

## 6th Social Science Lesson 4 Notes in English

### 4. Ancient Cities of Tamilagam

#### 1. Show the Ancient cities and Ports of Tamil Nadu:



2. **Mesopotamian civilisation** is the earliest civilisation in the world. It is 6500 years old.

#### 3. Famous towns in Tamilagam:

In ancient India, there were famous towns in ancient Tamilagam too. Madurai, Kanchi and Poempuhar are prominent among them. Tamil literature, accounts of foreign travellers and archaeological finds provide us information about the ancient towns of Tamilagam.

#### 4. Explain the city of Poempuhar:

Poempuhar is one of the oldest towns in ancient Tamilagam. This is the place where well known characters of Silapathikaram, Kovalan and Kannagi lived. It was also a port town along the Bay of Bengal. The ports were established for facilitating maritime trade.

**5. Which was the present day coastal town near Poompuhar?**

Poompuhar is one such historic port that emerged in the wake of increasing maritime trade. It is a coastal town near the present-day Mayiladuthurai and is located where the river Cauvery drains into the sea.

**6. Explain about the Importance of Poompuhar Port?**

Poompuhar was also known by names such as Puhar and Kaveripoompattinam. It served as the port of the early Chola kingdom. One of the popular Sangam Literature, Pattinappaalai and Tamil epics, Silappathikaram and Manimegalai, have references to the brisk sea-borne trade that took place in the port city, Puhar.

**7. How Silappathikaram related to Poompuhar?**

Silappathikaram, in particular, speaks about the greatness of Poompuhar. The lead female character of Silappathikaram is Kannagi. Her father is Maanaigan. Sea traders are known by the name Maanaigan. The male character Kovalan's father is Maasathuvan. Maasathuvan means a big trader. It is clear from the text that Poompuhar was a place where big traders and sea traders had settled down.

**8. Explain the Role of Foreign Merchants in Poompuhar:**

Numerous merchants from foreign countries such as Greece and Rome landed at Poompuhar. Due to busy and continuous trade, many of them stayed on indefinitely in Poompuhar. There are evidences of foreigner settlements in the town.

**9. Explain the way of Communication of Poompuhar people with Foreigners:**

People speaking many languages inhabited Poompuhar in its glorious days. As loading and unloading of ships took some months, the foreign traders began to interact with the local people during that period. This enabled the natives to learn foreign languages for communication. Similarly, the foreigners also learnt Tamil to communicate with the natives. This contact facilitated not only exchange of goods but also languages and ideas resulting in cultural blending.

**10. Explain the Qualities of traders of Poompuhar:**

The traders of Poompuhar were known for their honesty and integrity. They sold goods at legitimate prices. Pattinappaalai states that "selling any commodity at a higher price was considered bad".

**11. Who was the Author of Pattinappaalai?**

The author of Pattinappaalai, Kadiyalur Uruttirangannanar, belonged to 2nd century BCE. This is indicative of Puhar's antiquity.

**12. Various Articles and their trading centres of Puhar People:**

- Horses were imported by sea.
- Pepper was procured through the land route.
- Gold that came from Vadamalai was polished and exported to the overseas countries.
- Sandal from Western Ghats, pearls from southern sea, corals from eastern sea and food items from Eelam were imported.
- Poompuhar had been built differently from other towns.

**13. Explain the settlement of Puhar people:**

Each social group had a separate settlement. Streets were broad and straight, dotted with well-designed houses. There was also a dockyard. We can learn about the life of the people of Puhar by reading Pattinappaalai and "Puhar Kandam" of Silappathikaram.

**14. Explain port of Puhar:**

Puhar was a busy port upto 200 CE. It might have been either washed away by sea or destroyed by big shore waves. The remains of that destruction can still be seen in the present Poompuhar town.

**15. Explain about the quote Toonga Nagaram:**

- Madurai had Naalangadi and Allangadi.
- Naalangadi – Day Market.
- Allangadi – Evening Market.
- Madurai is known as Thoonga Nagaram (the city that never sleeps). Madurai was a safe place where women purchased things from Allangadi without any fear.

**16. Explain about the city of Madurai:**

- Madurai has been one of the oldest cities in India.
- Its antiquity can be understood from the sobriquet "Sangam Valartha Nagaram" it has earned.
- Pandyas, the Cholas and later the Kalabras ruled Madurai in the ancient period
- During medieval times, later Cholas and later Pandyas followed by the Nayaks ruled this historic town. This has resulted in cultural blending.

