

Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 28th February 2019

EPIGRAPHICAL SURVEY

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch conducted epigraphical survey and copied 16 inscriptions. Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c copied 5 stone inscriptions from Hyderabad, Telangana. Dr. K. Pannerselvam, Assistant Superintending Epigraphist is on tour for copying inscriptions in Villupuram and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu and the work is under progress. Sri M. Yesubabu, Assistant Epigraphist, Southern zone, Chennai, copied 11 stone inscriptions in and around Hyderabad, Telangana.

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/ staff of the Epigraphy Branch and outside scholars are editing inscriptions for publication in various *South Indian Inscriptions* and *North Indian Inscriptions volume* and the work is in different stages of progress.
- Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c is editing pre-final draft of *South Indian Inscriptions volume XL* and the work is under progress.

REVIEW OF SOME OF THE INSCRIPTIONS

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Mysuru, is an inscription engraved on the pedestal of a broken image found from Rampur, Matihani block, Begusarai district, Bihar. It is now preserved in K.P. Jayaswal Archaeological Museum, Dept. of A.I.H.C. and Archaeology, G. D. College, Begusarai, bearing Acc. No. 14. The record is written in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters of 9th-10th century A.D. and seems to record the gift of the image by Bhatabhadrha.

Another Sanskrit record, written in Nagari characters on the pedestal of an image Pundarika *tirthankara* in *devakulika* (no. 11) of the Parsvanatha temple at Kumbhariya, Banaskantha district, Gujarat is examined here. It belongs to the reign of Dharavarshadeva of Paramaras of Chandravati dynasty and is dated Samvat 1259, Ashadha su. 2, Saturday. It records the gift of an image of Sreyamsanatha *tirthankara* by *Thaku*° Lakshmidhara son of *Thaku*° Asu belonging to Kayastha family for attaining *moksha*. Further it mentions the installation of the

image by Dharmmaghosh Suri, a pontiff, during the reign of the king bearing the epithet *Arasana mandalika, Surasambhu*.

Two Tamil records of the reign of Pandya king Sundara Pandya issued in his 7th and 8th regnal years respectively written in Tamil characters of 13th century A.D. is highlighted here. Of the two inscriptions, one is engraved on a slab found inside the rain-fed tank (*Kanmai*) at Maruthankinaru in Sankarankovil taluk of Tirunelveli district. It records the erection of a water measuring stone inside the rain-fed tank by Ganavati-poduvan *alias* Karanmai-Paraiyan of Viyakakkudi. The second inscription is found on a sluice in the rain-fed tank at Alangulam in Tiruvengadam taluk of the same district. It records the erection of a sluice in the tank of Maruthankulam in Nerchura-nadu.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow, an inscription written in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters dated Vikrama 1923 (1866 A.D.) from Gharava, district Datia, Madhya Pradesh records the death of the king Bhavani Singh in a battle.

Three 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 to 4th-5th, 6th and 8th century A.D. respectively and probably contains some pilgrim records.

CULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

As part of Cultural Awareness Programme an Epigraphical Photo Exhibition is arranged at M. Hanumanthappa Auditorium, M. H. group of Institutions in Ramanagara, Karnataka from 26th to 28th February 2019 by the Epigraphy Branch, Mysuru.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Lectures related to Epigraphy and practical training in the technique of taking estampages is delivered by the technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch, Mysuru to the students of Institute of Archaeology, New Delhi.

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch participated and presented papers in the 44th Annual Congress of The Epigraphical Society of India and 38th Annual Conference of the Place Names Society of India organized by Heritage Telangana, Govt. of Telangana at Hyderabad from 16th-18th February 2019.

Library facilities were extended to the Scholars at Mysuru office.
