

My Favorite place

There are many place to visit in India. Last year I had an opportunity to visiting the Khandagiri and Udyagiri hills situated at Odisha. Two hills are very close to each other. They are situated in the district of Puri, three miles to the west of Bhubaneswar. The place is linked with Bhubaneswar by metalled Road. The history of Khandagiri and Udyagiri is very old. In the pre-Christian era they were the chief centre of Jainism in Orissa. Jain ascetics used to live in the caves on these hills. Many of these cave were made by great Oriya King Kharavela, who rule in 2nd century B.C. It is said the sacred bones of Mahavira Tirth were buried on Udyagiri hills. On top of hill there is temple of Rishabvanath, the first Tirthankara of the Jain.

Of two hills, Khandagiri is the taller. There are 19 cave on it. The Edicts of Kharavela have been carved out on wall of these caves. The chief among the caves on Udyagiri are the Hatigumpha, the Vyagrakumpha, the Ranigumpha and Swargakumpha. The Swarga

-puri and Ranigumpha are two storied caves. There are many beautiful image and stone carvings on the wall of cave. Historically the Hathigumpha is the most important. A detailed account of Kharavela region has been carved out in pale language on walls of this cave. This is only stone inscription in India which contain a chronological record of reign of a king. From these inscription many thing are known about the greatness of ancient orissa. Kharavela was than the greatest king in India. His kingdom extended from the Ganga in the north to Godavari in the south. Kalinga the ancient name of Orissa was then very famous for trade. The lake Chilika was a great harbour for ship. As evening came I climbed down the hill. My mind was filled with thought of ancient glory of Orissa. I felt proud of having born in glorious land.