**17. What were the evidence of Trade in Madurai?**

Trade flourished and evidence for this has been unearthed in archaeological excavation done in Keezhadi near Madurai. Madurai is proudly associated with tamil sangam (academies), which worked for the promotion of Tamil language.

**18. How Many poets were Assosiated in Last Sangam?**

Forty-nine poets were associated with the last Sangam.

**19. Various Articles and their trading centres of Madurai People :**

- Ahil, fragrant wood, was brought from Port Thondi to Madurai.
- King Solomon of ancient Israel imported pearls from Uvari near the Pandyan port, Korkai.
- A mint of Roman coins was present at Madurai.
- The coins of other countries were also minted at Madurai, which is a proof for the glory of Madurai.

**20. Who were the Authors explained the Importance of Madurai?**

The fame of Madurai is attested by the accounts of the Greek historian Megasthenes. Chanakya, Chandragupta's minister, makes a mention of Madurai in his book, Arthashastra.

**21. Explain the Town Planning of Madurai?**

In the moat around the town, tunnels had been constructed in such a way that even elephants could comfortably enter.

**22. Explain Kanchi as the Place of Schools:**

A place of learning is called school. Several schools were established in great numbers for the first time in Kancheepuram. Jains studied in Jainapalli, and Buddhists studied in Viharas.

**23. Various travellers and their view on Kanchi:**

- The greatness of Kanchi as an educational centre can be understood from the fact that the Chinese traveller Hieun Tsang who studied at Nalanda University visited Kanchi 'Kadigai' to pursue his further studies.
- Poet Kalidasa says, "Kanchi is the best of the towns".
- Tamil poet saint Thirunavukarasar praises Kanchi as "Kalviyil Karaiillatha Kanchi".
- Hieun Tsang remarked that Kanchi can be counted as one among the seven sacred places like Budh Gaya and Sanchi.

**24. Illustrate the Importance of Kanchi:**

Kanchi is the oldest town in Thondai Nadu. Scholars like Dharmabalar, Jothibalar, Sumathi and Bodhi Dharmar were born in Kanchi. Kanchi is also known as the temple town.

**25. Which Pallava King Built the Kailasanathar Temple at Kanchi?**

The famous temple of great architectural beauty, Kailasanathar temple, was built by later Pallava king Rajasimha at Kanchi. During the Pallava period, a large number of cave temples were built.

**26. Which Monk spent her last part of life in Kanchi?**

The Buddhist monk Manimegalai spent the last part of her life at Kanchi speaks highly of that town.

**27. Explain the Water Management skills of Kanchi?**

- Water management played an important role in the agrarian society of those times. Hundreds of lakes were created for storing water around the town of Kanchi.
- These lakes were well connected with canals. During the later period, Kanchi came to be known as the district of lakes.
- Water management skills of the ancient Tamils can be understood from the construction of Kallanai in the Chola country and the lakes and canals in Kanchi.

**28. Various other ancient cities of Tamilagam:**

Apart from Poompuhar, Madurai and Kanchi, there were other towns too in ancient Tamilagam. Korkai, Vanchi, Thondi, Uraiyur, Musiri, Karuvur, Mamallapuram, Thanjai, Thagadoor and Kaayal are some of them. By conducting archaeological research, more information can be gathered about these places.

**29. Others Importance of Three ancient towns of Tamilagam:**

- Poompuhar was a port.
- Madurai was a trading town.
- Kanchi was an educational centre.

**30. Tamil sayings represent the uniqueness of each ancient Tamil kingdom**

- Chola Nadu - sorudaithu (rice in abundance).
- Pandya Nadu - muthudaithu (pearls in abundance).
- Chera Nadu - vezhamudaithu (elephants in abundance).
- Thondai Nadu - Saandrorudaithu (scholars in abundance)

**31. Chera Nadu** - Comprised Malayalam-speaking regions and Tamil districts of Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Karur, Kanniyakumari and Some parts of present Kerala.

**32. Chola Nadu** - Present-day Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagai, Trichy and Pudukkottai districts.

**33. Pandya Nadu** - Erstwhile composite Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Thuthukkudi and Tirunelveli districts

**34. Thondai Nadu** - Present-day Kancheepuram, Dharmapuri, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and northern parts of Villupuram districts.