

# Department of Employment and Training

## TNPSC GROUP II MAINS - UNIT II

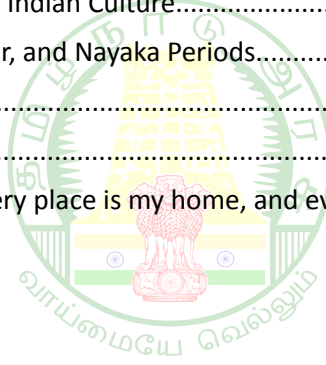
**Course:** TNPSC Group II Mains Material

**Subject:** Tamil Society

**Topic:** Arts – Cultural conventions of Tamilians – Ancient cultural knowledge of Tamilians – Conventional thoughts of Tamilians

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**Director,**  
**Department of Employment and Training.**

## Ancient cultural knowledge of Tamilians

- The Tamil people have excelled in civilization and culture.
- Their greatness is evident in both individual and societal lives, as reflected in ancient literature and archaeological evidence.

## Meaning of Culture ("Panpadu")

- The term "Panpadu" originates from the Tamil root word "Panbu," meaning refinement or cultivation.
- First introduced in Tamil by T.K. Chidambaranathanar, the concept refers to the moral and intellectual refinement of human life, akin to how a farmer cultivates the land for better yield.

## Ancient Tamil Culture

- The richness of Tamil culture can be traced through coins, inscriptions, and foreign accounts.
- It encompasses aspects of both inner life (personal virtues) and outer life (societal practices).
- Core values of Tamil culture include kindness, generosity, and love for humanity.

## Philosophical Insights from Tamil Literature

- **Tholkappiyam** states:  
*"The world is upheld by the virtuous."*
  - "Virtuous" refers to those who live according to refined cultural values.
- **Kalithogai** emphasizes:  
*"Culture is defined as living with learned principles."*
  - It highlights the importance of adhering to moral principles for a meaningful life.

## Cultural Legacy and Relevance

- Every human society possesses its unique culture, which reflects its values and traditions.
- Tamil culture, with its ancient roots and high ideals, serves as a guiding beacon for humanity.

## Theories on the Origin of Tamils

1. **Kumari Kandam Hypothesis:** Tamils are believed to have lived in the submerged Kumari Kandam.
2. **Indigenous Tribal Theory:** Tamils are descendants of South Indian indigenous tribes.
3. **African Origin Theory:** Tamils are theorized to have migrated from Africa to South India via the Arabian Sea.
4. **Central Asia Migration Theory:** Some suggest Tamils migrated over time from Central Asia or North India to South India.

Regardless of the theory, Tamils are one of the ancient and highly refined civilizations, with a rich heritage of arts, beliefs, customs, language, and values.

### Evidence of Tamil Antiquity

#### 1. Literary Evidence:

- **Tolkappiyam:** Discusses societal and economic life, with focus on "Aham" (inner life) and "Puram" (outer life).
- **Sangam Literature:** Depicts Tamil social, economic, and emotional lives through five landscapes: Kurinji, Mullai, Marutham, Neythal, and Palai.
- Poets like **Kaniyan Poongundranar** advocated universalism, "Yaadhum Oore, Yaavarum Kelir."

#### 2. Archaeological Evidence:

- Ancient inscriptions, coins, and excavations substantiate Tamil cultural practices and lifestyles.

#### 3. Foreign Accounts:

- Descriptions by Greek and Roman travelers provide insights into Tamil trade and civilization.

### Significance of Sangam Literature

#### ● Themes:

- Agriculture, war, love, and emotions are central.
- Governance, generosity of kings, and economic prosperity are celebrated.

#### ● Key Works:

- **Pattupattu** (Ten Idylls): Includes *Paripadal* and *Nedunalvadai*, celebrating love, nature, and governance.
- **Pathitru Pathu:** Chronicles the Chera dynasty's rule and achievements.

### Silappadikaram and Manimekalai

#### 1. Silappadikaram:

- A historical epic that elaborates on Tamil governance, arts, trade, and ethics.
- Highlights the significance of cities like Puhar, Madurai, and Vanji.

#### 2. Manimekalai:

- Explores ethics, religion, and societal challenges.
- Advocates addressing hunger as the root cause of societal issues.

### Geographical Features

Ancient Tamil Nadu stretched from the **Venkata Hills (North)** to **Kumari (South)**, as mentioned in *Tolkappiyam*. It was referred to as "**Tamilkoodum Nallulagam**" (Land of Tamils).

**Geographical Divisions:**

- Ancient Tamil Nadu consisted of mountains, plains, forests, and coastal areas.
- Literature classified these into **Kurinji** (mountainous regions), **Mullai** (forests), **Marutham** (fertile plains), **Neithal** (coastal areas), and **Paalai** (arid zones).

