

# A Report



## India-China Rock Art Workshop-cum-Exhibition 2016

**Exhibition Venue: 11, Mansingh Road, IGNC**

**New Delhi**

(24<sup>th</sup> February- 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016)



**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**  
**New Delhi**



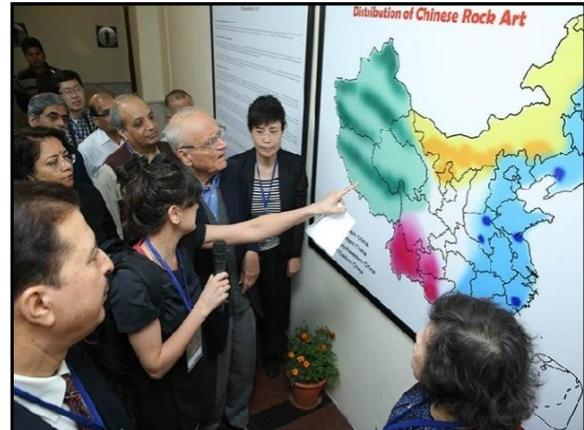
An 'India-China Rock Art Workshop-cum-Exhibition' was organized at IGNCA, New Delhi in collaboration with Administration office of Helanshan Rock Art, Yinchuan City, China, Rock Art Research Association of China (RARAC) and Minzu University, China on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Shri K. K Mittal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Mr. Zhang Zhihong, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of China in India was the Guest of Honour and, Prof. Zhang Yasha, Director of RARAC, Minzu University, China was the International Guest. The inaugural function was chaired by Shri Chinmaya R. Gharekhan, President, IGNCA Trust.

Both India and China has a very rich and diverse rock art heritage. The present exhibition showcases rock arts from both the countries which help in understanding the first universal creative act of human being.

Chinese rock art, whether realistic or abstract, zoomorphic or simple cupules, can be connected to early human traditions and spirituality. Due to its long tradition of written history in China, it is possible to make spiritual connection further back in time with more confidence than for many other parts of the world. The present exposition of rock art in Chinese section has been categorized in the following four sections: i) Rock Art of Northern China, ii) Pictographs of South-western China iii) Petroglyphs of Eastern China and, iv) Rock Art of Western China.



Shri K. K Mittal inaugurating the exhibition.



India houses one of the largest, richest and diverse repositories of rock art traditions. Rock art has been found throughout the length and breadth of the country. Central India has by far the largest concentration of painted rock shelters. In the Central, Western and Eastern parts of the country rock art is found on the walls and ceilings of these rock shelters. In Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh rock art is mainly reported on boulders. Kerala is notable for rock art evidence found in

underground caves. Fortunately, India has one of the world's six major prehistoric rock art concentrations belonging to the Stone Age.

For the present exhibition, exhibits in the Indian section are chosen from the following five regions of India: i) Rock Art of Northern Region, ii) Rock Art of Central Region, iii) Rock Art of Eastern Region, iv) Rock Art of North-east, v) Rock Art of Western Region, and vi) Rock Art of Southern Region.

After the opening of the exhibition on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at 11 Mansingh Road, New Delhi, the formal inaugural function of the Workshop-cum-Exhibition was held at the auditorium, C.V Mess, Janpath. In the function, the welcome speech was delivered by Mrs. Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary/Officiating Member Secretary, IGNCA.

On this occasion two books, viz; i) *Glimpses of India-China Rock Art* and ii) *Rock Art of India: Suitable Dating Techniques* were released by the Hon'ble Chief Guest Shri K. K Mittal.



Shri K. K Mittal releasing the books.



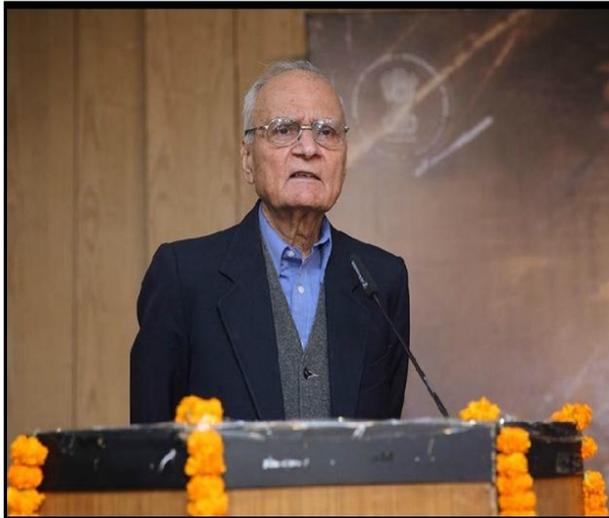
The hon'ble Chief Guest in his address on the occasion highly appreciated the work done by IGNCA in showcasing the rich heritage of rock art from both the countries and also congratulated the Chinese collaborators in this significant venture. He stressed on the importance of rock art studies and laid emphasis on conducting such events and cultural exchange programmes between the two countries in the near future. At last, he wished success for the exhibition and rock art workshop.



Shri K.K Mittal addressing the delegates.



The Chairperson, Shri Chinmaya R. Gharekhan on the occasion congratulated IGNCA and its Chinese collaborators for organizing such a fascinating exhibition. In his address, the hon'ble chairperson appreciated the contributions by Indian and Chinese scholars while emphasizing on the need for all the countries rich in rock art treasures to come together for more such academic ventures.



Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri Chinmaya R. Gharekhan addressing the delegates.

A special lecture '*Exchange and cooperation of China-India Rock Art*' was delivered by Prof. Zhang Yasha on the occasion. In her lecture, Prof. Yasha described the academic contributions, publications of research materials on rock art and academic exchange programmes between the two nations.



