

Chapter 1 : Popular Indian Politics Books

Rapid changes in the political situation of the rest of India occurred due to incursions of Muslim armies from the northwest *Martial Arts History of Tamil Nadu.*

History of India History of India India is a land of ancient civilization. Indian history begins with the birth of the Indus Valley Civilization and the coming of the Aryans. These two phases are usually described as the pre-Vedic and Vedic age. Hinduism arose in the Vedic period. The fifth century saw the unification of India under Ashoka, who had converted to Buddhism, and it is in his reign that Buddhism spread in many parts of Asia. In the eighth century Islam came to India for the first time and by the eleventh century had firmly established itself in India as a political force. It resulted into the formation of the Delhi Sultanate, which was finally succeeded by the Mughal Empire, under which India once again achieved a large measure of political unity. It was in the 17th century that the Europeans came to India. This coincided with the disintegration of the Mughal Empire, paving the way for regional states. The Rebellion of , which sought to restore Indian supremacy, was crushed; and with the subsequent crowning of Victoria as Empress of India, the incorporation of India into the empire was complete. India Timeline Indian timeline takes us on a journey of the history of the subcontinent. Right from the ancient India, which included Bangladesh and Pakistan, to the free and divided India, this time line covers each and every aspect related to the past as well as present of the country. Read on further to explore the timeline of India. Economic History of India Indus valley civilization, which flourished between BC and BC, had an advanced and flourishing economic system. The Indus valley people practiced agriculture, domesticated animals, made tools and weapons from copper, bronze and tin and even traded with some Middle East countries. The Rajputs were known for their bravery and chivalry but family feuds and strong notions of personal pride often resulted into conflicts. The Rajputs weakened each other by constant wrangling. He was the son of Nasiruddin Humayun and succeeded him as the emperor in the year , when he was only 13 years old. Shah Jahan succeeded the throne after revolting against his father, Jahangir. He is considered to be one of the greatest warriors of his time and even today, stories of his exploits are narrated as a part of the folklore. King Shivaji used the guerrilla tactics to capture a part of, the then, dominant Mughal empire. These two phases are generally described as the pre-Vedic and Vedic periods. It is difficult to date this work with any accuracy on the basis of tradition and ambiguous astronomical information contained in the hymns. Modern Indian History During the late 16th and the 17th Centuries, the European trading companies in India competed with each other ferociously. By the last quarter of the 18th Century the English had outdone all others and established themselves as the dominant power in India. The British administered India for a period of about two centuries and brought about revolutionary changes in the social, political and the economic life of the country.

Chapter 2 : History of Dravidian Parties in Tamil Nadu DK, DMK, AIADMK, MDMK, PDK

Post Independence period The political state of Tamil Nadu in India was created in when erstwhile Madras State was renamed. Ramasami Naicker with C.[87][88] Lakshmi Sahgal from Tamil Nadu was a prominent leader in the INA.