**Political Divisions and Natural Landscape**

- Political regions included:
  - **Chola Nadu**
  - **Chera Nadu**
  - **Pandya Nadu**
  - **Kongu Nadu**
  - **Thondai Nadu**
- These divisions were influenced by the natural landscape.
  - The **Western Ghats** and **Eastern Ghats** played a significant role in defining the geography and habitation patterns.
  - The **Nilgiri Hills** served as a junction for these ranges.
  - Plains were found on both sides of the Ghats and south of the Nilgiris.

**Culture and Social Organization**

- **Sangam Literature** laid down moral codes for rulers and people:
  - Fair taxation based on people's prosperity.
  - Respect for scholars.
  - Honesty and justice in governance.
- **Family and Social Values:**
  - Hospitality (*Virundhombal*).
  - Procreation and lineage (*Makkal Perumai*).
  - Chastity (*Karpu*).

**The Three Tamil Sangams**

1. **First Sangam**
  - Location: Southern Madurai (Kadambavanam or Thenmadurai).
  - Significant patrons: Kings like Kaaycchina Vazhuthi and the first Kadungon.
2. **Second Sangam**
  - Location: Kapadapuram.
  - Notable patrons: Velirs, Chera, and Chola rulers like Chezhiyan and Mudathirumaran.
3. **Third Sangam**
  - Location: Modern Madurai.
  - Prominent rulers: From Mudathirumaran to Ukkirap Peruvaluthi.

#### 4. Literature:

- Eight Anthologies (**Ettuthogai**) and Ten Songs (**Pathuppaattu**) belong to the Third Sangam.

### Sangam Themes

- **Aham (Interior):** Deals with personal emotions, love, and relationships. Categorized into **five landscapes**:
  - **Kurinji:** Hills and romance.
  - **Mullai:** Forests and patience.
  - **Marutham:** Farmlands and marital relationships.
  - **Neithal:** Seashores and longing.
  - **Palai:** Deserts and separation.
- **Puram (Exterior):** Focuses on valor, generosity, and societal values. Themes include:
  - **War:** Valor in battle.
  - **Philanthropy:** Acts of kings and leaders.

### Hospitality (Virundhombal)

- Central to Tamil culture since the Sangam period.
- Poems highlight the importance of serving food to visitors before eating oneself.
- **Thirukkural** emphasizes hospitality:  
*"Even the nectar of immortality is worthless without hospitality."*
- Examples:
  - Sangam poems describe offering fresh food even late at night.
  - Travelers were always welcomed with respect and kindness.

### Generosity (Vallanmai)

- Seen as a virtue for rulers and commoners.
- Famous kings like Karikala Chola, Chera Senguttuvan, and Kadungal Chola were celebrated for their philanthropy.
- Literary works highlight rulers who shared wealth selflessly.

### Literary Significance

- The Sangam literature, including **Ettuthogai** and **Pathuppaattu**, portrays:
  - Social, economic, and cultural aspects of Tamil society.
  - High moral values like hospitality and generosity.

### The Grandeur of Tamil Culture and the Significance of Temples

**1. Tamil's Cultural and Civilizational Contributions:**

- Tamil culture is recognized for its excellence and has been universally acknowledged by historians.
- Tamil civilization's contribution to Indian culture is immeasurable, influencing both regional and global practices.

**2. Linguistic Contribution of Tamil:**

- Tamil, a major Dravidian language, has a rich linguistic legacy that extends across multiple languages and regions of India.
- Tamil words and expressions have spread to several countries, influencing diverse cultures and civilizations.

**3. Cultural Importance of Temples:**

- Temples in Tamil Nadu have been central to cultural and spiritual development for centuries.
- They served as centers for religious education, intellectual activities, and artistic expression.
- Temples have showcased the art of sculpture, music, dance, and architecture, contributing to cultural heritage during the reign of the Pandya, Pallava, Chola, and Vijayanagara dynasties.

**4. Temples as Centers for Social and Spiritual Growth:**

- Temples provided spaces for spiritual elevation and social unity.
- They were centers for religious discourses and cultural programs, fostering intellectual and spiritual upliftment.
- People from all walks of life gathered at temples, encouraging societal harmony and shared purpose.

**5. Sculptural and Architectural Excellence in Temples:**

- Tamil Nadu temples are famous for their intricate sculptures of gods, goddesses, and mythological stories.
- The towers (Gopurams) and the carvings on temple walls depict narratives from sacred texts like the Puranas and Epics.
- These sculptures are prime examples of the region's artistic and cultural prowess.

**6. Temples as Social Hubs:**

- Temples were more than places of worship; they served as social centers where cultural, religious, and community events took place.
- Festivals, weddings, and public celebrations often occurred in temple halls, making them the focal points of social life.

