunchezhian (Ariyappadaï)	188
Kurinjippattu	Kabilar	-	261
Pattinappalai	Kadiyalur Uruthiran Kannanar	Karikalan	301
Maduraikanchi	Mangudi Maruthanar	Nedunchezhian	782
Mullaippattu	Nappodhanar	Thalaialankanam	103

Ettuthogai			
Text	Songs	Poets	Complier
Natrinaï	400 + Thirumal	192	Maranvazhudi
Kurunthogai	400 + Murugan	205	Poorikko
Inkurunuru	498 + Shiva	005	Koodalur Kizhar
Kalithogai	140 + Shiva	005	Nallanthuvanar
Agananuru	400 + Shiva	142	Uruthirasanmar
Purananuru	399 + Shiva	157	-
Pathitruppathu	80 + Shiva	008	-
Paripadal	22 + 10	013	

The prayer songs to all texts of Ettuthogai are song by Perundhevanar.

## Special News

- Agananuru or Nedunthogai or poetical lines : 13 – 31
- “Agananuru” is titled with three heads.
- The songs 1 - 120 Kalitriyanaivirai  
121 – 300 Manimidaipavalam  
301 – 400 Nithilakkovai
- Songs with odd numbers Palai Thinai
- Songs with 4, 14 ..... Mullai Thinai
- Songs with 2, 8 ..... Kurinji Thinai
- Songs with 6, 16 ..... Marudham Thinai
- Songs with 10, 20 ..... Neithal Thinai

## Pathitruppathu

- This text contains 10 x 10 songs. It deals with the history of Ten Chera emperors who ruled over “Chera” region once in Tamil Nadu. First and Last chapters are not available. From second to Nineth Chera dynasty are widely explaining in this text. Each and every song ends with Thurai, Vannam, Thookku (Pann) and name of the song. At the last portion of every tens, poet, King, presentation, regnal year of the King are mentioned. This one is the prior to the “Meikkeerthi” of Imperial Cholas.

Poet	Emperor
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ten - Kumatturkannanar	Imayavaramban Nedun Cheralathan
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ten - Palaigowthamanar	Palyanaichelkezhukuttuvan
4 <sup>th</sup> Ten - Kappiyatruckappiyanar	Narmudicheral
5 <sup>th</sup> Ten - Paranar	Kadal Pirakkottiya Senguttuvan
6 <sup>th</sup> Ten - Kakkaipadiniyar	Adukotppattu Cheralathen
7 <sup>th</sup> Ten - Kabilar	Selvakkadungovazhiathan
8 <sup>th</sup> Ten - Arisilkizhar	Peruncheral Irumporai
9 <sup>th</sup> Ten - Perunkundrurkizhar	Elancheral Irumporai

## Kurinjippattu

Ninety Nine flowers names are mentioned in this Agam text by Kabilar.

## Pattinappalai

- This literature takes about the trade and commerce of Sangam Age particularly in the period of Karikalan. It portrays the harbour “Puhar”, port of early Chola, Karikalan in the

eastern shore of Bay of Bengal.

- Sangam songs of Agam and Puram are called songs of “Heroic Age”. They are equal to the early epics of Greek Iliot and Odyssey. As Homer says, “Two things greater than all things are; one is Love and another is war”. Like that saying, Sangam Literature entirely reflects the inner and outer emotions and feelings of Love and war.

### After the Sangam Age

- The period of AD3-5 is called by Tamil scholars “Sangam Maruviyakalam”. In this period Eighteen texts were compiled as “Padhinan Keezhkanakku”. They are classified as Ethics: Agam Puram respectively in numbers 12 : 5 : 1.
- Of all twelve ethical texts Thirukkural is on the top position. Others are Naladiyar, Nanmanikkadigai, Enna Narpadhu, Eniyawai Narpadhu, Elathi, Thirikadugam, sirupanchamulam, pazhamozhi, Asavakkovai, Mudhumozhikanchi and Innilai. These are the texts of virtues which are followed by the people in a proper way.
- Kar Narpadhu, Thinaimozhi Imbathu, Thinaimalai Nootrimbathu, Inthinai Ezhupadhu, and Kaivilai are the texts of Agam.
- And another is “Kalavazhi Narpadhu” deals with Puram. It talks about the war between Chera and Chola King. The poet is Poygaiyar. It added that the situation of battlefield and the victory of Kochenganan. This text was made for the release of Irumporai, the Chera king from the imprisonment.
- Generally, most of the keesh Kunakku Texts are made by the Jain saints and saiva poets.

