

**TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE IN TAMIL NADU**K.Mangayarkarasi¹

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Abstract

A temple (from the Latin word templum) is a building reserved for religious or spiritual rituals and activities such as prayer and sacrifice. Tamil Nadu is rich in its various art forms, and each form is unique and has its own merits. The different phases of growth and development of a society find their expression in art and culture. They are also measures of cultural uniqueness and accomplishments of linguistic and ethnic groups. Tamil Nadu was subject to the rule of four great kingdoms: Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas and Pallavas. Nearly 33,000 ancient temples, many at least 800 to 2000 years old, are found in Tamil Nadu. The temples remain the very essence of the culture and heritage of Tamil land, with historical records dating back to at least 3,000 years.

Keywords: Cholas, Cheras, Gopurams, Heritage, Pandyas, Pallavas, Temples, UNESCO

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