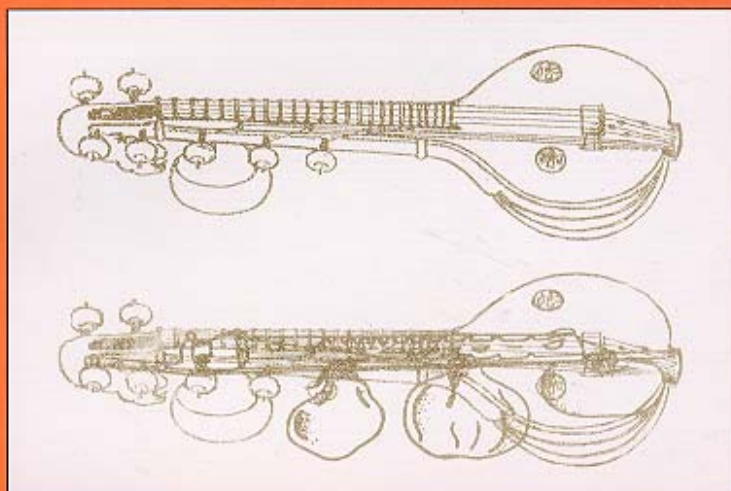


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Vīnā, Kinnarī Vīnā - the proto-types of musical instruments used in vedic and post vedic traditions



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ESTIMATION OF THE ORIGINAL ERECTION SITE OF THE DELHI IRON PILLAR AT UDAYAGIRI

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The possible original erection site of the Delhi iron pillar at Udayagiri has been estimated based on a detailed analysis of the iconographical, archaeological, architectural and astronomical significance of Udayagiri site. Arguments have been provided to show that the iron pillar may have been originally located, facing east, in front of the specially cut passageway at the place where the northern hill meets the saddle. The relationship between the iron pillar and the Gupta-period architectural elements in and near the passageway has been described. The hierarchy of all the inscriptions at Udayagiri has been discussed with respect to the iron pillar's possible original location. The hierarchy of inscriptions is maintained for the proposed pillar location. Based on the astronomical significance of Udayagiri's location on the Tropic of Cancer, and earlier solar observations at Udayagiri, it is shown that the iron pillar was aligned with the cardinal directions such that, on summer solstice day, the early morning shadow of the pillar fell along the passageway in the direction of *anantāyīn* Viṣṇu panel (in cave 15). The specific area for future archaeological excavations to identify the original erection site has also been discussed.

Key words: Astronomy, Erection site, Delhi iron pillar, Udayagiri, Inscription.

INTRODUCTION

The Delhi iron pillar has been a major attraction for academics in history, archaeology, metallurgy and science, apart from the general public due primarily to its antiquity, engineering and exceptional resistance to atmospheric corrosion. Its artistic design is also admirable. While the known facts about the Delhi iron pillar have been summarized in a monograph by Anantharaman¹, several new insights regarding its

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