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Montology, Speleology, Petrograph And Philosophy of Ramgarh Mountain at Udaypur Surguja CG India.

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Abstract: Mountain Science, Cave Science, Rock sculpture, and the Ethnic value of Ram Garh Mountain have been explored in this paper. There were found 5 Caves, in observation, located on Ramgarh Mountain namely Sita Bengra, (Sita cave), Jogimada (Ram cave), Lakshman cave, Hathi Pol (Elephant Tunnel), and Durga cave. Ram Garh Mountain is situated at NH-130 Ambikapur –Bilaspur Road. This paper deals with the Geomorphology and Philosophy of the ancient Open Theater of the Great Sanskrit Poet Kali Das.

Key Words: Ramgarh Mountain, Ramgarh Hill, Sita Bengra, Jogi mada, Hathi Pol, Durga Gufa, Kali Das Natyashala, Udaipur Giri.

INTRODUCTION:

The Mountain Science is Montology, the study of Caves is Speleology and study of Rock sculpture made by man is Petrograph while, made by water current is Petroglyph [15] Geomorphology of Surguja is variable, beauty and natural gift. It's head quarter Ambikapur. It's surrounded by Mahamaya hillock in east, Luchki Pa hillock in south east it's south ward Mainpat plateau and Pilkha hill in south west, Kudargarh plateau in west and Samri hill in north east, and it is drained by ever flowing like Baki, Luchki, Machhali and Ghunghutta rivulets.

Figure 1 represents the map that Ramgarh Mountain is reputed and famous mega hill for geographers being in the List of Mountain Ranges in India – UPSC by Lotus Arise (2021), It clears that it is situated in the West of Mainpat Plateau, North east of Mekal Hill and South East of Pilkha Hill and in South of Millan Hill. [2] Ramgarh is the most ancient in the historical places of Surguja. It is located on Ambikapur - Bilaspur road NH 130. It is also called Ramgiri, The Ramgarh Mountain is in the shape of an Hat (cap). Ramgarh is the center of research of Ram, Sita and Lakshman, as well as an ancient open theater of great Sanskrit Poet Kalidas[3-7]

METHODOLOGY:

Exploration was started from the Dept of RG PG College Ambikapur, early morning on southern Ring road NH 43. After 3 km at Sandabar village, turned South on NH 130, Bilaspur Road. Crossing Lakhanpur on road, there was a bridge of Rihand River, it coordinates with 22.939877N, 82.965563E. Then ahead we reached Uday Pur It is 50 Km far from Ambikapur. GPS coordinates latitude & longitude 22°49'57.9"N 82°57'54.7"E at 550m altitude. Then we further move about 5 Km to east south direction and reached Sita Bengara on Ramgarh Mountain. It coordinates Latitude: 22.83275 N and Longitude: 82.9652East, at 980m altitude. Observation, measurement, photography and video graphs were frequently recorded and saved. **OBSERVATION AND RESULT:** Ramgarh Mountain is a symbol of archaeology and cultural dignity of Surguja Chhattisgarh, in South Kosal Area. Ramgarh Mountain is situated at the distance of 55 Km from Surguja district head quarter Ambikapur in CG. The methodology is described in measurement of height of Siddha Baba Hill. But here is estimated by difference of altitude. 980m-550m=430m up to Sitabegara cave. But actual height of unreachable peak Ramgarh Mountain is 460m. There are many caves in Ramgarh Mountain, The small peak of Ramgarh Mountain has 626 steps to walk. Lower peak of Ramgarh has Zogimada, Sitabengaraa and Hathipol caves. There we could reach with vehicle, while Siddha cave, Durga cave and Chandan cave are at the high peak, where needed only foot walking to steps, even though, one could not go to peak of Ramgarh Mountain. Table one represents the comparative morphology of the caves. There are 6 man caves in Ramgarh Mountain: 1 Sitabengra, 2 Hathipol, 3 Jogimada, 4 Siddha cave, 5 Durga cave and 6 Chandan cave.

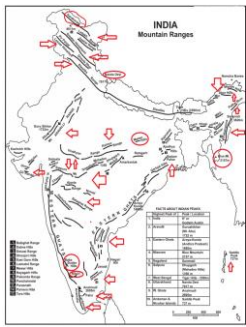


Figure1 Mountain Map. Figure2. Ramgarh Mountain Figure3 Front views Figure4 Feet sculptor

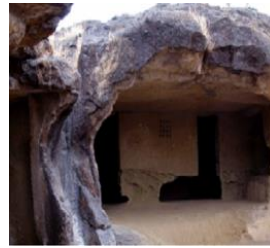


Figure5 Jogimada Figure6 Pictograph Figure 7 Sita Bengara Figure8 Sita Kunda



Durga Cave



Fig.10(D.C)



Ram Janki Temple

Figure11 Ram Janki Temple

Siddha Cave



Figure12 Siddha Cave



Sanskrit Poet Kalidas



Kerha Map.



