

Sangam Age Free PDF By Governmentadda.com

The period between the 1st century B.C. to the end of 2nd century A.D. in Southern India is known as Sangam Period. It has been named after the Sangam academies during that period.

According to the Tamil legends, there were three Sangams (Academy of Tamil poets) held in the ancient South India popularly called Muchchangam. These Sangams flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.

1. The **First Sangam**, is believed to be held at Madurai, attended by gods and legendary sages. No literary work of this Sangam is available.
2. The **Second Sangam** was held at Kapadapuram, only Tolkappiyam survives from this.
3. The **Third Sangam** at Madurai was founded by Mudathirumaran. A few of these Tamil literary works have survived and are a useful sources to reconstruct the history of the Sangam period.

Sangam Literature:

The Sangam literature includes Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku, and two epics named – Silappathigaram and Manimegalai .

1. Tolkappiyam was authored by Tolkappiyar, it is considered the earliest of Tamil literary work. Though it is a work on Tamil grammar but it also provides insights on the political and socio-economic conditions of the time.
2. Ettutogai (Eight Anthologies) consist of eight works – Aingurunooru, Narrinai, Aganaooru, Purananooru, Kuruntogai, Kalittogai, Paripadal and Padirrupattu.
3. The Pattuppattu (Ten Idylls) consist of ten works – Thirumurugarruppadai, Porunararruppadai, Sirupanarruppadai, Perumpanarruppadai, Mullaippattu, Nedunalvada, Maduraikkanji, Kurinjippattu, Pattinappalai and Malaipadukadam .
4. Pathinenkilkanakku contains eighteen works about ethics and morals. The most important among these works is Tirukkural authored by **Thiruvalluvar**, the tamil great poet and philosopher.



Thiruvalluvar Statue at Kanyakumari

5. The two epics Silappathigaram is written by Elango Adigal and Manimegalai by Sittalai Sattanar. They also provide valuable details about the Sangam society and polity.

Other Sources that give details about the Sangam Period are –

1. the Greek authors like Megasthenes, Strabo, Pliny and Ptolemy mentioning about commercial trade contacts between the West and South India.
2. Also, the Ashokan inscriptions mention about the Chera, Chola and Pandya rulers to the south of Mauryan empire.
3. Another inscription, Hathikumbha inscription of Kharavela of Kalinga also has mention of Tamil kingdoms.

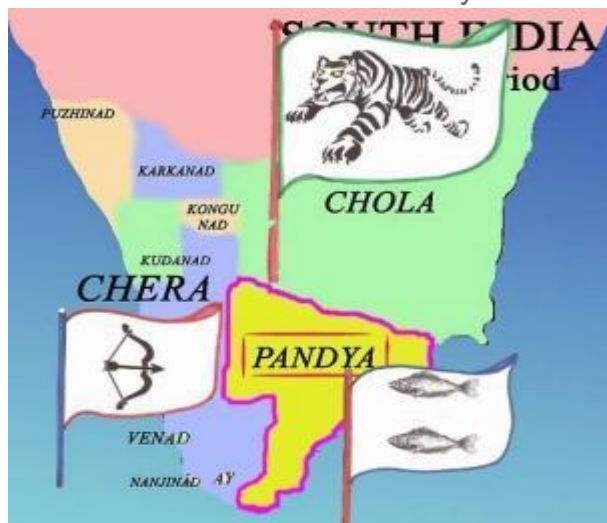
Political History of Sangam Period:

The area lying to the south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra is called South India. During the Sangam Age, it was ruled by three dynasties-the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas. The main source of information about these kingdoms is traced from the literary references of Sangam Period.

Cheras:

The Cheras had their rule over major parts of modern Kerala/ malabar areas.

- The capital of Cheras was Vanji and their important seaports were Tondi and Musiri.
- They had the palmyra flowers as their garland.
- The insignia of Cheras is the "bow and arrow".
- The Pugalur inscription of the 1st century AD has reference to three generations of Chera rulers.
- The important ruler of Cheras was Senguttuvan who belonged to 2nd century A.D.
- His military achievements have been chronicled in epic Silapathikaram, with details about his expedition to the Himalayas where he defeated many north Indian rulers.
- Senguttuvan introduced the Pattini cult or the worship of Kannagi as the ideal wife in Tamil Nadu.
- He was the first to send embassy to China from South India.



Cholas:

The Chola kingdom in the Sangam period extended from Northern Tamil Nadu to southern Andhra Pradesh.

