

Reading Siddhamātrkā



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Structure of the Indic Alphabet

VOWELS (Full or initial forms)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| A | I | U | E | O | AO |
| Ā | Ī | Ū | AI | AU | |

MEDIAL (post-consonantal) VOWELS

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|------|-----|--|
| KĀ | KHI | TU | ME | KO | |
| KHĀ | ḌI | TŪ | THAI | KAU | |

CONSONANTS (normalized forms)

| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | Nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA | KHA | GA | GHA | ŊA | | HA |
| Palatal | CA | CHA | JA | JHA | ṆA | YA | ŚA |
| Retroflex | ṬA | ṬHA | ḌA | ḌHA | ṅA | RA | ṢA |
| Dental | TA | THA | DA | DHA | NA | LA | SA |
| Labial | PA | PHA | BA | BHA | MA | VA | |

CONSONANTAL CONJUNCTS AND LIGATURES (normalized forms)

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------------|-----|-----------|------|-----|------|
| KYA | KHYA | GYA | CYA | TYA | DHYA | NYA | BHYA |
| MYA | VYA | SYA | HYA | TVA | DVA | RVA | ŚVA |
| SVA | HVA | DV A | KRA | TRA | DRA | PRA | VRA |
| SRA | RSA | STA (ṬSA?) | STA | PTA (TPA) | SPA | SMA | HMA |
| MHA | | | | | | | |

Early Brāhmī (c. 3rd century BCE)

| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA + | KHA 1 | GA ^ ^ | GHA 6 | ŃA | | HA 7 |
| Palatal | CA d | CHA 6 | JA E E | JHA 7 | ṆA 7 | YA 1 1 | ŚA ^ |
| Retroflex | ṬA C | ṬHA O | ḌA 7 7 | ḌHA 6 6 | ṇA I | RA } | ṢA 6 |
| Dental | TA 7 7 | THA ⊙ | DA 7 7 | DHA D | NA 1 | LA 7 | SA 7 |
| Labial | PA 6 | PHA 6 | BA □ | BHA 7 7 | MA 8 8 | VA 6 | |

Uniform ‘Monumental’ script in Early Brāhmī

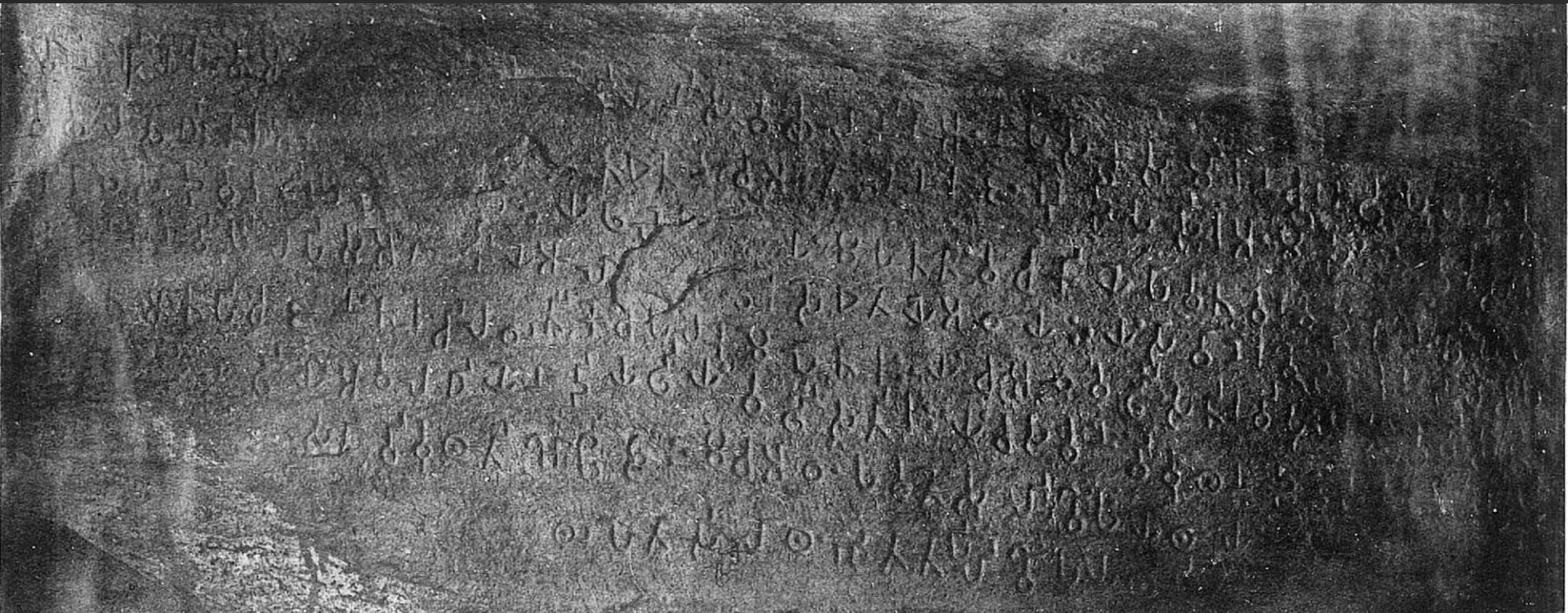
ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ ገረዳ

[illegible][illegible]

ፊት ለፊት ይገኛል ለግብረሰብ

PTVZOK

MiRE at SASARAM (SAHASRAM)



Major Factors affecting Evolution

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN GREEK PALAEOGRAPHY

Decline of the Maurya polity

Gradual appearance of Sanskrit as the principal epigraphic language

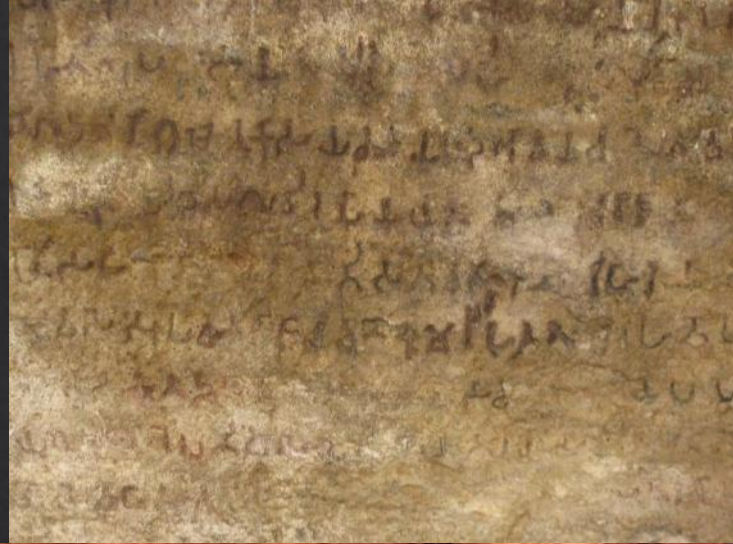
Growth of provincial political-cultures

Variation in content and purpose
and



1. Square *akşara*
2. Angularity
3. New phoneme

[illegible]



