Mayidavōlu plates, time of Śiva-Skandavarman, year 10

Emmanuel Francis

Author of digital edition: Emmanuel Francis

Identifier: DHARMA_INSPallava00002

Repository: Pallava (tfa-pallava-epigraphy)

File path: DHARMA_INSPallava00002.xml

Language: Middle Indo-Aryan [Southern Brāhmī (unspecified)]

Commit: 2026-11-11 17:29 (458e70c), last modified 2026-09-29 11:09 (6edbbfa)

Summary

Grant (*brahmadeya*), with all exemptions, of the village of Viriparam to two Brahmins.

Palaeographic description

See Hultzsch 1900–1901 (EI 6.8, p. 86).

Edition

Seal

〈1〉 śivaska[ndavarmmaṇaḥ]

Plates

〈Page 1r〉 〈01〉 diṭhaṁ

〈Page 1v〉 〈1v1=1〉 [kāṁ]cīpurāto yuvamahāraj(o)〈1v2=2〉 bhāradāya-sagotto palavā-naṁ〈Page 2r〉〈left: 2〉 〈2r1=3〉 sivakha(ṁ)davammo dhaṁñakaḍe〈2r2=4〉 vāpataṁ Ānapayati

〈Page 2v〉 〈2v1=5〉 Amhehi dāni Amha-vejayike〈2v2=6〉 (dhaṁ)māyu-bala-vadhanike ya〈Page 3r〉〈left: 3〉 〈3r1=7〉 bamhanānaṁ Agivesa-sagottasa〈3r2=8〉 puvakoṭu-jasa Ag¿ī?〈i〉vesa-sagottasa〈Page 3v〉 〈3v1=9〉 gonaṁdijasa Aṁdhāpa¿t?〈th〉īya-gāmo〈3v2=10〉 [vi]r(i)[pa]raṁ Amhehi Udakādiṁ〈Page 4r〉〈left: 4〉 〈4r1=11〉 saṁ-padato

Etasa gāmasa〈4r2=12〉 viriparasa sava-bamhadeya〈Page 4v〉〈4v1=13〉pa(r)i(h)āro vitarāma A-lona-khādakaṁ〈4v2=14〉 A-raṭha-saṁv(i)nāyikaṁ A-paraṁparā-baliva〈daṁ〉〈Page 5r〉〈left: 5〉 〈5r1=15〉 A-bhaḍa-papesaṁ A-kūra-colaka〈5r2=16〉vināsi-khaṭ¿a?〈ā〉-saṁvāsaṁ

Etehi〈Page 5v〉 〈5v1=17〉 Anehi ca sava-bamha〈5v2=18〉deya-majādāya〈Page 6r〉〈left: 6〉 〈6r1=19〉 savaparihārehi parihārito

〈6r2=20〉 pariharatha parih(ā)r¿(ā)?〈a〉petha ca

〈Page 6v〉 〈6v1=21〉 jo Amha-sāsanaṁ Atichi〈6v2=22〉tūna pīlā bādhā karejo {(vā)}〈Page 7r〉〈left: 7〉 〈7r1=23〉 {(ta)} kārāpejo vā tasa Amho〈7r2=24〉 sārīraṁ sāsanam karejāmo

〈Page 7v〉 〈7v1=25〉 sa(ṁ)vacharaṁ dasamaṁ 10 gimhā〈naṁ〉〈7v2=26〉 pakho chaṭo 6 divasaṁ paṁcami 5

〈Page 8r〉〈left: 8〉 〈8r1=27〉 Ānatī sayatti

dattā〈8r2=28〉 paṭṭikā

〈Page 8v〉

Apparatus

Seal

〈1〉 śivaska[ndavarmmaṇaḥ] ◇ *śivaska(ndavarmmaṇaḥ)* EI • EI quotes the description of the seal by Venkayya: “The seal bears in relief an animal couchant and facing the proper right—apparently a bull, as it has a hump on its back—and below it, the legend *śivaska[ndavarmmaṇaḥ?]* in an alphabet which appears to be slightly different from that of the inscription. The bull and the legend are enclosed in a circle which is partially preserved.”

Plates

〈1〉 [kāṁ]cīpurāto ◇ *[kāṁ]cīpurāto* EI • Read *kāñcīpurato* or *kāñcīpurāt*. As noted by EI, "[t]he first syllable of this word is almost entirely obliterated, but can be supplied with certainty from line 1 of the Hīrahaḍagalli plates." • S reads *siddham* before this word, but there are no trace of it. — 〈1〉 yuvamahāraj(o) ◇ *yuvamahārajo* EI • compare with *jo* in line 21.

〈6〉 ya ◇ *¿y?〈c〉a* IP.

〈10〉 [vi]r(i)[pa]raṁ ◇ *(viripa)raṁ* EI • As noted by EI, this placename is clearly legible in line 12. — 〈10〉 Amhehi • S suggests to delete this word as redundant compared to its occurrence already in line 5.

