Kōvintapputtūr / Govindapputtūr, Gaṅgājaṭādhara temple, time of Rājakesarivarman, year 5

Valérie Gillet and Emmanuel Francis

Authors of digital edition: Valérie Gillet, Emmanuel Francis

Identifier: DHARMA_INSTamilNadu00517

Repository: Tamil Nadu (varia) (tfa-tamilnadu-epigraphy)

File path: DHARMA_INSTamilNadu00517.xml

Language: Tamil [Grantha, Tamil]

Commit: 2026-11-15 15:59 (9615181), last modified 2026-09-29 11:10 (5251b7d)

Summary

Above and around the empty niche of the southern façade of the *ardha-maṇḍapa*. Regnal year 5 of Kōvirājakesarivarman = Rājarāja I (*circa* 990 CE). This long inscription is unfinished; its end may have been engraved on the eastern side of the *ardha-maṇḍapa*, now built over.

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī**

kō-rāca-kē(ca)ri-paṉmaṟkku yāṇṭu Añc-āvatu

vaṭa-karai-**bra(hma)**(tēyam)〈2〉 periya **śrī**-vāṉavaṉ-**mahā**tēvi-**ca**tu**(r)vve**ti-maṅkalattu **śrī**-vi**ja**ya-ma(ṅ)〈3〉kala-tēvarkku Ampala(va)ṉ paḻuvūr nakka¡ṉṉ!〈ṉ〉-

āṉa Irāca-Irāca-p-pallava(rai)<4>yaṉ Iv-vāṉavaṉ-(mā)-tēvi-**ca**tu<r>**vve**ti-maṅkalat<tu> (I)t-tēvar pērāl vilai (ko)<5>ṇṭu Iṟai y-iḷi(cci)ṉa nilaṅka¡ḷḷ!<ḷ>ā<l> vanta nellukkum Ivv-ūr **sabhai**yā<6>(r pakkal vilai koṇṭu Iṟai y-iḷicciṉa vaṭa-piṭākai neṭu-vā)<7>(yilu)m I(n-ne)ṭu-vāyil curṟiṉa piṭākaikaḷum I<t>-tēvaṟkku<8> (I)ṟukka kaṭa(va) nellukkum poṉṉukkum neyyiṇṇaikku<9>(m) taṟippu(ṭa)vaikkum Irum(pu)kkum **nibandha**m ceyta paṭi

tiru-v-a<10>(mu)tu pōt(u) (nā-ṉā)ḷi y-āka **A¡t!**<rd>**dha**yāma<m> Uḷpaṭa nicatam Arici patakk' ā<11>ka Ain=t-iraṇṭu (vaṇṇattā)l vanta nellu nicatam nellu Aiy-kuṟuṇi y-āka Or āṭ(ṭ)ai (nā)<12>¡(ḷḷ)!<ḷ>(aikku) vanta nellu nūṟṟu Aiy-patiṉ kalamu<m>

parupp-amutu pōt' uri y-āka A**tdha**yāma<m><13> Uḷppaṭa nālu pōtaikku nicatam Iru-nāḷi paruppukku nellu Or āṭṭai ṉāḷaikku (n)e<14>llu Iru-patt' iru-kalaṉē tūṇi-p-patakkum

pori-k-kaṟi-y-amutu Oṉṟu puḻukku kaṟi-y-amu(tu)<15> (Oṉṟu)m Āka kaṟi-y-amutu Iraṇṭukku miḻakum kaṭuku ciraka¡mm!<m>u<m> Uḷppaṭa nālu potaik [1+] (O?)<16> (Or āṭ)ṭai (nā)ḷaikku nellu Iru-patt' iru-kalaṉē tūṇ(i)-p patak=k(u)m

ney-amutu p(ō)tu Ā(ka) [3+]<17> n(ā)lu pōtukku nicatam Urikku ne<llu>-p patakk' āka Or āṭṭai nā¡ḷḷ!<ḷ>aikku (ne)llu Aṟu-patiṉ [kala]{m}<18>mu<m>

