

Sharada Inscription found in Kotli, PoK

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We, at the Core Sharada Team, came across the following snippet on social media about a week ago. Looking at the orthography of the alphabet in the inscription, it immediately caught our attention.



Khawaja Abdul Ghani
1h · 🌐

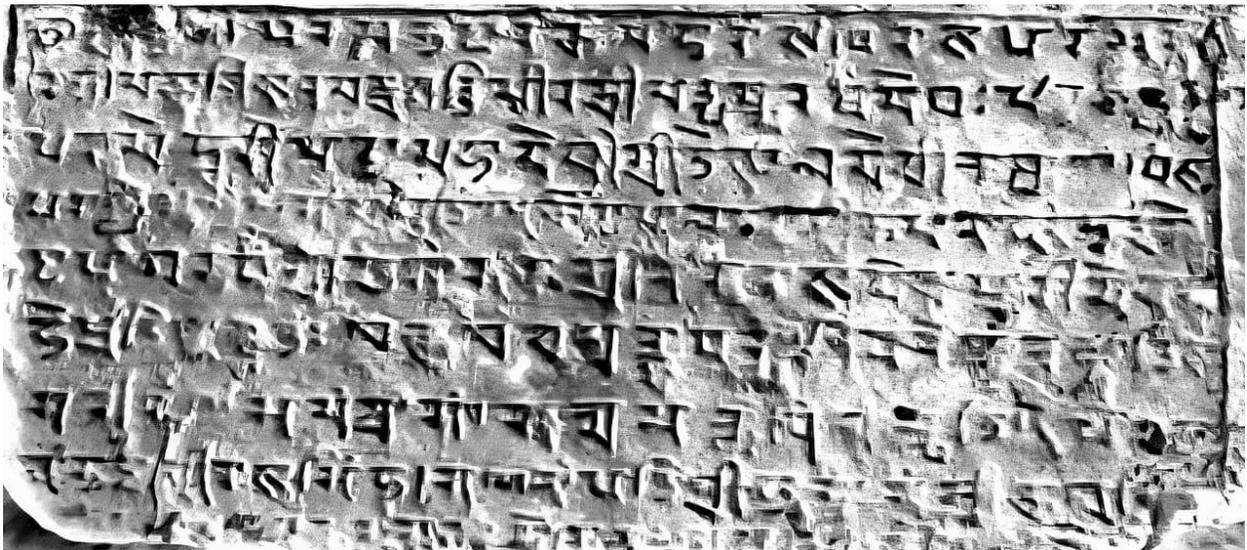
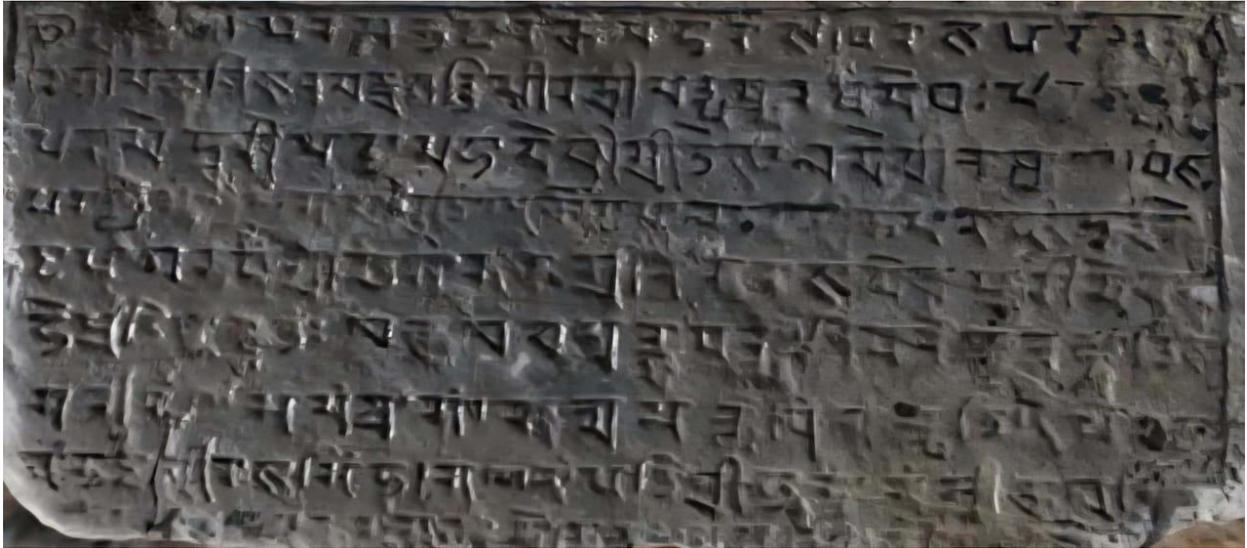
This tablet with some unique script ,is recently discovered by Dr Rukhsana khan head of the archeology department university of Azad Kashmir..... This is a strange and unique writing on a stone in the Kotli district of Azad Kashmir.... A humble request for script experts to define the writing if possible



👍❤️😲 Sunil R Rajanaka and 57 others

👍 58 💬 28 🔗 ➦ 4

We fairly doubted the interpretation, rather, misinterpretation given in the snippet. When we inverted the picture, we could see many Sharada letters. Mr. Sanjay K in our team has provided us with two images of the same inscription, with some image processing on it for better visibility of the letters.



Bit more research on the web gave us some more information about this inscription at <https://kashmirtimes.com/news/korean-connection-of-kashmir-unearthed>.

