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Who is the hero of ponniyin selvan novel

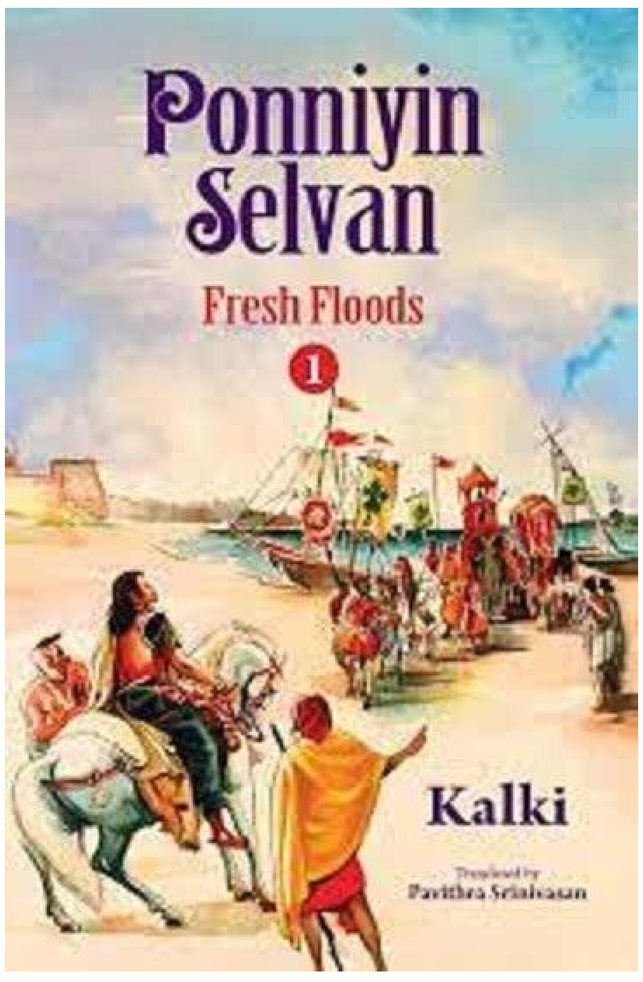
Movie enthusiasts and critics are eagerly awaiting the release of the Ponniyin Selvan-I, the first edition of a two-part film franchise inspired by an immensely popular work of historical fiction – Ponniyin Selvan – by author Kalki Krishnamurthi (1899-1954). The novel's enduring popularity stems from its connect with Tamil Nadu's culture and heritage through a narrative woven around the Chola rule. Ponniyan Selvan means the son of Ponni (the Cauvery River). wihibesugeki The novel was penned by author and freedom fighter Kalki Krishnamurthy, and serialized from 1950-54 on a weekly basis in Tamil magazine 'Kalki'. It was later published in form of a book in 1955. It tells the story of early days of Rajaraja I, born Arunmozhi Varman and considered the greatest of all Chola rulers. In world history, the Cholas are among the longest recorded dynasties with their reign peaking in the ninth and tenth centuries. During this period, the entire area south of the Tungabhadra River was brought together as a single unit under the Cholas. Archeometallurgist Sharada Srinivasan had earlier told The Indian Express that "in terms of the scale of accomplishments in art and architecture and the wealth of writing and epigraphic records, the Cholas would come across as one of the richest dynasties in South Indian history". While the novel is work of fiction, it draws heavily on the events and involves characters from the Chola dynasty.



Research | How successful were the Cholas as empire builders Author Venkatesh Ramakrishnan who wrote a sequel to Ponniyan Selvan titled Cauvery Mainthan around a decade ago, says: "No one can deny the fact that it's the best book to enlighten people about the history of Tami Nadu and people who read the book would make efforts to read up about the culture and history of our state." He, however, pointed out that the novel has faced a lot of criticism for ignoring the malpractices during the 10th century Chola rule. Calling it a novel that 'grips the reader' with its the storyline, he said that this is the reason that it has been the best-selling novel in Tamil even today after so many years. Professor Kandan, who works at the Department of Sculptures at Tanjavur's Tamil University, said, "As I read through the pages of the book, I could connect well with an English novel called Cholas written by K A Nilakantan Sastri. The book is all about what happened during the Cholas rule in Southern India. I am sure, Kalki Krishnamurthi too had read the book as part of the research for the Ponniyan Selvan. Even today the Cholas book is like a bible to authors and researchers." Also Read | 5 big takeaways from Ponniyin Selvan trailer The author Born in 1899, R Krishnamurthi was a writer and freedom fighter, who authored several short stories, novels, essays, travelogues, and biographies. He wrote under his pen name, Kalki, and also ran a weekly Tamil magazine by under the same title. Most of Kalki's novels were a success for his story-telling skills, and humour in his writings. Most of his work revolved around cultural and social aspects of India, particularly Tamil Nadu. Several of his creations have already been adapted for the small screen and now Ponniyan Selvan is a movie slated for September 30 release.



