

Anaimangalam Copper Plates

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Anaimangalam Copper Plates Latest News

The Netherlands returned the 11th-century Anaimangalam Copper Plates (Leiden Plates) to India during the Prime Minister's recent visit, restoring a monumental Chola-era record of maritime trade and religious pluralism.

About Anaimangalam Copper Plates

- The Anaimangalam Copper Plates, also known as the **Leiden Plates**, are **11th-century inscriptions** associated with the **Chola Empire**.
- The plates are **21 in number** and weigh about 30 kg. They are **held together** by a **bronze ring locked** with the **royal seal of Rajendra Chola I**.
- The inscriptions on the copper plates **date to the reign of Emperor Rajaraja Chola I (985-1014 CE) and his son Rajendra**.
- The plates are divided into **two sections**: one has texts in **Sanskrit**; the other, in **Tamil**.
 - The initial plates are in **Sanskrit**, offering a **detailed genealogy of the Chola rulers** and linking them to mythological figures.

- The **majority** of plates are in **Tamil**, documenting **administrative and grant details**.
- The **Tamil section** records **Rajaraja's grant of land revenues and taxes to the Chudamani Vihara, a Buddhist monastery** in Nagapattinam.
 - The **monastery** was **built by Sri Mara Vijayotunga Varman**, the ruler of the **Srivijaya kingdom** in present-day **Indonesia**.
 - The **land grants** were **originally issued by Rajaraja Chola I**, but **his son**, Emperor **Rajendra Chola I**, later **had the order engraved onto the copper plates** to preserve it.
- The inscriptions provide a rare **insight into the maritime links, religious pluralism**, and cultural exchanges that existed **between South India and Southeast Asia** during the peak of the Chola period.
- The **plates' journey abroad began** around **1700** when **Dutch missionary** Florentius Camper **acquired them during the Dutch East India Company's** control of Nagapattinam.
- They eventually **found their way to Leiden University Library, Netherlands**, where they have been studied by scholars but are largely inaccessible to the public.

Source: WION

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/anaimangalam-copper-plates/>

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