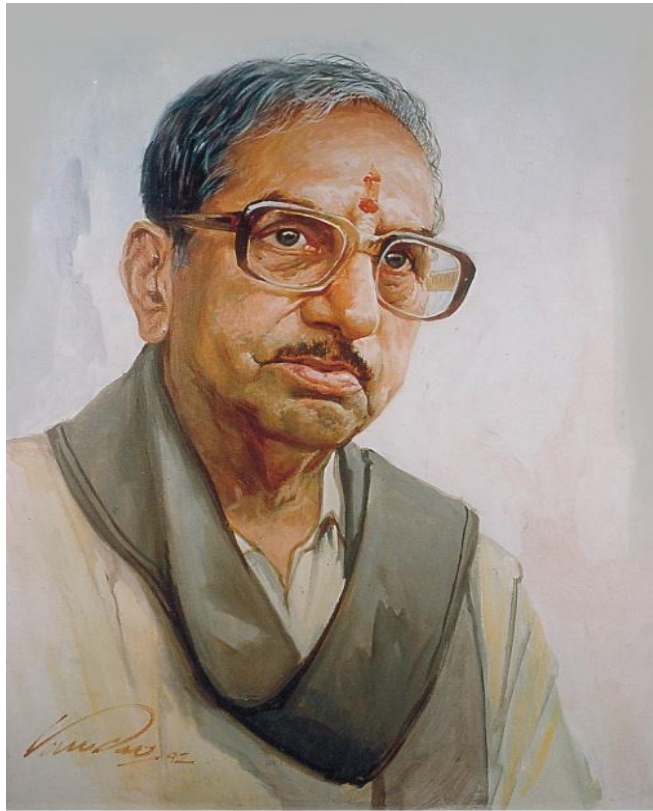


A Report



2nd Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Memorial Lecture (3rd April, 2018)



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
New Delhi



Under the aegis of the Adi Drishya Department, the IGNCA has initiated an annual Memorial Lecture series in honour of an eminent archaeologist, art historian and a great humanist, *Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar*, the pioneer of rock art studies in India.

Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar (4th May 1919 – 3rd April 1988) was an eminent archaeologist. He is widely acknowledged and renowned for his discovery of Bhimbetka rock shelters caves in 1957 which was inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. The Bhimbetka rock shelters exhibit the earliest traces of human life in India. He established the Wakankar Indological/Cultural Research Trust in Ujjain, India. In 1975, he was awarded the Padmashree, one of India's highest civilian honours.



Welcome Address by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA

He is being called the "*Pitamaha*" of Rock Art students in India and had carried out extensive work on Rock Art in India and abroad since 1954. In this connection, he studied rock arts in UK, Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Greece, Mexico, Egypt and USA. He discovered and studied numerous rock art sites in India and abroad dating back to 40,000 years ago. Today "Wakankar Shodh Sansthan" boasts of a private collection of about 7500 sketches of rock

art paintings sketched by him of which about 4000 are those discovered by Dr. Wakankar himself.



General View of Dais

This event was very significant for both Adi Drishya department as the department was celebrating its fifth Foundation day and at the same time initiating Dr. V. S. Wakankar Memorial Lecture Series as a tribute to the “*Father of Rock Art Studies in India*” who worked passionately throughout his life without caring much for his fame or recognition through his discoveries and research on rock art.



Scholars Attending the Seminar

The 2nd Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Memorial Lecture was organised on 3rd April, 2018 at 4 PM in the Auditorium, C.V. Mess Building. It was delivered by Padmashree **Dr. Yashodhar Mathpal**, an eminent Archaeologist and Rock Art Specialist. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Narayan Vyas, Rock Art and Cultural Studies Specialist. Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA in his welcome address, talked about the Padamshree Dr. Wakankar's contribution in the field of Rock Art research of India.



Felicitation Ceremony

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA. All the other dignitaries sitting on the dais paid tribute to Dr. Wakankar by lightning of the lamp and offering flowers.



Lamp Lightening



Padamshree Dr. Yashodhar Mathpal Delivering Lecture

Padamshree Dr. Yashodhar Mathpal, in his lecture on “Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar: The Legendary Encyclopaedia of Indian Rock Art” elaborated upon his personality and achievements.

It is one of our prime objectives to aim towards the quality publication to compliment the events relating with Rock Art studies. The Adi Drishya Department has successfully fulfilled this objective and brought out a booklet on “2nd Dr. V. S. Wakankar Memorial lecture” and a Hindi publication on: “राजस्थान की शैलचित्र कला” by Dr. Murari Lal Sharma and General Editor Dr. B. L. Malla at this occasion. The later publication is based on the IGNCA’s interdisciplinary field documentation of rock art sites in Rajasthan.



Book Release

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was also signed in the inaugural session between the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Wakankar Bharati Sanskruti Anveshan Nyas (WBSAN) for collaboration of documentation and dissemination of Wakankar Collection to the scholars, students and general public at large; in establishing a permanent Dr. V. S. Wakankar Rock Art Gallery at IGNCA, New Delhi; to make documentary film(s) on the life and contribution of Dr. V. S. Wakankar; to organise two conferences on the eve of Dr. Wakankar's centenary celebrations (2018-19), for cataloguing of Dr. Wakankar's Collections; Sharing books and periodicals with IGNCA; Publications of WBSAN, Ujjain to be reviewed for bringing out fresh editions/reprints and also unpublished manuscripts for publications; Digital version of Dr. Wakankar's collection to be linked with IGNCA database for the benefits of academics.



Inauguration of Exhibition

On the same day evening, the exhibition "**Glorious Bhimbetka**", based on IGNCA's Dr. Mathpal Collection was inaugurated by Dr. G. B. Deglurkar,

Former President, Deccan College, Pune at Exhibition hall, 11 Mansingh Road, IGNCA, New Delhi. The collection is acquired by IGNCA for its archival and research purpose in 1988. These paintings are now housed in the IGNCA Cultural Archive. The acquisition includes 372 water colour reproductions, out of which 316 are from the site of Bhimbetka and 58 from its adjoining sites. In this exhibition around 50 selected paintings are on display. Concluding the event, Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director, IGNCA proposed the vote of thanks.



The event was well received by the scholars, students and general public at large.