



An Awareness Campaign on The Rock Art of Spiti Valley

At

Govt. Senior Secondary School, Kaza, Spiti

Himachal Pradesh (12th October, 2015)



**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
NEW DELHI**



An Awareness Campaign on the Rock Art of Spiti valley was organised at the end of the field work on 12th October, 2015 at Government Senior Secondary School, Kaza in Spiti Valley. The campaign was inaugurated with lighting of the lamp by Shri. Jagan Thakur, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kaza who was the Chief Guest. It was attended by the students and staff of the school along with nearby villagers of the area. The other guests present were Shri. Sonam Angdui, the Nono of Spiti, Shri. Cherring Dorje, former joint DG, ASI, Shri. Sonam Norboo, Principal, Govt. Senior Secondary School, Kaza and Mr. Michael Dowad (Independent Scholar) along with other members of the Multidisciplinary team.



Shri. Jigmet Namgyal, Project Assistant, IGNC A highlighted the findings during the field documentation and explained about its significance and emphasized on the systematic documentation and preservation of the rock art sites of the region. Shri. Tsering Norbu, local coordinator for IGNC A gave a power point presentation on the rock art sites documented in the area by referring to similar findings in other regions like Ladakh, Tibet, Pakistan, China, Mustang in Nepal, Iran, Kinnaur and Malari in Uttarakhand. Shri. Chhering Dorje, former Joint Director General, ASI discussed the significance of these rock arts as a historical source and shared his views on his experiences throughout the field work and showed his concern for the growing development and commercial activities in the area due to which the culture and heritage is badly affected, in addition destroying the ancient rock art of the valley. Shri. Sonam Angdui, the Nono of Spiti, appreciated the contribution of Michael Dowad and Tsering Norbu for locating petroglyphs in the area and realizing its importance and for involving local people and

administration in their field works. Shri. Sonam Norboo, the Principal of the school also appreciated the work of the IGNCA team and gave suggestions to work in *Pin* valley as well, to document and preserve the rock art from vanishing.

The Chief Guest, Shri. Jagan Thakur, highly appreciated the initiative taken by IGNCA to systemically document the rock art sites in Spiti Valley and thanked the team members for their active participation in Field documentation.



Concluding the event, Shri. Tsering Norbu, coordinator, also shed light on the objective of the Awareness Campaign and proposed vote of thanks.

