

RADHAKANTA TEMPLE COPPERPLATE OF SRI CHAITANYADEVA OF KHEMUNDI KINGDOM SAKA YEAR 14

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The present paper deals with an unknown copperplate grant, so far not known to the scholarly world. It was issued by Sri Chaitanyadeva, the king of Khemundi Kingdom of South Orissa. Now, it is in possession of the Radhakanta temple, the private temple of the Mahapatra family at the Panado village of the Nimakhandi Panchayat in the Digapahandi Block of Ganjam district, Orissa.

This is a single copperplate measuring 8 inches in length and 4 inches in breadth. The shape of the copperplate is very much similar to the other plates of Sri Chaitanyadeva¹. There are altogether 21 lines on both the sides. The obverse has 10 lines and the reverse has 11 lines. The engravings are deeply cut and can be read without difficulty. On the right side of the obverse, there are engravings of two royal emblems consisting of a conchshell (Samkha) and a wheel (Chakra). But these emblems are engraved more artistically than the other copperplate of Sri Chaitanyadeva².

The script and language of the grant is of late medieval Oriya. The text is not free from errors. There are many spelling mistakes, which seem to be the fault of the engraver. It is written in simple prose style.

The copperplate was issued on 21st kumbha day of the month of phalguna which was 10th day of Krusnapaksa, Monday in the 14th anka year of Sri Chaitanyadeva. Sri Chaitanyadeva ruled from A. D. 1806 to A. D. 1830. So his 14th anka year can be fixed to A. D. 1817. The Khemundi Kingdom has their own anka year. Since they claimed to be the real successors to the Gajapati throne of Puri, they did not follow the anka year of the Khurda/Puri Gajapati dynasty which was not the case with other feudatory kingdoms of Orissa.

The issuer of the copperplate was Sri Chaitanyadeva who ruled the Khemundi kingdom for a period of 22 years from 1806-1828³. He was the son of king Sri Purusottamadeva (A. D. 1728-76). In 1774, Purusottam selected his second son Jagannathadeva as his successor setting aside the claim of his eldest son Sri Padmanabhadeva. So Padmanabhadeva protested and with the interference of the British Government got back the throne. His son Balabhadradeva had a premature death. So the British Government gave the Khemundi throne to Sri Chaitanyadeva⁴. Sri

Chaitanyadeva after coming to power shifted his Capital from Vijayanagara to Digapahandi. His most important contribution was the total land settlement made by him throughout the kingdom. It seems that the present copperplate was issued after the land settlement.

The donee of the land grant was Sri Isvara Bahinipati. Nothing more is mentioned regarding the donee or about his family and the purpose the land grant. From the title Bahinipati⁵, it can be assumed that he was a military official. Perhaps for his military achievement, the lands were donated by the predecessors of Chaitanyadeva. At present Isvara Bahinipati's successors the Mahapatra family live in the Panado village and owner of the donated land as mentioned in the copperplate. The family is also the custodian of the Radhakanta temple, where the said copperplate is preserved.

The copperplate records the the grant of four patches of land which were donated earlier by the predecessors of Sri Chaitanyadeva. Perhaps, Chaitanyadeva after making land settlement had issued this copperplate grant confirming earlier land donations to Sri Isvara Bahinipati. The fourth patch of land mentioned in the plate was granted in exchange of the earlier donated land, which the donee surrendered to the king.

At first the plate records the earlier donated land in the village Panado which consisted of Nautia⁶ land of 15 *bharanas*⁷, 2 *halas*⁸ of dry land (*padara*) and home stead land for a four roomed house.

Secondly, it records the donated land in the village Limakhandi⁹ consisting of 35 *bharanas* of khatadi¹⁰ and matmatia¹¹ land and homestead land for a three roomed house which was originally belonged to one Madana Raya.

The plate further mentions 60 *bharanas* of agricultural land, 4 *halas* of dry land and homestead land for a two roomed house which were being enjoyed by the donee.

On the date of the issue of this copperplate grant, as the plate states, the land belonged to the donee in the Jakara¹² village, consisting of 35 *bharanas* with home-stead land for three roomed house which were surrendered to the king and in exchange was granted 2 *bharanas* of Badhai land, 3 *bharanas* and 16 *nautis*¹³ of Liakhai land, and 6 *bharanas* of Gada land. These lands were demarcated by the land belonged to *Danduasi*¹⁴ in the east and the upland (*dhipa*) in the south-north. In between these lands, further towards west 15 *bharanas* of Jiraiti land and after the cattle track 4 *bharanas* of Paika land was granted. So altogether 30 *bharanas* of land in the east and west were granted.

The total land donated in the Panado village was 50 *bharanas* whereas 10 *bharanas* in Limakhandi village which consisted of 60 *bharanas* of agricultural land, 4 *halas* of dry land and a homestead land for a five roomed house.

All these lands were redonated by dedicating the copperplate on the feet of God Radhakanta. The donee was allowed to enjoy the land with all the boundaries and trees, fish, field, mounds, water, hidden treasures, wood, rock and the cattle track of the village up to the existence of the moon. Further, it states that his donee will enjoy the land confidently even if he would be called by the Dhanarasi Sasana¹⁵ in case of a land dispute.