It comes with bold headline which reads as follows:

News

Korean connection of Kashmir unearthed

Discovery of ancient inscription links region with Korea; experts call for deeper exploration of Kashmir's East Asian ties.

This article says,

Kashmir Valley-Jammu region Axis

The Kotli site, strategically positioned at the crossroads of the Kashmir Valley and Jammu region, likely served as an important cultural and religious corridor in ancient times.

Among other finds at the site were prehistoric shelters, rock-cut caves, massive limestone boulders with defaced human faces, ancient water pools, buried mounds, and pottery fragments.

These discoveries point to continuous human activity in the area from the 4th millennium BCE to the 18th century CE.

Dr Khan, who earned her PhD from the Taxila Institute of Asian Civilisations and is renowned for her research on the Sharda civilisation, termed the discovery of the stone inscription as the “most exciting” of the excavation.

She stressed the need for international collaboration, particularly with Korean scholars, to study the artefacts in depth and reconstruct the region’s ancient connections.

The Sharda Centre of Learning is now working with experts from other universities in Pakistan to conduct further analysis. Dr Khan said the discoveries not only add a new dimension to Kashmir’s history but could also enhance the region’s profile as a destination for cultural heritage tourism and archaeological research.

Kotli is now in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).



We could hardly see any of the following Korean Hangeul characters in the Kotli inscription. Prior to introduction of Hangeul script, Koreans used Chinese characters only!



With our familiarity with Sharada script, we could notice that the first line of the inscription contains the words “परमभट्टारक महाराजधिराज परमेश्व(र)”. This is one of the clearest parts of the text out there. Using this text, with a simple search in the web we got the following information.

"परमभट्टारक, महाराजाधिराज, परमेश्वर" यह उपाधियाँ ऐतिहासिक शासकों द्वारा उपयोग की जाती थीं, खासकर भारत में। "परमभट्टारक" का अर्थ है "सर्वोच्च शासक", "महाराजाधिराज" का अर्थ है "महान राजाओं का राजा", और "परमेश्वर" का अर्थ है | "सर्वोच्च भगवान" या "अंतिम शासक"। ये उपाधियाँ आमतौर पर शक्तिशाली राजाओं और सम्राटों द्वारा उपयोग की जाती थीं, जो अपने क्षेत्र में सर्वोच्च शासक होने का दावा करते थे।

उदाहरण के लिए:

- प्रतिहार शासक: प्रतिहार शासकों, जैसे नागभट्ट द्वितीय और मिहिर भोज, ने "परमभट्टारक, महाराजाधिराज, परमेश्वर" जैसी उपाधियाँ धारण की थीं,
- पाल शासक: पाल शासक धर्मपाल ने भी "परमभट्टारक, महाराजाधिराज, परमेश्वर" की उपाधि धारण की थी,
- अन्य शासक: अन्य शासकों ने भी इन उपाधियों का उपयोग किया, जैसे कि प्रभाकर वर्धन और हर्षवर्द्धन

More on this topic can be found at <https://ignca.gov.in/coilnet/rj006.htm>

नागभट्ट द्वितीय
परमभट्टारक, महाराजाधिराज, परमेश्वर



चौथे गुर्जर राजवंश राजा

शासनावधि	805 ई०- 833 ई०
पूर्ववर्ती	वत्सराज
उत्तरवर्ती	रामभद्र
पिता	वत्सराज
माता	सुन्दरी-देवी

Based on the above information, we browsed through late Brahmi and early Sharada alphabet tables. We could find match for almost every legible character of the inscription with the alphabet shapes in the tables. Legible characters have been transliterated to Devanagari script from Sharada script. Characters that are not fully readable and partially readable are shown with ‘_’ marks and in black colour respectively.

- 1 ॐ चर_द्रा, परमभट्टारक महाराजधिराज परमेश्व
- 2 रश्च, मत्कालिजप चन्द्र_र्ति मीर श्रीचत्पष्मरथदेवः प_ग__
- 3 परमेश्वरी परा महादेवी श्रीते(भे?)जाल देवीनाथण विज
- 4 य रा_ _गाजपति_ पकोट पाल_ _क दानार्य_ड व्रके
- 5 ट्ट पागरवंग्रे, ओजारक अनिरचज देवशरीशे व_
- 6 हे प्रतिष्ठातृतः एक एव धर्मापन्न_रन ने_ _कृतिज
- 7 शरी_समं _गांग_मन्यपि लन्यभि_____
- 8 _____ श्रीराजसिंह गणानांपति श्रीह_____
- 9 म _____ दे नि _____

Mr. Rakesh Koul, Ms. Vinutha Saligram, Ms. Usha Munshi, Ms. Kusum Warikoo and myself as team, with our combined Kashmiri background, excellent knowledge of paleography and expertise in Sharada script coupled with Sanskrit knowledge, decoded the inscription.

We could identify many fragmented Sanskrit or near Sanskrit phrases like परमभट्टारक महाराजाधिराज परमेश्वर; परमेश्वरीपट्टामहा देवी; श्री नन्दराज; श्री राजसिंह, गणानांपति, परमेश्वरी; एक एव महा देवी in the inscription. The characters matching with Sharada script, we can say that this is fully Sharada script only and there are no Korean characters there. Based on the work done so far, we do not see any connection between Kashmir and Korea as claimed in the social media snippets.

Owing to non-familiarity with the geography of the land this manuscript is found, we could not decipher some of the names used in this inscription. By studying the geography and history of the land, we are sure that we can fully decode this inscription.

We will continue working on this to get even better results.