**7. Temples Promoting Humanism and Social Service:**

- Temples encouraged values like compassion, love, sacrifice, and service to the community.
- They helped individuals rise above material existence and connect with higher spiritual goals.
- Temples acted as platforms for cultural exchange and personal growth.

**8. Temples and the Sense of Unity:**

- Temples promoted social cohesion by serving as a place where people from all backgrounds could come together.
- They played a vital role in fostering unity, spiritual enrichment, and cultural harmony.

## Tamil Dance and Temple Art Forms

- **Traditional Dance and Sculptures:**

- Tamil temples have been the birthplace of intricate dance forms, sculptures, and artistic expressions.
- Temples continue to serve as places where Tamil culture thrives, with dance performances and sculpture being sent worldwide.

## Significance of Painting and Sculptures

- **Painting before Language:**

- Paintings existed even before written language, and still today, pictorial symbols are used in languages like Japanese and Chinese.
- Ancient Tamils painted caves and temples, preserving stories from epics and mythologies.
- The Great Temple of Thanjavur showcases historical paintings and sculptures that narrate the history of the region.

## Importance of Traditional Dance Forms (Nattiyam)

- **Tamil Contribution to Dance:**

- Tamils were pioneers in the art of dance, combining it with music.
- "Silappathikaram" describes various forms of dance, including the therapeutic aspects like relieving stress and offering joy.

- **Temples as Dance Venues:**

- Temples had platforms for dance, with women performing on temple grounds, mandapams, and terraces.
- Dance is seen as a spiritual act, expressing devotion, as seen in the worship of deities like Lord Muruga and Lord Shiva through dances like "Tandavam."

## Dancing as Devotion:

- **Deities and Dance:**

- Both Shaiva and Vaishnava saints praised dance as an offering to the divine.
- The concept of Lord Nataraja, the dancing form of Shiva, showcases dance as an integral part of spiritual devotion.
- Tamil temples have witnessed many dance performances that helped spread devotion among the masses.

## Festivals in Tamil Nadu:

- **Tamil Festivals and Prosperity:**
  - Tamil people have always celebrated prosperity through festivals, based on agricultural cycles and the worship of deities.
  - The **Pongal** festival is an important celebration in Tamil Nadu, honoring the Sun God and celebrating the harvest.
- **Significance of Agriculture and Worship:**
  - Harvest and agricultural prosperity are celebrated, with rituals and prayers directed towards deities like the Sun for favorable crops and rainfall.
  - The Tamil festivals, especially **Pongal**, are celebrated across India with regional variations like **Makar Sankranti** in the North.

## Rural Games:

- The ancient Tamil people played various rural games, many of which continue today.
- **Jallikattu**, a traditional bull-taming game, is highlighted as an important ancient game. In the Sangam era, it involved taming wild bulls and offering women as prizes. This game is still celebrated during the **Pongal** festival in Tamil Nadu.

## Ancient Festivals and Cultural Practices:

- **Indra Festival:** This festival, held during the spring season, was dedicated to worshiping the rain god Indra. People celebrated it with joy and abundance.
- **Sangam Era Festivals:** Literary works like **Silappatikaram** offer valuable insights into the grandeur of these ancient festivals.

## Tamil Cultural Contributions:

- **Thirukkural:** An important contribution from the Tamils, the Thirukkural is regarded as a significant cultural gift.
- **Siddha Medicine:** The ancient Tamil people practiced Siddha medicine for maintaining health and wellness.
- **Tamil Music (Tamil Isai):** Tamil music is a core part of Tamil culture, showcasing emotional depth and artistic expression.

## Valor and Respect:

- **Martial Games:** Games such as **Jallikattu** reflect the valor of ancient Tamils.
- **Honor (Maanam):** The Tamil people deeply respected honor, with phrases like "the life of hair is more valuable than life itself" illustrating the high regard they placed on dignity and respect.



### Tamil Ethics and Arts:

- **Bharatanatyam:** Tamil Nadu is known for its classical dance form **Bharatanatyam**, which has flourished not only in India but also internationally.
- **Hand Gestures (Hastam):** The importance of **hastam** (hand gestures) in Bharatanatyam, which convey meaning and beauty, is emphasized. These gestures play a significant role in the dance's expression.

### Ancient Tamil Etiquette and Virtues:

- **Hospitality:** Ancient Tamils were renowned for their hospitality, treating guests with great respect and joy.
- **Friendship:** Friendship was valued as one of the highest forms of relationship, considered even more important than life itself.
- **Love:** Tamil literature used the concept of love as a symbol of affection and care for others.

### Historical Origin of Drama in Tamil:

- Tamil drama's roots are traced back to ancient traditions, with terms like "aadhal" (dance) and "koodal" (dance and dialogue) found in Sangam texts.
- Drama evolved from rituals like worship, victory celebrations, and community events.
- During the Chola and Pandya reigns, drama was supported with rewards and land grants for artists.
- The 17th and 18th centuries saw the emergence of different types of dramas like "Pallu", "Kuravanchi", "Nondi", and "Keerthana".