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She was forced to flee Pazhaiyarai and live in Madurai. vukafemoco After Aditya Karikalan beheaded the injured Veerapandiyan, Nandhini joined Pandya conspirators and vowed to avenge Veerapandiyan's death by killing Karikalan and destroying the Chola dynasty. By marrying Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar who had lusted for her and by using him, she helped the Pandya conspirators. She married Aditha to involve him. She had a deep hatred towards the Chola royals for their ill-treatment and also had a desire for the throne. She had a terrible childhood that affected her badly and wanted to be with her mother Mandakini. Parthibendra Pallava and Kandanmaran fell for her beauty and she used them for her plot too. [Mandakini Devi went to Thanjavur (while she was pregnant), Sembiyan Maadevi was pregnant too, so she took care of Mandakini during her pregnancy. natu
During child birth Sembiyan Maadevi gave birth to a still born son but Mandakini gave birth to twins - a boy (Madhurantaka) and a girl (Nandhini). Sembiyan Maadevi swapped her still born son with Mandakini's son. She asked Vaani Ammal (a maid in the place at that time) to bury her still born son and gave the daughter to Azhwarkadiyan's parents. After leaving the palace, Vaani Ammal notices that Sembiyan Maadevi's son (Senthan Amuthan) is alive. She fosters him and raises him as her own son. Azhwarkadiyan Nambi alias Thirumalaiappan: A Veera Vaishnavite spy who works for the Prime Minister Aniruddha Brahmarayar and Queen Mother Sembiyan Mahadevi. He is the foster-brother of Nandhini and also a close friend of Vandiyathevan.
He works closely with Vandiyathevan and saves him from many dangers. He was a loyal, trustful servant to the Chola royal government. He often engages in verbal battles with Veera Shaivites and Advaitis. Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar: The chancellor and treasurer of the Chola kingdom from the Pazhuvettaraiyar clan who was respected for his valor, as demonstrated by his 64 battle scars. The second most powerful man in the empire. Enamoured by her beauty, he marries a much younger Nandini, and gets scapegoated by her.
He was the leader of the conspirators who tried to make Madhurantakan the next emperor. Kundavai alias Ilaya Pirattiyar: The Chola princess. Second child and only daughter of Sundara Chola. tinayifurecoso Lover of Vandiyathevan. She was respected much by her father and the people for her intelligence and wit. Unlike other princesses of those times, she had ambitions of expanding the Chola empire and enhancing its glory and took a vow to never leave her motherland. She used her brother Arulmozhivarman and his son to achieve her ambition. She raised and taught Arulmozhivarman to be an intelligent prince and wished to make him the Chola emperor. She was jealous of Nandini's beautiful appearance and intelligence and hated her. She sent Vandiyathevan to bring back Arulmozhivarman from Sri Lanka to guard him. Vaanathi: The shy but playful princess of Kodumbalur. She was raised by her uncle Periya Velar Boothi Vikramakesari because both her father, Siriya Velar and mother are killed. She was sent to Pazhayarai to be one of Kundavai Devi's many friends/ helpers. She tends to faint in stressful situations due to which Ilaya Piratti takes special care of her, making the other princesses envious. She receives a prophecy from Kudanthai Jothidar stating she will bear an extraordinary warrior son who will conquer all 7 seas. She has an immense devotion for Ponniyin Selvan and wishes to marry him but due to Poonguzhali's accusation that her motive to marry Arulmozhi is for the throne, she vows to never sit on the throne if she marries him. Arulmozhivarman/ Ponniyin Selvan later known as Rajaraja I: The titular protagonist. The youngest son of Sundara Chola. He was raised in Pazhayarai by Periya Piratti and Ilaya Piratti. He was taught well by his sister and was sent to Sri Lanka at the age of 19 for battle. He was said to be saved by Mother Kaveri herself from drowning in the river when he was 5, earning him the title "Ponniyin Selvan" ("Son of Kaveri"). Aditha Karikalan: Eldest son of Sundara Chola, the crown prince and the commander of Northern troops during Sundara Chola's reign. He was a distinguished warrior who began fighting at the age of 12. He was known all over the empire for his valiant acts. His haste and irascibility alienated many, and resulted in a conspiracy against him. Poonguzhali: A boat woman, she was born and raised in Kodaikkarai. She was adventurous and fearless. She deeply distrusted and disliked men and civilisation. She holds great affection for her aunt Mandakini Devi. She also has an intense love for Ponniyin Selvan and yearns to be Queen because she believes her Aunt should have been the rightful Queen. She saves Arulmozhivarman when he drowns in the ocean and secretly takes him to Nagapattinam to recuperate. She was named "Samudrakumari" (The Maiden of the Ocean) by Prince Arulmozhivarman himself.
She marries Senthan Amuthan/ Madhuranthakan and attains her desire of being Queen.
Madhurantaka Uttama Chozhan alias Senthan Amudhan: He is the son of Sembian Madevi who was given to the flower seller Vaani Ammal, assuming to be a still born baby. . He is a close friend of Vandiyathevan, and helped the latter many times in his missions when he was still known as the son of Vaani Ammal and a calm, humble and honest Shaivite devotee. Vaani Ammai: The deaf and mute foster mother of Senthan Amuthan, sister of Mandakini and Thiyaaga Vidankar. Aunt of Poonguzhali. She was skilled in traditional medicine remedies.
Chinna Pazhuvettaraiyar: alias Kaalandhakandar: The chief in-charge of Thanjavur fort. Younger brother of Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar to whom he had huge respect and love.
He is the father-in-law of Mathuranthakar. Both Pazhuvettaraiyar brothers hated Vandiyathevan at first. Chinna Pazhuvettaraiyar constantly warns his brother about Nandini and her conspiracy, but his cautionary words fall on deaf ears. Sundara Chola alias Parantaka II: The emperor of Chola empire. He was known for his facial beauty which gave him his name 'Sundara'.
When his legs became paralysed and his health began rapidly deteriorating, the Pazhuvettaraiyar brothers moved the emperor from Pazhayarai to Thanjavur so they could better protect him. This sparked the debate for the next rightful heir. His wish was to appoint his uncle's son as his successor. There was a widespread rumor that the emperor was kept as a prisoner by the Pazhuvettaraiyar brothers. Vanavan Madevi alias Idaya Pirattiyar: Empress of the Chola empire. Chief queen, wife and caretaker of Sundara Chola. Mother of all his children. Daughter of Thirukovalur Malaiyamaan. Sembiyan Madevi alias Periya Pirattiyar: Wife of Gandaraditya Chola and mother of Utthama Chola. A Shaivite devotee who donates a lot of resources to build temples for Lord Shiva across the Chola empire. She was steadfast in not making her son the emperor, which was also the dying wish of her husband.
[Mandakini Devi went to Thanjavur (while she was pregnant), Sembiyan Maadevi was pregnant too, so she took care of Mandakini during her pregnancy.
During child birth Sembiyan Maadevi gave birth to a still born son but Mandakini gave birth to twins – a boy (Madhurantaka) and a girl (Nandhini). Sembiyan Maadevi swapped her still born son with Mandakini's son. She asked Vaani Ammal (she was a maid in the place at that time) to bury her still born son and gave the daughter to Azhwarkadiyan's parents. Vaani Ammal after leaving the palace notices that Sembiyan Maadevi's son (Senthan Amuthan) is alive, she fosters him and raises him as her own son.] Pinaagapani: Son of the traditional healer in Pazhayarai. devubu He was narrow-minded and ambitious and always considered Vandiyathevan his enemy but gets beaten by him all throughout the story. Pinaagapani was sent by Kundavai with Vandiyathevan to lead the way from Pazhaiyarai to Kodikkarai where the former lusts over Poonkuzhali but fails to attract her. His desire to gain high positions in the empire make him prey to Nandini's plans. Killed by Kandhanmaaran Thirukovalur Malaiyaman alias Milaadudaiyar: Father-in-law of Sundara Chola and maternal grandfather to his children. sukijo He was a well-wisher and advisor for Karikalan and lived with him in Kanchi. He was a rival of the Kadamboor ruler.
Parthibendra Pallavan: Friend of Karikalan, who comes from the lineage of Pallavas. He fought along with him in battles. He lusts Nandhini and hates Vandiyathevan from the beginning. Thiyaaga Vidankar: Father of Poonguzhali and in-charge of the light house at Kodikkarai. He is the younger brother of Mandakini Devi and Vaani Ammal.
Rakkammaal: Sister-in-law of Poonguzhali. She joined the Pandiyan conspirators due to her greed for money. Revadasa Kiramavithan was her father. Anbil Aniruddha Brahmarayar: The Prime Minister of emperor Sundara Chola's Court and a close friend and confidante to the emperor. He was highly respected by the people for his wit and intelligence. On Sundara Chola's request, he became the minister and assisted Sundara Chola in matters of administration in addition to being a teacher. He was the keeper of many of the emperor's personal and royal secrets. His network of spies across the Chola empire ensured that almost nothing could happen without his knowledge. One of the best of them is Azhwarkadiyan Nambi. Boothi Vikramakesari alias Kodumbalur Periya Velar: Irunkovel chieftain and uncle of Vaanathi. The Commander of the southern troops during Sundara Chola's reign. He fights alongside Arulmozhivarman against Mahindan's troops in Sri Lanka. He had a desire for Vaanathi to marry Arulmozhivarman and thus become the Queen. He and Thirukovalur Malaiyaman opposed the proposition of making Mathuranthakar the heir to the throne. The Kodumbalur Velars and Pazhuvettaraiyars were rivals though they were both loyal to the Cholas. Theveraalan (alias Parameswaran), Idumbankkari, Ravidasan, Soman Sambavan, Revadasa Kiramavithan: Antagonists of the novel. Bodyguards of the late Veerapandiyan. They conspire to kill the members of the Chola royal family. Ravidasan and Parameswaran were once ministers in Chola court. Ravidasan and Revadasa Kiramavithan were acting as wizards. Idumbankkari was acting as a guard in Kadambur palace. Amarabhujanga Nedunchezhiyan/ former Madhurantakan: Foster Son of Sembiyan Maadevi who was raised as a Shaivite.
He was raised a calm and humble Shaivite and taught not to desire the throne. He was brainwashed by his twin sister Nandini to develop a greed for the throne. Kundavai and others thought that he was untalented and lacked the basic characteristics and skills to be an emperor. The people of the Chola kingdom did not want him to become the ruler either. He fled once he discovered he was the son of Veera Pandiyan and the crown prince of Pandya Kingdom, turning into a warrior. Mandakini alias Oomai Rani/ Singala Nachiyar: The deaf and mute mother of twins, Nandini and Amarabhujangan. Love interest of Sundara Chola. She had great affection towards his children and her niece, Poonguzhali. She is always around Arulmozhivarman and saves him from many dangers.
[Mandakini Devi went to Thanjavur (while she was pregnant), Sembiyan Maadevi was pregnant too, so she took care of Mandakini during her pregnancy. During child birth Sembiyan Maadevi gave birth to a still born son but Mandakini gave birth twins to a boy (Madhurantaka) and a girl (Nandhini). Sembiyan Maadevi swapped her still born son with Mandakini's son. She asked Vaani Ammal (she was a maid in the place at that time) to bury her still born son and gave the daughter to Azhvarkadiyan's parents. Vaani Ammal after leaving the palace notices that Sembiyan Maadevi's son (Senthan Amuthan) is alive, she fosters him and raises him as her own son.] Sambuvaraiyar: The petty ruler of Kadamboor from the Sambuvaraya family. Chinna Sambuvaraiyar alias Kandhanmaran: Prince of Kadamboor. Son of Sambuvaraiyar and close friend of Vandiyathevan. He is the one who arranges for the petty rulers to gather in Kadamboor and hold a meeting to conspire to make Madhurantakan the next Chola emperor. He then assumes that Vandiyathevan tried to kill him and begins to think of him as his worst enemy. Murugaiyan: Elder brother of Poonguzhali. Husband of Rakkammaal. He rowed the Pandiyan conspirators to Sri Lanka from Kodikkarai.
But later compensated for his unknowing wrongdoing by helping Arulmozhivarman reach Thanjavur. Manimekalai: Innocent and shy princess of Kadamboor. Younger sister of Kandanmaaran and daughter of Sambuvaraiyar. She had deep, immense love for Vandiyathevan that he did not reciprocate. Karuthiruman aka Paithiyakaran (The Madman): An assistant of Veerapandian and prisoner in the dungeons of Thanjavur. Claims to know the location of the Pandyan crown and sceptre hidden in Sri Lanka. Kudanthai Jothidar: The astrologer in the town of Kudanthai (present-day Kumbakonam) who predicts that Arulmozhivarman will become a great emperor. He also predicts that Vanathi will marry Arulmozhi and bear a great king who will take the Chola dynasty to its glory. He later moves to Thiruvaiyaru since his house was destroyed in the Kaveri floods. Kalyani: Mother of Sundara Chola. Wife of Arinjaya Chola. Parangusan Nedunchezhiyan: Pandian Prince.