This list of politicians born in Tamil Nadu includes members of all political parties, with Tamil Nadu-born politicians of both national and local prominence. This popular Tamil Nadu politicians list contains information about each politician, such as when and where they were born. If you want to find out even more about these politicians you can click their names to discover even more details about them. This list features politicians like U. Moorthy age 54 A. Moorthy, at Kilmambattu a remote village in Gingee Taluk, in Tamil Nadu in an agriculturalist family. He did his schooling in the said village and later acquired MA. Nesamony Died at 73 A. He was the second son of Kesavan Appavu Nadar, born on 12 June at Vijayan age 57 A. Vijayan was a member of the 14th Lok Sabha of India. He represents the Nagapattinam constituency of Tamil Nadu and is a member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam political party. Krishnaswamy age 53 A. Krishnaswamy was a member of the 14th Lok Sabha of India. He represented the Sriperumbudur constituency of Tamil Nadu and is a member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam political party. Kalam was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, He was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha representing the Nilgiris constituency of Tamil Nadu and had been Rajagopal is a well-known Indian politician, social worker, Lawyer and former Member of the Legislative Assembly. He was elected to the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly as an Tamil Maanila Tamilarasi age 42 A. Bellarmin age 64 A. Bellarmin is an Indian politician, belonging to the Communist Party of India. Venkatachalam Died at 55 A. Venkatachalam was a former MLA from Alangudi, Tamil Nadu; he represented the constituency for five year terms starting in , and During this time, he was also the Minister for Parisutha Nadar was an Indian politician. He was a member of the legislative assembly elected to Madras State from Thanjavur constituency as a Congress candidate. He was elected thrice He did his schooling at Montfort Yercaud near Salem. He is an MBBS graduate. He belonged to an ancient and historic family, and founded the Roy was born to Tamil Brahmin family in Chennai. She grew up in Delhi where her Munuswamy Naidu was born in He is the founder and editor of the Tamil magazine, Thuglak. He is the President of the Kongunadu Munnetra Kazhagam party. He is also the chairman of well Krishnan age 82 Dr. Krishnan is a member of the 14th Lok Sabha of India. Annadurai Died at 60 C. He was the first member of a Dravidian party to hold that post. Natesa Mudaliar Died at 62 C. He was one of the founders of the Justice Party along with Rajagopalachari was the last Governor-General of Rungacharlu Died at 52 Cettipanyam Viravalli Rungacharlu CIE, also spelt as Rangacharlu, was an Indian civil servant and administrator who served as the Diwan of Mysore kingdom from to He was the man who ushered in an era of self-sufficiency in food production in India. Previously, he represented the Tiruppattur constituency of Tamil Nadu and is a member of the Prior to his term as the Manila administrator, he He qualified as BL and MA and is an advocate by profession. Murugan was first elected to the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly in and has Sugavanam age 61 E. Sugavanam is a member of the 15th Lok Sabha of India. He represents the Krishnagiri constituency of Tamil Nadu and is a member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam political party. Sudarsana Natchiappan age 68 E. Ponnuswamy age 82 E. Ponnuswamy was a member of the 14th Lok Sabha of India. He represented the Chidambaram constituency of Tamil Nadu and is a member of the Pattali Makkal Katchi political party. Eswaran age 57 E. Eswaran is an Indian politician and entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu. He represented the Gobichettipalayam constituency of Tamil Nadu and is a member of the Indian National Sampath was a prominent politician from Tamil Nadu, India. He was an advocate of the Dravidian Movement of Periyar E. Velu age 67 E. Velu is the former minister for Food in Tamil Nadu state of India. He was born in Se. Gudalore on 15 March He has been elected to the Tamil Nadu assembly two times, from Jayalalitha became the 16th Vasan age 54 G. He was educated at the Vasanthakumar age 68 H. Vasanthakumar is an Indian entrepreneur and politician from Tamil Nadu, India. He served as the senior spokesman for the Barack Obama presidential campaign. According to one report She made her acting debut in Sapno Ka Aaroon Rashid age 68 J. Aaron Rashid is a leader of Indian National Congress.

Chapter 3 : Adrift on stormy seas - The Hindu

Politics of Tamil Nadu is the politics related to the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. this page by writing about the Pre-Dravidian political history of Tamil Nadu.

She played a pivotal role in rehabilitating refugees and victims of the violence associated with the Partition of India in the state of Tripura. British India consisted of 17 provinces and princely states. The provinces were given to India or Pakistan, in some cases in particular " Punjab and Bengal " after being partitioned. The princes of the princely states, however, were given the right to either remain independent or join either dominion. Under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel , the new Government of India employed political negotiations backed with the option and, on several occasions, the use of military action to ensure the primacy of the central government and of the Constitution then being drafted. Sardar Patel and V. Menon convinced the rulers of princely states contiguous to India to accede to India. Many rights and privileges of the rulers of the princely states, especially their personal estates and privy purses, were guaranteed to convince them to accede. Some of them were made Rajpramukh governor and Uprajpramukh deputy governor of the merged states. Some princely states such as Tripura and Manipur acceded later in There were three states that proved more difficult to integrate than others: Hyderabad Hindu-majority state with a Muslim nizam " Patel ordered the Indian army to depose the government of the Nizam , code-named Operation Polo , after the failure of negotiations, which was done between 13"17 September It was incorporated as a state of India the next year. The area of Kashmir Muslim-majority state with a Hindu king in the far north of the subcontinent quickly became a source of controversy that erupted into the First Indo-Pakistani War which lasted from to Eventually a United Nations-overseen ceasefire was agreed that left India in control of two-thirds of the contested region. No statewide plebiscite was held, however, for in , after Pakistan began to receive arms from the United States, Nehru withdrew his support. The Indian Constitution came into force in Kashmir on 26 January with special clauses for the state. Ambedkar , on 26 November India became a sovereign democratic republic after its constitution came into effect on 26 January Rajendra Prasad became the first President of India. The Indo-Pakistani War of " was fought between India and Pakistan over the princely state of Kashmir and Jammu from to It was the first of four Indo-Pakistan Wars fought between the two newly independent nations. Pakistan precipitated the war a few weeks after independence by launching tribal lashkar militia from Waziristan , [6] in an effort to secure Kashmir, the future of which hung in the balance. The inconclusive result of the war still affects the geopolitics of both countries. In foreign policy, he took a leading role in the Non-Aligned Movement while projecting India as a regional hegemon in South Asia. President Prasad was also elected to a second term by the electoral college of the first Parliament of India. The Parliament passed extensive reforms that increased the legal rights of women in Hindu society, [8] [9] [10] [11] and further legislated against caste discrimination and untouchability. Village common lands were seized, and an extensive public works and industrialisation campaign resulted in the construction of major dams, irrigation canals, roads, thermal and hydroelectric power stations and many more. Nehru appointed the States Re-organisation Commission, upon whose recommendations the States Reorganisation Act was passed in Old states were dissolved and new states created on the lines of shared linguistic and ethnic demographics. The separation of Kerala and the Telugu -speaking regions of Madras State.