Hathigumpgha Inscription



Introduction of the New Pen Style



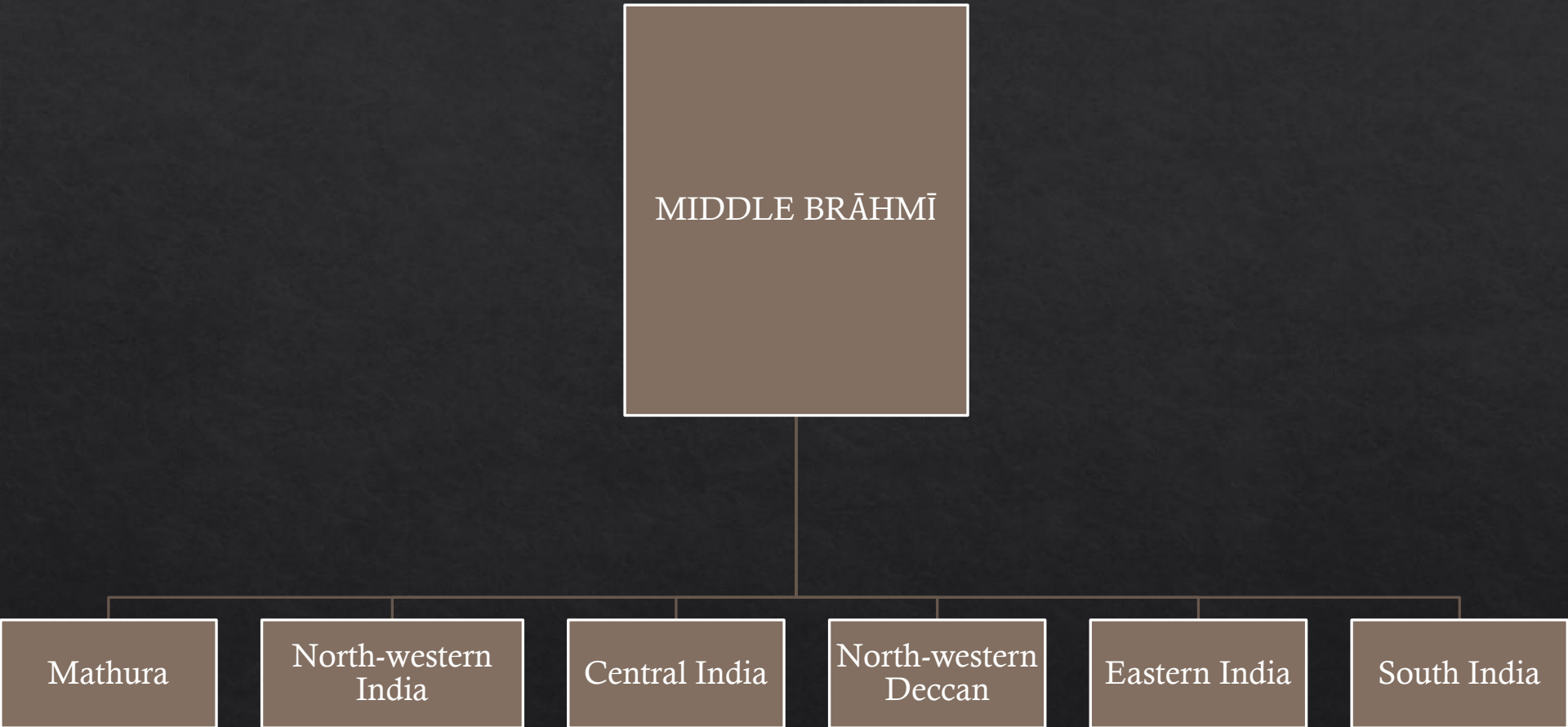
Donation by (ārya)
Griharakṣitā. In Mathura

The results were...

Development of regional styles

- ◇ Introduction of New symbols
 - ◇ Introduction of headmarks
- ◇ Introduction of varying medial vowels

Regional styles



VOWELS (Full or initial forms)

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| A | ॠ ॡ | I :: | U ८ | E ॢ | O ॣ | AM ॠ |
| Ā | ॠ ॡ | I :: | U ८ | AI ॢ | AU | |

MEDIAL (post-consonantal) VOWELS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|---|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| RĀ | THĀ | ŚI | NI | THI | KU | † | † | † | NE | RE | LE | KO | TO | BHO | CHAM | ŃAM | NAM |
| ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | † | † | † | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ |
| KĀ | JĀ | KĪ | GĪ | BHĪ | LĪ | DHŪ | BŪ | | KAI | ॠ | | KAU | PAU | GR | | | |
| ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | | | | | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | | | |

CONSONANTS (normalized forms)

| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA ॠ | KHA ॡ | GA ॢ | GHA ॣ | ŅA | | HA । |
| Palatal | CA ॥ | CHA ० | JA ॥ | JHA ॥ | ṆA | YA ॥ | ŚA ॠ |
| Retroflex | ṬA ॢ | ṬHA ॣ | ḌA । | ḌHA ॥ | ṇA ॢ | RA ॣ | ṢA । |
| Dental | TA ॢ | THA ॣ | DA ॣ | DHA ॣ | NA ॢ | LA ॣ | SA ॣ |
| Labial | PA ॣ | PHA ॣ | BA ॣ | BHA ॣ | MA ॣ | VA ॣ | |

LIGATURES (select normalized examples)

| | | | | | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|-----|----------|--------|------|
| CCHA | STHĀ | ṢTHĀ | TRA | DRA | PRĀ | RVA | TVO |
| ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ |
| ŚVA | DDHYE | YYA | RYYA | SYA | ṆDA | NTE | CHRI |
| ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ |
| ŚRA | ŚRĪ | TSA | ŚKA | KṢU | PROBLEMS | | |
| ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | ॠ | HNU ॠ | SPHA ॠ | SŪ ॠ |

Middle Brāhmī
(Northern India)

Development of Late BRĀHMĪ

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURSIVE STYLE

- ◊ Further regionalization of script
 - ◊ More newer symbols
 - ◊ Fondness for flourish
 - ◊ Diverse material
- and

Examples...