The 5-year-old son of Veerapandiyan and his Queen, raised by Nandini and the Aabathudhavigal (Pandyan conspirators) who declared him the successor of Veerapandiyan at Thirupurambiyam Pallipadai. Eesaana Sivabattar: The priest of the Shiva temple in Pazhayarai. Elder brother of Azhwarkadiyan and foster brother of Nandini. He helps Vandiyathevan secretly meet Kundavai in Pazhayarai when the Pazhuvettaraiyar brothers were searching for him there. Aacharya Bhikshu: The head monk of Chudamani Vihara in Nagapattinam who saves Arulmozhivarman when he was affected by Kulir Suram. Chandramathi: Maid and companion of Manimekalai in Kadambur palace who is literate and helps her read the final letter written by Aditha Karikalan. Veera Pandian: Pandian King. Father of Nandhini, Amarbhujangan and Parangusan.
Husband of Mandakini. Killed by Aditha Karikalan when he was hiding in Nandhini's hut. Plot summary This section's plot summary may be too long or excessively detailed. Please help improve it by removing unnecessary details and making it more concise. (June 2023) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) The story revolves around Vandiyathevan, a charming, brave and courageous young man who sets out across the Chola land to deliver a message from the Crown Prince, Aditya Karikalan, to Emperor Sundara Chola and Princess Kundavai. The story shuttles between Vandiyathevan's travels in Chola country and the young Prince Arulmozhivarman's (later known as Raja Raja Chola) travels in Sri Lanka. The narrative details attempts by his sister Kundavai to bring back Arulmozhivarman to establish political peace in a land seemingly beset with unrest and civil war plotted by vassals and petty chieftains. The story begins as the emperor Sundara Chola is ill and bedridden. His son Aditya Karikalan is the general of the Northern Command and lives in Kanchi. The younger son Arulmozhivarman is in Sri Lanka on a military campaign. Their sister Kundavai lives in the Chola royal household at Pazhayarai. The story advances when rumours abound that there is a conspiracy against Sundara Chola and his sons. Vallavarayan Vandiyathevan, Crown Prince Aditha Karikalan's messenger, is sent by him to investigate the conspiracy and deliver the news to Sundara Chola and his sister Kundavai. Vandiyathevan reaches Veeranarayanapuram where he meets a vaishvite spy, Azhwarkaddiyan Nambi. There he sees Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar,the country's treasurer along with his wife Nandhini in a closed palanquin who are on their way to Kadambur. After seeing the palanquin, Nambi asks if Vandiyathevan can deliver a message to Ilaya Rani (Nandhini) if he meets her in Kadambur. Vandiyathevan reaches Kadambur and meets his friend Kandhamaaran (Kadambur prince). He is invited to see the devaralan aatam where he meets many other petty chieftains. At the night, he eavesdroops on a secret meeting at the palace.
In the meeting, the chieftains take an oath to make Prince Maduranthaka Thevar, Gandaradithya Chola's son as the next king. While he listens to all of these, he finds Nambi too, trying to listen to their plan. The next day, Vandiyathevan leaves for Thanjavur to reveal the conspiracy to Sundara Chola. On the way he finds Nambi and asks his true motive for visiting Kadambur and what relationship he has with Pazhuvoor Ilaya Rani. To this Nambi reveals that Nandhini was his foster sister and disappeared under mysterious circumstances. After they cross the Kollidam river, Vandiyathevan leaves for Tanjai while Nambi gets a chance to eavesdrop on pandiya spies talking about destroying the Chola kingdom. On the way to Tanjai, Vandiyathevan sees Ilaya Rani's palanquin and goes near it vowing to meet Maduranthakan but is disappointed seeing the actual Nandhini in the palanquin. Nandhini gives Pazhuvoor a signet ring to Vandiyathevan and asks him to use that to access the Tanjavur fort. Vandiyathevan reaches Tanjai and meets a flower-selling youth, Sendhan Amudhan who helps him. The next morning, Vandiyathevan enters the fort using the signet ring outsmarting the fort commander, Chinna Pazhuvettarayar. Vandiyathevan meets emperor Sundar Chola and reveals about the conspiracy against him and his sons.
Chinna Pazhuvettarayar suspects him and arrests him but Vandiyathevan escapes smartly and climbs a ladder that leads him to Ilaya Rani's latha mandapam.
He meets Nandhini and delivers his message from Azhwarkaddiyan and tells her about his venture. The ladder Vandiyathevan climbed to reach latha mandapam was actually meant for Ravidasa, who is referred to as Mandhiravadi. After talking with Nandhini, Vandiyathevan finds an entrance to a secret passage and tries to escape through it. Periya Pazhuvettarayar reaches Tanjai and meets his brother who reveals his suspicion about Nandhini. Vandiyathevan sees Maduranthakan coming through passage with Kandhamaaran and is welcomed by Periya Pazhuvettarayar and Nandhini. Finally, after exploring the passage he finds the exit to it. There Vandiyathevan finds Kandhamaaran stabbed and saves him but Kandhamaaran thinks Vandiyathevan tried to kill him and turns against him. Learning that Vandiyathevan escaped, Chinna Pazhuvettarayar sends his soldiers to capture him. With the help of Sendhan, Vandiyathevan escapes but Sendhan is captured instead of him. Vandiyathevan reaches Pazhayaarai where Ilaya Pirati Kundavai Devi lives. With Nambi's help Vandiyathevan meets Kundavai and delivers Karikalan's message to her. Kundavai asks Vandiyathevan to bring Arulmozhi Varman, aka Ponniyin Selvan, back from Lanka along with a doctor's son, Pinnagapani, to bring medicines for Sundara Chola. Aditha Karikalan, his grandfather, Thirukovalor Malayaman and friend, Parthibendra Pallavan discuss the country's problems and decide that Parthibendra should go to Lanka to bring Arulmozhi. At night, Parthibendra insists Karikalan reveal his past. In his youth, Aditha Karikalan and Nandhini love each other, they were sure that they will get married and live a happy life, but whole royal family was against their love and plot to separate them. So when Karikalan went to war Nandini was expelled from the kingdom by Karikalan's family as she is an orphan so they don't want her to be Aditha Karikalan's wife who is going to be the king, but Karikalan is unaware of his family's plan. He started to search her everywhere when he returned. Aditha Karikalan and Nandini cannot forget each other even when they are miles apart. Later she becomes vengeful and vows to destroy the Chola dynasty after Aditha Karikalan killed Veerapandiyan unaware of that Veerapandiyan is Nandini's father. She marries Periya Pazhuvettarayar who lusts for Nandini in order to seek revenge but she has no relationship with him. Vandiyathevan reaches Kodikarai and meets Poonguzhali, lighthouse keeper Thygaravidagar's daughter. He tries to seek Poonguzhali's help but she refuses. Pinnagapani starts to dislike Vandiyathevan and tries to get him caught by Chinna Pazhuvettarayar's soldiers. Poonguzhali helps him to escape. Finally, he convinces her and reaches Lanka to meet Ponniyin Selvan. Ilaya Pirati Kundavai Devi reaches Tanjavur and meets her father Sundara Cholar who is ill and is depressed. To seek the reason behind it, Kundavai talks with her father and learns that in his youth, Sundara Cholar went to Lanka and falls in love with a deaf-mute woman named Mandakini. After some days, Chola ships arrived there and took him to Tanjai and he promised her that he will return but fails. He says that he saw her again multiple times and thinks that she vowed to torture his family.
He had said his prime minister, Aniruddha Brahmarayar to bring Mandakini back to him but Brahmarayar lies that she died. From then he is been disturbed and falls ill. Ilaya Rani Nandhini helps Kandhamaaran heal. Sendhan Amudhan caught by the soldiers is put in jail. Learning that he is Vandiyathevan's friend, Kundavai asks Chinna Pazhuvettarayar to release him.
Nandhini who is known for her beauty, uses Kandhamaaran and asks him to invite Karikalan to Kadambur.
Kandhamaaran agrees. Periya Pazhuvettarayar asks Nandhini about the signet ring with Vandiyathevan and she acts as if she did that as a part of their plan. In Lanka, Kodambalur Periya vellar Boothi Vikrama Kesari arrests Vandiyathevan but is saved by Nambi. They together go in search of Ponniyin Selvan. They meet Parthibendra along with some soldiers. They realise that the soldiers are Pandiya Aabathudavigal who are vowing to kill Ponniyin Selvan. They find Ponniyin Selvan is an elephant rider for foreigners.
Ponniyin Selvan welcomes Vandiyathevan with a fight. They reach Anuradhapuram for a festival. On the way, they see a tall Buddha statue with some clues that invite Ponniyin Selvan to an underground Buddhist monastery where he is offered the Lankan crown but he refuses it. When they return, they are attacked by Aabathudavigal but are saved by Mandakini. They come back to Anuradhapuram and rest.
Ponniyin Selvan reveals that Mandakini was the one who saved him while he drowning in Ponni river. This is the reason why he attains that name. Ponniyin Selvan also tells that Mandakini had saved him multiple times in Lanka too. While they talk about her, Mandakini comes there and takes them somewhere to show some drawings about her life. Next day, Kodambalur vellar meets Ponniyin Selvan and advices him to stay in Lanka itself. Parthibendra asks him to come to Kanchi. Vandiyathevan tells him to come along with him to Pazhayarai. Kodambalur vellar also reveals that a chola ship has come to arrest Ponniyin Selvan with Chakravarthi's orders. He tells that he learned it from Poonguzhali. Poonguzhali who has feelings for Ponniyin selvan reveals about what she saw and heard. Eventhough everyone says Ponniyin Selvan to not go to Tanjavur, he goes with Poonguzhali to the Chola ships only to find that the Chola soldiers were killed by Arabians. Vandiyathevan boards a ship thinking that it is a chola ships but finds aabathudavigal there. Ponniyin selvan goes to save Vandiyathevan in parthibendra's ship. Due to the cyclone, Ponniyin Selvan and Vandiyathevan drown in the sea. Poonguzhali saves them.
Periya Pazhuvettarayar learns about Ponniyin Selvan's drowning. He reaches Kodikarai along with Nandhini and lines up his soldiers along the coast to find Ponniyin Selvan if he comes there.
Nandhini uses the opportunity and asked Parthibendra to bring Karikalan to Kadambur. Ponniyin Selvan falls ill with a poisonous fever.
They consider going to Kodikarai but Pazhuvettarayar's soldiers guard the coast. Poonguzhali leaves them in her own shelter in the forest and goes to investigate learning about Aabathudavigal's relationship with her brother's wife, Rakkamma. She finds Sendhan Amudhan who follows her. Mandhiravadi Ravidasa follows her to find Ponniyin Selvan but fails, getting caught inside a mud pond. He is saved but Vandiyathevan and Poonguzhali fool Ravidasa and escape. Poonguzhali learns that Sendhan bought news from Kundavai who wants Ponniyin Selvan to arrive at Nagapattinam. They take him there after Vandiyathevan leaves for Pazhayarai. On the way, he stops at an iron smelter to give his horse some iron protection for its legs. There he finds a sword with the fish emblem of the Pandiya. After he sleeps there for so awhile, he learns that the Pazhuvettarayar family crossed him by telling him about Ponniyin Selvan's drowning and are on their way to Tanjavur. On the way to Pazhayarai, he finds Devaralan who takes him to Nandhini. He reaches Pazhayarai. To enter the fort he claims that he is an astrologer to Maduranthakan and fools him. Maduranthakan is stopped by his mother who tells him to leave all his will to become the Chola emperor but he does not pay heed to her request. Vandiyathevan meets Kundavai and reveals everything to her. Brahmarayar and Kundavai send Vandiyathevan to warn Karikalan about Nandhini and protect him. Vanathi who is worried about Ponniyin Selvan, learns about his presence in Nagapattinam and ventures there. On the way, she is interrupted by Shaivites who force her to reveal Ponniyin Selvan's whereabouts. She refuses and they attack her. She falls unconscious and gets up to find herself in Kundavai's lap. Kundavai tells her that all of it was a dream but it was just a plan made by her to test Vanathi. When Vanathi is attacked even Vandiyathevan sees it. He goes to save her but on the way meets Maduranthakan. He reaches a pallipadai where Aabathudavigal were gathered to crown a young boy as a Pandiya prince.
Vandiyathevan is found but Nandhini stops them from killing him. Kundavai and Vanathi reach Aanaimangalam and meet Ponniyin Selvan and discuss their next step. Paying heed to Nandhini's request, Karikalan goes to Kadambur. Vandiyathevan and Nambi go to Kadambur where they find a secret passage to enter the palace. Vandiyathevan enters

