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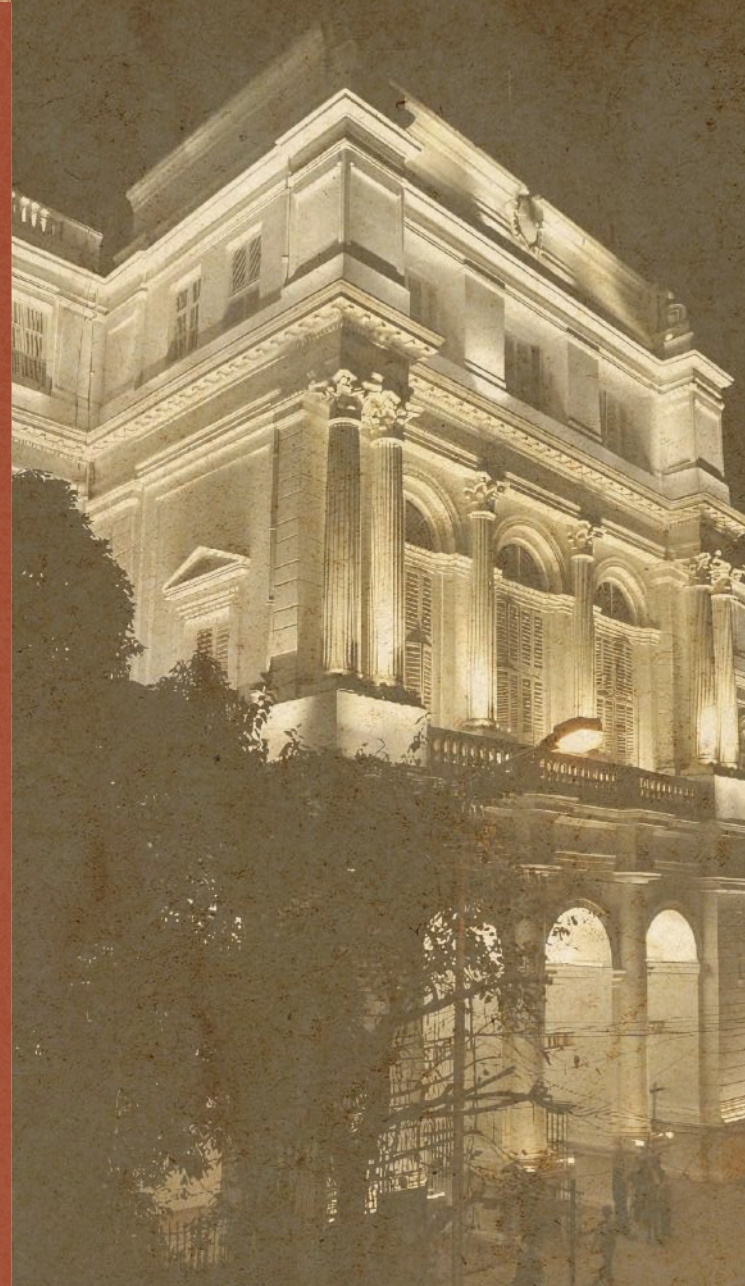
Registrar,
University of Calcutta

Deputy Director,
Indian Museum, Kolkata

Head of the Department Ancient Indian
History and Culture,
University of Calcutta

YOURS SINCERELY,

Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar,
Local Secretary, ESI Golden Jubilee
and PNSI 44th annual session
Professor, Department of Ancient
Indian History and Culture,
University of Calcutta



November – 07 – 09, 2025
Venue: Asutosh Birth Centenary Auditorium
Indian Museum, Kolkata



संस्कृति मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
CULTURE



50th Annual/ Golden Jubilee
Session of the
Epigraphical Society of India

44th Annual Session of the
Place Names Society of India

organised by

**Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture
University of Calcutta**

Sahid Kshudiram Siksha Prangan (Alipore Campus),
Kolkata-700027

in collaboration with

Indian Museum, Kolkata
Ministry of Culture, Government of India



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

With immense pleasure I am delighted to inform you that the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, Kolkata in collaboration with the Indian Museum, Kolkata – the largest and the oldest museum in the Asia Pacific region, is hosting the Joint Conference of the 50th Annual Congress, the Golden Jubilee Session of the Epigraphical Society of India (ESI) and the 44th Annual Congress of the Place Names Society of India (PNSI) on 7th, 8th, and 9th of November, 2025. I hope you have received the first circular, which has already been issued by the Secretaries of both Societies previously. On behalf of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, I cordially and warmly welcome you to the Joint Session of ESI and PNSI.

