



SRI SINGEESWARAR TEMPLE – ART & ARCHITECTURE

NEWS: A set of copper plate inscriptions with two leaves dating back to the 16th Century CE have been recently discovered at the Sri Singeeswarar temple in Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

About Sri Singeeswarar Temple:

- It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- This temple is at Mappedu village near Perambakkam in Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu.
- The temple was built by the great Aditya Karikalan II in 976 AD
- He is the father of the great Chola emperor Rajaraja Cholan, who built the Thanjavur Big Temple.
- In the later period, under Krishnadevaraya, his viceroy Dalavai Ariyanadha Mudaliar, exercised influence and built the Rajagopuram-Main Tower, compound wall, and 16-pillar Mandap in the year 1501.
- The Temple is constructed in the style of Dravidian architecture, and the Rajagopuram has 5 tiers.
- The chief deity is called Singeeswarar. Singeeswarar is found in the form of a slightly big Shiva Lingam in the sanctum.





About Vijayanagara Kingdom:

- The Vijayanagar Empire was founded in **1336** by **Harihara and Bukka**.
- Initially serving under the **Kakatiya rulers of Warangal**, they later declared their independence and established a new city on the south bank of the **Tungabhadra River**, naming it **Vijayanagar (city of victory)**.
- The Vijayanagara Empire witnessed the reign of four dynasties: **Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, and Aravidu**.
- The kingdom **reached its zenith under Krishna Deva Raya** during which it held military superiority over rivals like the Bahmani Sultanate, Golconda Sultanate, and the Gajapatis of Odisha.
- During the reign of **Rama Raya**, he was defeated at the **Battle of Talaikotta in 1565** by the combined forces of Bijapur, Ahmednagar, Golconda, and Bidar, marking the **decline** of the Vijayanagar Empire.
- The last ruler of Vijayanagar was **Sri Ranga III**.

Krishna Deva Raya (1509-1529):

- Krishnadevaraya of **Tuluva dynasty** was the most famous ruler of Vijayanagar. His rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation.
- He became the dominant ruler of the peninsula by defeating the **sultans of Bijapur, Golconda, the Bahmani Sultanate and the Gajapatis of Odisha**.
- Titles: **Andhra Bhoja, Mooru Rayara Ganda, and Kannada Rajya Rama Ramana**
- The Portuguese travellers **Domingo Paes and Duarte Barbosa** visited the Vijayanagara Empire during his reign.
- He Promoted Telugu literature and was a patron of poets like Allasani Peddana His era is called the **Golden Age of Telugu literature**.
- **The Ashtadiggajas** was a group of eight renowned poets in his court, who played a key role in enriching Telugu literature and arts.
- **Amuktamalyada** written by Krishnadevaraya is considered a classic in Telugu literature.
- Initially a follower of Shaivism, he later embraced Vaishnavism and constructed temples for both Shiva and Vishnu, exemplifying religious tolerance.

Nandinagari script:

- Nandinagari, a **variant of Nagari script**, is mostly confined **to the Karnataka region**.
- The Nandinagari script was used in South India between the 8th and 19th centuries for writing manuscripts and inscriptions.
- It is written from left to right.



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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/copper-plates-from-vijayanagara-kingdom-discovered-in-tiruvallur-district/article68775736.ece>



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