Chapter 4 : India News: LIVE News from India, Latest News Headlines on Economic Times

Mainstream Political History of India after Independence I've used the word 'mainstream' because we will not be delving with the 'subaltern history' of India but with the popular political history of independent India, as read in the textbooks and mainstream newspapers.

November 01, October 31, Today, the foundation of its political superstructure is facing tectonic shifts and an entirely new paradigm may be on the horizon. Toward the turn of the century, one of its leaders brought down a coalition government at the Centre by suddenly pulling the plug on an alliance agreement. It has always been a State that has shown resistance to certain diktats from New Delhi, from the micro concerns about Hindi imposition in the State to macro disputes over inter-State river-water sharing arrangements. Leader among States It was an early pioneer of the Noon Meal Scheme that led to better nutritional, educational and inter-caste harmony outcomes across the State. Subsequently, seeing its dramatic impact on development goals, the Supreme Court made it a mandatory policy in other States, and the World Bank and others stepped in to extend its reach. Almost every government in the State supplied mass welfare goods at a subsidised or zero cost, including essential household items such as rice, water, cooked meals, cooking stoves, personal clothing, television sets, bicycles, and even mass-wedding services. Fast-forward to , and every aspect of that political edifice is under strain, especially after certain earth-shaking events left its democratic machinery facing an uncertain future. How best to understand what outcomes these changes could bring to the Tamil Nadu polity? Consider two analytical threads that explain the underlying processes: Karunanidhi has created a black hole in the balance of power within and across the Dravidian parties. Both leaders single-handedly ran their party operations, including cadre organisation, networking, fund-raising, election planning and campaigning. Between them, Jayalalithaa concentrated power in her own hands to a much greater extent than Karunanidhi did. While his genius was in organisational planning, negotiations and bargain-making, Jayalalithaa, contrarily, degraded four rungs of leadership beneath her. The informal power of the V. Sasikala clan, currently manifested in the troubles posed by her nephew T. In parallel there are unspoken insecurities about how long the uneasy truce between Chief Minister E. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam will hold, especially since the latter split from the main party faction last year. Other party heavyweights may flirt with the idea of migrating to Mr. His older brother M. Stalin hold his own in the upcoming Assembly by-elections and Lok Sabha elections? Will the man who appears far less comfortable before the public spotlight rally the troops and deliver an impressive victory like his father did so often? This brings us to the second issue, governance. Annadurai â€” metastasised into something quite ugly by the turn of the century: Opportunity for the BJP? Simultaneously, there has been speculation on whether, in its bid to saffronise the politics of every Indian State, the Bharatiya Janata Party is desperate to get a backdoor entry into Tamil Nadu through an informal partnership with the AIADMK. It is true that Dravidianism no longer exists in its prior radical form, which implies that since the s it has shed its anti-Brahmin, anti-Hindu, anti-Hindi, anti-Delhi rhetoric in favour of a broad, inclusive strand of political accommodationism for all Tamils. Yet there is a residual feeling of Tamil exceptionalism among the voter demographic, which motivates their behaviour at the polls and continues to present an opportunity to politically mobilise. Thus, notwithstanding the gradual creep of saffron politics in Tamil Nadu â€” notable here are rising incidents of communal clashes, generally a rarity in the State â€” the hegemonic influence of regional parties, which began in , abides. The reasons for this are three-fold. Ramachandran was to supplant the elites-driven fund-raising and campaigning networks of the Congress with grassroots, cadre-based networks of their own, a model that has now acquired deep roots and cannot be easily out-manoeuvred. Third, it may be difficult for the likes of the BJP to breach the ramparts of Tamil politics because the people do not fret as much about high-level macro corruption as they do about the transactions cost of individualised micro corruption, which impacts their day-to-day existence. Since Tamils are well accustomed to rule by elite robber-barons, Mr. Nevertheless, in the broadest arc of history, it would be hard to deny that Dravidian politics has reached a tipping point at the current juncture. It must re-invent every aspect of itself â€” its modes of operation, its emotional motifs, and

