

Muktēśvara



Cultural Informatics

*Indira Gandhi National
Centre For The Arts*



The Temple of Muktēśvara at Cauḍadānapura

Cauḍadānapura is a small village in the North of Kaṇṇāṭaka, which has been a religious centre of importance in the course of 12th and 13th centuries A.D., during the reign of the Cālukya Kings of Kalyāṇa and the Seuṇa Kings of Devagiri. It belongs to the period of transition from the dominance of the Kālāmukha movement to the expansion of Vīraśaiva reform under the spiritual guidance of Basava, bringing to our knowledge two religious figures representing each movement successively, Muktaḥīyar, a Kālāmukha sage, Śivadeva, a sage practising heroic vows and claiming to imitate Basava. Its main monument is the temple of Muktēśvara, a jewel of architecture and sculpture whose high artistic quality, well-balanced elegance bring it among the best achievements of Cālukyan artists. Its inscriptions are masterpieces of medieval Kannaḍa poetry. This CD-ROM offers a holistic presentation of the temple. A glimpse of Kaṇṇāṭaka is offered. A section on architecture includes an attempt to correlate the philosophical concepts of God and the world with the proper architectural forms and spaces. Special emphasis is placed on decorative motifs which are a repository of the monument's beauty. Icons are reviewed.

The full text of the inscriptions is given with English translation and musical rendering. Inscriptions provide historical material about the temple, and are also refined literary pieces. Both, the inscribed chart and the monument, are objects of beauty, products of a same culture. The unity of this culture is based on philosophical and religious concepts, the origin of which is in Sanskrit Tantric, Puranic and Vīraśaiva literature. The study of this temple is rewarding. First, it is an experience of beauty. There is a sensation of softness in the grace of the curves and in the distribution of light and shade. At every hour of the day, the intricate decor captures light and redistributes it in a constant ratio of shades and bright spots, maintaining a harmonious mild appearance. The study of this temple is also a literary experience. It offers poetry of the highest order engraved on stone. The beauty of the calligraphy matches the poetical quality. The texts, eulogies of kings and saints, contain all the conventions of medieval Kannaḍa and Sanskrit kāvya and in the same time an original tone, elevated and infused with the feeling of Śaiva devotional sensibility.



Muktesvara Temple is a 12th Century temple, located in a small village "Cauḍadānapura" in North Karnāṭaka. It is a jewel of architecture and sculpture. Its inscriptions are masterpieces of medieval Kannaḍa poetry. This CD-ROM has been developed with UNDP help in collaboration with P. S. Filliozat and V. Filliozat.



This highly interactive CD-ROM offers Multi stage learning through:

- ◆ Approx. 300 multi-resolution well hot spotted images.
- ◆ 6.5 hrs. Audio.
- ◆ Approx. 350 pages of fully searchable hyper-text.
- ◆ Over 1300 well planned hyper-links.
- ◆ 60 min. of animation.
- ◆ Approx. 50 User Interaction Devices
- ◆ Detailed Online Help

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is visualised as a Centre encompassing the study and experience of all the arts. The "Cultural Informatics" group uses latest technology to capture in-computer generated multimedia the traditional multimedia of India's heritage. Other available/forthcoming titles are "Devadasi Mural", "Rock Art", "Man, Mind & Mask", "Gita Govinda", "Viśvarūpa", "Sass & Elizabeth Brunner Paintings", Oral Narrative of "Devnārāyaṇ", "Bṛhadīśvara Temple", and "Agnicayana".



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

Ph: 91-11-3389558, 3385724, 3382710, Email: cil_ignca@msn.com,

Web: ignca.nic.in, Fax: 91-11-3385724.