1. ABOUT US

1.1. EPIGRAPHY BRANCH – SET UP

Archaeological Survey of India was established as a Department of the Government of India, in the year 1861 with a view to properly study and protect the ancient monuments and remains. The Government felt that in order to properly reconstruct the Indian History, which depended for its major part on the Epigraphs engraved in different parts of the country, a separate wing for Epigraphical research was necessary. Thus in the year 1886, Office of the Epigraphist to the Government, Archaeological Survey of India, came into existence in Bangalore with Dr. E. Hultzsch as the head of this office. Subsequently the office was shifted to Ootacamund in the year 1903. It was redesignated as the Office of the Chief Epigraphist in 1963. Later on, in the year 1966 the office was shifted from Ooty to Mysore. Presently this office is known as Office of the Director (Epigraphy).

In the year 1990, two zonal offices were established, one at Jhansi (which is now functioning from Lucknow) and another at Chennai in order to undertake a systematic survey of the inscriptions. The Directorate of Epigraphy with its headquarters at Mysore has been coordinating the work of collection of inscriptions and their listing for the *Annual Reports on Indian Epigraphy* in respect of all the three offices.
1.2 HISTORY

During the last one hundred years and more, the Epigraphy Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India was headed by many eminent German, English and Indian scholars. Dr. E. Hultzsch was the first Government Epigraphist to head the Epigraphy Branch in the year 1886. Subsequently, the post of Government Epigraphist was successively held by James Burgess, Rao Bahadur Venkayya, C.R.Krishnamacharlu, H.Krishna Shastri, Hirananda Sastry, B.Ch.Chhabra, N.L.Rao, Dr. D.C.Sircar and Dr. G.S.Gai. The designation of the Government Epigraphist for India was later changed as the Chief Epigraphist. Dr. G.S.Gai was the last Government Epigraphist and the first Chief Epigraphist. After him Shri P.R.Srinivasan, Sri K.G.Krishnan, Dr. K.V.Ramesh, Sri Madhav N.Katti and Dr. M.D.Sampath held the post of Chief Epigraphist. The post of Director(Epigraphy) was created in the year 1977 and Dr. Z.A.Desai had the privilege of holding this post in the first instance. Thereafter Dr. K.V.Ramesh, Sri Madhav N.Katti and Dr. M.D.Sampath held the post of Director(Epigraphy) one after the other. At present there are two posts of Director(Epigraphy), one at Mysore for Sanskrit and Dravidian Inscriptions and another at Nagpur for Arabic and Persian Inscriptions.

1.3 ACTIVITIES OF THE BRANCH

The Epigraphy Branch of the A.S.I. is primarily engaged in visiting different parts of the country, copying inscriptions, deciphering, transcribing and listing them in the Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy. Some important inscriptions from the collection are critically edited in another publication of the Branch called Epigraphia Indica. Inscriptions
copied from South India have been edited in the *South Indian Inscriptions* volumes. Inscriptions of particular dynasties are edited in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum* volumes. These publications mainly constitute the source material for the reconstruction of our history.

Technical staff of this branch are also engaged in delivering lectures to the students of the Institute of Archaeology, A.S.I., New Delhi and other academic organizations. They regularly attend the seminars and conferences on Epigraphy and allied subjects and present valuable research papers. They also contribute research articles to various journals, felicitation/commemoration volumes. They also help the research scholars visiting this office in their academic work.

Photographs of the published inscriptions and copies of transcripts are provided to the scholars on request. This office houses a rich library containing rare and old books on Indology in general and Epigraphy in particular. Several scholars from India and abroad make use of this library for their research work. Publications of this Branch are made available for sale in this office.

Of late, under the Cultural Awareness Programme of the Govt. of India, this office is organizing Epigraphical Photo-Exhibition at different places to create awareness among the general public and the student community about the rich cultural heritage of our country. These programmes have been very successful and our office is receiving very good response from the general public and the educational institutions as well.
1.5. IMPORTANT EPIGRAPHISTS OF THE PAST

1. **J.F.FLEET** : (1847-1917) John Faithful Fleet was an outstanding Western epigraphist who made significant contributions to Indian epigraphy. His monumental work *Dynasties of Kanarese Districts* is a masterly account of the ruling dynasties of ancient Karnataka. His another important work is the *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III comprising the critical edition of the inscriptions of the Early Gupta rulers - for which he was appointed to the newly created post of ‘Epigraphist to Government of India’. Besides, he has contributed several research articles to the Journal of the *Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Indian Antiquary, Epigraphia Indica*, etc.

