

**EVOLUTION OF PRE-SATAVAHANA INSCRIBED
COINAGE IN THE DECCAN : A STUDY**

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Declaration

Certified that the dissertation entitled "The Evolution of Pre Satavahana Inscribed Coinage in the Deccan: A Study submitted by Shobhika Sahni is in fulfilment of 12 credits out of 26 credits for the degree of Master of Philosophy of this University. This dissertation has not been previously submitted for any other degree of this or any other University and is her own work.

We recommend that this dissertation be placed before the examiners for avaluation.

Chairman

(Satish Saberwal)

Supervisor

(B.D. Chattopadhyaya)

Dedicated to 'Bauji'
my grandfather, and 'Mataji' my grandmother

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Numismatics is recognized as one of the major primary sources of early Indian economic history. In fact, ancient coins are mentioned to have been utilized for historiography in India as early as the twelfth century by Kalhana, the chronicler of Kashmir [1]. In the modern context of historiography, it has become an auxiliary science to history, only at a relatively late date. The Era of Renaissance saw the emergence of humanism which beside its several other dimensions, created genuine interest in antiquity. At first the connoisseurs admired only the aesthetic qualities of these little masterpieces of art, but later, particularly from the late eighteenth century, these no more remained as objects of curiosity alone, for these sources of marvel became serious sources for historical study. The romance of discovery and decipherment of new coins led simultaneously to serious efforts at classification, cataloguing and survey. The turn of the century ushered in an era of publications which gave it the much required recognition.

In India too, scholars started arranging the discovered and procured coins in various series. This was basically done on

the basis of two or three criteria, the foremost being typology. Palaeography and technology were also considered while arranging these finds to establish the sequence of minting and circulation. This genealogical positioning of coins helped in formulating dynastic history of a region. Publication of these newly formulated series in a systematic and organised fashion saw the birth of catalogues. To cite a few relevant publications, we have catalogues prepared by P. Gardner, V.A. Smith [2], R.B. Whitehead and John Allan [3]. These provided the necessary descriptive information of each specimen of the chosen series in the particular coin cabinet which was being published; the information included the weight of the coins, their axis alignments, shapes, dimensions, legend's inscribed monograms etc. These catalogues which documented coins in Museum collections gave details of specimens collected generally over a long span of time, either in the form of stray finds and purchased specimens or in the form of hoards.

II

In the context of the Deccan, as elsewhere, different early coin series have already been marked out. The Satavahanas who ruled from about the middle of the first century B.C. to the first or second quarter of the third century A.D. were the

earliest major ruling family of the Deccan to issue an extensive series of coins. The obvious importance of this coinage has engaged the attention of a host of scholars for a long time. One of the first to study the Satavahana coins was Sir Walter Elliot (in 1858). In 1886 he published Coins of Southern India. In 1880 an elaborate article entitled "Andhra Coins" was published by Thomas Edward in The Indian Antiquary, Volume IX. R.F. Hoernle made a summary description of 183 potin coins from the Chanda Hoard in the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society, Bengal, 1893. V.A. Smith published an article on the Andhra history and coinage in Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morganlandischen Gesellschaft, 1902-03. His Catalogue of the coins in Indian Museum, Calcutta, (Vol. I, 1906) has a section cataloguing Satavahana pieces in that Museum.

Rapson's publication A Catalogue of the Indian Coins in the British Museum, Coins of the Andhra Dynasty, the Western Kshatras etc. (1908) forms a landmark in the development of the study of Satavahana coinage. Since 1908 Satavahana coins and several relevant problems have been discussed by several scholars. Noteworthy are M. Rama Rao's Satavahana Coins in the Andhra Pradesh Government Museum (Hyderabad, 1961), Ajay Mitra Shastri (ed), Coinage of the Satavahanas and Coins from excavations, and chapters in publications like A Comprehensive History of India Vol. II (edited by K.A.N. Shastri), Early

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History of the Deccan edited by G. Yazdani, The Coins of Karnataka by A.V. Narasimha Murthy (1975) and Tamil Coins - A study, by R. Nagaswamy (1981), etc. The full monographs on the subject have recently been published, Coinage of the Satavahana Empire (I.K. Sarma, 1980) and A Study of the Satavahana Coinage (Mala Dutta, 1990).

These efforts have resulted in a formidable corpus of literature on Satavahana coinage and simultaneously on the problem of attribution of these pieces. The extensive finds of Satavahana coins makes the problem of proper attribution acute; further, the origin and chronology of the dynasty is still under debate.

The classification and ordering of Satavahana coin series are based not only on the paleography of the legends, but also on the types, evolution of the symbolism and regional distribution of the coins. To begin with, in recent times Rama Rao [4] classified four hundred twenty one coins on the basis of typology. He mentioned about twenty one types of coins which were illustrated ruler wise (twelve rulers). Further, there is a division between inscribed and uninscribed coins. The various features given are: metal, shape, size, weight, findspot and symbols on obverse and reverse. This type of classification was followed by several scholars. P. L. Gupta [5] ventured for the first time an arrangement on the basis of Type and Region. He

discussed sixteen types of coins - largely based on symbology but also subdividing them on the basis of a region. Thus, for example, according to him there were two elephant types, one prevalent in North Maharashtra and the other in the Deccan [6].

I.K. Sharma [7] too produced a detailed list of coin types issued by individual rulers specifying their characteristic features and associated symbols. Mala Dutta [8] too has adopted this general trend, though she shows signs of change, as can be seen in her chapter entitled " Satavahana Coins from Hoards and Excavations," wherein names of the excavated site, the reference, kings name, type, strata, date and suggested identification have all been tabulated.

The above survey of the historiography of early inscribed coin series of the Deccan does not include a comprehensive study on the problem of attribution of Satavahana coinage, on the basis of up-to-date information derived from stratigraphical evidence of coins obtained in the archaeological excavations undertaken in the latter half of this century. Though P.L. Gupta and Mala Dutta began on these grounds, some of the former's conclusions have been contested by scholars and the latter's efforts have been limited to mere citations.

Recently, there has been a major shift in our understanding of the importance of coins, and the focus now is more on studying coins in situ. The study of coin series through their stratigraphic position in archaeological sites has added a significant dimension to recent day numismatics [9]. To an archaeologist the coins primary importance lies upon two factors, (i) the provenance which tends to show the area of circulation, and (ii) the sort of internal evidence which indicates a period when it came to be the currency of the territory. With excavations techniques which have emerged over the years, adequate emphasis is now laid upon the principle of stratification, and archaeological deposits are recognised as earlier or later depending on their stratigraphic position in the excavated trenches. Sunil C. Ray [10] was the first to depend on the use of this technique for preparing a survey of the chronological positions of early coins found in excavations and discussed the coin finds against the backdrop of the chronological sequence of different cultures in the Gangetic Valley. Working within the same parameters, Sita Ram Roy [11], Purushottam Singh [12] and I.K. Sarma [13] have contributed to the growth of Numismatics and Archaeology in specific areas. Also useful contributions have been made by K.D. Bajpai [14], P.L. Gupta [15], M.D.N. Sahi [16] and Bela Lahiri [17].

The above mentioned scholars have shown that coins represent one of the major categories of material from the early historical phase. Having been issued by some ruling power or authority they are characterised by features which make it possible to ascertain their chronology with a fair degree of exactness. This in turn makes coins a dependable criterion for dating excavated layers. The occurrence of coins in a stratigraphic context thus forms one of the principal bases of periodisation. They help, as said earlier, the archaeologists in approximately dating the layers that they discover, in relation to known historical phases (Maurya, Satavahanas etc) and also the associated objects found there. The coins thus provide for the excavators a terminus post quem for the layer, i.e. the knowledge that the contents of the layer would not be earlier than the coins found in it.

Thus, coin finds from archaeological excavations constitute a major 'item,' and one attempting to understand the significance of coins found in excavations aims at considering two important aspects : (a) the sequential position of different series of coins in stratified contexts, and (b) coins in relation to other cultural items in excavations.

IV(a)

Keeping in view the possibilities which coins from excavations offer I have undertaken a study, data for which are primarily derived from archaeological excavations. In the context of the history of the Deccan, one of the most vexed problems that could be taken up through a study of the reports of archaeological excavations relates to the period which may be termed as 'Post - Mauryan or 'Pre - Satavahana', which seems to be a crucial period in the formation of Satavahana Deccan. "The stages leading up to the period of the Satavahanas are, however, at the moment far from clear, and this lack of clarity has in turn affected in a large measure our understanding not only of the structure of the Satavahana period itself but also of the broad processes which went into the making of the early historical society in the Deccan" [18].

Many scholars hold that the Deccan slipped away from the Mauryan authority immediately after Asoka and the beneficiaries were the Satavahanas who ruled for over four centuries till circa 225 AD. But, most historians now believe on cogent grounds in a shorter chronology and are inclined to date the beginning of Satavahana rule to about the middle of the first century B.C. while there is no dispute about the closing phase of the dynasty. There was thus an interval of about a hundred and fifty years

between the close of the Mauryan power in the Deccan, and the commencement of Satavahana rule. Although this phase of the history of the Deccan is still a dark corner, there can be no doubt that for understanding the cultural sequence within this phase coins can be of immense value [19].

Secondly, the cultural sequence from the early Megalithic phase which is devoid of coins (not implying that all Megalithic remains were devoid of coins) to the early historical phase, encompassing both pre-Satavahana and Satavahana times, can to some extent be differentiated on the basis of the coins found from excavations. The sequence suggested by the evolution of different coin series has been taken as indicative of cultural sequence in the context of the Deccan [20].

Some recent discoveries have shed welcome light on how this problem can be viewed. A fairly large number of uninscribed and inscribed cast and die - struck specimens in different metals like copper, lead, potin have been reported from the areas which are known to have passed later under the Satavahanas. Stratigraphic evidence from excavations at Brahmapuri, Pauni, Bhokardan, Vaddamanu, Veerapuram have yielded a fairly good number of coins which show that at these sites Satavahana coins were preceded by non - Mauryan uninscribed cast as well as by the early series of inscribed coins. Specifically among these are the inscribed issues of Kura, Sada and Maharathis, coins of

Gobhadra, Satyabhadra etc. and Mitra coins reported from Kotalingala and Vidarbha. They all have contributed to the 'growing' collection of pre Satavahana coins. This collection has several coins which are legendless. Till recently these were clubbed as 'unattributable' Satavahana and Kshaharata specie. Now in view of recent research, these coins seem to belong to the uninscribed cast as well as die struck category and are apparently to be ascribed to the Pre - Satavahana period. Layerwise, however, coins of these different categories, viz uninscribed and inscribed cast and die - struck appear to have often been reported from the same layers which indicate their chronological proximity [21].

B.D. Chattopadhyaya [22] first raised the question of 'localities' in the Deccan in the post Mauryan period and suggested that a contextual study of cultures at the 'localities' would be useful. Though it is rather difficult to actually mark out the area of a locality, nevertheless one can perhaps try to study the core of a micro - region with the help of published excavation reports. Archaeologically, the immediate base line to start from for this exercise is the Megalithic culture phase, although one ought to remember at the same time that Megalithic and early historical do not necessarily represent two distinct chronological entities that could not have overlapped.

Archaeological evidence suggests the pattern of progressive occupation of the land and the emergence of regional core areas. There are clear indications in the post - Mauryan period as regards the rise of local cultural areas. While without doubt imperial expansions like those of the Mauryas or the Satavahanas produced a large measure of cultural cohesion, excavations have revealed that positive response to widespread cultural patterns, like that represented by the Mauryas, came from areas which were small and came to be controlled by local rulers. The coins issued by these rulers, which marked a major departure from uninscribed punch marked and other varieties of coins, saw the beginning of inscribed local coin series in the Deccan. It is the beginning of this new, early inscribed series in the Deccan that we would like to examine in the following chapters. Before that, it is necessary to undertake a brief survey of the geography of the area under study.

IV (b)

It may be considered best to avoid the words 'physical', 'natural', 'functional' and the like while talking about a region because they either imply reference to simply one element or more to the exclusion of others. The word 'Geographical' seems to be more suitable as it conveys the meaning that all geographical

elements or factors including the historical have been taken into account.

Geographically, the region under study offers an area of contrasts. The plateau, which is the nucleus of the peninsula, is a triangular block of very old rocks that covers its greater part from the Satamala and Ajanta ranges to the Nilgiris. Its western edge is a steep brink, the western ghats, overlooking the west coast formed by a narrow strip of rough wet low land. Its surface has a gentle fall to a lower brink in the east [23].

The three great rivers of the plateau are the Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri. In the early part of their courses, these rivers seem to drain the country rather than water it as they flow rapidly in deep rocky valleys, but as they approach the more level ground water can be used for irrigation etc.

It is not necessary for our purpose to go into the details of the geological history of the Deccan, connected with the basaltic sheet flows, except to note their general lithological, structural and geomorphological consistency which has earned the region appropriately the name "The Trap Country".

For the three states mentioned in this work - namely Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, it is sufficient to note that nearly three fourths of Maharashtra consists of the

peninsular plateau, that has a scarp which forms the western edge of the Sahyadris and a gentle south eastward tilt that has as low an elevation above sea level as 250 m in Eastern Vidarbha. The rivers are almost parallel flowing, short, highly ungraded in their upper courses and have abruptly graded courses in the coastal lands and they have an intensely seasonal regime [24].

Karnataka can be divided into Kannada coastlands, the North Karnataka Plateau and the South Karnataka Plateau. The rolling topography all along the state has uneven smooth summits. The 'Bail Seema' (The open Country) is underlain largely by the archaen schists (Dharwars) with an overlay of the rocks of the Kaladgi and later series, and the North Karnatak plateau is a vast expanse of peneplain surface drained by the Krishna river and its tributaries. The southern part stands in sharp contrast to the northern because of its granitic landscape. The major drainage belongs to the Tungabhadra which joins the Krishna. The central and southern basins of the Pennar and Kaveri record 70 cm rainfall, which too is highly variable, making the granitic landscape one of stony residual hill ranges capped by tors overlooking shallow open valleys. This uneven topography is eminently suited for tank construction for which the region has been known historically.

