

Khāravela, the King of Kalinga

- Main source of information is his Hathigumpha inscription.
- Belonged to the Chedi *vamśa*.
- Belonged to the Māhāmeghavāhana *kula*.
- Inscription mentions him in the third generation of his family.
- The first generation is represented by Mahāmeghavāhana, who was, perhaps, the grandfather of Khāravela.
- The part of the inscription, mentioning the name of the king of the second generation, is damaged.
- There is a suggestion that he might be identified with Kuḍepa (= Sanskrit, Vakradeva), of the Manchpuri cave inscription.

- Khāravela spent the first six years spent in the women's quarters, as an ordinary prince.
- Received formal education for nine years : *lekha-rūpa-gaṇanā-vavahāra-vidhi visāradena sava-vijāvadātena*.
- Appointed *yuvārāja* at the age of 15.
- Crowned king on completing the age of 24 : *saṃpūṃṇa chatuvīsati-vaso...mahārājābhisechanam pāpunāti*.

- Year 1 : Repair of the fortifications of the capital; entertainment of the subjects.
- According to the inscription, 35,00,000 coins were spent on entertaining the subjects : *panatisāhi sata-sahasehi pakatiyo cha ramjayati*.

- Year 2 : Despatched an expedition, towards the west, unmindful of the Sātavāhana king, Sātakarṇi : *achitayitā Sātakarṇi*.
- His armies reached the river, Kaṇhabemṇā, and caused consternation to the inhabitants of Asikanagara.
- Rapson and Barua : Kaṇhabemṇā is Wainganga, and its tributary, the Kanhan.
- K P Jayaswal : Kaṇhabemṇā is Krishna.
- K P Jayaswal : Asikanagara should be read as Musikanagara, and identified as the capital of the Muśikas, on the confluence of the Krishna and Mūsī.

- Year 3 : This expedition, undertaken in the second regnal year, was presented in Kalinga as a successful one, and the whole of the third year was spent in festivities : *usava-samāja kārapanāhi*.

- Year 4 : Campaign against the Raṭhikas and Bhojakas, who were forced to worship his feet : *sava-Raṭhika-Bhojake pāde bamdāpayati*.
- In this context is mentioned Vijādharma, perhaps identical with the Vidyādharma sect of the Jainas, mentioned in an inscription of the time of Kumāragupta I.
- Khāravela fought the Raṭhikas and Bhojakas, perhaps because they had occupied some place of worship of the Jaina sect of Vijādharma (Vidyādharas).

- Year 5 : Extended the canal, up to the capital, which canal was excavated *ti-vasa-sata* earlier by the Nanda ruler : *paṃchame cha dānī vase Namdarāja ti-vasa-sata oghāṭitam Tanasuliya-vāṭa paṇāḍim nagaram pavesayati*.
- *Ti-vasa-sata* might stand for 103 years, or, more probably, 300 years.

- Year 6 : Khāravēla made a show of kingly pomp, which cost the royal exchequer lacs of coins : *rājaseyaṃ saṃdamśayamto*.
- K P Jayaswal : Khāravēla performed the *rājasūya* : *rājasūyaṃ*.
- But this is hardly likely, as *rājasūya* was a vedic sacrifice, while Khāravēla was a Jaina.
- Year 7 : Khāravēla's wife became a mother : *Vajiradhara...sa matuka-pada....*
- Year 8 : Expedition against northern India.
- His vast armies laid siege to Gorathagiri (Barabar Hills) : *mahatā senā Goradhagiriṃ dhātāpayitā*.
- Caused consternation to the inhabitants of Rājagriha : *Rājagahaṃ upapīḍapayati*.
- On hearing of his achievement of Khāravēla, the Indo-Greek king, Dīmīta, who was active in the region, beat a hasty retreat to Mathurā.
- Dīmīta has been identified, variously, with Demetrios or Diomedes.
- Year 9 : Khāravēla constructed a magnificent palace, the Mahāvijayī-*prāsāda*, on both the banks of the Prāchī.
- Year 10 : Khāravēla led an expedition against Bhāratavarsha (northern India ?).
- The language of the inscription is very vague here, suggesting that the expedition was, perhaps, indecisive.
- Year 11 : Khāravēla led an expedition against Pithumḍa (Pithundra of Ptolemy), razed the city to the ground, and ploughed it with ploughs, yoked to asses : *Pithumḍa gadabha-naṃgalena kāsayati*.
- He also had a conflict with a confederacy of Tamil kingdoms, which had been in existence for *terasa-vasa-sata* (113 years, or 1300 years).
- Year 12 : Khāravēla led an expedition against northern India, in which he defeated Bahasatimita, the king of Magadha, and forced him to pay obeisance at his feet : *Māgadhaṃ cha rājānaṃ Bahasatimitaṃ pāde baṃdāpayati*.
- Identification of Bahasatimita : Some scholars would identify him with Pushyamitra Śuṅga.
- But his identification with Bṛihatsvātimitra, a local ruler, mentioned in the Mora and Pabhosa inscriptions, is more likely.
- According to the Hathigumpha inscription, Khāravēla brought Kaliṅga-jina, perhaps an image of some Jaina Tīrthaṅkara, back from Magadha to Kaliṅga.
- But some scholars read Kaliṅga-jana, in place of Kaliṅga-jina, and suggest that these were the descendants of the people of Kaliṅga, who had been carried away captive to Magadha, after the defeat of Kaliṅga at the hands of the Nandas or of Aśoka, and who were brought back to Kaliṅga by Khāravēla.
- The same year, he also attacked Aṅga, and returned to Kaliṅga with the wealth of Aṅga and Magadha : *Aṅga-Magadha vasuṃ cha nayati*.
- He also wrested elephants, horses, and pearls, from the Pāṇḍya ruler.

