

History Part - 4

4] Sangam Period

SANGAM AGE NOTES

- According to Tamil legends, there existed three Sangams (Academy of Tamil poets) in ancient Tamil Nadu popularly called Muchchangam.
- The first Sangam, held at Then Madurai.
- The second Sangam was held at Kapadapuram.
- The third Sangam at Madurai was founded by Mudathirumaran.
- The two Tamil epics of the Sangam period are Silappathigaram and Manimegalai.
- The Ettutogai or Eight Anthologies consist of eight works – Aingurunooru, Narrinai, Aganaooru, Purananooru, Kuruntogai, Kalittogai, Paripadal and Padirrupattu.
- The Pattuppattu or Ten Idylls consist of ten works – Thirumurugarruppadai, Porunararruppadai, Sirupanarruppadai, Perumpanarruppadai, Mullaippattu, Nedunalvadai, Maduraikkanji, Kurinjippattu, Pattinappalai and Malaipadukadam.
- The excavations at Arikamedu, Poompuhar, Kodumanal and other places reveal the overseas commercial activities of the Tamils.
- Tolkappiyam refers to the five - fold division of lands - Kurinji (hilly tracks), Mullai (pastoral), Marudam (agricultural), Neydal (coastal) and Palai (desert).

- Kurinji – chief deity was Murugan – chief occupation, hunting and honey collection.
 - Mullai – chief deity Mayon (Vishnu) – chief occupation, cattle-rearing and dealing
 - with dairy products.
 - Marudam – chief deity Indira – chief occupation, agriculture.
 - Neydal – chief deity Varunan – chief occupation fishing and salt manufacturing.
 - Palai – chief deity Korravai – chief occupation robbery.
- The Pallavas in the northern Tamil Nadu and Pandyas in southern Tamil Nadu drove the Kalabhras out of the Tamil country and established their rule.
- Pandian Nedunchelivan is also called as Imayavaramban

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 symbol 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 symbol 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.
- Karikala built Kallanai across the river Kaveri.

Pandyas:

The Pandyas ruled over the present day southern Tamil Nadu.

- Their capital was Madurai.
- Their symbol 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 (orرار).
- 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, Arikamedu 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.

- There was a big land mass connecting Africa and Australia called lemuria.
- Before thiruvalluvar and after thiruvalluvar was calculated based on the birth year of thiruvalluvar i.e 31 B.C.

Expected Questions

SANGAM PERIOD

1. Which book describes “the land between venkata hills on the north and cope comorin in south is tamilnadu” ?

(A) Silappathigaram

(B) Nannool

(C) Manimegalai

(D) Purananuru

2. The two Tamil epics of the Sangam period are

(A) Manimegalai, Thirukural

(B) Nannool, Silappathigaram

(C) Silappathigaram, Manimegalai

(D) Purananuru , Manimegalai

3. At which place the first Tamil Sangam was held ?

(A) Kapadapuram

(B) Then madurai

(C) Vada madurai

(D) Madurai

4. Which place is called as Kudal?

(A) Kapadapuram

(B) Then madurai

(C) Vada madurai

(D) Madurai

5. In sangam period the tamil poets divided the lands into how many divisions ?

(A) 3

(B) 4

(C) 5

(D) 6

6. Which is the largest continent before the Kumari continent which comprises many regions?

(A) Lemuria continent

- (B) The Australian continent
- (C) The continent of Africa
- (D) The Asian continent

7. Which of the following statements is / are wrong ?

- 1. Mountains and its area - Kurinji
- 2. The forest and its area - Mullai
- 3. Sea coastal area - Neydal
- 4. Agricultural area - Marudam

