

# Art and Architecture of Tripura



# Introduction

# Introduction

The art and architecture of Tripura is very ancient. The evidence of this truth can be found in ancient royal documents, inscriptions and copperplates. There are various sites in Tripura which represents rich art and architecture of Tripura. Among them, Pilak in South Tripura, Udaipur and Amarpur and Unakoti in North Tripura sites are significant. Among the objects obtained in art and architecture , stone terracotta, bronze carvings, coins and statues of Gods and Goddesses are important. However, many experts thought that as a result of more excavations, many artefacts of art and architecture can be found in Tripura.

# Pilak's art and architecture



# Pilak's art and architecture

Pilak in South Tripura is a significant place to get proof of the superior art and architecture of Tripura. There are Buddha Statues, Statues of Hindu Goddesses and Terracotta artefacts in Pilak as archeological monuments. Among the idols, the size of Abulukiteswar is very huge in shape. From the various specimens found here, it is inferred that the region was the center of Buddhist culture in the eighth and ninth centuries. The coins that found in this region bearing the name Harikela and from this many infer that this region was under the Harikela dynasty. Among the statues of Buddha in Pilak, Buddha statues made of sandstone are huge in shape.

# Continue

Apart from Buddha Statues, idols of Narsingha, Mahishasurmardini, Ganesh have been found here. Terracotta ornaments and parts of ancient pottery and old bricks are also found in this region. Among the God and Goddesses found in Pilak, the idol of surjyamurti is very significant. A total of five idols of Surjyamurti have been found here. Two out of the five statues of Surjyamurti are huge in size. The height of the two statues is about ten and a half feet. So in the end we can be sure that Pilak is very significant in the field of architecture as well as art.

# Unakoti's Art and Architecture



# Unakoti's Art and Architecture

Unakoti in North Tripura is one of the most remarkable examples of art and architecture of Tripura. According to Archaeologists, this place has been place of worship for Shiva since the eighth and ninth centuries. There are many stories centering on this pilgrimage site. It is said that once when Lord Shiva and other deities were going to Varanasi, they came to this place and rested. It was decided that after spending the night at this place, the journey to Varanasi would begin again. But Unfortunately , only Lord Shiva woke up in time. Lord Shiva left this place alone without disturbing the sleep of other deities and the other deities became mass stones with the croaking of the crow in the morning. In the absence of Lord Shiva, the place became known as Unakoti as million of deities were not fulfilled.

# Continue

The highest peak of Unakoti is about one and a half hundred feet. Unakoti can be divided into two categories in terms of anitiquities. They are-

- 1) Carved Statues in the mountains and
- 2) Established Stone Sculpture.

Now we will discuss these issues in detail.

# Carved Statues in the mountains of Unakoti



# Carved statues in the mountains of Unakoti

There are innumerable different types of carved statues in the mountains of Unakoti. Among them, the large Shiva head and Ganesha idol are especially attractive. The carved Shiva of the mountain range is known as Kalbairav of the Unakotisar. The height of the carved Shiva at the base of the mountains is about 30 feet. The two eyes of this Shiva head have a Sharp view and a third eye on the forehead and adorned with earrings. Beneath Shiva's head there are three large disposed bull idols. On both sides of Shiva's head there are full-grown attractive women. Moreover, in the mountains of Unakoti there is a lioness Durga idol and a female idol.

# Continue

The height of Carved Ganesha idol of Unakoti is about 22 feet. Two large Ganesha statues are standing on the South side of the Statue. To the far south of the idol there is four faced Vishnu.

# Established Stone Sculptures



# Established Stone Sculptures

The various sculptures in Unakoti's art and architecture are very interesting. Among the sculptures, the head-shaped statues are particularly noteworthy. The structure of head-shaped Statues have similarities with the faces of inhabitants. The head-shaped statues are carved somewhere in rows and somewhere separately. The fourteen head deities of Tripura can be mentioned in a series of head-shaped idols. Worshipping only head idols instead of full-grown idols is not seen in the Hindu Worship system.