2. **HULTZSCH** (1857-1927) Euger Julius Theodor Hultzsch was a German Indologist. He joined the Archaeological Survey of India as an Epigraphist in 1886 when the Epigraphy Branch was organized. Later on he became Government Epigraphist which post he held till 1903. He copied a large number of inscriptions from the temples and other places in south India and published them in the *Annual Reports on South Indian Epigraphy*. He began the series of *South Indian Inscriptions* volumes. He has edited *Epigraphia Indica* volumes III to VIII and part of Vol. IX. His another important contribution is the revision of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum* Vol. I containing the inscriptions of Aśoka which was edited by Cunningham.
3. **K.V.SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (1875-1969)** – Kanthadai Vaidya Subrahmanya Aiyer was an eminent Tamil epigraphist. He joined the Epigraphy Office in 1906 and served there till 1932. He edited *South Indian Inscriptions* Volumes VI, VII and VIII and wrote several scholarly articles for *Epigraphia Indica*. He was a pioneer in the study of the Tamil-Brāhmī inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu. Besides, he edited *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Volumes II, III and IV and published a scholarly work entitled *Historical Sketches of Ancient Dekhan* in three volumes.

4. **Dr. B.CH.CHhabra**: Dr. B.Ch.Chhabra, a great Sanskrit scholar, served as Government Epigraphist from 1935 - 1953. He has edited *Epigraphia Indica* volumes XXVII to XXIX and XXXII. He was also the Joint Editor of the revised *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum* Vol. III. Besides he has authored *Expansion of Indo-Aryan Culture during Pallava rule*, *Facets of Aryan Culture* and other books.

5. **Dr D.C.Sircar (1907 – 1983)**: Dr. Dinesh chandra Sircar served as a Government Epigraphist from 1955 to 1961. He was an erudite scholar and prolific writer. He has authored more than forty books both in English and Bengali. *The Successors of the Satavahanas in the Eastern Deccan*, *Select inscriptions bearing on Indian History and civilization*, Vol. I and II, *Studies in the geography of Ancient and Medieval India*, *Indian Epigraphy* and *Indian Epigraphical Glossary* are some of them. He has edited *Epigraphia Indica* volumes XXVIII to XXXVI. Three of them jointly and others independently.
6. **Dr. G.S. GAI**: Dr. Govind Svarao Gai was a learned Kannada Epigraphist and linguist. He joined the Epigraphy branch in 1943 and rose to the position of Chief Epigraphist in 1962 and retired from government service in 1976. Dr. Gai wrote more than a hundred research papers on Epigraphy, History and Culture, Linguistics and Archaeology. He edited *South Indian Inscriptions*, Vol. XX and *Epigraphia Indica* vols. XXXV to XXXVIII. He was also the joint editor of the revised *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III.

7. **Shri P.R. SRINIVASAN**: Shri P.R. Srinivasan was the Chief Epigraphist from 1976-78. He is a great Art historian and well-versed in temple architecture. He has authored some books and several research papers. He has edited *South Indian Inscriptions* Vol. XXVI and *Epigraphia Indica* Vol. XXXIX.

8. **Shri K.G. KRISHNAN**: Kodaganallur Ganapati Krishnan held the post of Chief Epigraphist from 1978-81. He has edited *South Indian Inscriptions*, Vol. XVII and *Epigraphia Indica* Vol. XL. He has also brought out a monograph entitled *Karandai plates of Rājêndra Chōla I.*

9. **Dr. K.V. RAMESH**: Dr. K.V. Ramesh joined the Epigraphy Branch in the year 1956. He became Chief Epigraphist in 1981 and Director(Epigraphy) in 1984 and Joint Director General in 1992 from which post he retired in 1993. *Inscriptions of the Western Gangas, Chalukyas of Vatapi, Tulu-nāḍu Šāsanagaḷu* and Indian
Epigraphy, are his important works. He has edited *Epigraphia Indica* Vols. XLI and XLII.

