

SOUTH INDIA

- South India is the southern region of India, also referred to as Dravida. It consists of the following states:-
 - Karnataka
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Lakshadweep Islands
 - Pondicherry
- The languages spoken in this region are mostly of Dravidian origin. The major languages are:-
 - Kannada
 - Malayalam
 - Tamil
 - Telugu
 - Tulu
 - Kodava
- South India ranks the highest in terms of social and economic development in areas such as fertility rate and infrastructure; the fertility rate of South India is 1.9, the lowest of all regions in India.
- Agriculture is the single largest contributor to the regional net domestic product, while Information technology is a rapidly growing industry. Literary and architectural styles, evolved over two thousand years, differ from other parts of the country.



South India (red)



Agriculture

LITERATURE

- South India has a rich literary tradition reaching back over two thousand years.
- The first known literature of South India are the poetic Sangams, which were written in Tamil around two to one and a half thousand years ago.
- The Kannada classic Kavirajamarga, written in 850 CE by King Amoghavarsha I, makes references to Kannada literature of King Durvinita in early sixth century CE. Tamil Buddhist commentators of the tenth century CE, Nemrinatham makes references to Kannada literature of fourth century CE. Distinct Malayalam and Telugu literary traditions developed in the following centuries.
- The artistic expressions of the South Indian people shows their admiration of the magnificence of nature and its rhythms.
- Some of the works include Silappadikaram by Ilango Adigal, Tholkappiam written by Tholkappiar, Thiruvalluvar's Thirukural and Kumaravyasa's Karnata Bharata Katamanjari and Pampa's Vikramarjuna Vijaya.
- In South Indian literature and philosophy, women are considered very powerful. A married woman is regarded as auspicious, her shakti or mother-feminine power, protects and empowers her husband and their children.
- Contemporary Kannada writers have received eight Jnanapith awards which is the highest for any Indian language.



Tamil inscription of a Sangam



Thiruvalluvar

COMMUNITIES AND TRADITIONS

- The main spiritual traditions of South India include both Shaivite(followers of the Hindu deity Shiva) and Vaishnavite (followers of the Hindu deity Vishnu) branches of Hinduism, although Buddhist and Jain philosophies had been influential several centuries earlier.
- Shravanabelagola in Karnataka is a popular pilgrimage center for Jains. Ayyavazhi is spread significantly across South India. Its followers are more densely populated in South Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- Christianity has flourished in coastal South India from the times of St. Thomas the Apostle who came to Kerala in 52 AD and established the Syrian Christian tradition today called as Saint Thomas Christians or Nasranis.
- There is a large Muslim community in South India, particularly in the Malabar Coast(the Eastern Coast of India), which can trace its roots to the ancient trade links between Kerala and the Arabs. Also, the Old City of Hyderabad is also populated

by many Muslims, Because it had been ruled by the Muslim Mughal rulers.

Kerala is also home to one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world who are supposed to have arrived in the Malabar coast during the time of King Solomon. The oldest surviving Jewish synagogue in the British Commonwealth of Nations is the Paradesi Synagogue in Kochi, Kerala.



Madurai
Temple

Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad



Paradesi Synagogue



St. Thomas' Church



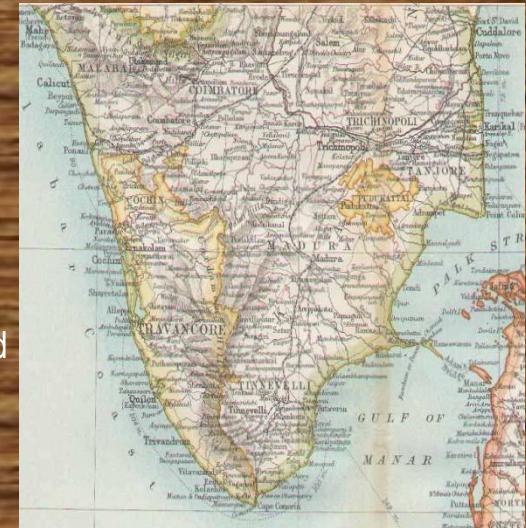
ECONOMIC PROGRESS

- With a fast-growing reputation as India's high-tech capital, cities in south India are home to several public sector projects including Electronic City and IT Park.
- Multinationals are well represented here.



