



## **Government of Tamilnadu**

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

Course : TNPSC Group I Exam  
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Part : **Socio-Economic History of Tamilnadu from Sangam Age Till  
Date**

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# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC**

## **HISTORY OF TAMILNADU FROM SANGAM AGE TILL DATE**

### **SOCIAL STATUS OF ANCIENT TAMILS**

#### **Worship by Land**

Murugan – Hilly region, Thirumal - Pastoral, Indhiran - Paddy field, Varuna - Seaside, Kotravai - Desert these were the methods of early Tamils. Also, they prayed ancestors as Thenpulathar, Nature, Sun, Moon, Hero stones.

#### **Festivals**

First Day of Thai, Holy Dip of Thai, Karthigai, Thiruvathirai, Pankuni Uthiram, Indhira Vizha, Velan Veriyattu, Kundruthoradal were the Tamils Festivals. Agam, Kalithogai, Paripadal witnessed these.

#### **Customs and Habbits**

Cracking the firestones, finding time by the sun, moon, stars, flowering, Dr.Va.Suba Manickam says that Maidens don't wear flowers. They wear Silambu. At the Matrimonial Functions, they will be detached from their legs. It is called 'Silambu Kazhi Nonbu'. Iympadaithali was worn by children. Mudhumakkal Thazhi was used to burry the deads. While they send of the quests, they would come until the gate.

#### **Costumes**

Gents' Upper wear was called Kanjugam. They had a towel on their shoulder. Ladies wear soft sarees. Tailors were called as Thunnakkarar.

#### **Jewels**

Ladies wear Silambu, Mekalai, Kuzhai, Kanaiyazhi, Kadagam, Ottiyanam, Metti, Sutti to make them beauty.

#### **Entertainment**

1. Fighting with Ox is called as Eru Thazhuval played by youths of Pastoral land.
2. Cock fight, Goat fight, Elephant fights were also viewed by the people.
3. Ammanai, Kazhankadal, Bathing at Tanks, Rivers, Flower Balls, Oraiyaadal were also played by Youngsters.



## **Food**

Habits of food was differ from land to land. Rice was General. Vegetables, Fruits, Meat, Fish, Thinai, Honey, Milk, Tamerine Juice, Ragi were the food items in their day to day life.

## **Matrimonial**

Groom, presented parisam to Bride. New couples wear New Dress. Elder Ladies showered paddy, Flower with holy water on them. Manamuzhavu was practised. Day, joining moon with star Rohini was the day of marriage.

## **Professions**

Agriculture, and Trade were Chief of early Tamils. Carpentering, Smith works, Jewellers, Small industries based on lands, Hunting, Weaving, Saltering were laboured by the people. Paddy and rice were having equal status in the Barter system.

## **Others**

1. Early Tamil community had a good status of education and fine arts.
2. Fraternity was the best policy of Tamils in Sangam Age.

## **Social status**

Early Tamils were divided into clan-based community. They were unaware of communal differences. People had the customs and habits of giving hands with each other at their distress and difficulties. As Thiruvalluvar says “All are equal by birth” completely matched with people’s status.

People followed ethical means to clear their problems. Even in the life style of internal matters, they convinced themselves with moral Values. Sangam Literatures portrayed the ways of problem-solving methods which they maintained in their life.

Education had a vital role among the people. As Pandian Nedunchezian says in his song, parents gave much importance to their educated son than that of other sons. Valluvam also says that “Ennum Ezhuthum Kangal”.



## TRADE CONNECTIONS WITH ABROAD

Tamil ruled the Seabreeze with their knowledge.

1. Sheeba of Arabian Princess, presented perfumes to the king of Israel imported from Musiri.
2. King of Dyre, Hiram imported Gold, Silver, Ivory, Agil from Tamilnadu once in Three years.
3. Murashu and his sons-maintained Accounts of business Registered at Nippur in Babilonia.
4. Book of periplus says that the spicy goods were sent out to Egypt through gulf of Eden.
5. A piece of teakwood was obtained in the Moon temple of Sumeria in 4000 B.C.
6. Strabo, Periplus, Plynny expressed Tamil's herbal knowledge.
7. Periplus says that ships from Arabia, Greece hauled at the harbour of Musiri.
8. Ships from Greek came to Musiri with the help of Hippalus Monsoon.
9. Excavations at Arickamedu explored the trade of Romans with Tamils.
10. Hippocrates, a roman thinker said that pepper is an Indian Medicine.
11. Venice Merchant and Tourist Marcopolo called Madurai as the city of festival.
12. Cleopatra wore pearls of Korkai.

These are some evidences to show air trade with abroad.

### Trade Connections

Before 3000 years, Tamils led a decent business with foreign countries with the help of monsoon winds. Bay of Bengal was the root cause of their free trade. Valuable goods from Tamil Nadu like Cardamom, pepper and Sandal which were cultivated from the western Ghats exported to foreign like Greek, Rome, and others Nations cultural merger also was happened because of their trade. People and vendors had a good connection among them. They learnt each other's language and culture.

People's mindset was broadened in this manner Ovari, a harbor near Korkai (Tuticorin) was famous for its pearls export.

Kayalpattinam, a popular port which had a good export and import centre for horse trade. Horses from Saudi Arabia and other gulf nations imported to this centre for getting good benefit of huge amount.

Wasaff, a horse vendor mentioned his horse-trade in Kayal in his notes.

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Marco Polo, a Venice tourist insisted his opinion of Madurai city in his hints. He says that Madurai is a beautiful city. Kings and other rich persons followed polygamy and sati, he said.

Thus, our Tamils had a good trade and commerce abroad

## **SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN VARIOUS TIMES**

### **Sangam Age**

Poetess at Sangam Age revealed their high thoughts by their songs. Avvaiyar, Kavarpandu, Velli Veethiar, Nachellaiyar, Ponmudiar, Pari Magalir were the poetess in delivering good concepts to the society.