- Their capital was firstly at Uraiyur and later shifted to Puhar(Tanjore).
- King Karikala was a famous king of the Sangam Cholas.
- The insignia of Cholas was “tiger”.
- Pattinappalai portrays his life and military conquests.
- Many Sangam Poems mention the Battle of Venni where he defeated the confederacy of Cheras, Pandyas and eleven minor chieftains.
- He also fought at Vahaipparandalai in which nine enemy chieftains submitted before him.
- Hence, Karikala’s military achievements made him the overlord of the whole Tamil country.
- Therefore, Trade and commerce flourished during his reign.
- He also built irrigation tanks near river Kaveri to provide water for reclaimed land from forest for cultivation.

Pandyas:

The Pandyas ruled over the present day southern Tamil Nadu.

- Their capital was Madurai.
- Their insignia was the “carp”.
- King Neduncheliyan also known as Aryappadai Kadantha Neduncheliyan. He ordered the execution of Kovalan. The curse of Kovalan’s wife-Kannagi burnt and destroyed Madurai.
- Maduraikkanji was written by Mangudi Maruthanar which describes the socio-economic condition of the flourishing seaport of Korkai.

Sangam Polity and administration:

During the Sangam period hereditary monarchy was the form of government. Each of the dynasties of Sangam age had a royal emblem – tiger for the Cholas, carp for the Pandyas, and bow for the Cheras.

- The king was assisted by a wide body of officials who were categorised into five councils.
- They were ministers (amaichar), priests (anthanar), envoys (thuthar), military commanders (senapathi), and spies (orarr).
- The military administration was efficiently organized with each ruler a regular army was associated.
- The chief source of state’s income was Land revenue while a custom duty was also imposed on foreign trade.
- Major source of fulfilling the royal treasury was the booty captured in wars.
- The roads and highways were maintained and guarded to prevent robbery and smuggling.

Position of Women during Sangam Age:

A lot of information is available in the Sangam literature to understand the position of women during the Sangam age.

- There were women poets like Avvaiyar, Nachchellaiyar, and Kakkaipadiniyar who flourished and contributed to Tamil literature.
- Love marriage was a common practice and women were allowed to choose their life partners.
- But, life of widows was miserable.
- There is also a mention about the practice of Sati being prevalent in the higher strata of society.

Economy of the Sangam Age:

- Agriculture was the chief occupation where rice was the most common crop.
- The handicraft included weaving, metal works and carpentry, ship building and making of ornaments using beads, stones and ivory.
- These were in great demand of all above products in the internal and external trade as this was at its peak during the Sangam period.
- A high expertise was attained in spinning and weaving of cotton and silk clothes. Various poems mention of cotton clothes as thin as a cloud of steam or like a slough of snake. These were in great demand in the western world especially for the cotton clothes woven at Uraiyur.
- The port city of Puhar became an important place of foreign trade, as big ships entered this port containing precious goods.
- Other significant ports of commercial activity were Tondi, Musiri, Korkai, Arikkamedu and Marakkanam.
- Many gold and silver coins that were issued by the Roman Emperors like Augustus, Tiberius and Nero have been found in all parts of Tamil Nadu indicating flourishing trade.
- Major exports of the Sangam age were cotton fabrics and spices like pepper, ginger, cardamom, cinnamon and turmeric along with ivory products, pearls and precious stones.
- Major imports for the traders were horses, gold, and sweet wine.

The Sangam Age is associated with which region of ancient India?

- a) Magadha
- b) Maurya
- c) Deccan
- d) Gandhara

Solution: c) Deccan

The Sangam Age is named after the assemblies of poets and scholars called "Sangam." Where were these assemblies held?

- a) Varanasi
- b) Pataliputra
- c) Madurai
- d) Ujjain

Solution: c) Madurai

The Sangam literature was written in which ancient language?

- a) Sanskrit
- b) Prakrit
- c) Tamil
- d) Pali

Solution: c) Tamil

The Sangam Age is believed to have lasted for approximately how many years?

- a) 100 years
- b) 200 years
- c) 300 years
- d) 400 years

Solution: c) 300 years

The three Sangam periods are known as the First Sangam, Second Sangam, and Third Sangam. How many literary works are associated with each period, respectively?

- a) 200, 250, 300
- b) 300, 250, 200
- c) 250, 300, 200
- d) 200, 300, 250

Solution: d) 200, 300, 250

The First Sangam period is believed to have been held under the patronage of which dynasty?

