



**National Seminar
on
Rock Art of South India
With Special Reference to Kerala**

26th – 28th February, 2019

**At
Muziris International Research and Convention Centre (MRCC),
Kodungallur, Thrissur District, Kerala**



**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
New Delhi**



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi organised a national seminar on ‘Rock Art of South India with Special Reference to Kerala’ in collaboration with Muziris Projects Ltd., Department of Tourism (Govt. of Kerala), Kodungallur from 26th – 28th February, 2019 at Muziris International Research and Convention Centre (MRCC), Kodungallur. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. P.K. Micheal Tharakan, Chairman, Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR), Thiruvananthapuram who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr. M. Velayudhan Nair, Chief Advisor to Govt. of Kerala for Museums presided over the function. Welcome address was delivered by Prof. Kesavan Veluthat and Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director, IGNCA gave introduction to the seminar. Prof. Ravi Korisettar delivered keynote address on “Resurgence of Prehistoric Rock Art Studies in Southern India: 1998-2018”, where he discussed about rock art of South India. Lastly, vote of thanks was given by Shri P. M. Nowshad, Managing Director Muziris Projects Pvt. Ltd.



Welcome address by Prof. Kesavan Veluthat



Prof. P.K. Micheal Tharakan delivering inaugural address



Introduction to seminar by Dr. B. L. Malla



Keynote address by Prof. R. Korisettar



Presidential address by Dr. M. Velayudhan Nair



Vote of thanks by Shri P. M. Nowshad

Prof. P. K. Micheal Tharakan, expressed about the importance of cultures and its relevance in our society, education of youngsters and making them to realize about the value of cultures.

The three days national seminar at Kodungallur was a success as many scholars and experts from different parts of the country, especially from south India actively participated in the seminar. Several papers on rock art and allied subjects were presented in the seminar.

The first session of the seminar was chaired by Prof. N. Chandramouli. In this session, scholars discussed about recent researches undertaken in the state of Kerala. Dr. Jenee Peter presented the paper on 'Reimagining the Rock Art of Kerala: Multidisciplinary Initiatives'; Prof. Ajit Kumar presented on 'A Reappraisal of Pictographs at Ezuthupara or Pathipara, Marayoor, Dist. Idukki' and Dr. M. Velayudhan Nair presented on 'Rock Art of Kerala: Challenges in Conservation'.

Prof. Ajit Kumar presenting paper



Dr. Jenee Peter delivering her lecture



Dr. M. Velayudhan Nair presenting his paper

On 27th February, 2019 second session was organized and Prof. Ajit Kumar chaired this session. Most of the papers were presented on the rock arts of south Indian states. They include presentations on the “Rock Art and Megaliths of Marayoor, Kerala” by Dr. Nihildas N; “Rock Art of Goa – An Overview” by Dr. M. Nambirajan, “Rock Paintings in Western Ghats: Special Reference to Nilgiri Mountain Regions of Tamil Nadu” by K. T. Gandhirajan and “Rock Art of Andhra Pradesh: Emerging Perspectives” by Prof. N. Chandramouli.



Dr. Nihildas N presenting his paper

**Dr. M. Nambirajan
presenting his paper**





Mr. K. T. Gandhirajan delivering his lecture



Prof. N. Chandramouli delivering his lecture

Third session was chaired by Dr. M. Nambirajan. In this session Dr. R. N. Kumaran presented a paper on “Rock Art of Western Ghats-With Special Reference to Palani Hills, Tamil Nadu”. Shri Sai Krishna E talked about “Rock Art Findings of Different Time Period in Gundla Pochampally, Medchal District, Telangana State”. Dr. Mohana. R gave a lecture on “Rock Art of South India with Reference to Karnataka: Territorial Analysis” and Dr. Vinod V presented a paper on “Pictoglyphs and Pottery Graffiti: A Cultural Diode”.



Dr. R. N. Kumaran presenting his paper



Mr. Sai Krishna E. delivering his lecture



Dr. Mohana. R presenting his paper



Dr. Vinod. V presenting his paper



Ms. Jessera C. M. presenting her paper

Dr. Selvakumar V. presenting his paper



Last session, was chaired by Prof. Ravi Korisettar and in this session Dr. Selvakumar V. presented paper on “Context of Rock Art and Traces of Cultural Activities on Rock Surfaces in Tamil Nadu”, and Ms. Jaseera C. M. presented on ‘Geoglyphs and Traces of Cultural Activities on the Laterite Formations at Vendalloor-Parabathu Kavu, Malappuram Dt. Kerala’.

All the presentations concluded with fruitful discussions by the scholars. In concluding valedictory session most of the scholars shared their valuable suggestions for further research activities in this region.

Following recommendations were proposed in the seminar:

1. We should encourage students to participate in the seminars from various institutions.
2. IGNCA may collaborate with some organizations for dating of rock arts, mapping of rock art sites and also co-ordinate with government agencies to take necessary measures to protect and preserve our rock art sites.
3. A field trip to rock art sites should include in the schedule of seminars and conferences.