

Bulletin of the Department of Museums Chennai

Tourism Endowment Lecture

Thiru Indalur Copper Plate - A Critical Study

by

Dr. N. MARXIA GANDHI

Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (Retd)
State Department of Archaeology

Published by

The Director
Department of Museums, Chennai - 600 008.

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நிகழ்ச்சி நிரல்

சுற்றலா அறக்கட்டளை சொற் பொழிவு

இடம் : நூற்றாண்டு கண்காட்சிக்கூடம்

நேரம் : காலை 11.00 மணி

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| வரவேற்புரை | திரு.க.சேகர், எம். எஸ்., உதவி இயக்குநர் (தொழில் நுட்பம்) |
| சொற்பொழிவாளர் அறிமுகம் | திருமதி. ம.ந.புஷ்பா, எம்.எஸ்சி., எம்.ஏ., கல்வி அலுவலர் |
| தலைமையுரை | முனைவர். டி. ஜகந்நாதன், இ.ஆ.ப., இயக்குநர், அருங்காட்சியகங்கள் துறை |
| தலைப்பு / சொற்பொழிவாளர் | திருஇந்தலூர் செப்பேடுகள் – திறனாய்வு முனைவர். N. மார்க்கிய காந்தி, தொல்லியல் துணை கண்காணிப்பாளர் (ஓய்வு) தமிழ்நாடு அரசு தொல்லியல் துறை |
| நன்றியுரை | திருமதி.ரு.தே.துளசிபிருந்தா, எம்.ஏ., எம்.பில்., காப்பாட்சியர், விலங்கியல் பிரிவு |

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FOREWORD

TOURISM ENDOWMENT LECTURE

Tourism Endowment Lecture was instituted in the year 1997 by N.Sri Krishnan, Director, Mayur Travel Corporation (“ahalya” Flat No.1/7, Turn bulls Road, Nandhanam, Chennai-35). Rs.9000/- was deposited for the institution of the Endowment as per the G.O.Ms.No.300 Tamil Development, Culture and Religious Endowment (MA1) Department, dated 12/09/2000 to conduct the Endowment Lecture in the following subjects - Tourism and Museology. This Lecture is the fourth one in the Series.

1. “Kerala Wall painting Tradition” held on 31.12.2003 by Mr.T.Sathiyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai-9.
2. “Man and Mushroom’ was held on 07.05.2009 by Dr.V.Kaviyaran M.Sc., Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, Chennai-25.
3. “Roman Coin Finds in South India – An Interpretation from the view points of Roman Numismatics and Economy” was held on 29.12.2010 by Dr.S.Suresh M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Convener, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, (INTACH) Chennai.
4. “**Thiruindalur Copper Plate – A Critical Study**” on 26.10.2016 by **Dr.N.Marxia Gandhi**, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (Retd), State Department of Archaeology.

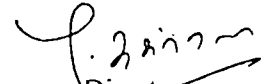
ThiruInthalur copper plate was discovered in the village ThiruInthalur in Mayiladudurai Taluk, Nagappattinam District of Tamilnadu.This is about 8 kilometres from Mayiladudurai and 30 kilometres from Nagappattinam. In this village from a small temple of Siva named Kailasanatha, these copper plates were unearthed during the digging for the renovation on the floor of the *mahamandapa*. Along this charter, a dozen bronze images were also exposed.

This is being the longest, heaviest among the Chola charters, containing two royal orders of the successive kings Rajadhiraja I and Rajendra II in the years A.D.1052-53 and A.D.1058 respectively. In the period of their next king in order Virarajendra, the writing on the copper plate was finished and sealed by him with his royal *sasanasloka* inscribed on the round seal, which holds the entire 85 leaves by a circular ring. This charter is considered to be an important feather in wings of Chola history, edited and published by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamilnadu and now kept in Government museum, Chennai.

Dr N.Marxia Gandhi, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (Retd) from the Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology, who is one among the editors of this plate giving a vivid picture and an analytical study through this endowment lecture. According to her, it is 'an epigraphical marvel', which reveals various aspects including the Chola administration, religious institutions, irrigation and agriculture, social patterns and more.

I hope it will be a useful lecture in understanding our past history and culture to the students, scholars and the general public, who have keen interest in these fields. I appreciate the speaker for having given the script of the lecture in time and also for delivering an interesting and informative lecture.

Date: 26.10.2016


Director

Thiru Indalur Copper Plate –A Study

by

Dr N.Marxia Gandhi

Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (Rtd)

Government of Tamilnadu, Chennai.

It is a great privilege to me to deliver this tourism endowment lecture before your august presence, in the Centenary Exhibition Hall, constituted by Mayur Travel Corporation, Chennai. I express my gratitude first to the museum authorities concerned, especially the Director of Museums and Commissioner of Archaeology (I/c), Mr.K.Kalathi, the then Educational Officer actually one who asked me first, and the present incumbent Ms.M.N. Pushpa for inviting and made me to deliver this lecture.

Introduction:

Thiruvindalur Copper Plate, a recent addition both to the Madras Museum collection as well as to the rich historical legacy of Chola empire, which ruled the whole of Tamilnadu, upto Nellur in Andra Pradesh, Southern parts of Karnataka and also Sri Lanka as well. This plate was discovered in the hamlet Kalukkanimuttam of the village Thiruvindalur in the Mayiladuthurai Taluk of Nagappattinam District, situated about eight kilometres from Mayiladuthurai. There is a small temple of Siva known by the name Kailasanatha, where the temple authorities arranged to get the floor of the front mandapa dug up for the renovation, on 20.05.2010, the present charter was discovered in about twelve feet deep. Along with this charter a dozen bronze images of Gods and Goddesses, the Devaram trio, Karaikalammaiyar and some puja materials were also exposed.