- Year 13 : Khāravēla got excavated caves for Jaina monks, on Udaigiri hills : *jīva-deha-sayikā*.
- He also constructed a hall for the assembly of Jaina monks, decorated with pillars, encrusted with precious stones, and 64 panels of reliefs.
- On these works, he incurred an expenditure of 64 lac coins.
- According to the Hathigumpha inscription, Khāravēla paid respect to all the religious sects : *Sava-pāsaṁḍa-pūjako*.
- He also arranged for the repair of the places of worship of all the gods : *Sava-devāyatana-sakāra-kāra*.

Date of Khāravēla

- K P Jayaswal, Bhagvanlal Indrajī, Smith, Rapson, Sten Konow, Jouveau-Dubreuil, P N Chopra : Khāravēla ruled in the first half of the second century BC.
- D C Sircar places him in the second half of the first century BC.
- If Bahasatimita of Line 12 is identified with Pushyamitra Śuṅga, and Khāravēla is believed to have defeated him, this would make Khāravēla a contemporary of the Śuṅga king, who ruled in the first half of the second century BC.
- But, we have seen earlier that his identification with Brihatsvātimitra, a local ruler, mentioned in the Mora and Pabhosa inscriptions, is more likely.
- Line 16 of the Hathigumpha reads—*Pāna-tarīya-sata-sahaseṭhi Muriya-kala-vochhinam*.
- Jouveau-Dubreuil : This refers to year 165 of the Maurya era, started 324 BC.
- 324 BC – 165 years = 157-156 BC.
- But, no evidence to show that Chandragupta Maurya founded a Maurya era.
- Had he done so, Aśoka would have dated his records in this Maurya era, instead of his coronation years.
- Barua : *Mukhiya-kala-vochhinam*, ‘the main fine arts’.
- If Dīmīta is Demetrios, who ruled in the first half of the second century BC, Khāravēla, too, would have to be placed in the first half of the second century BC.
- But, the reading and identification of the name of this Indo-Greek ruler is not certain.
- Line 6 of the Hathigumpha reads—*Pañchame cha dānī vase Naṁdarāja ti-vasa-sata oghāṭitam Tanasuliya-vāṭā paṇāḍim nagaram pavesayati*.
- *Ti-vasa-sata* may be 103 years or, more likely, 300 years.
- K P Jayaswal : *Ti-vasa-sata* is 300 years, but to place Khāravēla in the first half of the second century BC, he identifies Naṁdarāja with the Śaiśunāga ruler, Nandivardhana.
- But, there is no evidence to show that Nandivardhana had anything to do with Kalinga.
- According to the Ceylonese sources, the Nandas ruled for 22 years, from c 346 BC to 324 BC.
- To minimize the chance of error, we may take the middle point of this 22 year period as the date of the original excavation of the system of canals by the Nanda king.
- Canal originally dug by the Nanda king in 324 BC + 11 years = 335 BC.

- Khāravēla extended this system of canals in his fifth regnal year, 300 years after the original excavation.
- $335 \text{ BC} - 300 \text{ years} = 35 \text{ BC}$.
- If 35 BC is fifth regnal year of Khāravēla, he would have ascended the throne in $35 \text{ BC} + 5 \text{ years} = 40/39 \text{ BC}$.
- D C Sircar : Letters *va, ma, ha, ya, pa*, are later than the forms of these letters, met with in the Besnagar *garuḍa* pillar inscription of the time of Bhāgabhadra, datable to the end of the second century BC.
- D C Sircar : Use of *mahārāja* for Khāravēla, in Line 1, also points as a late date for . Khāravēla.
- D C Sircar : The use of *kāvya* style , also points towards a late date.
- D C Sircar : Manchapuri sculptures, associated with the queen of Khāravēla, are later than the Bharhut sculptures of the second century BC.
- D C Sircar: If Khāravēla is dated in the first half of the second century BC, it would mean a remarkable recovery, within only a few years of devastation of Kalinga in the war with Aśoka.
- Thus, the second half of the first century BC seems to be a more appropriate date for the reign of Khāravēla.