

## **India –China Rock Art Workshop-cum-Exhibition 2016** (24<sup>th</sup> February-27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016)

India and China, the two giants of Asia had a glorious past; both the countries have vibrant cultures with significant mutual influence in areas like history, philosophy, art etc. Right from Pre-historic times they grew in parallel and shared their cultural traits and the tradition has been continuing ever since. There is much more to learn from Indian and Chinese contribution to mutual cultural relationship. By interchanging our cultural resources we shall achieve our cultural renaissance. The collaborative venture between India and China in the field of Rock Art studies will open new horizons for cultural cooperation between the two nations.

Rock Art is one of the greatest surviving art treasures of both these countries, which possess a large body of evidence for human artistic, cognitive and cultural beginnings and the collaborative venture between India and China in the field of rock art studies will open new horizons for cultural cooperation. It is also a vital archaeological source to study and analyze the cognitive evolution of the human intellect across the world. The intrinsic efficacy of the Rock Art lies in its universality of appeal and to endure and sustain in a manner in which all can discern it.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has conceived a major academic programme that relates to exploring artistic manifestations emanating from man's primary sense perceptions. The rock art forms a crucial component of its *Adi Drishya* (Primeval Vision) programme.

In its series of national and international events, the IGNCA has organized an exhibition on 'Indian Rock Art' in The World Rock Art Museum at Yinchuan, China in 2014. An Indian delegation comprising of Dr. B. L. Malla, Prof. V. H. Sonawane, Prof. S. Pradhan, and Dr. R. C. Agarwal also participated in the 'Chinese Helan Mountain International Rock Art Summit Forum' held on 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The exhibition was inaugurated on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 and remained open for public till 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. The exhibition was jointly co-hosted by People's Government of Yinchuan, Department of Culture of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Tourist Administration of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Rock Art Research Association of China (RARAC) and IGNCA.

In order to strengthen its academic and research cooperation between China and India, IGNCA has reciprocated by way of inviting Chinese scholars/institutions to participate in the 'India-China Rock Art Exhibition-cum-Workshop' in India from 24<sup>th</sup> February - 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. On this occasion IGNCA will organize a series of special lectures from 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. Another important objective of this India-China collaboration will be to work out the area of mutual interest in the field of rock art studies and conservation and training of young Indian scholars, exchange of technical expertise/experts in the field of documentation, dissemination etc.

Both India and China are fortunate in possessing one of the largest concentrations of this precious and earliest world heritage. Therefore, it would be a privilege for the IGNCA to host such

an important India-China Rock art event with an urge to analyse where we stand in the global context. The concern for exploring new ways and means for rock art research and for deciphering it has opened a new chapter in the history of research in pre-historic and tribal arts.

