



Weaving Industry during the Sangam Age

Delve into the sophisticated weaving industry of South India during the Sangam Age (300 BCE - 300 CE). This period saw advancements in textile production and trade.

Key literary sources like the Silappatikaram and Manimekalai provide insights into weaving techniques and the types of fabrics produced.

Geographical hubs such as Madurai and Kanchipuram were renowned for their cotton and silk textiles, driving both internal and external trade.



Techniques and Trade

Textiles

Fine cotton muslins were woven, often adorned with complex designs.

Silk, imported from China, was used for royal garments.

Dyes

Natural dyes provided vibrant colors and were extracted from plants and minerals.

Indigo for blue, turmeric for yellow, and madder for red were commonly used.

Technology

Weavers used simple backstrap and frame looms made of wood.

Despite the basic technology, intricate floral and animal patterns were woven.