

Southern Dynasties

Sangam Age (circa 300 BCE – 300 CE)

Category	Details
Time Period	Approximately 300 BCE – 300 CE
Region	Tamilakam (present-day Tamil Nadu, Kerala, parts of Andhra Pradesh & Sri Lanka)
Meaning of 'Sangam'	Assembly or gathering of Tamil poets and scholars
Number of Sangams	Three (as per tradition)
Capital Cities	Madurai (Pandya), Uraiyur (Chola), Korkai (early Pandya), Vanji (Chera)
Dynasties Involved	Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas
Major Port Cities	Puhar (Kaveripattinam), Muziris, Tondi, Korkai
Literary Language	Tamil
Religion	Animism, Ancestor worship, later Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism
Famous Sangam Works	Tolkappiyam (grammar), Ettuthogai (Eight Anthologies), Pattupattu (Ten Idylls)
Important Poets	Kapilar, Avvaiyar, Nakkeerar, Paranar
Social Structure	Based on profession and clan; women held respectable positions
Economy	Agriculture (rice), trade (internal and external), handicrafts
Major Trade Partners	Roman Empire, Southeast Asia, Egypt, China
Coins Used	Roman coins, punch-marked Indian coins, gold and silver coins
Military	Maintained armies with elephants, cavalry, and infantry
Sources of Information	Tamil Sangam literature, Roman accounts (Pliny), inscriptions
Decline	Around 3rd century CE due to invasions and political instability
Art and Culture	Early Dravidian culture, emphasis on poetry, dance, and music
Important Deities	Murugan (war god), Mayon (early form of Vishnu), Kotravai (war goddess)

1. Chera Dynasty (Sangam Age)

Category	Details
Territory	Present-day Kerala and western Tamil Nadu
Capital	Vanji (Karur)
Port Cities	Muziris, Tondi
Famous Kings	Uthiyar Cheralathan, Nedunjeral Adan, Senguttuvan
Senguttuvan's Fame	Known for ' Pattini cult ' and building a temple for Kannagi (pattini)
Trade	Strong trade with Rome and West Asia
Symbol	Bow
Literary References	Described in Pattupattu , particularly <i>Pathitirupathu</i>
Contribution	Promoted Tamil poetry and maritime trade

2. Chola Dynasty (Sangam Age)

Category	Details
Territory	Central and northern parts of Tamil Nadu
Capital	Uraiyur
Port Cities	Puhar (Kaveripattinam), Arikamedu
Famous Kings	Karikala Chola (most famous), Nedunkilli
Karikala's Achievement	Constructed Kallanai (Grand Anicut) across river Kaveri
Symbol	Tiger
Literary References	Mentioned in <i>Pattinappalai</i> and <i>Porunaratrappadai</i>
Contribution	Infrastructure development, patronage to poets

3. Pandya Dynasty (Sangam Age)

Category	Details
Territory	Southern Tamil Nadu
Capital	Madurai
Famous Kings	Nedunjelayan I, Mudukudumi Peruvazhuthi
Symbol	Fish
Patron of Literature	Actively supported Tamil Sangams
Literary References	Many poets associated with Pandyas, such as Avvaiyar, Nakkeerar
Trade	Active traders, especially in pearls
Contribution	Promoted Sangam Assemblies, literature, religious and educational activities

Sangam Literature Classification

Category	Details
Tolkappiyam	Earliest Tamil grammar book; also discusses society, ethics, and love
Ettuthogai (Eight Anthologies)	Collection of 8 books of short poems (e.g., Ainkurunuru, Purananuru)
Pattupattu (Ten Idylls)	Long poems (e.g., Maduraikkanchi, Pattinappalai)
Pathinenkilkanakku	Eighteen Minor Works; mostly post-Sangam, but moralistic in nature
Silappadikaram	Epic attributed to Ilango Adigal; story of Kannagi, written after Sangam era
Manimekalai	Sequel to Silappadikaram, authored by Sattanar
Themes in Literature	Akam (love, private life) and Puram (war, public life)
Language	Classical Tamil

Chalukyas of Ancient India

Category	Details
Dynasty Name	Chalukyas
Time Period	6th to 12th Century CE
Regions Ruled	Deccan region: Present-day Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh
Founder (Badami Chalukyas)	Pulakeshin I (established rule around 543 CE at Badami)
Capital (Badami Chalukyas)	Vatapi (modern-day Badami) in Karnataka
Most Famous Ruler	Pulakeshin II
Pulakeshin II's Achievement	Defeated Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada River
Branches	1. Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi 2. Western Chalukyas of Kalyani
Eastern Chalukya Founder	Kubja Vishnuvardhana (brother of Pulakeshin II)
Capital (Eastern Chalukyas)	Vengi (in modern Andhra Pradesh)
Western Chalukya Founder	Tailapa II
Capital (Western Chalukyas)	Kalyani (modern Basavakalyan, Karnataka)
Religion	Primarily Hinduism (Shaivism & Vaishnavism); also supported Jainism, Buddhism
Architecture	Rock-cut cave temples at Badami, Aihole, Pattadakal
Art Style	Blend of Nagara (North) and Dravidian (South) styles
Important Temples	Durga Temple (Aihole), Virupaksha Temple (Pattadakal), Lad Khan Temple
Inscriptions	Aihole Inscription by Ravikirti (praises Pulakeshin II)
Literary Contributions	Patronage to Sanskrit and Kannada literature; notable poet: Ravikirti

Decline of Badami Chalukyas	Defeated by the Rashtrakutas in the 8th century CE
Chalukya-Rashtrakuta Rivalry	Prolonged conflict for control of the Deccan
Legacy	Great contributors to temple architecture, Deccan culture & governance

Branches of Chalukyas – Summary Table

Branch	Founder	Capital	Region	Famous Ruler
Badami Chalukyas	Pulakeshin I	Badami	Karnataka	Pulakeshin II
Eastern Chalukyas	Kubja Vishnuvardhana	Vengi	Andhra Pradesh	Rajaraja Narendra
Western Chalukyas	Tailapa II	Kalyani	Karnataka & Maharashtra	Vikramaditya VI

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