

Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 31st March 2021

TOURS UNDERTAKEN:

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch undertook epigraphical survey for copying inscriptions and copied 150 stone inscriptions and 05 copper plate inscriptions from various places in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Dr. K. Munirathnam, Director (Epigraphy) I/c and Dr. Anil Kumar, R. V., A.E., copied one stone inscription from Tumkuru district, Karnataka. Dr. S. Nagarajappa, A.S.E., Dr. Anil Kumar R. V. and Ms. Shreedevi Thejaswini, A. E.'s, copied 35 stone inscriptions from Melkote, Karnataka. Dr. S. Nagarajappa, A.S.E., copied 24 stone inscriptions from Chitradurga district, Karnataka. Dr. M. V. R. Varma, A.E., copied 08 stone inscriptions and collected photograph of 01 copper plate inscription from East and West Godavari districts, Andhra Pradesh. Dr. S. Krishnamurthy and Dr. P. Balamurugan, A.E.'s, copied 20 stone inscriptions from Avudaiyarkoil in Pudukkottai district, Tamilnadu. Ms. Shreedevi Thejaswini and Sri J. Veeramanikandan, A. E.'s copied 02 stone inscriptions from Mangalore, Karnataka. The latter also copied 20 stone inscriptions from various places of Virudhunagar, Tenkasi and Madurai districts, Tamilnadu.

In the North Zone office at Lucknow, Dr. Alok Ranjan, Dy. Suptdg. Epigraphist I/c, copied 15 stone and 04 copper plate inscriptions from Jaipur, Rajasthan. Sri Aditya Kr. Singi Reddy, A.E., copied 13 stone inscriptions from Pune district, Maharashtra. Sri Sumit Kumar, A.E., copied 12 stone inscriptions from Jalon district, Uttar Pradesh.

All the three A.E.'s, Sri Aditya Kr. Singi Reddy, Dr. Rajesh Kannojiya and Sri Sumit Kumar are on tour to Bhind district, Madhya Pradesh, Chandoli district, Uttar Pradesh, Bhabhua and Aurangabad district, Bihar, respectively.

PUBLICATION:

The work of compiling *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy* for the years 2011-2013, is under progress. The work of deciphering, listing and writing of introductory notes on the collections for the years 2020-2021, 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 Nandināgarī characters and was issued by the Vijayanagara king Virupāksha III, son of Devarāya of Sangama dynasty dated Śāka 1388 (vasu-ashtha-guna-bhu) Vyaya, ba. 15, which is equivalent to 1467 A. D., March 6, Friday. It registers the grant of the village Nallakalva in Kannadu, situated in Panugallu-chavaḍi to a Vedic scholar Lakhapodhyaya, son of Mallikārjuna pandita by

the king on the occasion of solar eclipse. The grant village was renamed as Virupakshapura. The engraver of the record is Vasanta Mallanacharya, son of Viranacharya and grandson of Muddanacharya.

An inscription of Rashtrakuta king Krishna III, engraved on a slab found near the Siva temple at Sugumanchipalle in Y. S. R. District, Andhra Pradesh is interesting. It is written in Sanskrit and Kannada language and Kannada characters of the 10th century A.D. It describes the genealogy of the Rashtrakuta kings *viz.*, Dantidurga, Krishna, Prabhutavarsha, Dhruva, Jagattunga and particularly praises the reigning king Krishna. Further it seems to record the gift of land to the god Somesvara in the village.

Two Marathi inscriptions, in Nagari characters, from Nira Narsinghpur, Pune district, Maharashtra are highlighted here. The inscription engraved on the retaining wall of the banyan tree in the sixteen pillared *mandapa* on the banks of the Sangam ghat, dated Saka 1590, Kilaka, Jyeshtha ba. 13, Thursday (1668 A.D., May 28), Records the construction of the *solakamba-mandapa* by the sons of Mudhoji Trimal Bhuranga *viz.*, Govindarava, Gopaji and Samaji. The other inscription engraved on the steps of the same *ghat*, seems to record the construction of the *ghat* by Dhadhaji Mudhoji.

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.
