



The World of Rock Art Exhibition

At

Departmental Museum of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology

Panjab University, Chandigarh

(10th August- 10th September, 2016)



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
New Delhi





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(10th August - 10th September, 2016)

(Departmental Museum of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology)
Panjab University, Chandigarh

A Report

After the successful organization of ‘**The World of Rock Art**’ exhibitions at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (5th to 8th March, 2013), then in Srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra (SSK), Guwahati (12th April to 3rd May, 2013), at Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar (18th May to 23rd June, 2013), at Pondicherry University, Puducherry (25th July to 25th august, 2013), at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru (3rd December 2013 to 3rd January 2014), at Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS), Tripunithura, Kerala (28th November to 28th December, 2014), at Sangeetha Mahal Palace Complex, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu (6th May to 21st June, 2015) at ASI, Puratattva Bhavan, Nagpur (19th Nov-31st Dec, 2015), at Regional Science City, Lucknow (26th April to 24th May, 2016) and at Himachal State Museum, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (15th June to 24th July, 2016). The exhibition is now hosted at the Departmental Museum of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. An exhibition on ‘**Indian Rock Art**’ was also organized by IGNCA in the last week of August, 2014 at the World Rock Art Museum, Yinchuan, China. It remained open for the public till September, 2015. In February, 2016 IGNCA organised an exhibition-cum-workshop on ‘**India-China Rock Art**’ from 24th February to 27th March, 2016.



As a precursor to the exhibition, a press conference was held by the organizers of the event on 09th August, 2016 at the Library, Dept. of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The media persons were briefed about the objectives of IGNCA in organizing the exhibition and also about the significance of this ignored field of rock art as well as of its studies and its importance for posterity, especially the role the media has to play in this regard. Almost all the major newspapers highlighted the significance of the event which resulted in huge attendance at the exhibition, Children Workshops and at the Special Lectures. The electronic media also highlighted the importance of the event **(for details, visit www.ignca.nic.in)**



Sh. Vijai Vardhan Inaugurating the Exhibition.

The exhibition at Panjab University, Chandigarh, was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri. Vijai Vardhan (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of Haryana on 10th August, 2016 and the inaugural ceremony was chaired by Prof. Arun Kumar Grover, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The welcome address in the inaugural function was given by Ms. Paru Bal Sidhu, Chairperson, Dept. of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Introduction to the exhibition was given by Dr. B.L. Malla, Project Director, IGNCA, New Delhi. The Chief Guest, Shri. Vijai Vardhan in his speech, appreciated the IGNCA's initiative in documenting rock art sites across India and disseminating it's knowledge through rock art exhibitions all over the country. Describing the rock art as the major component of art history, he stressed on the importance of history for understanding the contemporary world. Analysing the study of rock art in the Indian context, Sh. Vardhan underlined the need of giving more support to rock art conservation. In addition, he emphasized on taking measures to preserve such sites as it will help the younger generation in understanding the past better. Prof. Arun

Kumar Grover, addressing on the occasion, highly appreciated the rock art exhibition organized by IGNCA. He emphasized on the holistic study of the past, of which the rock art forms an essential component. At last, he said that more such exhibitions be organized so that students as well as general public at large get to know about the global rock art heritage. Concluding the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Renu Thakur, Associate Professor, Dept. of A.I.H.C & A gave the vote of thanks.



Sh. Vijai Vardhan and Prof. A.K.Grover addressing the audience.



A glimpse of the audience at the inaugural ceremony.