“எவ்வழி நல்லவர் ஆடவர்”  
தோன்றுவன் மாதோ போர்க்களத் தானே”  
“வினையே ஆடவர்க்கு உயிர்”

- These are the sayings of early Tamils.

### **Medieval**

In this Age, Status of women was reduced by the effects of Jainism and Buddhism. They were considered to be the evils. Iniyavai Narpadhu told Women are poison. A section of women was practised in the temples as Devaradiyar.

They were treated only for servicing god and temples. Sati, Polygomy, Child marriage, Widow's fast were common in the early Tamils.

### **Cholas**

The status of women at Medieval period was continued in Chola Age also. 400 Devar Adiyars were practiced at Big Temple, Thanjavur Government donated privileges to them.

### **Nayakkas**

Women's status under this regiment was not so good. Widows were treated badly. Dowry, Devadashi system, hundreds of women jailed in secret backyard of king's palace were being in this period.





## **British**

Women began to get educated with the help of Christian Machineries, Dravidian Movements, Dr. Muthulakshmi, Dr. Dharumambal, Moovalur Ramamirtham. Dr. Muthulakshmi opened Avai Illam for destitute women in Adayar.

## **Contemporary**

Globalisation, Liberalisation and privatisation make the women, knowledgeable. Now a days they are working in private, Public, Govt. sectors in various fields.

## **Women's status**

### **Early**

Women occupied only secondary place in the age of Sangam. Chastity was the virtue for the ladies. It was more important than life itself. Karpu was spoken as a divine quality. Some women in the higher families committed sati. some of them performed penance as widows. There are so many examples of courageous mothers in Sangam texts.

### **Pallavas**

The society was divided into four sections namely Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Sudra. Brahmins stood at the head of the society. They were well educated. They were respected by the kings. They were employed as officers of the government.

Queens were cultured and pious. They constructed temples. Rangapatake, Queen of Rajasimha made additions to Kailasanathar Temple. Women of Upper families enjoyed certain privileges. They were highly respected, position in the society. They possessed their own property. Women in the middle class were engaged in weaving, spinning and flowering. They were devoted to their husbands. They shared the burden of the family. A high ideal of women-hood prevailed. The feminine virtues were appreciated.

### **Cholas**

Women were respected and they enjoyed a privileged position in the society. Sembian Mahadevi and Kundavai were great patrons of religion. Women who have dedicated themselves to temple services were known as Devaradiyars.

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In 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Women enjoyed education. So that they got freedom to do anything they want. After Bharathi and Bharathidhasan they came to know the rights and duties of them.

## **KUDAVOLAI SYSTEM OF ELECTION PROCESS, INSCRIPTIONS OF UTHIRAMERUR**

Inscriptions of Uthiramerur of Paranthaka Cholan I revealed the Electoral process of Local Body. As it is, each station was divided into 30 words (Kudumbu). Each ward has to select one member.

### **Qualifications**

A person contesting in the election, having

1. Owned to 1/2 acre land.
2. Own Housing and plot.
3. 30-60 years.
4. Vedic Knowledge.
5. Interest in Public Service
6. Honest way of earnings.
7. No ex-member of any ward
8. Not relative to the retired members.

### **Election Process**

1. Write a name of desired person on the palm leaf and put it into a pot.
2. People gather at Podhiyil.
3. Balads tied up with a rope.
4. A boy takes a bundle from the pot.
5. Untied bundle put into another pot.
6. Boy takes a ballad leaf.
7. Name in the palf leaf will be announced.

Thus 30 Members were selected for each word.

### **Administration**

Of 30, 12 for gardening, 6 for Lake variam. Later, the Mahasaba decided the Age limit as 35-70 years.



## **Uthiramerur**

The inscriptions of Uthiramerur shows that village donated to Brahmins as Brahmadeyam, a tax-free land. It gives much information's about the local body election system of Parantaka Chola I. It insists the integrity of a person who elected as rulers. They should be good and honour in the society for their conducts and characters. They never do any evil deeds in the society. They could not be enjoyed any previous local ruling posts already. They should be a learned person with dignity. The terms and conditions emphasize the moral value of the members of the local body. Because they had to deal with the governance of local irrigation, court procedures in the particular villages.

## **HIGHER VALUES OF EARLY TAMILS AS IN THE SANGAM LITERATURE**

Tamils in the early Age followed important values in their life. We see in this essay some of those.

1. Pisiranthaiyar, great poet and friend of Pandian Arivudai Nambi, told a govt. should collect the tax from the citizens in a proper and reasonable way. If govt. collects taxes in unethical ways it will ruin.
2. Yadhun Ure, Yavarum Kelir by Kanian Poonkundran welcomes the fraternity to unite the people under the world citizenship.
3. Avvaiyar, Tamil Poetess called the people to behave in a good way; then only the Nation will live long.
4. Nankaniyar, the great philosopher of Sangam says that the world is mixed with good and evils. We have to select good from the worldly things to live good.
5. Pandian Arivudai Nambi says that children are the wealth. A family without children will not shine with happy.
6. Great persons will give up their lives for welfare of the Nation. They will not allow evils if they come with wealth.
7. The world is running by the persons with service minded only.
8. Avvai-Adhiyan, Pari-Kabilar; Kopperuncholan - Pisiranthaiyar are the examples of true friendship.
9. 'However, you are not doing good, please don't do evil things' a poet says in puram.
10. 'All are equal by birth' this is a concept of Valluvam.

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## Higher Values

People followed ethical values in their day to day life. They gave significance to the educated persons. Sangam rulers performed fivefold duties. Tholkappiam had prescribed five functions for the kings. Learning, performing sacrifices, making presents, protecting subjects and punishing the wicked and guilty. Nachinarkiniyar, a famous commentator explains eight qualities of a king. They are good birth, good education, good conduct, truthfulness, purity of thought and action, impartiality, absence of envy and jealousy and lack of personal motive.