### Modern Drama's Emergence:

- Modern Indian drama was influenced by European colonial rule and educational reforms in the 19th century.
- Tamil drama was shaped by these external influences, leading to changes in structure, stage design, and themes.
- Key figures like Sankaradas Swamigal, Bammal Sambandhanar, and Parithimarkalai created innovations in Tamil theatre.
- Dramas focused more on contemporary social issues and less on traditional themes.

### Important Milestones:

- In 1946, the first silent play "Amai" was written by Bharathidasan.
- Post-Independence, social reform plays began addressing issues of caste and equality.
- The Dravidian Movement and Periyar's ideas laid the foundation for social reform plays in Tamil theatre.

**Modern Drama Development:**

- Towards the late 20th century, Tamil drama witnessed a revival.
- New plays focused on social issues and real-life struggles, reflecting the changing socio-political landscape.
- Dramas became more experimental with the inclusion of street plays and political themes.

**The Role of Drama Training:**

- Various workshops and theatre training institutes contributed to the growth of modern Tamil drama.
- The National Theatre School and workshops like those held in 1977, 1978, and 1980 helped spread modern theatrical techniques.
- In the 1980s, several modern Tamil theatre groups like "Koothu Patarai" and "Pariksha" emerged.

**Influence of Small Magazines:**

- Magazines like Kollipavai, Vaikai, and Visigal played a key role in publishing articles and reviews on theatre.
- These magazines helped modern theatre flourish by promoting discussions on plays and performances.

**University Involvement:**

- In the 1990s, universities like those in Thanjavur, Puducherry, and Madurai started theatre departments.
- As a result, many new modern theatre groups were formed, such as "Aadugalam", "Yavanika", and "Arangam".

**Modern Drama's Key Objective:**

- Modern drama focused on portraying social issues realistically without a grand, unrealistic stage setting.
- The primary objective was to address contemporary problems, engaging audiences in meaningful dialogue.
- **Kootu Pattarai:**
  - Founded by N. Muthusamy in 1977 in Chennai, with the support of organizations like the Indian Ministry of Culture, UNESCO, Ford Foundation, and Max Mueller Bhavan.
  - It focuses on enhancing traditional art forms, including dance, yoga, Silambam, deity rituals, and meditation, alongside theatrical training.
  - Over 40 plays have been staged, including notable works like *Naarkaalikaara*, *England*, *Natrunaiyappan*, and *Kaandavavan Thaganam*.
- **Nija Nataka Iyakkam:**

- Founded in 1978 by M. Ramaswamy in Madurai, initially performing outdoor plays. It later moved to stage performances.
- The group introduced traditional arts to urban audiences, performing notable plays like *Durkira Avalam*, *Saabam Vimosanam*, and *Kalakkakar Thozhar Periyar*.
- **Pariksha:**
  - Founded by Gnani in 1978 in Chennai, the group focused on experimental modern theater.
  - It has staged plays like *Patthaal Sarkkar*, *Pertoled Brect*, and works by Vijay Tendulkar.
- **Chennai Kalaikuzhu:**
  - Focuses on educational and social issues through simple, rural-themed plays. They have staged *Valliyin Vazhkkku* and *Kolli Vai*.
- **Palkalai Mandram:**
  - This group, involving trained actors, has performed plays like *Ekalai Van*, *Oru Payanathin Kadhai*, and *Deenipor*.
- **Koottukural:**
  - Founded in the 1990s by A. Ramasamy in Pondicherry, it is known for environmental and Dalit-themed plays.
  - Major works include *Nyayangal*, *Thiruppikkodu*, and *Sarpiyin Nagaram*.
- **Mounakural:**
  - Led by A. Mangai, this group focuses on plays addressing various women's issues, with notable works like *Kaala Kanavu*, *Ovai*, and *Kurinchipattu*.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi:**
  - A national institution under the Ministry of Culture, formed in 1952 in New Delhi, focusing on promoting music, dance, and drama. It helps produce plays reflecting traditional stories and epic narratives.
- **National School of Drama:**
  - Established in 1959, the National School of Drama provides formal theater education to individuals from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds across India.
- **Tamil Nadu Iyalisai Nataka Mandram:**
  - A state organization promoting the welfare of artists through financial support, awards, and grants to theater groups and individual performers.

## Pallava Architecture

1. **Beginning of Temple Sculpture Art:**
  - The Pallava period marks the beginning of temple sculpture art in Tamil Nadu.
  - King Mahendravarman I initiated the creation of the first stone sculptures, especially door guardians (Dwarapalakas) in temples.
2. **Sculpture and Architecture:**
  - **Pallava Sculpture:**
    - Early sculptures in Mamallapuram, such as the "Bhagiratha's Penance" sculpture, depict mythological events.

