



# INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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## Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments

Serial No.: OR / KDA/ BSR- 235

### SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

#### 1. Name

**Present** : Rock Edicts of Asoka and the sculpture of elephant, Dhauli, Dist. - Khurda

**Past** : ---

**Other Name (if any):** : ---

#### 2. Location

**LONGITUDE** 85° 51' 37" E

**LATITUDE** 20° 11' 15" N

**ELEVATION**

**Address**

: **Village** (village code) Dhauli

**Post** : Dhauli

**Via**: Bhubaneswar

**Tehsil**:

**District**: Khurda

Bhubaneswar

**State** : Orissa

**PIN**:

**Approach**

: The rock edicts of Asoka and the sculpture of elephant are located on a hillock known as Aswathama hill on the left bank of the river Daya and situated at a distance of 2.5 kms on the right side of National Highway no-203 leading from Bhubaneswar to Puri.

#### 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
- Cave

##### *Other Structures*

- Wall
- Gateway
- Pillar
- Others (specify) Rock Edict and Rock- Sculpture.

##### **Note :**

The small hillock is of greater historic importance which contains the famous Rock Edicts of Mauryan emperor Asoka and the earliest rock-cut sculpture of a forepart elephant.

#### 4. Property Use

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**ABANDONED / IN Abandoned  
USE :**

- Present** : Abandoned but now a point of tourist destination.  
**Past** : Used as a charter for the native people and instruction for the royal officials particular to the *Mahamatras*.

#### 5. Age (Source)

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- PERIOD** : Mauryan rule  
**YEARS** : 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.  
**Precise date of Construction** : Mauryan emperor Asoka (272-236 B.C.) executed this edicts  
**Completion** : ---  
**Subsequent changes** : To protect the edicts a glass window and a R.C.C. roof is provided by the Archaeological Survey of India.  
**Destruction / Demolition** : ---

#### 6. Ownership / Level of Protection

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**SINGLE /MULTIPLE** Single  
:

- 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** : It is one among the first written documents in Orissa associated with the Mauryan emperor Asoka's dhamma policy after the famous Kalinga

war of 261 B.C.  
**In Rituals** : ---  
**In Building Construction** : ---  
**Any other (specify)** : It is one set of the major rock edicts of Asoka found in his empire and the rock-cut fore part of an elephant is the earliest sculptural piece of Orissa.

**WITH PERSONS**

**Patron** : Originally the Mauryas, but presently under the care of Archaeological Survey of India.  
**Architect / Engineer** : ---  
**Any other (specify)** : ---

**8. Statement of Significance**

<input type="checkbox"/>	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 the palaeography and the sculptural features of the elephant the antiquity of this place can be dated back to the Mauryan period, i.e. the 3rd century B.C.

**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	
<b>Surroundings</b>		setting Stand in Isolation Integral part of a Landscape / Street / Complex :	Stand in isolation
<b>Quantification</b>			
Area Dimension ( L x B x H)	:	4.57 mtrs x 3.04 mtrs in length and height respectively of the rock surface.	(m / cm/ feet / inch)
Number of Blocks	:	Three distinct columns are arranged on the rock surface in which the middle one represents the Edicts I & VI and the right one bearing the Edicts VII to X and XIV. Below the right column, the second separate edict known as <i>Kalingan</i> edict boarded by straight lines is engraved, whereas the left column is solely devoted to the first separate edict.	
Number of Storys	:	---	

**Spatial Organization**

Orientation : The rock surface containing the rock edicts is facing towards north and oriented east-west. The forepart elephant sculpture is facing towards east.

Plan : ---

Allocation of Spaces : ---

## **ARCHITECTURAL STYLE**

### **Ornamentation**

Exteriors : The Asokan edicts below the forepart of the rock-cut elephant here furnish the standard version of rock edicts I to X and XIV by replacing rock edicts XI, XII & XIII with two special edicts which are also repeated in the Asokan inscription at Jaugada (Ganjam district) in ancient Kalinga. The forepart of the elephant is labelled *Gajatme*, symbolizing the conception of the Buddha shows Mauryan craftsmanship and sculptural features of royal Mauryan art flourished under the patronization of emperor Asoka.

Interiors : ---

Movable Collections : ---

## **10. Construction Technology**

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**Structural System** : Rock- edicts and rock-cut sculpture

**Building Techniques** : Incision technique for the edicts and the sculpture is hewed out of natural rock boulder.

**Material of Construction** : Coarse grained local sandstone

## **11. Condition Assessment**

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

- Sign of Deterioration
- Serious Deterioration
- Danger of Disappearance

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

The set of rock edicts and the forepart sculpture of the elephant is in a good state of preservation.

## **12. Threats to the Property**

- 
- Natural
  - Negligence
  - Vandalism

Urban Pressures

X      x      x      x      x      x      x      x      x      x      x      x      x

### **SECTION III: REFERENCES**

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

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1. E.Hulzsch, 1925, Inscription of Asoka, *Corpus Inscription Indicarum*, Vol. - 1
2. N. Senapati (ed.), 1977, *Orissa District Gazetteers*, Puri, Cuttack.
3. K.C. Panigrahi, 1986, *History of Orissa*, Cuttack.
4. R.P.Mohapatra, 1986, *Archaeology in Orissa*, Vol.- I, New Delhi.

#### **14. Photographs: 52 nos**

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

Photo Reference :  
CAPTION :

#### **15. Audio / Video**

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(related to rituals / performance / festivals etc.)

Reference :  
DESCRIPTION :

#### **16. Maps/Plans/Drawings**

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#### **17. Listers**

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NAME :      B.B .Satpathy      NAME :

#### **18.Reviewers**

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NAME :      Dr. S. Pradhan      NAME :  
COMMENTS      COMMENTS  
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