

### Sangam Age - The Dawn of History in the Deep South

### The Megalithic Background

Megalith graves were encircled by big pieces of stones. They also contained pottery and iron objects buried with the corpse. They are found in the upland regions of Peninsula with the concentration in Eastern Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

### State formation and the rise of civilization

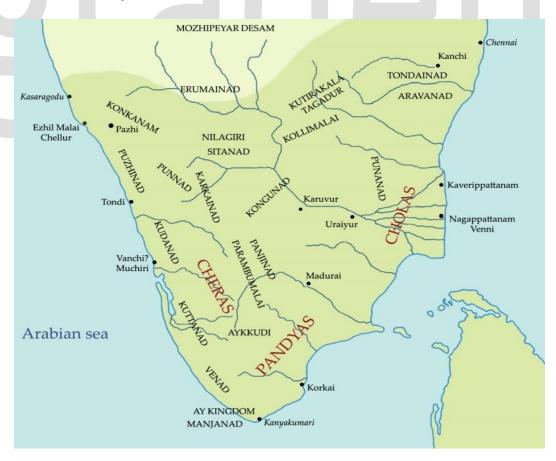
The megalithic people started to reclaim the fertile deltaic lands. The route to the south is called as *Dakshinapatha* which became economically important.

Megasthenes knew about Pandyas while Ashokan inscriptions mention about Cholas, Pandyas, Keralaputras and Satyaputras

Flourishing trade with Roman empire led to the formation of these three states i.e., Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas

# **Sangam Period**

Sangam period is the period in the history of ancient Tamil Nadu spanning from c. 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to c. 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. It is named after the famous Sangam academies of poets and scholars centred in the city of Madurai.









# Three early kingdoms

Kingdom	Capital	Port	Emblem	Famous Ruler
Cheras	Vanji – Modern Kerala	Muzuri and Tondi	Bow	Senguttuvan
Cholas	Uraiyur and Puhar	Kaveripatinam/Puhar. They had an efficient Navy	Tiger	Karikalan
Pandyas	Madurai	Korkai for Pearl Fishing	Fish	Nedunzheriyan

### Cheras

- They had Palmyra flowers as their Garland
- Pugalur inscriptions mention of three generations of Cheras
- Senguttuvan introduced Pattni cult or Worship of Kannagi as ideal wife

### **Cholas**

• Karikalan built Kallanai (Check dam) against River Kaveri

## **Pandyas**

- Maduraikkanji written by Mangudi Maruthanar describes the socio-economic conditions of the Pandyas
- Invasion by Kalbharas led to their decline

These kingdoms had a profitable trade with the Roman empire. They produced Pepper, Ivory, Pearls, Precious stones, Muslin, Silk, Cotton etc. which led to prosperity in their region.

## Rise of social classes

- Enadi captains of the army
- Vellalas Rich peasants
- Arasar ruling class
- Kadaisiyar the lowest class
- Pariyars agricultural labourers

# Four castes mentioned in Tolkappiyam

- Arasar Ruling class
- Anthanar Brahmanas
- Vanigar People involved in Trade and Commerce
- Vellalar Labourers

### Five-fold division of land

Land	Type of land	Chief deity	Chief occupation
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Kurunji	Hilly tracts	Murugan	Hunting and honey collection
Mullai	Pastoral	Mayon	Cattle rearing and dealing with dairy products
Marudham	Agricultural	Indira	Agricultural
Neidhal	Coastal	Varunan	Fishing and salt manufacturing
Palai	Desert	Korravai	Robbery

# **Sangam administration**

- **Avai** the imperial court
- Kodimaram tutelary tree of every ruler
- Panchmahasabha
  - 1. Amaichar ministers
  - 2. Senatipathiar Army chief
  - 3. Otrar Spy
  - 4. Thoodar Envoy
  - 5. Purohitar Priest
- Kingdom's division
  - 1. Mandalam/Nadu Province
  - 2. Ur town
  - 3. Perur Big village
  - 4. Sitrur Small village

# Sangams

Sangam	Place	Chairman	<b>Surviving texts</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Then-Madurai	Agasthiyar	Nil
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kapadapuram	Agasthiyar and Tolkappiyar	Tolkappiyam
3 <sup>rd</sup> Madurai		Founder - Mudathirumaran	Ettutogai, Pattu Pattu (10 idylls)
		Nakkirar	

# **Tamil language and Sangam literature**

- Narrative Ettutogai and Pattupattu which are called Melkankakku 18 Major works. They are divided into Agam (love) and Puram (Valour)
- **Didactive** Pathinenkilkanakku 18 minor works. They deal with Ethics and Morals.
- Thirukkural Written by Thiruvalluvar is a treatise covering various aspects of life.
- **Tolkappiyam** by Tolkappiyar is the earliest of Tamil literature. It is a work on Tamil Grammar but also provides information on Political and Social conditions of Sangam period

### **Epics**

- Silapadhikaram by Elango Adigal
- Manimegalai by Sitthalai Sathanar







- Valayapathi
- Kundalagesi
- Sivaga Sinthamani

# gradeup