Kings were willing the good principles should be kept by the subjects. Veteran Avai says in her poem, “How the men walk in the path of good, country will be good”.

### Early Tamils

“Agathinai” is a wonderful anthology of our early Tamils. It deals with kalavu and Karpu (chastity) in the day to day walk of them. Love, an aesthetic value should be diverted in to the practical familial life is called karpu. That only has to give a pleasure to the human.

Oodal, a mini quarrel between husband-wife in the family life was insisted by Agam and Valluvam because of having relax to their unended pleasure. Valluvam adds the taste of the life in this manner. That will be like a salt of our dining foods; It will not act for long time, Valluvar says.

Purathinai, ethics of war time management emphasizes the moral deeds at the time of battle field in the early period. “War” without Aram (Morals) is called “Maram” by Tamils. So the Tamils followed some rules and regulations in their warship.

Thus, Tamil people once had a wonderful quality and quantity of life styles in their internal and external affairs.

Our people once had customs of beliefs, predictions, and rituals in their life.

People thought that the good words or talks from the neighbourhood is very happy to the familial festivals. When people get out of the home, cat-crossing is very bad one, they hoped.

Pariyam or parisam, the presentation of Groom to the Brides was dominated in the matrimonial customs.

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In the later age, “Karanam” a typical ritual was originated in the society.

“Manamuzha” was drummed with high sounded at the time of marriage functions because of not hearing any bad words from outsides

So, the internal matters of Tamils laid upon the good beliefs and hopes for the welfare of the people.

### **DEFINE THE WORD STRUCTURES OF LOVE, ELOPEMENT, MEDALERUDHAL AND KURIPLEYARTHEEDU.**

**Love :** “ஒத்த கிழவனும் கிழத்தியும் காண்ப”

“பயிலியது கெழீஇய நட்பு” - குறுந்தொகை

It means love at first sight.

**Pagarkuri:** Meeting Place of couple beyond the house of Thalaivi.

**Eravukkuri:** Meeting Place within the area of Thalaivi.

**Ambal:** Love of Thalaivi known to Relatives.

**Alar:** Love, known to others.

**Kuripeyartheedu:** Thalaivan was asked to seek another place of meeting at the disturbance of Love.

1. **Madalerudhal:** At the unwillingness of the setup of Marriage of couple, Thalaivan decided to appeal to the Manram.
2. **Arathodu Nitral:** When Thalaivan postpone his marriage with Thalaivi, Thozhi compromise their parents and compelled him in a virtual manner.
3. **Elopement:** Couple decided to go away from their Native, for marriage and living together.

### **VIRICHY KETTAL, UDAL, KARANAM, PARISAM – EXPLAIN.**

1. **Virichi Kettal:** Elder Women hears the Good words from the Neighbourhood and passer-by for the good of their family’s functions.
2. **Udal:** A small quarrel among the couple of family or Lovers within a short time. It will be just like a salt to the food. It will not take long time.
3. **Parisam:** Bridegroom contributes presentation to the bride at the time of marriage.

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4. **Karanam:** In the life style of Tamils, even in Matrimonial system also, our ancestors compiled some rituals for marriage.

### **MOODHIN MULLAI, PADHEEDU, UNDAATTU, PAHAZHI MAITHAL**

1. **Moodhin Mullai:** Women of maravar, Eyinar, Mazhavar, Mallar were courageous. A woman was ready to sacrifice her only son to send off Battle field. This is called Moodhin mullai.
2. **Padheedu:** King of conquering Nation was sharing the wealth which are conquered from the enemies with his soldiers.
3. **Undattu:** To express his happy, the king who won in battle, has spend his time with his soldiers, giving toddy and meat.
4. **Pahazhi Maithal:** Pagazhi means arrow. Soldiers have to design their bow and arrow themselves to the war.
5. **Vallan Mullai:** However, Thalaivan was in poverty to receive the guests to his home, he sold his priceless yazh, sword to treat them in a better way. This is called Vallan mullai.

### **Moodhin Mullai**

Elder women from the family of maravar, mazhavar, Mallar also has the pride of courage. They were not fearing on seeing the battle field. They were ready to go to the fields of war for seeing their son's courage and heroic death.

Kavar Pendu, a poets wondered at his son's courage. He tells his neighbour one her son will be seen in the war field with pride.

Mothers were happier than that of his birth, when he gets an arrow on the chest.

Songs of Purathinai glorified the courageous prideness of soldier's heroic death.

1. **Umanar:** They are salt selling vendors. Carrying salt in the Bullockcarts, travelling around the areas with family. They spend many days in doing their business.
2. **Vambalar:** Persons from other countries living here purchasing goods and selling. They are called 'Sathu' wearing hard cheppels. Sword in their waist looking tightened face.



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3. **Val Pozhundhu Adakkal:** When person dying without heroic death, body will have to be cut with Sword and then buried. This is a type of heroic salvation of our Tamils.
  4. **Eligy:** When a person died, his relatives or friends sang a song called Eligy. Songs of Parimahalir during the death their father Pari Vallal, song of Kannadhasan during the death of Jawaharlal Nehru, are the famous evidences of Eligy.

## **FESTIVALS IN TAMIL CULTURE**

### **Indhira Vizha**

The festival taken to Indhiran, in the month of Chithirai full moon Day. Silambu and Mekalai spoke about this festival. At the joining point of Cauvery Poompattinam is very famous for this vizha. It took 28 day to celebrate, the people enjoyed joy and happy.

### **Veriattu**

This is connected with worship of Lord Murugan, at this emotional dance, Ladies took part with spiritual divinity. Tholkappiam also says about this.