10. **Shri MADHAV N.KATTI**: Shri Madhav N.Katti joined the Epigraphy Office in 1964 and retired as Director(Epigraphy) in 1997. In between he also served as Deputy Superintending Archaeologist in different circles of Archaeological Survey of India. He has edited part of *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XL.

11. **Dr. M.D.SAMPATH**: Dr M.D.Sampath joined the Epigraphy Branch as a Deputy Superintending Epigraphist in the year 1976. In course of time he became Chief Epigraphist in 1999 and later Director(Epigraphy) and retired in 2001. He is the editor of the journal *Studies in Indian Epigraphy*. He is the joint editor of *South Indian Inscriptions* Vol. XXVII and his another *South Indian Inscriptions* Vol. is in the press.
8. DISCOVERIES

In the recent years the members of technical staff of the Epigraphy Branch (Directorate of Epigraphy, Mysore, Northern Zonal office, Lucknow and the Southern Zonal office, Chennai) surveyed several states both in the south and north and copied a good number of inscriptions. Some important inscriptions from this collection, throwing new light on the socio-economic, political and religious aspects of our history are highlighted below.

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. BRĀHMĪ INSCRIPTION, GUNTUR, DISTRICT GUNTUR. –

This inscription, engraved on a stone slab is in Prakrit language and Brāhmī characters of about the 2nd century A.D. Originally it is from Takkellapādu, Guntur Taluk and District, now preserved in the A.P.
State Archaeology Museum at Guntur. It refers to a vihāra (name not clear) and records gift of lands measured in terms of nivartanas and 500 cows by a ruler. Mentions kārṣṭhāpanas and 1000 purāṇas in the same context. Also records some land grants by a certain mahātalavara (name not clear) together with wife, son and granddaughter to the students of Buddhism belonging to the Ayira-saṅgha at Povasela (Skt. Purvaśaila).

2. IKSHVĀKU INSCRIPTION, KOṬAPPAKONDA, DISTRICT GUNTUR –

This inscription, partly damaged and engraved on a slab lying in the premises of the Trikūṭēśvara temple, is written in Prākrit language and Brāhmī characters of 2nd - 3rd century A.D. It states that a pillar (tharība) and an umbrella (chhathu) were donated to the Ariya-saṅgha by a certain [A]ṅhaka together with his wife, his son and other members of his family. The donor is described as the worshipper of
Sidhanta (Siddhārtha i.e. Buddha) and belonging to a certain family (tiya-kulikasa), the name of which is not clear.

3. BRĀHMĪ INSCRIPTION, PHANIGIRI, DISTRICT NALGONDA.-

This pillar inscription in Prakrit language and Brāhmī characters of the 2nd - 3rd century A.D., brought to light during the excavation by the State Department of Archaeology and Museums, is now preserved in their store-house at Phanigiri. It records the installation of a chakra (Dharmachakra) at Sadhivihāra (name of a monastery) and also registers a number of gifts in the form of land, cows, etc., by Vinayadhara Dhammasēna along with his elder brothers named Budhisiri and Dhaṁmasiri, certain other members of the family, friends and relatives. Further, it records the gift of 4 kahapana (gold coins) probably for a perpetual lamp by monks (bhikhusaṁgha). And it also refers to a Mahānavakāraṁnika (chief superintendent of works), a Mahādandaṅdanāyaka and an achariya (sculptor).
This pillar inscription in Sanskrit and Prakrit languages and Brāhmī characters of the 4th century A.D. is now preserved in the above mentioned store-house at Phanigiri. It belongs to the Ikshvāku king Śrī Rudrapurushadatta and was issued in his 18th regnal year. The inscription contains four verses in adoration of lord Buddha. The discovery of this inscription is important for the history of Ikshvāku dynasty, as the regnal year mentioned in this inscription extends the reigning period of the king by seven years *ie.*, from 11th to 18th year. This inscription records the erection of a pillar containing the *Dharmachakra* by the Chief Physician (*aggrabhishajā*) of the king.
5. PRAKRIT INSCRIPTION, PHANIGIRI, DISTRICT NALGONDA –

