

Tamilnadu Culture

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Tamil Nadu is a state in South India and the people belong to the Dravidian family. Tamil Nadu is bound by the Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, and the union territory of Puducherry, as well as an international maritime border with the Northern Province of Sri Lanka at Pamban Island. They are considered to be one of the oldest civilizations in the world with thousands of years of cultural heritage.

The culture of Tamil Nadu is a blend of ancient traditions, art, music and literature. Tamil-speaking Dravidian population was under several regimes over centuries, such as the Sangam era (300 BC–AD 300) rulers of the Chera, Chola, and Pandya clans, the Pallava dynasty (3rd–9th century), and the later Vijayanagara Empire (14th–17th century), Marathas (part of 18th and 19th century) all of which shaped the state's cuisine, culture, and architecture. Home to a number of ancient relics, historic buildings, religious pilgrimage spots, hill stations, forts, and three World Heritage Sites, Tamil Nadu's tourism industry is an active one .

South India named as the Madras Presidency, an administrative province of British India. After Independence, during 1956, the state borders were redrawn linguistically. The state was renamed as Tamil Nadu, meaning "Tamil Country", in 1969. As the most urbanised state of India, Tamil Nadu boasts an economy with gross state domestic product (GSDP) of ₹24.85 lakh crore (US\$310 billion), marking the second-largest economy amongst the states of India. 15% of Tamil Nadu's forests are protected areas, hosting diverse wildlife.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_population_by_nation

Language – Tamil:

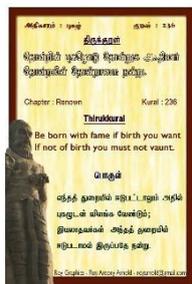
Tamil is a Dravidian language natively spoken by the Tamil people of South Asia, which is also an official language of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu , Indian Union territory of Puducherry and countries like Sri Lanka and Singapore. One of 22 scheduled languages in the Constitution of India, Tamil was the first to be classified as a classical language of India. It is considered the traditional language of India due to its independent heritage, important ancient literature and historical roots. Tamil is also spoken by significant number of people in South Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Tamil diaspora found in many countries, including Malaysia, Myanmar, South Africa, Canada and Mauritius.

Portuguese Christian missionaries published a Tamil prayer book in old Tamil script named **Thambiran Vanakkam**, thus making Tamil the **first Indian language to be printed** and published.^[25] The Tamil Lexicon, published by the University of Madras, was one of the **earliest dictionaries published in Indian languages**.^[26]

Tirukkural , is considered one of the most widely translated non-religious works in the world. As of 2020, the work has been translated into about 41 world languages with English translation alone have estimated to 100 versions exists around 2020.It is a classic Tamil Sangam literature consisting of 1330 couplets or Kurals , authored by Thiruvalluvar. **represents the way of life through rational and humane values/principles.** The Thirukkural is also referred as Universal Scripture (Ulaga podhu Marai , Poyyāmolī (words that never fail); and Teyva nūl (divine text).

Interestingly, it is presumed that Tamil literature personifies as a young woman, while the Iymerum kaapiyam narratives are analogous to the **articles of jewellery that give beauty to this young woman..** **Silappathikaaram:** has the word *Silambu* meaning “anklets” in its origin. Manimekalai is to symbolize the *Ottiyaanam* or the waist chain that gives attractiveness to the feminine Tamil literature. **Civaka Cinthamani:** Civaka Cinthamani epitomizes the bindi or the pottu that gives refinement to the ladylike Tamil literature. **Valaiyapathy:** Valaiyal in Tamil refers to a set of bangles and so Valaiyapathy is the bangle-like-literary work that provides the gracefulness to mother Tamil literature. **Kundalakesi:** With the word *Kundalam* (meaning a large earring), there is no doubt that Kundalakesi represents the earring that gives charm to Tamil literature.

அ	ஆ	இ	ஈ	உ	ஊ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū
எ	ஏ	ஐ	ஓ	ஔ	ஔ
e	ē	ai	o	au	au
க	ங	ச	ஞ	ட	ண
ka	ṅa	ca	ña	ṭa	ṇa
த	ந	ப	ம	ய	ர
ta	na	pa	ma	ya	ra
ல	வ	ழ	ள	ற	ன
la	va	ḷa	ḷa	ra	ṇa



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language

Thanjavur temple and tamil letter counts <https://youtu.be/62D8qBP-Rlg?feature=shared>

Food Culture & Cuisine

Tamils still follow the tradition of eating on **banana leaves**. Rice is the staple food of most Tamil people. It is generally eaten during lunch and sometimes dinner. **Soru is served along with other food items such as sambar, poriyal, / kootu, rasam, and curd.**

Chola Nadu - The cuisine of the Chola Nadu region specializes in several dishes such as sevai and other varieties associated with different sauces like chutney. The most common dishes are from Chidambaram. Kumbakonam is famous for its **filter coffee**. The **Thanjavur region is one of the prominent producers of rice-based dishes like puliyodharai, sambar sadham, vegetable rice and podi sadham.** Millet dishes like **kutharai vali dosai** are also prepared.

