

Mobile Exhibition on the World of Rock Art



At

Sangeetha Mahal, Palace Complex, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
(6th May-5th June, 2015)



Ministry of Culture, Government of India



Indira Gandhi National
Centre for the Arts



Tamil University,
Thanjavur



Thanjavur Tourism
Promotion Council



Saraswathi Mahal Library,
Thanjavur



Art Gallery, Thanjavur

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Report

On

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After the successful organization of the '**World of Rock Art**' exhibitions at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (5th to 8th March,2013), then in SrimantaSankardevaKalashetra (SSK), Guwahati (12th April to 3rd May, 2013), at Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneshwar (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) and at Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS), Tripunithura, Kerala (28th November to 28th December, 2014). The exhibition is now hosted at SangeethaMahal, Palace Complex, Thanjavur, TamilNadu in collaboration with Tamil University, Thanjavur Tourism Promotion Council, SaraswatiMahal Library and Art Gallery, Thanjavur. 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 would be open for the public viewing till September, 2015.

As a precursor to the event, a press conference was held by the organizers of the event on 5th May, 2015 at Tamil University Campus. The press agencies were briefed about the significance of the ignored field of the Indian rock art as well as of the studies and its importance for the posterity and the role that the press has to play in this regard. Almost all the important ewspapershighlighted the significance of the event which resulted in a huge attendance at the exhibition, children's workshop and special lecture.

The exhibition at SangeethaMahal was inaugurated by The Prince of ThanjavurShri. Shivaji Raja Bhosale on 6th May, 2015. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Mrs.Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary and officiating Member Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi. The welcome address in the inaugural function was given by Prof. S. Rajavelu, Dean, Faculty of Manuscriptology, Tamil University. Introduction to the exhibition was given by Dr. B.L .Malla, Project Director, IGNCA, New Delhi and vote of thanks by Dr.Selvakumar of Tamil University.

As a part of the event, a special lecture on the ‘Rock Art of Tamil Nadu’ by Prof. K Rajan, Pondicherry University, Puducherry was organized on 7th May at SangeethaMahal. A special workshop for school children was also organized on the same day at SangeethaMahal where students from various schools of Tamil Nadu actively participated.

All the events were well received by the common people, students and scholar community. The exhibition, special lecture and Children workshop were highly appreciated and also got a very positive response from both the print and the electronic media. For instance, “the children participating in the workshop were of the view that the workshop gave them an insight into rock art, one of the earliest arts of mankind (*Deccan Chronicle*, 8 May 2015)”. Mrs.Veena Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi, in her presidential address said that “Rock Art formed a crucial component of the AdiDrishya (Primeval Vision) programme (*Indian Express*, 6 May 2015)”. “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”, said Veena Joshi (*Deccan Chronicle*, 7 May 2015). As per recent update received from SangeethaMahal Administration, people in large numbers are visiting the exhibition every day. Through this event, we have been able, to a great 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 offers some answers.

It was earlier decided to keep the exhibition open for public viewing for a period of one month i.e. upto 5th June, 2015. But on the request of Dr. N. Subbaiyan, the District Collector of Thanjavaur, we may extend the present exhibition 'The world of Rock Art' at SangeethaMahal till the 3rd week of June 2015. This may benefit more and more children as the local organizers are planning to organize a Children Book Fair at the venue of the exhibition during this period and will be bringing school children from different villages to the Exhibition and Book Fair.

Inauguration Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Mrs.Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary and officiating Member Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi.



The Presidential address by Mrs.Veena Joshi.



Inauguration of the exhibition by ShriShivaji Raja Bhosale, Prince of Thanjavur.



The exhibition formally declared open for general public after the inauguralfunction.



The visitors appreciating the Rock Art exhibition on display at SangeethaMahal.



Officiating Member Secretary Mrs. Veena Joshi, IGNCA, New Delhi, interacting with the media persons.



Children Workshop

A children workshop was organised on the occasion where students from various schools of Thanjavur and nearby areas actively participated.



A general view of the children workshop.





Children participating in the Painting Workshop.



Children of different age group displaying their painting skills at the workshop.



A group of participants in the 'European Gallery' at the exhibition.



Participants displaying their creative skills at the exhibition gallery.



Students painting at the 'Art of Indigenous People' section.



General view of the Painting Workshop.



Some of the active participants at the Painting Workshop.



Some of the paintings made by the participants at the Painting Workshop.



Feedback of the participants after Painting Workshop

Participants sharing their views about the Painting Workshop and exhibition at the venue.







Certificate Distribution

Dr. B.L. Malla, Project Director, IGNCA, New Delhi and Prof. S.Rajavelu, Dean, Faculty of Manuscriptology, Tamil University distributing the certificates to the participants after the Painting Workshop.





Special Lecture

A special lecture titled '*Rock Art of Tamil Nadu*' by Professor K. Rajan of Pondicherry University was organised on the occasion.



Prof. K Rajan delivering the special lecture on the '*Rock Art of Tamil Nadu*'.



Students and participants at the Exhibition.



Avievw of the Exhibition