### Eraiyanar Kalaviyal

- This text deals with the matter of Agam written by Iraiyanar. Nakkeerar made the commentary to it as “Iraiyanar Kalaviyal Urai”. This commentary itself firstly stated about the three Sangam doctrine. And also it mentioned so many texts on early music and Drama in Tamil.

### Thagadu Yathirai

- This is considered to be a text of past Sangam Age written by unknown. As a text of prase-poetry containing only 44 poems deals with the invasion of Chera King on Adhiyaman of Thagalur presently called Dharmapuri. Its poetical style is as Sangam songs having the valor of our Tamil Kings.

### Muthollayiram

- Very fantastic songs of Agam and Puram, having highly creative and imaginative literature is Muthollayiram. The poet is unknown. Only 109 songs of Venba are available now. This text praises three kings Chera, Chola and Pandiya.

## **TWINS (Silambu and Mekalai)**

- Silappadhikaram and Manimekalai are the twins of Tamil Literature. They are our earlier epics, Hero and Heroine of these two are not from the heavenly people of palace. They are ordinary common people of early Chozha kingdom.
- The first one silappathikaram was written by Elango Adigal, younger of Cheran Senguttuvan. In this epic he talks about three things politics, chastity and destiny. Kovalan and Kannagi are the Main Characters in moving the entire story.
- Manimekalai, daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi. Unfortunately Manimekalai changed her life into divinity of Buddhism. She became a nun of Buddhism. Her teaching and preacher to the entire world is a lesson to the humanity. She urges the essentials of food, dress and shelter. She argued that one who gives food to the have nots is a lifer giver.
- These two epics are the master piece of Tamil literature. Both are in a same style of Agavarpa; blood relation with the characters; continuing stories of both the epics, connections of Elangovadigal with seethalai sathanar who is the poet of Manimekalai are the reasons to be considered as “Twins”.
- But Silappathikaram talks on Secularism, Manimekalai is an epic of Buddhism. “Silambu” Elaborately talks about the folk songs and dance done by the hunters and people of pastoral land. He gives more importance to the inland people and their arts. Mekalai completely talks on Dharma of Buddhism which guides divinity of ethical doings.
- Silambu, the epic shows Lord Shiva, Thirumal and Kotravai. But Mekalai only praises the prides off Buddha. The first one is secular and another is religious.

## **BHAKTHI CULT – RELIGIOUS TEXTS AD 600 - 900**

- Against the imperialism of Jainism and Buddhism Tamilnadu had a path of Saivism and Vainavam in the Four Hundred years. At the initial stage of Bhakthi cult, in the sixth century, Karaikkal Ammaiyar and Thirumular of 63 Nayanmars, Peyazhwar, Boothazhwar and Poigaiyazhwar as ‘Mudhar Azhwar’ of Twelve Azhwaras were the Poet-saints of Saivism and Vainavam.

### **Thirumandhiram:**

- This was made by Thirumular, also considered as the ‘first Sidha’ of Eighteen. His work ‘Thirumandhiram’ deals with yoga and medicine. He feels ‘Love is God’, ‘Love is Sivam’. This text widely speaks about Bhakthi, Yogam, Penance, Gnanam and Medicine.
- Karaikkal Ammaiyar, Senior of all 63 Nayanmars, Praise Lord Shiva in her creations Ayputhathiruvandhathi, Erattai Manimalai and Mootha Thiruppadhahangal. These are the songs of ancient divinity of our culture.



### **The First Three Azhwars:**

- These three personalities, doing divinity in their songs talk about the love and affection of Men on Thirumal. They are ancient poet-saints of Twelve Azhwars.

### **Thevaram:**

- In seventh century AD, Two divine poet saints Thirugnana Sambandhar and Thirunavukkarasar sang the songs, which praising Lord Shiva. Another poet saint is Sundarar. These three divine poets' (called Nayanmars) works are scheduled as 'Thevaram! They are classified as 1-7 Thirumurais in Tamil Bhakthi Texts.
- The first three thirumurais are sung by Gnanasambandar; 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Thirumurais are sung by Appar called Thirunavukkarasar and 7<sup>th</sup> Thirumurai is sung by Sundarar, who called as Thambiran Thozhar Eighth Thirumurai refers Thiruvasagam and Thirukkovaaiyar made by Manickavasakar. The ninth one is 'Thiruvisaippa' of nine poet saints. The Tenth of Thirumurai is Thirumandhiram. Eleventh one is sung by many saints including karaikkal Ammaiyar and Pattinathu Adigal. Twelfth Thirumurai is Periyapuranam alias thiruthondar Puranam by Semkkaishar, 'Thirumurai' is compiled by Nambi Andar Nambi.

