

Tamil Nadu and the Tabla

Tamil Nadu is one of the 28 states of India. It's capital and largest city is Chennai (formerly Madras). Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian Peninsula.

For over 2500 years, the region has been the home of the last surviving classical civilization of the world, the Tamil civilization. It is the homeland of Indian Tamils and their 2500 year old classical language Tamil. The Tamil culture is as old and comparable to those of other classical civilizations of the world like the Mesopotamian civilization. Tamil Nadu is the eleventh largest state in India by area (about the size of Greece) and the seventh most populous state. It is the fifth largest contributor to India's GDP and the most urbanized state in India.



The **tabla** is a popular Indian percussion instrument used in the classical, popular and religious music of India. The instrument consists of a pair of hand drums of contrasting sizes and timbres. The term *tabla* is derived from an Arabic word, *tabl*, (which simply means "drum"), that comes from the Aramaic word, *abl*.

Playing technique involves extensive use of the fingers and palms in various configurations to create a wide variety of different sounds, reflected in the mnemonic syllables called bol. A **bol** is used to define the tala, or rhythmic pattern, and is one of the most important parts of Indian rhythm. The heel of the hand is used to apply pressure in a sliding motion on the larger drum so that the pitch is changed during the sound's decay.



The Tabla

Information from: Wikipedia