it to go into vettai mandapam. There he sees some aabathudavigal. He opens another exit of the passage that leads to Nandhini's room where he sees Kadhamaaran's sister Manimegalai, who hearing about Vandiyathevan, has fallen in love with him. He then escapes by using Manimegalai. He meets Karikalan and warns him about Nandhini but Karikalan doesn't listen.

Aditha Karikalan cannot forget Nandini and is unable to hate her even though he knows her evil plans against him and the Chola dynasty, revealing his pure love for Nandini. Pazhuvettarayar and Nandhini come to Kadambur. Karikalan also reaches Kadambur and is welcomed by the Sambuvarayar family. Periya Pazhuvettarayar talks with Karikalan about the next emperor. Karikalan agrees to crown Maduranthaka as the king but puts in a condition stating that he should be given permission to seize lands towards the north and be the emperor for the places he annexed. The chieftains agree to this and send Pazhuvettatayar to bring Maduranthaka from Tanjavur. Pazhuvettarayar leaves Nandhini in Kadambur and ventures to Tanjavur. In Kodikarai, Poonguzhali sends Sendhan back to Tanjavur and tries to take her aunt Mandakini to Nagapattinam to meet Ponniyin Selvan. They are interrupted by men who take Mandakini to Tanjavur. Poonguzhali and Sendhan reunite again and follow Mandakini. When they are almost near Tanjai, heavy rain causes flooding in the Chola country. Intending to save Mandakini, Poonguzhali exchanges herself with her aunt and sits in the palanquin and goes to Tanjai Fort. Sendhan Amudhan takes his aunt to his home. Kundavai comes to Brahmarayar's home to talk about her father's bad condition and the damage to Chola country because of the flood. Actually, Brahmarayar's men were those who kidnapped Mandakini. After learning about Poonguzhali's exchange, they send her to bring Mandakini but she fails as Mandakini enters a secret tunnel through which some aabathudavigal have entered that leads to Sundara Chola's room. Mandakini that night exits the tunnel and meets Sundara Chola. Sundara Chola is shocked by her arrival and gets angry. The next morning, Mandakini enters the tunnel again, spying on the aabathudavigal. In Kadambur, Nandhini gains Manimegalai's friendship and uses her for her plan. They leave for veeranarayana pond for a picnic where they meet Vandiyathevan and Karikalan who come to the forest for hunting, where Nandini had a conversation with Karikalan. On the way to Tanjai, Pazhuvettarayar is caught in the storm and drowns in Kollidam.

After suffering a lot he reaches a Durga temple near the river. There he gets a chance to follow Pandiya aabathudavigal who talks about murdering Sundar Chola and his sons tomorrow.

Listening to this, Pazhuvettarayar attacks them but they escape. During their talk, they also reveal about Nandhini's motive. Pazhuvettarayar goes to Kudanthai where he meets Kundavai and Vanathi, alerts them about the conspiracy and returns to Kadambur. On the same night, Nagapattinam Choodamani Viharam gets drowned while Ponniyin Selvan saves the head Buddhist monk and reaches Aanaimangalam palace. There he is forced to reveal himself to the people and plans to leave for Tanjai. The aabathudavigal plan to kill Ponniyin Selvan using his elephant rider but fails miserably as Ponniyin Selvan knows how to control elephants. While going to Tanjai, Vanathi gets caught in a flood. Ponniyin Selvan reaches there on time and saves her. Along with Vanathi, Ponniyin Selvan reaches Tanjavur, enters the fort as an elephant rider and meets his father Sundara Chola. There the aabathudavigal try to kill Sundara Chola but is stopped by Mandakini who sacrifices her life for him revealing her love for him and his family. In Kadambur, Nandhini plans to kill Karikalan and arranges for it. Vandiyathevan and pandyas were also hiding in Nandhini's room. Karikalan comes to Nandini's room even after he knows her plan to kill him. When Nandini sees Karikalan she hesitates. She hates Aditha Karikalan for changing her fate but she also loves him for accepting her for herself. Vandiyathevan became unconscious by Pandyas. Aditha Karikalan and Nandini reveal their love for each other and regret their fate. Suddenly lights go off and when the lights turn on again Aditha Karikalan is found dead in the room. The room catches fire. Vandiyathevan regains consciousness, finds Aditha Karikalan, and brings his body out of the Everyone suspects Vandiyathevan because there was no one in the place except him so they tie him up. They take them to Tanjavur, read Karikalan the last rites and discuss the next step. Nambi and Poonguzhali save Pazhuvettarayar and reveal the true motive of Nandini. Periya Pazhuvettarayar realises his mistake and feels guilty for betraying the Chola kingdom in his lust for Nandini.