### **Heroic stone**

1. As the remembrance of soldier's heroic death, people erect the memorial stone to praise him. It consists of 6 intersections said by Tholkappiam.
2. Devotees showered paddy, flower and water on the stones. It claimed the hero worship of early Tamils.

### **Kunru Thoradal**

This is worship of Murugan who is the god of people living in mountains. Place of dance will be cleaned, decorated with flowers rice, Turmeric powder and sandal, elder vedhiar has to wish the devotees, raising hands on the top of his head. Nakkeerar, Praises this dance in Thiruthani, one among the Padaiveedu of Murugan.

## ◆.....◆ **THE ECONOMICAL CONDITIONS OF EARLY TAMILS IN VARIOUS STAGES**

1. In old days, Tamils were hard and honest in their life. Ethics was the basic fibre of their trade and labour. Agri and Trade were vital economic ways. Hunting, Shepherding, House building, Shipping, Markets, Business Abroad, Weaving, Carpentry, Smith works, Jewellery were their industrial works.
2. Pottery, Spinning, Rope weaving. Basketry were also seen in early Tamils life.

### **Medieval**

Pallava Kings made permanent solutions to irrigation problems of farmers. They created tanks, Lakes; To administer them they arranged separate persons as Managers. Lands were divided into Devadhanam, Brahmadeyam and General. Economics based on Agri was top in the Pallavas period.

### **In Cholas**

1/6 of Agri income was collected from the farmers as tax. Irrigation Management was very popular in Cholas Age. Barter system took part in day today life. People done business with Sumatra, Java, China.

### **Exports and Imports**

Clothes, performers, Medicines, Jewells, Ivory, Coral, Pearls were exported. Arabian horses, benzon, paper and spicy goods were imported.

### **Nayakkas**

1. People in this period enjoyed good economical status. Brahmins powered gain at government side, various sub industries were maintained by the people.
2. In 18-20 centuries, people were enjoyed hardness in the British age. Our raw materials gone to England to make value added things then returned to India for selling. So that our people lost their own exchange of money.
3. Jameens, Mirasudars, Landlords saved their life with the help of British. But common people enjoyed sad.
4. People of Chettinadu gone to south east Asian countries for business, came with huge wealth. They structured their money into colleges, schools, universities and factories.



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5. Dindigul, Erode, Covai, Trichy, Chennai, Thiruppur, Madurai, Namakkal, Salem are popular industrial cities to develop our state.

### **Various periods**

Sangam economy was simple and self-sufficient. People were hard workers. There were rich, poor and intermediate. Land was very rich in yield of cotton, coconuts, plantains and sugarcane, the agriculturists were called Uzhavan and Uzhathiar.

Agrarian economy dominated Tamil Nadu in Pallava Period also. All the industries were taxed pottery was another cottage industry. Tamil Nadu had more contacts with the eastern countries. The village was consisted of landlords and tenants.

Generally, 1/6 of the total production was collected as tax. Due to the geographic conditions and unpredictable weather and lack of technical skills, Chozha Kingdom attained a slow progress. However, abundant income from foreign trade made Chola kingdom, a great dynasty.

### **COPPER PLATES AND SCRIPTS**

Copper Plates are the evidences to determine our history and culture.

1. Velivikudi Plates revealed the news on Mudhukudumi peruvazhudhi, Pandian of Sangam age.
2. Chinnamanur plates explored the victory of Pandian Thalaialankannathu Neduchezhian.
3. Plates of Kasakkudi reveals the victory of Simhavishnu on Chera, Chola, Pandian and Kalapira Kings.
4. Kooram plates talked about the Pallavas.
5. Anbil plates tell the news of Adhithya Chola's victory.
6. Leedon and Thiru Alankattu Plates tells the Heroic death of Rajathitha Cholan.
7. Plates consists of Uthama Cholan are kept in Chennai Museum.
8. Plates of Thiru Alankadu also told the victory of Rajendra Cholan I.

### **‘SAIVAM’ – ITS DEVELOPMENT IN TAMIL CULTURE**

1. First Dravidian Religion in praising ‘Sivan’ is called Saivam. It was also the habitual worship of Indus Valley people.

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2. Sivam means 'the Best'. Alamar Selvam, Mukkan Kadavul are the names of Siva as mentioned in Sangam songs.
  3. Because of the domination of Jainism and Buddhism at Kalapiras period, Saivam was hidden. Nayanmars are the personalities in raising 'Saiva' in Tamilnadu by singing hymns of Thevaram and Thiruvacakam. Thevaram was compiled by Nambiandar Nambi in Chola regiment. The songs of Nayanmars are mixed with Ragha and Thala. This Bakthi cult deeply rooted in the mindset of Tamils again into Saivam.
  4. Sithandha of Saivam defines saivam as pathy, pasu and pasam. Anma leaving from Kama, Anger and wishes have to merge with God. This is the basic of Saiva Sithandha.
  5. Mahendira Varman, Koon Pandian converted again into Saivam.
  6. Saivam emphasised Love is God.
  7. Thirumandhiram defines ethical, Medical, Astrological values in coding.
  8. The Idol of Nataraja is an embodiment of 'COSMIC DANCE'.
  9. Not only a religion, Saivam inculcated with the life of Tamils. Family system of Human was made in the god's also. Ammayappan is the symbol of Gents and Women's power.
  10. Saivam, Religion of Tamils reflected the ethical means of Tamil people.

### THE INTERSECTIONS OF 'SAIVAM'

Devotees of Lord Shiva are divisioned by six sections.

1. **Pasupathar:** They are called Mayechurar. They apply Thiruneeru to full body. They worship Shiva as First God. They are being in nude position.
2. **Kabaligar:** They pray Shiva as Bairavar. They wear thread of hairs with garland of headshells, worshipping women as 'Adishakthi'.
3. **Kalamugar:** The devotees forget themselves remembering of Shiva with singing and dancing. They are in higher position in the society.
4. **Gowmarar:** The devotee who worships Murugan.
5. **Sakthar:** They worship only Shakthi.
6. **Veera Saivar:** They are worshipping siva in deep level. They are in huge numbers in Karnataka.