- Sculptures of gods, kings, and queens were commonly created during this period.
- **Pallava Architecture:**
  - Divided into three major styles:
    - **Cave Temples:** Rock-cut temples built under King Mahendravarman I.
    - **Monolithic Rathes (Chariots):** Monolithic structures carved out of rock, seen during Narasimhavarman I's reign.
    - **Structural Temples:** Evolved later under Rajasimha and Nandivarman.
- 3. **Major Sculptural Sites:**
  - Mamallapuram: Known for monumental sculptures like the "Bhagiratha's Penance" and the five Pandava Rathes (Chariots).
  - Nammakal mountain range: Features temples and sculptures dedicated to Perumal (Vishnu) and Narasimha.
- 4. **Economic Contributions:**
  - Agriculture was a key aspect of the economy, with taxes levied on produce and professions.
  - Trade flourished through Mamallapuram, with connections to Southeast Asia.
  - Kanchipuram emerged as a major commercial and educational hub.
- 5. **Literature and Culture:**
  - **Literature:**
    - King Mahendravarman I wrote the Sanskrit play *Mattavilasa Prahasana*.
    - Tamil and Sanskrit texts like the *Dasakumaracharita* by Dandin, and the *Devarnam* by Tamil saints were created.
  - **Religious and Cultural Development:**
    - The period saw significant growth in both Tamil and Sanskrit literature, particularly in religious texts.
- 6. **Artistic Achievements:**
  - Sculptures known for fluidity, lifelike qualities, and intricate details.
  - Relief sculptures depicted gods, deities, and mythological stories.
  - Monolithic chariots (Panchapandava Rathes) were carved from single pieces of rock, showcasing Pallava craftsmanship.
- 7. **Pallava's Legacy:**
  - The Pallava dynasty laid the foundation for future developments in Indian architecture, sculpture, literature, and commerce.

### Cultural contributions of the Pallava dynasty :

1. **Tamil and Sanskrit Literature:**
  - Both Tamil and Sanskrit literature flourished during the Pallava period.
  - The Tamil literature saw significant contributions from **Nayanmars** and **Azhwars**, fostering the growth of Shaivism and Vaishnavism.
2. **Kalambakam Literary Form:**

- The **Kalambakam** literary genre emerged, with **Nandi Kalambakam** being a prominent example.
  - This marked a new wave in Tamil literary forms during the Pallava period.
3. **Dravidian Art Style:**
- **Dravidian style temples** were constructed, featuring architectural designs that influenced later Chola architecture.
  - These temples showcased unique features that set the stage for future architectural developments.
4. **Patronage of Arts:**
- The Pallava kings were great patrons of arts and literature, supporting various forms of artistic expression.
  - They were instrumental in the advancement of temple sculpture, architecture, and literature.
5. **Women in Religious Practices:**
- The worship of female deities like **Saptamathar** and **Jesthadevi** gained prominence during this time.
  - Women's religious practices became an essential part of Pallava culture.
6. **Temples and Monolithic Rathes:**
- The Pallavas introduced **cave temples** and **monolithic raths** (chariots) carved out of single rock masses, showcasing their architectural brilliance.
  - These structures were integral to the religious and cultural landscape of the region.
7. **Introduction of Ganapati Worship:**
- The worship of **Lord Ganapati (Ganesha)**, known as **Kanapathiyam**, was introduced during the Pallava period, adding to the religious diversity in Tamil Nadu.

## Chola Dynasty and its Culture

**Chola Kingdom:** Dominant dynasty in Tamil Nadu, known for its influence from the 9th century CE, ruling over the fertile Kaveri river basin, also called "Chola Nadu."

1. **Key Rulers:** Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I expanded the empire from Odisha to Southeast Asia, known for their naval strength and conquests.
2. **Maritime Power:** Cholas were known for their strong navy, extending their empire to the Ganges in the north and the Malay Peninsula in the southeast.
3. **Sources of History:** Information comes from inscriptions, copper plates, epigraphs, literary works, and archaeological findings like coins and temples.
4. **Chola Administration:** Monarchy system with structured governance, officials for land revenue collection, military, and peacekeeping. Kings were titled "Sakkaravarthi" or "Raja Kesari."
5. **Village Administration:** Villages had elected councils (e.g., "Kudavolai" system), highlighting local governance and community participation.