INSCRIPTION OF MAHANAVIKA BUDDHAGUPTA

Period: C 6th Century CE
Provenance: Malaya Peninsula



ABOUT THE HOSTING INSTITUTIONS

The Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, was established in 1917 and has completed its centenary in 2017. The Department has a long tradition of teaching Epigraphy and engaging young minds in this field. The department has contributed significantly to postgraduate education, offering M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D. programs. It has played a pioneering role in developing research and scholarship in epigraphy, numismatics, art history, history of religion and socio-political history, cultural history, and also history of medicine, besides other aspects of ancient Indian history and culture.

The eminent scholars like Prof. D. R. Bhandarkar, Prof. D.C Sircar, Prof. H.C Raychaudhuri, Prof. B.D Chattopadhyaya, Prof. A.N.Lahiri, Prof. B.N Mukherjee, Dr. Devala Mitra, Prof. Kamaleshwar Bhattacharyya, Prof. Adhir Chakravarti, Prof. S.K. Maity, Prof. Suresh Chandra Bhattacharya, Prof. Amitabha Bhattacharyya, Prof. Kalyan Kumar Dasgupta, Prof. Dipak Ranjan Das, Dr. Narendranath Bhattacharyya, Prof. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Prof. P. Niyogi, Prof. Ranbir Chakravarti, are among the stalwarts associated with this Department.

Indian Museum, Kolkata, an esteemed Institute of National Importance under Article 62 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, was established by Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, a Danish botanist, in 1814. The museum, in its two centuries of history, has grown enormously to fulfil its aims of shaping the cultural identity of 'India'. The museum serves as a nexus of multifaceted cultural and educational enterprises, which cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of 'cultural' artefacts of art, archaeology, and anthropological importance; as well as presents a distinctive array of scientific treasures.

To the Epigraphists, an ambiance like that of the Indian Museum, which is a repository of the inscriptions in the Bharhut Gallery and preserves the records like the Mahasthan inscription and hundreds of stone inscriptions and copper plate charters, is like a paradise.

WEATHER IN KOLKATA:

November is a good month to be in Kolkata. It is just after the festive season when the festive mood and celebrations tend to continue, and the weather too is quite supportive and congenial. The delegates may carry light woolens, especially seniors who are prone to cold. Though the temperature in the city will only be around 25 degrees Celsius.



HARAPPAN INSCRIPTION

Period: C. 2nd Millennium BCE
Provenance: Mohenjo-Daro

TRANSPORT AND CONVEYANCE- PICK UP AND DROP OFF

The delegates will be received from the Railway Station (Howrah and Sealdah) and Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Airport, Dumdum, Kolkata, by the organizers upon their arrival on the 6th of November. Those who reach earlier have to make their arrangements for conveyance and accommodation, as we shall be providing hospitality from November 06, 2025, 10 AM onwards. Bus service will be provided from 9 AM on November 06, 2025, from the above-mentioned pick-up points. On the day of the departure, we shall make arrangements for drop off for the delegates to the above-mentioned railway stations and airport at regular intervals. All are requested to convey their time of arrival and departure in advance.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation with average facilities (like hot water for bathing, morning tea, etc.) will be provided to the delegates at their hotels, which are at a distance of approximately 12 km from the venue of the conference, i.e., the Indian Museum. Accommodation will be provided from November 06, 2025, to November 10, 2025, morning 10 AM only. As accommodation facilities are optimum, delegates who are not opting for the accommodation are advised to inform well in advance, and those who would like to opt for better facilities in such cases, the organizers will be happy to help them with options for booking prime hotels in the city at the expense of those delegates. Travel time from the place of accommodation to the venue is approximately one hour; hence, conveyance to and from the place of accommodation to the venue and back will be provided in the morning and evening only.