## **Inter sections of “saiva”**

In the medieval Age, there were four sorts of Saivites in the major Saiva Principles.

Ganapathyam, a section which deals with the worship of Ganapathy was followed by some people.

“Gowmaram” devotees worshipped Murugan as Kumaran. ‘Shaktham” was the section of devotees of worshipping “Shakthi” only. “Shakthi” means “Power” They believed all powers rest in Shakthi.

Salaram, this section insists the worship of the God ‘Sun” They hope the centre of all powers is sun.

Thus, Saivite were divisioned themselves as four types.

## **EFFECTS OF VAISHNAVAM IN BAKTHI CULT AND DIVISIONS OF VAISHNAVITES**

1. Vaishnavaites are the people who salute only God Thirumal. Their only aim to attain the lotus feet of God, Thirumal. Complete surrender (Saranakathi) is Vaishnavam. Azhwars who sing the songs with Ragha are called Pasurams. Their works are compiled by Nadhamuni as Nalayira Divya Prabandam.
2. Nammazhwar is the Main personality of Azhwars. Kulasekarar cradled Kannan as a child, Thirumangaiyazhwar also cradled Kannan as a child.
3. Andal, only the woman of 12, praised Arangan. She is called Kothai Nachiyar. Her Thiruppavai is worshipped by the Tamils in Markazhi. Her Nachiyar Thirumozhi treats Kannan as Nayakan. She is worshipped throughout India. Periyazhwar’s “மாணிக்கம் கட்டி வயிரம் இடைக்கட்டி” is famous for cradle song.

## **Vadakalai**

Vedhantha Desikar established this division, followed by Vedic rituals. Majority of those are in Kanchipuram.

## **Thenkalai**

‘Surrender to the God’ is only the work of Anma. Pillai Logachariyar started this section with Pasurams of Azhwars. Srirangam is the centre for this section.

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**CHANGES BY RAMANUJAR IN VAISHNAV SAMPRADAYA**

1. Ramanujar was the Philosopher who did remarkable changes in Hinduism. South Indian Vainashvam is spreading all over India in the way of Ramanujar. He was the reformer of Hinduism. He called the people all are equal before the God.
2. Student of Yadhava Prakasar, classmate of Peria Nambi, commentator of Brahma Suthra. He was the refuser of Adi Sankarar.
3. He made the rituals to regulate the process of Vaishnava Sampradaya. It is followed by all over India. His proceedings are followed in Thiruppathi Temple also.
4. He declared Namon-Narayana to Panchamar people. He is an equator of Hindu Dharma.

**SANMARKA SANGAM IN 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND ITS RESULTS**

1. In 19<sup>th</sup> century, India was dominated by caste and communal riots. Like the Idankai-Valankai conflicts at social level in Chola period, there was a controversy among society in Tamilnadu.
2. A Jyothi, named Ramalingam was born in 1823, October 5 at Marudhur Near Chidambaram at the same time of Ramakrishna Pramahamsar in North India.
3. He emphasised the equality among the people. "Eradication of poverty is the Chief virtue," of Ramalingar.

**Onness**

‘God is the symbol of onness of people’s minds. Mercy is the key of Moksha. Leave the household god’s prayer; Let us unite to pray ‘Arutperunjyothi’, Ramalingar said.

**Thiruvarutpa**

Thousands of songs sung by him are compiled by his friend Thozhuvur velayutham called ‘Thiruvarutpa’. It is divided into 6 Thirumurais. ‘Arutperunjyothi Agaval’ is read by Tamils.

**Association**

He established the ‘Sanmarka Sangam’, an association of all people worship without caste, colour and religion.



## **Gnana Sabai**

He built the Temple of knowledge as Gnana Sabai in Vadalur. Avoiding seven screens of Maya, we have to see the God as Light of Mercy.

## **Sathiya Dharma Salai**

Hungry is a major enemy to the mankind. So, he made an attempt to make Sathiya Dharma Salai in Vadalur. His aim of this is to wash away the hungry from the society. Till today that service is rendering by the followers of him.

## **Vallalar**

People called him 'Vallalar', who is the wisher of the people.

## **Ingitha Malai**

1. It was written by Vallalar, which is the text of Divinity in the Anthology of Tamil Agam as Nayaka-Nayaki style. This is the touchstone of Tamil scholars of Grammar and Literatures.
2. In 1874, on the day of Taipoosam, Vallalar had entered and co-existed with the enlightened one.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Century**

Nineteenth century was a period of Renaissance of Religion in Tamil Nadu. Yes, the great gracious Mahan of Vadalur made a huge revolution in Hinduism. He attempted to reform the style of life. He guided the people to worship the great Jyothi of mercy. God is being in merciful enlightened one. Its great love and affection shower the rain of grace on the people.

He structured 'Gnana Sabai' in Vadalur. Screens of various colors noted for multiple mayas of man. If we avoided these mayas, "Jyothi" of god will be shown to a devotee, he says.

His Dharma Salai is a great "Unavagam" for the relief of hungry from the have nots. No life would be down by the lack of food. So, people should be merciful and graceful, he said.

In the Medieval age, Ramanujar made a tremendous revolt in the Hinduism. Like his achievements, Vallalar also revolted silently against the evils from the Hinduism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Both are revolutionary in their field.