(I) (a) 𐌲 (b) 𐌲 (c) 𐌲 (d) 𐌲 (e) 𐌲

(II) (a) 𐌲 (b) 𐌲 (c) 𐌲 (d) 𐌲

(IV) CHA DI VĪ KĪ PU KU LE RO
𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲

(V) A KA ÑA RA LA
𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲

(VI) PA SHA HA BHA GHA YA BA
𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲 𐌲

TA
h → h → h → h → h
DA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
NA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
DA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
NA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
MA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
SA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
HA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
LA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲
SYA
𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲 → 𐌲

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|---|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| RĀ | THĀ | SĪ | NĪ | THĪ | KU | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | NE | RE | LE | KO | TO | BHO | CHAM | NAM | NAM |
| 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 |
| KĀ | JĀ | KĪ | GĪ | BHĪ | LĪ | DHŪ | BŪ | | KAI | 𐌲 | | KAU | PAU | GR | | | |
| 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | | | | | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | 𐌲 | | | |

LATE BRĀHMĪ

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graph TD; A[LATE BRĀHMĪ] --- B[ ]; B --- C[Indus zone]; B --- D[Mathura]; B --- E[Sanchi]; B --- F[Kauśāmbī]; B --- G[E India]; B --- H[Inner Madhya Pradesh]; B --- I[Eastern Malwa]; B --- J[NE Rajasthan]; B --- K[SE Deccan];
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Indus zone

Mathura

Sanchi

Kauśāmbī

E India

Inner Madhya
Pradesh

Eastern Malwa

NE Rajasthan

SE Deccan

VOWELS (Full or initial forms)

| | | | | | |
|------|------|-----|-------|------|----|
| A 𑀅𑀅 | I 𑀇𑀇 | U 𑀆 | E 𑀇𑀇 | O 𑀆 | Aṁ |
| Ā 𑀅𑀅 | Ī 𑀇𑀇 | Ū 𑀆 | AI 𑀇𑀇 | AU 𑀆 | |

MEDIAL (post-consonantal) VOWELS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| KĀ 𑀅𑀅 | KHĀ 𑀅𑀅 | CĀ 𑀅𑀅 | TĀ 𑀅𑀅 | Ō 𑀅𑀅 | TĀ 𑀅𑀅 | DHĀ 𑀅𑀅 | PĀ 𑀅𑀅 | ṢĀ 𑀅𑀅 | LĀ 𑀅𑀅 |
| VĀ 𑀅𑀅 | MĀ 𑀅𑀅 | HĀ 𑀅𑀅 | SĀ 𑀅𑀅 | BĀ 𑀅𑀅 | CI 𑀅𑀅 | ḍĪ 𑀅𑀅 | TI 𑀅𑀅 | THI 𑀅𑀅 | NI 𑀅𑀅 |
| JI 𑀅𑀅 | MI 𑀅𑀅 | VI 𑀅𑀅 | VĪ 𑀅𑀅 | NĪ 𑀅𑀅 | DĪ 𑀅𑀅 | BHĪ 𑀅𑀅 | HĪ 𑀅𑀅 | KU 𑀅𑀅 | GU 𑀅𑀅 |
| JU 𑀅𑀅 | CU 𑀅𑀅 | DU 𑀅𑀅 | THU 𑀅𑀅 | NU 𑀅𑀅 | BHU 𑀅𑀅 | RU 𑀅𑀅 | HU 𑀅𑀅 | DHŪ 𑀅𑀅 | RŪ 𑀅𑀅 |
| BHŪ 𑀅𑀅 | MŪ 𑀅𑀅 | CŪ PŪ 𑀅𑀅 | ṬE 𑀅𑀅 | ṬE 𑀅𑀅 | ṬHE 𑀅𑀅 | DE 𑀅𑀅 | DHE 𑀅𑀅 | ṆE 𑀅𑀅 | ṢE 𑀅𑀅 |
| GO 𑀅𑀅 | JO 𑀅𑀅 | ṬO 𑀅𑀅 | LO 𑀅𑀅 | MO 𑀅𑀅 | ṆAI 𑀅𑀅 | NAI 𑀅𑀅 | YAU 𑀅𑀅 | ṢAU 𑀅𑀅 | KṚ 𑀅𑀅 |
| GR 𑀅𑀅 | NR 𑀅𑀅 | VR 𑀅𑀅 | TUH 𑀅𑀅 | GHRAḤ 𑀅𑀅 | SR 𑀅𑀅 | | | | |

CONSONANTS (normalized forms)

| | unvoiced unspirated | voiced aspirated | Voiced unspirated | voiced aspirated | Nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|-------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA 𑀅𑀅 | KHA 𑀅𑀅 | GA 𑀅𑀅 | GHA 𑀅𑀅 | ṆA | | HA 𑀅𑀅 |
| Palatal | CA 𑀅𑀅 | CHA 𑀅𑀅 | JA 𑀅𑀅 | JHA 𑀅𑀅 | ṆA | YA 𑀅𑀅 | ṢA 𑀅𑀅 |
| Retroflex | TA 𑀅𑀅 | THA 𑀅𑀅 | ḍA 𑀅𑀅 | ḍHA 𑀅𑀅 | NA 𑀅𑀅 | RA 𑀅𑀅 | ṢA 𑀅𑀅 |
| Dental | TA 𑀅𑀅 | THA 𑀅𑀅 | DA 𑀅𑀅 | DHA 𑀅𑀅 | NA 𑀅𑀅 | LA 𑀅𑀅 | SA 𑀅𑀅 |
| Labial | PA 𑀅𑀅 | PHA 𑀅𑀅 | BA 𑀅𑀅 | BHA 𑀅𑀅 | MA 𑀅𑀅 | VA 𑀅𑀅 | |

Late Brāhmī
(Middle Ganga Valley)

Ligatures and Consonantal conjuncts

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| ŅGA 𑂔 | ŅGA 𑂕 | ŅHA 𑂖 | ŅCA 𑂗 | CCHA 𑂘 | JÑĀ 𑂙 | RJJO 𑂚 | ŅṬA 𑂛 |
| ṆDA 𑂜 | DHRU 𑂝 | NDRA 𑂞 | KṢU 𑂟 | DHYO 𑂠 | SYA 𑂡 | STHA 𑂢 | ṢṬHA 𑂣 |
| ṆYA 𑂤 | ŚRA 𑂥 | ŚRĪ 𑂦 | ŚRŪ 𑂧 | ŚCA 𑂨 | DDHYĀ 𑂩 | CCHRI 𑂪 | NGRĀ 𑂫 |
| ṬṬI 𑂬 | SYO 𑂭 | RṆṚ 𑂮 | PTĀ 𑂯 | RVVO 𑂰 | TTA 𑂱 | RDDHEḤ 𑂲 | JYE 𑂳 |
| KRO 𑂴 | SKA 𑂵 | NDA 𑂶 | NTE 𑂷 | TTRI 𑂸 | NŚA 𑂹 | DDA 𑂺 | KHYĀ 𑂻 |
| SMI 𑂼 | GRĀ 𑂽 | TNE 𑂾 | TSŪ 𑂿 | JÑO 𑃀 | KṢYA 𑃁 | TVĀ 𑃂 | RTTI 𑃃 |

