

Studies Thripunithura, Kerala (28<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2014) and at Sangeetha Mahal Palace Complex, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu (6<sup>th</sup> May-21<sup>st</sup> June, 2015).

An exhibition on the Indian Rock Art was on display in Yinchuan City, China. The exhibition was ed on the occasion of the World Rock Art Conference held from the 26<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The exhibition remained open for public for about one year from 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

For the present exhibition, exhibits are chosen from five continents of the world: Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. A representative collection of the significant and important traditions are displayed continent wise. This exhibition creates, for the viewer, a degree of experiential contact with prehistoric art. It provides the basis for entering into the changing aspects of the living arts of man. It is believed that mans awareness of the world around came through his primeval sense of sight and sound. These two senses have stimulated artists expressions; visual and aural in the prehistoric past as well as in the contemporary cultures.



**Lekhamonda, Sundergarh, Odisha**



**Khajuri Village, Rayagada, Odisha**

The present exhibition also showcases the living art traditions of three communities; the Lanjia-Sauras of Odisha, the Rathwa-Bhils of Gujarat and the Warlis of Maharashtra, just to give a glimpse of continuity of artistic traditions in Indian context.



**Venue:** Archaeological Survey of India  
Puratattva Bhavan, Seminari Hills  
Nagpur



# Rock Art Exhibition

(19<sup>th</sup> Nov - 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2015)



Organized by  
**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts**  
Ministry of Culture, Government of India  
in collaboration with  
**Archaeological Survey of India, Excavation Branch I**  
Nagpur Circle, Nagpur





Rock art of the world is a fascinating saga of human endeavour to translate his aesthetic sensitivity into reality. From time immemorial the early man started to record the world around him and his activities for the life sustenance and to bring forth his progenies to flourish. He lived in the natural caves and shelters which he decorated with paintings and engravings; the subject matter that he could see in nature and life around him. Rock art is known from almost all corners of the world, except Antarctica. Evidences are found from all the continents starting from the Old World i.e. Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Asia is the largest continent of the world and has diverse art heritage. The huge area can be divided into five regions; Central, West, East, South and South-east Asia. In Central Asia, the two most important rock art zones are Tamgaly of Kazakhstan and Altai.

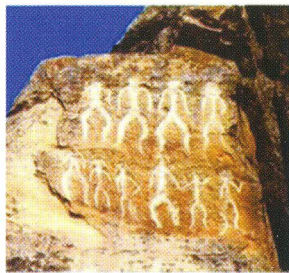


**Animals petroglyphs, Pilbara Western Australia**



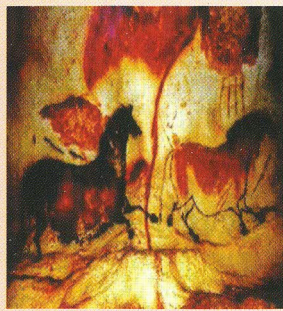
**Domestic bull, Messak, Libya**

Major concentrations of petroglyphs are found from the arid regions of Saudi Arabia, Nagev Desert of Israel in West Asia. In South Asia, countries like India and Pakistan are rich in rock art heritage, so much so that Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh (India) has been inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The quantity and quality of Indian rock art can vie with the art of any of the other country. In East Asia, China and Japan are two important countries with rich concentration of rock art. In the East and Southeast Asia, rock art sites are reported from Indonesia, Myanmar, etc. Several techniques are employed to execute rock art; like shallow carvings, scraping, pecking, finger fluting and polishing in case of petroglyphs (engravings) while in pictographs, painting and stencilling are the major techniques. The subject matter of the rock art is also varied; starting from the simplest geometrical lines found in the Panaramittee tradition of Australia to complex geometrical designs executed by the Chumash people of California.