6. **Economic Structure:** Agriculture was central; farmers were highly valued. Trade and commerce flourished, with merchants organized in guilds like "Manikgramathar" (town traders) and "Valanjiyar" (caravan traders).
7. **Education and Literature:** Temples were learning hubs, teaching Tamil, Sanskrit, Vedas, and grammar. Writers like Auvaiyar contributed to Tamil literature.
8. **Arts and Culture:** Flourishing of Chola architecture with temples like Brihadeeswarar Temple, along with sculptures, paintings, and rich cultural traditions.
9. **Social Structure:** Hierarchical society with Brahmins at the top, followed by farmers, traders, soldiers, and artisans. Land was often given to Brahmins by kings.
10. **Women's Role:** Women participated in religious ceremonies and held some authority in society.
11. **Religion:** Shaivism was the dominant religion, with many temples dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu, which were also centers of education and administration.
12. **Architectural Achievements:** Notable temples like Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur, showcasing intricate design and architectural prowess.

### Chola Dynasty's Contribution to Indian Culture

1. **Successor Selection:** When a Chola king had no heir, a member of the royal family or someone deemed fit was chosen as the successor. This practice of appointing a ruler based on capability, rather than inheritance, was a valuable contribution to Indian culture.
2. **Village Administration:** The system of electing members for village assemblies using the "Kudavolai" method (a form of election) was a significant contribution to Indian culture, promoting participatory governance.
3. **Institutional Practices:** The family-based administrative structure, implemented during the Chola period, served as the foundation for modern-day local governance structures like village councils and local bodies.
4. **Land Measurement and Revenue:** The Cholas introduced land measurement and tax categorization, with land classified based on quality. Rajaraja Chola I was especially famous for this, earning the title "Ulagalandha Chola" (The Chola who measured the world).
5. **Literary Contributions:** The Chola period saw the creation of significant Tamil literary works, including the five great epics (Aimpéruṁ Kāpiyam), grammatical texts, and dictionaries, which are considered valuable cultural contributions to Indian literature.
6. **Divine Texts:** The "Nalayira Divya Prabandham," a collection of hymns compiled by Nathamuni, is one of the most important literary contributions from the Chola period, enriching both Tamil literature and Indian spiritual heritage.
7. **Water Management:** The Cholas constructed several tanks and reservoirs like the "Kulothunga Chola Pereri" and "Rajendra Chola Pereri," which were instrumental in managing water resources for agriculture and urban life.
8. **Teacher Selection and Qualifications:** The Chola period emphasized the importance of selecting qualified teachers. Educational institutions during the era outlined the qualifications and duties of teachers, highlighting the value placed on education.

9. **Educational Advancements:** The Cholas contributed to the development of education, including religious education (Vedantic studies) and medical education, which became a part of Indian cultural heritage.

## Contributions of Later Pandya Kings to Indian Culture

1. **Temple Architecture:** During the reign of the later Pandyas, temple architecture flourished. They constructed towering gopurams, sanctums, artha mandapams, maha mandapams, and pillared halls. Temples like the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai, Nellaiappar Temple, and the Azhagar Temple in Tenkasi are prime examples.
2. **Religious Patronage:** Like the Cholas, the Pandyas also contributed to the Vaishnavism and Buddhism. Kings such as Vikrama Pandya and Kulasekara Pandya provided donations to Vaishnavite temples and helped organize religious festivals.
3. **Music and Art:** The later Pandyas played a significant role in the development of music and the arts. Instruments like veeramathalam, mathalam, thipilai, and semakkalam were widely used in temples, indicating the advancement of music during their reign.
4. **Theater Arts:** The Pandya rulers promoted theater arts, and dramas were performed in temples. The "Azhagiya Pandiyan Koodam" was a famous stage for performances, and actors were honored with titles such as "Koothukani" for dancers.
5. **Education and Knowledge:** During the Pandya reign, education was prioritized. Libraries like the "Saraswati Pandaram" were established, promoting the study of Vedas and Puranas. They also provided free food to students and gave training in administrative governance.
6. **Travel Accounts:** Foreign travelers and scholars contributed valuable records about the political, social, and cultural life of the period. The travel notes of Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo, Niccolò de' Conti, and others provide insights into the society and governance of the time.
7. **Water Management:** The Pandyas were known for constructing reservoirs and irrigation systems to aid agriculture. Their expertise in water management ensured the sustainability of agriculture in their kingdoms.

## Sculptural Art of the Chola, Vijayanagar, and Nayaka Periods

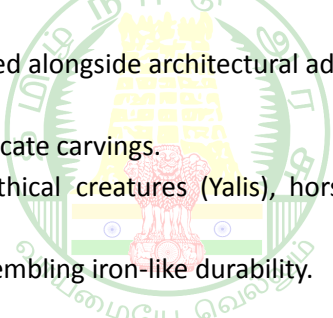
### Chola Period Sculptural Art

1. **Development from Pallava Sculptures:**
  - Pallava's low-relief sculptures evolved into Chola's high-relief and full-body sculptures.
  - Chola sculptures reached artistic excellence during this period.
2. **Widespread Artistic Development:**
  - Tamil Nadu, Khajuraho, Udayagiri, and Bhubaneshwar saw significant advancements in sculpture.
3. **Characteristics of Chola Sculptures:**
  - High crowns and slender body proportions.
  - Later Chola sculptures featured rich ornaments and decorations.



