

## **Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

### **Epigraphical survey:**

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch conducted epigraphical survey. Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c copied two stone inscriptions from Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh. Dr. S. Nagarajappa, Assistant Superintending Epigraphist, copied 06 inscriptions from Periyapatna taluk, Mysuru district, Karnataka. Sri P. T. Nagarajan, Assistant Epigraphist, went on tour to Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Cuddalore districts of Tamil Nadu and copied 15 stone inscriptions. Dr. P. Balamurugan, Assistant Epigraphist is on tour to Tamil Nadu and the work is under progress.

### **Publication:**

During the period under review three departmental publications are published. They are:

- *South Indian Inscriptions volume XXXVI* edited by Dr. P. Shanmugham.
- *South Indian Inscriptions volume XXXVII* edited by Sri S. Nagarjuna.
- *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy for the year 2003-04.*

*Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy for the year 2017-18* is in press. The work of compiling *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy for the year 2004-05* has been taken up and is in progress. Editing of *South Indian Inscriptions* volumes by the technical officers and staff of the Epigraphy Branch is being continued. The work of editing inscriptions by outside scholars for publication in various *South Indian Inscriptions* and *North Indian Inscriptions* volume are in different stages of progress.

### **Review of some of the inscriptions:**

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Mysuru, important ones are highlighted here. Among them are two sealings, retrieved from the archaeological excavation conducted by the Excavation Branch - III, Patna, at Uren in Surajgarha block, Lakhisarai district, Bihar. They are written in Prakrit language and Brahmi characters datable to 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. and 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. and reads *Bhaladasa* and *Udaranasa* respectively.

A Kannada Inscription, engraved on a slab built into the wall of Navaranaga mandapa in Sadashiva temple at Nuggehalli, Chennarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka is highlighted here. It is dated Saka 1354 (1432 A.D.) and belongs to the reign of the

Vijayanagara king Devaraya II. It records the performance of *samprokshana* to the god Sadasiva by Chikka Bhimanna, son of Jalada Bhimiseti, the chief of Elahanka-nadu and the *mahajanas* of Nuggehalli, when Kattige Gundappa Nayaka and Amareya nayaka, sons of Hiriya Kattige Amareya Nayaka were administering Vijaya Somanthapura *alias* Nuggiyahalli. Chikka Bhimanna is mentioned as the Officer in-charge of the Palace, belonging to Gundappa nayaka and Amareya Nayaka.

Among the inscriptions examined by the North zone office at Lucknow, is a terracotta sealing preserved in Kannauj Museum, Kannauj District, Uttar Pradesh written in Sanskrit language and Brahmi script of 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It reads *Sri Maharaja Gupta kulasya*

Another inscription preserved in the same place, engraved on the pedestal of an image of Rishabhanatha *tirthankara* is highlighted here. It is in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters datable to 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century A.D and reads *Bhavana*.

**Other activities:**

All the staff members at Puratattva Bhavan, Mysuru, actively participated in the Swachh Bharat Abhyan.

Library facilities were extended to the scholars at Mysuru office.

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