

## **Brief Report on the inaugural of 150th Anniversary of ASI by the Hyderabad Circle**

Sequential to the main inaugural function held at New Delhi on 20.12.2011 The Archaeological Survey of India, Hyderabad Circle, has celebrated inaugural function of 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Archaeological Survey of India, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad, the most acclaimed platform for the Cultural and most important activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The objectives of the inaugural of the programme is to high light the efforts of the ASI in the preservation of monumental heritage, create awareness about the necessity of the edifices of National importance and its significance, especially in the present scenario of rapid urbanization and the role of civil society in preserving our monumental heritage; congregate the former officials of ASI and felicitate some of them who have made good contribution in their respective fields and to reaffirm the dedicated service to the Institution.

His Excellency, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh Shri. E.S.L.Narasimhan has kindly graced the function as Chief Guest. A small photo exhibition, highlighting the Structural and Chemical conservation of the monuments in general and transplanted Kudali Sangameswara (Alampur) temples in particular has been organized in the left side hall at the main venue. At first, Smt Chandana Khan, Principal secretary Dept of YAT & Culture, Govt. of A.P and Shri B.V.Paparao IAS (Rtd), the Guest of Honours of the Day have arrived before prior to the commencement of the function and were cordially received by the Shri R Krishnaiah, Superintending Archaeologist, and officers of Hyderabad Circle. The Chief Guest of the function, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, His Excellency, Governor of Andhra Pradesh arrived at the venue as per the programme at 11am. Dr.S V Venkateshiah, RD (South) and Shri R.Krishnaiah S.A. Hyderabad Circle and Dr.S.Maithi, SAC Hyderabad have respectfully received His

Excellency. His Excellency visited Photo Exhibition and with great interest and keen observation. The Chief guest and Guest of Honours along with other dignitaries reached the dais and the programme commenced with National Anthem. Following which the Chief Guest His Excellency and guests of Honour lit the Lamp. Shri.R. Krishnaiah, SA Hyd Circle, gave the welcome address inviting the Chief guest, Guest of Honours Regional Director (South), SAC Hyderabad, distinguished guests and the huge gathering to the occasion and briefed them about the 150 years celebrations with the formation of ASI and chronological events taken place in the formation of the Hyderabad Circle, the monuments under its jurisdiction, their nature and distribution along with their authors in a chronological time frame, the contribution of the Circle made and the challenges it is facing including the implementation of AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act 2010 and stressed the need for the cooperation from various law enforcing agencies and also the general public with regard to rapidly increasing encroachments around the Monuments and sites. Dr S V Venkatesiah RD South in his presidential address elaborately discussed the saga of ASI in 150 years, the mile stones it crossed and contributions made in different Branches and also stressed for the need of the hour in respect of conservation and maintenance of the Centrally protected monuments. Smt Chandana Khan Principal Secretary for Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture, Govt of A.P. commended the ASI contributions in preservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments and necessary to cooperate in developing the tourist circuits connecting major archaeological sites and monuments for the benefit and accessibility to the public. Shri B.V. Papa Rao IAS (Rtd) informing that he has resigned from IAS, his experience with archaeological sites and their management in a foreign country, his efforts for World Heritage tag for archaeological remains at Warangal , some of the institutional issues like necessity of posting of permanent

Conservation incharges for better and effective management, need for inviting collective participation of civil society and NGOs for ASI work . The chief Guest Shri ESL Narasimhan, His Excellency the Governor of Andhra Pradesh felicitated the following retired officers and officials for their meritorious services rendered to the organization.