〈13〉 pa(r)i(h)āro ◇ *pa(r)i(hā)ār¿o?〈e〉* EI. — 〈13〉 °khādakaṁ ◇ *°khādakaṁ* EI • Alternative possible readings are *°khāḍakaṁ* and *°khāṭakaṁ*.

〈20〉 parih(ā)r¿(ā)?〈a〉petha ◇ *pariharāpetha* EI S.

〈22〉 bādhā ◇ *bādh(ā)* EI. — 〈22〉 karejo ◇ *karejjā* EI • According to EI, "[t]he group *jjā* in *karejjā* (l. 22) and *kārāpejjā* (l. 23) is identical in shape with *jo* (l. 21)" whereas "[i]n the Hīrahaḍagalli plates the *jjā* of *kārāpejjā* (l. 40) differs from the *jo* of *°rājo* (l. 2)". — 〈22〉 {vā〈7r1=23〉 ta} ◇ *{(vā)〈7r1=23〉 (ta)}* EI • These two letters are possibly crossed-out by the engraver. EI notes about *vā* at the end of line 22: "This *akṣara* and the first *akṣara* of the next plate seem to have been scored out by the engraver, who had omitted *karapejjā* and had begun to write *vā tasa*, but found out his mistake when he had got as far as *ta*." Note also that the letter *ta* in this occurrence is the only case in the whole set where a letter is engraved above the binding hole. — 〈22〉 kārāpejo ◇ *kārāpejjā* EI.

〈25〉 gimhā〈naṁ〉 ◇ *gimhā〈naṁ〉* EI • EI points to parallels in inscriptions in Nāsik (no. 11, line 12; no. 14, line 1).

Translation by Hultzsch 1900–1901

Seal

〈This edict〉 has been seen.[1]

[1]With the word *diṭhaṁ* or, in Sanskrit, *dṛṣṭam* we have to supply *idaṁ śāsanam*. It is the equivalent of the modern 'true copy' or 'examined' at the foot of official letters and Government orders. For a different explanation of *dṛṣṭaṁ* see above, Vol. III [i.e. EI 3], p. 259.

Plates

〈1〉 From Kañcīpura the *yuvamāhāraja* Śivaskandavarman 〈of the family〉 of the Pallavas,[2] who belongs to the *gotra* of the Bhāradvājas, orders 〈his〉 official (*vyāpṛta*) at Dhaññakaḍa[3] 〈as follows〉:—

〈5〉 For conferring on ourselves victory 〈in war〉[4] and for increasing 〈our〉 merit, length of life, and power, we have now given, with libations of water, the village of Viripara in Andhrāpatha to the 〈two〉 Brāhmaṇas Puvakoṭuja of the Āgniveśya *gotra* and Gonandija[5] of the Āgniveśya *gotra*.

〈11〉 To this village of Viripara we grant all the immunities 〈enjoyed by〉 *brahmadeya*s.

〈13〉 〈Let it be〉 free from diggings for salt,[6] *araṭhasaṁvināyika*, free from 〈the supply of〉 bullocks in succession,[7] free from the entrance of soldiers, free from 〈the supply of〉 boiled rice, water-pots, ...[8] cots and dwellings.[9]

〈16〉 With these and all the other immunitics 〈prescribed〉 by the rules regarding all *brahmadeya*s 〈we have〉 caused it to be exempted.

〈20〉 〈Accordingly〉 you[10] have to exempt 〈it〉 and cause 〈it〉 to be exempted.

〈21〉 Who, transgressing our edict, shall give or shall cause to be given trouble 〈and〉 annoyance[11] 〈to the donees〉, on him we shall inflict bodily punishment.

〈25〉 The tenth—10th—year, the sixth—8th—fortnight of summer, the fifth—5th—lunar day.

---

[2]For other instances of this elliptical use of the genitive see above, Vol. IV [i.e. EI 4], p. 197, note 6, and Vol. VI [i.e. EI 6], pp. 15 and 19.

[3]Compare *ānapayati govadhane amaca* in the Nāsik inscriptions Nos. 11, A and 15.

[4]The corresponding word in the Hīrahaḍagalli plates, *vijaya-vejayike* (l. 9), is omitted in Professor Bühler's translation (Ep. Ind. Vol. I, p. 8).

[5]I.e. Gonandyārya. Compare *nandija* in line 21 of the Hīrahaḍagalli plates.

[6]This term and the next one occur in the Nāsik inscriptions Nos. 11, A, 11, B and 15.

[7]Compare line 33 of the Hīrahaḍagalli plates.

[8]Emmanuel Francis: *vināsi*, left untranslated.

[9]With the last term compare *a-khaṭvā-vāsaudanam* (above [i.e. EI 6], p. 14, text line 8), and see line 31 of the Hīrahaḍagalli plates, where the photo-lithograph reads *°akūra°* and not *akara°* as the printed text. The word *colaka* or *yollaka* is probably related to *cullakī*, 'a kind of water-pot;' *vināsi* or *vinesi* remains obscure.

