



# INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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## Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR/CTC - 37

### SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

#### 1. Name

**Present** : Barabati Fort, Cuttack Town, Dist. – Cuttack  
**Past** : Abhinava Varanasi Kataka  
**Other Name (if any):** : ---

#### 2. Location

**LONGITUDE** 85° 52' 00" E

**LATITUDE** 20° 29' 00" N

**ELEVATION** ft

**Address** : **Village (village code)** Barabati, Cuttack Town  
**Post** : Barabati Stadium **Via:** Cuttack Town  
**Tehsil:** Cuttack Town **District:** Cuttack  
**State** : Orissa **PIN:** 753005

**Approach** : The fort is located at the bifurcation of the river Mahanadi and the Kathjori in the north of the Cuttack city. It is about 30 kms from the capital city Bhubaneswar.

#### 3. Property Type

##### *Buildings*

- Palace
- Fort
- Citadel
- Govt. building
- Railway station
- Defence building
- Industrial building
- Other public buildings
- Residential building

##### *Engineering structure*

- Bridge
- Tunnel
- Other engineering structure

##### *Religious structures*

- Temple
- Mosque
- Minar
- Church
- Monastery
- Stupa
- Tomb, Mausoleum

##### *Open space and related structures*

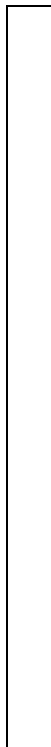
- Public square
- Park or garden
- Graveyard
- Baolis, Well
- Tank

##### *Other Structures*

- Wall
- Gateway
- Pillar
- Others (specify)

##### **Note :**

This fort once formed the seat of authority under the mighty Gangas was known as Abhinava Varanasi Kataka, as mentioned in the copper plate grant of Anangabhimadeva – III. It witnessed the fortune and fall of the



Cave

It witnessed the fortune and fall of the following dynasties such as Gangas, Suryavamsi Gajapati, Afghans, Muslims, Marathas and finally the British upto the 19<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Now the fortified remains comprise of an entrance gateway, a moat around the fort, Fathe Khan mosque, tomb of Bokhari Saheb and a mound in the center and the modern structures includes Cuttack club, Indoor stadium, play ground, District level offices of the State Government and few residential quarters. The Bhubaneswar Excavation Branch –IV of Archaeological Survey of India carried out excavation on the high mound reveals the remains of a large pillared structure over the ruins of an ancient temple which was probably destroyed by Firuz Shah Tughluq during his expedition to Orissa.

#### 4. Property Use

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**ABANDONED / IN USE :** Abandoned

- Present** : Abandoned, but presently a point of tourist destination.
- Past** : Used as a seat of authority from the Gangas to the British period.

#### 5. Age (Source)

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- PERIOD** : Ganga to the British period.
- YEARS** : 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.
- Precise date of Construction** : 1230- 1231 A.D.
- Completion** : ---
- Subsequent changes** : The only gateway exists on the eastern side was repaired and conserved by Archaeological Survey of India.
- Destruction / Demolition** : The destruction of the fort was intensified in the early phase of British rule. In 1828 under the suggestions of Peckenham, the Commissioner, the stones of the fort were utilized for the construction of the public roads and even sold to the public at a price of 5 to 6 rupees per hundred pieces. In 1829, the Light House at the False point and the Cantonment road of Cuttack were constructed with the fallen stones of the fort. In the same year an excavation was carried out to search the hidden treasure. In 1837, the Superintendent of Embankments caused further destruction by removal of the remains of the walls of the fort.

## 6. Ownership / Level of Protection

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**SINGLE /MULTIPLE :** Multiple

**Public :** Archaeological Survey of India / State Archaeology Department / Any Other (Please specify) : Protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India

**Private** : ---

**Any other (Please specify) Name** : ---

**Address** : Archaeological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar Circle, 153, VIP Area, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, Pin - 751015

**Phone** : 0674-2558170

## 7. Association

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### • WITH EVENTS

**In History** : The fort for centuries was the residence of the Gangas, Suryavamsis followed by the Afghans, Muslims and the Marathas and finally under the Britishers who made it as a prison of confinement of several illustrious rulers of the land. In 1800 the Raja of Kujanga, in 1818 the Raja of Khurda (Ramachandra Deva - II) and in 1819 the Raja of Surguja with his family members were kept under strict confinement. The fort also faced the onslaught of Firoz Shah Tughluq in 1361 A.D. during the Ganga ruler Bhanudeva – III as mentioned in the Tarikh- i- Firuz Shai written by Shams-i-Siraj-Afif.

