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CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES
SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE
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UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG
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Joint Research Group
Manuscriptology and Digital Humanities

Digitally Conserving Bengaluru's Stone Inscriptions: Technology, Data, and Public History

How 3D Scanning, Data Science, and Citizen Collaboration Are Reshaping Epigraphy

Speaker: Udaya Kumar P. L.

Honorary Project Director, Bengaluru Inscriptions 3D Digital Conservation Project Mythic Society, Bengaluru

Brief Description

What can 1,500 stone inscriptions—spanning from 200 CE to 1750 CE—tell us about Bengaluru's forgotten past? And how can digital tools prevent their erasure in a rapidly urbanizing landscape?

This two-part lecture introduces the Bengaluru Inscriptions 3D Digital Conservation Project, a groundbreaking initiative that merges field epigraphy, advanced 3D documentation, and public engagement. The project preserves endangered inscriptions while making them accessible to researchers, educators, and the public.

As India's heritage faces mounting threats from urban development, this project offers a scalable model for digitally conserving the past through open data, interdisciplinary collaboration, and citizen participation.

09:15-10:45 Hrs
(CEST Germany)
= 12:45-14:15 pm (IST India)
= 16:15-17:45 pm (JST Japan)

Friday 27.06.2025

ZOOM LINK

Session 2: Technology, Epigraphy & Public Engagement

This session explores how inscriptions reveal Bengaluru's rich history—and how digital tools are transforming their preservation:

- **Akshara Bhandara**: A custom-built platform for archiving, analyzing, and sharing inscriptions with researchers and the public
- **Data Science for Epigraphy**: Applying computational tools to detect errors, analyze linguistic variation, and ensure consistency across inscriptions
- **Open Access for All**: How structured metadata, searchable databases, and public APIs empower linguists, educators, and technologists
- **A Model for the Future**: Broader implications for digital humanities in India and the potential of citizen-led heritage conservation

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