This fragmentary inscription in Brāhmī characters of about the 4th century A.D., engraved below a pair of foot-prints is now preserved in the store-house of the State Department of Archaeology and Museums at Phanigiri. It records the gift of the pair of foot-prints by Bodhaka, grandson of a venerable person (bhayanta) whose name is not clear.
This inscription, engraved on a stone slab kept in between two big pillars outside the village, is in Telugu language and characters. It is dated in Śaka 1340 (1418 A.D.) and refers to the king Phirōjashāh Sultān. It records the construction of a step-well (nāḍabhāvi) with provision of water-drawing-device (ētamu) in the Telurōngānapura by Nāgōju and Layalōju, descendants of Viśvakarmarīshi and Vallabhōju. It further records the gift of a mango-garden situated on the north side of a tank by Nāgōju. Also records the presentation of a golden chain and a medal to Phirōjashāh Sultān (Suratrāṇa) by Layalōju.
This Telugu inscription engraved on the right side wall of the gālīgopuram of the Kāśīvisvanāthasvāmi temple, belongs to Velugōṭī chief, Baṅgaruyāchama Nāyaka [II]. It is dated in Śaka 1696 (1774 A.D.) and records the construction of a temple consisting of gōpura, prākāra, maṇḍapās and dhvajastambha by the chief. Also records the consecration of the image of Kāśīvisvanāthasvāmi on the south bank of his capital Veṅkaṭagiri and donation of the village Chirrattagunṭa situated on the north side of Veṅkaṭagiri as sarvamāṇya to the god.
This inscription is fixed on the gateway (tōrana) of the Hayagrīva - Mādhava temple, Hajo. The record is executed in Śaka 1602 (1780 A.D.) and is written in Assamese characters and language. It states that one Rāmjay Rājkhowā, the son of Pāniphūkan and grandson of Phul-Barua dedicated the services of three persons, Śrī Krishṇacharāṇ, Soṇāphuli and Medhacharan to the temple of Mādhava after making payment of Rupees sixty per each person.
This stone inscription is now preserved in the Government Museum and Art Gallery at Chandigarh. The find-spot of the inscription is not known. The record is dated in Vikrama 154 (1597 A.D.) and it is in Sanskrit language and Nāgarī characters. This inscription furnishes the genealogy of a ruling family mentioning the names of Rāja Jagadīsha[chandra], his son Vikramasimha, his son Rājasimha, his son Dīpasimha and his son (name lost). It records the erection of a sōpāna (flight of steps) by a lady whose name is not clear.
This inscription, kept in the State Museum, Jagadalpur originally found at Khamargaon, Jagadalpur Taluk, is in Sanskrit (corrupt) language and Nāgarī characters of about the 13th century A.D. It belongs to the reign of the Nāgavarāṇī ruler Mahāmaṇḍalaśvara Rāṇaka Jayasighadeva and records the grant of the village Jambu-grāma by the ruler to god Jñānēśvaradēva towards worship and food offerings. It also mentions a certain Śrīkēśa, who probably was the pontiff entrusted with the grant of the village.
GUJARAT

11. STONE INSCRIPTION, DHŌLKĀ, DISTRICT AHMADABAD-

This inscription, engraved on a marble stone fixed in a pillared mandapa is in Sanskrit language and Nāgarī script. It is dated in Vikrama 1466 (1410 A.D.). It belongs to the reign of Muzaffar Shāh of Ahmedabad and records the construction of a beautiful well by Sahadēva Prabhu and his wife Sādhū for the merit of their deceased son Āśāchandra. The genealogy of Sahadēva Prabhu is given and the well is described at length in this record.
This inscription, engraved on a hero-stone standing under a chhatrī within the Gāyatrī temple complex, is written in a mixture of Sanskrit and local dialect. It is dated in Vikrama 1728 (1671 A.D.) and Vikrama 1765 (1708 A.D.). It records the death of Mahārāṇā Śrī Jagamālaḷī on the first date and probably the erection of the hero-stone by Vāghēḷā Āsōgī, son on Vāghēḷā Sāmantaḷī on the second date.
This inscription, engraved on a marble stone in side the step-well called Bahū-kā-vāv, is written in Sanskrit and Gujarati languages and Nāgarī characters. It is dated in Vikrama 1763 (1706 A.D.) It belongs to the reign of Maharāṇā Sēsamalajī of the Vāghēlā family.