1. Dr. I.K Sharma, Former Director ASI, who made impeccable contribution in various fields of Archaeology. His Excellency, keeping aside the protocol His Excellency came down to Dr Sharma due to his ailing condition and felicitated him.
2. Shri MVN Krishna Rao, D Y. Superintending Archaeologist (Rtd) for his contributions and initiations for decipherment of Induscript
3. B.Vidhyadhara Rao, Dy.S.A (Rtd) for his contributions in the Nagarjunakonda excavations- documentation and museums.
4. Dr.D.Hanumanta Rao, Superintending Archaeologist ( Rtd) Not attended the function as he was in abroad.
5. Shri G.V.S. Rao Dy.SA (Rtd)
6. Shri G. Hanumantha Rao, Dy.SAE (Rtd)
7. Shri V. Veera Swamy, Conservation Assistant Grade II (Rtd)
8. Shri I. Sree Ramulu, Caretaker (Rtd)
9. Shri M. Bhasker, Office Attendant (Rtd)
10. D.P.Siddaiah, Office Attendant (Rtd)

After felicitation to ASI retired officials, the official website of ASI Hyderabad Circle has been blissfully launched and the booklet entitled ‘Hand Book on Monuments of Hyderabad Circle’

has been released by His Excellency. After these memorable moments, the Chief Guest, His Excellency, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh gave a most thought provoking apt and extempore speech, appreciated ASI efforts, underlined the necessity of publications of excavated sites , obligation to have a comprehensive analysis and inference and interpretation of excavated material, miss interpretations or less interpretations made by the guides at different sites and the corrective measures to control such situation by providing adequate knowledge to the guides, supporting the concept mooted out by Shri BV Papa Rao in his speech most meaningful heritage management involving the civil society; His Excellency has also drawn reference of the archaeological site at Siripur in Chattisghad as an evidence of religious harmony; His excellencies own concern about preservation of the Raj Bhavan, subsequent to certification by concerned authority declaring the magnificent heritage structure with regard to its strength and stability. Throughout the thought provoking and most important speeches of the occasion, His Excellency dealt in detail about most relevant aspects of archaeology, excavations, publications, capacity building, exhaustive analysis of excavated material data in order to develop comprehensive interpretation skills. The Senior scholars who made good contributions were also referred in His Excellency's majestic speech. The august gathering was spellbound at His Excellency's exceptional and very apt speech of the occasion and over whelmed at the pleasant flow of thoughts of His Excellency.

Dr. S. Maithi SAC Hyderabad , in his modest and lucid voice, thanked the Guest of Honour Shri ESL Narasimhan, His Excellency, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh for generously grace this momentous occasion and made this event memorable, Guest of Honours Smt Chandana Khan and Shri B.V. Papa Rao, for accepting the invitation and gracing the function sparing their time and the all senior officials of ASI for making the event more perfect to the occasion; The

Officers who made it to the occasion from various circles, the officers and staff of ASI offices in Hyderabad, the media and security personal all gratefully acknowledged.

With playing the National Anthem, The Chief Guest and Guests of Honors left the venue.

Subsequently a spectacular cultural which tastefully suits the occasion was performed making the audience more pleasant and applaud. The specially selected items for the programme, by a professional group from Warangal performed in sequence of balleads include:

*Ganesh Vandanam , Dashavataram, Perini (Shiva) tandavam; annamacharya and folk dance*



Chief Guest, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, His Excellency, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh warmly received by ASI Officers at Ravindra Bharati Auditorium, Hyderabad





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The Dias ready for the event.



His Excellency watching photo Exhibition above and Lighting up the inaugural below.







Superintending Archaeologist giving Welcome address



The Chief Guest, His Excellency felicitated by the Regional Director, ASI (South)



The Superintending Archaeologist felicitating Guest of Honour Smt ChandanaKhan, Principal Secretary YAT& Culture, Government of A.P



Guest of Honour, Shri B.V. Papa Rao (Rtd) IAS felicitated by the Superintending Archaeological Chemist





The Regional Director, ASI (South) delivering Presidential address.



Guest of Honours The Principal Secretary, YAT & Culture, Govt. of A.P. addressing the gathering.





Guest of Honours Shri B.V. Papa Rao, I.A.S (Retd) delivering the speech to the gathering.



View of the audience





Another view of the audience.



The Chief Guest, His Excellency felicitating renowned archaeologist Dr. I.K. Sharma Rtd Director.