Andhra Pradesh's historical and cultural evolution, like that of the other regions of the Deccan, went through different

phases : from the Mauryan and Satavahana times through the Ikshvaku - Salankayana - Visnukundin to Eastern Chalukya, Chola and subsequent periods. Broadly, in geographical terms it can be divided into three main physical segments - (i) The plateau tract which is mostly underlain by ancient crystallines and black lava peneplain surfaces; (ii) the eastern hills - which have a residual nature of the landscape which is highly influenced by the crystalline rocks and uplifts producing a recurring pattern of ranges and plateau terraces often accompanied by sharp faulted features; (iii) Valleys, Peneplain surfaces and Deltaic Regions. The valleys and the deltaic regions are dominated by the large drainage areas of the Godavari and the Krishna, though the north eastern coastal belt and the southern region have independent and largely parallel flowing drainage.

IV (c)

Talking about sites per se, culturally the upper Godavari basin is rich in archaeological remains ranging from Palaeolithic age to the historical period. Prominent sites of the region, which are relevant to our study, are those at Nasik on both banks of the Godavari and Paithan, Bhogavardan [25], and so on. Ter [26] also lies in the Godavari basin on the right bank of the now dry bed of the river Kelna, a stream of the Manjira. Excavations

at Kolhapur (Brahmagiri) [27] situated on the right bank of the Panchganga, have yielded important coin series. It is rather difficult to date precisely the Early Historical settlements in the western Deccan. A continuity of occupation from the Megalithic to the Satavahana period is however indicated in several sites (for detailed reference see individual tables made for each site in the next chapter). It seems that the importance of overland routes continued in the post - Mauryan period and local coin series have been found at several sites mentioned above. These comprised uninscribed die - struck and cast copper coins, found dated to third second centuries. These were followed by a series of inscribed copper coins from the second century B.C.

Numismatic evidence indicates that development in the post - Mauryan period was somewhat different in the eastern Deccan. Ecologically and culturally it presents a strong contrast with the western Deccan. It was perhaps as a result of a combination of these factors that a somewhat amorphous political control developed in the post Mauryan period. The inhabited regions in the Megalithic period extended from Vidarbha, past the dense cluster of sites in Karimnagar district of the middle Godavari valley to the Medak and Nalgonda districts of Andhra and to the lower Krishna Valley.

Access to timber and mineral resources must have been items

of prime attraction for the Mauryas in this region. Concentration of the Mauryan epigraphs in Mysore plateau is well known, and the presence of Mauryan punch marked coins in the whole expanse of the Deccan points to the presence and involvement of the Mauryas particularly with this region. Contact between the southern province and the epicentre of the Mauryan empire in the north was maintained through several possible routes both coastal and overland, the latter being characteristic to various sites, as the rivers of the Deccan are not easily navigable and can be crossed only at specific points which then determine the land routes.

Among the prominent sites are Vaddamanu [29] located at latitude $16^{\circ}32'$ N and longitude $80^{\circ}25.30'$ E, ten kilometer south east of Amaravati. Situated along the right bank of the river Krishna the cultural assemblage here is varied. Veerapuram [30], a picturesque site, lies on the edge of a wide peneplain formed at the junction of the Erramalais and the Nallamalais that constitute the principal hill ranges of the Eastern Ghats. The swift flowing streams running down the hills and the perennial rivers, the Krishna and the Tungabhadra, have enriched the entire region with alluvial sediments.

Other coin -yielding sites are located in the district of Kurnool of Andhra Pradesh; the ones cited by us in this dissertation are Satanikota [31] and Kotalingala.

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CHAPTER II

EVOLUTION OF INSCRIBED COINS IN THE DECCAN : AN ANALYSIS OF THEIR SERIES - WISE DISTRIBUTION

Till comparatively recently, it was believed that the punchmarked coins in peninsular India were succeeded by Satavahana coins, and consequently the emergence of the Satavahanas was placed after the Mauryas with the insignificant Sunga interlude. But in recent years a considerable amount of material has come to light which shows convincingly that the numismatic history of the peninsula was much more complex.

In the following pages I wish primarily to tabulate relevant coin series keeping in view two specific aspects; firstly, with the help of published excavation reports I shall present a few general comments and points with regard to stratified coins found at excavated sites, and secondly, I shall try to indicate the relative position of the 'pre-Satavahana' coin series and series which overlap with the Satavahana phase like Maharathi, Sada, Sebaka etc. We start with the sites of western Deccan.

Site		NASIK [1]			
PERIOD	PROPOSED ERA	YEAR	TYPE OF COIN		
			PMC	UIC	IC
IV	Early Muslim	1400-1875 AD			2
III	Roman Contact	200 B.C.- 50 AD			
II (B)	Early Historic	50 AD - 200 BC		3	
II (A)	Early Historic	200 BC - 400 BC			
I	Chalcolithic				

(PMC - punch marked coin
UIC - uniscribed coin
IC - inscribed coin)

A total of eight coins were found at Nasik of which three were corroded. The symbols on uniscribed coins were tree in railing, svastika and elephant facing right, above faint traces of Ujjain symbol. There are several surface finds.

Next we shall take up the site of Bhokardan [2]. A total of 424 coins were reported of which the vast majority were found in the stratified context and only a few were collected from the surface. Of these, 164 were of no use, as they were either fragmentary, or devices and/or legends on them have been peeled off irreparably, and as such they have been left out of study.

The coins at this site have been analysed by Ajay Mitra Shastri, who is of the opinion that only five out of the total



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number of coins reported and studied can be assigned to particular members of the Andhra -Satavahana dynasty with a tolerable degree of certitude. The rest have been said to belong to the Satavahanas on the basis of the sole consideration that devices noticed on them are very common to and almost 'typical' of Satavahana coins. Further, it may also be pointed out in this connection that in some of the cases (of inscribed issues) where traces of the legend are partially preserved and admit of decipherment, the characters so identified do not appear to give the familiar names of the Satavahana rulers.

In the absence of any other criterion the coins have been classified typewise. The author notices that though the devices on them are the same as those that figure on the Satavahana species, the combinations of the obverse and reverse devices in many cases are such as to suggest new types. But, there seems to be no suggestion per se which assigns any specimen to the pre - Satavahana period.

 SITE - BHOKARDAN

Period/Layer No.	PROPOSED DATE	PMC	UIC	IC
II/ 1 and 2	Post Satavahana - early medieval (3rd CAD onward)			
Ib/ 3 and 4	Satavahana - Kshatrapa (1st/c BC - 2nd 3rd CAD)		100s	
Ia/ 5 and 6	Early - pre Satavahana (2nd/c -3rd/c B.C.)	3	8	

Early Satavahana coins are absent. The chronology of the early coin - type with the legend Satavahana is controversial. However, the horizon of period Ia can be conveniently dated on the basis of punch - marked coins alone.

We now take up the site of Ter [3] which may be considered a representative site of the Marathawada region of Maharashtra

 SITE - TER

Period/Layer No.	PROPOSED DATE	PMC	UIC	IC
I/ Layer 4	Early Satavahana		12	
II/ Layer 3	Indo - Roman		27	

At Ter, out of twelve uninscribed cast coins, eleven are round and of copper. Only one was found to be rectangular in

shape and was made of lead. But, sadly enough, ten out of the total are corroded and broken. The other two have elephant facing right on the obverse and Ujjain symbol on the reverse. The following are the details of the coins:

Coin No. 1990 C (4)

Metal : Copper
 Shape : Round (19.5 x 3 mm)
 Weight : 2.091 gm
 Obverse : Elephant facing right above
 Reverse : Ujjain symbol

Coin No 2200 AB (4) partly broken

Metal : Copper
 Shape : Round (21 x 3.5 mm)
 Weight : 2.992 gm.
 Obverse : Same as above
 Reverse : traces of Ujjain symbol

 SITE - PAUNAR [4]

PERIOD	PROPOSED DATE	PMC	UIC	IC
IV	10th 11th C - 15th 16th C AD			1
III	3rd C AD - 8th C AD			5
I Ib	1st C BC - 2nd 3rd C/AD			
IIa	Early Satavahana (4.3rd/C BC - 1st C/BC)			
I	1000 - 800 BC			

Of the five inscribed coins found in period III, two were of Kshatrapa, two belonged to Kalachuri and one was heavily corroded Vishnukundin coin. The site has not yielded material from phases which are relevant to our period of study.

SITE - PAUNAR (JAGANNATHA TEKDI) [5]					
PERIOD	PROPOSED DATE	PMC	UIC	IC	
III	Satavahana - Kshatrapa		(2)	2	
II	Sunga		1		
I	Mauryan	1			

SITE - PAUNI : CHANDKAPUR (stupa) 24 coins found, only 7 recognisable					
PERIOD	DATE	PMC	UIC	die-struck	
	1st/C BC - 2nd/C AD (Post Mauryan - Pre Satavahana)	1	4	2	

The seven coins recovered from Pauni : Chandkapur show a complex process of evolution for the sole punch marked coin is made of copper and the two inscribed (die struck) of potin. Further, it seems there is variability in metal. As regards typology, the rectangular silver punch marked coin of Jagannatha

Tekdi has three peaked hill; bull to right; single human figure on its obverse and traces of other symbols, probably sun and six armed symbol (sadaracakra). The uninscribed cast copper coin (Sunga layer) is round in shape with a small projection on one side adhering from the mould - pointing towards technique of manufacturing these coins by casting them in batches in mould. The projection is perhaps a knob of copper left out at the point where the two coins cast in a batch were broken. The Satavahana - Kshatrapa layer yielded two coins of interest - one Satavahana and the other Kshatrapa. It is important to note that the antiquities unearthed in the course of excavations include coins numbering twenty five of which ten in this layer are unidentified as they are completely effaced. The Satavahana coin under study has a distinct trace of letter 'sa' and therefore it is difficult to classify it as uninscribed or inscribed. Its details are

No 14, PN I : F!, Qdt 4, (2)

Metal	:	Copper
Shape	:	Square
Size	:	0.95 x 0.9 cms
Weight	:	0.70 gms
Obverse	:	Elephant with hanging trunk, to right. Distinct trace of the letter 'sa'
Obverse	:	Ujjain symbol with a pellet in each orb.

On the basis of typology and fabric it has been assigned to the Satavahanas with a fair degree of certainty. But, it is important to note that the usual type has elephant with upraised trunk (mostly to the right side) on the obverse, and they are

invariably round in shape. But this coin has on the obverse elephant with hanging trunk and is square in shape.

The Chandakapur mound, as mentioned before has yielded as many as twenty four coins of copper and potin. However, most of them are either fragmentary or worn out beyond recognition. The details of four uninscribed coins are as follows [6].

S.No.	Coin No.	Shape	Diameter	Weight	Obversl	Reverse
1.	66	round	1.25 cms	1.7g	Elephant with large trunk	Three peaked hill surmounte by crescent
2.	66 A	round	1.19 cms	1.5g	As above with protube- rance	As above
3.	66 B	round	1.46 cms	1 g	Ujjain symbol and tree in railig	Blurred
4.	88	round	1.61 cms	2.5g	Three peaked hill tree in railing	Black

The devices noticed on them are very commonly found on coins belonging to different series and as such, they are of no help in determining their attribution.

Kaundinyapura (District Amaraoti) [7] is situated on the northern banks of the Wardha river and is believed to represent the capital of ancient Vidarbha of hoary antiquity Starting as a Megalithic settlement, it grew during the Mauryan period. It had a straggling existence under the Satavahanas and after a period of decay grew into prominence again during the Muslim Period and developed into a fortified outpost.

SITE - KAUNDIYAPUR

PERIOD	PROPOSED ERA	PMC	PMC	UIC
Diestruck		(Silver)	(Copper)	
VI	Muslim			
V	Late Satavahana 200 - 250 AD			
IV	Satavahana 150 BC - 200 AD			2
III	Mauryan 300-100 BC	1	2	2
II	Pre Mauryan			
I	Megalithic			

One of the copper punch marked coin reported is described as

Metal	:	Copper
Shape	:	Rectangular
Size	:	1.3 cm x 1.2 cm
Weight	:	2.56 g

- obverse : There seem to be four symbols, of which three can be easily recognized.
- (i) A variety of Ujjain symbol without the cross bars.
 - (ii) A tree with broad leaves and
 - (iii) A ribbon of svastika and Taurine symbols
- Reverse : Blank

Silver punchmarked coins are not very common in the Deccan. Other than Kaundinyapura, Mangrul (in Wardha district) and Kondapur in Medak district of Andhra Pradesh, not many stratified coins of this variety have been reported.

The next site we refer to is mentioned as Patithana, the southernmost terminus of Savatthi - Patithana route in Pali literature [8]. The first excavations at this site of Paithan was conducted by Syed Yusuf [9] in May 1937. Square copper coins in large number, besides, a coin lump were reported from Stratum VI, an early Satavahana level. They were of copper and 2.01 cm square. On the obverse, there is the tree in railing and Svastika - very cleary. From this very level "smaller circular punch marked coins and a round lead coin" were also reported. Next, an attempt to conduct excavations at this site was made by M.G. Dixit [10]. As a result of the excavation, a four fold sequence was revealed [11]. Period I (300 BC to 100 AD) has yielded two unique early Satavahana coins of lead with the Gajalakshmi motif and indistinct marks on the reverse. This device was known for

- obverse : There seem to be four symbols, of which three can be easily recognized.
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the first time in Satavahana coinage from here. Period II (circa A.D. 100-500) revealed that a heavy flood must have threatened the ancient city of Paithan towards the end of the Satavahana period. Thick deposits of mud and silt averaging a height of 1.22m were noticed Period III (circa AD 600-800) and period IV (circa AD 1700 - 1800) were also noticed at the site.

Brahmapuri [12] is the name of the area (mound) in the western part of the city of Kolhapur. It is situated on the right bank of the Panchganga river. Out of the total 128 coins found in the excavation, only 87 have been stratigraphically placed in the report. But the Report, so far as the numismatic material is concerned, is not the least reliable. P.L. Gupta's attempt [12a] to reorganize the numismatic material has provided some idea of the sequence of the coins. The uninscribed coins were found in the lowermost layers of Square I and Extension II and they are the earliest coins found in these excavations. In square I, layer 9, was found an inscribed coin (No. 2230) which is perhaps the earliest inscribed coin in the excavations, and suggests that it followed the uninscribed coins. The legend has been restored conjecturally as Mulanamdasa. Thirteen coins bearing the legend Maharathisa Kurasa and one bearing the legend Maharathisa (Viliva) yakurasa were found in layers 8.9 and 10 of different trenches. The largest number of coins found in these excavations, thirty six to be precise, were found in various trenches in

layers 4 to 9. These coins are of the rulers named Vilivayakura and Sivalakura. The excavation layers 3 to 6 bore seven Satavahana coins thereby suggesting that the Kura kings were supplanted by the Satavahana rulers in this area [13].

