

# TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu is on the southern most tip of India. It has a lovely location. It sticks out into the sea, but it has water from both the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean lapping its shores.



# Introduction

- ▶ Tamil Nadu has three happy neighbors. There are Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka sharing its northern border and Kerala sitting prettily on the west. As its southern-most tip, like a lovely toe ring, is Kanyakumari. People often say like “Kashmir to Kanyakumari” –means from the northern –most to the southern-most tip of India.
- ▶ Tamil Nadu is a very old state. Aryans around 1500 BCE attacked India from the Himalayas. A clan of people called Dravidians, who lived in the north moved to the south to get away from the wars and fights. They reached the south of India and settled there, making them the original Tamilians and called their new home Tamilham.
- ▶ Five main Hindu dynasties-the Cholas, Cheras, Pandyan, Pallavas & Chalukyas ruled this land for different periods in time. Cholas built some Tamil Nadu’s most beautiful temples. Then came the Pandyan who brought their own style of architecture. Pallavas overthrew the Cholas and later defeated by Alauddin Khilji. His arrival destroyed the city Madurai. But the Hindu kings fought back and created a new empire called Vijayanagar. They built a beautiful capital city called Hampi, which is in today’s Karnataka.

## Capital of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has some really large cities. Chennai (which used to be called Madras) is the capital city.

Chennai, the '**Cultural Capital of India**' is the fourth largest metropolis in the country. The present town was founded in 1639, by Sir Francis Day, who arrived with East India company. The British East India Company established a fort and a trading post at the small fishing village of Chennai. Today, it has emerged as a major industrial and educational center.



# Geographical position

- ▶ This gateway to the South offers clean and quite hill stations, beautiful beaches, magnificent temples with towering *gopurams*, waterfalls, historical monuments, art, culture, heritage and much more.
- ▶ **Rivers:** The river Kaveri quenches the thirst of Tamil Nadu. It starts in the cool, green region of the Coorg in Karnataka and weaves its way all across Tamil Nadu. It creates a green and fertile delta, called the Thanjavur-Nagapattinam delta. Other main rivers are Palar, Pennar, Vaigai & Tamiraparani.
- ▶ **Mountains:** The mountain range in both the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet each other in Tamil Nadu. In the western part of Tamil Nadu, the Nilgiri mountains are lovely and looking blue, because of a beautiful flower called *Strobilanthes Kunthiana* that grows wild in the forests.
- ▶ The highest point of Nilgiri is a place called Doddabetta. The fragrant eucalyptus trees grow in the plenty in the Nilgiri areas. People make oil from this tree. This oil is good for reducing pain, toothache & for cold and cough.
- ▶ **Seasons:** Tamil Nadu has a tropical climate. This means that it is hot most of the year and wet during the monsoons. The rainy season in Tamil Nadu is between October and December. The western part of the mountains and the hilly regions get the most rain. This rain is important for growing rice.

# State Animal & Bird

**Nilgiri Thar**



**Emareld Dove**



# State Tree & Flower

**Palm Tree**



**Gloriosa Superba**



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# Religion & Language

- ▶ Tamil Nadu has a mix of religions. The largest number of people are Hindu. There are many Christians, Jains and Muslims too. Thus, there are colorful temples, mosques and churches dotted all around in Tamil Nadu. In villages, families have their own temples. Almost every home has a prayer room.
- ▶ The people of Tamil Nadu pray to several gods, and some of these are called ‘guardian gods’ of different villages. For example, **Murugan** is a much-loved god, who has been worshiped for thousands of years. **Mariamman** is an ancient goddess, who was worshipped even before the Dravidians were pushed to the south by the Aryans. **Karrupaswamy** is a guardian god, who people believe will protect them from all evil. **Ayyannar** is yet another guardian god of villages. There are statues of him on the outskirts of many villages. There is always a figure of a horse with him, for people believe he rides around on the horse to patrol the village and keep it safe.
- ▶ In 1968, based on language, the state of Madras was renamed Tamil Nadu. The state language is Tamil, and their second language is English. Most people can speak English.

# Wildlife

- ▶ There are more than 2000 species of wildlife in Tamil Nadu. There are large mammals like elephants, leopards, tigers, gaurs, Nilgiri langurs, giant squirrels, sambar deer and sloth bears.
- ▶ In the waters of Tamil Nadu, there are some fantastic sea creatures like dugongs, dolphins, turtles and lots of interesting types of fish.
- ▶ Even Tamil Nadu has plenty of amazing birds too. Some live there and some migrate there during certain seasons. There are birds like darters, herons, cormorants, openbill storks, grey pelicans, spoonbills etc.
- ▶ For the British, it is hard to bear the heat of Madras. They went looking for the cold, wet climate of England and found it in the nilgiri mountains.