[ta]yir-a¿mm?<m>utu pō<tu> Uri y-āka A<r>**ddha**yāma<m> Uḷppaṭa nāllu po(t)aikku Ir(u)-(nā)ḻikku nicatam Ai(ñ)-(ṉā)ḻi<19> y-āka Or āṭṭai ṉā¡ḷḷ!<ḷ>aikku nellu patiṉ Eṇ-kala¡(ṉn)!<ṉ>(ē I)ru-tūṇi-k kuṟuṇiyum

Aṭaikkāy-amu(tu)<20> p(ōtu) Aiñcu veṟuṅ-kāy Iru-(pa)tum veṟṟilai-p paṟṟu Oṉṟu(m) nicatam A<r>**ddha**yāma<m> U<ḷ>ppaṭa nālu pō(tai)(kku)<21>(m) Aṭaikkāy-amu(tu)kku nicatam nel Ai-ṉāḻi y-āka Or āṭṭai nā¡ḷḷ!<ḷ>ikku nellu patiṉ Eṇ-kalan(ē)<22> I(ru)-(tū)¿ṇṇ?<ṇ>i-k kuṟuṇiyum

tirumey-pūccu pōtu Uḻakku canta<ṇat>tukku nicatam Oru-pala Araiyāl(u) (nica)<23>tam{mum} uḻakku tiru-c-ca<n>taṇa-k-kuḻampukku Or āṭṭai ṉā¡ḷḷ!<ḷ>aikku ṉellu nāl-p-pat' aiṅ-kalammu

(ci)<24>tāri Akilum ca(nta)ṇa¡mm!<m>u<m> neriyāra¡mm!<m>u<m> kaṟpūra¡mm!<m>un (I)tanum koṇṭu muṉ(ṟu) pōtaikku nellu nicata(m)<25> kuṟuṇi Iru-nāḷi y-āka Or āṭṭai nā¡ḷḷ!<ḷ>aikku nellu mu-p-pattu (mu-k-ka)la¡ṉn!<ṉ>ē Iru-t¡u!<ū>ṇi-k kuṟuṇiyum

(ci)<26>kāṭṭi Āvāṟku Āṭiyaru(ḷ)]ḻa-(p) (pā)_lu Iru-nāḻikku nicatam ne<l>lu Aṟu<27>-ṉāḻi y-āka Or āṭṭai ṉā¡(ḷ)ḷ!<ḷ>aikku ne_<l>lu Iru-patt' iru-kala¡ṉn!<ṉ>ē t¡u!<ū>ṇi-p pa(ta) [...]

[...]<28> Āvāṟkku-p paricaṭṭam [Ut]taram-aya_ṉattu Oraṇaiyum **dekṣiṇa**m-

aya(nat)〈29〉tukku Oraṇaiyum Āka (viraṇai)kkum _kācu Iraṇṭ’ āka kācu Oṉṟinukku (ne)〈30〉llu-p patiṉ kāla¡mm!〈m〉 āka Or āṭṭai _ṉā¡ll!〈l̤〉aikku kācu Iraṇṭukku nel (I)〈31〉(ru)-(pa)tin kala¡(mm)!〈m〉(u)〈m〉

(tiru)-v-o [2+] (O)r āṭ_ṭai (nā)¡ll!〈l̤〉aikku muṉṟ’ āṭai Or āṭṭai [n]〈32〉[ā¡ll!〈l̤〉aikku] [...] _(Arai)yāl nel [3+] (kala){(m)}(mu)〈m〉

〈33〉 t(i)ru-namani(kai) Or āṭṭai ṉā¡ll!〈l̤〉aikku Ira_ṇṭ’ āka Ira〈ṇ〉ṭinukku kā(cu) Onṟ(iṉu)]kku ne〈34〉llu pati(ṉ) kala¡mm!〈m〉um

tiru-ma(l)lai kaṭ_ṭi Or āṭṭai nā¡l̤(l̤)!〈l̤〉(ai)kku Iraṇṭ’ āka I〈35〉raṇṭi¡n!〈ṉ〉uk(ku k)ācu Oṉṟ’ āka kācu Oṉṟi_nukku nellu-p patiṉ kalamu[m]