The first part of this record consisting lines 1 to 15 in Sanskrit language gives the genealogy of the ruler and records that his mother Gaurānjī erected the step-well at Gaṅgāpura (i.e. Gāṅgaḍ) for her own merit. The second part in Gujarati language (lines 16 to 26) contains the same details as in the Sanskrit version.
HARYANA

14. TWO BRĀHMĪ INSCRIPTIONS, ROHTAK, DISTRICT ROHTAK.

These inscriptions are engraved on the rim of the stone troughs preserved in the Archaeological Museum, Department of History, M.D.University, Rohtak. They were found from Kokrakot in Rohtak district. These inscriptions are in Prakrit language and Brāhmī characters of about the 2nd century A.D. Both of them are worn out and record the gift of a stone trough each on which they are engraved. The first inscription records the gift by .
adjhachubēma, a merchant (vāniyaka) probably hailing from Kaṭhayakaṭaya. The second inscription also registers the gift by a person (name not clear) along with the Chatudaśa saṅgha probably for the merit of his parents.

15. BRĀHMĪ INSCRIPTION, KURUKŠETRA, KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT. -

This incomplete inscription is engraved on the pedestal of a broken Jaina image kept in the Krishṇa Museum. It is in Sanskrit language mixed with Prākrit and in Brāhmī characters of the 2rd - 3rd century A.D. It seems to refer to the making of the image by a female disciple of Ār yyā Vudhadāsi.
It is engraved on a pillar erected in front of the Lāṭ ki Masjid. It is in late Brāhmaṇī characters of the 5th - 6th century A.D. and Sanskrit language. It mentions the names of the goldsmiths (suvarṇakāra) Nanhila and Ushadā[ta], who were probably responsible for the erection of the pillar.
This Kannada inscription is engraved on a slab set up in the eastern side of the Sarvēśvara temple. It belongs to the reign of Jayasirigadēva (Jayasirīha II), is dated in Śaka 955 (1033 A.D.) and refers to the death of one Chiddara Jōgimayya Gōsāsa on the given date.
This Kannada inscription engraved on a slab set up to the right side of the Jōdilingēśvara temple, belongs to the reign of Hoysala king Vishṇuvardhana. Dated in Śaka 1038 (1117 A.D.) it introduces a merchant by name Bhōga Hoysalaseṭṭi, son of Vīranaraseṭṭi, who is extolled as a leader of a merchant guild, (Mahāvaḍḍavyavahāri), as an ornament of the local merchant guild (Dēsiyābharaṇa) etc.
This Kannada inscription engraved on a stone kept by the side of the Hanuman temple belongs to the reign of Vīra-Ballāha (Ballāla III). Dated in Śaka 1254 (1332 A.D.), it registers the grant of lands for the food-offerings to god Sōmanāthadēva by the mahājanas.
20. **VIJAYANAGARA COPPER-PLATE INSCRIPTION, HOSA AGRAHARA, DISTRICT MYSORE.**

This copper-plate inscription in Sanskrit language and Nandi Nāgarī characters was found inside a well. It belongs to the reign of the Vijayanagara king Krishnadēvarāya and dated in Śaka 1450 (1528 A.D.). It records the gift of land to the brāhmaṇas belonging to different gōtras by the king. The villages Sōmanāthapura, Hanumanahalli, Bommanahalli and Hosahalli formed the boundaries (chatussīnā) of the gift-land.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

21. **JAINA INSCRIPTION, LAKSHMANI, DISTRICT JHABUA.**

This inscription from Jaina Śvētāmbara mandir is in Sanskrit language and Nāgarī characters. It is engraved on the pedestal of an image of Ādinātha in the garbhagriha. It is dated in Vikrama 1310 (1253 A.D.). This inscription probably records the making of the image of
Ādinātha by maṁtrī Gōsala together with his son Viṣṇēva and his wife Garēdēvi and their son maṁtrī Padama and his wife (name lost).

