

Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 30th NOVEMBER 2019

EPIGRAPHICAL SURVEY

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch conducted epigraphical survey. A team of epigraphists, Dr. S. Nagarajappa, ASE, Dr. Anil Kumar R.V., A.E. and Ms. Shreedevi Thejasvini visited Suttur in Nanjangud district of Karnataka and copied 15 inscriptions. Sri M. Yesubabu, A.S.E., Southern zone, Chennai and Sri J. Veeramanikandan, A.E., Mysore are on tour to copy inscriptions in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the work is under progress. Dr. Alok Ranjan, A.S.E., Northern zone, Lucknow, is on tour to Omkareshwara temple at Ukhimath, Uttarakhand to examine 19 copper-plate inscriptions and the work is under progress.

PUBLICATION

- *South Indian Inscriptions volume XXXVIII* edited by Dr. S. Swaminathan, Deputy Superintending Epigraphist (Retd.) is published.
- The work of compiling *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy for the year 2004-05* 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.

REVIEW OF SOME OF THE INSCRIPTIONS

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Mysuru, is a Prakrit inscription in Brahmi script of 1st century A.D. engraved on a slab from Mukkatarapeta in Karimnagar district of Telangana. It records the gift of an image of Upatha-Yakini and an umbrella to Nagasiri and Gopi by Sivavatu, son of a minister (*amacha*) named Data hailing from Mahapuri and grandson of Nabhatha belonging to Ahimaka (Asmaka), probably when *balaka* Haksiri was administering the region.

A Sanskrit record in Nagari characters of about 13th century A.D., engraved on the pedestal of a bronze image of Jaina *tirthankara* from Charkhi Dadri, Charkhi Dadri district, Haryana is also examined. It seems to record the donation or installation of the image on the 13th day of the dark fortnight by a disciple (name lost).

A Tamil record written in Vatteluttu characters of about 8th century A.D. engraved on a sluice found inside the rain-fed tank at Ammanpettai in Kulattur taluk of Pudukkottai district

highlighted here. It refers to the set up of a sluice known as *sri perum poyil kudithangi kumili*.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow, is a Sanskrit record written in Nagari characters dated Samvat 1224 (1167 A.D.). It is engraved on the pedestal of a broken image fixed in the platform at Johri Mai temple at Dharhara, district Palamu, Jharkhand. It seems to record the gift of an image by the daughter of Sri Pratapa for the merit of *mahanayakayini* Ralha.

A Jaina record engraved on the pedestal of a Jaina image in the Abhinandanath Digambar Jaina temple at Gudar in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh, written in local dialect and Nagari characters dated Samvat 1390 (1333 A.D.), Chaitra su. 13, Monday is examined here. It seems to record the gift of the image by some persons (names mentioned) for the merit of the pontiff *bhattaraka* Sri Tantrakirtideva. Another record from the same place, engraved on the backside of a bronze image of Jaina *tirthankara* written in local dialect and Nagari characters dated Samvat 1152 (1095 A.D.), Chaitra ba. 5, seems to record the gift of the image by Sadhudeva.

A copper plate grant issued by Maharaja Pradip Saha written in local dialect and Nagari characters dated Vikrama 1783 (1726 A.D.) copied from Srinagar, Pauri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand is also examined.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c attended International Seminar on Buddhist Archaeology at Hyderabad, Telangana and presented a paper.

All the staff members at *Puratattva Bhawan*, Mysore participated in the *Samvidhan divas* on 26th November 2019.

Library facilities were extended to the Scholars at Mysuru office.
