

Prashasti

Prashasti (IAST: Praśasti, Sanskrit for "praise") inscriptions are eulogistic inscriptions issued by Indian rulers from 1st millennium CE onwards. Written in form of poetry or ornate prose, the *prashastis* were generally composed by the court poets.^[1]

The *prashastis* generally contained genealogies of the rulers (or other issuers subordinate to them), their achievements (especially military activities), their comparisons with legendary heroes and other details.^[1] The inscriptions issued by the subordinates often recognized the rulers as the descendant of a deity and bestowed titles and honours upon them.^[2]

The Tamil *meykeerthi* inscriptions are similar to the *prashastis*, but feature far more standardized formats.^[2]

Examples

- Nashik prashasti (2nd century CE), Satavahana dynasty
- Prayaga prashasti (4th century CE), Gupta dynasty: Lists the rulers against whom the Gupta king Samudragupta fought. It also describes the policy that he followed toward each set of rulers.
- Deopara Prashasti (12th century CE), Sena dynasty

References

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- Bernard Bate (2013). *Tamil Oratory and the Dravidian Aesthetic: Democratic Practice in South India*(https://books.google.com/books?id=8uP7LHS3cDMC&pg=PT151)Columbia University Press. p. 151. ISBN 978-0-231-51940-3

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This page was last edited on 20 February 2018, at 17:58.

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