



RASI NEWS

THE 23rd CONGRESS OF THE ROCK ART SOCIETY OF INDIA, UJJAIN, MADHYA PRADESH : A REPORT

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The 23rd Congress of the Rock Art Society of India was held at Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh from 22nd-24th February, 2019. It was hosted by Wakankar Bharati Sanskruti Anveshan Nyas, Ujjain and was sponsored by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). The RASI Congress coincides with the Birth Centenary Year of Padmashri Dr Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar, hence it was a tribute to him.

The inaugural function was held on 22nd February, 2019 at the Conference Hall of Ashrey Hotel, Ujjain. The function was inaugurated after lighting a lamp by the Chief Guest Prof. Arvind Jamkhedkar, Chairman, ICHR and other dignitaries on the dais viz. Prof. M. Venkateshwarlu from NGRI, Hyderabad (Guest of honour), Shri Yogendra ji, founding father of Sanskar Bharati, Dr. Bhagwatilal Rajpurohit, Shri Kailash Pandey, Prof. Giriraj Kumar, Shri Dileep Wakankar and Dr Nalini Revadikar. Shri Dileep Wakankar, Secretary, Wakankar Bharati Sanskruti



Figure 1. Delegates on the dais on the Inaugural Function of the 23rd RASI Conference, Ujjain

Anveshan Nyas, Ujjain delivered welcome address and introduced Wakankar Nyas. Prof. Giriraj Kumar, Secretary General RASI, welcomed the delegates of the Congress and delivered address on Mission Goes On.

The RASI Journal, *Purakala* Vol. 27-28, 2018 was released during the function. Another book written by Jean Clottes and Meenakshi Dubey Pathak on Chattishgarh Rock Art and Ethnography was also released on the occasion. Shri Kailash C. Pandey honoured Rock Art Scholars like Prof. Giriraj Kumar,



Figure 2. Honourable guests opening the conference by lighting the lamp.



Figure 3. Dr Dileep Wakankar welcoming the delegates and guests.



Figure 4. Purakala Volume 27-28, 2018 is being released by the honourable guests.

Dr. Narayan Vyas, Dr Pradyumna Kumar Bhatt, Shri Ramesh Kumar Pancholi, Dr Dibishada Brajasundar Garnayak, Om Prakash (Kukki) and some others by presenting mementos and certificate.

Shri Yogendra Ji of Sanskar Bharati delivered the 23rd Dr V. S. Wakankar Memorial Lecture on



Figure 5. Dr Kailash Pandey and Dr Bhagwatilal Rajpurohit honouring Dr Narayan Vyas and some other scholars for their contribution in rock art research.



Figure 6. Prof. Arvind Jamkhedkar, Chairman, ICHR and Chief guest of the conference delivering his address.

“Sanskriti Purush Dr V. S. (Haribhau) Wakankar”. Keynote address of the Congress was delivered by Prof. Arvind Jamkhedkar “Dimensions of the scientific study of cupules: Perspectives of Daraki-Chattan”. Guest of Honour Prof. M. Venkateshwarlu delivered address on “Challenges in Palaeomagnetic dating of Rock art samples in the perspective of Daraki Chattan Cave, Bhanpura. Dr. Bhagwatilal Rajpurohit chaired the Inaugural session. Dr. Nalini Revadikar offered vote of thanks. It was followed by a group Photograph of the delegates.



Figure 7. Honourable Yogendra ji, Founding father of Sanskar Bharati, delivering the Dr V. S. Wakankar Memorial lecture.



Figure 8. Prof. M. Venkateshwarlu, Head of the Palaeomagnetic Lab., NGRI, Hyderabad delivering the Keynote address of the conference.

Keeping in view of the centenary celebration of the birth centenary of Dr.V.S. Wanakar, a special session on “Dr. V. S. Wakankar: Mission Rock Art Discipline” was organised. The session was chaired by Erwin Neumayer (Austria) and Dr. Narayan Vyas. Erwin Neumayer, Smita Nagdev, Narayan Vyas, Ramesh Kumar Pancholi, Kailash Chand Pandey, Giriraj Kumar and Meenakshi Dubey Pathak presented the spirit to work on rock art and shared their experiences with Dr Wakankar.

The afternoon Session 3- Panel discussion: ‘Meeting the challenges in Rock Art Science’, was chaired by Dr M. Venkateshwarlu and Prof Giriraj



Figure 9. Sushri Smita Nagdev performing Sitar Vadan in the memory of beloved Dr V. S. Wakankar.



