

A Report on Multidisciplinary Orientation Workshop on Rock Art at Gauhati University (Assam)

(20th November, 2013)



ROCK ART UNIT
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
NEW DELHI - 110 001

A one day multidisciplinary Orientation *Workshop on Rock Art and Allied Subjects in North East India* was organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi in collaboration with the department of Anthropology, Gauhati University in the Gauhati University on 20.11.2013. It was a part of IGNCA's capacity building programme and for preparing interdisciplinary teams to take up research and documentation in the field of rock art in India. The workshop is the prelude to the approved multidisciplinary research project with the same title as a part of the ongoing Rock Art Project of IGNCA which has also included the North Eastern states with Dr. Dwipen Bezbaruah of the department of Anthropology, Gauhati University as the Coordinator. The proposal for taking up the first phase field documentation in North East would be submitted by the coordinator very shortly.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Pranabjyoti Das, Acting Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University. The inaugural session of the workshop was Chaired by Prof. A.C. Bhagabati, former Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar and Honorary Director, IGNCA, NE Region and also graced by Prof Rekha Das, Dean Faculty of Science and

Head department of Anthropology, Gauhati University. As a Presidential remark Prof. A. C. Bhagabati highlighted the significance of Rock Art in understanding past human culture and history and lauded the idea of multidisciplinary research on the same for having a comprehensive understanding of the rock art. Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director, while highlighting on the status of ongoing Rock Art project in different parts of the country, stressed on the need for documenting and studying it in the light of the documentation work being carried out in other parts of the country. He presented a road map for taking up rock art documentation of NE Region in a time bound manner and the role to be played by the interdisciplinary team members to achieve the set objectives of the project. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Dwipen Bezbaruah, Coordinator of the Workshop. The resource persons for the workshop were Prof. Gyani Lal Badam noted palaeontologist and Rock Art expert from Pune and Dr. Devananda Beura from the department of Geology, Utkal University who is engaged in Rock Art research in Orissa. The multidisciplinary team who participated in the workshop were Prof. Hari Prasad Sarma from the department of Environmental Science, Dr. Sarat Phukon, dept of Geology, Dr. Gajen Sarma, dept of Botany, Dr. Dhruba Saharia, dept of Geography, Dr. Anil Ch. Boro, dept of Folklore Research, from Gauhati University. Two

other members of the multidisciplinary team are Dr. Uttam Bathari, in charge, Indian Council of Historical Research, NE Region and Mr. Nabajit Deori of the Dept. of Archaeology, Govt. of Assam. The workshop was also attended by teachers, research scholars and students of the Gauhati University.

During the workshop the scholars felt a need of Rock Art Documentation Manual with clear cut Guidelines. Our resource persons for this workshop Prof. Gyani Lal Badam and Dr. Devananda Beura assured their cooperation in preparing the same. As IGNCA had take up this important and challenging project of Rock Art Documentation it may also take a lead in publishing a manual for the same under the title-- *ROCK ART DOCUMENTATION MANUAL*.

The response to the workshop was overwhelming and the main objective of creating interest in the young scholars and training to the interdisciplinary team members for field documentation of rock art was achieved.



Welcome Address by Dr. Devananda Beura



Introduction to the event by Dr. B. L. Malla



Inaugural Address by Prof. Pranabjyoti Das



Dr. G. L. Badam sharing his experiences with the participants



A Video on Rock Art Documentation by IGNC A was shown to the participants



Students and Participants at the workshop