## ◆.....◆ **BRAHMI SCRIPTS, SADAGOPAR, VALANGAI – EDANGAI CONFLICT**

### **Brahmi**

1. It is said to be Buddha formed this; it came in the period of Ashoka. It is found in cave Temples of Pandiya Kings and rocks. It is Tamil in Language, letters in Brahmi. Age old Tamil letters had converted into Vattezhuthu.
2. Jains and Buddhists created New Krantha from Brahmi. At the time of invasion on Pandyas by Cholas, Vattezhuthu had converted into ‘Krantha’.

### **Sadagoban**

He is Nammazhwar. His pasurams are the seeds of Veda; so that he is called ‘Vedam Tamizh Seitha Maran’. He says that Rituals are need not to true devotee. Love of God is only the way to reach Moksha. That is ‘ParaBathi’. Love of God is beyond the limit of Men and Women. Sadagopar says that complete surrender is the way to release from all the wordly obstacles.

### **Valangai-Edangai conflict**

They were started in Pallavas continuing at Chola regiment Each has 98 intersections. There were so many differences between them due to get privileges from the govt. side. This conflict had resorted in the bloody quarrels. Historians say that this was a blackmark in the walks of social History of Tamils in Cholas’ empire.

### **Tamil Nadu**

1. Inscriptions in the later period, are being in Brahmi scripts. T.V. Mahalingam says, Tamil scripts also originated from Brahmi.
2. Nadana Kasinathan said that “Brahmi” is called “Thamizhi”; Sangam songs could be written in Thamizhi scripts.
3. Tamil Brahmi is entirely different from Brahmi scripts in North India. Scholars say, Tamil scripts could be originated from Southern Brahmi.
4. T.A. Gopinatha Rao says, Vattezhuthu, which was popular in Southern Tamil Nadu in 14, 15 centuries could be originated from Brahmi scripts.

### **During Pallava and Chola period**

This difference was well rooted in Pallava period. It attained the climax in Chola regime. Economical imbalance was dominated in that period. They followed “Manu Smirithi” in their social status.





Valangai people got power of administration and Army. But Edangai people are labours and vendors in that age.

## BELIEFS OF EARLY TAMILS

### Beliefs of Tamils

1. Tamils believe in the sounds of lizard, kuyil and owl.

2. “நிலம் நீர் தீ வளி விசும்போடு

“ஐந்தும் கலந்த மயக்கம் உலகம்” - தொல்.

This formula indicates the knowledge of Tamils on Universe.

3. They were in deep belief of rituals of Kodinilai, Valli and Kanthazhi.

4. People believe in ghosts live in cemetery; they eat dead bodies.

5. They believe Immai-Marumai, birth and rebirth.

6. Worship of Kotravai gives power to them, they believe.

7. Kaval Maram keeps their hierarchy, they thought.

8. They had a habit of virichi kettal.

9. People thought that prosperity obtain if planet silver rise at Northern direction, famine at south.

10. People believe that right eye and cheek for Gents; Left eye and cheek for Laies are symbols of Good.

### Early Tamils

Andal cited in her Thiruppavai “Velli Ezhundhu Viyazham Urankitru” (வெள்ளி எழுந்து வியாழம் உறங்கிற்று) a noted one in the astronomy. Our ancestors of this knowledge is more significant than the Chinese one.

“Thiruvandappahuthi” of Manickavachagar’s Thiruvachagam treats this chapter in its own style. “Andappahuthiyin Undaippirakkam, Alapperunm thanmai valapperun katchi, onranukku onrun Ninrezhir paharin, Nootru oru kodiya Virindhana”-These lines explain the “Scenary of Universe”. “The universe is unlimited; It is wide and broaden; parts of great universe is beyond the level of our imagination,” these are the tellings told by Vasakar here.

“Kon Nilai thiriyin Kol Nilai Thiriyum” a famous line of Manimekalai has joined the astronomy with rulers righteousness. If a king behave in the bad ruling, planets also

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changed their qualities which will be done to the human. So Tamils art of Astronomy is worthier one in the early period.

### **KNOWLEDGE OF ASTRONOMY OF EARLY TAMILS**

1. Tholkappiam and some other songs of Sangam Age explore the knowledge of 'Pancha Buthas' like Earth, Sky, Fire, Water and Wind.
2. “சுழன்றும் ஏர்ப்பின்னது உலகம்” Thirukkural conveyed the matter that Earth is size in round.
3. Tamils' prayer on Sun, Moon, Rain is seen in culture of Tamils.
4. “செஞ்ஞாயிற்றுச் செலவும்” song of Purananuru says that the secret of universe.
5. Shining itself is Nalmeen; Shining by others is 'Kolmeen', they called.
6. Planet of Red colour is sevvai, White is Velli. Newly invented is Budhan, they believe.
7. Saturn with Sulphur is called Karikol.
8. 'Viyazhan' Viya means big. Largest Planet is Jupiter in the solar system.

### **ETHICS OF TAMILS IN WAR**

1. Tholkappiam, Puraporul Venba Malai says that war of Tamils is belonging many means of ethics.
2. Vetchi to Vagai were the sections of expressing symbols of war. Wearing flowers at war showed the identifications of soldiers.
3. They don't do quarrel with the men without arms and amenities.
4. To save the cows is an aim of Vetchi and Karanthai, sub divisions of war.
5. Ladies are not permitted to enter the battlefield.
6. Cows, Vedhiars, Women, diseased persons, parents not with children should be out of area of the war.
7. Injury on chest was proud; on back was failure, they hope.
8. Elder ladies of traditional families also got pride of success in the war.

### **RITUALS IN TAMIL COMMUNITY**

Rituals are common to all people in the world. We see here some important rituals of Tamils.

## **Vadhuvai**

Arranging marriage, elders had a custom of 'Matching' to the couple. It was changed as 'Jadhagam Parthal' in the present days.

