



# Auspicious Occasions And Dates In The Inscription Of Bhanjja Of Khinjinga Kotta Of Odisha.

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Odisha is one of the richest states in terms of epigraphical discoveries. Some hundreds of copper-plate grants and stone inscriptions have been discovered from Odisha so far <sup>1</sup>. Since the copper grants issued by the ruling authorities and were properly sealed by the responsible officers and sometimes signed by the rulers themselves, they are considered to be the most authentic and trustworthy. The copper plate furnish detailed information not only about the rulers and the beneficiaries but also about the religious belief of the King's, the purpose of the grants the era and other astronomical details, the officers, person present at the time of grants, the right to the donees, the land measure, the currency system prevalent, the language and script, and last but not the least the auspicious occasion and dates. In the present papers I have made and attempt to study the auspicious occasions and dates mentioned in the inscriptions of medieval dynasty Bhanja of Khiljinga kotta of odisha.

As you know auspicious occasions is the most suitable time chosen to initiate an event so that, not only it is carried out without any hurdle, but it also provides best results. It is that period of time which help in concentrating the energy of the planets and other astrological factors in an auspicious way, so as to void the evil powers and make the result of the work performed most fruitful. So now a day also people observe different activities like Home entrance, travel, start new works, friendship, marriage, education, and may more on different auspicious occasions.

In the present papers I have made an analytical study on all inscriptional auspicious occasions and dates mentioned in the copper plates of forgoing dynasty the rulers followed the Dharmasastric or puranic tradition of offering bhumidana to learned Bhramanas or religious establishment on various auspicious occasions. Such as solar Eclipses, Lunar Eclipses, samskranti, purnima and festival days like Aksaya Tritiya Dasahara etc.

It is point of great significance that, dates supplied in the inscriptions are helpful to determine the era and Chronology of kingdom. Further attempts will be made to study about other activities which have been observed by the rulers on auspicious occasions.

## Inscriptions of dynasty along with different auspicious occasions.

Sl.no	Plates	occasions	Dates
1	Bamanghati plate of Ranabhanja deva	-----	BE 188-CE 924 on the seventh day of the bright fortnight of the month of Pousa
2	Khanda deuli plate of Ranabhanja deva	Birth of son named Narendrabhanja .	-----
3	Grant of Ranabhanja deva	-----	-----
4	Adipur plate of Narendrabhanja	-----	BE.193-CE929 the first day of the dark half of the month of phalguna
5	Adipur plate of Narendrabhanja	on the day on which the summer solstice began	-----
6	Suhagpur plate of Narendrabhanja	-----	-----
7	Sarei plate of Narendrabhanja	-----	-----
8	A grant of Ranabhanja deva	-----	-----
9	Baman ghati plate of Ranabhanja	-----	-----
10	Panasi plate of Rayabhanja deva	lunar Eclipse	on the fifteenth day of the bright fortnight of the month of sravana
11	Deogram plate of Ranabhanja deva	-----	on the seventh day of the dark half of the month of Pousa
12	Keshari plate of Satrubhanja deva	-----	-----
13	Balibandha plate of Satrubhanja	-----	on the sixth day of bright fortnight of the month of ashwina
14	khiching plate of Prthvibhanjadeva	Dasahara	-----
15	Khiching plate of Mahamadhabadeva	-----	-----
16	Adipur plate of Durjayabhanja	-----	-----
17	Khendua plate of Kottabhanjadeva	-----	-----

The above Seventeen <sup>2</sup> coppers plate issued by ten rulers of khijinga mandala mentioning place-names and find spot of inscriptions have been identified in Mayurbhanja, Keonjhar, Balesore and Singbhum area of Odisha and Jharkhand respectively. It indicates that the early medieval khijinga manalala comprising modern whole Mayurbhanj Keonjhar and some portion of Singbhum district of adjoining state Jharkhand of India. The capital of khijinga-kotta has been located with modern Khijing by scholars, where all records were issued by the ruling members.

Besides this, the seventeen coppers plate also mentioned some auspicious occasions and dates of the dynasty. The Panasi plate<sup>3</sup> of Ranabhanjadeva mentioned the auspicious occasion lunar eclipse, on the fifteen day of the bright fortnight of the month of Sravana. The king donated land to the Brahmins on that occasion.

The ukhanala plate<sup>4</sup> of Prthvibhanjadeva reflects the auspicious occasion like Dasahara with the dates tenth day of the bright half of the month of Jetha. The king probably considered above occasions and date special for his kingship.

Two copper plates of Ranabhanjadeva have been issued on the seventh day of the bright half of the month of Pausa. Further the Bamanghati plate of king (one out of two) mentioned the important date B.E. 188-CE 924, which is of a great significance for the determination of chronology and date of Ranabhanjadeva. That apart, another's copper plate of Narendrabhanja engraves date like BE 193-CE 929, the first day of the dark half of the month of Phalgun. The king considers Phalgun as auspicious occasions. Balibandha plate of Satrubhanjadeva has been issued on the sixth day of the month of bright fortnight of the month Ashvina. Rest of nine copper plates of the dynasty does not inform us about any date and occasion.

At the outset, it has been observed that one copper plate has occurred on lunar eclipse, one on summer, two are issued on the month of Pausa, and one each on the month of Jetha, Ashvina, Sravana, Phalgun and Dasahara. It may be mentioned here that two copper plates, have mentioned the dates of issue of copper plates which are points of great significance regarding determination of date and their contemporary kingdom in early medieval Odisha. The other days and occasion reflected in the inscriptions also indicated their liking and thinking of different auspicious occasions.

#### ➤ References and Notes:

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2. S. Tripathy, Descriptive Topographical catalogue of Orissa inscriptions, New Delhi. 2010;
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4. B. Mishra, IHQ, 13(3)(1937) PP.427-29.
5. R.C. Majumdar, EI, 25 (1939-40) PP. 158-61.
6. S. Tripathy 10,6(1974) pp.6-9.
7. Bamanghati plate and Deogan plates.
8. N. Seth, Inscriptions of Orissa - names of Orissa (736 - 1568 AD)