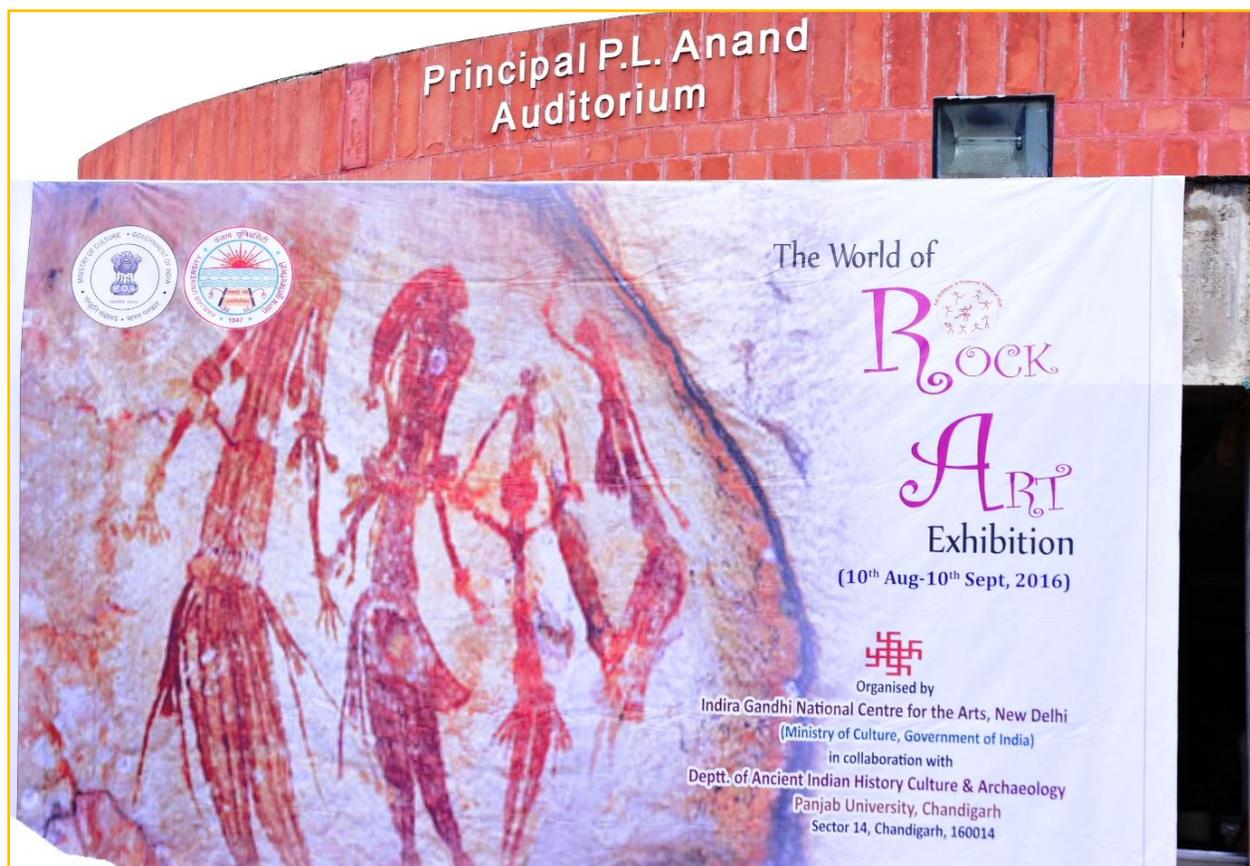
The present exposition '**The World of Rock Art**' is culled out from the Exhibition on Rock Art organised during the *International Rock Art Conference*, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi from 6th December, 2012 to 25th January, 2013. After getting a very positive feedback from a cross section of the society comprising; scholars, media persons, public servants and general public, it was decided to take the exhibition to other parts of the country as circulating/mobile exhibition to spread awareness among school children, college and university students and general public at large.

For the present exhibition, exhibits are chosen from five continents of the world: Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. A representative collection of the significant and important traditions are displayed continent wise. This exhibition creates, for the viewer, a degree of experiential contact with prehistoric art. It provides the basis for entering into the changing aspects of the living arts of man. It is believed that man's awareness of the world around came through his primeval sense of sight and sound. These two senses have stimulated artists' expressions; visual and aural in the prehistoric past as well as in the contemporary cultures. The present exhibition also 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.

