

Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 31st January 2019

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.
- Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dy. Suptdg. Epigraphist (Retd.) has completed more than 50% of the work assigned to him for *South Indian Inscriptions volume* and has submitted the materials to the office.

REVIEW OF SOME OF THE INSCRIPTIONS:

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Mysuru, is a Sanskrit record in Gaudiya characters of 10th-11th century A.D., engraved on the pedestal of a broken image of Buddha from Rampur, Matihani block Begusarai district, Bihar, preserved in K. P. Jayaswal Archaeological Museum, Dept. of A.I.H.C and Archaeology, G.D. college, Begusarai, Bihar is highlighted here. It contains the Buddhist formula *ye dharma hetu*, etc and records the gift of the image by Madgaka, a lay disciple (*pramopasaka*).

Another Sanskrit record, written in Nagari characters, belonging to the reign of Dharavarshadeva of Parmaras of Chandravati dynasty, dated Samvat 1259, Ashadha su. 2, Saturday copied from Kumbhariya in Banaskantha district, Danta district, Gujarat is highlighted here. It is engraved on the pedestal of an image of Ajitanatha *tirthankara* in *devakulika* (No. 5) of the Parsvanatha temple. It records the gift of an image of Sumatinatha *tirthankara* by Sre° Sajjana, son of Sre° Kumara, for the merit of their own self. Further it mentions the installation of the image by Dharmmaghosha suri, a pontiff, during the reign of the King bearing the epithet *Arasana mandalika* and *Surashambhu*.

A Kannada record of the 10th century A.D., engraved on the pedestal of the image of a Jaina *tirthankara* preserved in the Archaeological site museum at Hemavati in Madakasira taluk

of Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh is highlighted here. It states that the image (of *tirthankara*) was caused to be made by Ravichandra bhattacharya of Kanru gana.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow, is a record in local dialect and Nagari characters dated Vikrama 1580 (1523 A.D.), engraved on a stone from Sirsauda, Bhind district, Madhya Pradesh. It records the performance of sati by a lady and mentions the name of a person *pandita* Manu.

Four inscriptions engraved in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters, on the wall of the Durga cave at Durgakhund, Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh are also examined. They can be paleographically dated variously as belonging to 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th centuries A.D. respectively and probably contain some pilgrim records.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Library facilities were extended to the Scholars at Mysuru office.
