

# SISUPALGARH / ORISSA

## Illegal building operations in the north-west area

To the  
Director General,  
Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi

Archaeological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar

State Archaeology Orissa

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SISUPALGARH 17.01.2005

Illegal building operations in the north-west



House 1  
New house building area

SISUPALGARH 17.01.2005

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House 2  
House 3



# SISUPALGARH 17.01.2005

## Illegal building operations in the north-west



House 4  
House 5



SISUPALGARH 17.01.2005

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House 6  
House 7

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House 8

House 9



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House 10

New urban planning area

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House 11

House 12



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House 13

House 14

SISUPALGARH 17.01.2005

Illegal building operations in the north-west



House 15

House 16



SISUPALGARH 17.01.2005

Outside building operations in the south-west



## Illegal House Building inside the National Monument Sisupalgarh/Bhubaneshwar, 17.01.2005

The early historic fortress Sisupalgarh is the largest structure of its time in India. This 2000 year old quadratic defensive wall measures 1200m x 1160m and is preserved to a maximum of 12m in height. It lies just some 5km south of the train station. Officially, for many years this Mauryan Period site has stood under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which in 1947 conducted excavation in order to determine its history and character. If you look for a sign with which to inform yourself about the site, you will find none, since it was removed last year. In other words, knowledge about the nature of the site is available only by word of mouth or by inquiry at the government building authority. Sisupalgarh is full of interesting sites which are only beginning to become known.

Equally clear is that the landscape in Sisupalgarh is an attractive and convenient location for housing for those employed a few kilometers away in the state capital. Thus, over the years numerous houses have been begun inside the ancient walls. More particularly, in the north-western corner of the fortress several villas have been begun along the village road. Foundation walls stand from one to several courses high, awaiting completion. Recently, developers began building in an area in the north-west corner which they have dubbed "Raghunath Nagar". At the time of writing some 20 villas have just been finished or are actively being built. The enclosed photos of these clearly show the new work taking place on the protected ancient site. New housing on the south side of the fortification is also encroaching. One wonders which government agency permitted the developers permission to build here.

The matter of protecting India's heritage is a weighty and important responsibility. Is the Archaeological Survey aware of the degrading of the site, or is it simply not able to protect it? It is a shame to see Sisupalgarh go the same way as the neighbouring contemporary Ashokan fortress Jaugada in the Ganjam District, which now is only recognisable as a fortress to a few experts, having been totally emasculated. This site also stands under the protection of the ASI. Nearer to Sisupalgarh, 500m to the north-west at Mohabhoi Sasan, an ancient mud fort, a land-grab is actively destroy-ing the entire south front.

The purpose of the appended photos and plan is to attract public attention to the fate of Sisupalgarh, a unique monument, which is being exploited illegally by developers, evidently conscious only of turning a fast profit at the cost of the public good. Since building attempts have been going on for years now, why are the authorities doing nothing to stop it? There can be no question that housing is important, but large monuments such as Sisupalgarh contribute to the quality of life. India and the world have only one Sisupalgarh.

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Bhubaneshwar, 17.01.2005  
c:\sasia\2005\spg05 bldg

enclosure:

17 photos of builds which have been begun in the past few months inside Sisupalgarh.  
Map of the new building sites in Sisupalgarh





ଶିଶୁପାଳଗଡ଼, ଓଡ଼ିଶା  
ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ଐତିହାସିକ ଦୁର୍ଗର ଭଗ୍ନାବଶେଷ

Sisupalgarh, Dist. Khurda  
Early Historic Ruined Fortress  
Kiel University / Utkal University Expedition  
20°13'57"N; 85°50'56.5"E  
UTM 45Q 380251; 2236983  
GPS data January 2005

- geophysical prospection
- area D monolithic columns
- section 1947 SP II & SP I habitation area
- reconstruction of entrance SPIV
- proven glaciis
- major gap in glaciis
- new housing development
- village
- open water, 1947 combined with January 2005
- rice paddies
- swamp