The plate ends with mentioning Sri Chitanyadeva, the executor of the grant with high sounding royal titles such as warrior among the great warriors, Sri Chaitanya Anangabhimadeva Kesari Maharaja. In this way, he has been linked with two prominent imperial royal dynasties of early Orissa such as the Somavamsis and the Gangas to show his superior royal status, power and prestige among the feudatory kings.

TEXT

- Line-1 Samasta 14 anka Kumbha di 21 na Phalguna krsna dasami
 Line-2 Somabare Esara Bahinipatiki debara dana
 Line-3 Copa Copa niranaya. Tumbhanku Purbari bhoga houthi
 Line-4 ba Panada gramare nautia bhumi bha 15 rana padara ha 3
 Line-5 ku diha ba 4 khuri. Limakhandi gramare rautu bhumi bha 10ra
 Line-6 naku pada rahi 1 ku Jakara gramare Madana Raye samadha
 Line-7 Khatadi Matamatia misi bhumi bha 35 rana diha ba 3 khuri e ru
 Line-8 pepa 3 ku bhumi 60 rana padara ha 4 diha ba 2 khuri ma
 Line-9 dhya dana bhoga neu thila e dina Jakara bhumi bha 35
 Line-10 rana diha 3 khuri madhya sarakare rakhi e dina pratibaddha
 Line-11 kari debare Panada gramare badhai bhumi bha 2 ranaku liakhaire bha
 3/16
 Line-12 gauda pagudire bha 1/16, gada bha 5 rana, purbaku dandulasi bhumi daksina
 utara dhe
 Line-13 pa thai bhumi e madhyare bha 15 rana pascimaru jiraiti bha 11 rana godhada
 sautaru pa
 Line-14 ika bhumi bha 4 rana. e ripe purba pascima hoi bha 30 rana. E ripe pa 2
 ku bha 35 rana thiba
 Line-15 ghara purbaku diha ba 1 khuri. e gae Panada gramare bhumi bha 50 rana
 Limakhandire bha 10 rana. e
 Line-16 ripe bhumi bha 60 rana padara ha 4 ku diha ba 5 ri madhya. E dina Sri
 Radhakanta caranara binda

- Line-17 Prityarthare punardana kari dei anja kalai ajadinabdara E bhumi gacha
macha padara paka
- Line-18 la sarbasima sajala sthala nidhi nikhyata kasta pasana danda gopatha asi
mantri kari jabacandra
- Line-19 ke bhasmantike Dhanarasi sasana bhaga ka samasyare paitas uturi dei
upana prasa
- Line-20 da cakada kramare hakara madhya pai dana bhoge niscinta kari bhoga
karuthiba. Sri Birasri
- Line-21 Biradhibira Sri Caitanya Anangabhima deva Kesari maharajanka sammata.

Acknowledgement :

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References :

- 1 See, S. K. Panda, A Copperplate grant of Sri Chaitanyadeva of Khemundi Kingdom, *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 54th session, Mysore, 1993, PP. 894-898.
- 2 *Ibid*
- 3 For details see, D. Pattanayak *et. al* Khemundi Itihasa (in oriya) in *Diamond Jubilee souvenir of Badakhemundi High School*, Digapahandi, 1976, PP. 32-49.
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 The title *Bahinipati* occurs in the Later Ganga inscriptions of Medieval Orissa to which D. C. Sircar has identified with commander of forces. See, S. K. Panda, *The state and the Statecraft in Medieval Orissa under the Later Eastern Gangas (A. D. 1038-1434)*, Calcutta, 1995, P. 43.
- 6 Name of a patch of land. It is a general practice to call lands in different names in the villages.
- 7 *Bharana* is a unit of land measurement prevalent in south Orissa up to the present time. One acre is equivalent to 5 *bharanas*.
- 8 *Hala* was a unit of land measurement practised in Orissa from the medieval times. There are differences of opinion among the scholars about the exact area of land for one *hala*. Perhaps it was used to calculate dry land (*padara*). For a discussion see, S. K. Panda, *Medieval Orissa : A Socio-Economic Study*, New Delhi, 1991, P. 35
- 9 At Present village Limakhandi is known as Chasa Nimakhandi located one K. M. from Panado village
- 10 Khatadi land is the compote land where cowdung are deposited. It is located near to the village.
- 11 Name of a type of land
- 12 Village Jakara can be identified with the village bearing same name and is located 15 Km. Southeast of Panado village.
- 13 In the plate the term *nauti* is not mentioned. It simply mentions 3/16 *bharanas* of land which suggests 3 *bharanas* and 16 *nautis* of land. *Nauti* is the smaller unit of *bharana* land measurement.
- 14 *Danduasi* denotes to village chowkidar.
- 15 Dhanarasi sasana is a brahmin village located 12 Km. south-east of the village Panado. Perhaps, this village was assigned the power to settle land disputes of the local areas.

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