

## Nirmala Sitharaman Addresses 34th Deiva Sekkizhar Festival in Chennai

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered a speech highlighting the democratisation of Tamil literature at the 34th Deiva Sekkizhar Festival in Chennai.

Saiva Tirumurais are a 12-volume compendium of Tamil devotional hymns dedicated to Lord Shiva, composed during the Bhakti movement.

### KEY EXAM POINTS

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** addressed the **34th annual Deiva Sekkizhar Festival** held in Chennai.
- The event was jointly organised by the **Sekkizhar Research Centre** and Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research.
- She emphasized that the **Saiva Tirumurais** democratised Tamil literature by enabling common people to sing devotional hymns.
- Sri Masilamani Gnanasambanda Desika Paramacharya Swamigal, pontiff of **Dharmapuram Adheenam**, released books at the occasion.
- The Minister highlighted the preservation of musical ragas and **cultural heritage** linked with Tamil Saivite literature.

### STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The Saiva Tirumurais consist of **12 volumes**, compiled and codified by **Nambiyandar Nambi** under the patronage of Chola King **Rajaraja I**.

The first 7 Tirumurais are collectively known as **Tevaram**, composed by **Sambandar** (1-3), **Appar** (4-6), and Sundarar (7).

The 8th Tirumurai comprises **Thiruvasagam** and Thirukkovaiyar composed by **Manikkavasagar**.

The 10th Tirumurai is **Thirumandhiram**, composed by **Thirumoolar**, which deals with Saiva Siddhanta philosophy and Siddha medicine.

The 12th Tirumurai is **Periyapuranam** (also called Tiruthondar Puranam) composed by **Sekkizhar** in the 12th century CE.

Sekkizhar served as the Chief Minister (**Uthama Chola Pallavarayan**) under the Chola monarch **Kulothunga Chola II**.

#### REVISION FLASHCARD

*Periyapuranam, the 12th Saiva Tirumurai, was composed by Sekkizhar during the reign of Chola King Kulothunga II.*

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 8 (Tamil Literature & Cultural Heritage of Tamilakam).

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