18

20

22

24

26

28

30

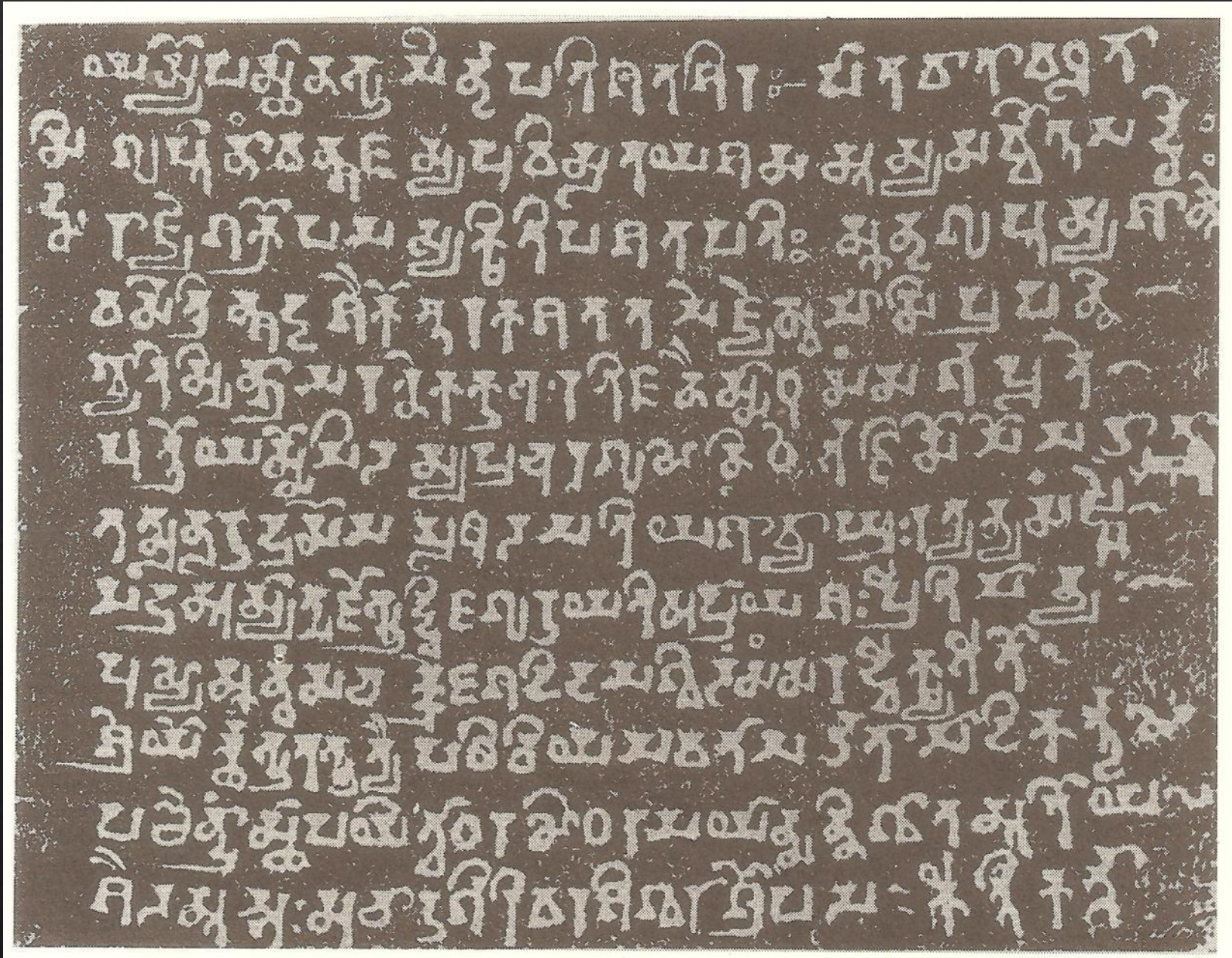
32

Handwritten text in a script, likely Tamil, covering the main body of the page. The text is arranged in horizontal lines, with some characters appearing to be in a different script or dialect. There are several large, irregular white patches indicating damage or missing sections of the manuscript.

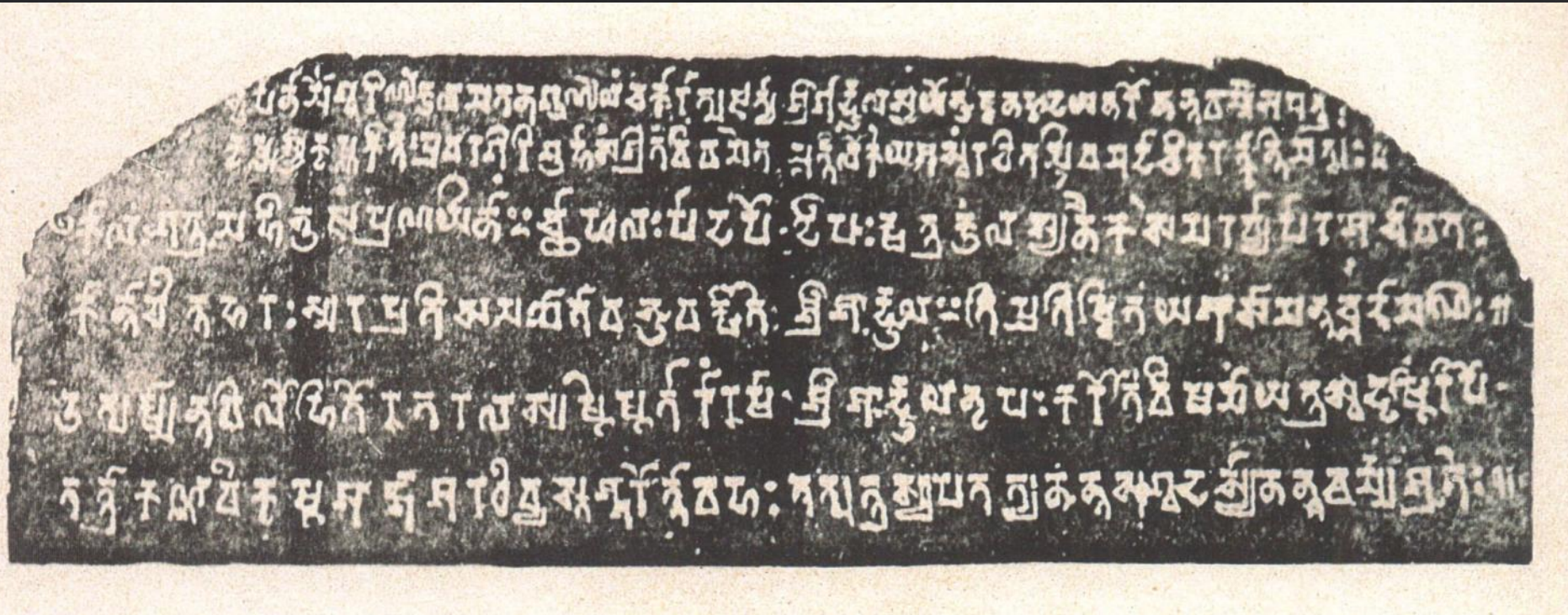
Handwritten text at the bottom right corner, possibly a signature or a date.