its crop of leadership â€” if it is to survive as the champion of Tamils in the coming decades.

Chapter 5 : History of India from Pre Historic Era to Freedom Struggle and Independence of India

Rajiv sent Indian troops to enforce the agreement and disarm the Tamil rebels, but the Indian Peace Keeping Force, as it was known, became entangled in outbreaks of violence - ultimately ending up fighting the Tamil rebels itself, and becoming a target of attack from Sri Lankan nationalists.

Indian history can be characterised as a work in progress, a continuous process of reinvention that can eventually prove elusive for those seeking to grasp its essential character. The history of this astonishing sub continent dates back to almost years ago with the evidence of human activity of Homo sapiens. Indian history begins with the birth of the Indus Valley Civilization as evident from the sites at Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa, and Lothal which were earlier a part of the Indian subcontinent. The inhabitants were known as Dravidians who later migrated to South India probably due to ecological changes. Amazingly, almost five thousand years ago, the inhabitants of the Indus Valley Civilisation had developed an urban culture based on commerce and sustained by agricultural trade. The Aryan tribes from the North West Frontier migrated into the sub continent around second millennium BC and gradually merged with the pre-existing cultures. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only". India had often been overlooked, though her history and culture is just as rich as that of Mesopotamia or Egypt. Balathal was discovered after CE and excavations began there after CE. Following is the history of India through the Ages: Archaeologists have discovered up to 1. This discovery would probably change the existing notion about the earliest human ancestors being from Africa into India. Peninsular India abounds in Paleolithic sites. Tools crafted by proto-humans that have been dated back to two million years have been discovered in the North-western part of the country. Inhabitants of this era developed new techniques in metallurgy and handicraft and produced copper, bronze, lead and tin, evident from the seals and statues found such as that of the Dancing girl. Harrappa was a significant bronze-age community; statues of various deities have also been found. Early Historic Period Vedic Period: The Aryans were the first to invade the country. They came out of the North in about BC and brought with them strong cultural traditions. Sanskrit, one of the most ancient languages spoken by them, was used in the first documentation of the Vedas, which date back to the 12th century BC and are believed to be oldest scriptures still in use. The Vedas are some of the oldest extant texts, next to those in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The Vedic era in the subcontinent lasted from about BCE, laying down the foundation of Hinduism and other cultural dimensions of early Indian society. This period saw the second major rise in urbanisation in India after the Indus valley Civilisation. The word "maha" means great and the word "janapada" means foothold of a tribe. In the later Vedic Age, a number of small kingdoms or city states had mushroomed across the subcontinent and also find mention in early Buddhist and Jain literature as far back as BCE. Persian and Greek Conquests: The Maurya Empire, ruled by the Mauryan Dynasty from BCE was a geographically extensive and mighty political and military empire in ancient India, established in the subcontinent by Chandragupta Maurya in Magadha present-day Bihar it further thrived under Ashoka the Great. At its pinnacle, the empire covered parts of modern day Iran and almost the entire Indian subcontinent, except the southern peninsular tip. Ancient India Timeline Prehistoric Period: The period when man, basically a food gatherer, discovered fire and wheel. Derived its name from the river Indus and thrived on agriculture and worshipped natural forces. The period saw the compilation of the Vedas, distinction of Varnas in terms of Aryans and Dasas slaves. As caste system became more rigid, the period saw the advent of Mahavira and Buddha who rebelled against casteism. Founded by Chandragupta Maurya, the empire encompassed the entire North India and Bindusara further extended it. After fighting the Kalinga war, Ashoka embraced Buddhism. Deccan and South India: The southern part was ruled by Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas This period is known for construction of Ajanta and Ellora cave temples, Sangam literature, and arrival of Christianity to India. The Gupta dynasty founded by Chandragupta I, ushered in classical age in north India with Samudragupta extending his kingdom and Chandragupta II fighting against Shakas. Shakuntalam and Kamasutra were written during this period, Aryabhatta achieved feats in Astronomy and Bhakti cult emerged. Age of Small Kingdoms: There was rise of many small kingdoms as the North was divided into warring kingdoms. But his

