



Ministry of Culture  
Government of India



# **The World of Rock Art Exhibition**

at

**Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur  
Chhattisgarh**

**1<sup>st</sup> February – 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**



**Adi Drishya Department**

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**

**New Delhi – 110 001**

A mobile exhibition on “The World of Rock Art” was held at Utility Centre, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur from 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023. This exhibition was organized under the joint collaboration of the Adi Drishya Department (Rock Art Unit), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi and School of Studies, in Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (PtRSU), Raipur. This current exhibition has travelled to 18 States in the country so far and it’s 19<sup>th</sup> in the list. The present exhibition was gleaned from the exhibition on Rock Art organised during the International Rock Art Conference at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi from 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 to 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. After getting very positive feedback from across the sections of society it was decided to take the exhibition to other parts of the country as a circulatory/ mobile exhibition to spread awareness among school children, college and university students and the general public at large.



The Exhibition inaugurated by Prof. Keshri Lal Verma, (VC, PtRSU), Dr. Ramakar Pant (HoD, Adi Drishya), and Prof. R. N. Mishra with all invited guests



The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. Keshri Lal Verma, Vice Chancellor of PtRSU, in the presence of Dr. Ramakar Pant, Head of Adi Drishya Department, IGNCA, Prof. R. N. Mishra and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Introductory speech by Dr. Ramakar Pant, Head of Adi Drishya Department explained the objectives of the Department for organising the events such as exhibitions in different parts of the country, seminars in both international and national, survey and field documentation of rock art sites and associated disciplines, children's workshop, special lectures, etc. across the country.



Dr. Ramakar Pant delivering Introductory speech

This exhibition is curated in three sections; the rock art of the five continents, the rock art of India and the tribal section. In the first part, a representative collection of the rock art is displayed continent wise; Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. It includes the cave paintings of Chauvet and Lascaux caves in France and Altamira in Spain are displayed aesthetically in the 'Rock Art of Europe' section, the aboriginal art of Pilbara and rock art of Kakadu National Park finds a place in the 'Rock Art of Australia' section. Rock arts of India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, etc. are exhibited prominently in the 'Rock Art of Asia' section whereas the San and

Bushman rock art are the main attraction in the 'Rock Art of Africa' section. The 'Rock art of America' section has been displayed with rock arts from Utah, Nevada and Grand Canyon, etc.

The 'Rock art of India' gallery has been displayed with rock art from all parts of the country. The petroglyphs of Ladakh and the rock paintings of Sonbhadra and Mirzapur finds a prominent place in the rock art of North India section, the paintings from world renowned rock art site Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh and geometrical patterns from Chattisgarh are the highlights of the Central India section. Human and animal figures from Assam in the Rock Art of Northeast section and the rock art from Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand in the Rock Art of Eastern India section have been displayed elaborately. The rock paintings of Bundi in Rajasthan and rock art of Gujarat are the major attractions in the Rock Art of Western India section while the petroglyphs of Wayanad in Kerala and paintings of animals and aquatic fauna from Pandavula Gutta, Andhra Pradesh are exhibited in the Rock Art of South India section.

Besides, the tribal section showcases the living art traditions of three communities - the Lanjia-Sauras of Odisha, the Rathwa-Bhils of Gujarat and the Warlis of Maharashtra, just to give a glimpse of continuity of artistic traditions in Indian context.

### **Special Lectures**

Two special lectures were organised as part the exhibition from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. The first special lecture was delivered by Prof. Ravi Korisettar (Senior Academic Scholar, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi) on the topic of "The Comparative Study of Central Indian Rock Art and Recent Discovery of the Rock Art in Southern India". In the lecture he discussed the present scenario of the Central Indian rock art with south India and also



presented a detailed record of geological, archaeological, rock art research of Chhattisgarh region.



Prof. Ravi Korisettar delivering the lecture

The second lecture was delivered by Shri Rahul Singh, Retd. Deputy Director of the Directorate of Archaeological and Culture Department, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He throws light on the archaeology of Chhattisgarh and also mentions the potentiality yet to be marked in the case of rock art as a research discipline. He correlated some tribal arts with some of the rock art sites of the state.



Shri Rahul Singh delivering the lecture



Special lecture attending by the students

### **Children's Workshop "Impressions"**

Along with the exhibition, two children's workshops were also organized for the students from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. On the first day, 30 students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Naya Raipur participated. Second day 160 students from Pt. Ravishankar Shukla School, Raipur and 40 students Holy Mother School, Raipur were participated. The students were made paintings from the display of the rock art from the exhibition.



Students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Naya Raipur





Students from Kendriya Vidyalaya with participation certificates



Students from Holy Mother School,  
Raipur







Students from Pt. Ravi Shankar School, Raipur



Students from Pt. Ravi Shankar School, with participation certification





Dr. Dileep Kumar Sant is explaining to Prof. Keshri Lal Verma (VC, PtRSU), Dr. P. C. Parkh (Deputy Director, MGM Museum, Raipur) and other guests



A model of the living tradition associated with the rock art of the Chhattisgarh region in the exhibition