Figure 10. Dr Arakhita Pradhan, Jt. Secretary RASI presenting the Report of the 23rd RASI Congress, Ujjain and its achievements

Kumar in which scholars like M. Venkateshwarlu, Giriraj Kumar, Ruman Banerjee, Shyam Saran Gupta, Ram Krishna made deliberations. Erwin Neumayer, Shiv Kumar Challa, Snehalata, Dr Dileep Wakankar, Swatantra Kumar, Dr A. Pradhan etc. actively participated in the discussion. After the academic sessions of the day a meeting of the RASI Executive Committee was held in the evening.

On Day-2, 23-02-2019, the academic Session-4 was chaired by Dr Shyam Saran Gupta (Bhopal) and Dr Arakhita Pradhan (New Delhi). Ms Neeta Dubey was the Rapporteur. Out of 11 papers received on the theme, “Rock Art Study, Protection, Popularisation



Figure 11. Dr Raman Solanki, Curator of the Archaeological Museum Vikram University, Ujjain delivering the Valedictory Address of the Conference.



Figure 12. Audience participating in the deliberations of the conference.

and development”, six were presented by the delegates.

The Session-5 on “Recent discoveries” was presided over by Prof V. Ramabrahmam and Dr Ruman Banerjee. Shri S. K. Challa was the Rapporteur. In this session, 5 papers were presented. The academic Session-6 on “Significance of Rock Art” was presided over by Prof Ashwini Kumar Sharma. Ms Neelam Singh was the Rapporteur. In this session 05 papers were presented.

The General Body Meeting of the Rock Art Society of India was held at the Conference Hall on 23rd Feb 2019 evening. It was followed by the Stunning Sitar- wadan by veteran Sitarist Ms Smita Nagdev, foster daughter of Dr Wakankar. It was devoted to the sweet memory of revered guru late Dr V. S. Wakankar.

On Day-3, 24-02-2019, the delegates of the 23rd RASI Congress visited Wakankar Shodh Sansthan at Madhav Nagar, Ujjain. They were led by Shri Dileep Wakankar. The members of the Wakankar family warmly welcomed the delegates of the Congress. Shri Dileep Wakankar explained the collection of Dr. Wakankar displayed in the Wakankar museum. The newly established gallery, on the life of Dr V. S. Wakankar, his contributions and achievements, was inaugurated by the honourable guests of the conference. After this the delegates visited Vikram Kirti Mandir museum of the Vikram University, established and nurtured by Dr Wakankar. The delegates took the round of the Museum galleries established by Dr Wakankar on Stone Age cultures, Fossils collected from Narmada valley, excavated Chalcolithic culture material from Chambal and Narmada valleys, variety of sculptures from Malwa

region of different periods, etc with Dr Raman Solanki, the Curator of the Museum.

More than 60 delegates from different parts of the country and two delegates from Austria participated in the 23rd RASI Congress and more than 30 research papers were presented in the congress in different academic sessions. The 23rd Congress of the RASI ended with the Valedictory function held in the afternoon on 24th Feb 2019. It was chaired by Prof. Giriraj Kumar and Shri Dileep Wakankar. On this occasion, the website of Wakankar Shodh Sansthan and Rock Art Society of India were launched. Dr Arakhita Pradhan presented brief gist about the papers. Mr Erwin Neumayer, Dr Narayan Vyas and Ms Neelam Singh shared their experience about the 23rd RASI Congress and praised the best hospitality offered to the delegates. They also thanked Dr Dileep Wakankar and the entire Wakankar family for efficiently organising the 23rd RASI Congress. The Chief Guest of the valedictory function was Dr Raman Solanki, Curator of Vikram Kirti Mandir Museum. He remembered with gratitude the contributions made by late Dr V.S. Wakankar to the Rock Art Discipline and archaeology of India. On behalf of the delegates and Rock Art Society of India, Prof. Giriraj Kumar offered cordial thanks to the local organiser.

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ADDENDUM

The credit for photograph of the spectacular elephant from Kasheli in Ratnagiri region, Figure 8 (*Purakala* 27-28, 2018: 45) goes to Amar Reddy. We sincerely express our apology for omission of his name on our part.

Tejas Garge, B. V. Kulkarni,
Rhutvij R. Apte and Sudhir Risbud

Reference:

TEJAS GARGE, B. V. KULKARNI, RHUTVIJ R. APTE and SUDHIR RISBUD 2018. Petroglyphs in Konkan: Historiography, recent discoveries and future endeavours. *Purakala* 27-28: 39-47.

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