

## EXCURSION ON FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2014

We plan to leave Toshali Sands at 2:15 pm. There will be two buses for the participants.

- We will first visit "Chhoitano", which is the name of a small village mostly inhabited by sculptors, who make the typical sculptures characteristic of this state of Orissa. We can see the sculptors at work, carving in the traditional manner. The most popular stone for this is a local volcanic rock called *khondalite*, which has also been used in constructing the cottages at Toshali Sands, as well the more famous structure described below.
- We will then go to the famous Sun Temple at Konark, which is a ruined Hindu temple dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE. Once dedicated to the Sun God *Surya* by its builder, King Narasimhavarman Chola-Ganga of Orissa, the main tower of the temple was destroyed by an earthquake in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, following which the idol was removed to the Jagannath Temple at Puri, and all worship stopped. Though it stayed in a state of decay until taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there still remains a wealth of carving which is well worth seeing. The sculptures include a wide variety of themes, from real and mythical animal figures, to warriors, gods and goddesses, and men and women in frankly erotic poses. The entire temple is constructed to represent the Sun's chariot, drawn by 7 horses, and standing on enormous wheels, which have become symbolic of the ancient culture of Orissa. You will find these wheels depicted on the embroidered borders on the School folders.



- Finally we will go to the "Chandrabhaga" beach, where we can relax till sundown. After that, we come back to the hotel.

Some advice for participants:

- The sun will be strong in the afternoon, so please carry protection such as shady hats, dark glasses and sun-screen lotion. As always we recommend that you use insect repellent.
- There will be many small shops near the Konark temple where you can buy souvenirs. Only Indian money is accepted by these shops, and bargaining is (almost) compulsory.
- The Konark temple stands on a platform about 15-20 feet high. When you get on this, please remember that there is no balustrade to prevent you from falling over the edge.

- The Konark temple is a protected monument and a World Heritage site. Please do not touch the sculptures or try to climb the masonry (even if you see other people doing so).
- If you plan to go in the water at Chandrabhaga beach, please remember that you should not go out of your depth unless you are a very good swimmer. There are shifting sands and unexpected currents underneath, and some careless people do get drowned.
- Please do NOT eat or drink anything, even if you see other people doing so, without asking the School organizers. Also please do not carry any alcoholic drinks with you.

In case of any problems the mobile phone number for Sreerup, a member of the local organizing committee is:

**+91 981 997 1834**

The address of the hotel is:

Toshali Sands  
Konark Marine Drive  
Puri

Tel: +91 993 700 3223