## **Parisam**

1. Bridegroom had a habit of presenting goods/Amount/Jewels to Brides. There was no symptom of dowry system in early Tamils.
2. 'Thali wearing' custom was not identified in Tamils culture.
3. Elders made the arrangements for Marriage, so that they created some rituals at Marriage level.
4. Elder women showered flowers water, Paddy on New couple of Marriage.
5. Iympadaithali was an ornament to the Children.
6. White cloth on dead bodies; garlanding were the customs of Tamils.
7. Nadukal worship is called today 'Kalleduppu'.

## **Rituals**

Rituals were originated on the basis of beliefs. From the period of pre-historical period this custom has been prevailing in the primitive people also. In this period also tribals and Adhi Kudigal have a different of types or rituals they known.

In the matrimonial procedure matching of Jathagas, Parisam, Silambu Kazhi Nonbu, marriage Day fixing, veriyattu, Impadaithali, Pulipal thali decoration to children, white cloth on a dead, breaking bangles, elder's pots, Menhir, heroic stones, Dolmens, Greeting the pair of Bride and Groom with paddy, flower and holy water were our ancient rituals in those period.

## **SIDDHAS IN THE CULTURE OF TAMILS**

1. 'Padhinen Siddhas', this is very popular in Tamil Society. Sidha means Gnanam, knowledge of all. One who knows all called Siddhar in Tamil. Knowing himself is the boon of them. All Siddhas in Tamil are saivaitis.
2. Thirumoolar, Adhi Siddhar is the first of 18. They have to take any form at any time to do anything.
3. Sariai, Kiriai, Yoga, Gnana, Medicine, Kayakarpam, Rasavadhaam, Astronomy, Mandhra and Indhira Jala are the means of Siddhas.



## Who is Siddha?

1. Korakar of North, Agathiar, edaikkadar, UROMER, Konganar, Karuvurar, Sattaimuni, Bogar, Ramadevar, Agapei, Azhugani, Kudambai, Kaduveli, Pampatti are those Eighteens.
2. Thirumular says Love is God, Sivam and Love are same and one.

## Medicine

They tell us some vital methods of Medical Science openly and secretly in their songs. Their Medical system is called as Nattu Vaithiam or Patti Vaithiyam or Kaivaithiam.

## Medicine by Hearing

1. This method is coming from Grandma to mother to daughter hierarchy. No side effects is a special feature of this.
2. Medicines are from Leaves, roots. Flowers. Stems of Plants and Trees.
3. Domination of chemical Medicines of Allopathy came first in Indian community because of English people's ruling in India. Now a days this 'Siddha' Movement is spreading rapidly in the state, because of its natural way of curing.

## SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF EARLY TAMILS

Tamil society once had a wide knowledge of Science and Tech in all departments. Some examples here.

1. Manickavasagar tells in his Thiruvasakam that the Big Bang theory, appearance of Universe, earth's rotation, solar system are the creations of God.
2. In Tamil. Ulagam, “உலவு” is the root that means earth rotates itself and also around the sun.
3. Puram says about the space without air.
4. 'Valavan' is a word which means pilot of Aeroplanes.
5. Juicer Machine of Sugarcane is தீம்பிழி எந்திரம்.
6. Perunkadhai tells about the story of deep borewell systems in Tamilnadu.
7. An artificial elephant in Perunkathai is compared to the Mech-horse in Trojanwar in Greek Puranas.



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8. Elangovadigal says about the precious stones.
  9. Avvaiyar says about the matter of Atom.
  10. Thirumular speaks on keeping Body is very important one to keep our lives.
  11. Thiruvacakam says theory of evolution in its line “புல்லாகிப் பூடாய்ப் புழுவாய் மரமாகி”.

## Science Today

Sir Arthur cotton wondered on seeing Grand Anaicut, an irrigation management structure was a symbol of scientific knowledge of ancient Tamils. He structured Dam of Dhavaleeswaram crossing the River Kodhavari with the help of the Technology of Kallanai. Also, he named kallanai as Grand Anicut.

Sky high towered Temples of Tamil Nadu shows the knowledge of architecture of our Tamil people. Ullurai, Eraichi, the decorative style of Tamil songs of pleasure are totally connected with natural science.

Shipping, making of Boats, knowledge of monsoon settings were known by the Tamils.

The instruments used in their inland industries were the products of their scientific inventions.

So, Tamils knew the usage and utility of physics, chemistry, Biology, Botany, metallurgy and Astrology in the ancient times.

## EFFECTS OF THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

This movement started by Blavatsky Madam and Olcott in U.S. in 1875. Philosophy, Divinity, Novelty in antiquity were the earlier aims of this movement. Its head office was firstly in Mumbai then changed into Chennai (Madras).

Annie Besant, took the leadership of this and had service of 50 years.

## Objectives

1. Teaching and Learning of Vedic Upanishads, Brahama sutra connected with Sanskrit was their main aims. It gave an opportunity to the people without caste, religions and colours.
2. But majority members were Brahmins. They did not care of Tamil Divinity such as Thevaram, Thiruvacakam, Thirumurais and Thirumandhiram.



## **Conservatism**

This movement opposed revolutionary thinking, scientific advancement, reformations and progressive ideas.

## **Results**

1. 'Orthodox rituals are only higher than others' this thought was dominated among the Members.
2. Some persons spreading superstitious ideas.
3. A team of orthodox people was created.
4. Anni Besant joined the freedom movement, so this movement lost its power.
5. Reforming movements started.

## **THE BIG TEMPLE OF THANJAVUR, THE WORLD CLASS HERITAGE OF OUR STATE**

1. Indian Architecture is divided into three types as Nagaram, Vesavam and Dravidam. Big Temple of Thanjavur is sorted by Dravidian architecture.
2. An inscription in Mandagappattu says, Mahendhira Varman as Vishnu Sithan made a temple of caves without using Bricks, Lime, Wood and metal to Thirumal, Shiva and Brahma. Lord Brahadeeswara Temple also a creation of same as by Pallava. Just like a model of Narasimha Varma II in 7 A.D., Raja Raja Cholan also made this attempt of adventure for Shiva in Thanjavur.

