Appendix IV

Sesasayi temple inscription:

The Kannada inscription of the period of Silahara Gandaraditya (A.D. 1105 - 1140) on the beams of the vitāna of the nābhīchchanda type of ceiling of the present Śesāśayī temples gives a graphic description of the Jaina temple dedicated to Ādinātha. This temple is not extant anymore. It appears that out of the dilapidated parts of the Ādinātha temple, the present Śesāśayī temple has been constructed. The Ādinātha temple must have been located somewhere near the Mahālakṣmī temple since the Śesāśayī temple is located within the prākāra of the Mahālakṣmī temple.

This is the only inscription from this region which describes a large temple with bazaars, mansions etc. near it. The inscription gives us an idea how flourishing the temple was both in spiritual and worldly matters.

The temple was approached through a long street. The street leading to the temple was lined by huge palatial mansions of the wealthy merchant's houses belonging to ganikās and tall mānasthābhās. It is said in the inscription that the many storeyed mansions had gold plated doors.
The temple itself was magnificent. It was crowned with gold Kalaśas. A separate nrityaśālā was attached to it. The hall of this nrityaśālā was lined by gods and goddesses. To indicate the grandness of the temple complex the inscription states that Indra was so impressed by it, that he left his abode, came down to this temple and got into an ecstatic dance. The inscription praises Sāmanta Nimbadeva for having got this chaitya built with the help of God Indra. This grand description does not tally with the present Śeṣaśāyī temple. It is also difficult to say whether the Śeṣaśāyī temple is the original spot of the Ādinātha temple. The in situ square pillared maṇḍapa located on the north eastern point of the Mahālakṣmī temple suggests that the Ādinātha temple must have existed on the eastern side of the maṇḍapa where now the pillared prākāra hall exists. This temple was so extensive that it very probably extended upto the present eastern Mahādvāra of the Mahālakṣmī temple.