Surprisingly no chronology has been given in the report [14], except for Satavahana (layer 6 and 7) period - BC 200 - AD 200.

Coming to the state of Karnataka, Chandravalli and Brahmagiri [15] are among the earliest excavated sites of the peninsula. But, the stratigraphic evidence at these sites was disturbed, besides the overlapping of cultural elements. At the latter site, the correlation of layers was not attempted which prompted P.L. Gupta to locate the coins according to layers and not according to correlated stratigraphic phases [16]. In any case the evidence does not seem to be reliable. At Chandravalli, a total of 55 coins were unearthed of which two are punchmarked, 43 attributable to the Andhras and 10 illegible. Of these, 17 coins are uninscribed cast coins; 14 of these come from deeper layers and are coeval with Maharathi coins. Fifteen coins have been assigned to the Andhra feudatories - the most numerous are issues of Sadakana Kalalaya Maharathi (10 coins), Sadakana Chatakanha Maharathisa and Sadakana Kanasa Maharathi-putasa.

The Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, in collaboration with the State Department of Archaeology conducted excavations at Banavasi [17]. The report and subsequent publications do not make the stratigraphic positions of the coins very clear. A number of coin hoards have been reported from the site [18]. Further, lead coins of Chutukutananda and Mulananda in addition to potin types of Yajna Sri, with the elephant with uplifted trunk on the obverse, come from the site.

Vadgaon-Madhavpur [19] is a suburb of Belgaum city. The site extends upto 40 hectares. In 1964, potin coins were collected by A. Sundra, one of them with the name of a Satavahana king, partially reading Siri Satakani.

Periods	Proposed Date	Coin
Later Phase	Middle of 1st/C A.D. - beginning of 3rd/C A.D.	
Middle Phase	2nd/C BC - middle of 1st/C A.D.	200 Copper
Early Phase	3rd Century BC	5 P.M.C.

During excavations and explorations, more than five hundred coins have been recovered. They are of five kinds ; punch marked coins, potin copper coins of the Satavahana times and Ksatrapa and Roman Coins. The punchmarked coins are made of thin sheet of

base silver or silver coated copper, on which are punched five symbols. The Potin / Copper coins are circular and of various sizes. The symbols used are hill with river and/or tree within railing and the legend Maharathisa (generally illegible) [20].

We may begin our survey of the sites of Andhra Pradesh with Veerapuram [21], latitude 16° 00 N long 78° 95' E, an ancient site in Nandikotkur taluk of Kurnool district. It is located on the river Krishna. The stratigraphy of the excavated coins could be determined from two main regions of the mound. The highest portion of the mound was designated as the central mound while the lowest as western mound.

SITE	VEERAPURAM (Western Mound)				
PERIOD	PROPOSED DATE	PMC	UIC	IC	

III C	Late Maharathi (300 AD - 400 AD)		1	1	
III B	Early Maharathi (50 BC - 300 AD)		5	13+1	
III A	Overlap (300 BC - 50 BC)	4	1		
II	Megalithic (500 BC - 300 BC)				
I	Neolithic				

SITE		VEERAPURAM (Central Mound)			
PERIOD	PROPOSED DATE	PMC	UIC	IC	
III C	Late Maharathi (300 AD - 400 AD)		1	2	
III B	Early Maharathi (50 BC - 300 AD)		5	2	
III A	Overlap				
II	Megalithic				
I	Neolithic				

The above two tables may suggest survival of uninscribed cast coins into a phase where inscribed cast coins were already in circulation. Of the inscribed issues the majority are of the Maharathis and the stratigraphic sequence of Maharathi coins of Veerapuram after the Mauryan levels suggests their independent rule. Further, their simultaneous occurrence with the Satavahana issues can be taken to suggest their being contemporary with the Satavahanas. So far, according to a relatively dependable stratigraphical chart, it is only at Veerapuram that the Maharathi coins which were obtained from III (b) have been dated 50 BC - 100 A.D. (Please also refer to Chapters III and IV)

The Veerapuram excavations provide excellent sequence of various types of coins from punch marked, uninscribed to inscribed ones. The period III A has yielded silver and silver

coated copper punch - marked coins followed by uninscribed (Bull type) lead coin. The uninscribed coins were followed by inscribed coins of the Maharathis and the Satavahanas in periods III B, considered as early Maharathi phase. The end of this phase is marked by Pulumavi of Satavahana dynasty. In period III C in addition to a Maharathi coin a lone coin of Sri Pahala Masi (perhaps a Pallava king) appears. Ikshvaku coins occur in the top most level. The Maharathis appear to be contemporary to the Satavahanas on the site. The uninscribed lead coins were also under circulation during the Maharathi period.

Uninscribed coins found at Veerapuram.

Central Mound.

Coin No.	Type	Trench	Layer
2119	Six arched hill/Svastika	3G	12
2276	Srivatsa / illegible	3G	13
2177	Elephant / Plain	3G	13
2157	Lion / Damaru	4A	8
1915	Lion / Damaru	4G	10
4533*	Elephant / Corroded	13B	3

Western Mound.

Coin No.	Type	Trench	Layer
----------	------	--------	-------

4534	Tree in railing/Tavrine	13B	3
4980	Lion / Srivatsa	12C	4
5476	Lion / Damaru	12D	5
2118	Lion / Damaru	16B	2
2568 A	Lion / Damaru	16B	3
4951	Bull / three or five arched hill	15D	4
2982	Bull / Corroded	17C	6
2496 A	Elephant / a symbol (unclear) in a linear square	16B	3
2718	Elephant / Corroded	16B	4
3181*	Elephant / Corroded	3U	5

* this coin is not studied for
both obverse and reverse
symbols are indistinct

* this is from a stray dig and
half broken.

Inscribed coins found at Veerapuram.

Central Mound.

Coin No.	Type	Trench	Layer
3350 A	Elephant / six arched hill; legend on the obverse reads <u>Maharathi sa Maha</u> <u>Hathi(sa)</u>	3G	15

1646	Elephant / nandipada; legend on the obverse - <u>Maharathi Sa Siva</u> <u>Khada ha</u>	4B	6
1294	Elephant / tree and nandipada legend on the obverse <u>Siri Bahula</u> <u>masisa</u>	0D	6

Western Mound.

Coin No.	Type	Trench	Layer
2512 A	Elephant / hill legend on obverse <u>Maharathi</u>	16B	3
5477	Same as above	12D	5
5168 A	Elephant / Palm tree, hill legend on obverse - Maharathi pa ta cha sa.	12C	4
4746	Elephant / hill with crescent legened on obverse <u>maharathisa sa</u> <u>siva maha hathi sa.</u>	14C	4
4917	Same as above	15B	4
2515 A	Elephant / not clear legend on the obverse <u>Maharathi sa Khadapori</u> <u>hathisa</u>	17C	3
4488 A	Elephant / hill with crescent legend - same as above	12D	3
4461	Same as above	12B	3

4743	These two coins cannot be associated with any	13C	4
4748	ruler of the Maharathi line although the fabrics appear same as those of Hasti kings	14B	4

Only two coins obtained from the excavation could be considered as those belonging to the Satavahana dynasty. Their details are as follows [22].

Coin No.	Type	Trench	Layer	Mound
2271	Three arched hill/Ujjain legend on obverse <u>pulu mavi</u>	4C	7	Central
5209	Elephant / Ujjain; legend on obverse <u>sa ra</u>	12E	4	Wester

Vaddamanu [23], latitude 16° 32'N, longitude 80° 25.30' E, lies 34 km North east of Guntur town and 10 km SE of Amaravati. The site was divided into VDM I, VDM II , VDM III and VDM IV localities. The foot of the hill is towards north east in VDM I. The northern flat terrace is 26 m from the ground level and named as VDM II. The eastern side flat terraces are named as VDM III and the summit and its adjacent slopes as VDM IV. The height of VDM III is almost equal to that of VDM II [24].

About 130 trenches were laid in all localities, of which only 57 yielded coins. The excavations have revealed four periods belonging to [25]

			Total No. of coins
Period I	Cirea 300 - 100 BC	Post Mauryan	-
Period II	Cirea 100 BC - 200 AD	Sada Satavahana	22 (7+15) [26]
Period III	Cirea 200 - 350 AD	Ikshvaku	137
Period IV	Cirea 350 - 450 AD	Vishnukundin	74

In order to understand the continuation of a particular type of coin through ages it is necessary to see the relationship of different types in circulation at the site appearing at different levels.

Type and period wise distribution of coins from Vaddamanu

	II	III	IV	Surface	Total
Group I	5	1	2	7	15
Group II		3	3	1	7
Group III	2	3	9	4	18
Group IV a		1		1	2
Group IV b				1	1
Group IV c			1		1

Group IV d				1	1
Sada	15	8	10	14	47
Satavahana		6	8	18	32
Ikshvaku		114	23	58	195
Vishnukundin		3			3
Punch Marked		1	11	10	22
Bull type			1		1
Ujjain type			1		1
Sebaka				2	2
Vijayanagar			2		2

	22	137	74	117	350

Group I Coins - these are lead coins and have no legend.

The lion motif is depicted on the obverse.

Group II - similar to Group I except for the depiction of the lion which is more similar to the lion motif found on 'Sada' coins.

Group III Majority of coins are made of copper and are metrologically related to Groups I & II Some of them show legend and their weight is below 3 gms

Group IV These are all miscellaneous types

Sada - The coins ending with the legend 'Sada sa' have been

ascribed to the 'Sada' dynasty. They appear continuously from period II and reveal names like Maha Sada, Sivamaka Sada and Asaka Sada.

Punchmarked Coins - A total of twenty one silver and one copper punch marked coins are obtained from the site. Typologically they seem to be of the Mauryan period, but stratigraphically their position is very late. This is only possible when a coin has a long life in circulation and could have reached at the site or remained in circulation at the site in subsequent periods.

About 57 trenches, out of a total of 130 dug, yielded coins. Most of the trenches consist of three to four layers, except the trenches in the lower terrace of VDM III where six layers have been noticed. The trenches, where the coins were found in a stratified context, have been taken up locality wise for the study of coin types [27].

Locality VDM I 's trenches C, A2 , B2 and B1 had two layers, they yielded coins as given below:

LOCALITY VDM I.

TRENCH	LAYER	COIN	OBV.	REV	METAL
Period III					
B 2	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
A 2	2	Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Coper Lead

C 2	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
		Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
Period IV					
B 2	1	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion		Lead
		Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A 2	1	Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
B 1	1	Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
		Vishnukundin	Lion	Vase	Copper

In VDM II locality, the trenches A F, and D 5 yielded coins in three layers.

LOCALITY VDM II.

TRENCH	LAYER	COIN	OBV.	QEV	METAL
Period II					
F	3	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
D 5	3	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion		Lead
A	3	Worn out			Lead
Period III					
F	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
D 5	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Copper
C 5	2	Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
		Punch marked			Silver

Peroid IV

F	1	Uninscribed	Lion		Copper
D 5	1	Worn out	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A	1	Vishunkundin	Lion	Vase	Coper

In VDM III locality, the trenches B5, B6, B7, B8, C5, C6, C7 and C8 occupy the lower terrace and A2, A3, A4, B2, B3 and B4 occupy the upper terrace. The lower trace consists of 6 layers while the upper showed four.

LOCALITY VDM III (Lower terrace)

TRENCH	LAYER	COIN	OBV.	REV	METAL
Period I					
B5 - B8	6,5,4	No Coins			
C5 - C8					
Peroid II					
B 8	3	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
C 6	2	Inscribed (sada)	Lion		Lead
C 7	2	Uninscribed Inscribed (7) (Sada)	Lion		Lead
B 5	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
B 6	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Copper

B 7	2	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion		Lead
Period III					
-	-	-	-	-	-
Period IV					
C 6	1	Worn out			Lead
B 5	1	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
B 6	1	Punchmarked			Silver
		Uninscribed	Lion		Copper Lead
		Inscribed (Sada)	Lion		Lead

LOCALITY VDM III (Upper terrace).

TRENCH	LAYER	COIN	OBV.	QEV	METAL
Period II					
A 3	4	-	-	-	-
Period II A					
B 2	3	Inscribed Satavahana	6 arched hill Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A 4	3	Inscribed	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A 2	3	-	-	-	-
A 3	3	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion		Lead

		Satavahana	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
Peroid III					
B 2	2	Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A 2	2	Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
B 4	2	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion	Ujjain	Lead
			Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A 3	2	Worn out	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A 4	2	Uninscribed	Lion		Lead
		Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
Peroid IV					
B 2	1	Punchmarked			Silver
		Satavahana	Arched hill		Lead
		Inscribed (Sada)	Lion		Lead
A 2	1	Punchmarked uninscribed	Lion		Copper
		Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
B 4	1	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion		Lead
		Uninscribed	Lion		Copper
			Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
A 4	1		Elephant	Ujjain	Lead

Satavahana coins were found for the first time in a stratified context in this locality. They were found stratigraphically above the Sada levels and associated with a few Sada coins. The Satavahana coins were followed by Ikshvaku lead coins thereby indicating their succession.

LOCALITY VDM IV

TRENCH	LAYER	COIN	OBV.	QEV	METAL
Period II					
R 7	3	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion	-	Lead
P 4	4	-	-	-	-
Peroid II A					
P 4	3	Inscribed	Arched hill		Lead
		Satavahana	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
Q 5	3	-	-	-	-
P 3	3	-	-	-	-
P 5	3	-	-	-	-
Peroid III					
R 7	2	Ikshvaku	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
P 4	2	-	-	-	-
P 5	2	Worn out	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
Q 5	2	Inscribed (Sada)	Lion	-	Lead

Period IV

R 7	1	Satavahana	Elephant	Ujjain	Lead
Q 5	1	Uninscribed	Lion	-	Lead
P 3	1	Uninscribed	Lion	-	Copper

Source [28]

So, Trench R7 has yielded inscribed lion type lead coins of Sada in the earliest level (layer 3) and was followed by more number of Ikshvaku coins in layer 2.

