Proof of Shaivism sect in Kakatiya-era comes to light

Slab depicts person with a Shivalinga and pitha on his head

Evidence of the existence of a sect of Shaivism during the Kakatiya rule has come to light during a survey and exploratory work conducted recently by the Archaeological Survey of India in a temple in Mahabubabad district of Telangana.

A life-size portrait of a dedicated worshipper of Lord Siva carved on granite stone was discovered in a corner of Sri Agastiswaraswamy temple complex at Abbayapalem village in Mripeda Mandal of the district.

Superintending Archaeologist in Temple Survey Project (Southern Region, ASI) D. Kanna Babu chanced upon this proof of Lamudigalam – a school of Shaivism prevalent from the 11th Century A.D. to 13th Century A.D.

The man on the granite slab is seen in a vertical position, his hands folded in worship. The facial features are oval, distinguished by wide open eyes and an elongated nose. A small Shivalinga with pitha is adorned by him on his head.

Unique image
The uniqueness of the image is that a label inscription in Telugu (from 12th Century A.D.) is engraved on the top of the sculptural frame and ends at the bottom.

The script is self-explanatory: ‘I affectionately adore the Linga placed on my head and tied with my hair.’

Wearing a Shivalinga on the head was considered the most pious act for an ardent devotee of Lord Siva in the Kakatiya regime.