# Hill Stations

- ▶ Kodaikanal, the 'Princes of Hill Stations' popularly known as 'Kodai', nestles at an altitude of 2133 metres, on the southern crest of the Palani hills in the Western Ghats. The road to Kodai winds up through coffee plantations and thick forests giving a perfect introduction of this lovely hill resort. It is the only hill station founded in India by the Americans and is noted for plantains, plums and eucalyptus oil.
- ▶ Udagamandalam, the 'Queen of Hills' perched at an altitude of 7500 feet, amidst the verdant Nilgiris or Blue Mountains was first discovered in 1819 by John Sullivan, the collector of Coimbatore. The ambient beauty of Ooty, the most popular hill station of the South, lies in its peaceful ranges surrounded by a misty blue haze. The colonial legacy of this British developed hill station is still reflected in its terraced Botanical Garden, private, Ooty club and churches.

# Hill Stations

**Kodaikanal**



**Ooty**



# Kanyakumari

Kanyakumari, the 'lands end' of India is one of the most popular tourist spots of the country. It nestles elegantly on the very tip of the Indian peninsula, at the confluence of the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The city has a lovely story. Kanya Devi, an avatar of Goddess Parvati, was to marry Lord Shiva. But the wedding never happened. The rice that has to be made for the wedding remained uncooked. There are two rocks jutting right into the sea at Kanyakumari. One has an enormous rock where Swami Vivekananda gained enlightenment while he was meditating here.



# Meenakshi Temple

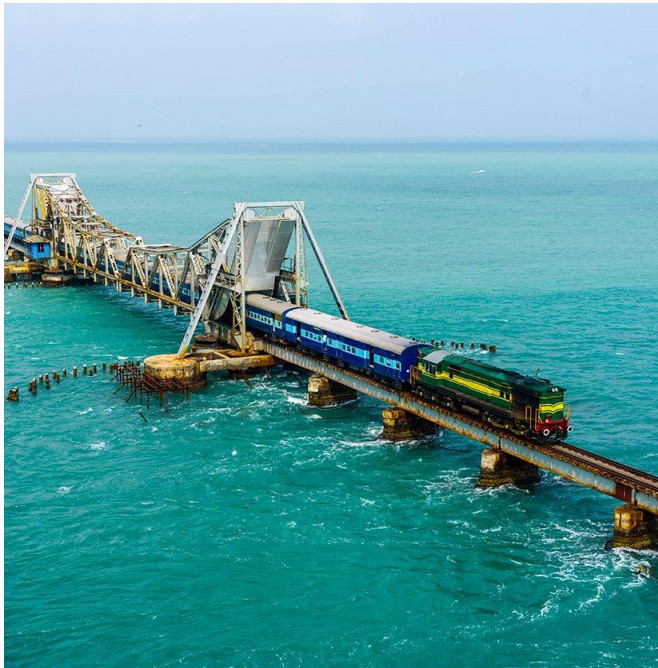
Meenakshi temple in Madurai is one of the largest temple complexes. This huge complex has twelve gateways (called gopurams) decorated with multi-coloured images of gods, goddesses, animals and mythical figures. The southern gopuram is the tallest and affords a fine view of the temple and Madurai city. The huge temple complex has several exquisite mandapams and shrines. It is customary to pray first at the shrine of Goddess Meenakshio and then Lord Sundareshwar. The devotees enter through the eastern gopuram. The temple bustles with activity from dawn to dusk and attracts pilgrims and tourists from all over the world.

It was originally built by Kulasekara Pandya and was dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswarar (Shiva)