Pandiya Nadu - The Chettinad region and its adjoining areas such as Karaikudi are famous for its typical spicy cuisine also known as chettinad cuisine.^[3] Dishes like **idiyappam, uthappam, paniyaram** as well as meat dishes are common in this region. The Madurai region has its own unique dishes such as **Muttaiparotta, Paruthipal, Karidosai, Jasmine Idli, Irameen Kuzhambu** and it is the place of origin of the milk dessert **Jigarthanda**. Non vegetarian dishes from Chettinad and Madurai are one of the most renowned among the South Indians. The Virudhunagar region is famous for the Coin Parotta. Unlike the traditional way of preparation, **Coin Parotta is generally deep fried in oil and served with Mutton gravy.**

Kongu Nadu - Kongu Nadu cuisine was originally prepared in rural areas. Oputtu, Sandahai and Kola urundai are few among the main dishes. Many dishes in **Kongu Nadu are based on Coconut and Onions** as there is an abundant supply of Coconut, Onions and Groundnuts.^[4] Thengai paal jaggery, Ulundu Kali, Kachayam, Arisimparupu sadam, Kelvaragu Puttumavu, Arisi Puttumavu, Paniyaram, Kelvaragu Pakoda, Thengai barbi, Kadalai urundai, Ellu urundai and Pori urundai are among other dishes prepared by Tamil people. They consume Mutton, Chicken, Freshwater fishes and Quail due to the area being landlocked. Arisimparupu sadam is a unique dish. Most common oils are sesame and groundnut oil. Coconut oil is used for main cooking and as well as seasoning in certain Kongu Nadu dishes.^[5]



<https://simpleindianrecipes.com/TamilnaduRecipes.aspx>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_cuisine

Traditional dress :

The most common dress for women is the sari, and it is widely worn by the women of the state. It is known for its intricate, elegant designs and vivid colors. Vesti / Dhoti with Shirt and Angavastram is the traditional costume for men.

Young women wear a half saree and kids (female) wear pavadai sattaai including silk on special days.

Kanchipuram silk saree is the most popular saree of the state, mostly for special occasions with extreme cost ranges from thousand to lakhs. Tamil Nadu women wear saree, a five to six-yard-long rectangular cloth made mainly of cotton, silk or any other fabric. The prints, design and style depend on the fabric and social rituals. Arni silk, Salem venpattu etc are famous categories. The traditional dress is usually worn with gold bangles, chains and bangles and other traditional jewelry. They like to decorate their hair with garlands of flowers in a special style called gajras.

Madurai sungudi

- Fabric material – Cotton.
- Craft – Tie-dye and weaving..
- Themes – The borders and end-pieces are usually a different colour than the body of the saree. A zari pattern with complementary warp threads is often used in the borders.

Kandangi

Fabric material – Cotton, silk.

- Craft – Hand-woven. A special needle frame or pannai is designed by artisans in Nelakotta using handpicked and spliced bamboo sticks.
- Themes – It features strikingly contrast colour combinations and big borders. The design language incorporates clean lines and symmetry inspired by the local architecture as well as intricate flora, fauna and mythological beings.

Kanchipuram/ Kanjivaram

- Fabric material – Silk.
- Craft – The weaving method uses three shuttles. The border, palloo and body of the saree are woven separately and later interlocked by weft weaving technique known as Korvai. In the Petni Technique, the palloo is woven in a different colour that requires changes in warp.
- Themes – Zari patterns and motifs with silver and gold thread. Designs woven include stripes, gold dots, temple borders, checks, floral, sun, moon, chariots, peacocks, parrots, swans, lions, coins, mangoes, leaves.



Cultural festival:



Pongal is the most important and well-known cultural event of the state. The festival, held in January, is a celebration of thanksgiving for the harvest (Harvest Festival). The event lasts for four days and each day has a special meaning. Traditional costumes are worn on the first day as Bogi Pongal and on the second day as Surya Pongal. The famous Jallikattu event takes place on the third day of the festival, known as Mattu Pongal, and the festivities culminate with Kanum Pongal, the last day.

Alagar Vaigai Elenthuarulal – Chithrai thiruvizha @ Madurai

Taking place in the middle of river Vaigai, Lord Alagar arrives for his sister's wedding and presents Meenakshi and Sunderaswarar with gifts.



<https://youtu.be/tVRV2CImzBA?feature=shared>

Adi Perukku, one of the happiest festivals among different zones and communities. **Summer festivals** at different cities of Tamilnadu: connected with neem leaves .



Sample : <https://youtu.be/ZQV0YDaaAow?feature=shared>

Dance

The most popular dance in Tamil Nadu is Bharatanatyam, which has won followers from all over the world. Some folk dances like Oyilattam, Karakattam , Mayilattam and Kayirattam are also performed by people.



Devaraattam This form of dance was presented to the Tamil kings and their army after their victorious return from the battle. The dancers hold a handkerchief in their hand and swing it and also copy the steps done by the leading person. The person leading the line wears a counterfeit beard and mask. Presently, this dance form does not have any lyrical music or song, it is only danced on the beats of Urumi Melam, Thappu Melam and Flute. This dance is now performed during festivals and social occasions.

