



# **The World of Rock Art Exhibition** **at** **Bihar Museum, Patna** **Bihar**

18<sup>th</sup> August – 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2018



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS  
NEW DELHI





**The World of Rock Art Exhibition  
Gallery, Bihar Museum, Patna**



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#### **A Report**

After successful organization of the exhibition named ‘**The World of Rock Art**’ at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2013), IGNCA organized numerous exhibitions at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra (SSK), Guwahati (12<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013), at Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar (18<sup>th</sup> May to 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013), at Pondicherry University, Puducherry (25<sup>th</sup> July to 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2013), at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru (3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2014), at Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS), Tripunithura, Kerala ( 28<sup>th</sup> November to 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2014), at Sangeetha Mahal Palace Complex, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu (6<sup>th</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2015), at ASI, Puratattva Bhavan, Nagpur (19<sup>th</sup> Nov-31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015), at Mahadevi Kanya Pathshala (MKP College), Dehradun (24<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016), at Regional Science City, Lucknow (26<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2016), at Himachal State Museum, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (15<sup>th</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2016), at the Departmental Museum of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University, Chandigarh (10<sup>th</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2016) at Avritti Bhavan, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal (17<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017) and at Vinoba Bave University, Hazaribag (13<sup>th</sup> March – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018). Now the exhibition was hosted by Bihar Museum, Patna from 18<sup>th</sup> August – 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. 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 24<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

Following the sad demise of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Govt. of Bihar announced one week of state mourning. Due to this, all formal functions were needed to cancel. But an informal opening of the exhibition was conducted at Orientation Theater. The exhibition 'the World of Rock Art' was opened to public on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 at 5:00PM in the Temporary Gallery of the Bihar Museum by Prof. (Dr.) Rash Bihari Prasad Singh, Vice Chancellor of Patna University, Patna with the presence of Dr. Umesh Chandra Dwivedi, Former Director of Museums. Introducing address was given by Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director of Adi Drishya Department, IGNCA. During the speech, Prof. R. B. P. Singh expresses his admiration to the artists who made these arts especially the engravings and present generation should respect their pain taking efforts. He said 'as a geologist I am happy to be part of this programme and our rock art sites need to be recognized in the level of Bhimbetka, UNESCO World Heritage Site'. In his speech Dr. U. C. Dwivedi shared his happiness that he got a chance to interact with Dr. V. S. Wakankar when Patna Museum organised a lecture. In concluding remark Dr. Ranbeer Singh Rajput, Additional Director (I/C) expressed vote of thanks (for details, visit [www.ignca.nic.in](http://www.ignca.nic.in)).

### **Inauguration of the exhibition**



**Delegates on Dais**





**Scholars and University students attending Special Lecture**



**Dr. B. L. Malla presenting memento to Prof. R. B. P. Singh (V.C., Patna University)**



**A Speech delivered by Prof. R. B. P. Singh**



**A speech delivered by Dr. U.C. Dwivedi former Director, Bihar Museum**



**An introduction given by Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director of Adi Drishya, IGNCA**



**A Special lecture delivered by  
Prof. V. S. Sonawane**



**Concluding remark given by Dr. Ranbeer  
Singh Rajput, Additional Director, Bihar  
Museum**

The present exhibition '**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 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 to 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. After getting a very positive feedback from a cross section of 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 in continent wise. This exhibition is curated in two sections; one is displaying the rock art of the five continents and the other only displaying rock art of India. This exhibition organized for the viewers who can have 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.

The “Rock art of India” Gallery has been displayed with rock art from all parts of the country. Whereas the petroglyphs of Ladakh and the rock paintings of Sonbhadra & 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 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 Pandavalugutta, Andhra Pradesh are exhibited in the Rock art of South India section.

The World Rock art gallery has been elaborately exhibited with rock arts from all the five continents of the world. Whereas 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.

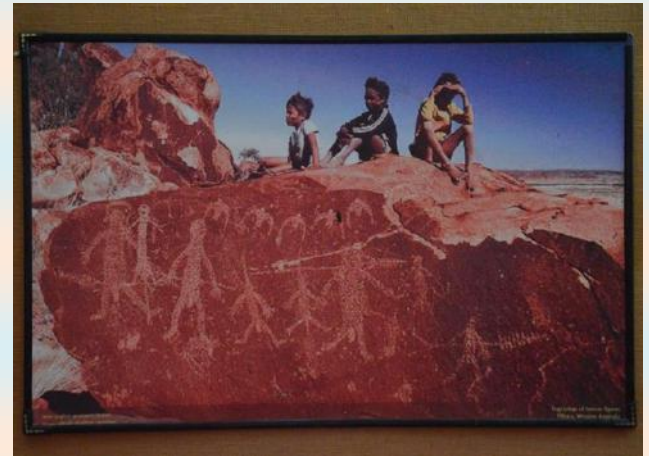


## Rock Art of India





## Rock Art of the five continents



## Living art traditions gallery





The rock art tradition of Bihar is marked by distinct painting traditions. These traditions are found in the Vindhyan region of north-west Bihar in Kaimur and Nawada district as well as adjoining state of Bihar and Jharkhand. In this respect, the second tradition may be taken as the northern extension of the rock art traditions already reported from Jharkhand. Soon thereafter, painted rock shelters were also found in the district of Jamui. At present rock art sites are known in the districts of Gaya and Gopalganj, in addition to the two already mentioned above.

All the events were well received by the people, students and scholar community. The exhibition and Special Lectures were highly appreciated and got a very positive response from both print and the electronic media.

As per the recent update received from Bihar Museum, a large number of visitors are visiting this exhibition every day. Through this event we are able to disseminate the importance and objectives of the present Rock Art Project which highlighting the activities of the IGNCA to a large extent.

### **Guests watching the exhibition**





## Interaction with Media

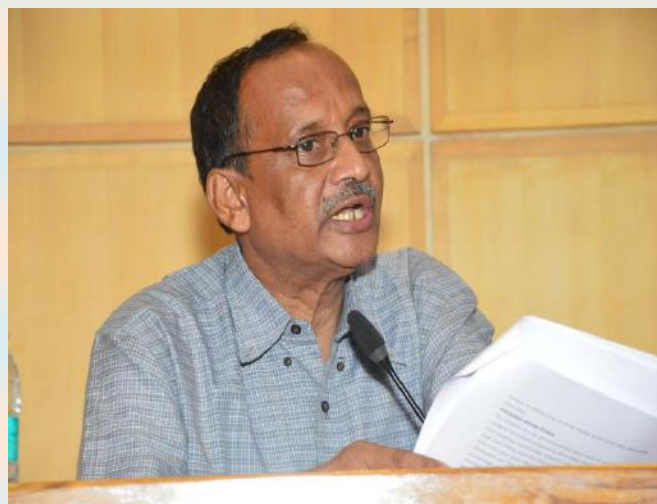


## Visitors



## Special Lectures

**Special lecture delivered  
by  
Prof. V. H. Sonawane  
18-08-2018**



**Special lecture delivered  
by  
Prof. R. K.  
Chattopadhyaya  
18-08-2018**



### Children Workshop

Two days special workshop for school children on Rock Art titled 'Impressions' was held on 08<sup>th</sup>-09<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018, respectively. Student from different schools of Patna actively participated in this workshop. In these two days painting workshop more than 150 student from various schools namely Arya Kanya Vidhyalaya, Dayanand Kanya Uchh Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Asha School, Sarashwati Vidhya Mandir, Bishop Scot Boy School actively participated.