Deciphering and editing:

All the above mentioned treasure trove were handed over to the Madras Museum via HR&CE and the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology. In between, in the State department, the charter had been deciphered, edited and published. While the Sanskrit portion of the charter has been edited by Dr.S.Sankaranarayanan, former Deputy Superintending Epigraphist. Archaeological Survey of India, the Tamil portion by the present author with Dr.A.Padmavathi, Senior Epigraphist of Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology with the assistance of Mr.Sivanantham, the then Epigraphist.

Description:

This volume of copper plate consists of eighty six leaves and it also inscribed on the ring, as it contains 86 plates (*intha valayattil kotta edu enpatharu*) and it also numbered in the middle of the left margin on the front side consecutively from no 2. So it is understood that the first leaf has been missing. The existing first plate i.e the 2nd plate have been broken little in the lower right corner. So that some letters from the lines from 13 to 19 are missing and also it bears a small crack in the middle.

The plates almost uniformly measured which is forty four c.m. in length and twenty one c.m. in breadth. All the plates have in the middle of their left margin round holes, three c.m in diameter, to allow a circular ring of 2.5 c.m thickness and 50 c.m in diameter to pass through the holes of the plates and it holds them together. The ends of this copper ring are soldered together into a socket under a circular seal. The seal bears on its left side of the surface an image of tiger, the Chola royal crest, facing right. The animal is sitting on its bottom and hind legs. Its tail proceeds forward, passes through between its front legs. The mouth of the tiger is shown half open as if it roars. In front of this tiger are the two fishes, the Pandya royal crest kept side by side. Just touching the fish on the right is a stringed bow kept erect. Strangely the height of the bow is twice that of the other symbols shown on the seal. All these symbols are flanked by two sacred lamp stands one on either side. All these symbols are presented on the thick long line-base running across the seal, touching both the ends. Above the symbols of tiger and fishes, slightly left of the centre is the representation of an umbrella kept open and turned down. This umbrella is flanked by two fly-whisks one on each side.

Around the edge of the seal runs the following royal legend(*sasana-sloka*) in Sanskrit language and in Grantha script. It commences and concludes at the upper nob of the umbrella.

Srimach chhvsanam urvvisa- sirobhih sekhar ikritam I

Etad Rajendradevasya Parakesarivarmanah II

This celebrated order of Rajendradeva Parakesari varman is borne as crest on the heads by the rulers of the earth. All the symbols and the legend are presented in clearly scooped-out form on the seal.

Massiveness:

19 Copper plates issued by this dynasty have come to be known till date. Among all, this is the biggest and massive find. Originally it consisted of 86 plates (The first one is missing and the original number has been recorded on the ring itself as mentioned earlier.).

This copper plate as a whole weighing 150 kilogram. The following comparison among the three large plates issued by the Cholas will give a glimpse about the massiveness of this plate.

| Sans/Tamil | No of Plates | Weight | King & date | No of lines |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Thiruvindalur verses/3442lines | 85 | 150kg | Rajadhiraja I & Rajendra II | 202 |
| Karanthai verses/2628lines | 57 | 111.73kg | Rajendra I 1020A.D | 77 |
| Thiruvalangadu verses/682lines | 31 | 92kg | Rajendra I 1018A.D | 137 |

So this is the lengthiest and heaviest copper-plate we have ever come across in Tamilnadu, perhaps the whole of India.

The writings in the charter contains and portioned into two as usual –one in Sanskrit and the other in Tamil. The extent of the available Sanskrit portion of the record consists of 202 verses written in 272 lines, spread over seventeen sides i.e. both the sides of the first eight plates and the first side of the ninth plate and last two lines are continued over the second side of the same. From there till the end i.e. upto eighty-sixth plate the Tamil portion occupies. Since the first plate missing, it may be surmised that plate also must have been engraved. According to the editor of the Sanskrit part we have tentatively lost about 30/32 lines containing 18/19 verses in the beginning.

Grantha and Tamil scripts employed in the text of the record is the well formed scripts of the 10th/11th century found also in other Chola charters and the inscriptions. The letters are clearly and deeply cut throughout. As far as the Sanskrit portion concerned, the first four sides of plates bear sixteen lines each and the writing therein are slightly larger than that on the two sides of the plates bearing a few lines more. In the Tamil portion each side contains minimum of 20 lines to maximum of 30 lines.

Historical background:

Rajadhiraja I, the eldest son of Rajendra I a mighty king like his father. He maintained the Chola territory already conquered and annexed by his father. It spread up to Ganges in the north, Srilanka in the south, Mahodaya in the west and Kerala in the east. He was made as

crown prince in A.D. 1018, very soon after his father's coronation i.e. in 1012.A.D He must have participated almost all campaigns waged by his father. His mightiness and the participation in the war was lauded in many inscriptions of Tamilnadu and even in Mahavamsa, the historical chronicle of Sri Lanka. He conquered Vikramabahu and Vikrama Pandya ,the Ceylon and Pandya kings respectively. He captured Salai of Kandalur fame in Chera territory.