**In Rituals** : ---

**In Building Construction** : Tradition ascribes king Nripa Kesari founded the city of Cuttack but the contemporary records do not support the theory. However, tradition recorded in the Madalapanji as well as the Nagari copper plate inscription, issued in 1231 A.D. revealed that Anangabhimadeva – III (1211-1238 A.D.) laid the foundation of the Abhinava Varanasi Kataka on the right bank of the river Mahanadi in the village Barabati in the Kodinda Dandapat. Mukunda Harichandan (1560-1568 A.D.), the last Hindu king had profusely added to the buildings and the fortifications of the Barabati and subsequently the Muslims made a mosque here.

**Any other (specify)** : ---

### • WITH PERSONS

**Patron** : Presently under the care of Archaeological Survey of India.

**Architect / Engineer** : ---

**Any other (specify)** : ---

## 8. Statement of Significance

<input type="checkbox"/>	Architectural	✓ Architectural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological	✓ Archaeological
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical	✓ Historical
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other (specify)	: On the basis of inscription, the fort can be assigned to the Ganga king Anangabhimadeva – III i.e. the first half of the 13 <sup>th</sup> century A.D.

## SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

### 9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

<b>Context</b>	<b>* Drawings</b> (Attach extra sheet if necessary)	No
<b>Urban / Rural Setting</b>	:	Urban setting
<b>Surroundings</b>	Stand in Isolation	Located within the city
	Integral part of a Landscape / Street / Complex :	
<b>Quantification</b>		
Area Dimension ( L x B x H)	:	609.00 mtrs x 548.64 mtrs x 4.80 mtrs (the gateway's height) (m / cm/ feet / inch)
Number of Blocks	:	One
Number of Storys	:	N.A.
<b>Spatial Organization</b>		
Orientation	:	The fort is oriented east to west and facing towards east.
Plan	:	The fort is roughly square on plan.
Allocation of Spaces	:	609.00 mtrs (L) x 548.64 mtrs (W)

### ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

#### • Ornamentation

Exteriors	:	The fort is surrounded on all sides by a moat measures about 30 mtrs wide and 3.60 mtrs deep facing with stone masonry, however, the stone facing has disappeared everywhere except on the east and south sides. The moat is crossed by a solid land bridge flanked by a low masonry walls made of laterite on the eastern side. The fort walls were about 27 mtrs back from the moat and their site is marked by a low ridge of earth and stones running parallel to the moat and seems to be 3.60 mtrs in thickness. The only gateway on the eastern side consists of an arched opening having 2.78 mtrs wide and 4.80 mtrs in height, flanked by two square slopping towers to the right and left.
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Interiors : The excavation on the high mound in the center of the fort unearthed a pillar complex and a thick masonry wall on its northern and eastern sides.

Movable Collections : The notable findings of the excavation are potteries of RW, BW, BSW, Grey ware, few shreds of porcelain ware, terracotta beads and animal figurine, cowries shell, sling ball, cannon ball, a coin of East India Company dated 1835, temple fragments, broken pedestal, skeletal remains of a equas family, etc. Around twenty years back as many as eight large sized cannons were recovered from a place close to the gateway are now kept in the State museum.

\* Any Other (specify) : ---

### 10. Construction Technology

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**Structural System** : Fortified site

**Building Techniques** : Ashlar masonry

**Material of Construction** : Laterite and khandolite stone

\* Any Other (specify) :

### 11. Condition Assessment

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**In General** **Good / Fair** : Fair

- Sign of Deterioration
- Serious Deterioration
- Danger of Disappearance

**In Brief (Attach extra sheet if necessary):**

Except the gateway, the fortress and the edifices are in ruin condition.

### 12. Threats to the Property

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- Natural
- Negligence
- Vandalism
- Urban Pressures

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## **SECTION III: REFERENCES**

### 13. Reference Sources (published and unpublished textual details)

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1. Maulavi Mahammad Hamid Kuraishi, 1931, A List of Ancient Monuments Protected under Act-VII of 1904 in the province of Bihar and Orissa, *Archaeological Survey of India, New Imperial Series, Vol.-LI, Calcutta.*
2. R.P.Mohapatra, 1986, *Archaeology in Orissa, Vol.- I., New Delhi.*
3. K.C. Panigrahi, 1986, *History of Orissa, Cuttack.*
4. *Indian Archaeology- A Review 1989-1993.*
5. N.C. Behuria (ed.), 1992, *Orissa District Gazetteers, Cuttack.*

**14. Photographs: 78 nos**

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(attach list as in page 6, in case of multiple photographs)

Photo Reference :  
CAPTION :

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**15. Audio / Video**

(related to rituals / performance / festivals etc.)

Reference :  
DESCRIPTION :

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**16. Maps/Plans/Drawings**

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**17. Listers**

NAME : Jaya Shankar Naik                      NAME :

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**18. Reviewers**

NAME : Dr. S. Pradhan                      NAME :  
COMMENTS                                      COMMENTS :