Kerhaspring

Figure.13. Chandan Cave Figure14 Rivulet Figure15 Kali Das Figure16 Kerha Map. Fig.17. Kerhaspring

Table 1 Caves morphology of Ramgarh Hill

Srl.	Caves	Opening Hight	Opening width	Length	Fig N ⁰	Specialty
1	Jogi Mada	2.7m	3.65m	4.57m	5	Colorful Stone writing and painting
2	Sita Bengara	15.64m	4.5m	13.7m	7	Goddess Sita Stayed
3	Hathi Pol	16.76m	4.6m	54.8m	9	Underground stream and Sitakund

4	Durga cave	2.5m	1.6m	5.2m	10	Dedicated to Goddess Durga
5	Siddha cave,	3.4m	38m	---	12	Dedicated to Lord Shiva
6	Chandan cave.	4.6m	2.5m	5.2m	13	Presence of White Soil with CaCO ₃

1 SITA BENGARA : Figure 7 represents to Sitabengara cave. It is made by cutting the stone in large cave. Length= 44.8 feet width = 15 feet . It's in trance is Spherical and walls are straight up. The height of this cave is 6 feet but the height inner cave is only 4 feet. Sittabengara is suggested oldest drama theater. It is made eco-friendly by making aperture in Stonewall, and to reach this cave, steps are made by cutting the rocks.

It is suggested that Indian Goddess Sita stayed here with his husband Ram and brother in-law Lakshaman in their forest life of fourteen years. Bengara means cave in local Oraon language. There are many stone scripture written in Brahmi or Palli languages. Sita Bengara cave is made by cutting of rock stone even to reach the cave the steps ,which are made by cutting stone before two thousand years, the time kalidas. His open theater was dramatized and audience were sit in gallery wise stone steps in the Sita bengra cave. In outer side of Sitabengara cave there is two feet wide a semi circle rivulet to cover caves in front . It is called Lakshaman Rekha, a line made by Ram's smaller Lakshaman for protection of Sita in absence of Ram.

2 HATHI POL: Hathipol is represented in figure 9, though it's both ends open widely like tunnel, 'Hathipol': Justifying the etymology, 'Hathipol' (hathi- elephant; pol- hollow), the passage of this tunnel is so big that a herd of elephant can easily pass from it. This cave is certainly evolved by the dissolution of sandstone. In its architecture no evidence of any type of rock dislocation is apparent. From west to east, a permanent water stream is always running throughout the passage, the stratum of which increases or decreases depending on its ambient climatic conditions. The right sided wall of the cave is unified with a long continuous strip of rock deposition dividing the tunnel into two strata . No such structure is exist on the other end of the tunnel. The total length of this tunnel cave is around 124.5 m with height around 6 to 8 m. The breadth of the floor 3.26 m[17]

3 JOGIMADA CAVE: Figure5 represents to Jogi mada cave The length of Jogimada cave is 15 feet, width 12 feet and height 9feet. The inner walls of this cave is plastered by smooth white stone. The roof of this cave is highly decorated with colored flowers, men, women, animals, plants, god's, devil's, Amours, elephant, flowers and leaves. There are five women in the center of the scriptures. And also the Brahmi writings are found on the wall of this cave There are eight statue of Indian Gods told to be more old than two-three thousand years. Jogi refers to Ram Sage for 14years.

4 RAM JANKI TEMPLE: Janki is synonyms of Sita .their temple with his husband Ram, is situated at the Ramgarh mountain. It is on the upper hill area, therefore. it is needed to walk 3.5 Km to main mountain than to hike 626 steps to reach Ram Janki Temple. It is depicted in figure11.

5 SIDDHA CAVE :Figure 12 represents to Siddha Cave, it is one kilometer far from Ram-Janki temple. it was looked like a tunnel, and it's very tuff to inter in it, being narrow and dark.

6 DURGA CAVE : Figure10 represents to Durga cave. There is a danger narrow and cleft full way to reach Durga cave by cleft of rocks. But very carefully priest go there and pray Goddess Durga. Near of Durga cave, there are two mega tubs called Sita Kunda, where water ever presents .one Sitakund is depicted in figure8.

7. CHANDAN CAVE :Chandan gufa (Santalum cave) is situated below Durga cave. It is depicted in figure 13. There were abundance of white soil made of calcium carbonate and calcium bicarbonate. It is used as white vermilion marking on fore head, in Kabirism.

