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ANAIMANGALAM COPPER PLATES MUST BE BROUGHT TO TAMIL NADU

- Following the recent handover of the Chola-era Anaimangalam copper plates to India by the Netherlands government, information has emerged that they will be kept in the Central Archives in Delhi.
 - During his recent visit to the Netherlands, Prime Minister Modi visited Leiden University in The Hague on May 16.
 - During an event held at its library, the Anaimangalam copper plates, also known as the Leiden copper plates, which were preserved at the university, were handed over to India in the presence of the country's Prime Minister Rob Jetten.
- » Religious Harmony
- When Srimara Vijayattungavarman of the Shailendra dynasty sought permission to construct the Chudamani Buddhist Vihara near Nagapattinam, Rajaraja Chola donated land in the Anaimangalam area for that purpose.
 - A few years later, during the period of Rajendra Chola, these details were recorded on copper plates.
 - The Cholas, who followed Saivism, providing land to build a Buddhist place of worship serves as evidence of the religious harmony that prevailed in those times, and such details are featured in it.
 - When the Nagapattinam region came under the control of the Dutch East India Company, these copper plates were taken to the Netherlands in 1712 CE (AD) by a person named Florentius Camper.
 - In 1862, they were handed over to Leiden University. This copper plate inscription consists of 21 large and 3 small plates; information regarding the land donation is recorded on them in Tamil and Grantha scripts.
- » Significance of UNESCO
- Behind the return of the Anaimangalam copper plates to India, the initiative of the UNESCO committee that retrieves cultural objects is also significant.
 - India joined this international committee, which is engaged in the task of returning cultural properties to the respective countries, in 2012.
 - It is noteworthy that during the committee's meeting in 2024, India had made a request regarding the return of the Leiden copper plates.
 - Although the Anaimangalam copper plates are available to view on the internet, the long-standing regret of not being able to see them in person has persisted. Now, that regret has come to an end.
 - It has been stated that, like the antiquities previously handed over to India by some countries, the Anaimangalam copper plates will also be kept in the Central Archives operating under the Department of Archaeology in Delhi.

- However, voices demanding that they must be brought to Tamil Nadu and displayed for the public to see have gained strength.
- Not only political parties but also some organizations run by history enthusiasts have emphasized this view.
- Article 49 of the Constitution of India defines that it is the duty of the State government to protect places and objects of historical importance.
- In that regard, demands have also arisen that the Tamil Nadu government should urge the Central government to hand over the Anaimangalam copper plates.
- When the Anaimangalam copper plates are displayed at the Department of Archaeology museum located in Nagapattinam or Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Tamil Nadu, the successive generations of Tamil Nadu will get the opportunity to witness and realize the ancient glories.

INDIA'S TECHNOLOGICAL DIPLOMACY

» P.M.'s Visit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tour of five countries the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy gains significance. Its primary objective is to transform India into a leading country in future technologies such as 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI), semiconductors, and quantum computing.

» Basic Technological Terms

- Firstly, 'Exaflop' is the capacity to perform one quintillion calculations per second. That is, the power to perform a massive number of calculations, ten raised to the power of eighteen (10^{18}), in the blink of an eye.
- Next is 'Quantum Computing'. Normal computers operate as either zero or one. However, a quantum computer, using 'Qubit' technology, can function as both zero and one at the same time.
- It will complete a calculation that would require a thousand years in just a few minutes. Similarly, 6G technology is a hundred times faster than the current 5G network.
- It is expected to become widespread across the world by 2030. As the first step of technological moves, during the visit to the United Arab Emirates, an agreement has been signed for the 'Condor Galaxy India' project.
- This is the first time an American chip company is providing such cutting-edge technology to India. Through this agreement, a massive supercomputer with a capacity of 8 Exaflops is being built.
- This is being jointly developed by India's 'C-DAC', UAE's 'G42', America's 'Cerebras', and 'MBZUAI'. This supercomputer is designed with 64 'Cerebras CS-3' systems.
- Inside each chip used in this, there are more than 9 lakh 'AI Cores'. This is the largest chip in the world. Its capacity is beyond imagination.
- It is about 800 times more powerful than India's current 'Airavat' supercomputer, which has a capacity of 10 Petaflops. An 'AI' training that takes three years on the Airavat computer will be completed by this in just 11 days.
- It is 8 trillion times faster than our 'Param 8000' computer which we had thirty years ago. Through this single computer, India is set to become the country with the 4th largest 'AI' infrastructure in the world.
- In this initiative, the principles of 'Data Sovereignty' and 'Sovereign AI' are firmly followed.

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- All the data used in this technology will be managed only within the borders of India, in accordance with Indian legal regulations. The data of citizens will not go to foreign countries.
- » Semiconductor Production 50 Billion Dollars
- Even though many global countries competed, our human resources and infrastructure are the primary reasons for the 'G42' company to choose India. The main strengths of India are having more than 5 lakh 'AI' engineers and the massive success of digital public infrastructures (DPI) such as 'UPI' and 'ONDC'.
- Its application is going to be widespread in healthcare, energy, geospatial analysis, agriculture, education, and public services.
- For this purpose, the government has allocated about Rs .10,372 crore under the 'India AI Mission' scheme. It is noteworthy that despite having such high capacity, it will use 40% less electricity than normal computers.
- Partnership with European countries has also taken on a new dimension. India's relationship with the Netherlands has been elevated to a strategic partnership for the period from 2026 to 2030.
- The agreement with the 'ASML' company, which holds a 90% market share in creating semiconductor chip manufacturing machines, gains significance here.
- Through their technologies, an opportunity has arisen to increase our semiconductor production to 50 billion dollars by 2030.
- » 'Innovation Partnership 2.0' Scheme
- In the meeting with the Prime Minister of Sweden, a technology infrastructure has been created. Furthermore, the Innovation Partnership 2.0 scheme has been launched for 6G and joint innovations.
- This has been praised as the most important technological partnership in Nordic history itself. At the third India-Nordic Summit held in Norway, green hydrogen, 'Carbon Capture', and Arctic research were discussed.
- Development of 5G and 6G technologies, and human-centric, transparent 'AI Regulations' were also discussed. A strategic action plan from 2025 to 2029 has been formulated with Italy. In this, focus has been placed on 'Critical Minerals', defense, and clean energy.
- A target has been set to reach a trade of 20 billion Euros with Italy by the year 2029, and to double the trade with Sweden in the next 5 years.
- » 10 Lakh 'AI' Engineers Needed
- There are also some practical challenges in implementing these schemes. It will take up to 20 months to bring the new supercomputer into full utilization. To operate, this will continuously require 15 to 20 Megawatts of electricity. This is equivalent to the electricity required for about 20,000 houses.
- It is essential to make this possible through green energy. Furthermore, an additional 10 lakh 'AI' engineers are required by 2030.
- Overcoming these challenges, this computer is expected to become fully operational by the end of 2027. As a result, accurate diagnosis through 'AI' in rural hospitals within the next 3 years, and accurate weather reports for farmers in 4 years will become possible. Many constructive changes will happen in daily life, such as 'AI' teachers for students in schools.
- At this moment when global countries are moving towards the 'China Plus One' strategy, the partnership with these 5 countries secures India's place in the future supply chain. This will attract Foreign Direct Investments on a large scale.