Kahaum inscription of Skandagupta

Gupta year 141 = 460 CE



Barabar Hill cave Inscription of Anantavarman Circa First Half of 6th Century CE



The SYSTEMIC Change...

| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA 𐎧 | KHA 𐎧 | GA 𐎧𐎡 | GHA 𐎧 | NA 𐎡 | | HA 𐎧 |
| Palatal | CA 𐎣 | CHA 𐎣 | JA 𐎣𐎡 | JHA 𐎣 | NA 𐎡 | YA 𐎣𐎡 | SA 𐎣 |
| Retroflex | TA 𐎢 | THA 𐎢 | DA 𐎢𐎡 | DHA 𐎢 | NA 𐎡 | RA 𐎢𐎡 | SA 𐎢 |
| Dental | TA 𐎢 | THA 𐎢 | DA 𐎢𐎡 | DHA 𐎢 | NA 𐎡 | LA 𐎢𐎡 | SA 𐎢 |
| Labial | PA 𐎡 | PHA 𐎡 | BA 𐎡 | BHA 𐎡 | MA 𐎡𐎡 | VA 𐎡 | |

EB

| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA 𐎧 | KHA 𐎧 | GA 𐎧 | GHA 𐎧 | NA 𐎡 | | HA 𐎧 |
| Palatal | CA 𐎣 | CHA 𐎣 | JA 𐎣 | JHA 𐎣 | NA 𐎡 | YA 𐎣 | SA 𐎣 |
| Retroflex | TA 𐎢 | THA 𐎢 | DA 𐎢 | DHA 𐎢 | NA 𐎡 | RA 𐎢 | SA 𐎢 |
| Dental | TA 𐎢 | THA 𐎢 | DA 𐎢 | DHA 𐎢 | NA 𐎡 | LA 𐎢 LA 𐎢 | SA 𐎢 |
| Labial | PA 𐎡 | PHA 𐎡 | BA 𐎡 | BHA 𐎡 | MA 𐎡 | VA 𐎡 | |

MB

LB

| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | Voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | Nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA 𐎧 | KHA 𐎧 | GA 𐎧𐎡 | GHA 𐎧 | NA 𐎡 | | HA 𐎧 |
| Palatal | CA 𐎣 | CHA 𐎣 | JA 𐎣 | JHA 𐎣 | NA 𐎡 | YA 𐎣 YA 𐎣 | SA 𐎣 |
| Retroflex | TA 𐎢 | THA 𐎢 | DA 𐎢 | DHA 𐎢 | NA 𐎡 | RA 𐎢𐎡 | SA 𐎢 |
| Dental | TA 𐎢 | THA 𐎢 | DA 𐎢 | DHA 𐎢 | NA 𐎡 | LA 𐎢 | SA 𐎢 |
| Labial | PA 𐎡 | PHA 𐎡 | BA 𐎡 | BHA 𐎡 | MA 𐎡 | VA 𐎡 | |

Haraha Inscription of Īśānavarman

Vikrama samvat 611 = 554 CE

Siddhamātrkā

INTRODUCTORY

Since the decipherment of the *Maurya* Brāhmī script by James Prinsep and that of Kharoṣṭhī/Kharoṣṭī by Prinsep and C.L. Grotefend, much research has gone through the origin and antiquity of historical writing in India. After the discovery of the Harappa civilization in the second decade of the last century the focus shifted, quite understandably, to the still undeciphered ‘pictographic-logographic’ script of Harappa, besides many works that concentrated on the origins of Brāhmī and the general characters of early Indian writing.

When compared to the volume of researches on early scripts, that on the vast varieties of **PROTO-REGIONAL** scripts of the subcontinent, appearing from seventh century CE onwards, is admittedly insufficient.

EARLY NOTICES

A large number of inscriptions in copper, stone and terracotta datable from c. seventh century CE onwards started attraction of epigraphists since the later eighteenth century, particularly owing to the highly stylistic and complicated palaeographic features of the script.

Many of the early palaeographers like J. Burgess, J.F. Fleet, A.C. Burnell and G. Bühler started dividing the script of these inscriptions into 'northern' and 'southern' geographical varieties.

Fleet termed it '*kuṭila*' since the right vertical element of the letters become, in this style of writing, bent (i.e. *kuṭila*) outwards to further right. Bühler termed it, on almost the same ground, '*acute-angled*' or '*early Nāgari*'

THE NAME Siddhamāṭṛkā

The only literary record relating to the prevalence of as many as eleven regional scripts of the early mediaeval period in India has been left in Al-Biruni's itinerary. Both Siddhamāṭṛkā and Gauḍī appear in this list, though the precise geo-chronological horizons covered by them have not been mentioned by the traveller.

The credit of recovering the name Siddhamāṭṛkā from Al-Bīruṇī's travelogue goes to D.C. SIRCAR, who writes (Sircar 1971):

- ◇ [I]n North India, the regional alphabets developed from Brāhmī of the Late stage through a distinct step. The alphabets of this intermediate stage may be styled Siddhamāṭṛkā...the name Siddhamāṭṛkā is more authoritative since Al-Biruni (eleventh century A.D.) uses this name for the alphabets of certain regions, and the Chinese applied the name Siddham to the same script.

Knowledge of early mediaeval scripts is mostly based on the itinerary of **Al-Bīrūnī** who heard about the existence of eleven scripts in the eleventh century CE

➤ Siddhamātrkā, Nāgara, Ardhanāgarī, Malwārī, Saindhava, Karṇāṭa, Dirwārī (i.e. Drāviḍī), Lārī