kingdom disintegrated into small states even as Hunas invaded. It was a period when the Deccan and the south became powerful. Zoroastrians Parsis came to India. AD - 13th Cent. Founded by Vijayalaya, the Chola empire adopted a maritime policy. Temples became cultural and social centres and Dravidian languages flourished. The period also saw emergence of Rajput clans. Temples at Khajuraho, Kanchipuram, Puri were built and miniature painting started. The period witnessed invasion from the Turks. Battles that have shaped the History of India In the long march of centuries, India has witnessed the rise and fall of several empires and conquerors. The political map of pre-modern India, before the British arrived, was made up of countless kingdoms with fluctuating boundaries that rendered the country vulnerable to foreign invasions. There have been various dynasties fighting battles among themselves and against foreign invaders - Aryans, Persians, Greeks, Chinese nomads, Arabs, Mughals, French, Dutch, Portuguese, British and others. Wave after wave of foreign aggressors descended on India, founded empires and left a deep imprint on the history and culture of the country. But none could subdue or subjugate the indomitable soul of Bharatvarsh. As history is a great educator, it would be interesting to recapitulate some of the major battles that have marked turning points in the history of India:

Chapter 6 : Famous Tamil Nadu Politicians | List of Politicians from Tamil Nadu

Medieval Indian History. After the death of Harsha the Rajputs came into prominence on the political horizons of North India. The Rajputs were known for their bravery and chivalry but family feuds and strong notions of personal pride often resulted into conflicts.

While some say these are trying times for this one of the fastest developing countries in the world, others say it is the most opportune time for India to leap frog to higher circle of growth and development. While many Indians will celebrate the day by hopping from one shopping mall to the other, million others will struggle with their wretched lives without even knowing that their country is going to celebrate the spirit of independence from the colonial rule. After achieving political independence at the cost of one country torn into two, the Indians witnessed the heartrending tragedy of Partition. The communal fury took around two million lives. During this phase of riots and violence, more than 75, women were raped and anything between 12 and 15 million were forcibly transferred. The trauma of Partition still persists in the hearts of people living in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This unpardonable political division of a country on the basis of religion has been followed by four full fledged wars between India and Pakistan, incursions, land grabs, division of Pakistan, terrorism, and jingoistic overtures on all sides of the borders, thereby dividing its own people on the basis of religion again and feeding the power hungry political class of both nations. Though we became independent on August 15, , the first general election took place in under the newly constituted Constitution and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister. His government started implementing Nehruvian or mixed economic policy. Indira Gandhi became the main leader of Congress after the untimely demise of Shastri Ji in Tashkent after signing the Tashkent ceasefire declaration with Ayub Khan the then President of Pakistan. She is remembered till date as a strong leader and her bold decision like nationalisation of banks, and the formation of Bangladesh following the Indo-Pakistan War. It was during s that Green Revolution and Operation Flood was initiated in India, moving India one step forward towards self reliance in food grains and milk. However, India saw one of its darkest hours since independence when Emergency was declared, making India a semi-Fascist state for sometime. It was after the assassination of Indira that the mantle was given to his son Rajiv Gandhi. He became the youngest PM of India in Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in that helped Congress ride back to power. The s is also remembered for demolition of the historic Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, Mumbai riots, and emergence of Bharatiya Janata Party. Deve Gowda and Inder Kumar Gujral â€” in quick succession. He has performed well at the international level including the bold stand taken in WTO. However, spiralling inflation has remained a concern for the new government. Its moves aimed at more economic liberalisation have found stiff resistance from the opposition. It needs to be seen how India under Modi marches ahead, overcoming the formidable challenges before it.

