

Digital Documentation of Excavations- Buddhist Site at Kankanahalli

D. DAYALAN

Archaeological Survey of India

sooraidayalan@gmail.com

The recent exploration followed by excavations at Kanganhalli (Lat. 16 49' 30" N and Long. 76 54' 20"E) and its surrounding area on the left bank of Bhima river in Karnataka State by the Archaeological Survey of India has brought to light the most outstanding discovery of Buddhist stupa complex which is in fact unique in the history of Buddhist art of India in general and of Karnataka in particular. Sannati, the big village nearby has a vast fortification of early historic period. Two major rock edicts of Asoka are also noticed in the Chandralamba temple at Sannati.

The stupa complex is constructed in highly sculptured lime stone slabs and the core is filled with mud, brick bats and rubble stones. The extent portions of the stupa at Kanganhalli consist of the lower and upper medhi (drum) and the lower part of anda (dome). The stupa proper is of 22 metres diameter enclosed by the railing with a diameter of 28 metres. The drum of the stupa is divided into two tiers i.e., lower and upper medhi encased with exquisitely carved panels depicting the symbolic representation of Buddha such as simhasana, bodhi-vriksa with a seat below and stupa model, dharma charka, muchilinda naga, jataka stories, events in Buddha's life and other themes related to Buddhism. Large number of label inscriptions mention about the name, status and origin of the donors, names of the ruling kings and details of the depictions in the sculptured panels are unearthed from the excavations. The papers deals about the digital documentation of the excavations and also of the hundreds of sculptural panels and architectural members retrieved from the excavations. The paper also deals with the identification of the places from where the donors/pilgrims came from and plotting of the places in the map.