## **Structure**

1. Keralanthagan Tower is a symbol of RajaRaja Cholan, at the token of his conquer of Chera King. More or less 8 years of building construction of Temple started in 1003 A.D. to 1010 A.D. Having 13 storeys with a huge single stone typed appearance on the Vimana of sanctum. Second largest Nandhi of our country is situated inside of the Mandapa.
2. This Nandhi was structured by Nayakkas.

## **Raja Raja Cholan**

1. German Scholar shortly delivered the facts that this contribution was done by Raja Rajan.



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2. Prof.S.K.Govindasamy found the facts that there are number of paintings on the walls of the sanctum, roof which speaks about our culture and traditions.

### **The Biggest**

1. This temple is eight times bigger than pyramid of Egypt. The shadow of the Temple never falls on the earth.
2. UNESCO takes custody and preservation of this Heritage under its control. It is in the first line of world tourist spots also. Long live Big Temple is our proud of culture.

### **THE DIARY OF PUDHUCHERRY ANANDHARANGAR**

Translator of French Governor of Puducherry in 18<sup>th</sup> Century called Anananda Rangam Pillai made historical adventure of making day today hints on events, happenings, life style of Pondicherry people in his Diary. He is called Peppisu of India.

1. This diary is divided into 12 collections.
2. Year, Month, Day, Date, Time, Place of event are seen in the diary.
3. Values of Exchange of money.
4. Rights to print coins & Rupees from British govt. in Pudhucherry.
5. For conquering Chennai, war between Magabus Khan of Arcot and French govt.
6. Loaded ships from Pudhucherry to east Asian countries.
7. Azhagappan, Tamil captain, Shipping from Pudhucherry to Manila.
8. Pudhucherry crescent Varahan, Chennai star varahan, Vatta Varahan, Port Novo Varahan –News.
9. Events from Sep.5, 1736 – Jan.11, 1761.
10. A violent storm in 1745 in Puducherry. People struggled for food and safety.

### **Puducherry**

Anandha Rangar, peppisu of India was a notable author of Diary Literature. His day to day events' register of diary shows the important days and events happened in those days. He earned the good name from the French rulers. Having multi lingual talents, he was an able ambassador of French government.

Va.Ve.Su. Ayyar praised the work of him for the unended registration of his period.

## ◆.....◆ **BENEFITS BY THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS**

From 3 A.D. – 9 A.D., 13 A.D., 20<sup>th</sup> Century midst. Tamilnadu was under the ruling of different rulers. Sanskrit in the Temples, Urdu, Arab, Telugu, Marathi and English at administration side are in the upper status. Tamil was in the secondary level in all walks of life.

### **Bharathi**

Mahakavi Bharathi got anger in the mood of transferring Tamil as the first one in the world level. His songs, writings, Letters to his friend Parali.Su.Nellaiappar are emotional to praise the proud of Tamil and its culture.

### **Subramaniya Siva**

He was an excellent orator both Tamil and English; He had a trip over Tamilnadu with Bharathi and Va.U.Si. to spread the National curiosity among the people.

### **Parali. SU. Nellaiappar**

1. As a friend of Bharathi he wrote many articles in the journals BalaBarathi, Navasakthi, DesaBakthan and Lohobahari to induce the freedom movement.
2. V.O.Chidambaranar, Veteran Lawyer, Freedom Fighter fought against the British vehemently with Bharathi and Siva. He made 'Swadesh Navay Sangam' for Tamils conducting inland and outland Trade.

### **Namakkal Kavingnar and Kavimani**

They are not only poets, also freedom fighters. They wrote thousands of songs to erase the slaveness of Tamils from the British. Their songs of lucid style in Tamil language created new enthusiasm to the people.

### **Thamizhisai**

When the music concerts were dominated by Telugu and Hindustani, Raja Sir. Annamalaiyar organised Tamil music concerts and conferences all over cities in Tamilnadu. Tamil music got priority in the stages.

### **Thiru. Vi. Ka**

Thiru. Vi. Ka. Kalki, T.P.M., Krishnaswami Pavalar, Viswanath Dass, T.K.S.Bros, on the stages, motivated big Tamil revolutionary track among the people. S.G.Kittappa & K.B.S. Couple made wonderful performance in the National movement.

## **Journalism**

1. Dr.Varadharajulu Naidu, T.S.Chockalingam, Stalin Srinivasan, Kalki, Dinamani, Anantha Vikatan took part in the way of National attainment.
2. Thus, Tamil was grown by Nationalism; Nationalism was grown by Tamil.

## **National**

Mahakavi Bharathi sadly wrote to his friend parali Su. Nellaiappar that another language had an important place than Tamil. He worried about the Tamil's placement among the people. In the court, Bharathi witnessed that Shivan and Chidhamparam are my eyes. That two are Subramaniya Siva and V.O. Chidhambaram Pillai.

Shiva's "Gnana Banu" was an another national magazine in those days.

Va.Ve.Su.Iyyar started a magazine named "Balabarathi", a monthly talked on Kamban.

Parali Su.Nellaiappar wrote poems, essays and talks in India, Gnanabanu, Bala Bharathi, Desabakthan, Navashakthi and Logopahari.

V.O.C. also rendered his service with making Tamil in creating grammar and literature in his last days.

Namakkallar, Kavimani, Dr. Varadharajulu, T.S. Chokkalingam, Va.Ra.Kalki, Anantha Vikatan, Dina Mani, The Hindu, P.Jeevanandham. Thiru.Vi.Ka. were the personalities of Tamil National Movement.

## **Questions:**

1. Bringout the Devadasi system in Tamil Society during the medieval period.
2. Write about Uthiramerur Inscription – Kudavolai election process and qualifications.