[10]*Viz.* the inhabitants and officials of the district, etc. See line 35 of the Hīrahaḍagalli plates, and Ind. Ant. Vol. IX, p. 101, I. 10 f, where Professor Bühler's improved reading (Ep. Ind. Vol. I, p. 2, note 2) has to be further corrected by reading with the photo-lithograph *pariharatha parihārapetha*. The translation would then run:—"Knowing this, you, the villagers 〈and〉 officials, exempt 〈it and〉 cause 〈it〉 to be exempted with all the immunities!" In line 7 of Dr. Fleet's text join *mahānarakadevakula*, and in line 6 f. read *ātukasa kasita . . chettaṁ* "the . . . . field ploughed by Ātuka."

[11]Here and in the Hīrahaḍagalli plates (l. 40) one would expect the acc. sing. *pīlaṁ bādhaṁ* instead of the acc. plur. *pīlā bādhā*.

〈27〉 The executor (*ājñapti*) 〈was〉 myself. Accordingly 〈this〉 set of plates (*paṭṭikā*) has been given 〈to the donees〉.

Translation into French

Seal

〈1〉 De Śivaska[ndavarman].

Plates

〈01〉 Vu.[12]

〈1–4〉 De Kāñcīpuram, le *yuvamahārāja* Śivaskandavarman 〈de la famille〉 des Pallava et du *gotra* des Bhāradvāja ordonne à l'officier en charge à Dhānyakaṭa:

〈5–11〉 "Viriparam, village de l'Andhrāpatha, a été désormais donné avec aspersion d'eau, par nous, en vue de notre victoire et de l'accroissement du *dharma*, de la santé et de la force, aux brahmanes Puvakoṭuja[13] du *gotra* d'Agniveśa et Gonandija[14] du *gotra* d'Agniveśa."

〈11–16〉 "A ce village de Viripara nous accordons toutes les exemptions propres à un *brahmadeya* : l'interdiction de le creuser pour du sel, l'exclusion de l'autorité régionale (*a-raṭha-saṁvināyika* ?), l'interdiction d'en saisir des bœufs d'attelage, l'interdiction d'y entrer pour les soldats et l'interdiction d'en saisir du riz cuit, des pots d'eau, du combustible (*vināsi* ?), des lits, des maisons."

〈16–19〉 "Il est exempté de toutes les exemptions, celles-ci et les autres, conformément à l'usage valable pour tous les *brahmadeya*."

〈20〉 "Exemptez-le et faites-le exempter !"

〈21–24〉 "Celui qui, enfreignant notre ordre, causerait ou ferait causer des ennuis ou dommages 〈à cette donation〉, nous lui infligerons un châtiment corporel."

〈25–26〉 "Dixième (10) année, sixième (6) quinzaine de l'été, cinquième (5) jour."

〈27〉 "Exécution : nous-mêmes."

〈27–28〉 Des tablettes ont été données.

[12] C'est-à-dire « Vérifié ».
[13] Sanskrit Puvakoṭvārya.
[14] Sanskrit Gonandyārya

Commentary

For a description of the Prakrit language of this grant, see Hultzsch 1900–1901 (EI 6.8, p. 85-86), Mehendale 1948.

Bibliography

Edited in Hultzsch 1900–1901 (EI 6.8) with visual documentation and English translation. Text and sanskritised text in Sircar 1965 with visual documentation. Edited in Subrahmanian 1966. Text and summary in Mahalingam 1988 (IP 2).

This revised edition by Emmanuel Francis, based on published estampages and photos of the original plates in the Chennai Government Museum (2008).

Primary

[EI] Hultzsch, Eugen Julius Theodor. 1900–1901. "Mayidavolu plates of Sivaskandavarman." EI 6, pp. 84–89.

[S] Sircar, Dines Chandra. 1965. *Select inscriptions bearing on Indian history and civilization. Volume I: from the sixth century B.C. to the sixth century A.D.* 2nd edition revised and enlarged. Calcutta: University of Calcutta. Pages 457–461.

[TPC] Subrahmanian, T.N. 1966. *Pallavar ceppēṭukaḷ muppatu / Thirty Pallava Copper-Plates (Prior to 1000 A.D.)* Madras: Tamil Varalatru Kazhagam. [URL]. Pages 355–360.

[IP] Mahalingam, T. V. 1988. *Inscriptions of the Pallavas*. New Delhi; Delhi: Indian Council of Historical Research; Agam Prakashan. Pages 31–34, item 2.

Secondary

Francis, Emmanuel. 2013. *Le discours royal dans l'Inde du Sud ancienne : inscriptions et monuments Pallava, IV^{ème}-IX^{ème} siècles. Tome I : Introduction et sources*. Publications de l'Institut orientaliste de Louvain 64. Louvain-la-Neuve; Paris: Université catholique de Louvain, Institut orientaliste; Peeters. Item IR 2.

Mehendale, M.A. 1948. *Historical grammar of inscriptional Prakrits*. Poona: Deccan College, Postgraduate and Research Institute. Pages xvi, 107–108.