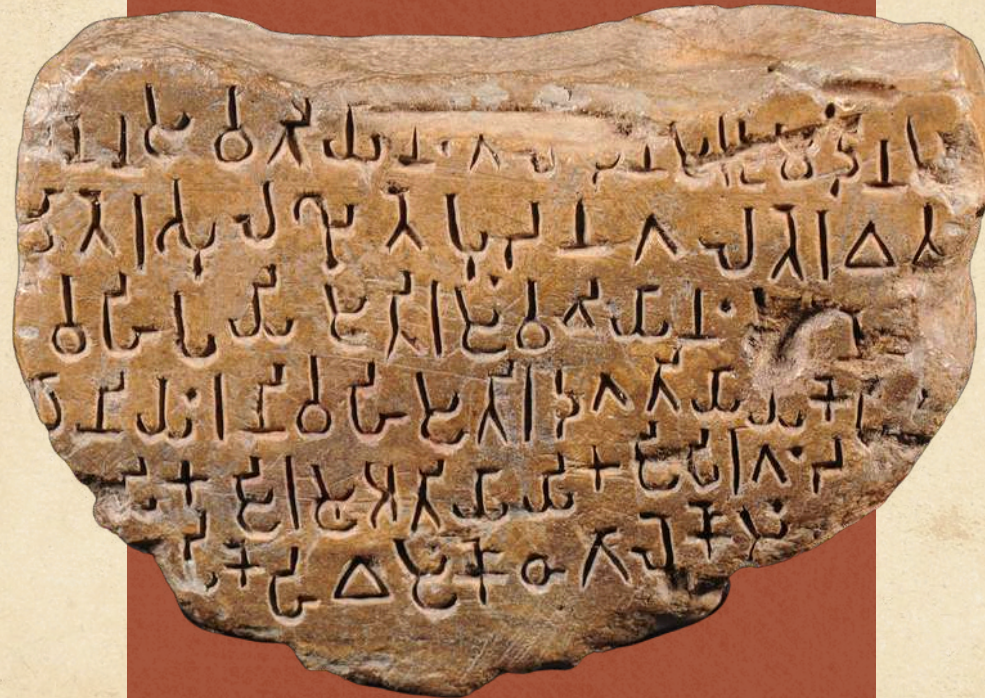
SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PAPERS

Delegate Members are welcome to present papers at the joint session of both conferences. Members may please send their papers along with an abstract not exceeding 300 words to Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar, Local Secretary, 50th Annual session of Epigraphical Society of India and 44th Annual session of Place Names Society of India. Papers for the two conferences have to be sent separately in two emails, indicating clearly the theme and also the name of the conference (ESI/ PNSI). For the themes, see the details given below. Kindly send them to the following Email ID:

localsecretaryesipnsi2025@gmail.com

MAHASTHANGARH PLAQUE

Period: C 3rd Century BCE
Provenance: Mahasthangarh,
Bangladesh - Mauryan Period



THEMES AND SUB-THEMES:

Epigraphical Society of India Golden
Jubilee Session

Sub Theme 1: New and Recent Discoveries

Sub Theme 2: Interpretations and Reinterpretations: Text and Context

Sub Theme 3: South Indian Epigraphs and Epigraphic Studies

Sub Theme 4: Inscriptions from Eastern India

Sub Theme 5: Religious epigraphs, Pilgrimage records and Image inscriptions (with special focus on Buddhist and Jaina records)

Sub Theme 6: Epigraphists and their Contributions

Sub Theme 7: Arabic and Persian Inscriptions

Sub Theme 8: Harappan script: Issues in Decipherment and Future Engagements

Place Names Society of India

Sub Theme 1: Onomastics and Places

Sub Theme 2: Onomastics, Commodities, and Human Engagement

Sub Theme 3: Onomastic studies new approaches

Sub Theme 4: Onomastic studies with Special focus on Eastern India

Sub Theme 5: Toponym studies- Implications and Scope

REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Membership of ESI or PNSI is mandatory for being a delegate of the Joint Session. Individuals and Institutions, who have not yet become members but wish to participate in the session, are requested to enroll themselves as member and send the desired membership fee to the authorities of either of the societies through email:

epigraphicalsociety@gmail.com

placenamesociety@gmail.com

Membership forms of both societies are available on the **website: epigraphicalsociety.com**