As a part of the event, two painting workshops for school children titled '*Impressions*' were organized on 10th and 11th August, 2016 at the Departmental Museum of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh where almost 300 students from various schools of Chandigarh and its surrounding areas actively participated. A special lecture on the '*Prehistory of the Siwalik Ranges of Punjab*' by Dr. Mukesh Singh was organized on 10th August at Room# 1, in the Dept. of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh. On the following day another special lecture by Dr. Paru Bal Sidhu, titled '*An analysis of Prehistoric Indian Rock Art*' was organized at the same venue. Dr. Renu Thakur, Associate Professor, Dept. of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh also gave a lecture titled '*A Prehistoric Art: An Appraisal*'. Both the special lectures saw a huge attendance of university students, scholars and rock art enthusiasts.

All the events were well received by the people, students and scholar community. The exhibition, Special Lectures and Children Workshops were highly appreciated and got a very positive response from both print and the electronic media. For instance, the Chief Guest on the occasion Sh. Vijai Vardhan in his address stressed "*to cherish and protect the cultural gift from our ancestors*" (Times of India, 10.08.2016).

As per the recent update received from Panjab University, Chandigarh, people in large numbers are visiting the exhibition every day. Through this event, we have been able, to a large extent, to propagate and highlight the activities of the IGNCA, especially about the importance and the objectives of the present Rock Art Project. *How did humankind portray its earliest expressions?* A visit to the exhibition, **The World of Rock Art** at Panjab University, Chandigarh offers some answers.



Formal Inaugural Ceremony



Dr. Malla introducing the exhibition.



Dr. Renu Thakur proposing the vote of thanks

Special Lectures



Dr. Mukesh Singh during his special lecture at the deptt. of A.I.H.C & A .



Dr. Paru Bal Sidhu (above) and Dr. Renu Thakur delivering their respective special lectures.

Children's Workshop



Schoolchildren at their creative best during the children's workshop.

PU to host month-long exhibition on pre-historic rock art from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 9

PANJAB UNIVERSITY will host a month-long exhibition on pre-historic rock art at the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology from August 10.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi and Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, are organising the exhibition.

The World of Rock Art is an exhibition that depicts pre-historic rock art, which will go on till September 10.

The exhibition is a part of IGNCAs national project on rock art which gives top priority to creating general awareness for school children, college and university students and general public about the first creative art of humankind.

Rock art is considered as the mother of all arts and also an universal form of art.

"From time immemorial, the early man started to record his world around him and his activities for the life sustenance and to bring forth his progenies to flourish. He lived in natural caves and shelters and deco-

The exhibition is a part of IGNCAs national project on rock art which gives top priority to creating general awareness for school children, college and university students and general public about the first creative art of humankind. Rock art is considered as the mother of all arts and also an universal form of art. The formal inauguration ceremony of the event would be held today

rated with paintings and engravings the subject matters he could see in nature and life around him. This prehistoric art comes to signify the underlying philosophies and worldviews of the ancient people, and tells us about the soul of the community, its thoughts, beliefs and emotions. These records of high maturity, as estimated by scholars, perhaps go back to 40,000 years back from today," said IGNCAs Project Director Dr B L Malla.

Rock art is one of the greatest surviving art treasures. It is a vital archaeological source to study and analyse the cognitive evolution of the human intellect across the world.

"Rock art was started in an era when their was no script. It was made by people living in tribal and forest areas on rock

shelters. Going by study, the art done in those times were based on the animals they use to hunt. Even the celebrations in the form of community dance can be seen on some of rocks.

Anything and everything which the man was doing as an activity or thought about has been carved out very nicely in the caves and the rocks.

The paintings that were made during those times were from natural colors for example plants were used to provide the green color and iron was used to provide red color," said Dr Paru Bal Sidhu, head of department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology.

IGNCA under its programme *Adi Drishta* (pre-meal vision of man) has initiated a field documentation at national

level for preserving the rock art sites and datas.