Nandhini escapes on a horse. Vandiyathevan is put in jail where he meets Paithiyakaran, aka Karuthiruman, who reveals he knows a great secret of the Chola dynasty. They work together and escape the jail and with the help of Nambi reach Sendhan's house. There Madurantaka and his mother are found. Karuthiruman escapes with Maduranthaka. Maduranthaka badly wants to become the next king, but his mother reveals that he is not her son but the son of an orphan woman, Mandakini. She exchanged her child, since her child was lifeless. She gives her child to Vaani Amai (mandakini's deaf sister) who is alerted by Karuthiruman that the child is alive. The child now seems to be Sendhan Amudhan. Upon learning it Madurantaka thinks that he is the Pandiya heir and goes with Karuthiruman. Pinnagapani tries to kill Sendhan but fails. He stabs Vandiyathevan but then thinks it was Adurantaka. Then he follows Karuthiruman along with Kandhamaaran who attack Maduranthaka thinking he is Vandiyathevan. Pinnagapani dies there. Vandiyathevan is saved by Kundavai and Poonguzhali. Since Madurantakan goes missing, Nambi dresses up Sendhan Amudhan as Madurantaka and brings him inside the fort. Manimegalai comes to Tanjai and meets Kundavai and says that she was the one who killed Karikalan just to save Vandiyathevan. She tries to drown in the river where Vandiyathevan saves her. He goes to Sundara Chola's court.

Pazhuvettarayar reveals that he was the one who killed Aditha Karikalan releasing Vandiyathevan and killing himself. Before dying he tells Nambi that he did not kill Aditha Karikalan, when he went to the palace Karikalan is already found dead. He accepts the blame because he knows that Vandiyadevan and Kundavai love each other and doesn't want to separate them and also feels guilty for betraying Chola kingdom. Arulmozhi reveals that he will become the next Chakravarthi. Sendhan marries Poonguzhali. Vandiyathevan and Ponniyin Selvan dress as China traders and bring silk clothes for Kundavai and Vanathi. Sembiyan Maadevi asks Ponniyin Selvan to marry Vanathi but he says that she has taken a oath to not become the chakravarthini. During Ponnoyin Selvan's coronation, he makes Chinna Pazhuvettarayar move away from there and crowns Sendhan Amudhan the real madurantakan. Later Arulmozhi Varman meets Nandini who is hiding in a village where she reveals to Arulmozhi about her birth secret and truth behind Karikalan's death.

Chinna Pazhuverttarayar realises that his daughter is married to Pandiya's heir and she has gone there. The old madurantaka fights with Chinna Pazhuvettarayar pushing him.

Nambi saves him. After Aditha Karikalan's death Nandini loses her will to live as she loves him truly and he is the only man who loved her truly and accepted her even though the whole dynasty was against them, while others only lust after Nandini for her beauty. In her sorrow, she drowns herself in the Ponni River, revealing her pure love for Aditha Karikalan. Aditha Karikalan and Nandini's love story has a tragic end, even though they find true love, they cannot be together. They went from being in love to becoming enemies, but never lost the love they had for each other and died because of it as well. Vandiyathevan meets Kundavai who both reveal their feelings about each other. Meanwhile, he learns that Ponniyin Selvan married Vanathi. Vandiyathevan receives a message from Kandhamaaran asking him to come and meet Manimegalai. Vandiyathevan goes to meet Manimegalai, who loved him, and dies in his hands. Publication 2015 Sanskrit Translation of Ponniyin Selvan by Rajalakshmi Srinivasan and published by Central Sanskrit University, Delhi, India. The novel was first serialised in the weekly editions of Kalki during the period from 29 October 1950 to 16 May 1954 resulting the total period of development of work be 3 years, 6 months, and 18 days. The following year, Managala Noolagam released the novel in book form.[4][5] Adaptations Film and television There have been several attempts to create film adaptations of Ponniyin Selvan, beginning with an attempt in 1958 by M. G. Ramachandran. He bought the film rights to the novel for ₹10,000 (equivalent to ₹960,000 or US$12,000 in 2023), and announced that he would produce, direct and star in the adaptation which would feature an ensemble cast including Gemini Ganesan, Vyjayanthimala Bali, Savitri, and Padmini.

Ramachandran chosen Mahendran to write screenplay for the film.[6] Before shooting could begin, Ramachandran met with an accident, and the wound took six months to heal, Ramachandran was unable to continue with the film despite renewing the rights four years later.[7][8][9] In the late 1980s, actor Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam worked together on adopting the novel into a film.[10][11] Ratnam revealed that he worked on a first draft of the film alongside Kamal Haasan, who had bought the rights of the novel from Ramachandran, but the pair shelved their plan as the project did not make financial sense at the time.[12][8] Ramachandran also requested Bharathiraja to make the film. [13] Kamal Haasan then attempted to make the story into a forty-part television series during the early 1990s, and worked with writer Ra. Ki. Rangarajan on the screenplay, but the project was later stalled.[14] In the 2000s, there were further attempts to make the book into television series by Makkal TV and by Kalaignar TV, through a project directed by Naga.[15] A 32-hour animation film was planned by Rewinda Movie Toons, a Chennai-based animation studio, in 2008 and took seven years to complete. The film was set to be released by April 2015, but remains unreleased as of October 2022.[16] In late 2010, Ratnam renewed his interest in his film project and worked alongside writer Jeyamohan to finalise the script for the film adaptation of Ponniyin Selvan. The film was later shelved before the start of the filming stage, as the expected cost of production escalated. Jeyamohan stated that the film did not materialise as the team struggled to find available locations to shoot the film. He revealed that temple officials in Tamil Nadu refused to allow the team to film scenes on the premises and that the expensive cost of producing replica sets meant that it would not be a viable solution.[17] In 2016, Eros International engaged Jeyamohan and Soundarya Rajinikanth, as a creative producer, to make the book into a web-series but the project did not develop into production.[18][19] In early 2019, Soundarya Rajinikanth associated with another production house, May 6 Entertainment, and director Sooriyaprathap to make a web-series of the novel for MX Player. After years of little promotion, Soundarya announced that the project was still under the planning phase during September 2021.[20] In January 2021, a further adapted web series produced by Eternitee Motion Krafte and directed by Ajay Pratheeb titled Chiranjeevi Ponniyin Selvan was announced. The makers announced that the series would have 125 episodes, with technicians such as Ilaiyaraaja and Sabu Cyril joining the team.[21][22] 2022 film Main article: Ponniyin Selvan: I In early 2019, Mani Ratnam officially restarted production on his film project. His two-film adaptation featured an ensemble cast consisting of Vikram, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Jayam Ravi, Karthi and Trisha.[23] In September 2021, the filming for both the parts got completed.[24] The film was released on 30 September 2022 in five Indian languages and extends to a sequel Ponniyin Selvan: II.[25] Stage play Avvai Shanmugam was the first to organise a conference on Tamil drama in Erode, and the first to organise a drama contest, in 1945. One of the prize winning scripts was 'Raja Raja Chozhan,' which was staged in 1955 with Shanmugam as prince Rajendra. 'Raja Raja Chozhan' was also presented at the Motilal Nehru Centenary celebrations in Delhi in 1961, earning compliments from Nehru for the splendid acting. In Singapore, 'Raja Raja Chozhan' was also enacted 90 times. Overall it was staged 2,146 times.[citation needed] Avvai Shanmugam played the role of Maamallan in Kalki's 'Sivakamiyin Sabatham' and the sets were grand, befitting the story. For the scene in which Paranjothi tames an elephant that runs amok, two men inside a specially made elephant, operated levers as they walked in unison.[26] In 1999 the book was adapted into a stage play by E.

