PARMAR SSC

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Sangam Age



History of South India

- Time period: 2500-500 BC
- According to historical evidence, South India did not experience a distinct Bronze Age and directly transitioned to Megalithic Age (also known as Iron Age in South India) where there was use of large stone.

Structures found in India



Dolmen (Found in graves)



Menhir

Pottery



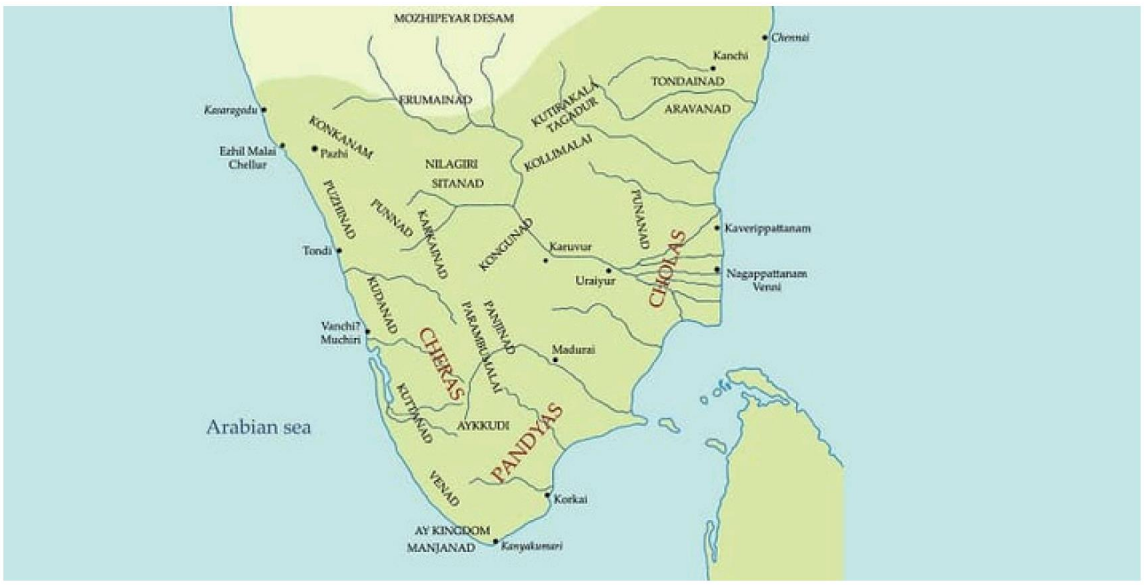
Black and red ware'potteries were used.

Community

- They belonged to pastoral community.
- They knew about agriculture but did not practised it.



The history of South India starts with Chera, Pandya and Chola Dynasty.



SANGAM AGE

- Time Period : 3rd Century BC-3rd Century AD
- Meaning of the term 'Sangam': Assemblies.
- The area lying to the South of Krishna and Tungabhadra.
- A total of 3 Sangams were held and all were patronised by Pandyas
- Assemblies were held at: Tamil Nadu and were known as **Muchchangam**.

The assemblies during Sangam Age were:

Sangam	Place	Chairman
1st	Madurai	Rishi Agastya
2nd	Kapadpuram	Tolkapiyyar
3rd	Madurai	Nakkirar



Sangam Literature

They are in two forms

No text is available for the 1st Sangam.



1. Narrative (story):
They are collectively called Melkannakku →18 major work.
Ex: Ettuthokai, Pattupattu, Pathin etc.

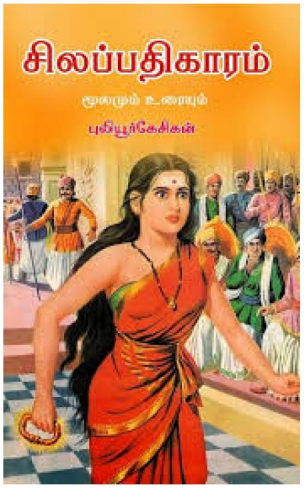
2. Didactic (poetic):
They are collectively called Kilkanakku → 18 minor works (these are about Love (Akam) and War (Puram).
Ex: Tirukkural, Naladiyar, Inna Narpathu.

Tolkapiyyam is the earliest grammatical Tamil text composed by Tolkappiyar in 2nd Sangam.

Epics written during this time

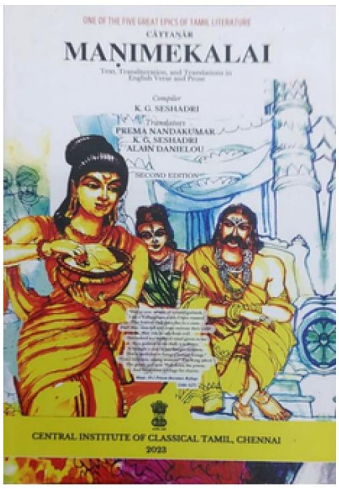
Silapathikaram

It is written by Ilango Adigal that tells about a young merchant Kovalan's marriage to the virtuous Kannagi and his love for the courtesan Madhavi.



