

Mobile Exhibition on the World of Rock Art

At

Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS), Kerala
(28th November to 28th December, 2014)



Ministry of Culture, Government of India



Indira Gandhi
National Centre for
the Arts, New Delhi



Centre for Heritage
Studies, Tripunithura, Kerala



Union Christian
College, Aluva, Kerala

Report



On

After successful organisation of the 'World of Rock Art' exhibitions at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (5th to 28th March, 2013), then in Srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra (SSK), Guwahati (12th April to 3rd May, 2013), at Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar (18th May to 23rd June, 2013), at Pondicherry University, Puducherry (25th July to 25th August, 2013) and at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru (3rd December, 2013 to 3rd January, 2014). The exhibition is now hosted at Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS), Tripunithura, Kerala in collaboration with CHS and Union Christian College (UCC), Aluva, Kerala. An exhibition on 'Indian Rock Art' was also organised by IGNCA in the last week of August, 2014 at the World Rock Art Museum, Yinchuan, China. It would be initially open for the public viewing till September, 2015.

The exhibition at CHS was inaugurated on 28th November, 2014 by Shri K. Babu, Hon. Minister for Fisheries, Ports & Excise, Govt. of Kerala. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Shri Anoop Jacob, Hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection & Registration, Govt. of Kerala. The welcome address in the inaugural function was given by Smt. Rani George IAS, Secretary, Cultural Affairs Department, Govt. of Kerala. Introduction to the exhibition was given by Dr. B. L. Malla and vote of thanks by Prof. Rema Rajan, Dean, Academic Affairs, Centre for Heritage Studies.

As a part of the event, two special lectures on 'Rock Art of Kerala' and "'Perceiving the Ancient Mind: A journey through Indian Rock Art' by Prof (Dr.) M. G. S. Narayanan, Director General, CHS and Prof. K. Krishnan, Head, Department of Archaeology, Baroda University, Vadodra, Gujarat were organized on 28th and 29th November, 2014 at CHS and UCC respectively. Two special workshops for school students titled "Impression" were also organised on 28th and 29th November, 2014 at CHS. The present exhibition will remain open for public up to 28th December, 2014.

An Orientation Workshop for multidisciplinary team member of Kerala and college students was also organized at Union Christian College on 27th November, 2014 for initiating rock project in Kerala.

The exhibition, special lectures and children workshops were well received and got a very positive response from both the print and electronic media. As per recent update received from CHS, more than 3000 students from different schools/colleges, besides hundreds of other people visited the exhibition till 2nd December, 2014. According to Prof. M.G.S.

Naryanan, eminent historian, “Pre-historic rock art is the earliest, most powerful, most enchanting cultural expression of humanity. It is the universal language of man before he created the Veda and the Bible” (The Hindu, 29th November, 2014). “Hundreds of students and art and history enthusiasts visited the exhibition on the first day” (The Hindu, 29th November, 2014). Through this event, we have been able, to a great extent, to propagate and highlight the activities of the IGNCA, especially about the importance and the objective of the present rock art project. How did humankind portray its earliest expressions? A visit to the exhibition the World of Rock Art offers some answers.

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 was highly appreciated by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries and also by the students, scholars and general masses.

Both the Hon. Ministers present in the inaugural function showed great interest in this event. They made a request to IGNCA to help in documentation, preservation and proper study of this precious art form in Kerala. Dr. G. Premkumar, Director, Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Kerala has also made a request to IGNCA to set up a permanent gallery on Rock Art in collaboration with Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Kerala at Tripunithura. We may consider for the same if a formal proposal is received from them. While looking into the importance of rock art and the ignorance of the general masses about this emerging discipline we may consider establishing such gallery in different institution throughout the India which show interest in it and provide space for the same.

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ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