Mayil Aattam or **Peacock Dance** is usually performed by women. A blue coloured dress is worn by them along with peacock feathers and a beak. It is performed in the Hindu temples and offered to Lord Murugan.

Karagattam It is a traditional dance of Tamil Nadu which involves balancing pots made of metal or a lump of clay on the dancer's head. This dance is performed to worship Goddess Amman.

Oyil Kummi is a type of **Kummi** (a type of group dance) dance with limited movements. In this art, it is customary to orate the story through singing similar to **Oyil Attam**. This art is performed for the **Mulaippari** festival in places of worship. This art is closely related to Oyil Attam art. The art is also known as the Nattu Kottu Aattam' (*Country drums dance*)

https://www.youtube.com/live/_ATiFtjrG1M?feature=shared

<https://youtube.com/shorts/acOt8dA6Weo?feature=shared>

Arts / Crafts & Architecture

Golam is painted on the doors of every house in Tamil Nadu. It is painted before sunrise and is said to welcome Goddess Lakshmi. Art is Tamil Nadu's culture, from the kolam painted at the entrance of every house at sunrise to the magnificent Tanjore paintings. The women of the family begin each day by making an elaborate and beautiful kolam to hang on their doorstep. With gold decoration, Tanjore paintings and Tanjore dolls are well known are also examples of Art and Architecture with so many GI Products.



Tamil Nadu is the state with the most number of GI tags products. Currently, it has 58+2 geographical indication tagged products in the country.

Tamil Nadu	Salem Fabric, Kancheepuram Silk, Madurai Sungudi, Coimbatore Wet Grinder, Thanjavur Paintings, Temple Jewellery of Nagercoil, Thanjavur Art Plate, East India Leather, Salem Silk known as Salem Venpattu, Kovai Kora Cotton Sarees, Arani Silk, Swamimalai Bronze Icons, Eathamozhi Tall Coconut, Thanjavur Doll, Nilgiri (Orthodox), Virupakshi Hill Banana, Sirumalai Hill Banana, Madurai Malli, Nachiarkoil Authoor Betel leaves, Kuthuvilakku (“Nachiarkoil Lamp”), Chettinad Kottan, Toda Embroidery, Thanjavur Veenai, Swamimalai Bronze Icons (Logo), Mahabalipuram Stone Sculpture , Erode Manjal (Erode Turmeric), Thirubuvanam Silk Sarees, Kodaikanal Malai Poondu, Palani Panchamirtham, Dindigul Locks, Kandangi Saree, Srivilliputtur Palkova, Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai, Thanjavur Pith Works
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Grand temples typify Tamil architecture with towering 'gopurams' and carved statues of deities. building. Many famous temples like the Meenakshi Amman Temple and the Brihadeeswara Temple are located here, displaying a grand display of ancient Hindu mythological diversity and Tamil heritage.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Tamil Nadu



Additional / Optional Contents @ Editorial Team decision

Tamil is one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world.^{[10][11]} A. K. Ramanujan described it as "the only language of contemporary India which is recognizably continuous with a classical past".^[12] The variety and quality of classical Tamil literature has led to it being described as "one of the great classical traditions and literatures of the world".^[13] Recorded Tamil literature has been documented for over 2000 years.^[14] The earliest period of Tamil literature, Sangam literature, is dated from c. 300 BC until AD 300.^{[15][16]} It has the oldest extant literature among Dravidian languages. The earliest epigraphic records found on rock edicts and 'hero stones' date from around the 3rd century BC.^{[17][18]} About 60,000 of the approximately 100,000 inscriptions found by the Archaeological Survey of India in India are in Tamil Nadu. The two earliest manuscripts from India,^{[22][23]} acknowledged and registered by the UNESCO Memory of the World register in 1997 and 2005, were written in Tamil.^[24] In 1578,

Dishes:

Rice Varieties

- *Thakkali Soru – Tomato rice,* *Thengai Soru – Coconut rice*
- *Milagu Soru – Pepper rice* *Paruppu Soru – Lentil rice*
- *Karuvepillai Soru – Curry leaves rice* *Thayir Soru – Curd rice*
- *Nei Soru – Ghee rice* *Urulai Soru – Potato rice*
- *Muttaikos Soru – Cabbage rice* *Kudaimilagai Soru – Capsicum rice*
- *Pudina Soru – Coriander and mint rice* *Manga Soru – Mango rice*
- *Elumichai soru (lemon rice) – A seasoning of onions, tomatoes, curry leaf, red chilly, salt and lemon juice made with rice* *Kalkandu rice*
- *Ghee Pongal* *Sweet pongal*
- *Puliyodarai is a popular dish that is a mixture of fried tamarind paste and cooked rice*
- *Biryani such as mutton, chicken and veg briyani*
- *Sambar varieti* *Rasam Varieties*
- *Kuzhambu (Curry) varieties* *Poriyal/stir-fry varieties*
- *Kootu/stew varieties*

