

**A Report
On**



**The World of Rock Art Exhibition
At
Bharat Kala Bhawan, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
(5th -28th March, 2013)**

The present exposition '*The World of Rock Art*' is culled out from the *Exhibition on Rock Art* organised during the International Event of Rock Art, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi from 6th December, 2012 to 23rd January, 2013. After getting good responses at Delhi, it was decided to take the exhibition to the other part of the country for the awareness of school children, college and University students as well as for general masses. The first circulatory exhibition was organised at Bharat Kala Bhawan, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, from 5th to 28th March, 2013. The exhibition at Varanasi was inaugurated on 5th March 2013 by the Chief Guest, Prof. B.M. Shukla, an eminent scientist and Former Vice-Chancellor, Gorakhpur University. In the inauguration ceremony many dignitaries of the University were present including Dr. D.P. Sharma, Director Bharat Kala Bhawan, BHU. Introduction to the exhibition and welcome address was given by Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director and vote of thanks by Prof. K. D. Tripathi, Hon. Advisor, IGNCA, and Eastern Regional Centre.

Two special lectures on the rock art of the region were organised during the exhibition. The first special lecture was delivered by Prof. R.K. Varma, former vice-chancellor, A.P.S. University, Rewa (M.P) on the topic 'Rock Art in Northern Vindhyan Region' on 5th March, 2013. While the second special lecture was given by Prof. J. N. Pal, a renowned archaeologist and Professor of Allahabad University on the topic 'Rock Art in North Vindhyan Region and Prehistoric Rock Art in Vindhyas in Uttar Pradesh and Adjoining Areas, North Central India' on 6th March, 2013.

The exhibition and the special lectures at Banaras were well received and got very good attention from press and media. Through this event, we have been able, to a great extent, to propagate and highlight the activities of the IGNCA, especially about the objective of the present rock art project and the methodology adopted for its documentation and study.

For this exhibition, selected exhibits were chosen from five continents of the world - Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, North and South America. A representative collection of the significant and important traditions were displayed continent wise. The exhibition created, for the viewer, a degree of experiential contact with prehistoric art. It provided 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. The exhibition also showcased the 'living art traditions' of three communities- the Lanjia-Sauras of Odisha, the Rathwa-Bhilas of Gujarat and the Warlis of Maharashtra to give a glimpse of continuity of artistic traditions in Indian context.