

Rock art of Ladakh, Uttarakhand & Europe at PU

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Chandigarh: From the rock art of the northern region of India to that of Europe that goes back to the upper Paleolithic period, one can witness the rock art, one of the oldest forms of expressions, at an exhibition in Panjab University. The exhibition depicting the rock art of the world portrays how rock art, the oldest form of expression through art, developed over a period of time and appraises every one of the rich heritage of this art.

Starting from the northern region of the country, the rock art of Ladakh is exclusively petroglyphic, while that of Uttarakhand is pictographic. There are two types of rock art that can be found in Ladakh — first is secular, predominantly hunting scenes of animal and human figures, and the second has the Buddhist affiliation.

The exhibition also gives an insight of the rock art tradition in the eastern, western and southern parts of India, Europe and Australia. The month-long exhibition is being organized by the department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology (AIHC & A), PU, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. It is the first time that such exhibition is being organized in Chandigarh. A representative collection of the significant and important traditions have been displayed continent wise. The exhibition creates for the viewer, a degree of experimental contact with pre-historic art.



Visitors appreciate the creative art at Panjab University on Wednesday

Vijai Vardhan, additional chief secretary, department of higher education and cultural affairs, Haryana, and PU vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Arun Kumar Grover inaugurated the exhibition, which would conclude on September 10.

In his inaugural speech, Vardhan described the rock art as the major component of world arts history. He stressed the importance of history for understanding the contemporary world. He analyzed the study of rock art in the Indian context and underlined the importance of giving more support to rock arts conservation. "We need to cherish and protect the cultural gift from the ancestors," he added.

Grover talked about the importan-

ce of a holistic study in the study of the past. He stressed on inter-disciplinary approaches. He also talked about the future vision of PU in terms of undertaking such integrated programmes, integrated schools, combining various disciplines. He was hopeful that in the future PU would set up such integrated programmes.

IGNCA project director Dr B L Malla gave an introduction to the exhibition. He stressed on the significance of this art form all over the world. He said that a large number of rock art has been found in the north western region. The present exposition is culled out from the exhibition on rock art organized during the International Rock Art Conference, IGNC, New Delhi, in 2012.