After the demise of his father, Rajadhiraja introduced a new system of administration through out chola territory. Being a vast area and ruled earlier by so many dynasties, he must have expected oppositions at anytime from anywhere. So that he appointed his brothers, sons and close family members in various provinces and named them with the respective dynastical name along their own. He appointed them as viceroys in as many as 13 areas under his control such as Pandya (chola-Pandya), Ganga (chola Ganga), Srilanka(Chola-Lankesvara), Chera(Chola kerala) and so on. Since the main and strong enemy of Cholas was Pandyas , the crown prince would be appointed as Chola-Pandya always. It made a check to the Pandyas and also for the upcoming king to get a greater experience both in the administration and in the wars.

During the reign of Rajadhiraja, he waged many wars. Among them the most important are the wars against Western Chalukyas. The first war fought at Kampili on the banks of Tungabhadra near Hospet. The second one was at Pundur and Mannappai. Pundur was the checkpost and the Chola army killed Vichcaya, a chieftain of Chalukyas and destroyed their military camp (padividu). The palace at Mannappai was demolished and after burning the whole city, caught hold of their elephantry and installed the pillar of victory(*jayastamba*) with his royal insignia engraved on it. They subdued Nulamba, Kalidasa, Chamunda, Kommai, Villavaraya and Gurjara, the other enemies. The third war was at Kalyanapura. Chalukya king Ahavamalla sent two messengers for peace talk. While rejecting their plea, Cholas humiliated them with cutting their flock and dressed them like women and also gave the name as Ahavamalla and Ahavamalli to them and send back. The army entered into Kalyanapura ransacked the city after glutting .He brought home many war booties including the image of a *dvarapala* , the guarding deity of the Chalukya capital. After this victory Rajadhiraja felicitated with the name Vijayarajendra deva. He made to engrave his victory, his honourable title, and the name of the image in two lines on the pedestal of the statue itself as follows:

Swasti sri Udaiyar sri VijayaRajendra Devar ivar.

Kalyanapuram erinthu koduvanda Dvarapalakar

In memory of that victory the roof of the *vimana* of the Siva temple at Thiruvilimilalai was made with gold by one of the relatives of the king's personal assistant(*anukki*), Pallavan bhattali Nakkan. This inscription gives the name of the king as Vijaya RajendraDeva only.

The fourth and last war was at Koppam on the banks of the river Krishna. He fought vigorously, riding on his royal elephant also named Vijaya rajendra devan. The enemies pointing him directly and put all their force on him. He was terribly wounded on his chest and thigh and was falling down. The prince and his younger brother Rajendra Chola II, on seeing the Chola army was scattering all around, came forward and spoke among them as "Don't be panic ; don't fear; I am here; I am giving you the arms and amenities; wage war and get the victory for us " As he orders, the Chola army got motivated and after a fierce battle they achieved victory. Thus by conquering Rattapadi seven and half lakhs, Rajendra II submitted the victory on feet of Rajadhiraja ,the king who lying on *virasayana* made of arrows and his elder, before he died. He also planted a pillar of victory (*jayastamba*) and returned to the capital Gangai konda cholapuram, with the captured elephants, horses, chariots, and other booties.

The object of the charter:

The object of the present charter is to record two grants made by two kings. The first one was made by king Rajadhiraja I and second one by his brother Rajendra II after the victory over the Chalukyas in the war of Kalyanapura and Koppam respectively. The first one was made on the 40th day of the former's 35th regnal year and the second one on the 69th day of the latter's forth regnal year. In the first grant there were 11 villages offered by issuing two orders on the same day to 130 Brahmins, who were great exponents and well versed in vedas and sastras(*vedamum sastramum vallarai vyakyatakkalai iruppar*). This was made while he was sitting on the seat named Vijayarajendra Kalingarayan in the eastern part of his chamber Rajendracholan, at the palace of Mudikonda cholapuram i.e . Palaiyarai. The villages granted were Thattamangalam, Kuttanur, Panchavanallur, Karambaikkudi, Melnagankudi, Kilnagankudi, Korranallur, Periyankudi excluding the land receded to Thiruvindalur. a portion of Thiruvindalur, Kallarmangalam and Korrankudi. All these villages amalgamated together and given the name as Cholakula Narayana chaturvedimangala before giving to 130 Brahmins. While the king was in the chamber

Mudikonda Cholan in the palace at Gangaikondacholapuram, on the request of Vikrmacholapandya these donated lands were exempted from tax and was entered in the revenue registers on 121st day of the same year. This royal order was addressed to *Nattar* of Thiruvindalur, owners of *Brahmadeya, devadana, pallichanda, kanimurruttu, vettipperu, salabhoga*.

The second grant of Rajendra II was made on the 69th day of his 4th regnal year while he was in the bathing room of his personal chamber Cholakeralan at Gangai konda cholapuram. Here also three orders were made and two on the same day. The villages gifted were: Panampalli, Akanakkudi, Aruvappattam, Vanavanallur, Arumolidevanallur, Kottur, Enadimangalam, Karuppur, Anainallur, Thiruvindalur excluding the temples of Jain and Buddha, Madurantakanallur, Naranamangala ,village separated from Kancharu ,Manigangai excluding the vellan vagai lands, Merchenninallur, Semangalam, Rajasikhamaninallur, Chembiyan nenmali, Nelvayil, Gangaikondacholanallur, Neduncherikkala Sasanamangalam, Kanthanam puttur, BhupalasekharaNallur, Eyinangkudi, Anniyur, Vallanvagai lands of Thiruppalakkudi, excluding the lands exclusively owned by Brahmins ('ekabhokam neekki vellan vagaiyum'), Uluttukkuppai alias MahimabharanaMangalam, Manigangai , Rajasraya Mangalam (savarnakani), Vittilur (vaikanasakkani). On the day 210 in his regnal year 6 , by one more order issued while he was in the bathing room of his chamber at Gangai konda cholapuram, two more villages namely Alagiya cholaNallur and Vaippur were granted. These two villages exempted from tax from 5th regnal year and entered in to the register on 146th day of the same year. All the villages mentioned above were clubbed together with already gifted Chola kula Narayan Chaturvedi mangala and named as Agara brahmadeya Sri Rajendra Chaturvedi Mangala before giving to 750 brahmins well versed in Vadas and Sastras. The number must have include the earlier beneficiaries also.(While giving the list of names in the Tamil portion only 664 are there . The consolidated Sanskrit portion tells as 656. So there are some discrepancies in the number.) All the orders of this grant were sent to the *nattar* of Thiruvindalur , Kurukkai , Nangur , the owners of *brahmadeya, devadana, pallichanda, kanimurruttu vettapperu, salabhoga*, , and the members of ur and nagara.