ṉam〈36〉 Or āṭṭai n(āl̤)laikku Iraṇṭ’ āka Iraṇ_ṭi¡n!〈ṉ〉ukku-k kācu Oṉ(ṟu)-k kācu Oṉṟi¡n!〈ṉ〉u〈37〉kku nel(lu)-p patiṉ kala¡mm!〈m〉u〈m〉

jala_-pavi{n}trattukku O(r ā)ṭṭai nāl̤ai〈38〉 puṭavai mu(ṉ)ṟ’ āka-p puṭavai muṉṟi¡n!〈ṉ〉uk_ku-k kācu Arai y-āka Arai-k kā(cukku) nel〈39〉lu Aiṅ-ka(la)¡(m)m!〈m〉u〈m〉

tiru-no¿t?〈n〉tā-viḷakku Ai_ñciṉukku viḷakku(k)ku Oṉ(ṟu) nicata(m)〈40〉 (neyi Ul̤akk’ āka viḷakku) nicatam ney{(i)} _ nāl̤i [12+]〈41〉 m nellu (Ai)ṅ-kuṟuṇi y-āka Or āṭ(ṭ)ai nā¡ll!〈l̤〉aikku ne_llu nuṟṟu (Ai)m-patiṉ kala¡mm!〈m〉u〈m〉

〈42〉 **sandhi**-viḷakku-c ciṟu-kālai y-eṭ(ṭu) Ucciyam-pō_tu Eṭṭu Iravaikku patiṉālum Āka〈43〉 viḷakku mu-p-pati(ṉu)kku nicatam (Eṇṇai nā)l̤i ¿mu?〈U〉l̤ak(k)ē _

Apparatus

〈4〉 (I)ttēvar ◇ *Ittevar* SII; *Itevar* G.

〈6〉 full line • Line lost under cement. Text after SII.

〈8〉 (I)ṟukka kaṭa(va) ◇ *Iṟukka kaṭava* SII; *(I)ṟukkaṭa(va)* G.

〈11〉 Ain=tiraṇṭu (vaṇṇattā)l ◇ *Ain=tiraṇṭuvaṇṇattāl* SII; ***ja(nti)**raṇṭu [vaṇṇattā]l* G.

〈16〉 ney-amutu p(ō)tu Ā(ka) [3+] ◇ *ne〈y〉y amutu* SII; *ney-amutu (patu A) [3+]* G.

〈17〉 [kala]{m}〈18〉mu〈m〉 [ta]yir-a¿mm?〈m〉utu ◇ *kala〈18〉mu〈m〉 tayir-amutu* SII; *[kala]m〈18〉mu [ta]yir-ammutu* G.

〈22〉 (tū)¿ṇṇ?〈ṇ〉i ◇ *tūṇi* SII; *(tū)ṇṇi* G. — 〈22〉 canta〈ṇat〉tukku SII ◇ *canttukku* G.

〈30〉 patiṉ kāla¡mm!〈m〉āka SII ◇ *patikailammāka* G.

〈32〉 [n]〈32〉[ā¡ḷḷ!〈ḷ〉aikku] G ◇ *nā〈32〉{ḷ}ḷaikku* SII. — 〈32〉 [3+] (kala){(m)}(mu)〈m〉 SII • The end of line is presently illegible. Text after SII.

〈35〉 Oṉṟāka SII ◇ *Oṉṟuka* G. — 〈35〉 kalamum SII ◇ *kalamu[m] ṉam* G.

〈40〉 nicatam ney{(i)} _ nāḻi [12+] ◇ *nicatam neyi [3+]* SII; *nicatam ney(i) _[1+] nāḻi [...]* G.