### **'Nalayira Divya Prabandan':**

- This is compiled by Nadhamunigal, comporary of Nambi Andar Nambi. Azhwars except Mudhal Azhwars were the period of 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries of twelve, Periyazhwar praises the God Thirumal as Kannan. His songs are Kannan are the cradle songs. As the daughter of Periyazhwar, Andal, a holy maiden had an attempt to marry the God 'Arangan' of Srirangam in her imaginative songs of Nachiyar Thirumozhi, having 140 songs another one is 'Thiruppavai' by Andal is the text Margazhi. Thiruvaimozhi, Kulasekar Azhwar, are the two praising Thirumal as their love of their affection.
- Nammazhar is called 'Vedham Tamil Seitha Maran' by the followers of Vainavam. He made the works Thiruvirutham, Thiru Asiriyam, Thiruvaimozhi and Periya thiruvanthathi. His disciple Madhura Kavi Azhwar had the duty of praising Nammazhwar as his God.

### **Results of Bhakthi Texts:**

1. All are equal before the God. God is the leader of all people.
2. Tamil is the language of Praising the God; not for kings.
3. Once standing at the entrance of palaces, people started to go to the Temples.
4. 'Kovil', the name of palaces is completely changed in to the Temple.
5. The Temple tower should be higher than any other buildings including the palaces.
6. Junctions done in the kings' residences entirely diverted to the temple festivals.
7. The inequalities among the people faded before the God.



## Various Texts AD.700-1300

### Nandhikalampagam:

- The poet is unknown. Nandhivarmam III is the hero of this literature, having hundred verses in Andhathi stye with creative and imaginative text. He is called as 'Thellaru Erintha Nandhivarman'. The very first Kalampagam Text is this. In 19<sup>th</sup> century, Poondi Aranganathar made another Kalampagam called 'Kachikalampagam' which praises Kanchipuram.

### Pandikkovai:

- The poet is unknown. This one is made at the age of 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. A.D. praising the king Pandian Nedumaran. In the 'Kovai' series, this is the oddest one.

### Parani:

- In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, this text of war was made by Jayankondar praising the courage of Cholan Kulothungan and his army head Karuna Kara thondaiman. 'Parani' is text of victory of war. The Rhymes and Rhythms of Parani is very tasted and imaginative.

### Ula:

- In this 'Sitrilakkiyam' sort, Thirukkailaya Gnana Ula is the first one done by Cheraman Perumal Nayanar, who is the associate of Sundasrar. It is called as 'Adhi Ula'. Ottakkoothar, the contemporary of Kambar made 'Moovar Ula' praising the tri Chola Kings Kulothungan, Vikiraman and Rajarajan II. Similies and Metaphors of this kind are very tasty to the readers. But many of the words of Sanskrit are frequently mingted with our Tamil Dictions.

### Thoodhu:

- Umapathi Sivam, a famous saivaite made the text 'Nenjui Vidu Thoodhu'. In 15<sup>th</sup> Century Chokkanathar wrote 'Azhagar Killai Vidu Thoodhu', of all 'Thoodhu' texts 'Thamil Vidu Thoodhu' is a master piece made by unknown author.

## Epics (AD 500 – 1200)

- Two Idhikasas of our country, Ramayanam and Maha Bharatham were written in the early period of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> AD in Tamilnadu. Perundhevanar wrote an epic on Maha Bharatham. Perunkathai, Sripuranam, Chiraka Chintamani, Soodamani, Valaiyapathi, Kundalakesy and Neelakesi were epics written by Jain and Bhuddhist saints.
- Konguvelir wrote Perunkathai Chiraka Chinthamani was written by Thiruthakkathevar. This is also called as 'Mana Nool'. Kundalakesi, a buddhist epic was made by Nathakuthanar.

### **Kambar's Epic:**

- 'Kambar', the veteran personality equal to Northern Kalidasa made the gigantic epic called 'Rama Avatharam'. It contains nearly 10,600 songs Viruthams which deeply concerns the sacred life Rama and Sita with a typical style. He stressed the worldly brotherhood in the society through the divinity Ramayana. 'Kamban' – He is the legend of words and vocabulary. His dictions in the epic are unique and unparallel to any poet in the world.

### **Avvaiyar:**

- This is very popular name known to literates and Rurals. There are three Avvaiyars being in Tamil culture. First one was belonging to Sangam Age, Poetess of nearly 60 songs of Agam and Puram. A story on Avvaiyar at the time of Nayanmars also another one. The third Avvaiyar was the contemporary of Kambar and Ottakkoothar. She is the author of popular literatures like Aathisoodi, Koinraivendhan, Moodhurai and Nalvazhi. News in brief is the famous method of telling be her.

