EIAD 651. Pillar from the Bhīmeśvara temple in Chebrolu

Arlo Griffiths and Vincent Tournier

Authors of digital edition: Arlo Griffiths, Vincent Tournier

Contributor: Arlo Griffiths

Identifier: DHARMA_INSEIAD00651

Repository: Early Āndhradeśa (tfb-eiad-epigraphy)

File path: texts/xml/DHARMA_INSEIAD00651.xml

Language: Sanskrit [Southern Brāhmī (unspecified)]

Commit: 2026-09-22 13:22 (151ff65), last modified 2026-09-22 13:22 (151ff65)

Palaeographic description

Characters of the 4th or 5th c. CE.

Edition

〈1〉 [4×](rmmā)ṇaḥ [1×] manuṣyeṇa [8+]〈2〉 [ca. 4×]la-potena _ rājñ¿aḥ?〈o〉 vijayā[8+]〈3〉naś ca hitārtthaM tāmmrāpe _ kā(rt)tik(eyo) 〈’〉py ātta-[8+]〈4〉(t) sa(nnā)madheyaḥ _ bhagavatyāḥ _ śakti-mātṛkāyāḥ [8+]〈5〉 (ma)ṇḍapaḥ kāritaḥ

bhavati cātra ślokaḥ _

Anuṣṭubh

[⏑⏑⏑⏑⏑–––⏑]
〈6〉 naraḥ prāsāda-maṇḍapāN

devānāṅ kārayet sammyaK
[⏑⏑⏑⏑◡–◡⏑]

〈7〉 Iti _ saṁvatsaraḻ pañcamaḥ 5 hepa 7 diva 4

Apparatus

〈1〉 [4×](rmmā)ṇaḥ ◇ *[3*]varmmaṇaḥ* M1 M2 • Restore *dharmmāṇaḥ*? — 〈1〉 manuṣyeṇa [8+] ◇ *(mātru dakṣaṇo)* M1; *mātru dakṣiṇo* M2 • Neither here not in any line below does Munirathnam indicate any loss of characters.

〈2〉 [ca. 4×]la-potena ◇ *[2*] ra [3*]lo pā tena* M1; *[2*] ra [3*]lopa tena* M2 • Imaginable readings include *purāṇa-maṅgala-potena*, *purāṇāṅ śaila-potena*, *purāṇāM śaila-potena* and *pūrṇe maṅgala-potena*. — 〈2〉 rājñ¿aḥ?〈o〉 ◇ *rājña* M1; *rājñā* M2. — 〈2〉 vijayā[8+] • Our translation below assumes that we must restore something like *vijayābhivṛddhaye*.

〈3〉 naś ca hitārtthaM ◇ *[1*][[hi]śca] hatārthaṁ* M1; *[1*]hi śca hitārthaṁ* M2 • If the suggestion in the previous note is accepted, then the text on line 2 may have continued with *cātma-* so we would get *cātmanaś ca hitārtthaM*. — 〈3〉 tāmmrāpe ◇ *tāmprāpe* M1; *tāmbrāpe* M2. — 〈3〉 kā(rt)tik(eyo) 〈’〉py ātta-[8+] ◇ *kārtika (pra)kyātta* M1 M2.

〈4〉 (t) sa(n-nā)madheyaḥ ◇ *[1*] nāmadheyaḥ* M1; *nāmadheyaḥ* M2.

〈5〉 (ma)ṇḍapaḻ kāritaḥ ◇ *(ma)ṇḍpañca kāritaḥ* M1; *(ma)ṇḍapāñca kāritaḥ* M2.

〈6〉 naraḻ ◇ *su* M1 M2. — 〈6〉 devānāṅ kārayet ◇ *devānā kārayet* M1 M2.

〈7〉 saṁvatsaraḻ pañcamaḥ ◇ *savatsaraṛ pañcamaḥ* M1; *saṁvatsara pañcamaḥ* M2 • In his 2018 publication, Munirathnam actually prints an *r* with double underdot (that we cannot reproduce) before the *p*. We suppose he may have imagined that we are dealing with one of the Dravidian consonants *ṟ* or *ḷ*. From both of his editions it is clear that has not recognized any of the *upadhmānīya* and *jihvāmūlīya* characters in this inscription. — 〈7〉 hepa 7 ◇ *he pakhe* M1 M2.

Translation

〈1–5〉 [...] by the man [...] boat/young [...] — for the purpose of [the increase of] victory of the king and for [his own] benefit, in Tāmbrāpa — 〈who〉 as Kārttikeya has also gained the good name [...], has been commissioned the pavilion of the Lady Śaktimāṭṛkā.

〈5〉 And on this there is a stanza:

Man should duly commission towers and pavilions for the gods [...].

〈7〉 Fifth year 5, 7th fortnight of the cold season, day 4.

Commentary

The toponym Tāmrāpa also figures in EIAD 650 (in its Prakrit guise Tabāva) and in the Oṁgoḍu grant, time of Skandavarman, year 33.

Munirathnam's publications assume that the inscription was issued by the Satavahana king called Vijaya-Sātakaṇṇi, but this is based on a misunderstanding of the text.

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 2015–16; published twice, with slightly differing editions both full or errors and both without translation, by K. Munirathnam (2018 and 2020–2021). Re-edited by Arlo Griffiths & Vincent Tournier on the basis of the published photo of the ASI rubbing as well as photos made on the site in 2019.

Primary

[M1] Munirathnam, K. 2018. "Chebrōlu inscription of Sātavāhana king Vijaya, Year 5." JESI 43, pp. 55–57.

[M2] Munirathnam, K. 2020–2021. "Landmark Brāhmī inscriptions from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh." JESI 45, pp. 117–129. Pages 119–120, 127.

Secondary

ARIE 2015–16. *Annual report on Indian epigraphy for 2015-16*. Edited by K. Munirathnam. New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India, 2016. Appendix B, item 14.