➤ **Gaurī, (i.e. Gauḍī)** and Bhaikṣukī

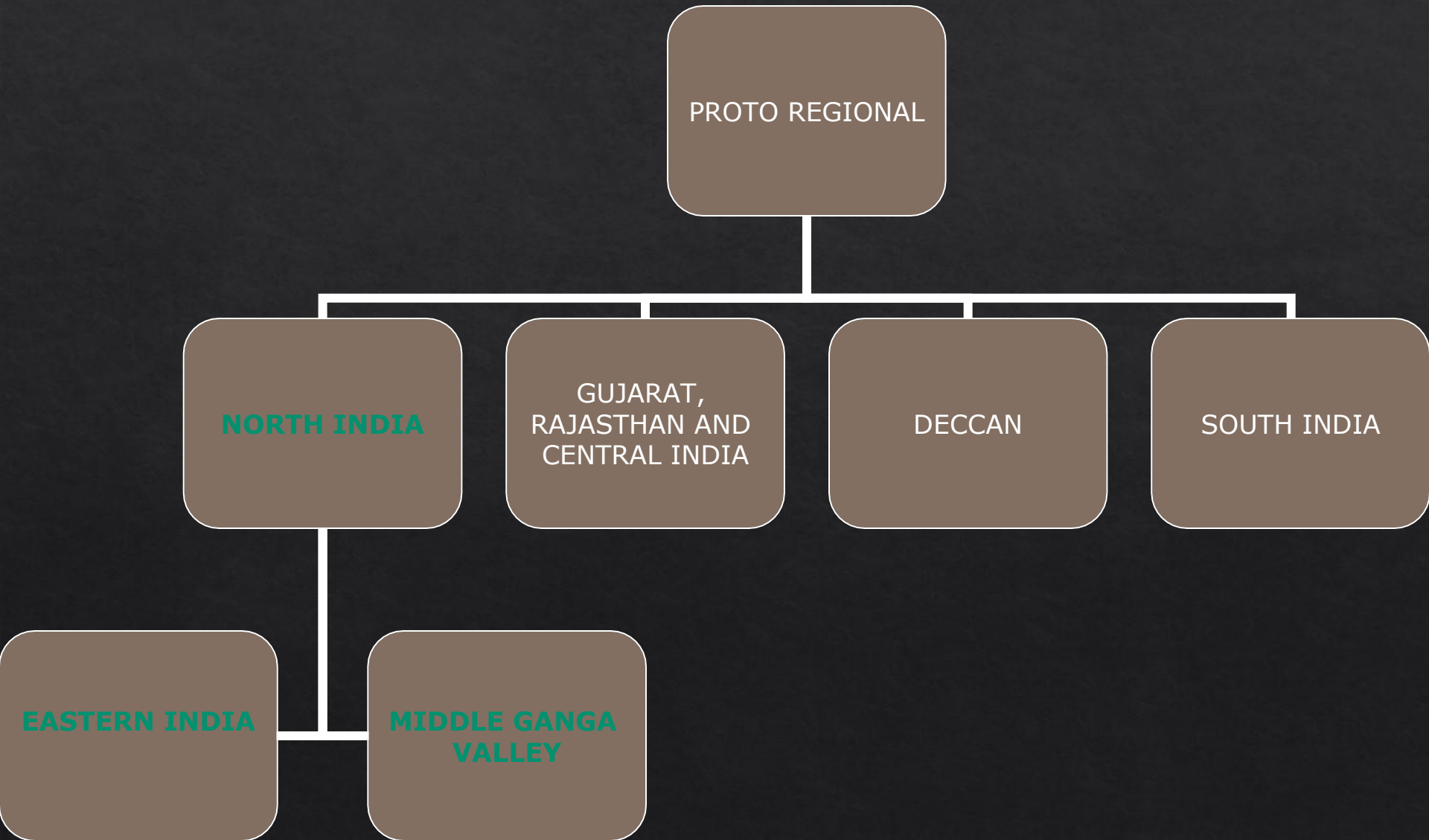
◆ Of these, the two scripts prevalent in the ‘Eastern Country’ were

➤ Gaurī, (i.e. Gauḍī)

➤ Bhaikṣukī

◆ The third script called ‘**Siddhamātrkā**’, had a wider area of distribution including eastern India

Location of **Siddhamātrkā** in A.H. Dani's Classification of Proto-Regional Indian Scripts



Confusion of Term?

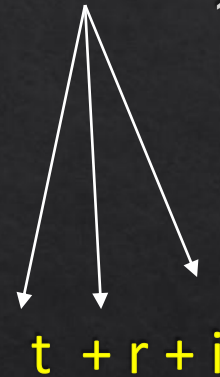
ماتریکا

ا ALEF, ك KAF, ي YE, ر RE, ت TE, ا ALEF, م MIM

↓
mātrkā

(Courtesy: Dr Sutapa Sinha)

In Siddhamāṭṛkā
māṭṛkā(mā...kā)