At Vaddamanu uninscribed and inscribed coins were found in co-eval layers. As found elsewhere in the excavated sites, here also the uninscribed coins are considered to be the earlier coins and then followed by inscribed ones. The uninscribed coin types were most likely followed by the coins of 'Sada' rulers, which bear in general a standing lion with a tree in front on the obverse, either with blank (or worn out) or six arched hill on the reverse. The palaeographical features of the legends as also the fabric and the name 'Maha', suggests that he may be the earliest (corroborated with stratigraphical positioning too) Sada. The tentative chronology of the Sada rulers may be as follows.

- 1) Mahasada
- 2) Sivamakasada
- 3) Asakasada
- 4) Sivamakasada II

- 5) Unidentified ruler
 6) Sivamakasada III

A note may be added about the occurrence of punch marked coins from the relatively higher level. They seem to be mere survivals of early level coins, perhaps in circulation till later times.

Excavations at Satanikota [29], latitude 15° 55'N longitude 78° 14'E, situated on the right bank of the Tungabhadra in the Nandikotkur Taluqa of Kurnool District (Andhra Pradesh) conducted by the Excavation Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India (Nagpur) with a view to ascertaining its archaeological potential, before the site was submerged under water on completion of the Srisaillam Hydro - Electric project, have brought to light three occupational phases:

SITE	SAKTANIKOTA				
Period	Proposed Date	PMC	UIC	IC	

III	Medieval times				
II	Satavahanas (1st Century BC to 3rd Century AD)		1	10	
I	Late Stone Age				

Excavations in all yielded five coins, two of lead and three of copper. Of these only the lead coins, one from the 'Village Mound' and the other from 'High Ground' belonging to the

Satavahanas were encountered in the course of excavation in the stratified layers while the other three copper coins belonging to the Muslim kings of the Medieval period were picked up from the surface.

The excavated finds of Period II include a lead coin [30] roughly circular in shape with a diameter ranging from 2.3 to 2.5 cm. It weighs 7.773 gm or 120 grains. This die struck coin is in an excellent state of preservation but the die was much larger than the metallic flan; so some of the letters and devices fully or partly, have gone out of the obverse flan and caused difficulty in the full restoration of the legend.

The coin may be described as follows Obverse - In the centre on left, a triratna within a small circle within another larger circle, pellets around it; on right three slightly curved vertical lines, the middle one being somewhat longer than the two flanking lines ; a crescent slightly above but separated from the upper right limb of the triratna. The top horizontal stroke of the left limb of the triratna is somewhat broader than that of its right limb. Above the right half of the triratna, a vamavarata (anti - clock wise) svastika, to its right lower portion or nandipada. legend (in early brahmi characters) to the right of the two last mentioned devices beginning at about 2 o'clock may be read as Kumarasasiri - Sata

Reverse : A square divided into two zones by a horizontal line running across it, the upper one being almost twice the size as compared to the lower one. In the upper zone, a tree with artistically designed cursive trunk and branches and leaves and fruits represented in the form of pellets. The lower rectangle depicts a wavy line, symbolizing river and some aquatic creatures.

The second lead coin was not found in site, it was located in re-deposited material. A roundish lead coin, its particulars are as follows.

Metal	:	Lead
Shape	:	Roundish
Size	:	1.6 cm diameter
Weight	:	3.6 gm
Obverse	:	Traces of a standing horse to right
Reverse	:	Plain (completely worn out)

In the absence of a legend, it is difficult to attribute it to a king. Its size, shape, fabric and obverse symbols are comparable to coins and attributed to some later Satavahana king.

The above survey of coin finds from excavations, conducted in different parts of the Deccan and at different points of time, seems to suggest a few points. One, although the sequence of coin series found in stratigraphic contexts is not identical at all sites, inscribed coins make their appearance slowly and

chronologically after the uninscribed series. Second, the appearance of coins which can be attributed to chiefs or rulers associated with different localities in pre-Satavahana phase is quite evident from sites like Brahmapuri, Veerapuram, Vaddamanu, etc. in the form of the coins of the Kuras, the Maharathis and the Sadas. It seems therefore clear that pre-Satavahana coins constitute very valuable material for the study of pre-Satavahana Deccan. Unfortunately the number of coins found in excavations is rather limited, and we turn, in the next chapter, to comparable series in private collections and museums in order to make our survey as comprehensive as possible.

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CHAPTER III

COMPARABLE COINS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS AND MUSEUMS

In continuation of the last chapter, we now undertake the task of tabulating coins comparable to those found in locations but collected, essentially as stray finds, by private coin collections or museums. For the purpose of convenience these have been tabulated under various families to which they have so far been attributed.

Ajay Mitra Shastri [1] published two coins of Satyabhadra about a decade and a half ago. But, recently a large number of coins of kings with names ending in 'Mitra' and 'Bhadra', who may consequently be designated Mitra and Bhadra chiefs, have come from Nagpur based coin cabinets [2] of Prashant P. Kulkarni, Raghunath Sanghi, Ahsan Ibrahim Chowhan [3] and Narayan R. Deshmukh [4] (Paunar). Besides, excavations at Adam [5] have yielded a few Bhadra coins in stratified contexts.

I

Coins of the Mitras

S.No.	Metal, Shape size, Weight Technique	Description	Source
1.	- Punch marked	Obv - an elephant right, pair of fish, tree. rev - indistinct legend - <u>Bhumimi- tasa.</u>	Coin is lost now. It was in coin cabinet of Sri Narayan R. Deshmukh
2.	Bronze, Oblong 1.2 x 1.4 cm, 3.05g, die struck	Obv - Ujjain symbol consisted of 4 orbs; rev - blank legend - <u>(ka) namitasa.</u>	Coin cabinet of Sri P P Kulkarni
3.	Bronze, Oblong 2.2 x 1.8 cm, 9.4g die struck	Obv - Lord Siva holdig danda in his rt hand and Kamandalu in left srivatsa above the tree in railing Rev - a humped bull to rt surrounded by symbols like eight spoked wheel river with pair of fish etc. legend - <u>rano Syamitra (Sa)</u>	Coin cabinet of Sri P P Kulkarni
4.	Copper, Square 2 x 2 cm, 7.25g Die struck	Obv: Standing Siva holding staff in the right hand a kamandalu in the	Cabinet of Sri N R Deshmukh ND., XI

left pp 20-22.
 Rev - a humped
 bull to rt, 8
 spoked wheel above
 the animal, river
 symbol with pair
 of fish
 legend : Rano
Syamitasa *

* AMS reads it as Syamatasa.

5. Copper, Square
 2.2 x 2.2 cm not
 mentioned,
 diestruck
- Obv - Lord Siva,
 holding a staff
 in the right and
 Kamandalu in the
 left, on rt - a
 tree in railing
 & a triangle
 headed standard
 in the railing
 Rev : Feeble
 Traces of a wheel
 and a bull,
 river with fishes
 etc.
 Legend : Su (yama)
ta (sa)
- Discovered at
 Kaundinya pur
6. Bronze, Square
 2.4 x 2.4 cm
 7.3 g, die
 struck
- Obv - The Siva,
 type coin,
 counter struck.
 Rev- eight spoked
 wheel legend -
(Ra) no Su (yami)
ta are legible,
 also portion of
 counter struck
 legend (sa) ra
Satakarni (sa)
 seen
- Nidhi op cit
 p 12

Coin No. 5 was found by M.G. Dikshit at a depth of 10ft in
 the archaeological excavation at the famous site of Kaundinyapura

in the Amaravati district [6]. But except for some technical references like coin No. (139) Trench (D4) & layer (7), depth & size, no other information was given. The restruck coin (No.6) is of great historical importance for fixing the relative chronology of the Mitra kings vis-a-vis the Satavahanas, in as much as it leaves absolutely no room for doubt that the Satavahanas followed the Mitras.

II

The Coins of the Bhadras [7]

S.No.	Metal, Shape, Size, Weight, Technique	Description	Source
1.	Copper, oblong, 1.2 x 1.5 cm 3 g, punch marked	Obv - a bull standing rt, Ujjain symbol, river and tree in railing Rev - Blank legend - <u>Damabha (dra)</u>	Nidhi Vol I, 1990 p 15.
2.	Copper, Oblong 1.6 X 1.3 cm, 3.4 g. Die struck	Obv - a humped bull, a dog rt within a circle sruatsa Rev - Blank legend - <u>Damabhadasa.</u>	Ibid fig a
3.	Copper, Oblong 1.3 X 1.6 cm, 3.8 g Die struck	Obv - humped bull to rt, a dog to right within a circle, Ujjain	ibid fig 9

- symbol, river with fish;
Rev- blank.
legend - Damabhadasa
4. Copper, Square,
1.5 x 1.5 cm,
3.95 g
Die struck
Obv : humped bull to rt, dog to rt within a circle Ujjain symbol, tree in railing, fish and water
rev - Blank.
legend Damabhadasa.
Ibid, p 16
5. Bronze, Oblong
1.2 x 1.7 cm,
2.9 g Die struck
Obv - a bull to right with a svastika symbol below it, on rt a large circle with a 'noose like' device. Legend Dhamabhadasa
Rev - Svastika placed in Centre with four rectangles each having a nandipada.
Ibid, p 17
6. Bronze, oblong,
1.4 x 1.6 cm
2.4 g Die struck
Obv - a noose like device within a circle and an ornamented nandipada
legend : raño
Dhama (bhadasa)
reverse: same as 5
Ibid, p 18
7. Bronze, Oblong
1.3 x 1.6 cm,
3 g Die struck
Obv - a humped bull, to right, a nandipada on the back and a svastika below the snout of the
Ibid p 18

- animal.
 Rev - A hollow oblong enclosure incomplete perhaps part of a hollow cross symbol
 Uninscribed
8. Bronze, oblong, 1.3 x 1.7 cm, 3 g, (approx) Die struck
 Obv - A Srivatsa and a dot within a crescent placed in an irregular manner
 Legend - rano Savabhad (Sa)
 rev - same as 7.
9. Copper, Oblong 1.4 X 1.6 cm, 3 g Die struck
 Obv - An elephant with trunk upraised, svastika nandipada, Ujjain symbol;
 Rev - Tree in railing occurring twice, an orb with a svastika, traces of other devices not clear;
 legend : Sachabhadasa
 ABORI
 LVII-LIX, 1978
10. Copper, oblong, 1.4 X 1.6 cm, 3.2g Die struck.
 Obv : An elephant a svastika, a triangle headed standard;
 Legend : (Sacha) bhadasa
 Rev : Ujjain Symbol;
11. Bronze, square 1.5 X 1.4 cm, 4.2 g. Die struck
 Obv - A humped bull, standing to rt, below the snout of the animal a nandipada followed by tree
 Nidhi, op cit fig 18.

in railing.
 legend :
Sachavhadasa
 Rev: nandipadas
 arranged both
 vertically and
 horizontally on
 each of the arm
 of a large
 svastika;

12. bronze, square
 1.9 x 1.8 cm
 6.1 g. Die
 struck.
- Obv : Lower part
 of lord Siva
 standing on a
 five petalled
 flower, Ujjain
 symbol;
 legend: (Rano Sa)
chabhadasa
 Reverse : An
 elephant walking
 to right, raised
 trunk holding a
 nandipada; a
 triangle headed
 standard;
- Ibid p 21

These Bhadra and Mitra kings from the Vidarbha region are clearly pre - Satavahana issues, on both palaeographical grounds and the fact that a Mitra coin was restruck by Sri Satakarni. It seems that the Mitra coin from Kaundinyapur was found in a pre - Satavahana context. It is however, at the present state of our knowledge, difficult to ascertain mutual relations of the two lines of 'rulers'.

III

Coins with the legend : KURARAYA

Inder Kumar Singh Chouhan [8] published coins with the legend kuraraya obtained from the Hoshangabad region. They are divided into two groups : I Group A: Coins of copper of mixed alloy and round in shape; the obverse has a bird facing left and the legend above reads kuraraya in early Brahmi characters; II Group B: copper punch - marked coins, rectangular in shape and in two different weight standards.

S. No.	Metal, Shape size, weight	Description	Source
1.	Copper, circular 2.4cm, 11.5g	Obv: Legend centrally in bold characters kuraghare below is a figure of bird facing left; rev : Blank	I.K. Singh Chouhans collection
2.	Copper, rectangular, 1.2 X 1.3 cm, wt 2.1g	Obv: Legend Koraraya, Brahmi ma or tavrine on left, triangle headed standard Rev - Blank	I.K. Singh Chouhan's cabinet
3.	Copper, circular, 1.8 cm, 11.2 gm	Obv : In between the three arched hill a hollow in possession cross boldly drawn the legend centrally spread reads kuraghara Rev - Blank	

Chouhan [9] takes the name 'kuraraya' as the name of a city. There is another smaller variety (squarish) in this series,

mostly obtained from Nander [10]. The obverse has on the top a Brahmi legend in bold letters which has been read kuraraya, below on left triangle - headed standard (Indra - yasthi), on the right Brahmi ma horizontally laid and set within an apose. The reverse is blank.

IV

COINS OF THE KURAS

K.K. Maheswari [11] obtained from a coin dealer in Andhra Pradesh a remarkable specimen. Its details are

Metal	-	Lead
Shape	-	Circular
Size	-	1.7 cm diameter
Weight	-	6.7199 gm
Obverse	-	A six- arched hill in the centre, the arches are double lined with a crescented top arch, a horizontal line below, the legend at the base reads <u>(Si) vakurasa</u> .
Reverse	-	Four well placed symbols, double headed triangular standard and srivatsa by its side; correspondingly below are Svastika and nandipada

I.K. Sarma [12], while commenting on this issue, states that these symbols are characteristic of the punch - marked and cast coins of Madhyadesa datable to Mauryan and post-Mauryan periods. The coin is an important find even if the associated contexts are not known presently.