8 KALIDAS THEATOR: Kalidas theater is one of the cultural heritage of Surguja District in the field of Linguistic Science of Sanskrit. It is told that: Once in ancient time Kalidas was expelled out from Ujjain by his king Bhoj. So he came here and in his memory "*Kalidasm*" is written with stone on the height of 10 feet at Kalidas theater. also, Beside Sitabengara, there is a stechu made of black stone of great Sansakrit poet Kalidas made up of stone situated on a big stage as depicted in figure..Sanskrit is an ancient Indian language like Latin in America and Greek in Egypt and Greece. Kalidas did poem write to love and praise of cloude and Rain. "Asharhasya pratham diwase.." named festival is organized by CG Govt. on first Indian month of rain "Asarh". The name of epic written by Poet Kalidas is "Meghdootam" . It means the Clouds Messenger. *i.e.* to Rain lover.

9 . PICTOGRAPHS: Figures 4, 6, and 15, represent the Pictographs or rock sculpture made by man, mainly of two types. First is showing figure of lady, giants Elephants Monkeys etc. Second is written poetry lines in Brahmi or Palli scripts which are gone extinction. It is believe [16, 17,18] to be written that Sutnuka was heroin and Deodeen was hero of Sanskrit Book Meghdootam by Kalidas .Depicted to Sanskrit Poet Kawi Kali Das, of mid ancient history of India , about Vikramaditya period estimated in net two-three thousand years before Christ. His book is shown put in hand written in Sanskrit Meghdootam, it refers to Claude Messenger. The Pictograph of Kalidas is shown in the figure15.

There are many paintings of animals, human beings, birds, and flowers in these caves. Each painting is painted on a white base plaster with a red outline. The Jogimara cave has a five-line inscription, also in Brahmi script and Magadhi language a Prakrit language older than Pali, and related to Bhojpuri and Maithili languages of India.

10 DISCUSSION; Each and all hill and hillock has water spring or water source. [8,13,14] Sitabengra and Kalidas stage too follow it and figure 14 represents a mini rivulet with some water on most summer days along with two mega tubs with water. One of which is depicted in figure 8 .But Kerha Spring and Tatapani Spring are on the plane field origin. Tata Pani is measured temperature 45 to 85 degree centigrade temp [13]. An Inset map of Kerha spring is depicted in figure 16 and photograph in figure17. Kerha Origins up from Plane field .it coordinates with 23.172411N, 82.025504E, located in between Majholi and Dhanoli villages in Kotma tahsil, Anup'pur MP.

ANCIENT OPEN THEATER: Kali Das did make an open theater, Sita Marhi Natyashala, now it is an archaeological site of Surguja district in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. It is believed to be the oldest theatre in the world. It is found in a cave-like structure. As a matter of fact that can be seen a scripture carved on rock that is said to be created by Sanskrit poet, Kalidas in admiration of the court dancer, and thus claims to be one of ancient most public expression of the most basic human sentiment-love. Ramgarh mountain caves inscriptions are very old about 2nd Century B. C . Kalidas wrote rock painting from his Meghdootam *i.e* meaning Claude messenger for Heroine 'Sutnuka' is a goddess dancer. And hero of his melodrama Meghdootam, is Devdin Daksha, he did love to Sutnuka.[20]

Ramgarh Mountain was known to J. D. Beglar and Alexander Cunningham :the Archaeological Survey of India since 1874-75. They visited these caves and offered the most intelligible reading and interpretation of certain fragmentary inscriptions found there in the Brahmi script.[17,21] The Sitabengra inscription speaks of 'poets venerable by nature (who) kindle or illumine the heart'. It also says that 'they tie garlands thick with jasmine flowers around their necks". It refers to the vernal full moon' and perhaps a spring festival held on that occasion abounding in frolics and music. The Jogimara inscription mentions "Sutanuka, a devadasi", who constructed the cave for her lover. [21] Hathipol or 'elephant cave'. And Sita Bengra Cave are Two thousand years old performance stage - one of the oldest theatres in the world. At the western end of this tunnel, the hillside forms a crescent, overlooking a thickly wooded valley closed on the west by a parallel range of the same hills. Both caves on this slope are open to the west, the northern called Sitabengra and the southern Jogimara. Hathipol situated in Ramgarh Hill of Surguja, state Chhattisgarh is a perfect example of a tunnel cave.[22-26]

.. There is caution with Rhesus monkeys, asking something to eat, if not given, looting articles of visitors; Monkey is second highest evolved animal, in organic evolution after Homo sapiens. The taxonomy and identical feature of Rhesus is tabulated in the Taxonomic Table following to Edwin H. Colbert(1955) Classification System in Zoology [27]

CONCLUSION:

The Ramgarh Mountain is explored with six caves, two mega stone tubs and a rivulet with ever flowing water. Also an ancient open natural theater of Historic and Archeological Monuments was studied.

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