The total extent of land gifted was 1419.5 velis of arable land and 2.5 velis of mango grove+1731 odd velis and the levy of this entire land was 80508 odd bharas.(In the Tamil portion it is mentioned as *kalam*).

Donees:

As mentioned earlier the first 11 villages (the Sanskrit portion gives the list of 10 villages only. Thathamangalam of Tamil text was not included in it.) and the second 32 villages clubbed together and given to the 750 chaturvedi brahmins. It is nothing wrong in accepting the latter number includes the formerly benefited *bhattas* of Rajadhiraja's grant.(it is said in the Sanskrit portion that 656 vedic scholars were offered). While giving the list of number of shares and name of the beneficiaries, (*per muthalum pangu muthalum*) only 665 names were recorded in Tamil. So some discrepancies are there about the no of donees. Generally it is customary that the details of the grant part of the copper plates would be comprehensive in the Sanskrit . The genealogy and the achievements of the kings would be given importance. Here there is a specific mention of the number of beneficiaries as 656 and total number of villages as 44 and the total quantity of arable land and the levy derived as 1731 and odd velis and 80508 and odd *bharas* of paddy respectively.

The donees were selected from all over Chola territory of that period, it seems. They were from Cholamandala , Pandinadu and Jayangonda chola mandala i.e, Tondai nadu. Among 570, the first 61 persons were from *taniyur* Viranarayanachaturvedi mangalam and another 158 were from Rajendrachola chaturvedi mangalam of Velaanadu in Kshatriya sikhmani valanadu. Altogether they were from 52 *chaturvedimangalas*, 3 agricultural villages(ur), and 10 *agara brahmadeyas* of Cholanadu. As far as Pandya nadu concerned ,33 persons granted shares and they were from 6 *chaturvedimangalas* and 3 brahmadeya villages. 58 beneficiaries were from 18 *chaturvedimangalas*, two *brahmadeyas* and four agricultural villages(ur) in Tondainadu. 14 were from the *taniyur* Sri rajarajachaturvedimangalam of Rajendrachola valanadu of that *mandala*.

It is to be noted that two persons were honoured with *dakshina* separately for their specific contribution to this grant i.e. the composition of *prasasti* for the king and the village Rajendra chola chaturvedi mangalam. The names of them are Narasimhan Chandra bhushana Bhatta alias Chola brahmadhiraya of Nerkunram, a part of Viranarayana chaturvedi mangalam and one Chakrapani brahmaadma Bhatta, a *madyasta* of Sirunalur in Milalai kurram of Pandinadu. Last but not least was the *rajaguru* of the king Rajendra deva II.

Maximum number of shares was 20, which were given to one Nagesvaran Suryadeva bhattapiran brahmachakravartikal ,a native of Guntur. It is interesting to note that besides him two more persons from the same place offered 4 shares each. (There must be some special

reason for this, because most of them received one or two shares only.) Again one Sivadeva Haradatta bhattara, a native of Thirupper, a brahmadeya of Eyil nadu in Pandikulasani valanadu got seven shares and another ThayanSubramanya bhatta of that same *brahmadeya* got five shares. Narasimhan Chandra bhushana Bhatta alias Cholabrahmadhiraya of Nerkunram got four shares along with already mentioned remuneration of one share (*perumalaisasanaslokansollittukku dakshanai perra pangu onru*). Like that above mentioned Chakrapani Brahmaatma Bhatta of Sirunalur was offered three shares beside his *dakshinai* of one share (*prasasti solliyatharku dakshinai*). Incidentally it is mentioned that he served as a high level officer and *madyasta* also (*nam kanmikalil naduvirukkum*- leaf 28; b.s ll.4-5). Last but not the least was the *gurudeva* of King Rajendradeva allotted two shares.

Promotion of Vedas and other Sastras:

This charter records some more provisions made to promote/ patronise the study of vedic scriptures. The provisions and the text are as follows: Here I want to say something about the understanding of this area of this charter: In the recently published book of Dr Nagaswamy he says that there was a vedic collage in this village and he gave the name to it as Rajendra chola vedic collage and also commented that "the editors of the plates have failed to note the importance of the vedic collage mentioned in it." Although the provisions made to promote these scriptures, there is no mention of either teacher or students like elsewhere. e.g. Ennayiram and Tribhuvani. The text and the provision made are:

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Pavizhiya kidaipuram</i> | <i>3 ma mukkani araikkani mundirikai</i> |
| <i>Taitriya kkidaippuram</i> | <i>3 ma mukkani araikkani mundirikai</i> |
| <i>Vajasaneyam</i> | <i>2 ma</i> |
| <i>Candokta samaveda kkidaipuram</i> | <i>3 mavarai</i> |
| <i>Talayakarakkidaippuram</i> | <i>2 makkani araikkani munthirikai</i> |
| <i>Shadangam</i> | <i>1 ma mukkani</i> |
| <i>Vyakarana Bhatta viritti</i> | <i>Kale arai ma munthiri</i> |
| <i>Prahakara viritti</i> | <i>munthirikai</i> |
| <i>Bhatta darsana, brihat tikai & Karikai</i> | <i>kale araimavaraikkani munthirikai kkil naluma</i> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Tantra dipikai</i> | <i>kale araimavaraikkani munthirikaikkil naluma mukkani araikkanikkil arai</i> |
| <i>Mimamsai Bhatta virithi</i> | <i>Kale araimavaraikkanikkil mukkale munruma Araikkan</i> |
| <i>Prabhakara viruthiya svedant virutti</i> | <i>Kale araima munthirikai</i> |
| <i>Smriti viritti including Manu</i> | <i>naluma mukkanikkil mukkal</i> |
| <i>Mahabharata SriRamayana</i> | <i>naluma</i> |
| <i>Rupavatara vritti</i> | <i>3ma araikkani munthirikaikkil araiye mukkani Munthirikaikkil mukkal</i> |
| <i>Visha vritti</i> | <i>2ma mukkanikkil araiye oruma araikkanikkil kal</i> |

Shares allotted to the temples were:

The shares were allotted in the names of the Gods to the temples of the donated Rajendra chaturvedimangala and its hamlets, obviously included while this *mangala* was constituted.

At Rajendra mangalam

1. *Srikailasa alias Sri Rajendra Iswaramudaiyar*
2. *Thirumer koyil alias Kirti narayana vinnagaralvar*
3. *Suryadevar*
4. *Subramanya devar*
5. *Durgaiyar*
6. *Sabda Mathrukkal*
7. *Maha Sasta*

Temples of the hamlets were:

1. *Thiruchirrambala nallur—Thirukkamiswaramudaiya Mahadevar & Mahavishnu*
2. *Olokamadevi nallur-Thiruvakattiswaramudaiya Mahadevar & Mahavishnukkal*
3. *Thirup paranthaka nallur-Poonkoyiludaiya Mahadevar & Mahavishnukkal*
4. *Rajaraja nallur-Mahadevar*
5. *Vikramapandya nallur-Mahadevar*
6. *Manalur- Then kailayamudaiya Mahadevar, Kugiswaramudaiyar, Mahavishnukkal & Pitariyar*

7. *Sasanamangalam-Thiruneelaganda Iswaramudaiya Mahadevar*
8. *Senni nallur-Pitariyar*
9. *Kilai Parantaka nallur-Mahavishnukkal*
10. *Melai Parantaka nallur -Thirumanikkoyil Iswaramudaiya Mahadevar.*
Vishnukkal, Durgaiyar, Kshetra palar & Pitariyar
11. *Nel vayil-Pukaloka Iswaramudaiyar & Pitariyar*
12. *Kaduvankudi-Mahadevar, Vishnukkal, Durgaiyar & Pitariyar*
13. *Thiruppalaikkudi –Mahavishnukkal & Pitariyar*
14. *Gangai konda Chola nallur-Durgaiyar*
15. *Kanthanam pudur-Agasthiswaramudaita Mahadevar, Maha Vishnukkal,*
Durgaiyar & Pitariyar
16. *Eyinangudi- Mahadevar, Maha Vishnukkal, Durgaiyar & Pitariyar*
17. *Akanakkudi-Thiru Naniswaramudaiya Mahadevar & Mahavishnukkal*
18. *Mangala nallur-Pasupatiswaramudaiya Mahadevar, Mahavishnukkal & Pitariyar*
19. *Uluttukkuppai-Mahavishnukkal & Perumbidukiswaramudaiya Mahadevar*
20. *Panampalli-Mahadevar, Mahavishnukkal & Pitariyar*
21. *Manigangai-Kondaldeva, Mahavishnukkal & Pitariyar*
22. *Vittilur-Mahendra vinnagaralvar, Arumoli Iswaramudaiya Mahadevar,*
Thirumerkoyilalvar & Pitariyar
23. *Semangalam-Mahavishnukkal, Mahadevar, Subramanya devar & Pitariyar*
24. *Nidur-Karumanikka devar, & Thirumerkoyilalvar*
25. *Arumolideva nallur -Thiruvagathiswaramudaiyar, Sri Rajendra vinnagaralvar & Pitari*
26. *Anai nallur -Sri kayilasamudaiya Mahadevar, Rajendra vinnagaralvar & Pitariyar*
27. *Puthikudi- Rajendra vinnagaralvar & Pitariyar*
28. *Alagiya Cholanallur- Mahavishnukkal*
29. *Enadi mangalam-Pitariyar*
30. *Kottur-Pitariyar*

Shares allotted to the community services:

The various people of the society who were doing community services also got their share. So that all the requirements of the residence could be fulfilled and the harmonious living has been ensured. The shareholders were the two physicians (*savarnas- vaidyapangu*),

one astrologer (*gyodisha pangu*), surgeon (*Ambhatta pangu*), 6 *kavithis*, one *kankani*, one *kanakku kani* (all are accountants of the agricultural administration), one more category of surgeon (*salya vritti*), 22 *mannudaiyarkal* (may be *vetkovar* i.e. potters), 10 drummers (*uvacha kani*) 18 *navitha pangu* were offered land grants for their services.