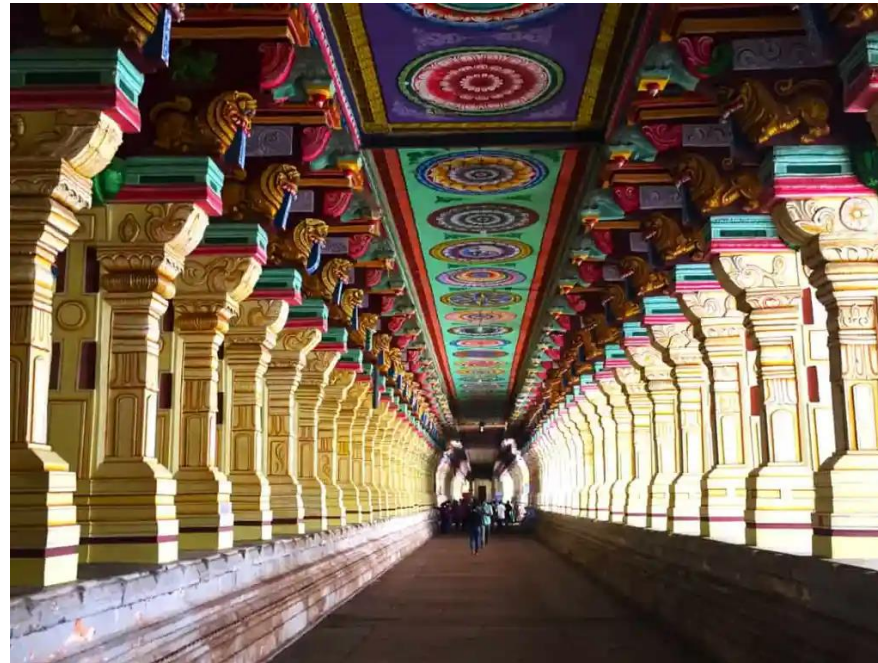


**Rameswaram:** Lord Rama is said to have worshiped Shiva over here after his victory over demon king Ravana. Rameswaram is also a lovely beach resort and a leading marine food centre of the South.

**Pamban Bridge**



**Ramanathaswamy Temple**



# Food

- ▶ Idlis & dosas are eaten very often in Tamil Nadu- whether it's for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Idlis are soft and springy, made of rice and pulses. Dosas on the other hand, are crispy pancakes, made from the same batter. There are many versions of dosas.
- ▶ In the past, Tamilians, like a lot of people in other parts of India, used banana leaves as plates. Even now, in some villages during weddings and festivals, people serve food on banana leaves.
- ▶ Tamilians mainly passionate for rice, and they eat it in different ways. They mix it with a curry called sambar. They also mix it with curd. They make lots of things with rice.
- ▶ The deserts of Tamil Nadu are famous too. There are dozens of them, like Payasam, Chakkarai, Nei Poli.
- ▶ Payasam is a yummy dish made of rice and milk. Chakkarai Pongal is a porridge of rice, lentils, jaggery and milk. Nei Poli is a sweet roti made of lentils, jaggery and flour.

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### **Idlis**



### **Dosa**



# Indian Filter Coffee

India was historically a tea country. *Indian filter coffee* is a preparation technique in which coffee is brewed with the use of an Indian coffee filter. This filter consists of two chambers—the upper one with a perforated bottom used to hold ground coffee and the bottom one in which brewed coffee is slowly dripped. Sometimes, the combination of coffee and warm milk is continuously poured from one vessel to another until it is aerated and becomes frothy. In India, coffee is mainly cultivated and associated with South India, namely Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.



# Culture: Literature, Music & Dance

- ▶ Tamil literature is probably the oldest in India. While most of it was in the form of religious poetry; even long stories were written about love and kings too.
- ▶ A famous poet called Kambam, during the Chola rule, wrote the 'Kamba Ramayana' - that is one of Tamil's most important works of literature.
- ▶ The people of South India developed Carnatic music hundred of years ago. Most of the songs are devoted to gods or saints. Musical instruments like Mridangam, Veena, Nadaswaram play an important role in Carnatic music.

# Carnatic music

Carnatic classical music is considered to be the world's oldest genres. Since most compositions we hear are songs that demonstrate devotion to the gods, it was most likely born in temples.

There are very few pure instrumental works, and the emphasis is on the vocal rather than the instrument, ,may be because they were meant to be sung.

Carnatic music concerts, called kutchcheris, are very popular even now.



**Mridangam:** It is called the king of percussion. It is made from the wood of a jackfruit tree, with animal skin tightly attached to the two sides of a hollow wooden drum.

**Veena:** Veena is a stringed instrument, which is usually made from a single piece of wood of the jackwood tree. There are many types of veenas, like the Rudra veena, the Vichitra veena and the Saraswati veena. The Rudra veena is usually used in Carnatic music.

## **Mridangam**



## **Veena**



# Bharatnatyam

Bharatnatyam is one of India's oldest dance form. It used to be performed in temples and in the courts of the kings. The women who danced for the gods in temples were called devdasis. They taught their daughters this dance, so it went on for centuries. Soon, the devdasi system fell apart. Great dancers worked hard to take this dance from the temples to the stage, where everyone could see it and enjoy it.



## Snake Dance

For Tamilians, snake is considered to be the protector of health and happiness. It is an amazing dance in which the dancers move with the same twists as snakes do. The dancers dress in tightly fitted clothes that look like the skin of a snake.