Geography

- Southern India is in the form of a vast triangular peninsula. It is bound by the :-
 - Arabian sea in the west,
 - Bay of Bengal in the east,
 - Indian ocean in the south, and
 - Vindhya-Satpura ranges in the north.
- The region is also bound by the Western and Eastern Ghats, which extend into the Nilgiri and Palakkad-Wayand Ranges respectively. The Tirupati and Annamalai hills also form a part of these ranges. Sri Lanka lies off the coast, separated from Southern India by the Palk Strait. The low lying coral islands of Lakshadweep are off the south-western coast of India.
- The Deccan plateau is the vast elevated region bound by the C-shape defined by all these mountain ranges. No major elevations border the plateau to the east, and it slopes gently from the Western Ghats to the eastern coast. The plateau is watered by the east flowing Godavari and Krishna rivers. The three major river deltas of South India, the Kaveri, the Godavari and the Krishna, are located along the Bay of Bengal. These major rivers provided irrigation to much of the land which provided food grain to Southern India. In particular the coastal delta regions traditionally constituted the rice bowls of South India.
- The region has a very tropical climate with the monsoons playing a major part. The South – West Monsoon accounts for most of the rainfall in the region and much of it falls from about June to October. The south-west monsoon starts from Kerala during June and moves up towards the northern parts of India. Tamil Nadu and southeast Andhra Pradesh receive rains from the North – East Monsoon from about November to February.
- Much of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka has a distinct dry season from about October – May when there is not much rainfall. This region also experiences cooler nights from October to March while the days are pleasantly warm. In the northern parts of the region temperatures can fall below 10 degrees Celsius on occasions at night during this time. Days are very hot from March to June when temps can go over 40 degrees. The southern coastal region has an average minimum temperature of 20 degrees and maximum of 35 degrees.



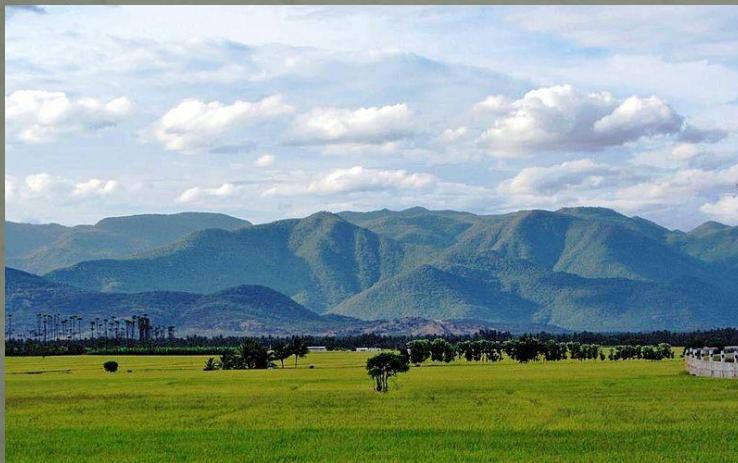
Physical map of South India



Western Ghats

FLORA AND FAUNA

- There is a wide diversity of plants and animals in South India, Western Ghats itself is a biodiversity hotspot. Some of India's famous protected areas are found in South India. These include Project Tiger reserves Periyar National Park, Kalakad – Mundanthurai and Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger



CLIMATE

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ARCHITECTURE

- SOUTH INDIA IS FAMOUS FOR TEMPLES AND STUNNING MONUMENTS



DANCES

- **Bharatnatyam** is a highly developed classical dance, Bharatnatyam (Bharatanatyam) blends pure lyric movement and pantomime drama.
- Kuchipudi is the dance drama of music, dance and acting. Performed both in groups and solo these days



DANCES

- Mohiniattom is the seductive dance of the temptress (Mohini). Performed by women, it is lyrical to the extreme and sensuous in its appeal
- Theyyam , The root of the art form is in divine and hero worship. The sacred dance is methodically carried out to ensure safety and well being of the families and the community.

Our School!

Have a look into some of our ‘*Paathshaala*’ moments!

Amateur Photographer –
Pramadha Mohana =)