Prof. Zhang Yasha delivering the special lecture on the occasion.

The inaugural function was a grand success and was attended by several Chinese and Indian delegates. In the end, Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director, proposed the vote of thanks.



A souvenir from China was presented by Dy. Mayor of Yinchuan city, China.

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.



A view of the Tribal Art Section.



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 man's 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.

Since its inauguration on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 the exhibition has been attracting prominent dignitaries and officials, and visitors from in and outside Delhi day by day.



Director and team of Dunhuang Academy Group, China paying a visit to the Exhibition.



Mr. Liu Jinsong, Minister & DCM and Mr. Zhang Zhihong, Counsellor Cultural of China visiting the exhibition.



Visitors to the exhibition are given a guided tour of the Gallery.



Chinese delegates and visitors at the Exhibition Gallery.



A view of the Exhibition Gallery.

The event was widely covered by both print and electronic media.

DELHI, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

# THE HINDU

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THE HINDU • THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

## Rock on!

Exhibition on rock art from India, China



The India-China Rock Art exhibition-cum-workshop is on at the IGNCA till March 27. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

STAFF REPORTER

**NEW DELHI:** Save for Antarctica, rock art belonging to different periods is found in every continent and provides an insight into how expression through art has developed over time.

India and China are fortunate to have one of the largest congregations of rock art, and an exhibition of photographs in the city shows the various types of rock arts found in both countries, how they differ from region to region and how they have evolved over time.

The India-China Rock Art exhibition-cum-workshop has been brought to the Capital by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), in collaboration with Administration Office of Helan Shan Rock Art in China's Yinchuan and Rock Art Research Association of China. The exhibition shows how India and China, right from the pre-historic times, have grown in parallel and shared cultural traits. It also points at how collaborative ventures between India and China in the field of rock art studies will open new horizons for cultural cooperation between the nations.

Rock art possess a large body of evidence for human artistic, cognitive and cultural beginnings. It is also a vital archaeological source to study and analyse the cognitive evolution of human in-

tellec across the world. The IGNCA has conceived a major academic programme that relates to exploring artistic manifestations emanating from man's primary sense perceptions.

The exhibition shows how the rock art repertoire of China is closely linked to ancient Chinese tradition and spiritual life and since China has a long tradition of written history, connections can be made with surety. The displays have been divided according to various geographical regions and it is interesting to see how the art changes according to its location.

The Indian section is also divided by geography, with central India having the largest concentration of rock art. The exhibition also has a section showcasing the living art traditions in India by focusing on three communities — the lanjia sauras of Odisha, rathwa bhils of Gujarat and warlis of Maharashtra — to showcase the continuity of these artistic tradition in modern India.

The IGNCA had earlier organised an exhibition on Indian rock art at the World Rock Art Museum at Yinchuan, China in 2014. In reciprocation, Chinese scholars/institutions have come to the city to participate in the India-China rock art exhibition-cum-workshop and special lectures series. The exhibition is on till March 27.

# पत्थरों की कला देख चकित हुए लोग

नई दिल्ली, 24 फरवरी (नेहा सजवाण) : दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी नेशनल सेंटर फॉर आर्ट में रॉक आर्ट पर 'इंडिया चाइना रॉक आर्ट' नामक एक प्रदर्शनी लगाई गई है। जिसमें पत्थरों की कला के बेजोड़ नमूनों को चित्रों के माध्यम से प्रदर्शित किया गया है। यह प्रदर्शनी बुधवार से दर्शकों के लिए शुरू कर दी गई है, जिसमें भारत के साथ चीन के भी कई रॉक आर्ट को शामिल किया है। भारत और चीन के संबंधों को दर्शाती यह रॉक आर्ट भारत और चीन की ऐतिहासिक विरासतों को दर्शाने के साथ उसके बारे में जानने का भी मौका दे रही है। जिसमें इंडिया और चाइना दोनों देशों के महानतम कला के खजानों में



से एक 'रॉक आर्ट' के जरिए मानव के कलात्मक और सांस्कृतिक विकास को बढ़ाने का भी प्रयास हो रहा है। 'इंडिया चाइना रॉक आर्ट' प्रदर्शनी में भारत और चीन की पत्थरों की

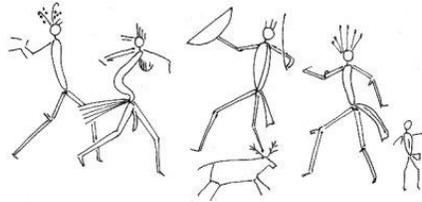
कला प्रदर्शित की गई है। पत्थरों पर उकेरी गई आदिवासी कलाकृतियों को दर्शकों द्वारा काफी पसंद किया जा रहा है। इसके साथ ही यहां एक फिल्म स्क्रीन भी लगाई गई है, जिसमें कारीगरों को पत्थरों पर कलाकृति बनाते हुए दिखाया गया है। यहां दर्शकों के लिए भारत की वरली, रुठवा, लंजिया, सौरा आदि कलाओं को प्रदर्शित किया गया है। लोगों को इस प्रदर्शनी को 27 मार्च तक देखने का मौका मिलेगा। 24 से 26 फरवरी तक यहां आने वाले दर्शकों को प्रदर्शनी के साथ चाइना से आए आर्टिस्ट द्वारा दिये गए लैक्चर और वर्कशॉप के जरिए इस कला को करीब से जानने का मौका मिलेगा।

नवोदय टाइम्स

Thu, 25 February 2016

[epaper.navodayatimes.in/c/8796071](http://epaper.navodayatimes.in/c/8796071)

The exhibition will initially remain open for the public till 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.



**Jigmet Namgyal**

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