Some category of servicers are mentioned without the land grants. Only the names are mentioned. 5 *ambanavar* (may be those who measure the yields), 5 *valai kizhavar* (may be those who make boundary markings), 3 shepherds, and 3 oil mongers (*sangarappadiyar*), one *Ilavan*, 7 *dhobi (irankolli)*, 4 *kulaiyaraiyar* (those who make necessary canals for irrigation), 8 carpenters (*taccar*), 7 blacksmiths (*kollar*), 20 gold smiths (*thattan*), 2 *kannars* (metalsmith), 3 *paraiyar* (worker with animal skin) are come under this category. It could be inferred that they might have done the work and get their pay in kinds annually.

Description of the lands donated:

We come across an unique feature in this charter while giving the description of lands of each and every village donated. It gives first the whole measurement of land of each village. The measurement of arable land is given after deducting the public purpose lands. Arable lands also classified in to wet land and dry land and their measurements also given accurately. The details of the public purpose lands indicated are the residential areas (*urirukkai*), temples (*Srikoyil*), tank (*kulam*), spring (*Uruni*), temple yards (*thiru murrangal*), flower gardens (*nantavanangal*), settlements of drummers (*paraic ceri*), funeral grounds (*cudukadu*), settlements of cowherds (*akulacceri*), carpenters (*kammalac ceri*), pastoring and living lands for the cattles (*karumey pazh & kanru nilai pazh*), waste land (*urnattam*).

Boundaries:

The whole Rajendra chaturvedimangala, which spread over 43 villages altogether. The boundary of the entire donated land is described in detail. It starts from the eastern side Vittilur and ends in the village Semangalam. While doing so, it records many rivers, canals, small rivulets running along the agricultural villages (*urkal*) and *Chaturvedi mangalas*. The lands are indicated according to the nature, such as *cey*, *tidal*, *varambu*, *nattam*, *idaikidai*, *kadu*, *tudavai*, *kala-nilam*, *kuttam*, *padukai*, *odai*, *udaippu*, *min-payil pallam*, *ten-payil potumbu*, *purru*, *terri*, *pidilikai*, *kalar*, *uvar*, *aru*, *aridu padukai* etc. Many names of *chaturvedi mangalas*, *Nallurs*, *devadana villages*, *agara brahma deyas*, *taniyurs* are mentioned.

Bureaucrats recorded:

When Rajadhiraja ordered for this grant he was at Palayarai as already stated. The oral order of him was penned down by his personal writer (*nam Olai eluthum*) Abhimana-meruppallavaraiyan. Starting from him a galaxy of officials were named with their designations. The responsibilities, their execution according to their level in this grant was given in detail as follow: Five persons of high level officers compered the royal oral order with the written one. They were designated as *olai nayakam*. They are 1. Narakkan Marayan alias Brahmarayan 2. Mavalivanarayan 3. IrukkuVelan 4. Kalingarayan and 5. Vannadudaiyan. All of them got the title of Vijayarajendra before their names. Next comes those who examined the draft and gave the approval to enter in to the revenue register (*oppittu pukuntha tittinpadie variyilittukkolka venru nam karumam aarayum*). Again this draft was confirmed by 14 officials and 4 arbitrators (*madhyastha*). Out of these 14 officials 10 were *muventa velars* and all the *madhyasthas* were brahmins of *taniyur* Rajadhiraja chaturvedi mangala. Now the royal order (*thirumukham*) was ready. Again the royal order was examined by 15 more officials and two more *madyasdhas* (*vidayil nam karumam arayum & naduvirukkai*). Upto this level all the designations were prefixed with the word *nam karumam arayum*, indicates that they were directly connected with the king.

Next comes a set of officials who were in charge of entering the royal order in the revenue registers housed at the palace. It could be inferred from the word 'maligai mudal' as prefix. They are 5 *puravuvartinaikkalattu kankani*, 7 *puravuvartinaikkalam*, one *malikai mutalukku puravuvarti naikkalam*, 4 *varipputtakam*, 7 *mukavetti*, one *malikai mutalukku mukavetti*, 7 *variylidu*, 8 *varippottaka kanakku*, 8 *pattolai*, and one *vasitta varippottak kanakku*. Here also 6 *tinaikkala* officials were *muventa velars*.

Then the order was entered into the register of revenue department. Here also the names of 7 *variylidu*, 8 *varippottaka kankku*, 7 *pattolai*, one *vasitta varippottakakanakku* were mentioned. After that the lands were measured and entered.

The royal order was sent to the village accompanied with some officials, as per the personal order of the king (*pothattantom tangalum ivarkalodum udane ninru ellai teriththu pidi sulntu pidakai nadantu kallum kalliyumnatti ara olai seytu potuka ennum thiru moliyal*). They are one *kankani*, one *naduvakai seyvan*, two *puravuvarti tinaik kalattu kilmukavetti*. The members of the territorial (nattar) assembly concerned, after demarcating

the boundaries in the presence of *nattar*, *puravuvvari*, *Itinaikalattu kil mukavetti*, *kankani*, *kilkuru vakai seyvan*, *Bhatta kankani* and the *urar*.

On the same lines the officials were named for the second grant of Rajendra II and for other each transaction made in this connection.

