

## Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

### TOURS UNDERTAKEN:

The officers and technical staff of the Epigraphy Branch at Mysuru went on tour and copied 49 stone inscriptions from various places in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c copied 6 inscriptions from Kadapa and Kurnool districts, Andhra Pradesh. Dr. S. Nagarajappa, Asst. Suptdg. Epigraphist copied 23 inscriptions from Nandi (Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka), Pavagada (Tumakur district, Karnataka) and Hemavati (Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh). Dr. P. Balamurugan, Assistant Epigraphist, Mysuru copied 20 inscriptions from Kochi, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala.

### PUBLICATION:

- 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.
- The technical officers of the Epigraphy Branch are editing their respective *South Indian Inscriptions volume*.
- 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, is a record in Sanskrit language and Gaudiya characters of the 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D., engraved on the pedestal of a broken image of Buddha from Sanghaul, Begusarai tehsil and district, Bihar (now preserved in K. P. Jayaswal Archaeological Museum, Dept. of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, G.D. College, Begusarai). Its purport is to record that the image was the pious gift of a person named Rajabadhra, a blacksmith (*lauhakara*) by profession.

A Tamil record of 13<sup>th</sup> century A.D. belonging to the Hoysala king Viraramadeva, engraved on the *pattakumuda* in south wall of the main shrine of Chempakamesvara temple at Bannerughatta in Bangalore north taluk of Bangalore district, Karnataka is highlighted here. This fragmentary inscription records the gift of dry and wet land by Narasajiyan for providing food offering and conducting other services to the god Tamotarapperumal in Vanniyarkottam.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Chennai, is a Tamil record of the 22<sup>nd</sup> reign of Vijayagandagopaladeva, engraved on a slab kept near the outlet of a water tank in the

village Punabakkam, Tamil Nadu. It refers to the gift of land as *sarvamanyam* by Surappanayakan, son of Muppinayakan and grandson of Surappanayakan to the gods Nallaisithisuraimudaiyar and Surisuramudaiyar at Pulukanur in Nenpoigainadu.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow, is a Sanskrit record in Nagari characters of 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century A.D., engraved on a slab preserved in the Archaeological Museum at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Its purport is to record some maxims conveying about the importance of performing pious act and value of having knowledge in life.

Four inscriptions engraved in Sanskrit language and Brahmi script, engraved on the wall of the Durga cave at Durgakhund, Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh are examined. Of the four inscriptions, one each are datable to about 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. respectively and two more to 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. All of them seem to contain some pilgrim records.

### **CULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

An Epigraphical Photo Exhibition titled “Indian Epigraphs” was conducted from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 by the Epigraphy Branch (South Zone), Chennai in the Department of History, Madras Christian College, Chennai as part of Cultural Awareness Programme.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

Library facilities were extended to the Scholars at Mysuru office.

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