



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Janpath, New Delhi -110 001, www.ignca.gov.in

Documentation format for Archaeological / Heritage Sites / Monuments
Serial No.: OR / KDA/ BSR- 237

SECTION I : IDENTIFICATION

1. Name

Present : Sisupalgarh, Bhubaneswar, Dist. - Khurda
Past : ---
Other Name (if any): : ---

2. Location

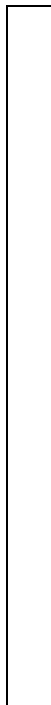
LONGITUDE 85° 51' 30" E **LATITUDE** 20° 13' 30" N **ELEVATION** 50 ft

Address : **Village** (village code) Sisupalgarh
Post : **Via:** Bhubaneswar
Tehsil: **District:** Khurda
Bhubaneswar
State : Orissa **PIN:**

Approach : The fortified settlement Sisupalgarh is located 2 kms south-east of the capital city Bhubaneswar, on the left bank of Gangua nala and at a distance of 1 km left of National Highway No-203 leading from Bhubaneswar to Puri.

3. Property Type

<i>Buildings</i>	<i>Religious structures</i>	<i>Other Structures</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Palace	<input type="checkbox"/> Temple	<input type="checkbox"/> Wall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fort	<input type="checkbox"/> Mosque	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gateway
<input type="checkbox"/> Citadel	<input type="checkbox"/> Minar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pillar
<input type="checkbox"/> Govt. building	<input type="checkbox"/> Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Railway station	<input type="checkbox"/> Monastery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Defence building	<input type="checkbox"/> Stupa	
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial building	<input type="checkbox"/> Tomb, Mausoleum	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other public buildings		
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential building		
<i>Engineering structure</i>	<i>Open space and related structures</i>	Note :
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Public square	The site was excavated by Archaeological Survey of India in 1948 under the directorship of B.B.Lal. The excavation yielded ruins of an extensive fortified
<input type="checkbox"/> Tunnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Park or garden	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other engineering structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Graveyard	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Baolis, Well	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tank	



Cave

settlement which remained under occupation from third century B.C. to the middle of the fourth century A.D. Its defense walls were erected at the beginning of the second century B.C. This ancient city was roughly square on plan and protected on all sides by a rampart and pierced by two elaborate gateways on each side. The excavation also yielded potteries of different fabric and techniques, ornaments, coins, coin moulds, iron implements of war and peace, residential structures, monolithic pillars, etc. in the habitation area.

4. Property Use

ABANDONED / IN Abandoned
USE :

Present : Abandoned but now a point of tourist destination.
Past : Urban settlement

5. Age (Source)

PERIOD : Early Historic period
YEARS : 3rd century B.C. to middle of the 4th century A.D.
Precise date of Construction : ---
Completion : ---
Subsequent changes : The western gateway was excavated and conserved by Archaeological Survey of India and presently the site has been encroached by the local people.
Destruction / Demolition : ---

6. Ownership / Level of Protection

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

WITH EVENTS

In History : ---
In Rituals : ---
In Building Construction : Tradition ascribe the fort was built by the king Sisupal of Mahabharata fame or Sisupal Kesari of the Kesari dynasty.
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 excavated findings and stratigraphy, the excavator assigned the fort to the 3 rd century B.C. to middle of the 4 th century A.D.

SECTION II: DESCRIPTION

9. Physical Description and Decorative Features

Context * **Drawings** (Attach extra sheet if necessary)
 No

Urban / Rural Setting : Urban
Surroundings : setting
 Stand in Isolation
 Integral part of a Landscape / Street / Complex : Integral part of a landscape

Quantification
Area Dimension (L x B x H) : 1,200 mtrs x 1,200 mtrs x 9. 00 mtrs (approximately)
 (m / cm/ feet / inch)
Number of Blocks : One

Number of Storys : ---

Spatial Organization

Orientation : The fort is oriented approximately along the cardinal direction.

Plan : The ancient fort is roughly square on plan.