Kumaravel and was staged by Magic Lantern Theater in Buck's Theatre inside YMCA Nandanam, Chennai.[27] The script's length was originally over nine hours long, but was shortened into a performance time of four hours and 20 minutes and featured 72 actors on a multi-level setting.[28] Again, the book was adapted into a stage play in a very grand scale by SS International Live along with Magic Lantern theatre group in Chennai, in June 2014. The crew includes Kumaravel, who penned the screenplay & dialogues, Thotta Tharani as art director, Preethi Athreya as costume designer and Bhanu leading the make-up and hair styling department. Pravin directed the play.[29] Chicago Tamil Sangam staged the play in May 2013 with over 40 volunteers in cast and crew.[30] Novels and Comic books The Tiger Throne by Preetha Rajah Kannan is an English retelling of this vast 5 volume epic in one complete novel.[31][32] In 2017, Nila comics started releasing series of comic books where every comic book is an adaptation of two chapters from the novel.[33] It is available in Tamil and English. As of January 2019, There have been 18 comic books released in Tamil and 10 in English.[34][35] English and other translations There are at least six different translations of Ponniyin Selvan available in English by Preetha Rajah Kannan,[31] Indra Neelamegam,[36] Pavithra Srinivasan, CV Karthik Narayanan, Varalotti Rengasamy and Sumeetha Manikandan. On 21 February 2015, a Sanskrit translation by Rajalakshmi Srinivasan was released at a public function in Chennai.[37][38] English translations Translator Title Pages Publication date Publisher(s) Ref(s) Pavithra Srinivasan Ponniyin Selvan Book 1: Fresh Floods 454 1 December 2019 [39][40] Ponniyin Selvan Book 2: Whirlwinds 482 1 December 2019 Ponniyin Selvan Book 3: Sword of Slaughter 424 1 October 2020 Ponniyin Selvan Book 4: The Jewelled Crown 426 2 April 2021 Ponniyin Selvan Book 5: The Zenith of Sacrifice 866 1 January 2022 C.V.Karthik Narayanan Ponniyin Selvan Part 1 : The First Floods 404 Macmillan Publishers, Laxmi Publications, Trinity Press, Pustaka Digital Media [41][42] Ponniyin Selvan Part 2 : The Cyclone 370 Ponniyin Selvan Part 3 : The Killer Sword 288 Ponniyin Selvan Part 4 : The Crown 274 Ponniyin Selvan Part 5 : The Pinnacle of Sacrifice – Volume 1 300 Ponniyin Selvan Part 5 : The Pinnacle of Sacrifice – Volume 2 387 Ponniyin Selvan – All Volumes 2831 Indra Neelamegam Ponni's Beloved: Part 1– New Floods 264 1993, updated 2022 Free on Project Madurai ePub available at Smashwords, Barnes and Noble [43] Ponni's Beloved: Part 2 -- Whirlwind 254 1995, updated 2022 Ponni's Beloved: Part 3 -- A Killing Sword 252 Updated 2022 Ponni's Beloved: Part 4 -- Jeweled Crown 280 2022 Varalotti Rengasamy Kalki's Ponniyin Selvan Part-1 to Part-5 Set 2128 2016 Kavitha Publication [44] Sumeetha Manikandan Ponni's Beloved Volume 1: New Floods 341 2019 [45] Ponni's Beloved Volume 2: The Storm 389 2019 Ponni's Beloved Volume 3: The Sword 386 2020 [46] Ponni's Beloved Volume 4: The Crown 314 2020 [47] H. Subhalakshmi Narayanan Ponniyin Selvan, Book 1: New Waters 2150 2016 Ailum Books Ponniyin Selvan, Book 2: Whirling Cyclone Ponniyin Selvan, Book 3:The Killer Sword Ponniyin selvan, Book 4: The Crown Ponniyin Selvan, Book 5 & 6:The Epitome of sacrifice Malayalam translations Translator Title Pages Publication date Publisher(s) Ref(s) G.Subramanian Ponniyin Selvan 1200 2022 DC Books Sajith M. S Ponniyin Selvan (പൊന്നിയിൻ സെൽവൻ) 2022 Pratilipi Malayalam Free Reading Also Available in Pratilipi FM See also Novels portal Sivagamiyin Sapatham Parthiban Kanavu Romance of the Three Kingdoms References ^ "Jayaram joins Mani Ratnam's Ponniyin Selvan?". indianexpress.

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Rahman, with cinematography by Ravi Varman, editing by A. Sreekar Prasad, and production design by Thota Tharani. Ponniyin Selvan: I dramatises the early life of Chola prince Arunmozhi Varman, who would become the renowned emperor Rajaraja I (947–1014).[6] In the film, Vandiyathevan sets out to cross the Chola land to deliver a message from the crown prince Aditha Karikalan. Meanwhile, Kundavai attempts to establish political peace as vassals and petty chieftains plot against the throne. Ever since its publication, a film adaptation of the novel Ponniyin Selvan had been explored by several Tamil filmmakers, including an attempt by M. G. Ramachandran in the late 1950s; however, it never materialised. Decades later, Ratnam attempted to adapt the novel in the late-1980s and early-2010s but was unsuccessful due to financial constraints. He revived the effort in January 2019, after Lyca agreed to fund the film. Following several changes in cast and crew, production of Ponniyin Selvan began in December 2019 and concluded in September 2021, halting twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The film was shot in various locations across India, with a few sequences in Thailand. It was originally intended to be a single film but was split into two parts. Ponniyin Selvan: I was released in theatres worldwide on 30 September 2022 in standard and IMAX formats. It received acclaim from film critics, who praised the direction, music, visuals, performances of the cast, and faithfulness to the novel. The film grossed ₹450–500 crore worldwide, becoming the highest-grossing Tamil film of 2022, third-highest-grossing Indian film of 2022. The film is currently the fifth-highest-grossing Tamil film of all time, the nineteenth-highest-grossing Indian film of all time. The film received six nominations at the 16th Asian Film Awards, including Best Film. The sequel detailing the remaining part of the story, Ponniyin Selvan: II, released on 28 April 2023.[7] Plot In the 10th century, Emperor Parantaka II of the Chola Empire reigns prosperously in South India while his sons Aditha Karikalan and Arulmozhi Varman aka Ponniyin Selvan are heading their conquests respectively for the empire at Kanchi and Lanka. After winning the battle against Rashtrakutas, Aditha Karikalan dispatches his trusted associate and the Vaanar clan's prince Vallavaraiyan Vandiyadevan to go to Kadambur and investigate and subsequently pass on the information to his sister Princess Kundavai and Sundara Chozhar as he sensed something was amiss with his courtiers.

Vandiyadevan encounters a Vaishnavite Azhwarkkadiyan Nambi before arriving at the fortress of Kadambur, where all the ministers have gathered. Vandiyadevan finds his way into the fortress using his companionship with Kadambur's prince Kandhamaran and overhears a conspiracy devised by the minister of finance and treasurer Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar and other ministers in a meeting to resist Aditha Karikalan from ascending the throne and install his uncle Madhuranthaka Chola on it.

Vandiyadevan witnesses Nambi spying over the conference and after exiting from the fortress, he confronts Nambi on a boat making him disclose that he was there to find his foster sister Nandini, who mysteriously disappeared from the house in his absence and later, married a much older Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar. Vandiyadevan later interrupts a convoy of Nandini and informs the latter that he is Nambi's acquaintance and would like to deliver her a message from him, intending to gain access to the palace of royalty in Thanjavur bypassing Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar's younger brother Chinna Pazhuvettaraiyar. Nandini gives him a ring that would help him enter the palace and leaves; Chinna Pazhuvettaraiyar, the fort's chief-in-charge permits Vandiyadevan as the latter presents the ring and claims that it was given to him by Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar. Vandiyadevan meets Sundara Chozhar and discloses to him about the conspirators but Chinna Pazhuvettaraiyar intervenes and attempts to have him apprehended. Vandiyadevan evades and out of misinterpretation, he is taken to Nandini's chamber where she discovers his motives for meeting Kundavai with Aditha Karikalan's message and asks him to bring the reply to her first.

He obliges and is shown a secret tunnel out of the palace. Vandiyadevan meets Kundavai in Pazhayarai through a friend and flower seller Sendhan Amudhan and relays the information about the scheme against the royalty to her. She issues an order to him to bring Ponniyin Selvan back from Lanka and he complies. Madhuranthaka's mother Sembiyan Madevi asks Madhuranthaka to desist plotting against Sundara Chozhar and his heirs but is rebuffed. Aditha Karikalan narrates to his companion Parthibendran Pallavan that he was madly in love with every small detail of Nandini in his teenage years and describes how beautifully she was made, similar to a spotless flower, and he wanted to marry her, but she was not accepted to be the prospective queen of the empire as she is an orphan who sings in the temple and despite being warned from his father he continued to love her and one day she is banished from the city. He explains Parthibendran Pallavan its the most painful thing he has ever faced in his life, which made him indulge more and more in war, and he became ruthless in order to overcome the pain of separation from her. Aditha Karikalan happened to meet her after several years, tending to his enemy Veerapandiyan, Nandini's father figure. Infuriated, he beheaded Veerapandiyan ruthlessly despite Nandini pleading with him to spare his life, folding her palms and bowing on the floor before him, and presently, emphasizes that Nandini married Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar to take revenge against the Chola Empire. Ponniyin Selvan emerges victorious in a battle against Raja Mahinda of Lanka while Vandiyadevan engages a rowing woman Poonguzhali (Samuthirakumari) to take him to Lanka and discovers that she admires Ponniyin Selvan and harbors feelings for him. Divulged to be a spy of Sundara Chozhar's well-wisher Prime minister Aniruddha Brahmarayar, Nambi arrives in Lanka and chances upon Vandiyadevan. While Vandiyadevan transmits messages for Ponniyin Selvan from Kundavai and Vaanathi (Princess of Kodumbalur) who is expected to marry him, Nambi suggests that it is dangerous for Ponniyin Selvan to return.