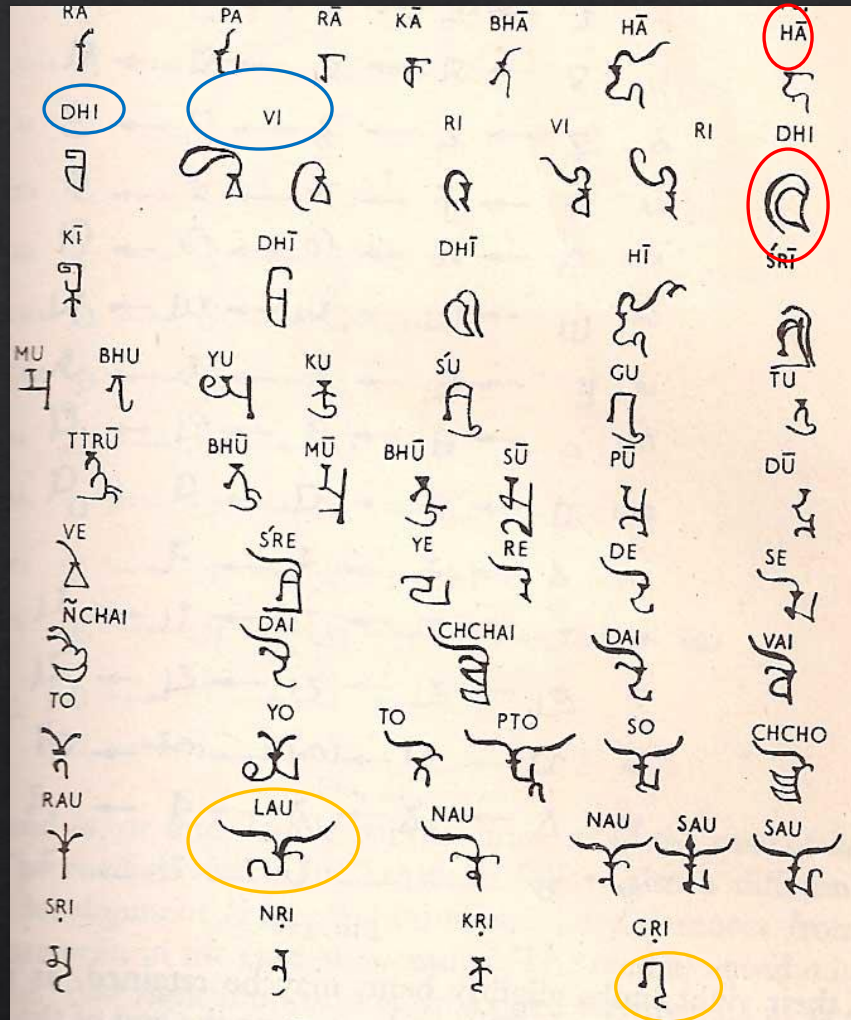


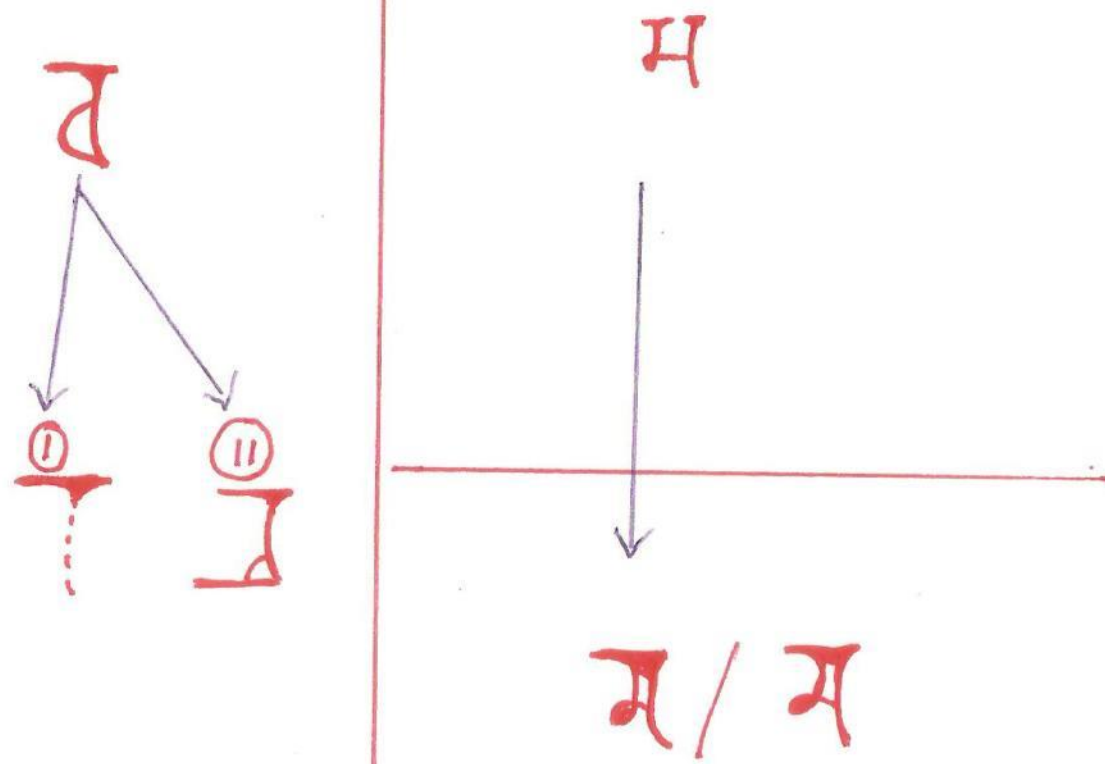
Here ‘*tri*’ (*i*) is a ligature with a medial vowel

Systemic Features...

- ◊ Further development of flourish
- ◊ More distinct cursive tendency
- ◊ Further variation in the formation of medial vowels
 - ◊ Formation of the *acute-angle*
 - ◊ Development of *mātrā*
- ◊ Introduction of *NoIA Languages*

STYLISTIC DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MIDDLE GANGA VALLEY: C.7TH CENTURY CE





Development
of the acute
angle and the
mātrā

Early Siddhamāṭṛkā

Normalized Structure

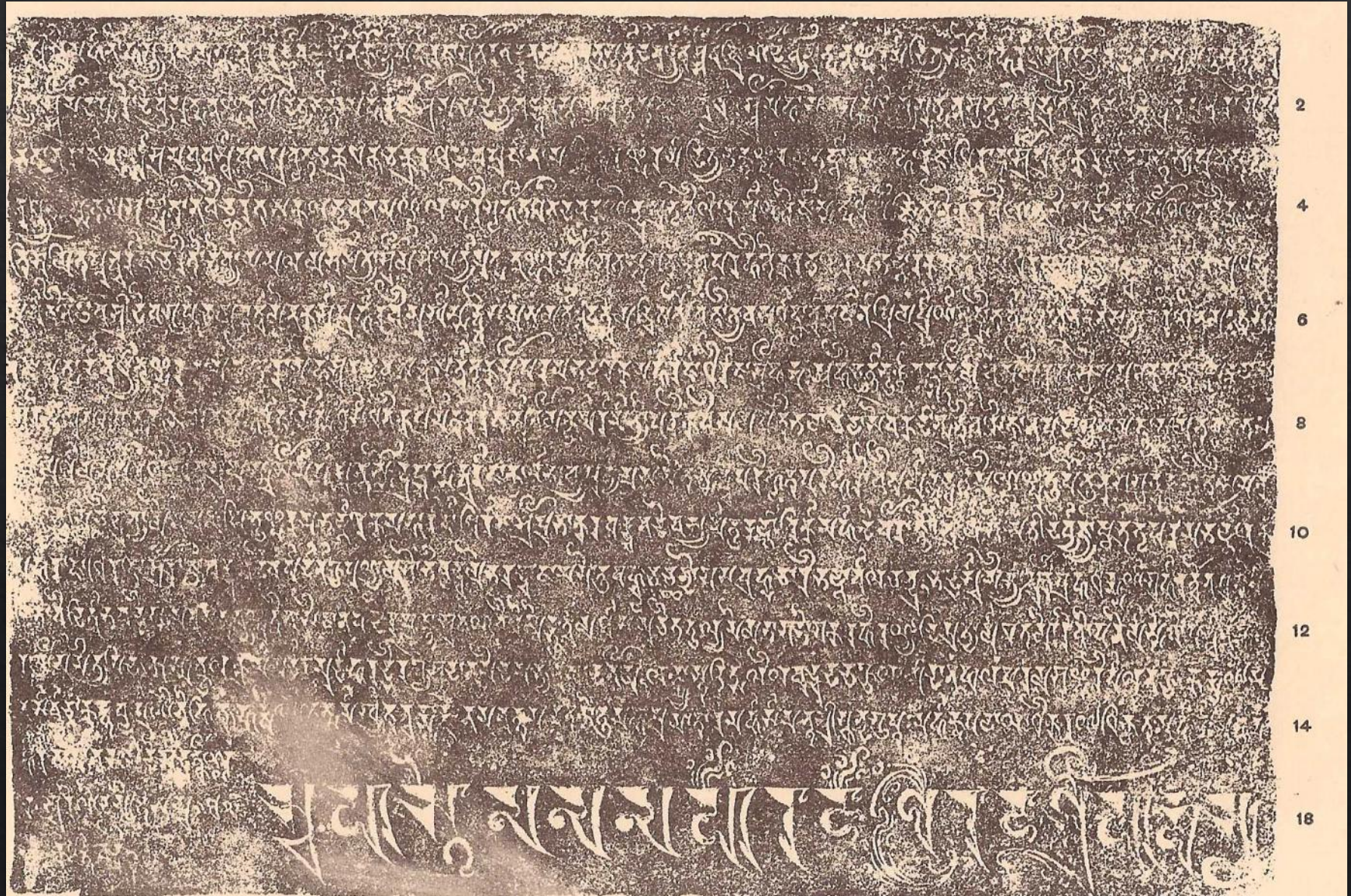
| | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|----|
| A अ | (a) | I इ | U उ | E ए | O ओ | AM |
| | | I ऀ | U ँ | AI | AU | |

CONSONANTS (normalized forms)

