

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

SRI SURYA PAHAR



Rock-cut Votive Stupas, Sri Suryapahar

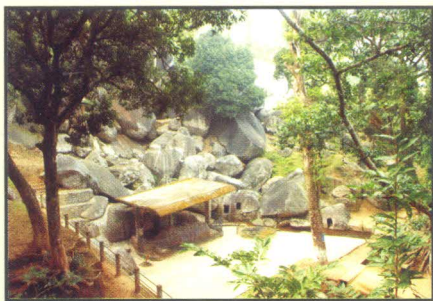


Rock-cut Sculpture Panel, Sri Suryapahar



प्रलकीर्तिमपावृणु

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
GUWAHATI CIRCLE



Dasabhuja Devasthan

Sri Suryapahar

Assam is a land of rich archaeological heritage. Ancient relics have been discovered along the entire Brahmaputra valley. Sri Suryapahar in Goalpara

district of Assam is one such prominent archaeological site in the lower Brahmaputra Valley and is situated on the eastern slope of the Suryapahar hill amidst of a picturesque lush green ground. Historical record shows that Goalpara district was an integral part of ancient Kamarupa and throws light on the cultural history of ancient Assam.

'Sri Suryapahar' as the name implies, the site was perhaps associated with the 'sun worship'. Literary accounts corroborate that among other Brahmanical deities worshipped in ancient Assam, 'Surya' or 'Sun-God' occupied a prominent place in the cultural history of Assam. References are found in the 'Kalika Puran' about the two seats of 'Sun workshop' in ancient Assam. One of the centres is now identified as Sri Suryapahar in the Goalpara district of Assam bears the iconographic significance of the cult as well.

Numerous rock carvings of the Brahmanical pantheon can be seen at the foothills of Sri Suryapahar and its adjacent areas. Notable among them are the sculptural panels of Siva and Vishnu, carved under a twelve handed 'Vishnu' figure in standing posture under a canopy of snakehood. Other notable carvings are the Ganesha, Harihara, rock-cut Sivalingas, Vishnupadas, rock-cut caves etc. on granite outcrops. Most of the Brahmanical figures appear in the niches and the carved figures are assigned to circa ninth century AD.



Rock-cut Twelve Armed Vishnu

Sri Suryapahar