Chapter 7 : தமிழ்நாடு: Tamil Wikipedia: A Case Study - தமிழ்நாடு

Dravidar Kazhagam (DK) (Dravidian Association) is the grandparent of all the political and non-political Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu (parties that have the phrase Dravida in their names).

A few days ago we asked everyone on our Facebook and Twitter pages to recommend a book on Indian history. Many of you responded with some wonderful suggestions. We also received many e-mails suggesting books we had never heard of. Here then, is the list of 10 books in no particular order on Indian history that we have compiled based on your responses. It gives a detailed account of the period ranging from the coming of the Aryans to the establishment of the British Empire. This book was also produced as an award-winning television series by Shyam Benegal. The series of events that unfold during this period are worthy of this book being classified as a historical one. It is extensively researched, gives incredible details that you never knew for instance, do you know who actually drew the dividing line between the two nations and on what basis? The book also includes interviews with Lord Mountbatten, the last viceroy of British India. Sen talks about how India has had a long history of public debate in all spheres of life and how heterodoxy was prevalent in Indian society centuries ago. This vibrant past is something that Sen believes we all should know about – considering that it can have a deep impact on the way we embrace our future. This is the perfect book for you to understand the evolution of Modern India. It covers details of the Harappan and Mohenjodaro findings and then dwells on the now-controversial Aryan invasion theory. It is a fictional work that takes the story of the Mahabharata, the epic of Hindu mythology, and recasts and resets it in the context of the Indian Independence Movement and the first three decades post-independence. Figures from Indian history are transformed into characters from mythology, and the mythical story of India is retold as a history of Indian independence and subsequent history, up through the s. Ramchandra Guha provides a fascinating peek into the way this British sport made its foray into India and how it is now a national obsession. The Fall of a Dynasty: Delhi, by William Dalrymple William is an award winning historian and travel writer. The Last Mughal talks about a culturally diverse and rich soceity during the rule of Bahadur shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor. In , the first war against the British known popularly as the Sepoy Mutinee marked the end of the Mughal rule. William lists the manner in which these events unfolded and the impact it had on the country – both politically and culturally. His writing style and flair for capturing insights makes this book a must-read. A history by John Keay John Keay is an English journalist and author specialising in writing popular histories about India, often with a particular focus on their colonisation and exploration by Europeans. This book is considered by many as a perfect textbook for any student of India. Sachau Alberuni is considered as one of the greatest historians of the medieval Islamic era. In AD, at the behest of Sultan Muhmud of Persia, Alberuni travelled to India to learn about the Hindus, and to discuss with them questions of religion, science, and literature, and the very basis of their civilisation. He remained in India for 13 years, studying and exploring. This book is an outcome of his rigorous study of India. If you know of any books on Indian history that have not been listed here, please write about them in the comments section below.

Chapter 8 : Tamil film star Rajinikanth to enter politics in India's 'Detroit' | Reuters

Significance of India Political Map in Tamil Political maps of the Republic of India are even available in the Tamil language. Such a map is mainly helpful to people, who wants to know their.