〈41〉 ne_llu ◇ *nellu* SII; *nel_llu* G.

Translation

〈1〉 Fortune! Prosperity!

〈1〉 〈This is the〉 fifth year of Kōrājakesarivarman.

〈1–9〉 For Śrī-Vijaiyamaṅgaladevar of big Śrī-Vāṉavaṉ-mahādevi-caturvedimaṅgalam, a *brahmadeya* of the northern bank, Ampalavaṉ Paḻuvūr Nakkaṉ alias Rājarāja Pallavaraiyaṉ, having bought in the name of this god (*ittēvar*) of this Vāṉavaṉ-mahādevi-caturvedimaṅgalam, having bought from (*pakkal*) the Sabhā of this village for the paddy accrued with the lands of which taxes were remitted (*iṟai y-iḻicciṉa*), thus the donation (*nibandham*) was made for paddy, gold, *ghee* and oil, tax on looms (*taṟi-p-puṭavaikkum*) and iron (*irumpukkum*) that have to be paid to the god (*ittēvaṟkku*) 〈by〉 the northern hamlet (*vaṭapiṭākai*) of Neṭuvāyil whose taxes were remitted and the hamlets (*piṭākaikaḷum*) surrounding (*cuṟṟiṉa*) this Neṭuvāyil, 〈as follows〉.

〈9–12〉 So that there be four *nāḻi*s at the time (*pōtu*) of holy food offerings (*tiruvamutu*), so that there be daily one *patakku* of rice (*arici*) including the middle of the night (*atdhayāma*, that is, *arddhayāma*), so that there be daily five *kuṟuṇi*s of paddy accrued from the ten kinds (*aint-iraṇṭu vaṇṇattāl*); one hundred and fifty *kalam*s of paddy accrued per day (*nāḻḻaikku*, that is, *nāḻaikku*), per year (*or āṭṭai*) 〈are provisioned〉.

〈13–14〉 So that there be one one *uri* at the time of *dhal* holy food offerings (*paruppamutu*), 〈so that there be〉, for four times including the middle of the night, daily two *nāḻi*s of paddy for *dhal*, per year per day twenty-two *kalam*s , one *tūṇi* and one *patakku* of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈14–16〉 So that there be one fried vegetable food offering (*porikkaṟiyamutu*) and one one boiled (*puḻukku*) vegetable food offering (*kaṟiyamutu*), 〈so that there be〉 for four times including cumin seeds (*cīrakammum*), mustard seeds (*kaṭukum*) and pepper (*miḷakum*) for two vegetable food offerings, per year per day twenty-two *kalam*s and of paddy, one *tūṇi* and one *patakku* of paddy, 〈are provisioned〉.

〈16–18〉 So that there be at the time of *ghee* food offerings, so that there be for four

times [...] daily one *patakku* of paddy for one *uri*, per year per day sixty *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈18–19〉 So that there be one *uri* at the time of curd food offerings (*tayiramutu*); so that there be daily five *nāḻi*s for two *nāḻi*s for four times including the middle of the night per year per day eighteen *kalam*s, two *tūṇi*s and one *kuṟuṇi* of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈19–22〉 So that there be for one arecanut food offerings (*aṭaikkāyamutukku*) for four times including the middle of the night everyday, one bundle (*paṟṟu*) of betel leaves (*veṟṟilai*) and twenty arecanuts (*veṟuṅkāy*), five times of arecanut food offerings, per year per day eighteen *kalam*s, two *tūṇi*s and one *kuṟuṇi* of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈22–23〉 At the time of anointment (*tirumeyppūccu*), for one *uḻakku* of mixture (*kuḻampu*) of holy sandal paste (*tiruccantaṉam*) everyday and with one *palam* and a half everyday of one *uḻakku* of sandal paste per year per day fourty five *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈24–25〉 So that there be daily two *nāḻi*s and one *kuṟuṇi* of paddy for three times, with this, camphor (*kaṟpūramum*), juice of storax (*neriyācamum*), sandal paste and fragrant woods (*cītāri akilum*, i.e. red cedar and eagle-wood), per year per day thirty-three *kalam*s, two *tūṇi*s and one *kuṟuṇi* of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈25–27〉 So that there be daily six *nāḻi*s of paddy for two *nāḻi*s of milk (*pālu*) for the holy bath (*āṭiyaruḷa*) of him (*āvāṟku*), per year per day twenty-two *kalam*s, one *tūṇi* and one *patakku* of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈27–31〉 So that there be cloths (*paricaṭṭam*) for him (*āvāṟkku*), a pair for *uttaramayanam* and a pair for *dakṣiṇamayanam*, so that there be two *kācu*s for 〈these〉 pairs, so that there be ten *kalam*s of paddy for one 〈pair〉, per year per day for two *kācu*s twenty *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈31–32〉 ... per year per day three dresses (*muṉṟ' āṭai*) per year per day ... *kalam*s of paddy through one half ... 〈are provisioned〉.

