

Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 31st October 2018

TOURS UNDERTAKEN:

Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c copied two stone inscriptions from Vadamanu and Phanigiri, Telangana. Dr. Meka V. Raghavendra Varma, Assistant Epigraphist, copied 43 stone inscriptions from Kumbhariya, Banaskantha district, Gujarat. Dr. P. Balamurugan, Asst. Epigraphist copied 12 stone inscriptions from Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

PUBLICATION:

- *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy for the year 2017-18* is published.
- *South Indian Inscriptions* vol. III is sent for reprinting to Tamil Nadu Government Printing Press, Chennai.
- The work of compiling *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy for the year 2004-05* is in progress.
- The work of deciphering, transcribing and writing gist of the inscriptions copied for the year 2018-19 is in progress.

REVIEW OF SOME OF THE INSCRIPTIONS:

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Mysuru, an inscription in local dialect and Nagari characters, engraved on a slab fixed on the wall of Kalinka Devi temple at Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand is highlighted here. It is dated Samvat 1640, Siddharthi, Magha 13, Tuesday and seems to record some pious act by Vadhamatirdda, son of Mayala and Vasantika, grandson of Maraja Valabha.

A Kannada record dated Saka 1075 (1154 A.D.), engraved on a slab kept by the side of Mallesvara temple at Kembalu, Hassan district, Karnataka is highlighted here. It records the construction of a temple and consecration of the image of God Kesava therein by Balla Gauda. Also mentions gift of land for providing food offerings to the deity and donation of an oil crusher for lighting perpetual lamp in the temple. The above gift was made after laving the feet of Parasiva Pandita.

An inscription in Tamil language and characters of the 13th century A.D., engraved on the south wall of the Champakamesvara temple in Bannerikatta in Bengaluru District, Karnataka is highlighted here. It records the gift of land (*kani*) to the temple priests *viz.*, Alvarnambi and Narayana bhattan Tiruvarangaperumal of Variyalur for providing services to the deity by Purmarayan of Vanniyarkattam.

Another Tamil inscription engraved on the sluice in the rain fed tank at Zameen-

Ilandaikulam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu is highlighted here. It belongs to the the 17th (947+17=964 A.D) regnal year of Pandya King Virapandya. It records the erection of a sluice in the name of Alavaysilampan by the queen Sempiyankilanadikal at Nilinallur, a *brahmadeya* village in Nechura-nadu. Further, it refers to renovation of tank and erection of sluice in the name of Alavaysilai by Madevancholai-ampalavan, a *Sivabrahmana* of Devadana-piramadeviyamma-Chaturvedimangalam in Anmar-nadu.

Among the inscriptions examined by the South zone office, is a Tamil record engraved on a hero-stone in Sorakulathur, Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu. It is of the 17th regnal year of Pallava king Ko Vijayanandivikrama and records the gift of land to Seruvaliyar, son of Nayakkar Athattiyar who died in a cattle raid at Suraikulam in Mandaikulanadu of Palkundrakottam. 0

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow, is a sealing written in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters of 9th century A.D. preserved in the Archaeological Museum at Kannauj, Kannauj district, Uttar Pradesh. It records the popular Buddhist formula i.e. *ye dharma hetu, etc.*

Another Sanskrit record, written in Nagari characters engraved on a headless image of Jaina *tirthankara* Mahavira preserved in the same museum is examined. It records the gift of the image by Sumati, disciple of Yasobhadracharya belonging to Rasadvigachchha.

Three Brahmi inscriptions datable to 4th-5th century A.D., engraved on the wall of Durga cave on Vindhya hill at Durgakhoh, Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh are highlighted here. They are written in Sanskrit language and reads *Pathiveka, Jamudasa, Gagadatta ujala uja* respectively.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ms. Shreedevi Thejaswini, Asst. Epigraphist, participated in the workshop on “*Translation of Classical Kannada text into Modern Kannada*”, conducted by Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru, Karnataka. Sri P. T. Nagarajan and Sri J. Veeramanikandan, Asst. Epigraphists, participated in the “*14th International Workshop on Tamil Epigraphy*”, conducted by Tamil University, Thanjavur and Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

Library facilities were extended to the Scholars at Mysuru office.
