

# SANGAM AGE



## History of South India

- No Bronze Age in South India but **Megalithic Age**
- Time period: 2500 BC

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Iron Age in South India



→ Found around graves

- Pottery: Black and Red ware
  - Community: Pastoral community
- South India history starts with Chera, Pandya, and Chola dynasty



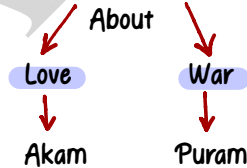
## Sangam

- **Meaning:** Assemblies
- Total 3 sangams: Patronised by Pandya
- Assemblies held at: Tamil region → Muchchangam
- 1st: Madurai → Agastasya (Literature not found)
- 2nd: Kapadapuram → Tolkappiyam
- 3rd: Madurai → Nakkirar

Literature: Tolkappiyam (earliest grammatical Tamil Text)

## Sangam Literature in two forms:

1. **Narrative (story):** collectively called Melkannakku → 18 major works
2. **Didactic (poetic):** collectively called Kilkanakku → 18 minor works



## Other forms:

1. **Silapathikaram:** written by Ilango Adigal  
story of Kovalan + Kannagi (wife) + Madhavi (dasi)

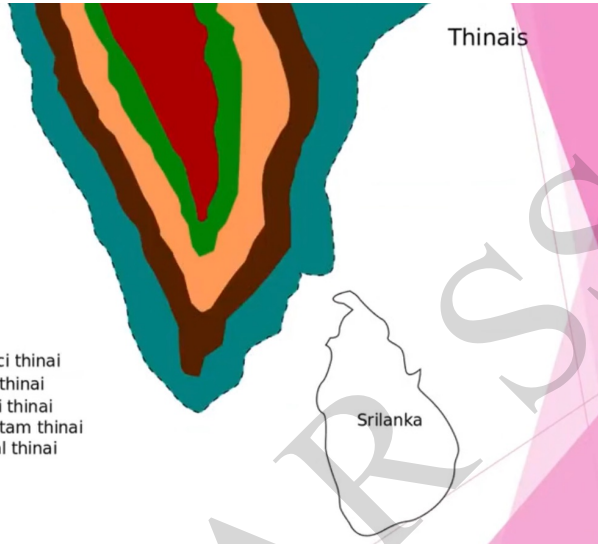
About their love story → Goddess of Purity and Chastity (in Kerala)

2. **Manimegalai:** book about daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi

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**Writer:** Chithalai Chathanar

## Geography

### GEOGRAPHY

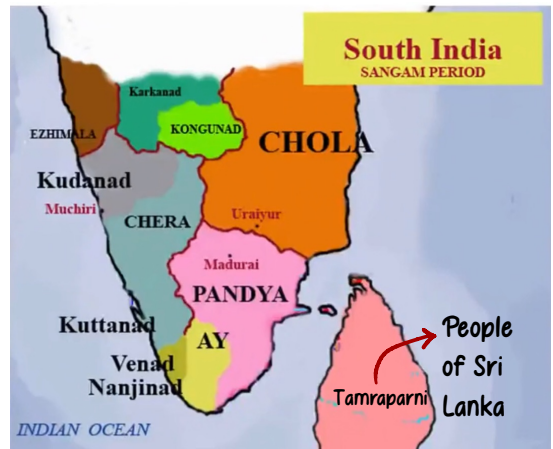


- **Thinais** (known as Area) → Each thinais had a chief called: **Muvendar**  
Divided into 5 parts:

- **Kurinci thinais**: did hunting and gathering
- **Palai thinais**: cattle lifters and plundering
- **Mullai thinais**: did animal husbandary
- **Marutam thinais**: did agriculture
- **Neytal thinais**: fishing and salt collection

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 Divided into:  
 Chera, Cholaya, and  
 Pandyas

- **Bindusara** means "Conqueror of land b/w 2 seas"
- **Ashokan inscription**: also depicts about Chera, Chola → Most powerful of all  
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 Keralaputras





## Cheras

- Ruling in: Kerala + Tamil Nadu → Augustus Temple → Built by Romans
- Capital: Vanji / Vanchi → Connection with Romans
- Port cities: Muziris/Muchiris and Tondi (mainly for trading)
- Emblem: Bow and Arrow
- Greatest Chera: Senguttuvan (also known as Red Chera) • Worshipped Kannagi (Goddess of chastity)

## Cholas

- Called as Cholamandalam (Coromandels)
- Northeast to Pandyas
- Between Pennar and Velar river
- Capital: Uraiyar and Puhar (alternate capital)
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  - Also known as: Kaveripattinam
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  - Port city
- Traded in cotton cloth
- Maintained an efficient Navy
- Earliest ruler: Elara
- Greatest ruler: Karaikal → Fought Battle of Venni
- Emblem: Tiger

## Pandyas

- Ruled in Tamil Nadu
- Capital: Madurai (on the banks of Vaigai river)
- Emblem: Fish
- First mentioned in Megasthenes book
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  - Mentioned as: people famous for trading Pearls
- Traded with Roman Empire
- Port: Korkai



## Society

Divided into:

- Ruling class: Arasar
- Rich class: Vellalar
- Lower class: Kadaiyyar

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