- Rounded facial features and slightly stout body structures.
- 4. **Prominent Examples:**
  - **Rajaraja Chola's Brihadeeswarar Temple:**
    - Buddha sculptures beneath the southern gateway.
    - Jain sculptures on the vimana.
    - Second-largest Nandi statue in India.
  - **Darasuram Temple (Rajendra Chola II):**
    - Features 90 sculptures depicting the lives of Nayanmars.
- 5. **Bronze Sculptures:**
  - Tamil Nadu's contribution to world art through bronze (Chola Nataraja).
  - Bronze art flourished under Vijayalaya, Parantaka, Sembiyan Mahadevi, and Rajaraja I.
  - Gifted as offerings to temples, as evident from inscriptions and copper plates.
- 6. **Chola Legacy:**
  - Influenced Pandya sculptural art, which continued the tradition.
  - Pandya sculptures focused on temple exterior walls and refinement.

### Vijayanagar and Nayaka Period Sculptural Art

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- 1. **Integration with Architecture:**
    - Sculptural art flourished alongside architectural advancements during these periods.
  - 2. **Characteristics:**
    - Pillared halls with intricate carvings.
    - Themes included mythical creatures (Yalis), horses, human figures, and stories from mythology.
    - Robust sculptures resembling iron-like durability.
  - 3. **Stylistic Features:**
    - Sharpened nose and rounded stomach in human figures.
    - Sculptures adorned with ornaments and decorations.
  - 4. **Themes and Practices:**
    - Hunting, folk dances, and snake charmer dances depicted in temple sculptures.
    - Examples:
      - Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple.
      - Rameswaram Ramanathaswamy Temple.
  - 5. **Sculptural Materials:**
    - Modern sculptures utilize wax, sand, and glass, continuing the artistic tradition.

### Bhakti Literature

Bhakti literature holds a significant place in Tamil literary tradition, emerging from the Bhakti movement that spread across South India. Bhakti, meaning devotion, represents an intense, personal love for the divine. Tamil Bhakti literature has flourished since the Sangam era and continues to influence Tamil culture, religion, and literature profoundly.



## The Origin of Bhakti Literature

The Bhakti movement brought a new dimension to Tamil literature, emphasizing devotion and love for God.

1. **Musical Composition:**

Bhakti literature often took the form of songs that were easy to sing and remember, making them accessible to all, regardless of education.

2. **Support from Pallava Kings:**

The Pallava rulers patronized the Bhakti movement, leading to its flourishing.

3. **Influence of Sanskrit:**

Sanskrit words and concepts found their way into Tamil Bhakti literature, enriching its vocabulary and scope.

## Bhakti Literature in Tamil Nadu

- During the Sangam era, Tamil literature focused on love and nature. Bhakti literature introduced divine love and celebrated the beauty of temples and the environment surrounding them.
- Tamil Nadu's existing religious practices and the ethical philosophies of Jainism and Buddhism influenced the development of Bhakti literature.

## Key Figures of the Bhakti Movement

1. **Nayanmars (Saivite Saints):**

- Poets like Thirunavukkarasar (Appar), Thirugnanasambandar, and Sundarar wrote hymns praising Lord Shiva.

2. **Alvars (Vaishnavite Saints):**

- Saints such as Periyalvar, Andal, and Kulasekara Alvar composed verses devoted to Lord Vishnu.

3. **Manickavasagar:**

- His work, *Thiruvvasagam*, is considered a masterpiece of devotion.

## Bhakti Literature

1. **Panniru Thirumurai (Twelve Sacred Collections):**

- *Tevaram* by Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar.
- *Thiruvvasagam* by Manickavasagar.
- *Thirumandiram* by Thirumoolar.
- *Periyapuranam* by Sekkizhar, which chronicles the lives of 63 Nayanmars.

2. **Nalayira Divya Prabandham (Four Thousand Divine Hymns):**

- Composed by 12 Alvars, these hymns are considered the Tamil Veda.

## Characteristics of Bhakti Literature

1. **Primacy of Love:**  
Bhakti literature celebrates love as the highest form of connection with the divine.
2. **Simple Language:**  
Written in a style that appealed to both the learned and the common folk.
3. **Transcendence of Religion:**  
While focusing on Shaivism and Vaishnavism, Bhakti literature also accommodated ideas from Islam and Christianity in later centuries.
4. **Moral Teachings:**  
These works emphasized righteousness and devotion as pathways to spiritual fulfillment.

## Contributions of Various Religions

1. **Jainism and Buddhism:**  
These faiths influenced Tamil ethical and ascetic practices.
2. **Islam:**  
Islamic devotional poetry, translated into Tamil, enriched the Bhakti tradition.
3. **Christianity:**  
Christian missionaries composed Tamil devotional hymns from the 15th century onward.