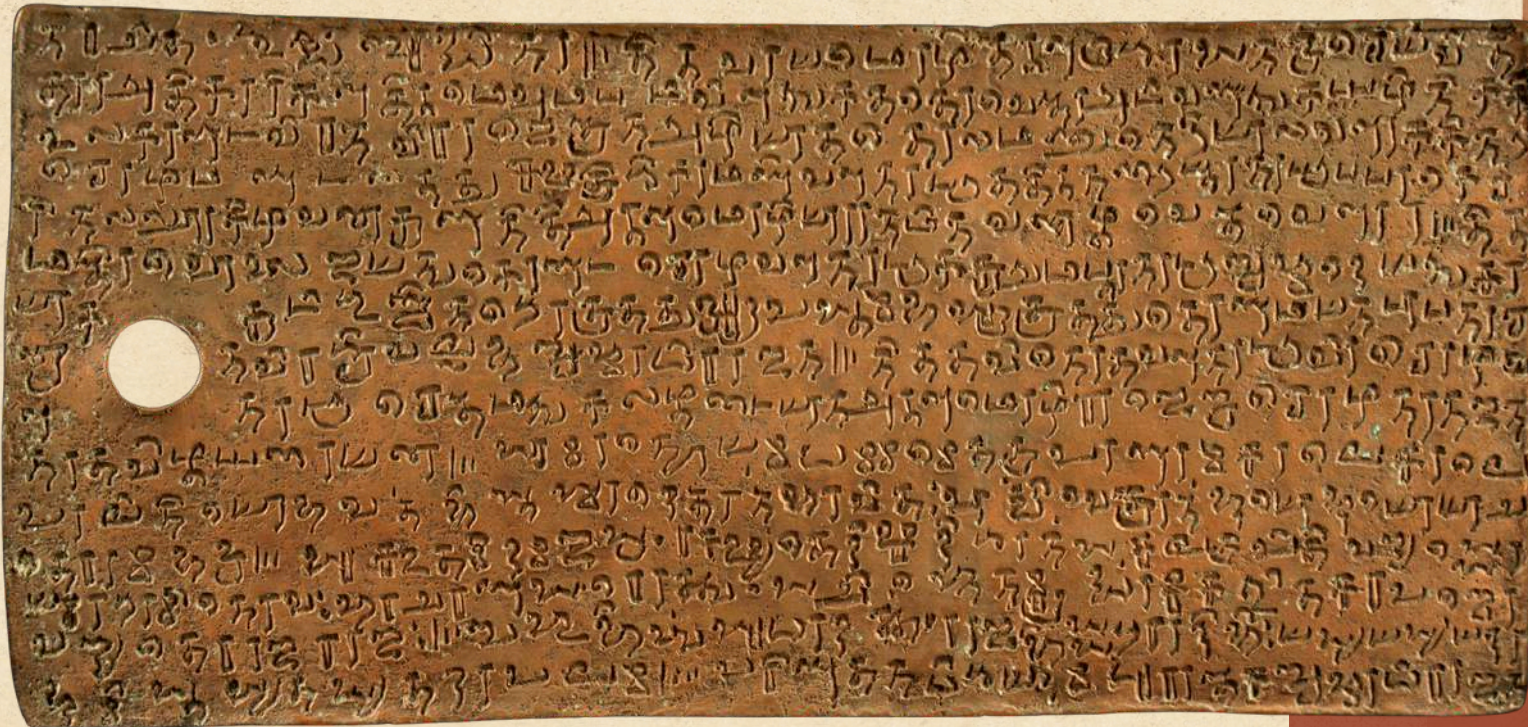
Registration has to be done by mid-September; however, the membership fee can be paid at the conference venue as well.

Registration for the conference can be done by sending the enclosed proforma along with this circular to the Local Secretary. The filled-in proforma along with the details of the payment shall be sent to the Local Secretary through email to localsecretaryesipnsi2025@gmail.com. Delegate fee for outstation delegates is fixed at Rs. 3000 /-and Rs. 2000/- for students and scholars. For Local participants who do not need accommodation and local hospitality, Delegate fees are fixed at INR 500/ and INR 300/- for students and scholars. All Under-graduate and Post-graduate students and Ph.D Scholars have to produce identity proofs for their current position, duly signed by the Head of the Institution.

Payments should be made through a Demand Draft drawn in favor of or through online banking to
Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar and Mr. Abhik Kushari, Accounts Officer (University of Calcutta),
State Bank of India
A/c No.44325417189
Branch: University of Calcutta Branch
IFSC Code- SBIN0007766
Bank Address: 87/1 College Street, Kolkata.

Please feel free to contact the following for any enquiries

Local Secretary
Prof. Susmita Basu Majumdar
Professor, Department of Ancient Indian History
and Culture, University of Calcutta
Contact no. 9836188531



CHOLA INSCRIPTION

Period: C 11th - 12th Century CE
Provenance: South India