Rock art, which is an emerging discipline in India, has different techniques for various countries in which they are found.

"Each country where the rock art was done had its own distinguished style and technique. In the European art form, more animals and anthropology were seen. However, in India, the art varied according to the regions like east Orissa had carving and paintings. The north or the coastal had engravings while the central India had typical paintings. On a whole, the Indian rock art was widely based on social scenes," added Malla.

As a part of the outreach programme, IGNCAs is going to organise different programmes for capacity building like orientation workshops for researchers and university students.

The present exhibition on the world of rock art displays thematic universality of this art form, to which both tangible and intangible aspects of the heritage are associated, he added.

The formal inauguration ceremony of the event would be held on August 10 at 11 am.

ROCK BY ROCK, A STORY OF TIME IN STONE

Exhibition aims to introduce residents to rock art & its varied expressions; workshops held for students

PARUL
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 10

FROM THE mountains of Himachal Pradesh to the caves of France — rocks tell a story through art.

At the World of Rock Art, an exhibition, which was inaugurated on Wednesday, images, motifs, creative expressions take the visitors back in time, make them stop, stare and soak in the thought that how art remains a constant of our life, a need to recreate the world in its many manifestations.

On till September 10 at the museum of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Panjab University, the exhibition brings to light the fascinating world of the primitive men, who decorated their abodes — natural caves and shelters with paintings and engravings and in the process, giving us an amazing view of life, through their eyes.

An effort of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in collaboration with the



Visitors at the World of Rock Art exhibition at Department of Ancient History Culture and Archeology, Panjab University, in Chandigarh on Wednesday. Sahil Walla

department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology (AIHC&A), the exhibition brings exhibits of rock art from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South

America. Dr Paru Sidhu of the department said: "Rock art is known from across the world and as a discipline of study and research, is very popular in Europe. Asia boasts a diverse art heritage, with Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh inscribed by UNESCO as a world heritage site."

Sidhu added that the effort of the exhibition is to introduce people of the region, students and history lovers to this treasure-trove of art and its varied expressions.

Art workshops for students are also being organised as a part of the showcase to develop an interest in the subject. Through carving, scraping, polishing, painting and stenciling, many subjects form the basis of the art on rocks, with a representation of wild animals and scenes of hunting being the most common subject.

Geometrical and abstract motifs, battle scenes, handprints are also common to rock art from all the five continents. Some of the art depicts the

evolution from hunters and gatherers to a more settled life, with domestication of animals, and growing of plants.

Scenes from nature, complex depictions like that of a salmon fish in the form of a sculpture, a man holding an axe for protecting lovers, a delicate panel of horses and rhinos, lovers in a tight embrace, a chariot and charioteer, all take the viewer to varied spaces, indicating the diversity of culture, beliefs, practices, surroundings, as evident in the diversity and complexity of the art.

Rock art from Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh can be viewed. The exhibition is a representative collection of the significant and important traditions are displayed continent wise, with the viewer getting a glimpse and feel of the constantly changing aspects of art, stimulated by the awareness of sights and sounds, myths and beliefs of life of the primitive men.

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www.indianexpress.com/c/12516948

IT'S HAPPENING



MONA

Pretty similar stick drawings of people and animals, hunting, war and the environs is what ties rock art across continents. Asia, Europe, Africa, America, Australia — the early man took to stone to express his world view. And this has been preserved in its raw form.

This is precisely what one witnesses at The World of Rock Art Exhibition, organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in collaboration with Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Panjab University, opened to rousing response on Wednesday. While students of Government Model Senior Secondary School were and painted, there were others art enthusiasts and scholars who admired the exhibits.

