

## Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> JuLY 2019

### EPIGRAPHICAL SURVEY

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch conducted epigraphical survey in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and copied 76 inscriptions. Dr. P. Balamurugan, Assistant Epigraphist went on tour and copied 25 stone inscriptions from Tirichirappalli and Pudukkottai districts in Tamil Nadu. Sri M. Yesu Babu, A.E., Southern Zone, Chennai, copied 16 inscriptions from Guntur, Nellore and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh. Sri P. T. Nagarajan, A.E. Southern Zone, Chennai copied 35 stone inscriptions from Pudukkottai, Tirichirappalli and Thanjavur districts in Tamil Nadu.

### PUBLICATION

- *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy for the year 2018-19* is sent to Tamil Nadu Government Central Printing Press, Chennai.
- 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.

### REVIEW OF SOME OF THE INSCRIPTIONS

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Mysuru, is a copper-plate grant from Cuttack, Cuttack district, Odisha (Photographs received from Prof. S. K . Acharya). It was issued by the queen Dandimahadevi *alias* Tribhuvnamahadevi, written in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters, dated [Bhauma] year 187 (923 A.D.). The charter begins with the auspicious word *Om svasti* followed by a verse describing the capital city of Guhesvarapataka (modern Jajpur), wherefrom the grant was issued. Then the genealogy of the Bhaumakara dynasty from Unmattasimha to the reigning queen Tribhuvanamahadevi is given. The purport of the charter is to record the grant of the village named Sindaipadraka along with a locality called Ardhavata situated in Pushyagiri district of Dakshina Tosali division by the queen in favour of a *brahmana* named Bhatta Rudra, son of Vanasoma and grandson of Kusuma of the Bharadvaja-gotra and an immigrant from Takari on the occasion of *samkranti*, for the purpose of increasing the religious merit of her own self, her parents and of all creatures. The charter was composed by the great poet Jambhana, son of Jayatmana, executed by *Ranaka* Bhusananaga, the *mahakshapataladhikrita* and *Bhogi* Padmasena, the *mahakshapatala* and was engraved by Damodara, son of Deva.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Chennai, two inscriptions in

Telugu language and Telugu-Kannada characters engraved on two pillars erected in the premises of ruined Honkaradevi temple at Nannurupadi in Addanki mandalam of Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh are highlighted here. Among them, one inscription dated Saka 1019 (1097 A.D.), records that Rajamahendra Pottapi Choda made a grant of some land to the temple of Honkaradevi at Nannuru after exempting it from all taxes. The other inscription dated Saka 1109 (1187 A.D.) records the grant of a village named Nannurupadu, after exempting it from all taxes by *mahamandalesvara* Kamana Chodamaharaju to the Honkaradevi temple at Nannuru on the occasion of *Vishuva sankranti*.

An inscription in Tamil language and characters datable to 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D., engraved on a oil-crushing stone lying near the Amman temple at Pazhayapalayam in Marungapuri taluk of Tiruchirappalli district, Tamil Nadu is also highlighted here. It records the gift of a well and oil crushing stone by Pirattansattan for obtaining one sack of oil.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow is a copper plate inscription from Srinagar, Pauri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand. It is written in local dialect and Nagari characters, dated Saka 1652 and Vikrama 1787 (1730 A.D.). It was issued during the reign of the king Pradipa Shah of Garhwal dynasty. It seems to record some grant in the presence of *vajir* Raghunatha at Srinagara.

Another inscription in local language and Nagari characters dated Vikrama 1404 (1347 A.D.) is also examined here. It is written on a image preserved in the museum of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh. It records the performance of sati by a lady (name lost) and mentions certain person named Krishnadeva.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Basic training in copying and decipherment of inscriptions was given to Dr. Anita Choudhury, Director I/c, Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Assam and Sri Sunil Kumar Goswami, Curator, Directorate of Museum, Assam during their visit to the office of the Director (Epigraphy), Mysuru.

Sri P. T. Nagarajan, A.E., Southern zone, Chennai attended as a Resource person and presented a paper entitled “Recent epigraphical discoveries and their impact in the history”, in two day National Seminar held at Government College for Women (Autonomous) in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.

Library facilities were extended to the Scholars at Mysuru office.

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