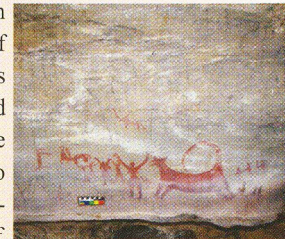
**Gobustan, Azerbaijan**

In Maharashtra, the major rock art sites are Navtala and Dongargaon; the later being a rock shelter site in Chandrapur district. The principle subject contained in these paintings are human and animal figures in dark red and red ochre colour. The animal figures include both wild and domesticated variety like Barasingha (swamp deer), deer and humped bull. In the western part of the state, the Konkan region is also replete with rock art in the form of the engravings depicting human figures and geometric designs.

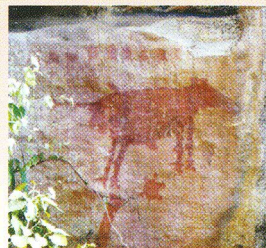


**Lascaux Cave, Dordogne, France**

Animals are the most favoured subjects of the early man as they were their source of life sustenance. Naturalistic representation of wild animals and hunting scenes are thus the most common subject. Possessing brute-power might be the most desired concern to the early men and as such representations of their anthropoes (Half human and half animal features) are commonly found from the Palaeolithic period of Europe to the South African Bushman painting.

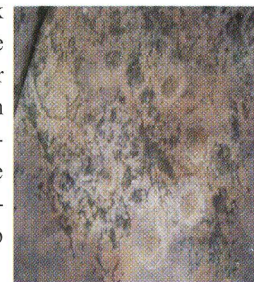


**Bhimlat, Bundi, Rajasthan**



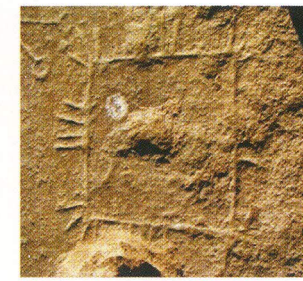
**Pandavulagutta, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh**

After the introduction of domestication of plants and animals, the complexity of human life style in material culture as well as in social life was well evidenced in the diverse nature of depictions. The Anthropomorphic figures of the Coso range, California, the shamanistic representations of Texas, representations of the ancestral beings from Australia, depictions of the Bushman myths from Southern Africa are the reflections of the religious beliefs, myths and customs of early man. In this great diversity of the rock art heritage, instances of the universality of human mind is also mirrored in the depictions of Cupules and Hand prints found almost in all the corners of the world.



**Cupules, Irave-Jhari**

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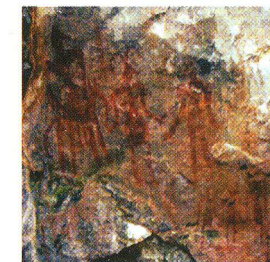
**Godhani symbol, Vidarbha Region**

Rock shelters with paintings are also reported from the Gawli-garh hills, a part of the Satpuras, which form the boundary between the Amravati district of Maharashtra and the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. These shelters exhibit petroglyphs as well as pictographs ranging from the Upper Palaeolithic to the early historic period.

The paintings include the motifs of the floral and faunal, simple and intricate geometric designs. These varied nature of the paintings and engravings are found in association with contemporary cultural material which can provide enormous data for understanding past societies in the



**Chandala Cave, Pullar**



**Kilvalai, Tamilnadu**

The present exposition The World of Rock Art is culled out from the Exhibition on Rock Art organised during the International Rock Art Conference, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi from 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 to 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013. After getting a very positive feedback from a cross section of the society comprising; scholars, media persons, public servants and general public, it was decided to take the exhibition to other parts of the country as circulating/mobile exhibition to spread awareness among school children, college and university students and general public at large. The exhibition was earlier hosted respectively at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (5<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2013), then in Srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra, Guwahati (12<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013), at Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar (18<sup>th</sup> May to 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013), at Department of History, Pondicherry University, Puducherry (25<sup>th</sup> July to 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2013), at National Gallery of Modern Arts, Bengaluru Bengaluru (3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2014) at Centre or Heritage Studies Thripunithura, (3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2014) at Center for Heritage