Two hoards from Brahmapuri hill [13] close to the Panchaganga river, discovered during the years 1873 and 1877, have provided coins attributable to Kura kings. The coin types are described below

S. No.	Metal, and shape	Description	Source
1.	Lead round	Obv: Bow and arrow, around it the legend <u>rano Vasathiputasa Valivayakurasa.</u> Rev : Chaitya of ten arches	Brahmapuri hoard of 1873 [14]
2.	Copper round	Obv : Bow and arrow, around it legend <u>rano va...sa.. Vidivayakurasa</u> Rev : Defaced chaitya with a figure to its left.	Brahma puri hoard of 1873
3.	Copper round	Obv : Bow and arrow, inscription of name and title of the king <u>rano Madhariputasa Sivalakurasa</u> Rev : Chaitya of ten arches	Brahma puri hoard of 1873
4.	Copper round	Obv : Bow and arrow, legend around it - <u>rano Gotami - putasa Vilivayakurasa</u>	Brahma puri hoard of 1873

In 1953, the Director of Archives and Historical Monuments, Bombay Government, received a lot of 643 lead coins which apparently belonged to the hoard of 1877 AD. Ram Rao published

them [15]. Their types have been described by Mala Dutta [16] as follows

S. No.	KING	TYPE	HIGHEST WT.	LOWEST WT.	BIGGEST SIZE	SM SI
1.	Vasishtiputra Vilivayakura	Lead, round Obv: Bow, with string downwards, fitted with arrow pointed upwards legend - <u>Rano Vasithiputasa Vilivayakurasa</u> Rev - Chaitya of ten thick arches	201 grains	172 grains	28 mm	25 mm
2.	Vasishtiputra Vilivayakura	Lead, round Obv: Same as 1 legend - <u>rasa rano Vasithiputasa</u> Rev:Chaitya of ten arches, a tree to its right	197 grains		28 mm	
3.	Vasishtiputra Vilivayakura	Lead, round Obv: Same as 1 legend - <u>Rano Vasithiputasa Vilivayakurasa</u> Rev: Chaitya of ten low thick arches with a tree to its left on a platform having a dotted wavy line	181 grains		28 mm	
4.	Sivalakurasa	Lead, round Obv: Bow, with string downwards, fitted with arrow pointing upwards legend - <u>Rano Madhari putasa Sivalakurasa</u>	180 grains	136 grains	30.5 mm	28 mm

	Rev - Chaitya of ten a tree to its left				
5. Sivalakurasa	Lead, round Obv: Same as 4 legend - <u>Sivalakurasa</u> <u>rano ma</u> Rev: Chaitya of ten low thick arches on a platform having a wavy line of dots.	201 grains		28 mm	
6. Gotamiputasa Vilivayakura	Lead, round Obv: Bow, with string downwards, fitted with arrow pointed upwards legend - <u>Rano</u> <u>Gotamiputasa</u> <u>Vilivayakurasa</u> Rev: Chaitya of ten low or high arches.	175 grains	153 grains	30.5 mm	28 mm
7. Gotam Vilivayakura	Lead, round Obv: Same as 6 legend - <u>Rano</u> <u>Gotamiputasa</u> <u>Vilivayakurasa</u> Rev: Chaitya of ten low thick arches with a tree to its right and svastika with another symbol to its left on a platform having a dotted wavy line.	170 grains		28 mm	

In 1956 the Director of Archives and Historical monuments, Bombay Government, again received several lots of coins from the Kolhapur Museum. The coins were of copper and lead, and 626 in number, belonging to the Kuras and the Satavahanas. A list of

select coins has been described by Mala Dutta [17]; they apparently have on the obverse an ornamented elephant with trunk upraised and the legend. On the reverse is the Ujjain symbol, with dot in each circle and a crescent above one of the circles.

The two types of coins with different devices in the Kolhapur hoard of 1873 and 1877 show that some of them belong to the Satavahanas and others to the Kuras. Some scholars suggest that Kuras were feudatories of the Satavahanas [18]. Rapson [19] believed that Vilivayakura and Sivlavahana as monarchs. B.N. Mukherjee [20] on the basis of the stratigraphic evidence of coins viewed that Kuras belonged to a different dynasty and ruled independently of the Satavahanas.

As in Maharashtra, between the fall of the Mauryan regime and the rise of the Satavahanas, the Andhra country also experienced the rule of various local families in different areas. They were the Maharathis in Khammam, Kurnool and Guntur districts [21], Mahatalavaras in Warangal district [22] Kuberaka and Sani Anubudhi in Guntur district [23] and Mahameghavahanas in the west Godavari district.

The evidence of the lead coins of the Maharathis was brought to light as early as 1813 AD by Mervyn Smith [24]. Subsequently Sewell and Hultzsch found similar coins and they were published by Rapson in 1908 [25]. During the excavations at Chandravalli in

1940, M.H. Krishnan [26] found similar coins bearing the inscriptions of three kings Sadakana Kalalaya, Sadakana Kanha Maharathiputa and Sadakana (cata) Kanhasa Maharathi. Again in 1947, Wheeler published the same coins in Ancient India, from strata 7 to 10 corresponding to Pre- Pulumavi period. Again the excavations at Brahmपुरi in 1952 had yielded some coins bearing the inscription kurusa maharathi indicating that they belonged to the family of the Kuras. They were obtained from strata 6 to 10 and associated with the Satavahanas. In general the coins have the following particulars.

Obverse : Two arched chaitya/ hill surmounted by a branched tree.

Reverse : Bow with string downwards and arrow pointing upwards with legend - kurusa maharathisa.

V

COINS OF THE MAHARATHIS

The excavations done under the direction of T.V.G. Sastry at Veerapuram, Nandikotkur Taluk, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, have yielded, as discussed earlier, a good number of coins. All the coins of the Maharathis are of lead and most of them are circular in shape except for a few coins which are square in shape.

The particulars are [27]:

Obverse : Standing bull to the left with prominent hump, the inscription of the name of the king shown above the animal

Reverse : Tree in railing with straight branches on either side of the central stem and six arched hill with a crescent side by side (in some coins only the tree is seen)

In 1949 Prof. Mirashi published a coin from Kondapur [28], the details of which are

Obverse : Standing lion facing left, name of the king written above reads as Maharathisa cutu kulasa.

Reverse : Ujjain symbol, tree in railing a way line below, all the above detailed enclosed in a double square frame.

Rama Rao [29] published four Maharathi coins from Kondapur, which are now preserved in the State Museum of Hyderabad. Their particulars are

Obverse : Slender elephant standing right, trunk bent and legs ending in pellets, legend along the rim - Maharathi Satkanisea (read now by T.V.G. Sastri as Maharathi Dakalana)

Reverse : Ujjain symbol inside a square, dots are shown in circles and at the angles of cross lines in the centre.

Some new types of Maharathi coins have been published in 1983. They include a bull type, with legend - Maharathisa Samidasa also there are two more coins in this book (Coins of the Satrapas of Satavahana era) which have following reading [30]

Obverse - Lion standing to the left, in front of three arched hill, the legend above the animal reads as maharathisa

Reverse - Three broad arched hill with a central dot in east, in the other coin damaru symbol is shown in the arches.

The excavations done under the direction of T.V.G. Sastry [31] at Veerapuram, Nandikotkur Taluk, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh has yielded, as discussed earlier, a good number of coins. All the coins of the Maharathis are of lead and most of them are circular in shape except a few which are squarish.

In terms of typology, the earliest Maharathi types were

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------|
| (i) Nandipada | / | Tree with railing |
| (ii) Elephant | / | Six arched hill |
| (iii) Elephant | / | Ujjain symbol |

In terms of both surface finds as well as the ones reported from stratigraphic context, T.V.G. Shastri [32] has discussed the Maharathi coin types in detail.

Type 1

Nandipada / Tree in railing : Only a single coin of this type was found on the surface of the Veerapuram mound.

Obverse : Prominent nandipada over a circle dotted in the centre and standing over a platform of three tiers : the legend Dakanasa hathi above it

Reverse : Tree in railing with a wavy line below.

Date : not earlier than 50 BC

Type II [33]

Elephant / Six arched hill : All these are hathi coins of Veerapuram. Names of six kings is noted -

1. maharathisa Maha hathi (sa)
2. Maharathisa Va (sa Hathi)
3. maharathisa Sivameha Hathisa
4. Maharathisa khadapori hathisa
5. Siri/ Pahalemasi Ha (thi)
6. Maharathisa Sivakhada Hathi

Obverse : Elephant standing to the left; symbols like three lines and one dot, or nandipada or triratna, shown over the animal in the coins of earlier kings; the above names of the kings described above the elephant

Reverse : Six arched hill with a crescent above flanked by branches or creepers on either side; wavy line looking like a snake shown below the hill

Date : Coins 1 to 4 - 50 BC to 100 AD
 Cons 5 and 6 - 200 AD to 300 Ad

Type III

Elephant / Ujjain symbol : This was obtained from Kondapur.

Obverse : Elephant with trunk bent and legs ending in pellets, legend above - Matarathisa dakatakana

Reverse : Ujjain symbol inside a square, dots are shown in the circles and in the centre at the angles of the cross lines.

Date : The coin is similar to those of early Cimmuka Samagopa and Gobhadra obtained from excavations at Kotlingala. The characters of the letters show similarities with Asokan letters of Maski, Coin could be attributed to the post - Mauryan Period, say 50 BC.

Type IV [34]

Bull / Six arched hill and tree in railing : These are called Sadakana coins. Several of them were found in Karnataka and from the excavations at Chandravalli [35]. They were picked up from Anantapur and Hyderabad; legends of three kings are clearly known. They are

- (i) Sadakana Kalalaya Maharathi
- (ii) Sadakana Ca(tukan) Hasa Maharathi
- (iii) Sadakana Maharathi Putusa

Obverse : Standing bull facing left with an inscription above the animal along the edge.

Reverse : Tree within railing, with branches radiating from the central stem and buds projecting out from the base of the branches. Six arched hill with crescent to the right.

Date : 100 -200 AD

Type V [36]

Bull / Three arched hill with taurine symbols : This is a squarish coin lying in Shri Suryanarayana Reddy's cabinet in Hyderabad. This is said to have come from Jogipet in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh.

Obverse : Standing bull to the left, legend Maharathisa

shown just above the head of the animal

Reverse : Three arched hill with crescent above : arches have dots in the centre and taurine symbols shown to the left

Date : This is similar to the early Maharathi Coins with symbols but some letters show later characteristic features. They could be placed between 100 - 200 AD.

Type VI [37]

Lion / Tree in railing : All the lion type coins are from the coin cabinet of Shri Suryanarayana Reddy.

Obverse : Standing lion facing left, Tail raised up and twisted backwards, legend Maharathi Cutukulasa above the animal

Reverse : Tree projecting out from a railing with two parallel leaves emanating from a central stem, a triangular headed standard shown towards right.

Date : The animal and the legend above shows similarity with elephant / Ujjain coin of type III. However, the lion was not adopted on the inscribed coins of the Maharathis of Veerapuram. Moreover, the lion

shown in the coin is more artistic than the lion shown in the uninscribed coins of Veerapuram. Also the letters ma and ka show characters of period 100 - 200 AD

Type VII [38]

Lion / Ujjain symbol : This is similar to above but the reverse shows the Ujjain symbol.

Obverse : Lion standing to the left facing a triratna like symbol, legend Maharathisa above the animal.

Reverse : Ujjain symbol with dots in the orbs and in the angles.

Date : Palaeography of the letters shows roundish forms especially in ma and tha - could be dated to 100 - 200 AD

Type VIII [39]

Lion / Three arched hill : As the above two, the inscription has Maharathisa without any personal name.

Obverse : Lion has similar features as above, but faces a three arched hill with a dot in the centre.

Reverse : Three arched hill with a dot in the centre of
damaru symbol

Date : 100 - 200 AD

Type IX [40]

Bow and arrow/ Two arched hill with tree over it : obtained from
excavation at Brahmapuri

Obverse : Two arched chaitya hill surmounted by a branched
tree, Kurasa maharathisa is the legend

Type X [41]

An oblong, rectangular coin from Vidarbha

Obverse : Three arched hill with crescent and vertical line
to the left, legend - Varaya Maharathi

Reverse : Blank

Date : 3rd century AD

A combined study of epigraphic and numismatic evidence shows
that the Rathikas and Bhojas of epigraphs are sources of the
terms: Maharathi and Mahabhoja, the prefix in both terms
indicating emergence of higher status. Maharathi was an
expression for status [42] perhaps lower than a raja. From these

observations and several other, P.V. Parabrahma Sastry [43] opines that they existed through centuries as political chiefs of small principalities and not emperors of great empires.

VI

COINS OF THE SADAS

A good number of coins preserved in the Archaeological Museum at Amaravati and the State Archaeological Museum in Hyderabad have large numbers of lion type coins, with their provenance recorded mostly as Dharanikota and its surroundings. Some of them contain legends but in most of the cases they are partial and the legends end with sadasa [44]. These were issued largely in lead and weigh upto 20 gms., and among them a few copper issues are also noticed.

When Rapson [45] first catalogued these coins he brought in all 23 coins under the category " name uncertain" restoring the partial legends on them saka sadasa. Raja Reddy and Surya Narayana Reddy [46] published about 11 coins of the 'lion' series with Sada ending legends. The issuers of these coins were: Maha Sada, Siva Sada and Sivamaka Sada. These are surface collections largely reported from Amaravati and Dharanikota. Hanumantha Rao [47] published a coin of Sivamaka Sada from Guntur.

These 'lion' type coins with partial legends of the Sadas in

Brahmi characters of the 2nd century A.D. were earlier attributed to the Satavahanas equating the term sadasa with satasa and satisa noticed on the Satavahana coins [48]. Though some scholars doubted such attribution on typological grounds, in the absence of any coins with clear and full legends, some scholars totally refuted their attribution to the Satavahanas but did not suggest any alternative attribution. The general description of these 'lion' type coins of the Sadas is as detailed below [49].