His Excellency felicitated Shri M.V.N. Krishna Rao Dy. Superintending Archaeologist (Retd)

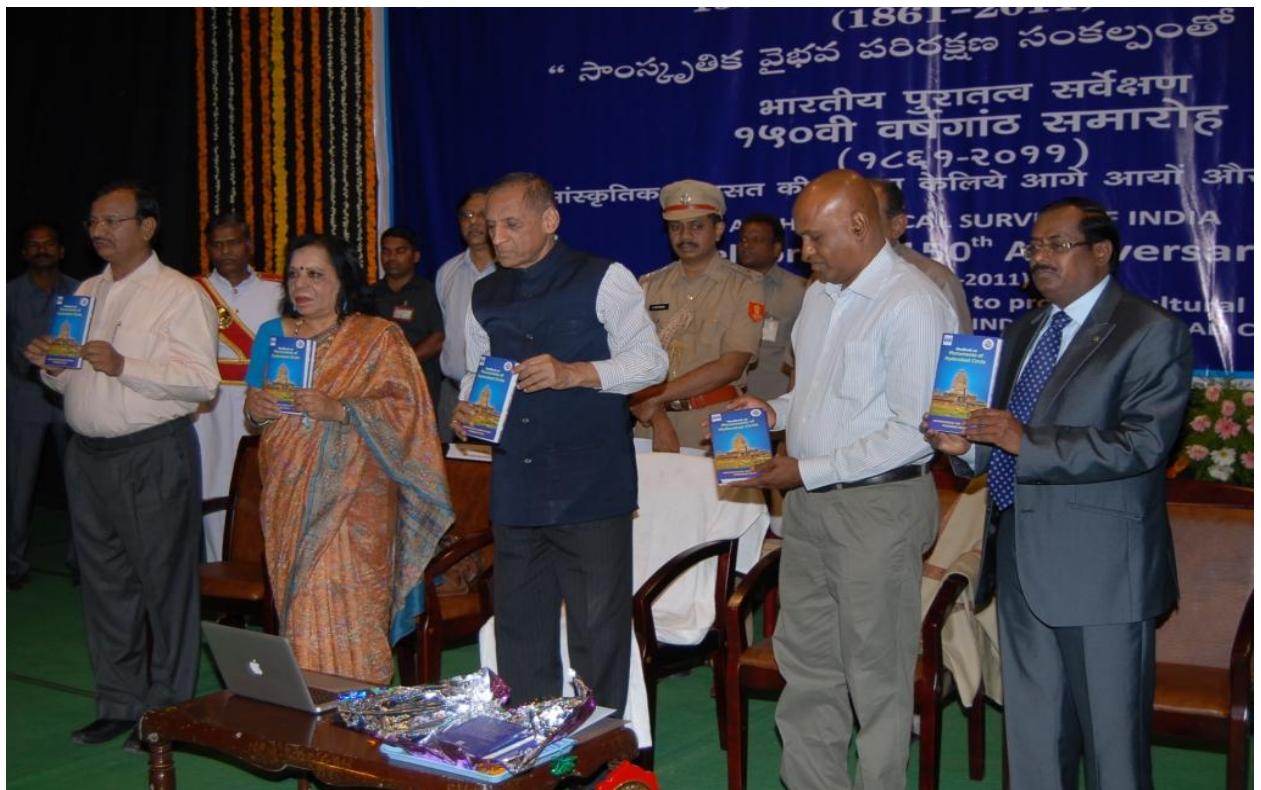


Shri G. Hanumantha Rao Dy.SAE (Rtd) felicitated.