Rights and the privileges (*vyavasta*) conferred are:

1. Permission is granted to dig chnals to irrigate or bale out the lands with the water in accordance with the *course*.
2. Permission is granted to utilise irrigation water bybits flow or balling out as enjoyed earlier, from breaches ,streams, sluices, canals, and rivers flowing to this village through the bordering villages.
3. Outsiders are prohibited from either cutting branch canals from the irrigation canals of this village, or using picottas or baskets to bale water, or construct dam.
4. Use of drinking waters for other common purposes is forbidden
5. Permission is granted to erect residential buildings with stories using tiles.
6. Permission is granted to dig big large irrigation wells.
- 7&8. Permission is granted to plant useful trees like coconut, betelnut, palmtrees, jack trees, mangoes, and damanaka, iruvasi, campakam, cengalunir and other groves.
9. Permission is granted to set up oil press.
10. The canals to other villages which run through this village may continue as before.
11. The canals which run from other villages through this village also may continue as before.
12. Toddy are forbidden to climb and tap toddy from coconut trees within the boundaries of this village.
13. Permission granted to enquire and punish persons, when the offences of murder, theft and default in tax remission made.
14. Permission is granted to catch, beat, struck, and award capital punishment to those who made theft.

Taxes exempted are:

Nadatci, uratci, Vattinali, Pitinali, kannalakkanam, Vannarapparai, 'kusakkanam, Nirkuli, Ilaikulam, Ilaputci, paliuravu(may be palavirai), Moram, Muttabaranam, Tari-irai, Taraku, Tattarappattam, Idaippattam, Attukirai, Nalla, Nallerutu, Nattukal (may be Nadukaval), udupokku, virpidi, Valmanjadi, ulku, Odakkuli, Manrupadu, Mavirai, tiyeri, and Kuttikkal.

All these taxes which are enjoyed by the king will not be levied, but be paid to the donees.

Scribe and the engraver

According to Sanskrit part , the scribe of the charter was one Rajendra chola, a native of Phallapura. He was a great philanthropist, and was held high esteem by scholars and he says that under the orders of king Virarajendra in his 2nd regnal year, done this. The Tamil part says *thata tattan* named Karunakaran Pirantakan of Sri Vijayarajendra chaturvedimangalam (leaf .85.b.s.l.24) and a person named Aravamuthu Ganattan alias Chola Marthanda, a metalsmith of Sri Rajendra chaturvedi mangala was inscribed the text(leaf86.b.s.l.14).This two persons must have made their work for the two grants recorded in this plate as their titles suggest. It may be inferred that Rajendra chola of Phallapuram, as a rich as well as a scholar, arranged for the writing on the plate initially with some colour and made it possible to engrave faultlessly.

Some select points from the Sanskrit portion of the charter :

The text of the Sanskrit portion consists of two sections similar to all other plates i.e. first mythological which continued with historical and then the object of the charter .**Mythological:** The Cholas claimed their origin from the sun down through Manu. Ikshuvahu and so on. In this charter three kings named Rudrajit, Chandrajit, and Sibi are mentioned with their famous deeds. Then the chola king was born and that family ruled with their titles as Parakesari and Rajakesari alternatively. Here begins the names of the queasy historical kings. Peru Narkilli, Chenni, Karikala, Kochengannan and Manoratha were the kings ruled on par with the ancient kings Nala, Prihu, Nahusha of the epic fame. Among the achievements of Karikala the war against Pandyas and Andra country, beautification of the city Kanchi with gold and making the river Cuavery to directly reach the ocean are mentioned. Kochengannan's pious deed of offering to God Siva an umbrella made of his saliya in his previous birth is referred with veneration.

Next comes the historical portion. Vijayalaya, Aditya, Virachola (Parantaka), Arinjaya, Sundara chola, Arumoli(Rajaraja), and Madurantaka , and Rajendra I 's rules are celebrated. When coming to Rajendra I which was very closer to the period of this charter we take the privilege of elaborating the facts of his time. Rajendra fought a terrible war against Vallaba i.e Western Chalukya king Jayasimha and made him to flee away from the war front. His powerful army marched northward up to the river Ganges and filled up hundreds of golden pots with Ganga water and made the kings those who accepted his overlordship, to bear the water on their heads and marched back to his capital. Having conquered the Sinhala , he seized the crown of Rama i.e. Rajasimha Pandya that had been deposited in Srilanka long before.

Rajendra I had four sons through the queen named Sudhamalli. They were Rajaraja, Jayankonda chola, Dabarasabadipa and Virachola. Among those four the first one even in his young age went to heaven. King Rajendra made his son i.e. Jayankondachola, future Rajadhiraja I the lord of the Pandya dynasty.

This plate is very unique in one way that it gives a personal moments of the king Rajendra I. It is said that the king Rajendra invited his close and most trusted ministers to his chamber. After offering them suitable seats king, kept on his own lap his son Dhabrasabhadhipa, he embraced the son most affectionately and his entire body was abound in joy; and shedding tears of joy on the head of him , he told them the following as if he was strongly indicating what was in his heart.” You are all well aware that this son I love most. He also very much loves the people of the country. Therefore please offer him the same respectful treatment as you were used to do for me.” The ministers heard with attention the profound and in scriptable statement of the king and kept it well in their hearts. Then prostrating before the king they replied that they would certainly abide by the kings words. The king was fully absorbed in his thought and anguish in the following line. “ When I reach the abode of Siva, when the respectful attendants receive me in all curtesy and lead me, holding my hands to the graceful presence of the Lord, and I repeatedly utter “Hail O Lord”, will the Lord Siva will greet me with the smiling face and delight me by introducing me to His beloved consort”. But the land and the people therein were drowned in sorrow. It is understood that he died.