- a) Chola
- b) Pandya
- c) Chera
- d) Pallava

Solution: c) Chera

The famous Tamil epic "Silappadikaram" was composed during which Sangam period?

- a) First Sangam
- b) Second Sangam
- c) Third Sangam
- d) None of the above

Solution: b) Second Sangam

The compilation of the Sangam literature was done by a group of poets known as:

- a) Nayanars
- b) Alvars
- c) Sangam poets
- d) Siddhars

Solution: c) Sangam poets

The Sangam literature provides valuable information about the social, economic, and cultural life of which ancient kingdom?

- a) Maurya Empire
- b) Gupta Empire
- c) Pandya Kingdom
- d) Satavahana Empire

Solution: c) Pandya Kingdom

The Sangam Age witnessed the development of a sophisticated irrigation system known as:

- a) Kuttanad
- b) Eri
- c) Bhandara
- d) Ahar

Solution: b) Eri

Which deity was widely worshiped during the Sangam Age?

- a) Lord Vishnu
- b) Lord Shiva
- c) Goddess Durga
- d) Lord Murugan

Solution: b) Lord Shiva

The Sangam literature mentions the existence of various trade guilds known as:

- a) Sreni
- b) Varna
- c) Jati
- d) Gotra

Solution: a) Sreni

The Sangam Age is known for the flourishing of which art form?

- a) Sculpture
- b) Painting
- c) Dance

d) Music

Solution: d) Music

The famous Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar, author of "Thirukkural," is associated with which Sangam period?

a) First Sangam

b) Second Sangam

c) Third Sangam

d) None of the above

Solution: c) Third Sangam

The Sangam literature provides insights into the governance system of ancient Tamil Nadu, which was known as:

a) Mandalam

b) Janapada

c) Nadu

d) Mahajanapada

Solution: c) Nadu

The Sangam Age witnessed the emergence of a class of warriors and chieftains known as:

a) Pallavas

b) Cholas

c) Velirs

d) Cheras

Solution: c) Velirs

The famous Tamil epic "Manimekalai" is associated with which Sangam period?

a) First Sangam

b) Second Sangam

c) Third Sangam

d) None of the above

Solution: c) Third Sangam

The Sangam literature mentions the existence of a class of bards known as:

- a) Minstrels
- b) Troubadours
- c) Bhaktas
- d) Jogis

Solution: a) Minstrels

The Sangam Age witnessed the development of which form of poetry characterized by brief verses?

- a) Elegy
- b) Epic
- c) Sonnet
- d) Haiku

Solution: d) Haiku

The Sangam Age saw the growth of trade and commerce with which ancient civilization?

- a) Roman Empire
- b) Persian Empire
- c) Chinese Empire
- d) Egyptian Empire

Solution: a) Roman Empire

The Sangam literature mentions the practice of a unique system of land classification known as:

- a) Varman
- b) Karai
- c) Tani
- d) Marakkal

Solution: c) Tani

The Sangam literature mentions the presence of poets and scholars from various communities, including:

- a) Brahmins
- b) Vaishyas

c) Kshatriyas

d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The Sangam Age is considered a period of social harmony and cultural synthesis between which communities?

a) Tamils and Bengalis

b) Tamils and Telugus

c) Tamils and Kannadigas

d) Tamils and Marathis

Solution: b) Tamils and Telugus

The Sangam literature mentions the existence of a class of poets known as:

a) Nayanars

b) Alvars

c) Siddhars

d) Bhaktas

Solution: d) Bhaktas

The Sangam Age witnessed the development of a system of medicine known as:

a) Ayurveda

b) Siddha

c) Unani

d) Homeopathy

Solution: b) Siddha

The famous Tamil epic "Cilappatikaram" was composed during which Sangam period?

a) First Sangam

b) Second Sangam

c) Third Sangam

d) None of the above

Solution: b) Second Sangam

The Sangam literature mentions the existence of a class of merchants known as:

- a) Vanikas
- b) Shudras
- c) Grihasthas
- d) Kshatriyas

Solution: a) Vanikas

The Sangam Age saw the establishment of various cultural centers known as:

- a) Gurukuls
- b) Ashrams
- c) Agraharas
- d) Sabhas

Solution: d) Sabhas

The Sangam literature mentions the importance of which agricultural crop in the economy of ancient Tamil Nadu?

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Millet
- d) Barley

Solution: a) Rice

The Sangam Age is believed to have witnessed the decline of which ancient dynasty?

- a) Chola
- b) Pandya
- c) Chera
- d) Pallava

Solution: c) Chera