

**A REPORT
ON**



**THE WORLD OF ROCK ART EXHIBITION
AT
ODISHA STATE MUSEUM, BHUBANESWAR
(18TH MAY TO 23RD JUNE, 2013)**

The circulatory exhibition 'The World of Rock Art' at Odisha State Museum was inaugurated on the occasion of World Museum Day (18th May, 2013) by the Chief Guest, Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, Housing & Urban Development, Government of Odisha (Former State Minister of Culture). Renowned scholar Dr. Nivedita Mohanty was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Shri Sushil Kumar Das, Addl. Secretary, Culture. Introduction to the exhibition and International Museum Day was given by Dr. B. L. Malla and vote of thanks by Shri P. K. Rath. Along with exhibition two special lectures were also organized on the rock art of Odisha and living traditions associated with it. Prof. Jagannath Dash and Dr. Devananda Beura of Utkal University delivered their lectures on 18th and 19th May, 2013. The focus of special lectures was mainly on rock art of Odisha and conservation problems associated with it. A workshop for the school children was also organised to mark the occasion of Museums day and the participants were awarded certificates.

The exhibition, special lectures and workshop at Odisha State Museum were well received and got an overwhelming response from both the print and electronic media. The exhibition was divided in two sections. In first section the Indian rock art and living artistic traditions were displayed and In this section, the rock art of Odisha was highlighted. In another section, the rock art of the rest of the world was displayed continent wise.

The theme of the International Museum Day 2013 was Museums (memory+ creativity = social change). This exhibition was in tune with the theme of the International Museum Day, as it displayed universality of creative actions of early man, to which both tangible and intangible aspects of the heritage are associated. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), like ICOM share a common vision of safeguarding heritage for the benefit of the society.

The Chief Guest was highly impressed by the steps taken by the IGNCA to reach out at a large scale for creating general awareness about the importance of rock art and in the field of art and cultural studies.