### **Grammar Texts:**

- Soodamani, Thivagaram Pinkalandhai and Kayadharam are the 'Nigandus' like dictionaries in Tamil at the period of Medieval times.
- In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Nanool is the famous grammar of Tamil, which is next to Thokappiam.
- Thandialangaram deals with the Similie and metaphors used in Tamil which is copy of Sanskrit 'Kavyadharsham'!
- Yapparunkalam, and Yapparum Kalakkarigai are the texts of Grammar of verses.
- Veera Sozhiam, Neminatham, Vachanandhi Malai are the texts of Tamil Grammar followed by Nannool.

### **Religious Texts (AD 1100 – 1700)**

- In the period of Nayakkar of Madurai and Thanjavur, Maratha of Thanjai, Nawab of Northern Tamilnadu so many texts were formed by veteran poets.
- Arunagirinathar's Thiruppugal is very famous for its Rhymes and Rhythms. Kavi Kalamegum made many songs on various topics. Kumaraguruparar wrote Meenakshi Ammai Pillaithamizh, Sagalakalavallimalai, Neethi Neri Vilakkam which are divine and Philosophical contents.

### **'Siddhas':**

- In Tamil Literary history, Siddhas have a prominent role for their famous songs of Gnanam, Yogam, Medicine and Philosophy. Agasthiyar, Thirumular, Kudhambai, Pampatti, Bogar, Kaduveli are very popular among the eighteen Siddhas.

### Saiva Siddhantha:

- Thevaram also called as 'Moovar' Thevaram is the songs of containing prai sing the Lord Shiva. In the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, 14 texts on Saivam are called as 'Sathiram'.

They are:	Thiru Uthiyar	-	DevaNayanar
	Sivagnana Bodham	-	Meikandar
	Sivagnana Siddhiyar	-	Arulnandhisriram
	Sivaprakasam	-	Umpathy Sivam
	Unmai Vilakkam	-	Manavasakam Kadanthar

- **Thanjaivanan Kovai:** This is a text of ecstasy which develops the love of imaginary lovers made by poyyamozihiyar.
- **Commontaters:** Eraiyanar Kalaviyal Urai made by Nakkeerar deeply concerns over the inter sections of love.
- Elampooranar attempted a full explanations to Tholkappiam. Perasiriyar wrote commentary on one part of Tholkappiam and Thirukkovaayar. Senavaraiyar explained Solladhikaram of Tholkappiam.
- Adiyarkku Nallar's commentary on Silappathikaram is a master piece of ever. Ten commontaters made commentary on Thirukkural Manakkudavar is the first of them.
- Parimal Azhagar's works on paripadal and Thirukkural are very popular among all the works of commentary.

Mylainathar is a famous commentator of Nannool. Others are kalledar and Daivachilaiyar.

Nachinarkkiyar wrote explanation on Chiraka Chintamani.

Periya Vachan Pillai is the mentor of Nalayira Divya Prabandam.

### Thala Puranams:

These are the texts of Divine Cilies of Lord Shiva.

Kovil Puranam	-	Umapthy Sivam
Thiruvilayadarpuranam	-	Paranjothi
Kasikandam	-	Adhiveerarama Pandiyar
Chidhampara Puranam	-	Thirumalainathar

**Nalavenba:** In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this texts was written by Pugazhendhi. It deals with the love of Nalan – Dhamayandhi. Esana Desikar Alis Saminatha Desikar wrote 'Elakkanakkoothu'.

### OTHERS

'Seerappuranam' is the Islamic Holy text on Nabigal Nayagam was written by Umaruppulavar. It has 5027 songs.

Thirukkutalakkuravanji	- Thirikooda Rasappakkavirayar
Mukkoodarpallu	- Veeramamunivar
Ramanatakam	- Arunachalakavirayar
Thamizhisai Moovar	- Arunchalakavirayar, Muthu Thandavar, Marimutha Pillai
The first Tamil Edition	- Bible (Viviliam)
Swedhasamithiran	- Tamil Daily - 1880
Samarasa Sudha Sanmarga Sangam	- 1865
Jyothi worship	- 1872 in Vadalur
Sathiya Dharuma Salai	- 1867 in Vadalur
Birth of Vallalar	- 1823, October 5
Six Thirumurais of Vallalar	- Thiruvartupa
Rachiniya Yathirigam	- H.A. Krittina Pillai
Prataba Mudaliar Charithiram	- Mayuram Veda
[The Tamil First Novel]	- Nayagam Pillai

