



Guttala Drought Inscription

[Source: TH](#)

A rare **Kannada inscription** discovered in **Haveri, Karnataka**, marks the **first known historical record** in India to document a **mass humanitarian disaster (6,307 deaths) due to bara" ([drought](#))**, dating back to **18th August 1539 CE**.

- The bodies were buried after paying respects to **God Basaveshwara**. It is **India's earliest** known **inscription explicitly recording the human toll** of a natural disaster.
 - **Inscriptions** are texts carved on durable materials like **stone or metal**, serving as **historical records** to commemorate events, royal decrees, donations, or victories.
- **Notable Inscriptions in Karnataka:**
 - **Maski Rock Edict (3rd Century BCE):** One of **Ashoka's minor edicts**, it first uses the title "**Devanampriya**" (Beloved of the Gods) for Ashoka.
 - **Aihole Inscription (634 CE):** Composed by **Ravikirti** in **Sanskrit**, it records **Pulakeshin II victories**, including over **Harshavardhana**.
 - **Halmidi Inscription (450 CE):** It is the oldest known **Kannada inscription**, and written in **early Kannada script** and **poetic form**.
 - It mentions **Kadamba king Kakusthavarma** and has **16 lines carved on a sandstone slab**.

INSCRIPTIONS AND ROCK EDICTS



Sohgaura Copper Plate

- Location - Sohgaura, Gorakhpur (UP)
- Mentions - Famine relief efforts
- Language - Prakrit*
- Features - **Mauryan dynasty**
 - Earliest-known copper plate
 - (Rare) **Pre-Ashokan Brahmi inscription**

Ashokan Edicts

- Location - Eastern India
- Mentions - Ashoka's view of Dharma (Buddhist philosophy)
- Language - Magadhi Prakrit*
- Features - 33 inscriptions (pillar edicts, Major rock edicts, Minor rock inscriptions)
 - 1st tangible evidence of Buddhism**
 - Ashoka as **Devanampiyadasi** "Beloved servant of the God"

Rummindei Pillar Edicts

- Location - Lumbini, Nepal
- Mentions - Ashoka's visit to Lumbini and tax exemptions he made there
- Script - Brahmi
- Features - Minor pillar inscriptions

Prayag-Prashasti (Allahabad Pillar)

- Location - Allahabad Fort (earlier Kaushambi)
- Mentions - Ashoka Stambh but with 4 different inscriptions
- Script - Brahmi
- 4 Inscriptions include -
 - Usual Ashokan Inscriptions
 - Queen's Kaurwaki edict
 - Samudragupta's conquests by Harisena
 - Jahangir's inscriptions in Persian

Mehrauli Inscription (Mehrauli Iron Pillar)

- Location - Qutub Minar complex, Delhi
- Mentions - Credits **Chandragupta II** for the conquest of Vakatakas and Vanga countries
- Script - Brahmi
- Features - **Gupta dynasty**
 - Pillar estd by Chandragupta II as **Vishnupada** (in honor of Lord Vishnu)
 - Notable for rust-resistant metal composition

Kalsi Inscription

- Location - Kalsi town (Uttarakhand)
- Mentions - Ashoka's humane approach in administration, non-violence, spirituality
- Language - Prakrit*
- Features - Only place in north India to have 14 Ashokan rock edicts

Maski Inscription

- Location - Maski (an archaeological site in Karnataka)
- Mentions - Dharma shasana (promotes Buddhist tenets)
- Language - Prakrit*
- Features - 1st edict to contain Ashoka's name instead of Piyadasi.

Kalinga Edicts

- Location - Kalinga, Odisha
- Mentions - Kalinga war turning point for Ashoka
- Language - Magadhi Prakrit, Script - Brahmi
- Features - Set of 11 out of 14 rock edicts
 - 2 special rock edicts signifying pacification
 - Ashoka gave up **Digvijaya**, adopted non-violence & Buddhism

Aihole Inscription

- Location - Meguti temple, Karnataka
- Mentions - **Pulakeshin II** defeated Harshavardhana
- Language - Sanskrit; Script - Kannada
- Features - Chalukya victory → Pallavas
 - Capital: **Aihole → Badami**
 - Written by Ravikirti (Pulakeshin II's court poet)
 - Samudragupta's conquests by Harisena

AIHOLE WAS THE FIRST CAPITAL OF CHALUKYAS

Hathigumpha Inscription (Elephant Cave Inscription)

- Location - Udaygiri-Khandgiri Caves, Odisha
- Mentions - History of King Kharvela - a champion of Jainism
- Language - Prakrit*
- Features - **Mahameghavahana dynasty**

NOTE: *implies that wherever language is Prakrit, the script is Brahmi