## Cultural Significance

Bhakti literature has had a profound impact on Tamil life, touching upon every aspect of culture, music, and philosophy. These compositions continue to inspire spiritual practices and reflect the moral and ethical values of Tamil society.

## Tamil Prose Literature and Novels:

### 1. Historical Background

- Tamil prose traces back to **Tolkappiyam**, with its theories on prose and poetry.
- Comprehensive prose literature emerged prominently after Western literary influence.

### 2. Introduction of Novels

- The novel as a form gained prominence with European influence.
- Early Tamil novels often explored personal histories and societal relationships.

### 3. First Tamil Novel

- **Prathapa Mudaliar Charithram** (1879) by Mayuram Vedanayagam Pillai was the first Tamil novel.

#### 4. Early Novelists and Works

- **Rajam Iyer:** *Kamalammbal Charithram* (1896).
- **A. Madhaviah:** *Padmavathi Charithram* (1898) and *Muthu Meenakshi*, focusing on social reform.
- Writers like **Vaduvur Duraisamy**, **Arani Kuppusamy**, and **J.R. Ranganayaki** contributed to early novels.

#### 5. Women-Centric Novels

- Vai. Mu. Kodhai Nayaki Ammal wrote novels targeting women readers.

#### 6. Revolution by Kalki

- **Kalki Krishnamurthy** introduced Indian nationalism, Tamil cultural pride, and social reform in novels like:
  - *Thiyaga Bhoomi*
  - *Alai Osai*
  - *Kalvanin Kadali*
  - *Ponniyin Selvan*
  - *Parthiban Kanavu*
  - *Sivagamiyin Sabatham*

#### 7. Genres in Tamil Novels

- **Historical Novels:**
  - Focus on historical events and characters.
  - Examples: *Ponniyin Selvan* (Kalki), *Rajathilagam* (Sandilyan), *Cheramaan Kaadhali* (Kannadasan).
- **Idealistic Novels:**
  - Promote social reform and values like patriotism and equality.
  - Examples:
    - *Desa Bakthan Kandan* (Kashi Venkatramani).
    - *Agal Vilakku* and *Nenjal Oru Mul* (Mu. Varadarasanar).
- **Modern Novels:**
  - Address contemporary challenges and the complexities of daily life.
  - Examples: *Azhiya Kolangal* and *Naagammal* (R. Shanmugasundaram).
- **Progressive Novels:**
  - Inspired by Russian literature, focusing on social liberation and workers' struggles.
  - Examples:
    - *Panjum Pasiyum* (T.M.C. Raghunathan).
    - *Oru Manithan Oru Veedu Oru Ulakam* (Jayakanthan).
- **Regional Dialect Novels:**
  - Highlight specific regions and cultures using local dialects.

- Showcase the diversity of Tamil life and literature.

## 8. Themes of Tamil Novels

- Nationalism, cultural pride, and social reform.
- Representation of regional culture and dialects.
- Depictions of struggles for equality and justice.
- Psychological depth and human complexities in modern novels.

## 9. Progressive Writers

- Writers like **Jayakanthan** advanced themes of social change and realism, focusing on societal struggles and collective ownership.

## "Yaadhum Oore, Yaavarum Kelir" ("Every place is my home, and everyone is my kin.")

This phrase, attributed to Tamil poet **Kaniyan Pungundranar** from the Sangam-era work *Purananuru*, embodies the concept of universal brotherhood and cosmopolitanism

### 1. Universal Brotherhood:

- "*Every village is my village, and every person is my kin*"—This sentiment emphasizes that humanity transcends boundaries like region, caste, religion, or nationality. Treating everyone with equality and compassion fosters unity.

### 2. Internal Source of Emotions:

- You pointed out that happiness, sorrow, agony, and relief all stem from within us, not from external circumstances. The poem echoes this idea by showing how wise individuals understand life as a self-contained journey.

### 3. Acceptance of Life's Duality:

- Life is a blend of joy and sorrow, just as day follows night. The poem's analogy of rafts tossed in a river encapsulates this inevitability, teaching us to accept both happiness and grief without overreacting to either.

### 4. Equality in Perception:

- Idolizing the powerful or dismissing the less fortunate creates a false hierarchy. As you pointed out, viewing everyone with equanimity eliminates biases and fosters a more harmonious world.

### 5. The Timelessness of Wisdom:

- That this ideology was expressed more than 2,000 years ago in *Purananooru* showcases the enduring relevance of Tamil literature. The beauty of its expression—both poetic and profound—is indeed "magic," as you described.

### Practice Questions:

1. What contributions did the Cholas make to temple architecture?
2. What were the common themes explored in early Tamil novels?