Kundavai returns to Thanjavur while Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar and other ministers manipulate Sundara Chozhar into dispatching a convoy to bring Ponniyin Selvan back to Thanjavur as a prisoner for rejecting the throne of Ashoka's daughter, offered to him by Buddhist monks. Sundara Chozhar commands Kundavai to convince Aditha Karikalan and return with him to Thanjavur as it would be inappropriate for the crown prince to be away from the capital. In Lanka, meanwhile, Pandya Aabathudavigal, a group of soldiers headed by Ravi Dasan, devoted to Pandya dynasty and avenging the death of their ruler Veerapandiyan, attack Nambi, Ponniyin Selvan, and Vandiyadevan intending to assassinate the former. However, they are resisted by Oomai Rani, a veiled woman; Ponniyin Selvan claims that she was the one who rescued him from drowning in the river Ponni when he was a child. Kundavai and Vaanathi make it to Kanchi and Kundavai keeps persuading Aditha Karikalan to return, frustrated Aditha Karikalan tells her that she (Kundavai) is the reason why he doesn't want to come to Kanchi as he don't want to face Nandini for his ruthless behavior towards the girl he loved more than his life. He further adds that the separation from Nandini had turned him into a monster, and he killed Veera Pandiyan mercilessly, without drawing towards Nandini's tears to spare his life. He tells her she taunts him every day with the image of folding hands in front of him, begging to spare Veera Pandyas life. Kundavai states that her decision of having Nandini banished from the city was for the dynasty's good but he refuses to agree and states she is jealous of Nandini's beauty and intelligence, he disagress to come to Kanchi and doesn't oblige to her requests. Meanwhile, a member of Pandya Aabathudavigal reaches Mahinda and gains from him, an army to accomplish the group's plan of assassinating Ponniyin Selvan. Poonguzhali chances upon the convoy, which is assigned on arresting Ponniyin Selvan, and realizing that it was sent by Pazhuvettaraiyar, she senses a conspiracy and refuses to disclose Ponniyin Selvan's details. She reveals the convoy to Ponniyin Selvan, Vandiyadevan, Nambi, Pallavan (who was sent by Aditha Karikalan to Ponniyin Selvan), and Periya Velar, Vaanathi's uncle. His well-wishers repudiate sending him to the convoy but deciding to abide by his father's orders, Ponniyin Selvan seeks the help of Poonguzhali to meet the convoy and disguises himself as a mahout, while making Vandiyadevan look like a prince. Poonguzhali and Ponniyin Selvan discover that the convoy is ambushed by Pandya Aabathudavigal, who seizes Vandiyadevan, misunderstanding him to be Ponniyin Selvan.

Intending to save Vandiyadevan, Ponniyin Selvan heads to the sailing ship of Pandya Aabathudavigal and fights the latter but the ship eventually drowns in the sea due to a storm while a helpless Poonguzhali tries to rescue them.

Ponniyin Selvan and Vandiyadevan are presumed to be dead and the news is relayed to Sundara Chozhar, Kundavai, and Aditha Karikalan who are all devastated. Vowing to retaliate against his brother's apparent death, Aditha Karikalan sets out to Thanjavur to end the deviously deceptive Nandhini. Meanwhile, Oomai Rani, disclosed to be a lookalike of Nandini, deeply dives into the sea and intends to protect Ponniyin Selvan. Cast See also: Ponniyin Selvan § Characters Vikram as Aditha Karikalan Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as Nandini / Mandakini Devi (Oomai Rani) Jayam Ravi as Arulmozhi Varman (Ponniyin Selvan) Karthi as Vallavaraiyan Vandiyadevan Trisha as Kundavai Jayaram as Alwarkadiyan Nambi Prabhu as Periya Vellar Boothi Vikramakesari R. Sarath Kumar as Periya Pazhuvettarayar Vikram Prabhu as Parthibendra Pallavan Aishwarya Lekshmi as Poonguzhali Sobhita Dhulipala as Vanathi Prakash Raj as Sundara Chozhar Jayachitra as Sembiyan Mahadevi Rahman as Madhurantakan Ashwin Kakumanu as Sendhan Amudhan Lal as Malaiyaman Kishore as Ravidasan Babu Anthony as Khottiga Radhakrishnan Parthiban as Chinna Pazhuvettaraiyar Nasser as Veera Pandian Nizhalgal Ravi as Sambuvaraiyar Mohan Raman as Aniruddha Brahmarayar Vinodhini Vaidyanathan as Vasuki Shyam Fernando as Mahindan Balaji Sakthivel as Vanangamudiyar Yog Japee as Karuthiruman Riyaz Khan as Soman Sambavan Vidhya Subramanian as Vaanavan Maadevi Arjun Chidambaram as Varagunan Nimmy Raphael as Rakkamma Vinay Kumar Joseph as Devaralan Harris Moosa as Kalapathi Gopi Kannadasan as Dambulla Bikshu Bharat Raj as Karka A. Seemon as Ugradevan Suresh Ekambaram as Aadhan Maran Aswin Rao as Kandhamaran Anil Kumar as Pasupathi Shakti Ramani as Kani Raghav as Amarabujanga Pandiyan Ramchandran as Rajaaliyar Jaichandran as Thanthongi Kalingarayar Amzath Khan as Mazhavarayar Kannan as Kundrathur Kizhar Sundaram as Mazhapadi Thennavan Jaindhan as Mummudi Pallavarayar Nambi as Muttharayar Santhosh as Young Aditha Karikalan Sara Arjun as Young Nandini Bharathiraja Sakthivel as PS Commander Heavens Raja as Saivite Balla Bhoopalan as Idumbankari Manojkumar K as CP Guard 1 Aadesh Bala as CP Guard 2 Prabhu Mani as CP Guard 3 Vikram as CP Guard 4 The film's narration was voiced by Kamal Haasan (both trailer and film), Anil Kapoor (trailer)/Ajay Devgn (film), Rana Daggubati (trailer)/Chiranjeevi (film), Prithviraj Sukumaran (trailer)/Mammootty (film) and Jayanth Kaikini (trailer)/Upendra (film) in the Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada languages respectively.[8] Production Main article: Production of Ponniyin Selvan: I and Ponniyin Selvan: II Music Main article: Ponniyin Selvan: I (soundtrack) The film score and soundtrack were composed by Mani Ratnam's regular collaborator A. R. Rahman. The audio rights of the film were purchased by Tips. The soundtrack consists of six original songs composed by A.R.Rahman, namely, "Ponni Nadhi", "Chola Chola", "Ratchasa Maamaney", "Sol", "Alaikadal" and "Devaralan Aattam". Lyrics were written by Ilango Krishnan, Kabilan, Krithika Nelson and Siva Ananth in the Tamil version and Mehboob Kotwal, Ananta Sriram, Rafeeq Ahamed and Jayanth Kaikini wrote the song lyrics in Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada respectively. Marketing Promotional campaign for the film was supposed to begin in July 2022, with the film's teaser trailer planned to be launched at the Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur, the city which served as the capital for the Chola Empire.[9] Following the launch event, the team also planned a promotional tour for the film.[9] However, in mid-June 2022, the film's teaser launch was cancelled due to security reasons and post-production delays.[10] The movie team later on decided to have a grand teaser trailer launch event in Chennai as per their previous schedule on 8 July 2022.[11] The film's teaser trailer was released on 8 July 2022 in Tamil and dubbed versions of Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada languages.[12] The film's trailer and songs were released by the special guests Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan on 6 September 2022 at the Nehru indoor stadium in Tamil and dubbed versions of Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada languages.[13] The trailer featured Kamal Haasan voice-over in the Tamil version and Anil Kapoor, Rana Daggubati, Prithviraj Sukumaran and Jayanth Kaikini voice-overs in Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada version of the trailer respectively.[13] Posters featuring Sarathkumar, Parthiban, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Sobhita Dhulipala, Prakash Raj, Jayachithra, Rahman, Vikram Prabhu, Prabhu, Lal and Jayaram were released before the trailer launch event.[citation needed] Release Theatrical Ponniyin Selvan: I released on 30 September 2022 worldwide. It was released in Tamil along with the dubbed versions of Hindi, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam languages.[14] It was previously scheduled to release on summer (May–July) 2022, but was postponed due to production works.[15] It became the first Tamil film to release in IMAX format.[16] The film's release across Canada was disrupted after large theatre chains Cineplex and Landmark Cinemas refused to exhibit the film due to ongoing anonymous threats of vandalism if Tamil films were released in their locations. The attacks, which have happened during screenings of Theri (2016) and Kurup (2021), are alleged to have been conducted by owners of Woodside Cinemas and York Cinemas, a local theatre chain in Toronto attempting to hold monopoly of screening Tamil films.[17][18] Ponniyin Selvan: I had a limited Canadian release in select private theatres amidst protection from law enforcement. It was also released in TIFF Bell Lightbox, home of the Toronto International Film Festival, a first for a Tamil film premier.[19][20] Distribution The distribution rights of the film in Tamil Nadu were acquired by Red Giant Movies. The Andhra Pradesh and Telangana distribution rights were bagged by Sri Venkateswara Creations and Dil Raju.[21][22] The Kerala distribution rights of the film was bagged by Gokulam Gopalan's Sree Gokulam Movies.[23] The overseas theatrical rights of the film were acquired by TentKotta.[citation needed] The North India distribution rights were acquired by Pen India Limited.[24] Home media The digital streaming rights for the film were purchased by Amazon Prime Video for ₹125 crore (US$16 million).[25][26] The film was digitally premiered on Amazon Prime Video from 4 November 2022 in Tamil and dubbed versions of Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada languages.[27][28] The Hindi dubbed version was released on 26 November 2022 on the platform.[29][30] Reception Critical response Ponniyin Selvan: I met with critical acclaim, with emphasis on the direction, musical score, technical aspects, and the cast's performances (with some reviews praising Vikram, Karthi, Jayam Ravi, Aishwarya Rai, Trisha, Jayaram and entire cast performances).[31][32][33] On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 85% of 13 critics' reviews are positive.[34] Kirubhakar Purushothaman of The Indian Express rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Mani Ratnam understands Kalki's novel is a mainstream page-turner, so he retains its flavour and neither intellectualises it nor dumbs it down".[35] Sonil Dedhia of News 18 rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Ponniyan Selvan 1 is an engaging, involving movie-going experience, and proves once again why Mani Ratnam is one of India's finest filmmakers".[36] Sowmya Rajendran of The News Minute rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "The film does not try to amplify any aspect of the novel unnecessarily to fit a narrative that might be the flavour of the season.

