



### Tamizhagam

There were three main kingdom in south India- those of the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas. The occupied the southernmost part of the peninsula. In old Tamil, the region ruled by the three kingdoms was referred to as Tamizhagam, or the Tamil country.

- **The Pandyas:-**The pandyas had their capital at Madurai. One of the most important rulers was Nendunchezhayan.
- **The Cholas:-** The Cholas ruled to the north-east of the pandyan kingdom, between the rivers pannar and velar. Uraiyur was their first capital, which was later shifted to Puhar or Kaveripattinam. Contacts with Sri Lanka known. Watered by the Kaveri, the land of the Cholas was fertile. Elara and Karikala were two powerful Chola rulers. Later the Cholas shifted their capital to Thanjavur.
- **The Cheras :-** The Cheras ruled over the present-day area of Kerala. Senguttuvan was one of their most famous kings. The capital city of the Cheras was Vanchi.

### Sources of Information

The period between 500 BCE and 300 CE is known as the Sangam Age in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil, sangam means 'assembly'. The works of the Sangam poets were compiled in several books. This collection of works came to be called Sangam literature. Several outstanding literary works belong to this period, for example, Tolkkappian, the book of grammar, and Tirukural, the book of wisdom. The Sangam literature gives us a detailed account about the life of the Tamil people 2000 years ago. It describes the armies and battles, merchants and crafts, code of conduct for the rulers and the ruled, and rituals and festivals. A parts Sangam literature, other sources of information about Tamizhagam include inscriptions found in caves, pottery, monument and coins.

### Administration and society during the Sangam Era

In Tamil society, high status was accorded to the verlir or heads of the chiefdoms associated with megalithic burials. As the chiefdoms grew into kingdoms, monarchy became the chosen form of government. The king was the highest authority in the land.

### Occupation and Economy

Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Land was divided on the basis of fertility and environment into hilly tracts, forest land, agricultural land, coastal land and sandy dry region. A variety crops like gram, rice, ragi, sugarcane, fruits, pepper and spices were grown. The dry climate of the region made it necessary to develop an efficient system of irrigation, especially for crops like cotton and rice. Besides farmers, craftsmen seem to have had a high position in society.

### Leisure Activities



## 6<sup>th</sup> – Vital Villages & Thriving Towns - II



From the inscriptions we come to know that the people enjoyed several forms of leisure activities. There are many murals in temples that show men wrestling, doing acrobatics or hunting elephants. Gambling was popular and tax was imposed on it. Bull chasing was another popular sport.

### Religion

Both sects of Hinduism—Vaishnavism and Shaivism—were patronized. Buddhism was also a widespread religion, especially, during the Sangam period.

### Towns and cities of Tamizhagam

In the south, unlike in the north, the main factor for the growth of urban centers was the increasing demands of trade. The capital cities became centers of administration and trade, as in the case of Uraiyur, Maduria and Karur. Arikamedu, located 3 km south of Puduchery was a thriving centre of Indo-Roman trade. Kaveripattinam, or Puhar, located near the Kaveri delta, was nothing important port city. It was also the capital city of the Pandyas. Korkai and Azhagankulam (near the Vaigai river delta) were also port cities of the Pandyas. Evidence of pearl fishing has been found from both these sites.

### The Satavahanas

Between 100 BCE and 220 CE, the Satavahanas ruled over central India. They were also known as the Andhras. Satakarni's empire extended from Malwa in the north to present day Karnataka in the south. The capital of the Satavahanas was Pratishthan on the Godavari. The Satavahanas followed the matrilineal form of society, where a son took on the name of his mother the not the father. Prakrit was a official language of the Satavahanas. And inscriptions were written in the Brahmi script. The Satavahanas encouraged trade laid good roads to make trading easier. They controlled the Dakshinapath, or the road connecting North Indian to South Indian. They mostly issued coins of lead, copper and bronze. Roman coins founds in several part of Andhra point to trade links between the Romans and the Satavahanas. Many terms grew during this period. The rulers were predominantly Vaishnavite (worshippers of Vishnu), but also promoted Buddhism.