〈33–34〉 So that there be two 〈for〉 sacred baths (*tirunamaṇikai*) [...] per year per day, for two 〈baths〉, for one *kācu*, ten *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈34–35〉 So that there be two 〈for〉 the garland-makers (*tirumālaikaṭṭi*) per year per day, so that there be one *kācu* for two 〈garland-makers〉, for one *kācu* ten *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈35–36〉 So that there be two ... per year per day for one *kācu*, as one *kācu* for two as two, ten *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈37–39〉 For the garment for the bath of the idol (*jala-pavitrattukku*), so that there be three clothes (*puṭavai*) per year per day, so that there be half a *kācu* for three clothes (*puṭavai*), for half a *kācu* five *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈39–41〉 For five perpetual lamps, so that there be one *uḻakku* of *ghee* daily for one lamp, so that there be five *kuṟuṇi*s of paddy [...] *nāḻi*s of *ghee* daily for a lamp (*viḷakku*), per year per day hundred and fifty *kalam*s of paddy 〈are provisioned〉.

〈42–43〉 As for twilight lamps, so that there be eight for early dawn (*ciṟukālai*), eight for midday (*uccampōtu*) and fourteen for the night, 〈thus〉 for tirthy lamps, daily one *nāḻi* and one *uḻakku* of oil (*eṇṇai*) ... 〈are provisioned〉.

Commentary

〈26–43〉 Lines 26-42 are interrupted in the middle by a window. Lines 41-43 are on the upper part of the base, on the ledges. Line 43 stops right before the window.

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 1928–29 (ARIE/1928-1929/B/1928-1929/175).

Edited in Srinivasa Rao 1952 (SII 13.124). Edited and translated in Gillet 2023, based on autopsy and photographs (by Valérie Gillet, 2018).

This revised edition and translation by Valérie Gillet and Emmanuel Francis. Letters legible in SII 13.124 are marked here unclear but not recorded in the apparatus.

Primary

[SII] Srinivasa Rao, G.V. 1952. *South-Indian inscriptions (texts) (with introductory notes in English). Volume XIII: The Cholas*. South Indian Inscriptions 13. Madras: Archaeological Survey of India. Pages 63–64, item 124.

[G] Gillet, Valérie. 2023. "Constructing temple, constructing power: Temple reconstruction process in 10th-century Tamil-speaking South with special emphasis on Govindapputtur." In: *The Routledge Handbook of Hindu Temples*. By Himanshu Prabha Ray, Salila Kulshreshtha & Uthara Suvrathan. London: Routledge India, pp. 57–95. DOI: 10.4324/9781003097709-6. [URL]. Pages 78–80, item 7.

Secondary

ARIE 1928–29. *Annual report on epigraphy for the year 1928-1929*. Edited by S. V. Viswanatha. Madras: Government Press, 1930. Page TBC, appendixes B/1928-1929, item 175.