



# Thiruvalluvar

## Why in News

The Prime Minister of India paid tributes to the Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar on [Thiruvalluvar Day](#).

- In the present time, the is usually observed either on 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> January in Tamil Nadu and is a part of [Pongal](#) celebrations.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- Thiruvalluvar, also called **Valluvar, was a Tamil poet-saint.**
- The period when he lived is debated, as is his **religious identity.**
  - He is believed to have lived between the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century or 8th-9th century.
  - He is thought to be linked to [Jainism](#). However, Hindus have also claimed that [Thiruvalluvar](#) belonged to hinduism.
- Dravidian groups also count him as a saint, as **he dismissed the caste system.**
- He had **contributed the Tirukkural or 'Kural' to the Sangam literature.**
- Tirukkural is comprised of 133 sections of 10 couplets each is divided into three books:
  - **Aram (virtue),**
  - **Porul (government and society), and**
  - **Kamam (love).**
- The Tirukkural has been compared to the great books of the world's major religions.

## Sangam Literature

- The word '**Sangam**' is the **Tamil form** of the **Sanskrit word Sangha** which means a **group of persons or an association.**
- The Tamil Sangam was an academy of poets who flourished in three different periods and in different places under the **patronage of the Pandyan kings.**
- It was compiled during the **3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE** & was composed in poetic format around themes **of love and war.**
- According to the **Tamil legends**, there were three Sangams (Academy of Tamil poets) held in the ancient South India popularly called **Muchchangam.**
  - The **First Sangam**, is believed to be held at Madurai, attended by gods and legendary sages. No literary work of this Sangam is available.
  - The **Second Sangam** was held at Kapadapuram, only Tolkappiyam survives from this.
  - The **Third Sangam** was also held at Madurai. A few of these Tamil literary works have survived and are a useful sources to reconstruct the history of the Sangam period.
- The Sangam literature which was largely consolidated from the **third Sangam**, throws information on conditions of life of people around the **beginning of the Christian era.**

- It deals with secular matters relating to the public and social activities like government, war charity, trade, worship, agriculture, etc.
- Sangam literature consists of the earliest **Tamil works (such as the Tolkappiyam), the ten poems (Pattupattu), the eight anthologies (Ettutogai)** and the eighteen minor works (**Padinenkilkanakku**) and the three epics.

**Source: PIB**

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