22. **JAINA INSCRIPTION, DEWAS, DEWAS DISTRICT.** –

This inscription, engraved on the pedestal of a broken Jaina image, now preserved in the State Museum, is in local dialect and Nāgarī characters and dated in Vikrama 1221 (1163 A.D.). It mentions the names of āchārya Prabhāchchandra, sādhu Chānda, sādhu Gaidhara, Mēhindī, Sēkēnhī, sādhu Rālha, sādhu Pāpa and sādhu Thālā, all belonging to Paliv-ānvya and probably records their obeisance.
This inscription, engraved on the left side wall of the mandapa of Bāneśvar temple, is in Nāgarī characters and Sanskrit language. It belongs to the reign of king Śiṅghaṇādēva of Yādava dynasty and is dated in Śaka 1152 (1230 A.D.). It records the construction of a Śiva temple along with a well for the emancipation (Śiva-lōka-prāpti) of his wife Vāmādēvi by Pālhaṇa, who was a Chief Accountant (mahākaraṇīka) and son of paṇḍita Dāmōdara belonging to Gauḍa lineage. Also records grant of some lands to this deity.
This set of three copper-plates, now preserved at Orissa State Archaeology Museum in Bhubaneswar, is in Sanskrit language and Southern characters. It belongs to the Śvetaka Gaṅga king Anantavarman (c. 8th century A.D.). It was issued from the capital town of Śvetaka. It records the gift of four plots of land together with homestead lands situated in the north-west of the village Bhullavānika in the Heṃvakamaṭamva-vishaya to four brāhmaṇas, Vināyakāsvāmi, Nārāyaṇāsvāmi, Durgurīlasvāmi and Sārvvasvāmi belonging to different gōtras.
This stone inscription, now preserved in the Udayagiri excavation site store-house, is in Sanskrit language and Eastern characters of the 8th - 9th century A.D. It refers to the Bhauma-Kara king Śubhākaradeva and his queen (name not clear) and contains the Buddhist creed *Ye dharmā hētu prabhavā . . . . etc.* and *Dhāraṇī.*
This inscription, engraved on a hero-stone in a field, is in Tamil language and early Vaṭṭeḻuttu characters of the 6th century A.D. It states that the hero-stone was set up, for one Sāmi, son of Kambāḏaru who died in a cattle raid by the Vēṭṭuvār of Kaṭaiṿaṇmalaiṅkōṭu.
This Tamil inscription in verse is found engraved on a sluice-stone at the tank in the village and dated in the 4th regnal year (911 A.D.) of the king Vīra Chōla (Parāntaka I). It records the construction of a sluice (kumilī) at Ollaiyūr tank by Chōlakula Nārāyana Muvēndavēlān of Sīyamiḍaiikkudi.
28. CHÔLA INSCRIPTION, KOŃGARĀYAKURICHCHI, DISTRICT TUTICORIN. -

This inscription, engraved on the stepping-stone of the Vināyagar temple, is in Tamil language and Vaṭṭeluttu script of the 10th century. Dated in the 12th regnal year of the king Rājarāja I (987 A.D.), it refers to the gift by a certain Kiḻavaṇ for burning a lamp in the Mūnṟurai-Vīraperumpaḷḷi temple at Koṇūr in Tiruvaḷudi-valanāḍu.

29. PĀNDYA INSCRIPTION, PUDUPALAIYAM, DISTRICT SALEM-

This Tamil inscription in Tamil characters is found engraved on the south wall of the ardhaṁañḍpa of the Śiva temple called Muppiśvāra temple. It belongs to the reign of the Pāṇḍya king Jatāvarman Sundarapāṇḍya. It is dated in the eleventh regnal year (1261 A.D.) of
the king, it records the sale of a land for 400 pāṇam by the village assembly (āseshamahājanaṅgal) of the village Śrī Muppavaisamudrach-chaturvēdimaṅgalam, an agaram (agrahāra) in Pūvāṇiyarnāḍu in Vīrachōla-maṇḍalam, to the temple of Mūppīśvaramuḍaiyanāyanār.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

**30. GUPTA INSCRIPTION, SARANĀTH, DISTRICT VARANASI**

This pillar inscription is now preserved at the store-house of the Saranath Museum. It is in Sanskrit language and Brāhmī characters of about the 5th century A.D. It refers to the reign of Budhagupta who may be identified with the imperial Gupta King of that name. It is worn out and details lost.