

Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 28th February 2021

TOURS UNDERTAKEN:

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch, Mysuru are on epigraphical survey for copying inscriptions. Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c and Dr. Anil Kumar, R. V., Asst. Epigraphist is on tour to Tumkuru district, Karnataka and the work is under progress. Dr. S. Nagarajappa, A.S.E., Dr. Anil Kumar R. V. and Ms. Shreedevi Thejaswini, Asst. Epigraphists went on tour to Melkote, Karnataka for copying inscriptions. Dr. S. Nagarajappa, A.S.E., and Sri J. Veeramanikandan, Asst. Epigraphist is on epigraphical survey in various places of Karnataka and Tamilnadu and the work is under progress.

In the North Zone office at Lucknow, Dr. Alok Ranjan , Deputy Superintending Epigraphist I/c, is on epigraphical survey in Jaipur and Tonk districts, Rajasthan and the work is under progress. Dr. Rajesh Kannojiya went on tour to Delhi and Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh and copied 10 inscriptions.

PUBLICATION:

The work of compiling *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy* for the years 2011-2013, is under progress.

The work of editing inscriptions by the technical officers /staff of the Epigraphy Branch and outside scholars for publication in various *South Indian Inscriptions* and *North Indian Inscriptions* volumes are in different stages of progress.

REVIEW OF SOME OF THE INSCRIPTIONS

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Mysuru, is a set of copper plate, found recently during the course of renovation work in Gantha-matham at Srisailam, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh. It is written in Sanskrit language and Nandinagari characters and was issued by the Vijayanagara king Virupaksha III, son of Devaraya II of Sangama dynasty, dated Saka 1401 (*indu-gagana-abdhi-bhu*), Vilambi, Magha ba. 14, which is equivalent to 1479 A.D., February 20, Saturday. It records the gift of the village Kriyasakti-tataka as *sarvamanya* situated in Hulige-magani of Hastināvati-valita on the bank of the river Tungabhadra to the god Mallikarjuna of Srisaila for conducting *angarangabhoga*, monthly festivals, providing food offerings daily and burning perpetual lamp in the temple by the king on the occasion of Mahāsivaratri.

A Tamil record of the reign of Chola king Rajaraja III, datable to 13th century A.D. engraved on a pillar lying in the ruined Siva temple at Patimetta, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh is highlighted here. It seems to record the gift of village Vellaicheri in Melaipadaiya-nadu of Paiyurilakottam in Jayankondachola mandalam to the god Manumasithisuramudaya nayanar by Maduranthaka Pottapicholan, a chieftain.

A Kannada record (Photograph received from Prof. K. R. Narasimhan) engraved on a slab kept to the north side of Gopalakrishna temple at Honnenahalli, Tumkuru district, Karanataka is interesting as it

gives the first epigraphical reference to the date of the death of Krishnadevaraya, the Vijayanagara emperor. It records the demise of Krishnadevareya (*Virakrishnaraya maharayalu yi tatha tithiyalu astamayaragalu*) in Saka 1451, Virodhi, su. 15, lunar eclipse, which corresponds to 1529 A. D., October 17, Sunday. Further it registers the gift of the village Honnenahalli, situated in Tumakuru-sime in Marugala-nadu of Anebiddasaraya sthala in Penugonda-rajya, for conducting worship and providing offerings to the god Vīraprasannahanumanta of Tumakūru by Timmappanna nāyaka along with some officials and inhabitants of Tumakuru. An inscription engraved on the north and west walls of the 3rd prākāra of the Srikalahastisvara temple at Srikalahasti, Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, dated Saka 1454, Nandana, Sravana ba. 10 (1532 A.D., July 27, Saturday) mentions that the king Achyutaraya has got coronated in the year Virodhi, Karttika, ba. 5, which corresponds to 1529 A. D., October 21, in the presence of god Srikalahastisvara at Srikalahasti (S.I.I., Vol. XVI, No. 98). Thus from these two inscriptions it is known for the first time that Achyutaraya has got coronated on the 4th day after the death of Krishnadevaraya.

A Sanskrit record written in Nagari characters of the 12th century A.D., engraved on a fragmentary image fixed on the wall of a temple at Ramachandi, near Konark, District Puri, Odisha is noteworthy (Photograph received from Prof. Anam Behera). It records the gift of perpetual lamps to be lit at the *mukhamandapa* by a merchant named Ganesvara for the merit of Sritanu.

DIGITIZATION OF ESTAMPAGES

The work of pasting and mending some of the old estampages which are not in good condition has been taken up and the work is under progress. The work of creating a website for the Epigraphy Branch with a software containing database of inscriptions copied by the office is under progress.
