







## Report on

## Sixth

## Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Memorial Lecture

04th April, 2022



Adi Drishya Department Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

New Delhi

Dr. V. S. Wakankar was an eminent archaeologist, widely acknowledged and renowned for the discovery of Bhimbetka rock art site in 1957. Bhimbetka was inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. In 1975, Dr. Wakankar was awarded the *Padmashree*, one of India's highest civilian honours for his enormous contributions in the field of culture. The Adi Drishya Department of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has initiated a memorial lecture series to commemorate Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar (4th May, 1919-3rd April, 1988). So far, the department has organised five Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Memorial Lectures and present one is the sixth in this series.



Dr. V. S. Wakankar's sketch at Bhimbetka camp site by late Dr. Jagdish Gupt dated 24th December. 1974

The sixth Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Memorial Lecture was organised on 4th April, 2022 at

IGNCA, New Delhi. The lecture was delivered by an internationally renowned scholar Prof. Ravi Korisettar (Ret.), Dept. of History and Archaeology at Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka and Adjunct Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangaluru.

On this occasion, Prof. B. L. Malla (Head, Adi Drishya Department, IGNCA, New Delhi) in his welcome address greeted everyone in person, the Chairperson Prof. Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri (Head, Dept. of Anthropology Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh), the Speaker of the

memorial lecture Prof. Ravi Korisettar and other distinguished guests, such as *Padmashree* Baba Yogendra ji (Founder member, Sanskar Bharati), Shri Vasudeo Kamath, Hon'ble Trustee, IGNCA and renowned painter, eminent archaeologist Dr. G. B. Deglurkar (Former Chancellor Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Deemed University, Pune), Shri K. N. Dikshit (General Secretary, Indian Archaeological



Welcome Speech by Prof. B. L. Malla

Society, New Delhi), Shri B. M. Pande (Former Director, Archaeological Survey of India) and Prof. V. H. Sonawane (The M S University of Baroda, Vadodara) and all the other participants. Further, he explained about the objective of the memorial lecture series and remembered the speakers of previous lectures also and gives a brief about their lectures.

Thereafter, Prof. Malla invited Prof. Korisettar for the lecture and Dr. Dileep Kumar Sant gave introduction of the speaker. Prof. Ravi Korisettar, in his lecture on "Celebrating Vishnu Shridhar Wākaṇkar" has expressed his gratitude and described his first interaction with Dr. Wākaṇkar at Deccan College, Pune in 1972. He remembered, during this period itself Dr. Wākaṇkar

was already celebrity for the discovery of Bhimbetka rock art site. In this lecture, he emphasis on the Indological research and contributions of Dr. Wākaṇkar. He said, the Indological study of Dr. Wākaṇkar was as much significant as to his rock art research. Dr. Wākaṇkar's main Indological research contain the discovery of nearly a hundred Chalcolithic cultural sites in Malwa region, identification of Varaha Mihira's zero meridian passing



Prof. Ravi Korisettar, Speaker of the sixth Dr. V. S. Wakankar Memorial Lecture

Ujjain and Dongla village. He also studied numerous inscriptions in Prakrit, Pali, Sanskrit etc., and several hundreds of rock shelters with pictographs and petroglyphs in India. The rediscovery of the River *Saraswati* (*Saraswati* Abhiyan) and also participated in the excavations of Maheshwar and Navdatoli paved way for identifying the Kayatha and Malwa culture sites in the Chambal valley and beyond. In addition, Dr. Wākankar also excavated a number of archaeological sites ranging from Early History to the Medieval period in the Malwa region.

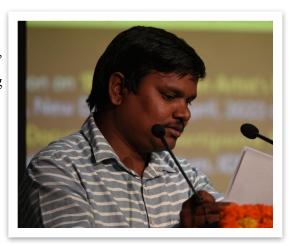
Prof. Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri, in his address congratulated Prof. Korisettar for the impressive lecture. He referred his close association with Bhimbetka rock art site and Dr. Wakankar, when he worked at IGRMS, Bhopal. He appreciated the role of IGNCA for creating awareness among the younger generations and sustaining the rock art studies in other parts of the country, especially in the



Chairperson's address by Prof. Sarit K. Chaudhuri

Northeast region.

At the end of the event, Dr. Dileep Kumar Sant, proposed vote of thanks to all the participants for showing their keen interest in this lecture.



Vote of thanks by Dr. Dileep Kumar Sant

Releasing of Booklet of the sixth Memorial Lecture series titled 'Celebrating Vishnu Shridhar Wākaņkar'. It was released by *Padmashree* Baba Yogendra ji in the presence of Shri Vasudeo Kamath, Hon'ble Trustee IGNCA, Prof. Sachchidanand Joshi, Hon'ble Member Secretary IGNCA and Prof. B. L. Malla, Head Adi Drishya Department. On this occasion, other three books on rock art were also released.



Releasing of the Sixth Memorial Lecture Booklet

## **Other Programmes**

Followed by the Memorial Lecture, a temporary exhibition on 'Bhimbetka: An Artist's Paradise' was also inaugurated on this occasion. The exhibition was based on the reproductions made by the artists on the Bhimbetka site in a national workshop organised by the IGNCA in 2019 as a part of

centenary celebrations of Dr. V. S. Wakankar. It was displayed from  $4^{th} - 25^{th}$  April, 2022 at the exhibition hall (Darshanam I), IGNCA, New Delhi.

On this occasion, a documentary on 'Dhartiputra Wakankar', related to the life and contributions of *Padmashree* Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar was also released by *Padmashree* Baba Yogendra ji in the presence of Shri Vasudeo Kamath, Hon'ble Trustee IGNCA, Prof. Sachchidanand Joshi, Hon'ble Member Secretary IGNCA and Prof. B. L. Malla, Head Adi Drishya Department. Exclusive screening of the documentary was also organised along with this programme.



Sixth Dr. V. S. Wakankar Memorial Lecture by Prof. Korisettar

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