**Folk Dance:** Karagattam is a folk dance. The dancer balances a pot of water on her head. Villagers perform this dance to make the goddess of rain and goddess of rivers happy. Kolattam is a fun dance. Only women perform this. They tap two sticks against each other, and this makes a sound.

## Karagattam



## Kolattam



## Natyanjali Festival

The Natyanjali Festival is dedicated to Lord Nataraja. This God is known as the Lord of dance. This festival is held in a place called Chidambaram and goes on for five days. People perform dances at the Nataraja temples.



# The Chithirai Festival

This festival is held in the city of Madurai every year. People recreate the wedding ceremony of Princes Meenakshi (She was a princess of the Pandyan dynasty) and Lord Sundareswar.



## Pongal

Pongal is a harvest festival, especially farmers celebrate this to thank the Sun, the rain, the cattle and all of nature for helping them get a good harvest. In every home, people make a sweet dish of rice, jaggery and milk.



# Traditional Clothing

**Sari (Kanjeevaram)**



**Veshthi**



## **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan**

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan stands out as a teacher per excellence in Philosophy.

He was the first Indian to make Indian Philosophy intelligible to the westerners through his illuminating lectures and learned books. As a result, Indian Philosophy is now studied in both Europe and America.

Indians had previously only attended Oxford University as students, but Radhakrishnan became the first Indian academic to teach there.

Teachers' Day is celebrated on his birthday in honour of his exceptional fame.



# Tamil Nadu has many world-famous people. Let's meet with some of them.

**A. R. Rahman (music composer & singer)**



**M. S. Subbulakshmi (Classical singer)**



**Srinivasa Ramanujan: He was one of the world's greatest mathematicians.  
He developed important concepts in Mathematics.  
C. V. Raman: He won the Noble Prize in Physics.**

**Srinivasa Ramanujan**



**C. V. Raman**



**Amritraj Brothers: Vijay, Anana & Ashok-all of whom became international tennis stars.**

**Viswanathan Anand: He was a world chess champion and the first Indian to win the title of Grandmaster.**

## **Viswanathan Anand**



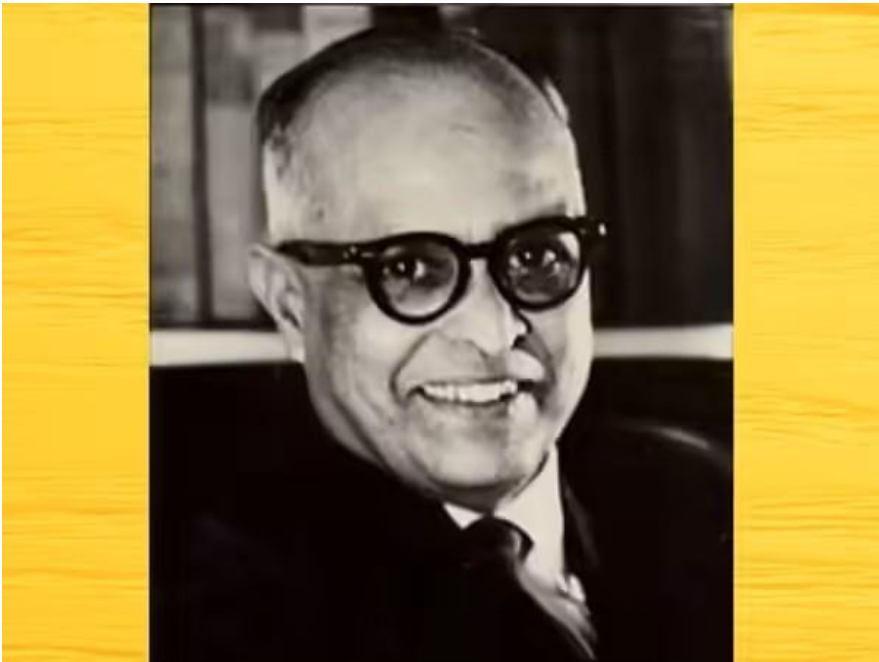
## **The Amritraj Brothers (Vijay, Anand & Ashok)**



**R.K. Laxman:** He was a famous cartoonist. He won the Padma Bhushan as well as Padma Vibhushan.

**R. K. Narayan:** He was R.K. Laxman's brother. He was a famous author who wrote lovely stories called *Malgudi Days*, which are about life in a Tamil village. He too also won the Padma Vibhushan.

**R. K. Narayan**



**R. K. Laxman**



**Thank You**

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.