In fact, it downplays the praise that Kalki lavished on the Chola Empire".[37] Stutee Ghosh of The Quint rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Ponniyin Selvan 1 is grand and royal but unlike the bombastic, hyper-masculine world we are used to seeing these days with overwhelming VFX and CGI, here Mani Ratnam's hold on the narrative never slips".[38] Sukanya Verma of Rediff rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Mani Ratnam's eye for intimacy, enigma, humour and menace bring out the glory of its source and all the imagination in store. One seldom thinks of Mani Ratnam's excellence in terms of VFX but Ponniyin Selvan: 1 goes full steam".[39] Krishna Selvaseelan of Tamil Guardian rated the film 4.5 out of 5 stars, writing, "The visuals are stunning. Ravi Varman captures the world of 10th century Thamizhakam (and its subcontinent) expertly, bringing life to the world."[40] Ritika Handoo of Zee News rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "The beauty of Part one of the two-part film lies in the fact that Mani Ratnam has not only made the story concise but has managed to do so carefully, taking adequate care not to dilute the essence of the novel or its charm".[41] Sudhir Srinivasan of Cinema Express rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Perhaps the foremost pleasure of a Mani Ratnam film is in experiencing his wizardry over the medium. We see plenty of evidence of this in Ponniyin Selvan 1".[42] Saibal Chatterjee of NDTV rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "The sprawling, spectacularly mounted film is an ambitious, near-flawless adaptation of a much-loved literary work".[43] Devesh Sharma of Filmfare rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Watch the film for its visual grandeur, epic action sequences and some sublime acting by the entire cast".[44] Sanjana Deshpande of The Free Press Journal rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "the cherry on top of the cake was the cinematography by Ravi Varman. He catches the attention of the audience and never lets it go. Each shot is carefully placed and executed. There's so much nuance in the film that is hard to put down in words, it is best experienced!".[45] IANS rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan – Part I' is a masterpiece that deserves all your adulation and love".[46] M. Suganth of The Times of India rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "Mani Ratnam's adaptation of Kalki's Ponniyin Selvan is spectacular", adding "Mani Ratnam finally brings the dream alive with this spectacular adaptation that superbly captures the intrigue, thrills and page-turning quality of the books."[47] Soumyabrata Gupta of Zoom rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "Perhaps not a film for the masses, Ponniyin Selvan 1 will ultimately be a cult classic, in time".[48] Vivek M V of Deccan Herald rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "Ponniyin Selvan is a winner because Ratnam shows a new way to make epic films".[49] Priyanka Sundar of Firstpost rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and termed it as a "brilliant experience" which doesn't chase the same high as other recent commercial films did. The spectacle lies in the setting and the story of the film that unravels beautifully.[50] Bharathi Pradhan of Lehren rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and termed the film as "Royal and Spectacular".[51] Anupama Subramanian of Deccan Chronicle rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "Ponniyin Selvan is a bit like Game of Thrones without as much grisly violence.

The polished cast and crew will keep you engaged".[52] Movie Herald's Felix said 'Glorious attempt which was effective but too delicate'[53] Janani K of India Today rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "Technically, Ponniyin Selvan is top-notch. Be it Ravi Varman's brilliant cinematography or AR Rahman's excellent score, the film sucks us into the world that Mani Ratnam has created with so much detailing."[54] The Hans India rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "PS 1 is a fascinating drama narrating an epic historical story. Mani Ratnam brought the best of everything on screen for his dream project. The casting and AR Rahman's background score stand as the main highlights of the film. PS 1 is more about drama and less about action"[55] Lakshmi Subramanian of The Week rated the film 2.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "Kalki's book gets Mani Ratnam's royal cinematic touch but lacks powerful storytelling".[56] Haricharan Pudipeddi of Hindustan Times stated "Mani Ratnam has managed the unthinkable—adapt the literary classic with finesse and impact. All actors do their parts well but Aishwarya Rai is a revelation".[57] Likewise, Srinivasa Ramanujam of The Hindu gave the film a positive review, noting that an "epic story gets Mani Ratnam's royal treatment", while adding "Kalki's source material of PS:1 is rich with myriad characters, and Mani Ratnam gleefully picks them all up to give it a cinematic touch, thanks to some powerhouse performances from his all-star cast".[58] Box office The film earned around ₹80 crore (US$10 million) on its opening day worldwide and debuted at the top of box offices in Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Australia, while it reached the top 3 in the United States.[59] By its third day, the film earned around ₹80 crore (US$10 million) taking its first weekend worldwide collection to ₹230 crore (US$29 million).[60][61][62] The film performed exceptionally well in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and overseas market, but performed average in Karnataka, the Telugu states, and the Hindi belt. The dubbed Hindi version grossed ₹22 crore (US$2.8 million) at the domestic box office.[63] Nonetheless, the film emerged as the highest grossing Tamil movie in Malaysia, Singapore, United States, Australia and the 5th highest grossing Indian movie in the US at that time.[64] Accolades Award ceremony Year Category Nominee / Work Result Ref. Ananda Vikatan Cinema Awards 2023 Best Film Ponniyin Selvan: I Nominated [65][66] Best Director Mani Ratnam Nominated Best Actor Karthi[b] Nominated Vikram[c] Nominated Best Actress Trisha Nominated Best Actress in a Negative Role Aishwarya Rai Bachchan Won Best Music Director A. R. Rahman[d] Won Best Lyricist Ilango Krishnan for "Ponni Nadhi" and "Chola Chola" Nominated Kapilan for "Ratchasa Maamaney" Nominated Best Playback Singer – Female Shreya Ghosal for "Ratchasa Maamaney"[e] Nominated Best Choreographer Brinda for "Devaralan Attam" Nominated Best Cinematographer Ravi Varman Won Best Editor Sreekar Prasad Nominated Best Art Director Thota Tharani Won Best Dialogue Writer B. Jeyamohan Nominated Best Makeup Vikram Gaikwad Won Best Costume Designer Eka Lakhani Won Best Visual Effects NY VFXWaala Won Best Production Lyca Productions, Madras Talkies Won Best Cast and Crew Ponniyin Selvan: I Nominated Asian Film Awards 2023 Best Film Ponniyin Selvan: I Nominated [67] Best Editing A. Sreekar Prasad Nominated Best Cinematography Ravi Varman Nominated Best Music A. R. Rahman Nominated Best Costume Design Eka Lakhani Nominated Best Production Design Thota Tharani Nominated Critics' Choice Film Awards 2023 Best Actor Karthi Nominated [68][69][70] Best Cinematographer Ravi Varman Nominated Kerala Film Critics Awards 2023 Best Non-Malayalam Movie Ponniyin Selvan: I Won [71] Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards India 2023 Favourite Song (South) "Ponni Nadhi" Nominated [72] Norway Tamil Film Festival Awards 2023 Best Film Ponniyin Selvan: I Won [73] Best Director Mani Ratnam Won Best Male Actor Karthi Won Best Music Director A. R. Rahman Won Best Lyricist Ilango Krishnan for "Ponni Nadhi" Won K.S.Balachandran Award Jayaram Won Sequel Main article: Ponniyin Selvan: II On 17 September 2022, Ratnam in a press meet, confirmed that Ponniyin Selvan: II (PS:2) would be released in six to nine months after the theatrical release of Ponniyin Selvan: I.[74] On 28 December 2022, it was revealed by the unit that PS:2 would be releasing on 28 April 2023.[75] Notes ^ The box office estimates by different publications are: ₹450 crore by Zee News,[2] ₹480 crore by Pinkvilla,[3] ₹500 crore by Hindustan Times.[4] ^ Karthi was nominated for two films – Ponniyin Selvan: I and Sardar ^ Vikram was nominated for three films – Ponniyin Selvan: I, Mahaan and Cobra
^ A. R. Rahman won the award for three films[66] – Ponniyin Selvan: I, Vendhu Thanindhathu Kaadu and Cobra ^ Shreya Ghosal was nominated for two songs – "Ratchasa Maamaney" from Ponniyin Selvan: I and "Maayava Thooyava" from Iravin Nizhal References ^ "Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan' first part run time revealed". The Times of India.
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