Manimekalai

It is written by Chithalai Chathanar which epic story of Kovalan and Madhavi's daughter Manimekalai



Geography

Thinais

- It refers to different types of landscape or geographic divisions of Tamil Nadu.
- Each Thinai had a chief called Muvendar (which was later divided into the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas).

Division of Thinais in five parts:

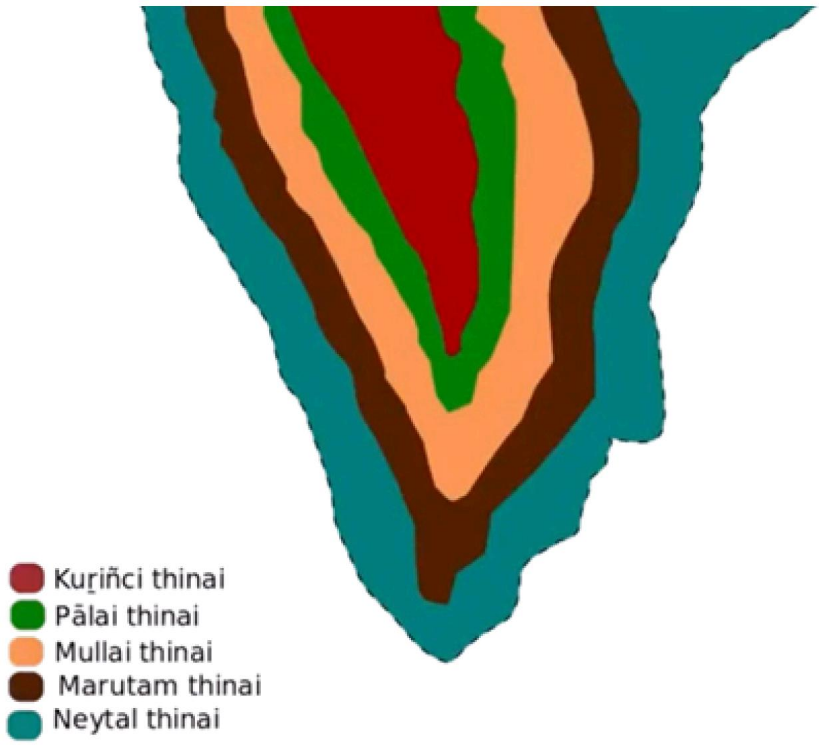
01 Kurinci thinai
They engaged into hunting and gathering.

02 Mullai thinai
They did animal husbandry.

03 Palai thinai
They were cattle lifters and plunderers.

04 Marutam thinai
They engaged in agriculture.

05 Neytal thinai
They did fishing and salt collection.



Cheras

- They were ruling in Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu.
- Capital: Vanji/Vanchi/Karur
- Port cities: Muziris/Muchiris and Tondi (mainly for trading).
- Emblem: Bow and Arrow
- Greatest Chera: Senguttuvan (He is also known as 'Red Chera : He founded Pattini cult.
- They worshipped Kannagi (Goddess of purity and chastity Pattini cult was related to this).
- Pugalar Inscription of Karur, Tamil Nadu mentions about them.

Chola

- Known as 'Cholamandalam' (Coromandels).
- Capital: Puhar and Uraiyur (alternate capital).
- Puhar is a port city and is also known as Kaveripattinam.
- Emblem: Tiger
- Earliest ruler: Elara
- Greatest ruler: Karikala (he fought Battle of Venni along the Kaveri river and also defeated the combined armies of Chera and Pandya)
- They traded in cotton cloth (from Uraiyur).
- They were known for their efficient Naval power.

Pandyas

- They ruled in Tamil Nadu.
- Capital: Madurai (on the banks of Vaigai river)
- Emblem: Fish
- They were the first to be mentioned in Megasthenes book as **"As being famous for their pearl trade"**.
- Port city: Korkai
- They traded with Roman Empire.

Society

Division of Thinais in five parts:

Ruling Classes	Arasar
Traders	Vaishiyar
Rich class	Vellalar (rich landlords)
Lower class	Kadaisiyar/Adimai
Ordinary Ploughmen	Uzhavur



Vatakkiruttal

A defeated king or warrior would commit ritual Suicide by fasting unto death, facing the north, to preserve honor and avoid shame.

Form of Government

During the Sangam period hereditary monarchy was the form of government.

Note : Muvendavelan and Araiyar were titles of rich landowners.