Metal	:	Generally lead
Shape	:	Round or Square
Weight	:	upto 20 gms
Size	:	1 to 3 cm

Obverse : Lion facing right or left with lifted and curled up tail standing in front of a branched tree in railing. On a few coins a legend with sada ending name

Reverse : Often left blank but in a few cases is seen a double lined square frame accommodating three or six arched hill surmounted by a crescent with pellets along the down curve. Below the frame two wavy lines

Though the epigraphs of the Sada rulers are known to us from a much earlier period the Sadas could not be located precisely in time and space [49a]. Their numismatic evidence has helped in

studying about them, but further discoveries and fresh evidence would help us know more.

VII /

COINS OF THE MAHATALAVARAS

Mahatalvara coins were first described by Mirashi in 1953; they were found at Kondapur [50]. Subsequently such coins were found exclusively in Telangana, or Asmaka territory of ancient times such as Panigiri, Polakonda, Peddabunkar, Vardamanakota, Deveruppal, Dulikatta, Kotalingala, Hyderabad and Jangaon [51]. Most of these coins are of 'horse type'; a few of 'bull' and 'tree and lion' types have also been reported. Following is the description of thirteen new Mahatalvara coins made of lead [52].

S. No.	Shape	Size	Weight	Obverse	Reverse
1.	Round	3.0cms	21.94g	Horse facing left with circle above it Legned - <u>Mahatalavarasa</u> <u>Maha Samaikasa</u> <u>Sebakasa</u>	Three arched hill
2.	Round	1.8 cms	5.84 g	Horse facing right with sword symbol in front; legend -	Six arched hill

Mahatalavarasa

3.	Round	1.9 cms	6.44 g	Same as coin No.2	Same as coin 2.
4.	Round	2.0 cms	12.59 g	Horse facing right and above it a circle. In front Ujjain symbol without cross bars; legend - <u>Mahatalavarasa</u>	Three arched hill with a crescent
5.	Oval	1.5 x 1.3 cms	2.95 g	Horse facing right with legend above <u>Mahatalavarasa</u>	Same as coin No. 4
6.	Square	2.5 x 2.3 cms	16.06 g	Horse facing left with legend around it: <u>Mahatalavarasa</u>	Three arched hill.
7.	Square	1.8 x 1.7 cms	8.45 g	Lion facing right with a round circle above it; legend - <u>Mahatalavarasa</u>	Three arched hill with a dot in each arch
8.	Round	1.7 cms	4.45 g	Lion facing right with a tree in railing in front legend - <u>Mahatalavarasa</u>	Three arched hill
9.	Square	2.6 x 2.5 cms	16.25 g	Lion facing right with a triangle headed symbol between the legs of the animal legend - <u>Mahatalavarasa</u> <u>Siri Kumara Sebakasa</u>	Three arched hill
10.	Round	2.1 cms	9.71 g	Tree in railing in the centre with legend around it - <u>Mahatalavarasa</u> <u>Pudasa</u>	Double lined three arched with dot in each arch
11.	Round	1.9 cms	8.99 g	Tree in railing in the centre with	Same as 10

legend around it -
Mahatalavarasa
Siri Pudasa

12.	Round	2.1 cms	10.26 g	Same as 11	Same as 10
13.	Round	2.1 cms	12.12 g	Same as 11	Same as 10

So, two kinds of Mahatalavara coins have been reported: one with the short label Mahatalavara and the other Mahatalavarasa Maja Samikasa and Siva Sebakasa. Besides, the main symbols found are: thick dot, Triratna, ujjain, arched hill, crescent, wavy line, sword and tree. It is hard to fix exactly the period of these coins, but they seem to belong to the 'era' of Satavahana rule in the Deccan. Indeed, some of the inscribed series of the local rulers being discussed here may have originated in the pre - Satavahana period but continued well into the Satavahana phase.

VIII

COINS OF SEBAKA

Coins bearing the name Sebaka have come to light and have been reported by Mirashi, Altekar, Dikshit, Gupta, Sethi, Siddiqui, Srikanth Reddy and Raja and Suryanarayana Reddy [53]. There is a difference of opinion among scholars regarding the period of the first king who calls himself Sebaka. So also it has not been possible to define the territory in which he ruled. The

first king Sebaka's coins can be classified into two types, one the "Bull" type and another the "elephant" type, the legend being Sebakasa [54]. Recently a Sebaka coin has been found at Kotalingala [55]. Its particulars are -

Metal	:	Lead
Shape	:	square
Size	:	1.4 x 1.5 cms
Weight	:	3.13 gms
Obverse	:	Four symbols depicted at the bottom namely Svastika, Cross, Chakra and part of tree in railing. Nandipada symbol in the centre and legend at the top - <u>Sebakasa</u>
Reverse	:	Three arched hill
Date	:	The symbols suggest that coins of king Sebaka belonged to the pre-Satavahana period while script suggests a slightly later period and even 1st century A.D.

Before this type of coin was published eight other coins of Sebaka were known. A brief resume follows. V.V. Mirashi [56] in 1945 published a coin from the collection of Hurmuz Kaus of Hyderabad. The provenance of the coin was not known. M.G. Dikshit [57] in 1968 published a coin from the collection of Bala Saheb Patil of Paithan. In 1977 R.K. Sethi [58] published three coins from the collection of the late Dr. S.N. Nagu of Indore. P.L.

Gupta [59] published a coin from a private collection and this too was from unknown provenance. A. H. Siddiqui [60] published a coin which comes from Nanded in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. D. Srikanth Reddy [61] discussed a coin of Sebaka from the collection of Surya Narayan Reddy as follows.

Metal	:	Copper
Shape	:	Square
Size	:	2.3 x 2.3 cms
Weight	:	10.35 gms
Obverse	:	Humped bull walking to right; in front of the animal a five - petalled tree in railing with taurines placed above the railing on either side of the tree; below the tree a six arched hill (chaitya) behind the animal triangle headed standard (Indra - dhvaja) with two prongs (partly punched); two small swastikas above the animal, one near the left horn and the other a little above the hump. At the top, Brahmi legend - <u>Sebakasa</u>
Reverse	:	To left a Srivatsa symbol placed over a double circle

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CHAPTER IV

Veerapuram and Kotalingala : an exercise in comparison

Veerapuram (Lat 16° 00'N Long 78° 95'E) is an ancient site in Nandikotkur taluk of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. It is located on the right bank of river Krishna. It is now submerged under Srisaïlam Hydro-electric project. The Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute had conducted excavations at the site of Veerapuram for three field seasons (1978-80) and published a detailed report in 1984 [1].

The stratigraphy of the excavated coins could be determined from two main regions of the mound. The highest portion of the mound was designated as the central mound while the lowest as western mound. The excavations have revealed 24 layers in the central mound from the top to the lowest level down to the natural soil, while the western mound has only 16 layers. Thus 8 layers of early historical deposits at the top of the western mound were completely absent, indicating early abandonment of this particular area of the site [2].

Chronologically, the cultural span of the site would be broadly divided into the neolithic (2000-1300 BC), megalithic

(1000 BC - 300 BC), overlap (300-50 BC) and early historic (50 BC - 300 AD) periods. Period III at the site is taken to correspond to the time span; B. C. 300-A.D. 300. The early historic culture represented by period III was further subdivided into period III A (Mauryan), period III B (early Maharathi) and period III C (late Maharathi).

The following is a brief statement of how the diggings were done at the site [3]

Season	Total Trenches	Central mound	Western mound	Stray diags
I	30	27	1	2
II	5	-	3	2
III	23	4	19	-
	58	31	23	4

Since we are discussing the numismatic finds from the site, in the overall context of the report we shall try to focus on the section on 'coins' and related issues [4]. The excavation yielded a total of 53 coins. Of these 10 were found on the surface. The western mound alone, though low, is unique in its numismatic wealth and has yielded 33 coins. It includes 4 punch marked, a uninscribed, 10 Maharathi, 2 Satavahana, 1 Ikshvaku, 1 Roman (bullae), 2 coins of unknown dynasties and 4 unidentified. On the other hand, the central mound has yielded 5 uninscribed coins, 3 Maharathi coins and a lone Satavahana issue.

Of the western mound in general, the stratigraphy shows seven layers from the top. These layers could be divided into

- (i) The overlap phase which is represented by layers seven and six.
- (ii) The early historical phase which is represented by the five layers at the top.

In the central mound the early historical period was characterized by structural activity, especially the temples.

- (i) Layers 15 to 7 represent the pre-temple phase datable to 50 BC - 150 AD or the last Maharathi phase.
- (ii) Layers 6 to 4 represent the temple phase (late Maharathi phase) dateable to 150 AD - 300 AD.
- (iii) Layers 3 to 1 represent the post temple phase. Thus the nine layers attributed the pre-temple phase of the central and five layers of the western region of the mound have correspondingly yielded many coins with legends.

In the western mound the trenches 11 B, 12 B, 13 B, 14 B, 15 B, 16 B, 14 C, 17 C and 12 D have yielded coins in a stratified context. Hence, these trenches were taken up for the study of coin types to ascertain the respective periods of the finds.

Trench	Layer	Metal	Coin	Obverse	Reverse
--------	-------	-------	------	---------	---------

Period III A

12 B	8	Silver coated Copper	PMC(2)	--	--
11 B	7	Silver	PMC	--	--
17 C	7	Clay	PMC moulo	--	--
17 C	6	Lead	Uninscribed	Bull	Sun
14 C	6	Silver coated Copper	PMC	--	--

Period III B

12 D	5	Lead	Uninscribed inscribed (Maharathi)	Lion Elephant	Damaru 6 arched hill
17 C	5	Lead Clay	Coin mould	--	6 arched hill
16 B	5	Copper	Inscribed but indistinct	Arched hill etc.	Indistinct
15 B	4	Copper Lead	Wornout Inscribed (Maharathi)	-- Elephant	-- 6 arched hill
16 B	4	Lead	Uninscribed	Probably Elephant	Indistinct
14 C	4	Lead	Inscribed (Maharathi)	Elephant	6 arched hill
12 C	4	Lead	Uninscribed	Lion	Srivatsa
14 B	4	Lead	Inscribed (Maharathi)	Elephant	6 arched hill
13 B	4	Silver coated Lead	Inscribed portrait	Bust of Tiberius	Bust of Indian king
13 B	3	Lead	Uninscribed	Multi symbols	Tree in railing
16 B	3	Lead Lead Lead	Unfinished Uninscribed Uninscribed Inscribed (Maharathi)	-- Lion Elephant Elephant	-- Damaru Indistinct 6 arched hill
15 C	3	Lead	Uninscribed	Bull	Sun
17 C	3	Lead	Inscribed (Maharathi)	Elephant	6 arched hill
12 B	3	Lead	Inscribed (Maharathi)	Elephant	6 arched hill
12 D	3	Lead	Inscribed (Maharathi)	Elephant	6 arched hill

Period III C

11 B	2	Clay	Coin mould	---	6 arched
------	---	------	------------	-----	----------

					hill
13 B	2	Copper	Worn out	---	---
14 B	2	Copper	Indistinct	Incrustation	Worn out
15 B	2	Lead	Inscribed	Wheel	6 arched hill
16 B	2	Lead	Uninscribed	Lion	Worn out
13 B	1	Lead	Inscribed	Elephant	Ujjain

The above details indicate that the punch marked series is the earliest in this locality. It was followed by uninscribed lead bull type. The bull type was followed by uninscribed lead, lion type (12 D.5), inscribed lead elephant type (12 D.5) and inscribed copper arched hill type (16 B.5). These types were followed by the inscribed lead elephant type and inscribed portrait bullae of Roman king (Tiberius Augustus) in layer 4. The inscribed elephant type (Maharathi family) is predominant in period III B. This type made its beginning in layer 5, and continued in layers 4 and 3. In layer 3 this type was associated with uninscribed lead lion type and multi-symbolled type. These were followed by inscribed lead wheel type and Elephant/Ujjain symbol (Ikshvaku) along with some worn out and corroded copper types and uninscribed lead lion type.

In the central mound the trenches 3G, 4G, 4B, 4C and OD have been considered for the study of coin types. Their layers were correlated and the assigned to different periods.

Trench	Layer	Metal	Coin	Obverse	Reverse

Period III A					
	16	--	--	--	--
Period III B					
3 G	15	Lead	Inscribed (Maharathi)	Elephant	6 arched hill
3 G	13	Lead	Uninscribed	Srivatsa	6 arched hill
			Uninscribed	Bull	Sun
3 G	12	Lead	Uninscribed	Multi- syboled	arched hill
4 G	10	Lead	Uninscribed	Lion	Damaru
4 A	8	Lead	Uninscribed	Horse	Triangle headed standard
4 C	7	Lead	Inscribed (Satavahana)	3 arched hill etc.	Ujjain
Period III C					
4 B	6	Lead	Inscribed (Maharathi)	Elephant	6 arched hill
0 D	6	Lead	Inscribed	Elephant	6 arched hill

The above details reveal [5] that inscribed lead elephant type (3G.15) occurs in the earlier phase in this mound. It was followed by Srivatsa, bull, multi symbols, lion and horse type coins. Again these uninscribed coins were followed by on inscribed arched hill/Ujjain symbol type coin of Pulamair (Satavahana dynasty). The subsequent layer has yielded inscribed lead elephant types (Maharathi and perhaps Pallava) [6].

The excavation report discusses in detail trenches B 12 to B 15 in the western mound. The trenches of the central mound locality when compared with those of the western mound have been explained on the basis of layers of the above trenches. But, many a time this correlation is not reliable and lacks complete information. However, it is possible on the basis of the available information to make tentative correlation of the general parallel layers of the two mounds [7].

The coins occurred first in the western mound area where layers 8 to 6 had coins assignable to 300 and 50 BC. In phase III B, the layers 5 to 3 of the western mound correspond with layers 15 to 7 of 4F (C.50 BC - AD 300). III C is represented by layers 2 and 1 in western mound and 6 to 2 in central, except 3E & 4F (date-E 300 AD- 400).

Phase III A shows in its earlier level continuation of Megalithic cultural traits and at the same time appearance of punch marked coins. This shows a transitional phase at the site, though the process of change is not fully noticeable. In the upper levels of this phase uninscribed die-struck lead coins, rouletted and Russet-coated wares were also found; suggesting that the site slowly witnessed a change in its cultural contents and possibly it also had trade contacts with outside region [8].

