



# Thiruvalluvar

## Why in News?

Recently, ancient saint Thiruvalluvar has been in the news because of a political issue in Tamil Nadu.

## Key Points

- 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 3rd-4th 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**.
- 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 the **secular matter** 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: IE](#)