

A perusal of the passage does not leave any doubt about Candra being the original name of the king. Allan followed by Goyal⁸ describes it as a 'poetical allusion'. But that does not mean that the king had any name other than Candra. The poet shows that his name was quite in consonance with his qualities.⁹ It is no doubt a poetic way of referring to his patron's name. We have a similar instance in the Mandasor Inscription of the Mālava Year 524 (A.D. 467).¹⁰ Moreover, the reading in line 6 of the inscription is clearly 'Bhāvena' and not Dhāvena.¹¹

We know that only a part of Bengal, i.e. Samatāṭa was conquered by Samudragupta; Ḍavāka and Kāmarūpa being in Assam, their subjugation does mean the occupation of the whole of the Vaṅgas. Gupta inscriptions are recovered from Puṅḍravardhana, Damodarpur and Rajshahi districts of Bengal only after the reign of Candragupta II. Moreover, it seems that the people of Samatāṭa had revolted and were joined by other neighbouring kings¹² and king Candra suppressed the revolt with his force; eventually the whole of Vaṅga may have come under his suzerainty.

These considerations apart, palaeographically also the inscription was considered by Fleet to be later than Samudragupta. Prinsep placed it in the 3rd or 4th Century and Bhau Daji in the post-Gupta period.¹³ But Sircar assigns the record to the 5th century on the basis of the resemblance of the marked mātrās or horizontal top-strokes on the letters with those used in the Bilsad Inscription of Kumāragupta I (A.D. 415-16).¹⁴ This consideration is very important, but Goyal finds it convenient not to consider it since it goes against his theory.

Moreover, if king Candra of the Meharauli Pillar Inscription is to be identified with Samudragupta and if it is a posthumous inscription, there could be a mention of the performance of Aśvamedha sacrifice by him as is evidenced from his coins.

It is further to be noted that in the Allahabad Pillar Inscription there is no reference to the conquests of the Vāhlikas by Samudragupta, though the neighbouring tribes of the Daivaputras, Śāhis and Śāhānuśāhis, Śakas and Muruṅḍas are mentioned as paying homage to Samudragupta. On the contrary, king Candra is said to have conquered the Vāhlikas in a warfare after crossing the seven mouths of the Sindhu.¹⁵