Divided neatly into sections, the exhibition takes one back to times gone by: "Not all art is pretty, but expression certainly is," remarks Shobhash Shree, artist who also along with the kids enjoyed painting at the venue. Rock art — engravings on stone sometimes with other stones or colour — might not look beautiful,

Rock solid

Art from the stone age comes to life in an exhibition on rock art organised at the Panjab University



Photographs on display at the exhibition

The photographs of horse figurines on Lascaux cave, Dordogne, France, bear resemblance to the ones of rock art of Mirapur, Uttar Pradesh. "This takes us back to our origins, reflects that in an era when we stand divided in the name of nations and religions, these art forms are important," says Paru Sidhu, chairperson, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology.

Also dotting the walls are engravings and how these traditions have survived through the ages. Tribal Art gallery brings one face to face with

people who have continued the bond, like the Warli in Maharashtra. "An emerging discipline that rock art is, we take immense pleasure taking it to school students, scholars and people. The response has been overwhelming," shares BL Mal-

la, project director, Rock Art Department, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. (On till September 10, 2016, at the museum of Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Panjab University)

PHOTOS: NET IN MITRA

www.indianexpress.com

Tribune LIFE+STYLE
CHANDIGARH | THURSDAY | 11 AUGUST 2016

सिटी ब्यूटीफुल में पहली बार 'द वर्ल्ड ऑफ रॉक आर्ट' प्रदर्शनी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

चंडीगढ़। पीयू में 'द वर्ल्ड ऑफ रॉक आर्ट' प्रदर्शनी की शुरुआत बुधवार को हुई। यह प्रदर्शनी एक महीने तक चलेगी। प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन पीयू के एंशिएंट इंडियन हिस्ट्री, कल्चर एंड आर्कैलॉजी डिपार्टमेंट की ओर से इंदिरा गांधी नेशनल सेंटर फॉर आर्ट्स के सहयोग से किया गया। चंडीगढ़ में पहली बार इस तरह की प्रदर्शनी आयोजित की गई है। इसको देखने के लिए लोगों की भीड़ उमड़ी। प्रदर्शनी में लोगों को पेंटिंग्स के साथ-साथ दुनियाभर की चट्टानों भी देखने को मिलीं। प्रदर्शनी में इंप्रेशंस नामक पेंटिंग वर्कशॉप के 100 स्टूडेंट्स ने भाग लिया। ये स्टूडेंट्स सेक्टर 16 के गवर्नमेंट मॉडल स्कूल और सेक्टर 14 के अंकुर स्कूल के थे।

प्रदर्शनी का उद्घाटन हरियाणा के डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ हायर एजुकेशन एंड कल्चरल अफेयर्स के एडिशनल चीफ सेक्रेटरी विजय वर्धन और पीयू के वाइस चांसलर अरुण कुमार शोकर ने किया। इस मौके पर एंशिएंट इंडियन हिस्ट्री, कल्चर एंड आर्कैलॉजी डिपार्टमेंट की चेयरपर्सन और एग्जिबिशन की कोऑर्डिनेटर डॉक्टर पारु बल सिद्धू ने



'द वर्ल्ड ऑफ रॉक आर्ट' एग्जिबिशन के दौरान प्रदर्शित कलाकृतियां देखते दर्शक।

- एक माह तक चलेगी प्रदर्शनी, 100 विद्यार्थी ले रहे भाग
- हरियाणा के एसीएस विजय वर्धन और पीयू चीसी ने किया उद्घाटन



पेंटिंग कपटीशन में भाग लेते विद्यार्थी।

मानव द्वारा निर्मित रॉक आर्ट के मूल्य को समझने की बात कही। वहीं आईजीएनसीए(इंदिरा गांधी नेशनल सेंटर फॉर आर्ट्स) के प्रोजेक्ट डायरेक्टर डॉक्टर बीएल माला ने एग्जिबिशन के बारे में जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि नार्थ वेस्टर्न रीजन में रॉक आर्ट के होने के प्रमाण मिले हैं। इस

अवसर पर डॉ मूकेश सिंह ने प्री-हिस्ट्री ऑफ शिवालिक रेंज्स ऑफ पंजाब पर एक विशेष लेक्चर दिया।