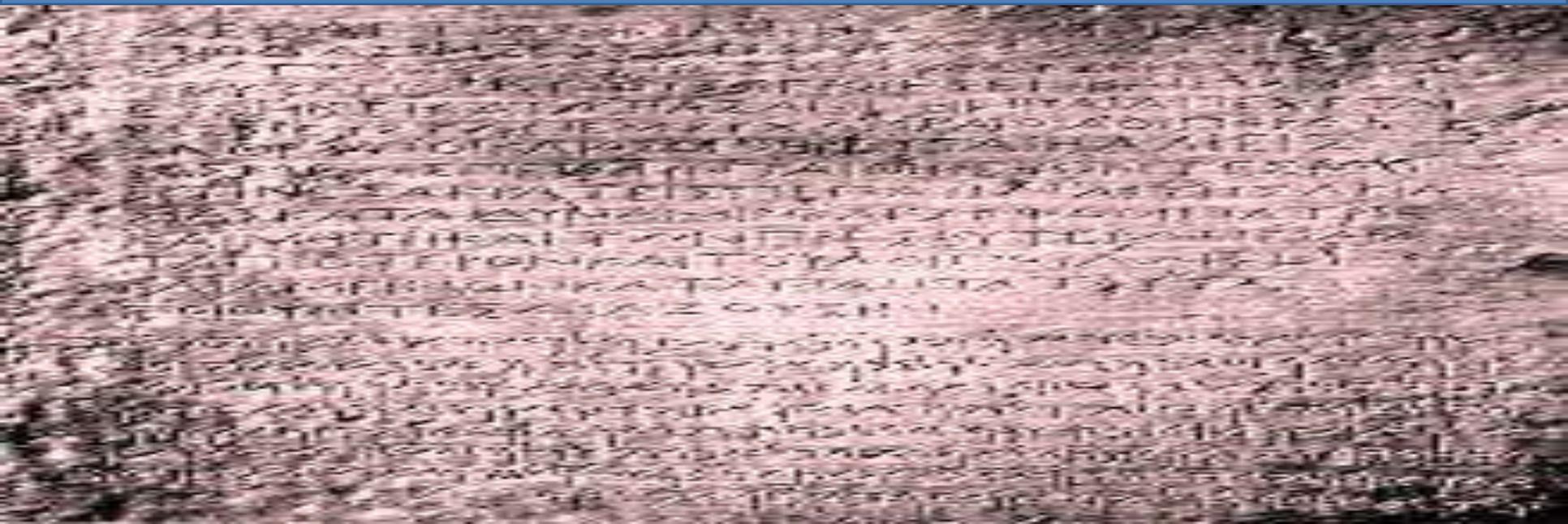
# Sculptures of Devatamura



# Sculptures of Devatamura

The Devatamura hill on the bank of river Gomati in Amarapur and Udaipur carry the identity of the advanced art of Tripura. There are idols of various Gods and Goddesses carved on Devatamura hill. Among the carved idols there are Mahisasurmardini, Nandibahan Shiva, Kartik and Ganesha and the Mahisasurmardini statue is very large in size. The height of the statue is about 45 feet. The costumes, ornaments and shapes of the carved idols reflect the influence of the indigenous people of Tripura. Many researchers think that the method of making the statues belongs to the Bengal's Pala-Sen period and some evidence of that era can be noticed in the Devatamura art.

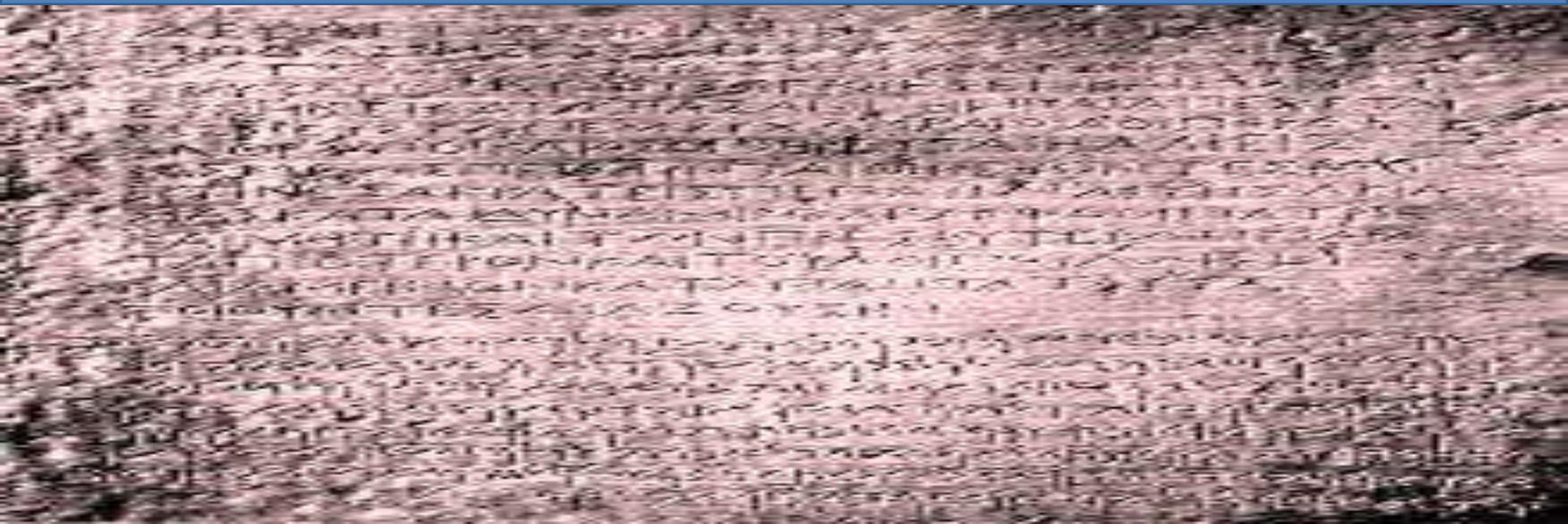
# Script of Tripura



# Script of Tripura

The inscriptions that have been received in Tripura to date can be divided into two parts. The first is the dedication letter and the second is the donation letter. Some of the inscriptions are carved in stone and some are engraved in copperplate. Dedicated inscriptions were carved on the base of the temple or on stone slabs for the construction of the temple and the establishment of the temple. In the case of donation letters, the donation of land to the Brahmins is described in the copper plate. Moreover, some copper plates mentioned the issue of giving land to Muslims. The scripts are usually written in Sanskrit in Bengali Script.

