

## ***STATEMENT NO - I***

### **HOW THE PRESENT WORK TENDS TO THE GENERAL ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE**

A proper study of history is based only on two types of mutually complementary sources-literary and archaeological. Literary works give us data that are culturally very significant, but they are often mixed with material, which tends to be less-historical and more legendary. The literary material has to be checked, verified and consolidated from archaeological remains and artifacts. So far as the history of the Indian subcontinent is concerned, the importance of Sanskrit language and literature can never be gainsaid. Almost entire archaeological linguistic data for reconstructing our ancient history is preserved in the epitaphs of edicts, pillars and donation copper-plates and even coin-legends which are written in Sanskrit language. Therefore, no study of ancient Indian History can take place without Sanskrit either literary or archaeological.

**Mainamati** is a comparatively quite small strip of hilly land but it is extraordinarily rich in archaeological evidences and one of the most important historical and religious centres in the eastern part of ancient India. It is in fact a prominent spot for studying the rich heritage of ancient Indian civilization.

Speaking about its richness in archaeological evidences, it will suffice to mention here that from this small strip of hilly land (of about 11X5 miles) as many as archaeological brick-structure sites are unearthed (classified into monasteries, large-shrines, administrative site, hill-top mounds, non-structural sites and water reservoirs etc.), 12 copper-plate grants are found (with 16 from nearby area), about over 200 golden-silver coins and 4 stone images are also excavated. This itself speaks for the

historical importance of the area which was culturally very rich in ancient India during 6th to 13th centuries (A. D.).

This area, located in the centre of the ancient Samatata Mandala, was politically very significant in ancient times, and gave birth to many popular ballads and folk literature. But the political history, the dynastic lineage and the ancient historico-political geography of this area need to be reconstructed and checked from the archaeological evidences which only provide a reliable data. Therefore, study of the inscriptional material is also expected to help establish a better co-relation between space and time and political situations.

Stray studies of some of these individual archaeological artifacts have found place in some important Research Journals. But they do not give us a consistent well-connected study of its entire source-material.

This desideratum is intended to be fulfilled in this study. A study of this area will revive the past and will add new dimensions to the history of the present. A historical and cultural study of the archaeological artifacts and inscriptions found in this area is likely to yield very fruitful results. The present study is an attempt in this direction. It fulfils the need of a full consistent and comprehensive study of the entire archaeological evidence found in the Mainamati-Lalmai range in the centre of the Samatata Mandala and thus adds to and contributes to the general enhancement of knowledge.

***STATEMENT-II*****SOURCES, INDEBTEDNESS  
AND  
ORIGINALITY**

In the preparation of the project, I have fully drawn upon all the available published literature. An acknowledgement is made at proper places. All the sources have been properly checked and the quotations and references occurring in the present thesis have been properly traced to their sources.

I have studied the original texts and relevant literature and have tried to express my own views after critically evaluating the texts, and having carefully gone through all the relevant literature.