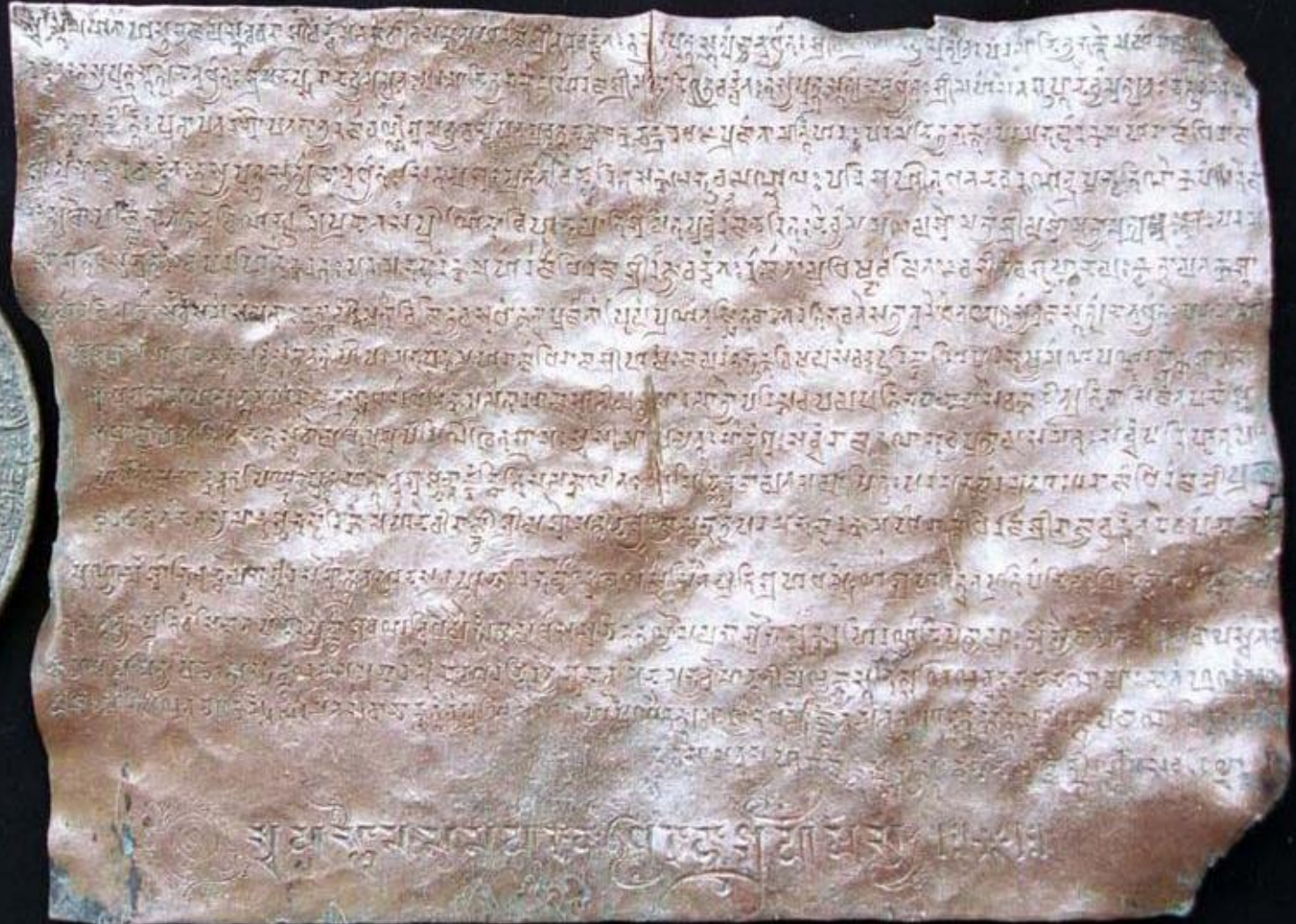
| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA क | KHA ख | GA ग | GHA घ | ṆA ण | | HA ह |
| Palatal | CA च | CHA च | JA ज | JHA झ | ṆA | YA य | ŚA श |
| Retroflex | ṬA ट | ṬHA ठ | ḌA ड | ḌHA ढ | ṆA ण | RA र | ṢA ष |
| Dental | TA त | THA थ | DA द | DHA ध | NA न | LA ल | SA स |
| Labial | PA प | PHA फ | BA ब | BHA भ | MA म | VA व | |

Early Siddhamātrkā

BANSKHERA PLATE OF HARSA (C. 7TH CENTURY CE)



Kurukshetra Varanasi Plate of HARṢA (year 23, C. 7TH CENTURY CE)



| | unvoiced unaspirated | | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA क़ क | | KHA क़ | GA ग | GHA ग़ | ŃA ण | | HA ह |
| Palatal | CA च | | CHA च़ | JA ज | JHA ज़ | ṆA ण | YA य | ṢA श |
| Retroflex | TA ट | | THA ठ | ḌA ढ | ḌHA ढ़ | ṇA ण | RA र | ṢA ष |
| Dental | TA त | T त | THA थ | DA द | DHA द़ | NA न | LA ल | SA स |
| Labial | PA प | | PHA फ | BA ब | BHA ब़ | MA म | VA व | |

GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE ALPHABET OF SIDDHAMĀṬṚKĀ
(Based on Pāla Inscriptions of c. 9th Century AD from Bengal and South Bihar)

VOWELS
Full or initial forms

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| A अ | I ई | U ऊ | E ऐ | O औ | AM अं |
| Ā आ | I | Ū | AI | AU | |

MEDIAL (post-consonantal) VOWELS

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| KA क | KI वि | KU कु | KE मे | KO तो | KAM |
| KĀ का | KI नी | KŪ सु | KAI वै | KAU औ | |

CONSONANTS (normalized forms)

| | unvoiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | voiced unaspirated | voiced aspirated | nasal | semi vowels | sibilants |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Guttural | KA क | KHA ख | GA ग | GHA घ | ŅA ङ | | HA ह |
| Palatal | CA च | CHA छ | JA ज | JHA झ | ṆA ण | YA य | ṢA श |
| Retroflex | TA ट | THA ठ | ḌA ढ | ḌHA ढ | ṇA ण | RA र | SA स |
| DENTAL | TA त | THA थ | DA द | DHA ध | NA न | LA ल | SA श |
| Labial | PA प | PHA फ | BA ब | BHA भ | MA म | VA व | |

MATURE EASTERN
VARIETY OF C. NINTH
CENTURY CE

MATURE EASTERN VARIETY OF C. NINTH CENTURY CE

SIDDHAMĀTRKĀ (Ligatures)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| KṚ कृ | KTAU कौ | TTA त | DHYA ध्या | ÑṢI णि | RṆṆA णु | ṢṬA ष | ŚRĪ श्री |
| NR नृ | CCHI चि | TTHA ठ | ŃKA क | ṆḌA ण | ĪJA ई | STHĀM थां | ŚVA श्व |
| HR हृ | JṆA ज्ञ | DDĀ द्वा | ŃGA ग | ṆṆA उ | ṆḌYĀM ण्य | KṢA कष | ŚRO श्रो |
| | | DVĀ द्वा | BDHA ध | ŃCA ण | NDRA ण | SYA श्य | SKA श्क |

Mature
Siddhamātrkā
Jagjivanpur
Copperplate of
Mahendrapāla

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