# Some inscriptions found in Tripura



# Some inscriptions found in Tripura

Several inscriptions have been found in Tripura. The inscriptions belong to several different contemporaries. The descriptions of some notable scripts are given below.

- 1) The first copperplate found in the Middle age mentioned the donation of land to the Brahmins on the occasion of a new dighi called Dharmasagar during the reign of Maharaja Dharma Manikya I.
- 2) There are five inscriptions at the base of the Tripureshwari temple. The inscriptions on the east side of the temple stated that the temple was built in 1501 by the King Dharmamanikya. The scripts are mostly written in Bengali.

# Continue

- 3) The ruins of temple was discovered in the Maharani area near Udaipur, founded by Maharaja Vijay Manikya. Inscriptions with dates are found in huge arched stone fragments from the ruins. It is known from the inscriptions that the temple was dedicated to Lord Vishnu by the Maharaja and Maharani.
- 4) A dedication inscription is found at the foot of the Mahadev temple at Udaipur. The inscription says that the temple was built during the reign of Dharma Manikya and later the King KalayanManikya renovated the temple in 1651.

# Continue

- 5) A dedication inscription of Govinda Manikya's wife Gunavati was found in a temple at Purva Radha Kishorepur near Mahadevbari at Udaipur. It is mentioned in the inscription that the Queen Gunavati built this temple dedicated to Vishnu in 1668 AD.
- 6) Several inscriptions of copperplates of the period of the Raja Kalyan Manikya and the Raja Govinda Manikya are found. The inscriptions are the land donation certificate such as Brahmottar Certificate and Ayma certificate. Brahmottar certificates were issued to Brahmins and Ayma certificates to Muslims.

# Introduction to the currency of Tripura



# Introduction to the currency of Tripura

The currency of Tripura can be mentioned as a significant element of the art and architecture of Tripura. We know the history of Tripura in the Middle Ages from the inscriptions and coins of Rajmala. From the various coins minted by different kings which have been received till now, we can know about the different events of that time and the different policies of the king. It is said that the King Ratna Manikya of Tripura introduced the first coin in Tripura in 1464 AD. The coins of Tripura, minted by different kings at different times, were somewhat different in shape, structure and nature. Coins of various kings of Tripura such as Dhanya Manikya, Vijay Manikya, Yashodhara Manikya are very important as significant coins of Tripura.

# A) Coins in circulation by Dhanya Manikya



# Coins in circulation by Dhanya Manikya

The coins of Dhanya Manikya are similar to those of Ratna Manikya. There were lion statues in the coins. The word 'Tripurendra' in some coins of Dhanya Manikya and some of his coins the word 'Vijayindra' were mentioned. It is said that some coins of king Dhanya Manikya had been printed as commemorative coins of Chatigram conquest.

# B) Coins in Circulation by Bijoy Manikya



# Coins in circulation by Bijoy Manikya

From the historical point of view, the coins minted by Vijay Manikya is important in many ways. There are the names of four sages in his coins. In some of his coins he was again called Kumudidarsi, Pratisindhasim, Tripurmahesh and Visvesvara. Three types of commemorative coins of Vijay Manikya have been discovered yet. His commemorative coin depicts a Shivling and an eagle-bearing Vishnu Statue on the throne. The variety of statues in the coins of Vijay Manikya is remarkable. In some of his coins there are statue of the quadrangular Shiva on one side and the ten armed Durga on a lion on the other side can be seen.

# Coins in circulation by Yashodhara Manikya



# Coins in circulation by Yashodhara Manikya

The coin minted by Yashodhara Manikya is one of the notable coins of Tripura. He introduced about three types of coins. The coins depicted the flute player Krishna on the 'Tripura Lion' and the idol of Gopini can be seen next to the idol of Krishna. The coins minted by Yashodhara Manikya bear the date of printing, the name of the king and queen, which are of special value as elements of the history of Tripura.

# Others

Moreover, the coins of Tripura minted by other kings of Tripura also carry the identity of art and architecture. The king Ramdev Manikya's coins bear the name of his wife Ratnadevi. The coins of Ratna Manikya II are particularly significant in the history of Tripura. It is recently learned that the coins of King Narendra Manikya, King Mahendra Manikya are preserved in the National Museum in London.

# Conclusion

# Conclusion

it can be said that Tripura has been carrying a rich art and culture since the ancient time. We can learn about the history of Tripura with the help of Tripura art and architecture. In conclusion , the art and culture of Tripura is of a high standard and it is hoped that through future research, some information can be found on the art and architecture of Tripura.

# For Pdf

[www.studyforcompetitive.weebly.com](http://www.studyforcompetitive.weebly.com).

# Thank You

