

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

TOURS UNDERTAKEN

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch undertook epigraphical survey. Dr. Alok Ranjan, Deputy Suptdg. Epigraphist I/c is on tour to Vidisha district, Madhya Pradesh for copying inscriptions and the work is under progress.

PUBLICATION

The work of compiling *Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy* for the year 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 copper plate charter (photograph) received from Mr. T. S. Venkatananjappa, Advocate, Tumkur, Karnataka. It is written in Sanskrit language and Nandinagari characters, dated Saka 1508, Vyaya, Vaisakha su. 12, which is equivalent to 1586 A.D., April 20, Wednesday. It begins with genealogy of the issuer of this charter, king Venkaṭapatideva of Aravidu dynasty. The purport of this charter is twofold. Firstly it is to register the renewal of the grant of a village Huraligere, in Chakigere-sime, earlier donated by his predecessor Krishnadevaraya in 1526 CE, as *sarvamanya* to Puttamatyā. And secondly is to grant additionally three more villages viz., Puttasamudra, Motagondanahalli and Potagondanahalli to Vasaradisa, son of Puttamatyā and grandson of Tippanasa mantri in the presence of the god Ramachandradeva. The gift was made at the advice of Havalibhairava, son of Bhairavendrabhupala and grandson of Molebhairava for the merit of his parents. The record was composed by Viranatmaja, son of Sabhapati and engraved by Ganapacharya.

A Tamil inscription in Tamil and Grantha script, dated Saka 1230 (1308 C.E), Kilaka, Vaisaka, su. 10, Wednesday, pertaining to the reign of Kakatuya Rudradeva II (1289-1323) engraved on a slab (photograph from Sri. E. Sivanagi Reddy) found from the village Moṭṭupalli, Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh registers the gift of land as Tiruvidaiyattam for providing offerings to the god Rajanarayanapperumal in Desi-uyyakondan-pattinam *alias* Mottupalli by Chattanthai-Chemmanadiyal-valumpothalakiyan *alias* Patinenbhumi-vanikaratittan, for the merit of the king.

A Kannada inscription (photograph from Mr. Shruthesh Acharya Moodubelle) engraved on a slab found during renovation of Sri Mahatobara Visvesvara temple at Elluru in Kapu taluk, Udupi district, Karnataka, issued in the reign of Kṛishnadevaraya dated Saka 1434, Angirasa, Jyeshtha, ba. 2, Tuesday which corresponds to 1512 A.D., June 1, records some gift to Kundaheggade by Tirumalaraya Chavuta and Kinnika Heggade in the presence of the god Visvanatha of Yaluru. The gift was made when Ratnappa Odeya was administering over Mangaluru and Barakuru at the orders of the king.

Three Nagari inscriptions from Viṭṭalēśvara temple, Kubhīr, Nirmal district, Telangana, are highlighted here. Among them, one inscription in Sanskrit (corrupt) language dated Saka 1[8]17, Māgha 6, records the inauguration of the temple to the devotees for attaining success, wisdom and strength on the date specified. The other two inscriptions are in Marathi. Among them the inscription dated Saka 1723, Sravana su. 13 (1801 CE) records the construction of a *sabhamandapa* in front of Sri Sivasankarananda Sarasvati Svami *samadhimandir* (memorial shrine) by Sri Gurunarayanamurti. Further mentions that *guruparayana* was conducted in the *mandapa* on the date specified. The other inscription dated Saka 1688, Magha, 2, Sunday (1766 CE), begins with salutations to Viththala and records the installation of the image of a deity by Avabai, probably an officer.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow, one inscription in Sanskrit language and Nagari characters of the 9th century A.D., written on the halo of a Buddhist image from Tungi kept in the Baba Bilvesvaranath temple, records the Buddhist formula. Two Sanskrit inscriptions in Nagari character datable to 16th-17th century A.D. from Narayangaon and Manchar in Pune district, Maharashtra, records the construction of a reservoir and step-well respectively.

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 technical and administrative staff participated in the demonstration of digitizing the estampages.