Then the coronation of Rajadhiraja I has been detailed .All the preparations had been made for the formal religious function of a coronation. But the son magnanimously declined very politely saying that “the eldest son alone should succeed the father. Now you

all should bring the first son to perform the coronation, since he alone was the master of me and of you all and of the whole earth.” The ministers heard these statements of the prince. They praised him for this magnanimity. Gladly they invited the first son Jayankondachola, who was ruling over the Pandya territory and thereby put an end to the sons grief, born as result of the father’s demise. Dhabrasabadipa’s elder brother got the parental kingdom and became Rajadhiraja. As a result the younger brother too got the ruler ship over the Pandya country.

It was Rajadhiraja I who ruled only ten years independently. He chose Rajendra II as his heir apparent. Rajadhiraja’s war with Chalukyas had been dealt earlier in the sub title ‘Political background’. The victory over them has been described in this charter also. Verses 58 to 78 describes Rajadhiraja’s war sequences in the battle of Kalyanapura, Kolhapur and Koppam. The second face of the battle at Koppam led by Rajendra II, the then Dhabrasabhadipa also described in detail in the verses 80 to 133. This *prasasti* part devotes 36 verses for the description of the heroism of this prince and the narration of the course of the chola-chalukys war and of the ghastly scene of the battle field. According to editor of the Sanskrit portion “the poet’s account is loaded with clear hyperbole, wordplay, pun, double entendre (*sleshalankara*), verbosity (*sabta dambara*), rhymes alterations and other varieties of *sabdalankaras*, rare metres (*vritta – viseshas*), picturesque way of verse-construction (*chitra bhanda*) and so on”. For example the verse 121 describes: The furious chola prince struck the enemy with swift moving arrows; and by single arrow he broke as if by play, the Chalukya’s bow and string and also simultaneously broke his courage and desire to fight. Rajendra II was very respectful to his elder, so that after the victory the entire war booty, the varieties of enemy’s wealth, his elephants, horses, women etc. were placed in front of him and by prostrating before him with tears in his eyes he offered them as his humble heroic contribution (verse 133). Then the glorious warrior prince, the embodiment of the merit of all his subjects, was anointed for protecting the earth as per law, by the elderly Vedic scholars with holy waters brought by many chieftains from all oceans, sacred rivers and lakes (verse 136). Now he became the king of the entire Chola empire.

New informations:

From this charter we came to know many informations for the first time. They are:

1. The king Karikala embellished the city of Kanchi with gold. He led a military raid up to the river vennar in the Andra country.

2. A king named Manoratha of Chola family, forcibly brought a Naga princess.(this reminds the episode of the king Tondaiman.)
3. Rajendra I had a wife named Sudhamalli.(she may be identified with one among his queens with their royal names which will be given only on coronation.) and had four sons through her. They were named as Rajaraja, Jayankonda chola, Dhabrasabhadipa and Virachola. The first son Rajaraja died even in his younger age.
4. The original names of the princesses known only by this charter. They were given the royal names as Rajadhiraja, Rajendra and Virarajendra respectively.
5. This is only charter which gives the personal moments of a king. Here last moments of Rajendra Chola I was narrated. (already dealt with elsewhere)
6. Hitherto the historians are of opinion that Rajendra II crowned himself in the battle field of Koppam. They mainly depended on the inscriptional evidences from Manimangalam, Thiruvallam, and Thirumalapadi. The words in these inscriptions run as "munaivayirkondu vijayabhishekancheytu", "akkarurunkalattey vijaya abhisham visai mika ceytu". But here the prasasti gives a different picture. While Rajadhiraja was in the wounded critical condition in the warfront, Rajendra II courageously fought and won the war and submitted all the war booties under the feet of Rajadhiraja I with veneration. After returning to the capital only he was coronated duly through the ritual ceremony. In this case the term *vijayabhisheka* should be interpreted as a mere celebration of victory.
7. This charter mentions the specific assessment of the state levy pertaining to the lands gifted and its exemption. This is the exclusive feature of this charter.

Conclusion:

As detailed above this is the most biggest, heaviest and massive charter ever since known in the history of Cholas, perhaps of India. This is written in 172 pages. The Sanskrit part occupies 17 pages and remaining part written with Tamil. It records two grants comprising about 50 villages. Some villages were newly created by amalgamating the old existing villages. In some instances only portions were separated and added to some other village. Many lands come under various categories such as brahma-deya, devadana, owned by *uror sabha*, were either purchased or by exchanged and converted into one and constituted as '*agara brahmadeya Rajendra chaturvedi mangalam*'. All these transactions were made under the supervision of various officials of different capacity and all their names with their designation were recorded without any flea. All the lands were measured correctly and specified with

accuracy. Various dates pertaining to both the grants, tax exemptions, dates of purchase and exchange of lands were given very carefully. Activities started from the 35th regnal of Rajadhiraja I and ended the 2nd year of Virarajendra, I.e. from A.D. 1053 to 1061. In between many officials might have changed.

Many names are given. The donees were from all over Tamilnadu. 665 personal names were given with the titles. Native places, Sutra and Gotra details. The receivers of special remuneration, Gurudeva of the king, the names of persons who wrote and inscribed the text on the plate are mentioned. The shares allotted to the temples, community services and servants are detailed. The boundaries were indicated exhaustively. These 87 leafed copper plates were written and preserved treasure of information.

No single fault could be detected either in the drafting, in giving the information, or in detailing. No place is hasty and pose difficulty in understanding. Really we are very proud of our ancestors' ability, capacity and clarity. Thankful to the Chola kings and their officials for giving us such a wonderful record of exemplary type.