



Orissa having its signature festivals make tour to Orissa during an ongoing festival a memorable one. Being a land of ancient and sacred temples, and a State where three religions flourished, Orissa is thronged by pilgrims throughout the year.

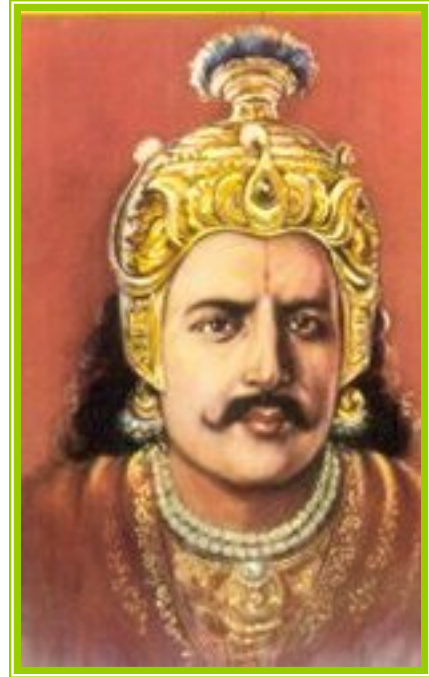


There are a large number of fairs and festivals celebrated in the State. Some of them are seasonal. **Kharavela Mahotsav** is one among them. Every year

Department of Tourism & Culture in association with the **Kalu Nanda** Memorial Foundation, and Public Relation Department, Hotel and Restaurant Association, Eastern General Cultural Centre and Song and Drama Division, Calcutta organizes this **Mahotsav** at **Khandagiri-Udayagiri** hills. This function is celebrated to remember the **Mahamegha Aira Kharavela**.

During the 1st century BC, Kalinga's Jain ruler **Kharavela** was the pre-eminent monarch of much of the sub-

continent and **Mauryan Magadha** and became the province of the **Kalingan** Empire. The **Chedi** dynasty of **Kalinga** under the kingship of **Kharavela** ascended to eminence and restored the lost power and glory of **Kalinga**, which was subdued since the devastating **Kalinga** war with **Ashoka**. All these happened within a century of **Ashokan** era. The **Kalingan** military might was reinstated by **Kharavela**. Under **Kharavela's** generalship, the **Kalinga** kingdom had a formidable maritime reach with trade routes linking it to the then **Simhala** (Sri Lanka), Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Borneo, Bali, Sumatra and **Jabadwipa** (Java). Prince **Kharavela** was trained not only in the military arts, but also in literature, mathematics, and the social sciences. He was also reputed to be a great patron of the arts and was credited with encouraging dance and theater in his capital.



KHARAVELA MAHOTSAV



The festival, named after the all-conquering emperor **Kharavela** of the erstwhile **Kalinga** (2nd Century BC), who was also a great patron of arts, dance and

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music. Since the last seven years to give a platform to the rich heritage of Orissa and to promote tourism, ***Kharavela Mahotsav*** is organized. This festival is so pleasant that lakhs of visitors enjoy for a period of seven days. To entertain the tourists, cultural programmes are presented each evening throughout the festival. While the cultural troupes of the State perform ***Odissi, Sambalpuri, Chhow, Ghodanacha, and Shankhabadan*** as items of



folk art shows; the participation by the various Central Government departments makes the festival even more lively and spirited. Exhibition of Orissa's handicraft and handlooms like stone wares, bell-metal utensils, and artifacts for interior decoration adds to the charm making the festival a buyers' paradise.

KHARAVELA MAHOTSAV 2010

This year the National 8th ***Kharavela Mahotsav*** is scheduled



to be organised at ***Khandagiri-Udayagiri*** from 22nd January to 28th January. Hon'ble Governor of Orissa S.J. Muralidhar Chandrakant Bhandare will inaugurate the

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festival in the evening of 22nd, January. The Mahotsav will also be graced by the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court I.M. Kqudusi, Chairman of State Human Right Protection Cell Justice R.K. Patra, Revenue Minister Suryanarayan Patra, Begunia Legislature Prasanta Nanda. This year 1400 artists throughout 12 States will participate in different cultural activities. A handloom exhibition will be arranged on the occasion.

HOW TO REACH

By Air:



Nearest airport for ***Khandagiri-Udayagiri*** is Biju Pattnaik Airport located in 4 Kms. distances. The major domestic carriers are like Indian, Jet, Sahara, and Deccan operate regular flights from New Delhi, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Mumbai.

By Rail:



The nearest railway station is Bhubaneswar Railway Station and the distance from Railway Station to ***Khandagiri-Udayagiri*** is 17 Kms.

For more railway query click on to <http://www.trainenquiry.com>

By Road:



Interstate bus services operate daily between Kolkata and Puri via Bhubaneswar and Tatanagar (Jamshedpur). Besides Intracity bus service, Auto Rickshaws are also available all time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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