

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

TOURS UNDERTAKEN

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch undertook epigraphical survey for copying inscriptions. Dr. M. V. R. Varma, Assistant Epigraphist (Sanskrit) went on tour and copied 18 sets of copper plate inscriptions recently found and preserved in the Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple, Srisailam, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.

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.

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, issued by the king Ibrahim Khan ruling from Kandanolu (Kurnool) It is written in Telugu language and characters, dated Śaka 1624, Chitrabhānu, Māgha, śu. 5, Monday, which is equivalent to 1702 A.D., January 11. It records the renewal of the grant to the priests of Srisailam and Mallesvaram temples by the king, which was previously granted by the kings of Uramgallu and Anegundi for conducting festivities in the temples. Further he also gifted two villages, viz. Kattacheruvu and Nallakalva to the same priests of the two temples for providing food offerings and burning a perpetual lamp to the god Mallikarjuna of Srisailam.

Two Kannada inscriptions from Chaluvanarayanaswami temple at Melukote, Pandavapura taluk, Mandya district, Karnataka are highlighted here.

Among them one inscription engraved on the wall of temple, dated Saka 1449, Sarvajit, Magha, su. 7, corresponding to 1528 A.D., January 28, belong to the reign of Krishnadevamaharaya of Vijayanagara. It records that by the order of the king, Krishnaraya-nayaka, son of Dandu Avubhaladeva made a grant of the villages Kamenayakanalli, Gollarachattanahalli (yielding annual income of 105 *gadyanas*) and income from several taxes like *santheya-aya* of Melugote, *talavarike* of Sindagatta, *hegedere*, *sthala-sunka*, *adakeya-sunka*, *adadere* and *rayasta-vartane* - all these yielding 149 *gadyanas* (the total income being 254 *gadyanas*). The gift was made on the *rathasaptami* day, on the bank of the Kaveri to the temple of Narayana, for the merit of the king. It is further recorded that since formerly cultivators of the temple lands were being carried off to Tondanur for ploughing the lands there, those lands also have now been granted. *Senabova* Ramanuja wrote the record.

The second Kannada record issued during the reign of the same king is engraved to the left of the new door-way set up in the northern *prakara* wall of the same temple. It is dated Saka 1440, Pramathi, Nijya Jyestha, ba. 3, Wednesday. These details correspond to 1519 A.D., June 15, but the Saka year was

1441. It states that Lakshmipati setti, son of Odeyara Tibba setti had the tank called Hosakere at the village Pura, which belonged to the temple repaired and a sluice constructed by spending 300 *gadyanas*. In recognition of his services, the fifty-two of the temple of god Chalapileraya arranged for offering to the god in the name of Tibba setti and the ¼ portion of offerings which was to be made over to Lakshmipati-setti was to be distributed among the *Srivaishnavas* in the *tirumalige* (shrine?) of Sathagopajiya.

Among the inscriptions examined by the northern zone are four inscriptions engraved on the pedestal of four images kept in the Sun temple at Dev, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, engraved in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters of 7th century A.D. It records the donation of the image by different individuals named Kachchha deva, Tihathn deva, Asradya deva and Asrayam deva respectively.

Two Marathi records, engraved in Nagari characters from the village Narayanagaon, Junnar taluk, Pune district, Maharashtra are also highlighted here. Among them one inscription engraved on the left side entrance wall of Sri Hariswami temple, dated Saka 1730 (1808 A.D.), mentions about the construction of the temple of Sri Hariswami. The second inscription engraved on the right side wall of Sri Siddheswara temple, dated Saka 1816 (1894 A.D.), mentions the name a person Manaja.

One more Sanskrit record written in Nagari characters engraved on a fragmentary sculpture kept in the store of a Jaina temple at Navagarh, Lalitpur district, Rajasthan is also examined here. It is dated Samvat 1202 (1145 A.D.) and records the gift of the image by a person named Vajana.

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.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

A list of total number of antiquities as sourced from the Office of the Director (Epigraphy), Mysuru was submitted to the headquarters.