The punch marked coins start appearing in this phase from layer 8 and continue upto layer 6 in western mound area while no coins belonging to this phase are recovered from the central mound area. In layer 8 of this phase two PMC were found. They are mentioned as being of copper, but coated with silver. From the next layer (No.7) one silver and from layer 6, one copper PMC were obtained. On this basis it has been suggested that this phase can be taken to correspond to the Mauryan phase.

Excavations at the site provide the significant indication that the punch marked coins survived for long in circulation, even after the fall of the Mauryas. They would have been in circulation because of their wide acceptability and credibility in trade and transaction as a regular currency [9]. Further, the manufacture of silver coated copper coins can be explained considering them as sub-standard issues meant to be passed off in circulation on their face value of silver coins, for the weights of these coins are also in proximity with the weights of the standard silver punch-marked coins. This in turn may suggest absence of a strong imperial (in this case Mauryan) power.

The coin types of period III A were followed by coin types of period III B. The type 1 of this period is similar to bull-type of period III A, which is immediately followed by the lion type (Trench 12 D.5); this particular trench and layer has

yielded an inscribed issue of Maharathiputa Siva. In the next layer (layer No.4) in trench 13 B of the western mound, a lead Roman bullae was found. Tiberius ruled between AD 14 and AD 37. In this layer a coin of Siva Maha Hathi was also found. This was dated to AD 37 on the basis of the bullae [10]. This suggestion has however not been accepted, since this particular coin type of Tiberius may have been copied any time after it was issued and need not be placed immediately at the close of his reign. The next layer has yielded a few uninscribed and inscribed issues. Interesting among these is an issue of Maharathisa Khad Pori hayhi (16 B.3 WM). The central mound (4C.7) has yielded from its topmost level a coin with the legend Pulumavi. This 5.7832 g coin of lead has a chisellebe object in the centre with a horizontal line below and a three arched hill above, with the above mentioned legend. The reverse carries the Ujjain symbol with circle and dot. M. Kasturi Bai, on the basis of this information, has set the chronology of the rulers of the site in period III B as below.

Maharathisa Mahahathi
Maharathiputa Siva
Maharathisa Siva Mahahathi
 Unidentified ruler
Maharathisa Khada Pori hathi
Pulumavi (Satavahana).

The phase III C is called the 'Late Maharathi' because it yielded two coins of the Maharathis, one of the Ikshvakus and a

coin of Siri Pahalamasi (unidentified). No Satavahana coin was found in this phase. This phase seems to represent the post-Satavahana period,, perhaps featuring the Ikshvakus [11].

Thus, period III, the early historic period is broadly dated on the basis of coins and coin imitation. Phase A is dated on the basis of PMC and phase B on the basis of Roman bullae and the coin of Pulumavi found towards the close of this phase.

While looking afresh at the numismatic evidence from Veerapuram, G. Kamalakar and M. Veerender [12] reanalysed it alongwith the evidence of coin moulds, pottery fabrics and associated antiquities. They assign a somewhat late date to the beginning of phase III A, somewhere around C.2nd B.C. In the excavation report it is dated upto C.50 BC on the basis of Rouletted Ware and Russet-Coated Ware. Kamalakar and Veerender opine that these two wares appeared in one layer 6 of the western mound 'only' and not in layer 5 and therefore layer 6 should be dated to post 50 BC period and not be layer 5. Similarly phase III B has been placed towards the close of 2nd century AD, or the beginning of 3rd century AD by them, for the Maharathis seem to have continued with the existing punch marked coinage system for sometime before introducing their own coins which start appearing from layers of the western mound and layer 15 of the central mound. The beginning of phase III C seems to have witnessed the end of the Satavahanas in this locality and the appearance of the

Ikshvakus.

The new chronology suggested thus is-

Phase III A	C 200 BC to AD 100	Maharathis
Phase III B	C 100 AD - 200 AD	Satavahanas
Phase III C	AD 200 - 350 AD	Ikshvakus

One can thus suggest that the Maharathis started to control this area initially as officials, perhaps exercising autonomous control following the downfall of the Maurayas. They possibly established their own coinage on the pattern of the local coinage tradition of uninscribed coins.

The uninscribed die-struck coin series is mainly of three types : Bull-type, Lion type and Hill type. The relative chronological positions of the hill and lion types is unclear. The former's provenance is the central mound, while the latter occurs at both mounds. The metrology of these types suggests some sequence. The lowest weight of the bull type is 0.82 gms (coin no. 4951) and the highest 2.33 gms (coin no. 2177). The Hill type begins with a lowest weight of 1.30 gm and goes up to 2.49 gms. The highest weight of both types is thus almost the same. The lowest weight of the lion type is near the highest of the other two types and it goes up to nearly double its lower weight, i.e. 4.37 gms (coin no. 2568A). However with the limited number of finds (14 to be exact) it is difficult and not desirable to

attempt a specification of the denominations. But, the interesting point is that the weight-range of these lead lions may possibly indicate their use in petty transaction to meet the day to day requirements [13].

The series of Maharathi coins that appear at Verrapuram were all manufactured in lead . The lowest weight of a Maharathi coin is 4.9 gms and heighest 17.8 gms. Layer 15 of the central mound represents the beginning of Maharathi coins, and is said to be parallel to layer 5 of western mound area (Refer to the table below) Interestingly, the coin of Maharathi puta Hathi, which weighs 17.8446 g is obtained from layer 5 (trench 12) of western mound, and layer 15 of the central mound (trench 3 G) has fetched coin of Maharathi in Maharathisa weighing 4.9712 g. Since both the layers are taken as parallel to each other , it is clear that no sequence relationship occur. Denomination wise, we consider one to be 4 times that of the other. But the main denominations or concentration of weight is 6.1 - 8.7 gms, and shows a fluctuation of 2.6 gms at both ends of standard theoretical weight. The variations in the weights of the coins of each being are as follows.

Name	Min wt.	Max wt.	Difference
1. <u>Maha Hathi</u>	4.9	--	--
2. <u>Maharathi Puthasa Hathi</u>	13.4	17.8	4.4

3. <u>Siva Maha Hathi</u>	6.1	--	--
4. <u>Khanda Hari Hathi</u>	7.4	8.2	0.8
5. <u>Siva Khanda Hathi</u>	8.1	8.2	0.1

The Maharathi coins from Veerapuram reveal names ending with 'Hathi'. Scholars have taken the suffix to represent their family name. We have several specimens of Maharathi coins from Chandravalli, Brahmapuri, etc. However these differ in their family names. All that one can suggest, from the manner in which 'Maharathi' figures on coins and in inscriptions, is that different families of Maharathi existed in different parts of the Deccan and constituted the strata of ruling elites of different localities in both pre-Satavahana and Satavahana times.

Typologically, the uninscribed coins share some important features with the Maharathi coins. Six arched hill appears as the main reverse symbol for both the series, for almost all the Maharathi coins have elephant on the obverse and six-arched hill flanked by a tree on the reverse. The elephant is either to the left or to the right with or without a symbol above, in the centre. Maharathi Puta Hathi might be considered as the one who started issuing the coins with legend [14]. On these coins 'Hathi' or 'Hasthi' is used; it is a matter of conjecture as to how far these legends are connected with depiction of an elephant as a symbol on the coins. The coin of Siva Maha Hathi uses

'Maha' as the middle name, perhaps using his father's name as the middle name. This coin has a Srivatsa symbol above the elephant on observe. Next the coins of Khada Hari Hathi appear; they have a six arched hill on the reverse; in addition a triratna symbol is also present on the top of the hill. The last type on which the legend read is Pahalamamisa does not show any clear sequence. Typologically it is similar to the issues of the Maha Hathi; both have a standard symbol above the elephant on the observe. Scholars however view Pahala in the legend to be a corrupt form of 'pallava'.

II

Kotalingala is a small village situated between 18 .52 N latitude and 79 - 12 E longitude on the right bank of the river Godavari in Peddapalle taluk of Karimnagar district in Andhra Pradesh. The village is also close to other places of archaeological interest in respect of the Satavahana period, namely, Peddabunkur, Dhullikatta and also the megalithic burial site in Kadambapur [15].

Kotalingala coins were first discovered by the villagers. Having noted the significance of these coins, the aracheological department of Andhra Pradesh under the direction of Dr. V.V. Krishna Sastry in 1979 excavated, a huge earthen mound over a

hundred acres in extent and about 9-10 metres high above the surrounding ground level. The name 'Kotalingala' seems to have been derived from the presence of a mud fort complex called 'Kota' in Telugu and a medieval Linga temple in the fortification complex which explains why even today the mound is referred to as 'Kotagadda' [16].

In the absence of a detailed excavation report, one can at the most attempt to form an impression of the general chronological span of the site and its division into cultural phases on the basis of the finds and their chronological positions as obtainable at other comparable sites. One can add to this the sequence tentatively suggested by the excavator.

The site seems to have passed through two main periods [17]

- (1) Pre-Satavahana
- (2) Early Satavahana

The diggings seem to have brought out evidence of four floors or layers in vertical sequence which could be dated on the basis of the ceramic and coin finds.

The ceramic evidence points to the abundance of red polished ware, red slipped ware and russet ware, besides black polished ware [18]. Andhra Russet Coated Ware is conspicuous by its absence.

The majority of coins found at Kotalingala are described by Parabrahma Sastry [19] in a series of three articles which were commented upon by Dr. P.L. Gupta [20] and late Shri K.D. Bajpai [21]. D.Raja Reddy [22] also commented upon a few uninscribed coins from this site.

The mound at Kotalingala mentioned earlier extends upto fifty hectares and is encompassed by a mud fort. The mud fort was enclosed by the river Godavari on the north and Kappcirapetvagu nullah on the east which takes a turn to the south and thus fortifies the town at this end also. It is postulated that at all the corners of the fortification there were bastions which now appear as mounds. There is evidence of several gates opening towards the cardinal points. Towards the riverside on the north, there occurs a brick structure, perhaps indicating a wharf [23].

At Kotalingala, the structural presence, of a fort, wharf etc. has been taken to indicate residence of royalty. The evidence is further established with significant discovery of huge number of pre-Satavahana and Satavahana coins, some of which have been found in a stratified context [24].

To begin with the typology of the coins, we shall first discuss the two published punch marked coins. These belong to

the collection of D.Raja Reddy and P. Suryanayana Reddy

1> Metal : Silver
 Size : 1.5 x 1.3 cms
 Weight: 2.46 g
 Shape : Rectangular

Obverse: Four symbols - tree, Svastika, triangle headed standard and a fourth indistinct symbol.

Reverse : Banker's mark

2> Metal : Copper
 Size : 1.6 x 1.3 cms
 Weight : 2.9 gm
 Shape : Rectangular

Obverse : Four symbols - tree in railing, Svasrika triangle headed standard and solar.

Reverse : Banker's mark.

Dr. P.L. Gupta has analysed punch marked coins of the Karimnagar region; majority of which belonged to the Mauryan era, some to earlier and later periods and classified them as Imperial type of coins of the punch marked series. The symbol Svastika, however, did not figure in any of his listed punch marked coins. As stated earlier, due to lack of detailed excavation report, it is difficult to place these two coins stratigraphically.

Uninscribed coins from Kotalingala show several variations. They occur in all sizes-square, rectangular and round. All of them have distinct combinations of symbols on their obverse and reverse, though the symbols used are not new. Further, various

techniques die struck, punching and casting have been used. The chief features of published uninscribed coins are as follows-

SHAPE	METAL	SIZE	WEIGHT	OBVERSE	REVERSE
1. Rect.	lead	2.4 cms	16.8711g	Bull facing right	three arched hill
2. Round	lead	1.6 cms	2.8700g	four Nandi padas	swastika
3. Square	copper	1.0x1.1cms	1.200g	four symbols- flower, low & arrow & rest indistinct	blank
4. Rect.	copper	1.3x1.1cms	2.00g	elephant	solar
5. Rect.	copper	1.4x1.4cms	1.605g	lotus on top ujjain below & bull to right	Sadachakara
7. Rect.	copper	2.0x1.7 cm	3.710g	counter struck all symbols indistinct	Many-ujjain symbol Nandipada
8. Rect.	lead	1.4x1.2 cm	1.33g	tree	indistinct
9. Round	lead	1.1 cm	1.34g	Swastika	flower
10. Round	lead	1.1cm	1.33g	Swastika	flower
11. Round	lead	1.8cm	2.16g	standing human figure with weapon.	blank
12. Round	lead	1.8cm	2.24gm	Standing human figure with weapon	blank
13. Oval	lead	1.7x1.4cm	4.63g	seated human figure with weapons	triangle heated standard

14. Square	copper	1.2 cms	1.78g	solar	part of ujjain
15. Rect.	brass	1.3x1.1cm	1.31g	tree in railing (traces)	blank
16. Rect.	copper	1.3x1.0cm	1.27g	Swastika enclosed within a square	parts of two Nandi padas around a circle
17. Round	lead	1.8cm	1.76gm	bow & arrow & swastika to its right.	blank
18. Square	lead	2.2x2.1cm	5.30g	'Stylish' swastika surrounded by a dotted circle	worn - out
19. Rect.	lead	2.6x1.8cm	2.87g	triangle headed standard symbol in the centre with a crude Nandipada above it & parts of broken on the other side	worn- out
20. Irregular	lead	1.8.x.1.6cm	2.41g	tree & wheel (tr)	parts of 4 double lines Nandipadas
21. Round	lead	1.7 cms	6.15g	elephant facing rt & swastika above it	solar symbol
22. Square	lead	1.2 cms	10.92g	single lined Nandipadas	part of 4 double lined Nandipadas
23. Irregular	lead	1.6x1.2cm	1.14g	Nandipada around a circle	Blank

As, pointed out earlier, different known symbols are observed on these uninscribed issues, although hollow cross and 'taurine' symbols are conspicuous by their absence. Also peculiar is the depiction of human figure hitherto unknown. The variation in weight is not enormous, except for two samples; one is 10.9 and the other 16.877. The rest all are around 2.5g (10.5g). Lastly, one should note the presence of a 'brass' coin, although this one issue does not speak much about itself, for typologically it does not belong to any unique category.