- (A) 1,2 and 3
- (B) 2,3 and 4
- (C) 1,2,3 and 4
- (D) None of these**

8. The main port of chera is

- (A) Vanji
- (B) Kaveripattinam**
- (C) Madurai
- (D) Uraiyur

9. The capital of the ancient Chola is

- (A) Vanji

(B) Kaveripattinam

(C) Madurai

(D) Uraiyur

10. The capital of the Pandyas is

(A) Vanji

(B) Kaveripattinam

(C) Madurai

(D) Uraiyur

11. The capital of chera is

(A) Vanji

(B) Kaveripattinam

(C) Madurai

(D) Uraiyur

12. Who is called as Imayavaramban ?

(A) Pandian Neduncheliyan

(B) Nedum Cheralathan

(C) Karikala Cholan

(D) Mudathirumaran

13. Who built the Kallanai across the river Kaveri ?

- (A) Pandian Neduncheliyan
- (B) Nedum Cheralathan
- (C) Karikala Cholan**
- (D) Mudathirumaran

14. The port of Pandiyas is

- (A) Korkai**
- (B) Kaveripattinam
- (C) Madurai
- (D) Uraiyur

15. The port of Chola is

- (A) Korkai
- (B) Kaveripattinam**
- (C) Madurai
- (D) Uraiyur

16. Which book tells about the braveness of Tamil people ?

- (A) Aryappadai
- (B) Purananuru**
- (C) Nannool
- (D) Maduraikkanji

17. Who is the best among the kings of Chera?

- (A) Nedum Cheralathan
- (B) Neduncheliyan
- (C) Mudathirumaran
- (D) Chenguttuvan**

18. Which Pandian king won the Cholas and the Chalukyas dynasties?

- (A) Mudathirumaran
- (B) Neduncheliyan**
- (C) Nedum Cheralathan
- (D) Karikala cholan

19. Which is the symbol of the Cholas?

- (A) Bow and Arrow
- (B) Tiger**

(C) Peacock

(D) Cock

20. Which is the symbol of the Cheras?

(A) Bow and Arrow

(B) Tiger

(C) Peacock

(D) Cock

21. By which the Thiruvalluvar year is calculated?

(A) By keeping BC 21 as centre

(B) By keeping BC 31 as centre

(C) By keeping BC 41 as centre

(D) By keeping BC 51 as centre

22. The place where the sangam was formed to develop the tamil is

(A) Kapadapurm

(B) Madurai

(C) Korkai

(D) Kaveripattinam

23. Which book tells us about Nedunchehyan and Madurai?

- (A) Aatrupadai
- (B) Maduraikkanji**
- (C) Purananooru
- (D) Manimeghalai

24. Who is called as Karikal Peruvalan?

- (A) Raja raja cholan
- (B) Killivalavan
- (C) Karikala Cholan**
- (D) Rajendracholan

25. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- 1) The Hero Stone was erected in memory of the bravery shown by the warrior in battle.
- 2) The aatrupadai book explains the manner in which kings and landlords supported the poets and scholars.

- (A) 1 Only
- (B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

26. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1) The area south of the Vindhya Hill is the oldest in the world

2) Sangam age songs are of 2 types.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

27. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1) Love marriage was a common practice. Women were allowed to choose their life partners.. Both parents accepted the idea of love marriage.

2) The rituals conducted by the priests during the Sangam period, has no mantras.

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) 1 and 2

(D) None of these

28. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. The Sangam period were engaged in the war and worshiped the crooks and their ancestors.
2. Our mother tongue Tamil language is developed with grammar and also called as the Senthamil

- (A) 1 Only
(B) 2 Only
(C) **1 and 2**
(D) None of these

29. Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- 1) Current Kerala and western parts of Tamil Nadu – Chera dynasty
- 2) Trichy and Tanjore regions – Chola dynasty
- 3) Madurai, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram - Pandya dynasty

- (A) 2 and 3
(B) 1 and 2
(C) **1,2 and 3**
(D) None of these

30. Which chola king won the battle in eelam ?

- (A) Raja raja cholan
- (B) Killivalavan
- (C) **Karikala Cholan**
- (D) Rajendracholan