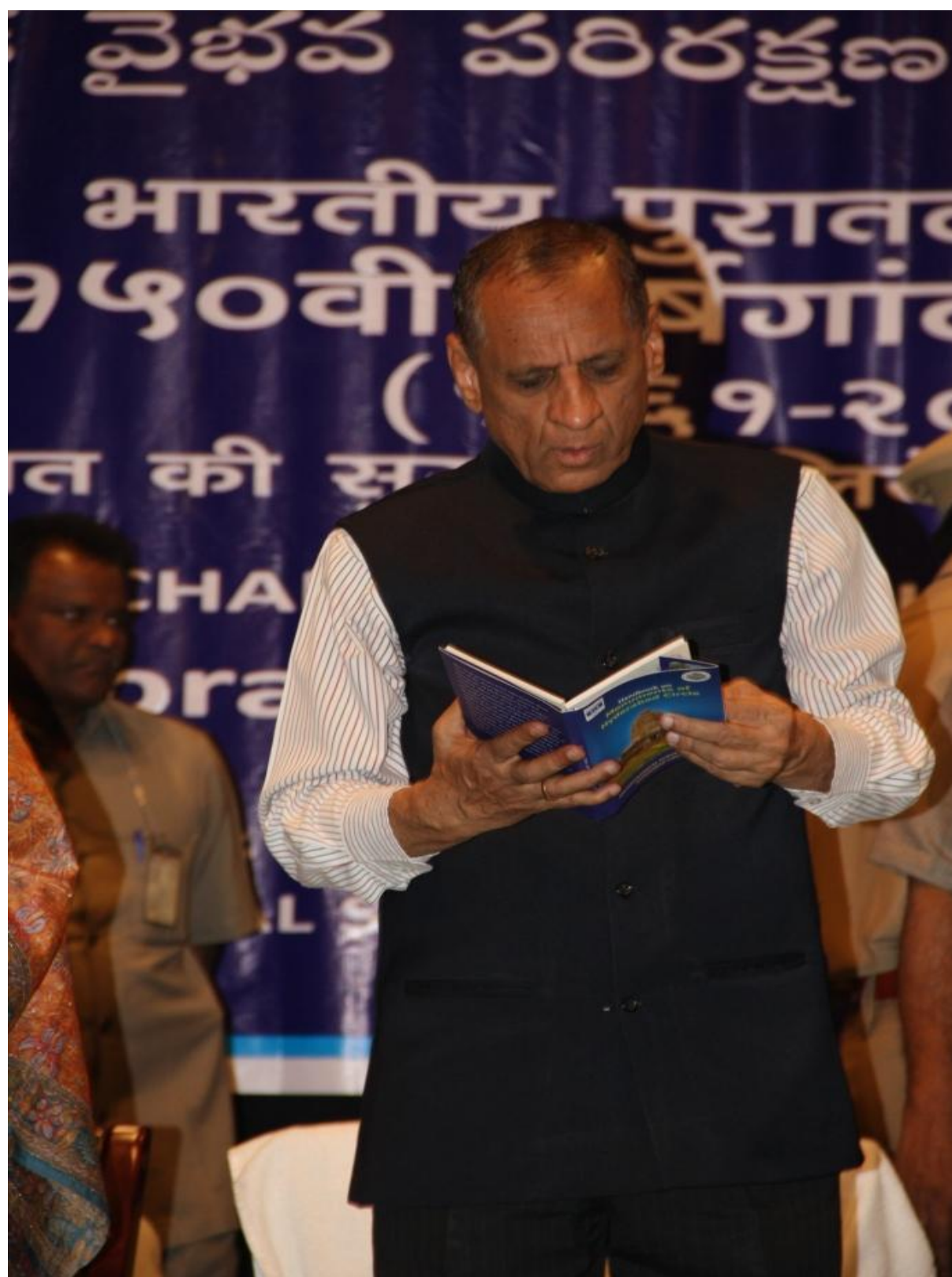


Chief Guest, His Excellency, the Governor of A.P., launching the web site of Hyderabad Circle





Chief Guest and Guest of Honours releasing the 'Hand book of Monuments of Hyderabad Circle '





His Excellency going through the book after its release.



Chief Guest, His Excellency addressed the gathering





The Superintending Archaeological Chemist, Hyderabad Division conveyed vote of thanks.



Artists performing Cultural programmes







Artists performing Cultural programmes



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