The earliest of the inscribed series are those of Gobhada. There are found at Kotalingala as well as at some other places in the Adilabad districts to the north of the Godavari. Earlier finds, reported by Sastry [25], were all copper square pieces with blank space on the reverse. Their weights ranged from 1.2 to 5-4 gms and

obverse : Tree in railing / Three arched hill / Bow with
arrow.

reverse: Blank

The characters are ascribable to the post Ashokan period. Most of these coins have symbols punched below the legend. Sastry has suggested the identification of Gobhada with Bhadraghosha, but for want of supporting evidence this view is not generally accepted. Narana is the next known issuer whose three published

coins are all of lead. Two are found in shape, while one is rectangular. Their weights are 5.71, 6.33 and 4.16 gms. All three have identical obverse and reverse devices, which are as follows [26] :

Obverse : Lion facing left and above it triangle headed standard. Legend on top, which reads Narana.

Reverse: Double lined square with part of Nandipada.

Sirivayasa's coins have Bow and Arrow and another indistinct symbol on top of it or a Sadara - Chakra with eight arms on the obverse. The reverse symbols are Nandipada or three arched hill.

About twelve coins of Kamvayasa are known. The legend on some of the series is read as Kavayasiri, This has raised some uncertainty as to whether there were two issuers of coins. The reverse symbol, that is the composite Nandipada, seems a clear 'adaptation' from uninscribed coins issued earlier. By composite Nandipada, one refers to four Nandipadas in double lines around a double circle.

Samagopa's coins exceed all others of this series in number. They are available in hundreds. All are copper squares excluding a few lead squares. Their weights, range between 1.2 gms and 4.2 gms; they are die struck. The obverse signs vary from Sadarachakra to a Svastika, tree in railing, triangle-headed standard in big size, bow and arrow, bull standing to left and three arched hill. The reverse has a Nandipada around a circle

without exception.

It is noticeable that on few coins of this king the six armed circle is punched over the langed and some other symbols and markings are die struck. The characters of the legend seem to relate to 2nd - 1st century B.C.

We can assume that the inscribed coins point to the emergence of a dynastic series, or to a 'Royal Issuer' series. It is not clear whether they were genealogically related or whether the royal issuers preceded the known names. It seems certain that Gobhadra might have been preceded by some rulers who perhaps issued uninscribed coins; as pointed out earlier, the reverse symbol of composite Nandipada is also noticed on some uninscribed coins. All the rulers who issued coins might have been local chieftains about whose sphere of authority one is not certain.

One can comment on the limitations of a comparative study of coin finds from the two sites of Kotalingala and Veerapuram for the very contexts of the finds were vastly different. Veerapuram issues can be located and classified according to the layers and phases in which they occurred. On the other hand, the majority of Kotalingala finds are surface finds, though we have a rough idea about the habitational periods at the site. In the absence of stratigraphical data, Kotalingala coins cannot be assigned precise 'dates'. Paleographic study can at the most suggest broad time spans.

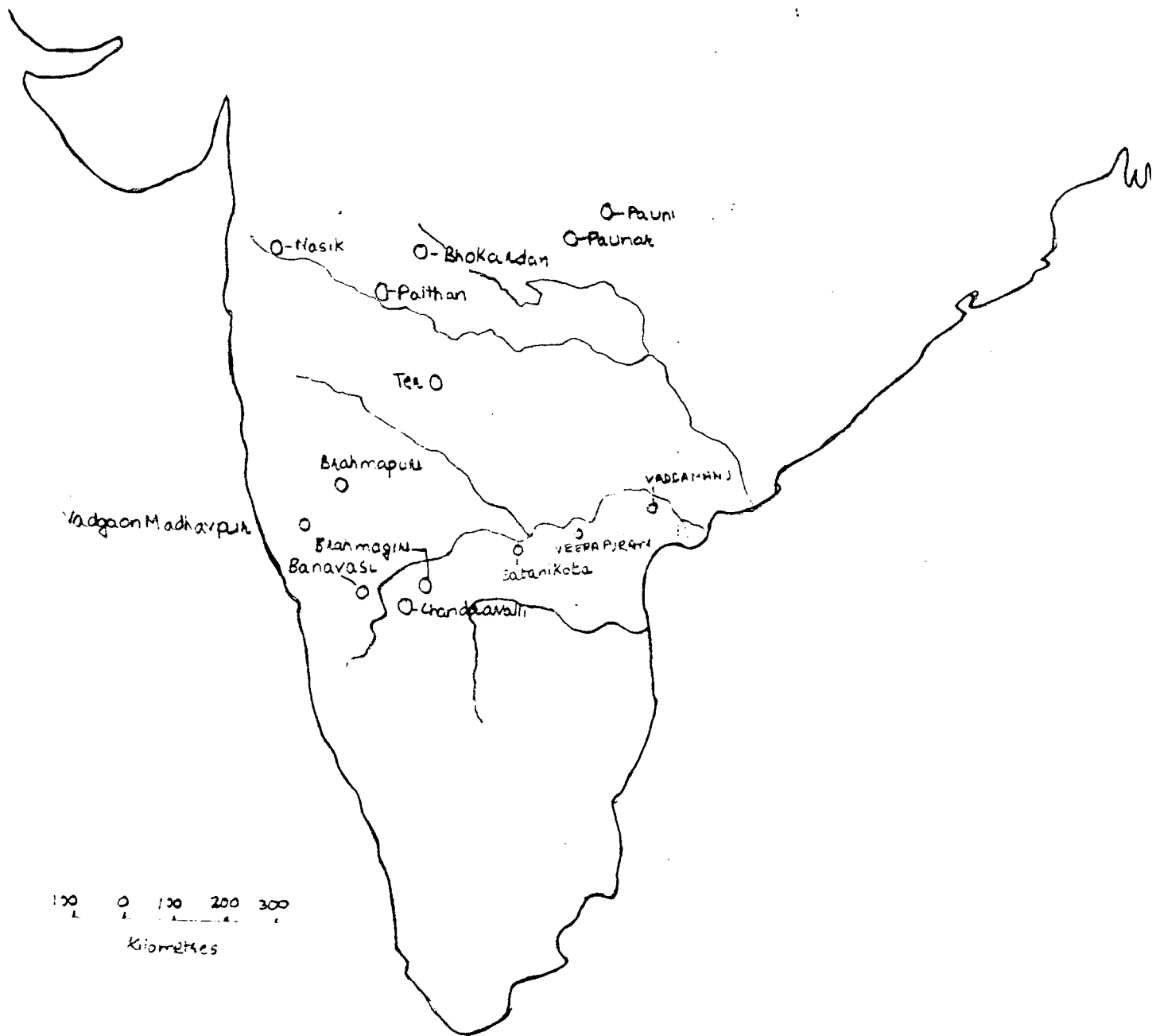
A comparison with Veerapuram may however lead to the following suggestions regarding the Kotalingala finds. First the sequence leading from uninscribed to inscribed series at Kotalingala, as elsewhere, shows patterns of continuity in so far as metals, symbols and other coinage elements are concerned. Second, the sequence has to be seen as a transition in a local context. In other words, the transition took place at the local level before the geographically widely distributed, inscribed Satavahana series came to dominate the numismatic atlas of peninsular India.

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APPENDIX Ia

Physical Measurements Data of Vaddamanu Coins

S.No.	Coin No. UIC	Wt(gms)	Shape	Thickness (cms)	Size/Diam (cms)
1.	1458	1.132	Square	0.13	1.35 x 1.2
2.	1459	1.434	Square	0.14	1.40 x 1.35
3.	644	5.237	Circular	0.37	1.70
4.	686	0.742	Square	0.14	1.19 x 1.16
5.	723	1.962	Square	.20	1.41 x 1.28
6.	645	2.434	Square	.32	1.88 x 1.19
7.	787	1.135	Circular	.15	1.20 x 1.18
8.	890	2.085	Circular	.26	1.50
9.	376	1.336	Square	.24	1.12
10.	592	1.570	Rectan- gular	.22	1.13 x 1.03
11.	21	5.711	Square	.41	1.20 x 0.80
12.	784A	1.508	Rectan- gular	.26	1.12 x 1.02
13.	518	1.254	Square	.22	1.25 x 0.97
14.	1568	2.707	Square	.19	1.60 x 1.29
15.	1500	2.912	Rectan- gular	.23	1.30 x 1.25
16.	1507	3.086	"	.60	1.40 x 0.90
17.	1739	3.001	"	.21	1.46 x 1.14
18.	1502	2.751	"	.25	1.43 x 1.16
19.	598	2.992	Oblong	.15	1.57 x 1.46
20.	790	2.777	Square	.24	1.43 x 1.25
21.	1134	2.125	Rectan- gular	.30	1.78 x 1.55
22.	17	13.809	Square	.24	1.20 x 1.10
23.	286	6.078	Circular	.30	2.65
24.	857	1.863	Square	.24	2.22 x 1.95
25.	1135	1.686	Oblong	.17	1.53
26.	1300	2.40	Circular	.20	1.33
27.	1468	2.63	Circular	.23	1.28
28.	1552	2.632	Circular	.25	1.30

[Source: M.C. Ganorkar, V. Pandit Rao, P. Gayatri and T.A. Sreenivasa Rao; 'Scientific study and conservation of coins' in P.L. Gupta and A.K. Jha (ed) Numismatics & Archaeology].

APPENDIX Ib

Physical Measurements Data of Veerapuram Coins

S.No.	Coin No. UIC	Wt(gms)	Shape	Thickness (cms)	Size/Diam (cms)
1.	4384	1.906	Circular	0.18	1.5
2.	4918	2.343	Square	0.25	1.10 x 1.09
3.	5593	2.364	Square	0.25	1.12 x 1.10
4.	1295	2.122	Circular	0.12	1.7
5.	2879	2.512	Square	0.14	3.10 x 2.20
6.	5512	2.142	Rectun-	0.18	1.35 x 1.65
7.	4747	10.4547	Circular	0.25	300
8.	5209	4.640	Circular	0.23	1.8
9.	4917	8.235	Circular	0.23	2.42
10.	4533	5.921	Oblong	0.25	2.50
11.	4748	10.419	Circular	0.25	2.50
12.	5920	12.100	Circular	0.35	2.50
13.	5477	17.844	Oblong	0.36	2.97

[Source: M.C. Ganorkar, V. Pandit Rao, P. Gayatri and T.A. Sreenivasa Rao; 'Scientific study and conservation of coins' in P.L. Gupta and A.K. Jha (ed) Numismatics & Archaeology].

Chemical Composition of Vaddamanu Coins

S.No.	Coin Nos.	Cu %	Pb %	Sn %	Fe %	Ag %	Au %	Group
1.	21	98.10	0.26	-	1.80	0.22	-	I-C
2.	723	90.98	2.40	-	6.30	0.13	-	II-C
3.	645	85.96	10.33	-	3.44	0.03	-	II-C
4.	886	88.24	1.45	-	9.85	0.06	-	II-C
5.	748A	74.54	2.44	18.52	3.90	0.30	-	III-C
6.	376	80.65	5.85	9.26	3.72	0.13	-	III-C
7.	644	75.26	7.31	12.90	3.92	0.32	-	III-C
8.	890	84.16	2.43	10.56	2.06	0.56	-	III-C
9.	518	84.65	9.97	5.11	0.06	0.17	-	III-C
10.	787	83.84	1.30	11.00	3.56	0.04	-	IV-C
11.	1458	73.10	0.90	22.73	3.95	0.57	-	IV-C
12.	1459	78.48	0.92	16.00	4.26	0.04	-	IV-C
13.	592	89.90	0.54	5.95	2.89	0.50	-	IV-C
14.	1568	27.05	0.01	-	0.71	67.70	6.93	V-A
15.	1500	32.00	0.66	8.00	2.06	56.91	0.16	VI-A
16.	1507	9.14	0.50	7.00	1.48	81.71	-	VI-A
17.	598	7.62	0.88	18.75	1.38	70.65	0.54	VI-A
18.	790	18.42	2.11	7.89	0.72	72.73	-	VI-A
19.	1739	11.93	2.11	10.81	1.73	72.14	0.84	VI-A
20.	1502	9.43	1.61	13.04	3.09	72.60	-	VI-A
21.	1134	8.43	3.93	15.33	4.19	67.85	-	VI-A
22.	17	34.86	2.05	10.81	1.41	49.44	1.27	VI-A
23.	286	0.04	99.90	-	-	0.02	-	VII-P
24.	569	0.03	99.92	-	-	0.05	-	VII-P
25.	857	0.07	99.87	-	0.05	0.08	-	VII-P
26.	1135	0.05	99.89	-	-	0.02	-	VII-P
27.	1300	0.02	99.91	-	0.02	0.10	-	VII-P
28.	1468	0.03	99.88	-	0.06	0.02	-	VII-P
29.	1552	0.04	99.85	-	0.02	0.04	-	VII-P

[Source: M.C. Ganorkar, V. Pandit Rao, P. Gayatri and T.A. Sreenivasa Rao; 'Scientific study and conservation of coins' in P.L. Gupta and A.K. Jha (ed) Numismatics & Archaeology].

Chemical Composition of Verrapauram Coins

S.No.	Coin Nos.	Cu %	Pb %	Sn %	Fe %	Ag %	Au %	Gro
1.	1295	99.06	0.77	-	0.04	0.06	-	I
2.	8384	96.80	1.45	-	-	1.72	-	I
3.	4918	71.51	1.54	24.46	2.06	0.04	-	II
4.	2879	78.20	1.83	10.42	10.41	0.04	-	II
5.	5512	66.18	1.79	14.71	2.03	14.70	0.35	III
6.	5593	72.25	2.01	12.67	2.12	10.70	-	III
7.	4747	0.18	99.70	-	-	0.01	-	VII
8.	5209	0.14	99.58	-	-	0.02	-	VII
9.	4917	0.14	99.81	-	-	0.02	-	VII
10.	4533	0.12	99.83	-	0.01	0.02	-	VII
11.	4748	0.51	99.21	-	-	-	-	VII
12.	5920	0.01	99.83	-	-	0.02	-	VII
13.	5477	0.05	99.38	-	-	0.01	-	VII

[Source: M.C. Ganorkar, V. Pandit Rao, P. Gayatri and T.A. Sreenivasa Rao; 'Scientific study and conservation of coins' in P.L. Gupta and A.K. Jha (ed) Numismatics & Archaeology].

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