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Gandhi Puranam, Thilagar Manmiyam, Vallalar Chaithiram – Asalambikai Ammaiayar.
- Malaikallan, Avanum Avalum (Novels) – Namakkal Kavingnar.
- Tamil Eymological words research – Gna. Devaneyappavanar.
- King of Short stories – Pudhumaipithan. His famous short stories are Agaligai, Sabavimochanam, Oru Nal Kazhindhadhu, Kadavulum Kandasami Pillaiyum.
- Kalki – historical novelist. His popular novels are Parthiban Kanavu, Ponniyin Selvan, Sivakamiyin Sabatham, Thiyaaga Boomi.
- Dr. Mu.Va: 18 novels, Kallo Kaviyamo, Nenjil Oru Mul, Dr. Alli (Drama).

**Anantha Vikatan:** A weekly magazine giving historical novels as serials.

- Dr.U.Ve.Sa's 'En Saritham' – An Autobiography published in this magazine.
- Kothamangalam Subbu's 'Thillana Mohanambal', a novel published in this magazine as a serial.
- Thamizhisai Iyakkam was formed by Raja Sir – Anna Malaiyar in 1943.
- Karunamirtha Sagaram – a music text was written by Thanjai Abraham Pandithar.
- Head Master of Tamil Drama – Sankaradasa Swamigal.

- Father of Tamil Drama – Bammal Sambandanar.
- ‘Nan Kanda Bharatham’ – a text was written by Ambujathammal.
- In 1978, Government of Tamilnadu headed by M.G.R. Recognised the Tamil Alphabetical Reformatations.
- Mahakavi Bharathiyar – Kannan Pattu, Koyilpattu, Panchali Sabatham. (Triple Major epics)
- Bharathidasan – Kudumba Vilakku, Irunda Veedu, Pandiyan Parisu, Pisiranthaiyar (Sahithya Academy Awarded)
- Kannadasan – Esu Kaviyam, Cherman Kadhali, Altan Athi Adhimandhi.
- Vanidhasan – Title : Kavingnar Eru
- Perunchithiranar – Title : Pavalar Eru
- Mudiyaaran – Vanampadi of Dravidanadu.
- Pioneer of Modern Poetry – Na. Pichamurthy
- Ezhuthu – Magazin – Si.Su.Chellappa.
- Doctrine of Saivaite – Anbe Sivam
- Doctrine of Vaishnavite – Saranagathi
- Tamil Texts were brought up to the printing press Seegan Balg.
- A comparative Grammar of Dravidian Languages – Dr. Robert Caldwell.
- Julian Wilson – appreciation to the service to Tamil of Dr.U.Ve.Sa.
- The first Tamil Novel – Prataba Mudhaliar Sarithiram – Mayram Vedhanayagam Pillai.
- Thirugnana Sambandar was called as ‘Dravida Sisu’ by Adghishankarar.
- Amuktha Malyatha – Text of Krishnadevarayar Praising Andal.
- Vanidhasan – Wordsworth of Tamilnadu.
- First poet Laurette of Tamilnadu Government – Namakkal Ramalingnar.
- Thirukkural was firstly came into printing in 1812.
- “There is no any literature equal to Thirukkural in the world’ – Albert Switzer.
- Prose works of Bharathiar – Tharasu, Gnanaratham, Chandhirikaiyin Kadhai.
- Journals of Periyar – Kudiarasu, Viduthalai, Revolt (English)
- In 1975, ‘Chithirappavai’ a novel by Akilan was awarded ‘Jnanpeeth’, Award for his fireless literary participation of lifetime.
- ‘No other language has the literatures like Tamil having deepness in content’ – Kamil Swalible.

Works	Sahithya Academy Award
Seraman Kadhali (Novel)	Kannadhasan
Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal (Novel)	Jayakandhan
Vallalar Kanda Orumaippadu (Text)	Ma. Po. Sivagnanam

Ahayathuku Adutha Veedu	Mu.Metha
Pisiranthaiyar	Bharadhidhasan
Saharavai Thandatha Ottachangal	Na. Kamarasan
Veril Pazhutha Pala (Novel)	Su. Samthiram
Verukku Neer (Novel)	Rajam Krishnan
Saivu Narkali (Novel)	Thoppil Md. Meeran
Pudhiya Urainadai	Dr.Ezhil Mudhalvan
Thol	Selvaraj
Anjadi	Poomani
Nilam Poothu Malarantha Nal	P.V.Jayasree

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