Allocation of Spaces : 1200 sq. mtrs

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Ornamentation

Exteriors : The fort is protected on all sides by a rampart walls, pierced by two elaborate gateways on each side and the contours clearly suggest the existence of corner towers. The gateways are so placed that if the distance between two corner towers of any sides is trisected a gateway will be found at or near each point of trisection. Such a temperament clearly indicates a regular planning not only of the fortifications but also the streets inside, which are likely to have run east-west and north-south connecting the opposite gateway in a grid system. Further the builders of the fort taking advantage of the propinquity of the streamlet Gangua or Gandhavati on the western side, drained its water around the northern, eastern and southern sides of the fort, thus producing a moat with a perennial supply of water. The gateway, built of large well-dressed laterite blocks had a passage about 7.62 mtrs wide between the flanking wall, provided with two gates near the entrance and the other about 30.48 mtrs further back. There was a guard room immediately behind the former gate and an ancillary passage adjacent to the latter gate probably meant for controlled admission at late hours. The excavation revealed that the ramparts were constructed in four phases. In Phase - I i.e. at the beginning of the 2nd century B.C., the ramparts were made of clay of around 25^{ft} high and 110^{ft} wide at the base. In Phase -II, a laterite gravel of 4 to 6 ft. high were added on the top of the rampart. While in Phase- III & IV the clay filling was retained by baked brick revetment on either side.

Interiors : A group of 16 monolithic laterite pillars of about 14 to 15 ft height above the ground level are found in the centre of the fort. Each of them have, square at the base and the top (with exception of couple

pillars circular in section), the middle is multi-faceted varying from eight to sixteen and horizontal sockets across the top to hold superimposed beams. On some of the pillars have medallions common at Bharhut and Sanchi and also in few examples in the Udayagiri & Khandagiri caves.

- Movable Collections : The notable findings of the excavation are potteries of RW, RSW, BW, BSW, BRW, Knobbed ware, few sherds of N.B.P.W, Rouletted ware; beads of carnelian(etched in one instance), agate , chalcedony, onyx, amethyst, glass, terracotta and copper; terracotta seals and sealings, coin moulds, coins of gold, silver, copper and lead, bone stili, moulded clay bullae and personal ornaments comprising terracotta pendants, terracotta ear ornaments(besides one of lead), finger rings, bangles of terracotta, copper, ivory, bone and glass, antimony rods, a miniature blow pipe, and a pin, all of copper; iron implements of both peace and war such as knife blades, sickles, nails, spikes, caltrops, daggers, spear and arrow heads, etc.
- * **Any Other** (specify) : Though the definite evidence is not coming from the site itself, but on the circumstantial evidence the present site can be identified the with Tosali of the Asokan edicts or the Kalinganagar of Kharavela or both may, due to the proximity of the Asokan edicts in Dhauli hill on the southern side and the Hathigumpha inscription in the Udayagiri hill on the north-western side respectively.

10. Construction Technology

Structural System	:	Fortified settlement
Building Techniques	:	Ashlar masonry and English bond technique
Material of Construction	:	Clay, laterite and bricks

11. Condition Assessment

In **Good / Fair** :

General

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sign of Deterioration |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Serious Deterioration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Danger of Disappearance |

In Brief (Attach extra sheet if necessary):

The site is encroached by the local people and new buildings are erected over the site rapidly, also the moat faces the siltation problem due to heavy erosion of the adjoining area.

12. Threats to the Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Negligence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vandalism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Pressures

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SECTION III: REFERENCES

13. Reference Sources (published and unpublished textual details)

1. B.B.Lal, 1949, Sisupalgarh 1948: an Early Historical Fort in Eastern India, in *Ancient India Bulletin of the Archaeological Survey of India*, No. 5.
2. K.C. Panigrahi, 1986, *History of Orissa*, Cuttack
3. R.P.Mohapatra, 1986, *Archaeology in Orissa*, Vol.-I, New Delhi,

14. Photographs: 144 nos

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

Photo Reference :
CAPTION :

15. Audio / Video

(related to rituals / performance / festivals etc.)

Reference :
DESCRIPTION :

16. Maps/Plans/Drawings

17. Listers

NAME : Jaya Shankar Naik NAME : D.B.Garnayak

18.Reviewers

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