See Article History Tamil, people originally of southern India who speak Tamil , one of the principal languages of the Dravidian family. Numbering about 64 million in the early 21st century including about 3 million speakers in northern and eastern Sri Lanka , Tamil speakers make up the majority of the population of Tamil Nadu state and also inhabit parts of Kerala , Karnataka , and Andhra Pradesh states, all situated in the southernmost third of India. The Tamil area in India is a centre of traditional Hinduism. Tamil schools of personal religious devotion bhakti have long been important in Hinduism, being enshrined in a literature dating back to the 6th century ce. Although the present-day Tamil are mostly Hindus, there are Christians, Muslims, and Jains among them. In the recent past, the Tamil area was also the home of the Dravidian movement that calls for the desanskritization and debrahmanization of Tamil culture , language, and literature. The Tamil have a long history of achievement; sea travel, city life, and commerce seem to have developed early among them. Tamil trade with the ancient Greeks and Romans is verified by literary, linguistic, and archaeological evidence. The Tamil have the oldest cultivated Dravidian language, and their rich literary tradition extends back to the early Christian era. The Chera, Chola, Pandya, and Pallava dynasties ruled over the Tamil area before the Vijayanagar empire extended its hegemony in the 14th century, and these earlier dynasties produced many great kingdoms. Under them the Tamil people built great temples, irrigation tanks, dams, and roads, and they played an important role in the transmission of Indian culture to Southeast Asia. The Chola , for example, were known for their naval power and brought the Malay kingdom of Sri Vijaya under their suzerainty in ce. Though the Tamil area was integrated culturally with the rest of India for a long time, politically it was for most of the time a separate entity until the advent of British rule in India. The Tamil in Sri Lanka today are of various groups and castes, though they are predominantly Hindus. The so-called Ceylon Tamil , constituting approximately two-thirds of them, are concentrated in the northern part of the island. They are relatively well educated, and many of them hold clerical and professional positions. The so-called Indian Tamil of Sri Lanka were brought there by the British in the 19th and 20th centuries as workers on the tea estates, and they have been regarded as foreigners by the other ethnic groups. The Ceylon and Indian Tamil are organized under different caste systems and have little social intercourse with each other. In the s, growing tensions between the Ceylon Tamil and the Sinhalese Buddhist majority in Sri Lanka prompted Tamil militants to undertake a guerrilla war against the central government in hopes of creating a separate Tamil state for themselves in the north and northeast. It was estimated that as many as 80, people were killed in the fighting.

Chapter 9 : History Of India - Facts, Timelines, Events, Personalities & Culture

The Tamil have a long history of achievement; sea travel, city life, and commerce seem to have developed early among them. Tamil trade with the ancient Greeks and Romans is verified by literary, linguistic, and archaeological evidence.

Tamil history from Sangam literature Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela Ancient Tamil Nadu contained three monarchical states, headed by kings called Vendhar and several tribal chieftaincies, headed by the chiefs called by the general denomination Vel or Velir. The Tamil area had an independent existence outside the control of these northern empires. The Tamil kings and chiefs were always in conflict with each other mostly over property. The royal courts were mostly places of social gathering rather than places of dispensation of authority; they were centres for distribution of resources. Tamil literature Tolkappiyam sheds some light on early religion. The names of the three dynasties, Cholas, Pandyas, and Cheras, are mentioned in the Pillars of Ashoka inscribed 261 BCE inscriptions, among the kingdoms, which though not subject to Ashoka, were on friendly terms with him. He is mentioned in a number of poems in the Sangam poetry. They attribute to him the conquest of the whole of India up to the Himalayas and the construction of the flood banks of the river Kaveri with the aid of his feudatories. Kocengannan was another famous early Chola king who has been extolled in a number of poems of the Sangam period. He was even made a Saiva saint during the medieval period. Pandyas are also mentioned in Sangam Literature, as well as by Greek and Roman sources during this period. Megasthenes in his Indika mentions the Pandyan kingdom. They had trading contacts with Greece and Rome. Various Pandya kings find mention in a number of poems in the Sangam literature. Besides several short poems found in the Akananuru and the Purananuru collections, there are two major works—Mathuraikkanci and the Netunalvatai in the collection of Pattupattu that give a glimpse into the society and commercial activities in the Pandyan kingdom during the Sangam age. The early Pandyas went into obscurity at the end of the 3rd century CE during the incursion of the Kalabhras. Their proximity to the sea favoured trade with Africa. It records the names of the kings, the princes, and the court poets who extolled them. The internal chronology of this literature is still far from settled, and at present a connected account of the history of the period cannot be derived. Senguttuvan Chera, the most celebrated Chera king, is famous for the legends surrounding Kannagi, the heroine of the Tamil epic Silappatikaram. It was only towards the 9th or the 10th centuries CE, due to Sanskrit influences on Tamil, a new language Malayalam began to evolve in western parts of the territory. These Sangam poems paint the picture of a fertile land and of a people who were organised into various occupational groups. The arts of music and dancing were highly developed and popular. Musical instruments of various types find mention in the Sangam poems. The amalgamation of the southern and the northern styles of dancing started during this period and is reflected fully in the epic Cilappatikaram. Evidence from both archaeology and literature speaks of a flourishing foreign trade with the Yavanas Greeks. The port city of Puhar on the east coast and Muziris on the west coast of south India were emporia of foreign trade, where huge ships moored, offloading precious merchandise. Internal trade was also brisk and goods were sold and bartered. Agriculture was the main profession of a vast majority of the populace.