



## ORIENTATION

### 10<sup>TH</sup> RASI CONGRESS, RED FORT, DELHI: A REPORT

11 & 12 February, 2006

The 10th RASI Congress of the Rock Art Society of India was organised in collaboration with Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India. The Congress was held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2006 in which Members of RASI, University Professors, Officers of the Archaeological Survey of India and the students of the Institute of Archaeology participated. Inaugural function was held on 11<sup>th</sup> morning February, 2006 in which the welcome address was rendered by Prof. R.C. Agrawal, Joint Director General, Institute of Archaeology. The President of the RASI also welcomed the members. President of RASI Prof. Giriraj Kumar also welcomed the members. Prof. G.L. Badam, Secretary RASI presented his report. On behalf of the Director General, ASI Dr K.P. Poonacha, Director (Monuments) released the Journal of the Purakala. Prof. D.N. Tripathi, Chairman, ICHR gave the inaugural address and inaugurated the Congress. Dr.K.K. Chakravarty, Member Secretary, IGNC A delivered the Dr V.S. Wakankar Memorial Lecture. The Seminar was centered around recent trends in rock art researches. In all five Sessions were held. In the first Session an introduction was given about the V.S. Wakankar by Prof. V.H. Sonawane and extensive lecture was delivered by Dr. K.K. Chakravarty. Photographs of the Congress event have been given on the inside cover pages of this issue of *Purakala*.

In Session-II a key note address was presented by Dr S. Pradhan and a detailed report of EIP Project by Dr. Giriraj Kumar. Dr. S.B. Ota presented paper on contextual documentation of Rock Art. Dr. J. Manual presented a paper on 'Frequency of Rhinoceros Depicting in Rock Art'. Dr. S. Chakravarty presented the evidence of rock art in Purulia, West Bengal. Dr. Narayan Vyas, presented regional variations in rock art of Madhya Pradesh.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Session which was chaired by Dr. K.P. Poonacha in which 07 presentations were made. Shri

A.K. Prasad presented paper on rock paintings of Chhotnagpur region in Bihar and Jharkhand. Mr. Z.M. Shafi of Jammu and Kashmir presented the rock art of Kashmir valley. Mr. Q.M. Ahmed gave graphic descriptions of pre-historic rock paintings of Bebas valley. Dr. M.L. Sharma and M.L. Meena presented a research paper on rock art of Dadikar – Hajipur in Alwar District, Rajasthan. They also presented a research paper on 'Newly discovered rock art sites in Shekhavati region, Rajasthan. Shri Ram Shekhar Singh presented a new interpretation of Rock cut Art at Kaimur hill in Bihar. Ms Madhulika Samanta, a research scholar of Deccan College presented an ethnological analysis of rock paintings from Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.

The Fourth Session of Seminar was chaired by Dr. Amarendra Nath, in which seven presentations were made. Dr. P.K. Bhatt discussed about the use of Landscape from pre-historic times through the ages. Mr. Dhanpat Dharia discussed some of the symbols in the rock art by establishing linkages with the Harappan script and made linkages between the two. Dr. Meenakshi Pathak highlighted the dangers and vandalism of rock art of Ladakh and Pandhamadi and stressed the need of its protection. She also highlighted the efforts initiated by the army in protecting some of the sites in Ladakh region. Dr. M.C. Srivastava discussed about the human figures in Vindhyan Rock Art. Shri Tarun Kumar and Mahesh C Srivastava discussed about the rock carvings of boulders. Dr. Kurmi Manoj Kumar highlighted the scope of rock art research in Marathwada region whereas Shri Jitender Kumar discussed the rock art of Fatehpur Sikri.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Congress was chaired by Dr. P.B.S. Sengar, Director, Archaeological Survey of India in which 10 presentations were made. The first presentation was made by Ms Shipra Upadhyaya

on Indian rock art in recent perspective. Shri Dilip Kumar Padhi highlighted the importance of the photography in the rock art and recent studies. Shri R.K. Pancholi highlighted importance of the Bhanpura area. In the development of the rock art research Dr. Subroto Chakravorty discussed about the hunter gatherers world view in rock art. Dr Bhuvan Vikrama and V.N. Prabhakar highlighted the issue of rock art studies. Dr. G.L. Badam discussed the rock art of Chhatisgarh and Dr. B.L.Mallah discussed about the rock art researches. Mr. Rahas Mohanty enumerated about the rock art and wild life.

The valedictory function was held at 7.30 P.M. on 12<sup>th</sup> February and the same was chaired by Shri Jagatpati Joshi, former Director General of Archaeological Survey of India. The participants who attended this congress highlighted their views about the Congress. Shri Jagatpati Joshi gave the valedictory address and highlighted that the Congress has traveled a long distance in the study of rock art research and it needs a larger participation by the like minded people and rock art lovers. He emphasized that the rock art sites in India needs more protection measures for safeguarding the same for the future generations.

General Body Meeting was also held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 after the Congress. The issues relating to the publication of 'Purakala' and the management of the Society was discussed in greater detail. Election for the RASI Executive- April 2006 to March 2009 was also held. Prof. A. Sundara, the veteran Rock art scholar from Karnataka was the presiding officer of the election. Prof. R.C. Agrawal and Dr. Giriraj Kumar were elected/nominated by the House as the President and Secretary of the Society respectively. The list of the newly formed Patrons, Board of Advisors and Executive Committee is being published in Purakala , Volume-16, 2006.

In the meeting the issues discussed and decisions made are as follows:

1. The Chairman and his team of the RASI-2004 International Rock Art Congress, Agra (28 November to 02 Dec, 2004) was congratulated for organizing the congress and post congress field trips successfully.

2. Purakala, Volume 14-15, 2005 A special issue on EIP Project was highly appreciated for its standard and quality. However all the members unanimously recommended for improvement in the quality of publication at per with international standard for which a resolution was passed for submission to the Director General , Archaeological Survey of India and the Chairman , Indian Council of Historical Research to increase the publication grant. The needful action has already been taken.

It is the responsibility of the RASI members and other scholars to contribute research papers of high standard.

3. RASI should increase research activities and training programme for young scholars.

4. Invitation for the 11th RASI Congress was extended by Dr. P.K. Bhatt and Dr. B.L. Bamboria on behalf of Itihas Parisad, Bhanpura, which was unanimously accepted.

Prof. R.C. Agrawal  
President, RASI  
Jt. Director General  
(Institute of Archaeology)  
Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)  
Officers Mess, Red Fort  
New Delhi-110 006  
email : [director\\_ia@yahoo.co.in](mailto:director_ia@yahoo.co.in)

#### RASI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 13 MAY, 2006

The RASI Executive Committee meeting was held at the Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India, Red Fort, Delhi on 13 May, 2006. The meeting was attended by Prof. R.C. