



RASI-IFRAO NEWS

REPORT ON THE 22nd CONGRESS OF THE ROCK ART SOCIETY OF INDIA HELD AT PUNE FROM 26th -28 th OCTOBER, 2017

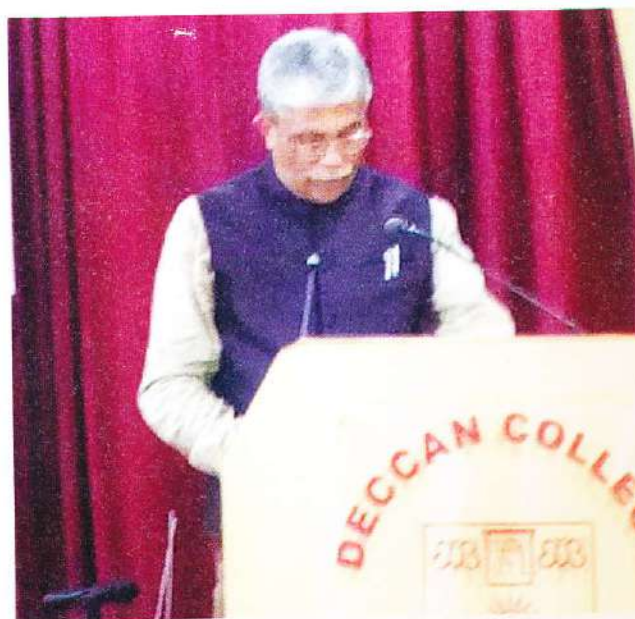
The 22nd International Congress of the Rock Art Society of India (150th year Celebration of Rock Art Research in India) was held at Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, Maharashtra from 26th -28th October, 2017 being hosted by the Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune and Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

The inaugural function was held on 26th October, 2017 in the forenoon at the Conference Hall of Department of Archaeology, Deccan College, Pune. The function was inaugurated after lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries on the dais. Prof. N. R. Karmalkar, Vice Chancellor, Pune University, Dr. A. P. Jamkhedkar, Chancellor, Deccan College Deemed University, Prof. Vasant S. Shinde, Vice-Chancellor, Deccan College, Prof. Sushma Deo, Head of AIHC & Archaeology, Deccan College, Prof. R.C. Agarwal,

President, RASI, Prof. Giriraj Kumar, General Secretary, RASI, Prof. A. Sundara and Dr. Kanti Kumar A. Pawar, Conference Co-ordinator, Deccan College PGRI, Pune. Prof. Vasant S. Shinde delivered welcome address and stressed for documentation and preservation of rock heritage. He announced that a new paper on Rock Art study will be introduced in the syllabus of the Deccan College in the next academic session. Co-ordinator of the 22nd RASI Congress Dr. Kanti Kumar Pawar briefed about the concept note and background of the congress. Prof. R. C. Agarwal, President, Rock Art Society of India and Prof. Giriraj Kumar, General Secretary, Rock Art Society of India delivered their addresses. Chief Guest Prof. N. R. Karmalkar in his address emphasised the need of preserving the rock art heritage of India. In his Presidential Address Dr. A.P. Jamkhedkar, Chancellor, Deccan College told that Deccan College has played key role in rock art research and will



Prof. Vasant S. Shinde delivering welcome address in the 22nd RASI Congress, Deccan College, Pune.



Chief Guest Prof. N. R. Karmalkar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Poona addressing the audience in the 22nd RASI Congress, Pune.



Dignitaries on the dais at the Inaugural Function of the 22nd RASI Congress, Pune (From left to right - Dr. Kantikumar A Pawar, Prof. Sushma Deo, Prof. Giriraj Kumar, Prof. R. C. Agarwal, Prof. A. Sundara, Prof. N. R. Karmalkar, Prof. A.P. Jamkhedkar and Prof. Dr. Vasant Shinde (addressing on the occasion).

contribute more for rock art heritage management. Prof. Sushma Deo, Head, Department of AIHC & Archaeology offered vote of thanks. The inaugural programme was anchored by Dr. Amrita Das Sarkar. The Inaugural function was ended with National Anthem. A Photo exhibition on Rock Art organised at H. D. Sankalia Gallery was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Prof. N. R. Karmalkar.

This year Dr. Vasant S. Shinde was the Keynote speaker of the Congress. Prof. Ravi Korisetkar was to deliver the Dr. V. S. Wakankar memorial lecture of the Congress. Prof. Korisetkar could not come to Pune due to his illness and hospitalization. His lecture was delivered in his absence by Prof. R. C. Agarwal. Prof. S. N. Rajguru gave introduction about Dr. V. S. Wakankar and Prof. K. Padayya gave introduction of



Audience in the Hall on day-1 of the RASI Congress, Pune.

Prof. Korisetkar. The section was chaired by Prof. A Sundara.

The post lunch academic session of day-1 (Academic Session -2) was dedicated to the Congress Theme: Rock Art in Indian Ocean Rim Countries: Prospect, Challenges and Strategies to meet them which was presided over by Prof. A Sundara and Elora Tribedy was the Rapporteur. In this session 03 papers were presented. The 1st paper was by Arsha Ali, the 2nd paper of Robert G. Bednarik was presented in his absence by Giriraj Kumar and the 3rd paper was of Giriraj Kumar by himself. In the evening the RASI Executive meeting was held at the Conference Hall chaired by Prof. R. C. Agarwal, President, Rock Art Society of India. Prof. A. Sundara, Prof. V. H. Sonawane and Dr. B. M. Reddy were the Guests present in the meeting. In the meeting agenda points were : Scientific dating of rock art expedition, issue of financial grant, Election of RASI Executive Body and next conference. Local site seeing for the delegates was arranged in the afternoon and evening of 26-10-2017.

On day 2, the Academic Session-3 was presided over by Prof. S. N. Rajguru and Prof. V. H. Sonawane and Rapporteur was Tanzeel Azad. The theme of the session was Rock Art Dating and Scientific Study. Out of 8 papers, 06 papers were presented. The speakers were Giriraj Kumar, Manoj Kumar Rathore, D. P. Tewari, Ruman Banerjee (joint paper with Alister W. G. Pike), Katta Ganeswar Rao et al. and Ram Krishna. The presenter of remaining two papers were not present in the session. After Tea break, the Academic Session-4 was held which was presided over by Prof. Sadasiba Pradhan and Rapporteur was Ms Vinnie P. The theme of the session was Rock Art discoveries and studies in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. In this session 07 papers were presented. The speakers were: Tosabanta Padhan, Dibishada B. Garnayak (joint paper with Sanjay Panda, Asish Ranjan Sahoo and Umakant Bhoi), G. L. Badam, Meenakshi



Rock Art exhibition in H. D. Sankalia Memorial Gallery.

Dubey Pathak (Joint paper with Jean Clottes), Ruman Banerjee & Tanzeel Azad.

The Academic session-5 was started at about 5 pm on day 2. It was presided over by Dr G. L. Badam and Dr Meenakshi Dubey Pathak with Mr. Tanoy Sengupta as Rapporteur. In this session 04 papers were presented. The speakers were : Prabash Sahu et al, (Joint paper with Rupal Meshram, Neha Richhariya and Devshree Raghushe), S. S. Gupta, Manohar Vitthal Desai, Sivakumar Challa & Vijay Kumar (Joint paper). The Academic Session-6, the last academic session of the day, was chaired by Dr Prabash Sahu and Rapporteur was Shri Himanshu Shekhar. The theme of the session was: Rock Art Discoveries and Studies in Maharashtra and Goa. In this session 02 papers were presented, one on 27.10.2017 and the second one on 28.10.2017. The paper presenters were: Prof. P. S. Joshi (joint paper with Kanchana Bhaisare) and Sarvesh Borkar. In the evening RASI General Body meeting was held in the Conference hall of Department of AIHC & Archaeology, Deccan College.

On day 3 i.e. dated 28-10-2017 after finishing one remaining paper of academic -6, the Academic Session -7 was held which was chaired by Dr. B.M. Reddy with Ms. Shraddha Bali as Rapporteur. The theme of the session was: Rock Art of South India. Out of 8 papers accepted for the session, 5 scholars presented their papers. They were : K. Venkateswara Rao, Yadava Raghu, Sivakumar Challa (joint paper with V. Ramabrahmam), Jinu Koshy et al. (Joint paper with Ramesh Masethung and R. Ajay Kumar) and Sai

Krishna E. The Academic Session -8 was chaired by Prof. D. P. Tewari and Dr. S. S. Gupta. Rapporteur was Ms Simran Sambhi. The theme of the session was : Rock Art, Ethnography and Interpretations: Northeast India. Total 8 papers were presented in this session in two spells (3 before Lunch break and 5 after Lunch break). The presenters of paper were: P. Binodini Devi, V. H. Sonawane, Himangshu Rava, Himanshu Shekhar, Mukesh K. Rathia (Joint paper with Arun Kumar), Vikram V. Kulkarni, Nalini A Waghmare and Sitaram Toraskar (Joint paper with Riza Abbas). The last Academic session i.e. Session-9 was chaired by Dr Abhijeet Dandekar with Amit Pendam as Rapporteur. In this session one paper was presented by Chidanand Bandu Kamati.

After academic deliberations, the Congress was ended with a Valedictory function held on 28.10.2017. Prof. K. Padayya, former Director, Deccan Collge (Deemed University) was the Chief Guest of the function. In addition, Prof. R. C. Agarwal, Prof. V.H. Sonawane, Prof. Vasant S. Shinde, Prof. Giriraj Kumar, Dr Kanti Kumar A Pawar were on the dais. In the function, the Rapporteurs presented their reports of different academic sessions. This time about 50 research papers were received out of which 37 were presented in different sessions. The participation of young researchers in more number is observed. The papers presented covers different geographical regions and aspects of rock art research. Prof. Sadasiba Pradhan, Dr. B. M. Reddy and Dr. Prabash Sahu expressed their views about the smooth organisation of the Congress. On behalf of the delegates and Rock Art Society of India, Prof. R. C. Agarwal, President, Rock Art Society of India offered thanks to the organising Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College Post Graduate Research Institute (Deemed University), Pune, authorities of the University and all concerned for nice hospitality and organisation of the Congress in systematic manner.

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