

Activities and achievements of the Directorate of Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru for the period ending 30th September 2021

TOURS UNDERTAKEN

The technical staff and officers of the Epigraphy Branch undertook epigraphical survey and copied 27 inscriptions from different places. Dr. K. Paneerselvam, Deputy Suptdg. Epigraphist, Southern zone, Chennai copied 10 stone inscriptions and 01 copper plate grant from Thanjavur district, Tamilnadu. Dr. Alok Ranjan, Deputy Suptdg. Epigraphist I/c, Northern zone, Lucknow, went on tour to Vidisha district, Madhya Pradesh and copied 16 inscriptions. Sri Aditya Kumar Singireddy is on tour to Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra and the work is under progress.

PUBLICATION

***South Indian Inscriptions volume for Malayalam inscriptions* edited by Prof. M. R. Raghava Varier is sent to Tamil Nadu Central Printing Press, Chennai for printing.**

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 found while doing the earth work for conservation of a Jaina basadi at Halebelagola in Channarayapattana taluk, Hasana district of Karnataka. (Total 17 set of copper plates with 122 leaves are found). It is written in Sanskrit language and archaic Kannada characters dated Saka 680, Phalgun, Pushya nakshatra, Thursday (758 CE). It gives the genealogy of the Western Gangas starting from Kongunivarma to Sripurusha. It records the gift of a village Mulliyur situated in Pokkunadu to a Jaina temple for conducting worship by the king Sripurusha.

An inscription of Kakatiya king Ganapatideva (photograph received from Sri. Ramoju Harigopal) found in Chinnakandūru, Yadavagiri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana, written in Telugu language and characters, dated Subhakrit, Pausha su. 11, Vaddavaram corresponding to 1243 A.D., January 3, Saturday is highlighted here. It records the gift of some money and land for providing food offerings to the gods Ramesvara and Bhoganatha by the archer community (*ekati*) of Kanduri.

An inscription engraved on the pedestal of a broken Jain image from Anṅigere, Karnataka (photograph received from Smt. Hanumakshi Gogi, kept near a pond in the village Annigeri, Dharwad district, Karnataka, written in Kannada language and characters of 12th-13th century A.D., records that the image of the *tirthankara* was caused to made by Sena-bova Binjara a lay disciple of Chandrakirti bhattaraka of Balagaragana. Further it mentions that Bachanam, son of Malloja erected the image.

Three inscriptions found from the village Tamatakallu, Chitradurga taluk and district of Karnataka are highlighted here. Among them the inscription in Sanskrit language and Kannada characters of the 6th

century CE gives the genealogy of Dhanagama, the lord of Masikkapura, his son Managana and his son Gunamadhura, belonging to Bharadvaja-gotra. The second inscription engraved on a herostone kept in the same place, written in Kannada language and characters of the 6th century CE, contains the *praśasti* of Gunamadhura who is mentioned above. The third inscription engraved on the same herostone in Tamil language and Vatteluttu characters of 6th century CE, reads: *Elur Monalan Chatan*, i.e Chattan, son of Monalan a (native) of Elur.

An inscription of Harihara I (photograph received from Mr. K. Dhanpal of Manchanahalli, engraved on the four sides of a slab found outside the village Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru rural, Karnataka, written in Tamil language and characters dated Saka 1268, Vyaya, Tai (1364 C.E.) is examined here. It seems to record the gift of land for conducting worship by an individual, hailing from Munaimayur in Channai-nadu.

An inscription (photograph received from Mr. P.Mahesh of Adanki) engraved on a slab erected in front of the Pitikesvara temple in Pitikayagulla, Bestavaripeta mandalam,Prakasam district, A.P., written in Telugu language and characters of the 8th century CE., seems to record the new construction of the embankment (*nava katta*) by Pranomilli achari (sculptor), probably when king was ruling at Renadu.

A Telugu inscription from Nedujuvvi, Y.S.R.District, Andhra Pradesh (photograph received from Mr. C. Purushottam, Prodattur) engraved on a slab kept outside of the Chamudesvari temple, written in Telugu characters of the 13th century CE, records the construction of a temple to the goddess Chamundesvari at Nedujuvvi by a lady Tippamma of Nandavaram for the merit of the brahmanas belonging to 13 different gotras living in 200 houses of Nandavari family and 360 warriors (ekangi virulu). Further it seems to record the donation of tax on loom and land to the same goddess. The gift was entrusted to Reddi Karanas of Nedujuvvi for its maintenance.

Among the inscriptions examined by the technical staff at Lucknow, one inscription in local dialect and Nagari characters of the 13th century A.D., engraved on the pedestal of an image of Mahishasuramardini records the obeisance to goddess Durga by Kesa Sarma, son of Nakurama and grandson of Jaya Sarma.

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.
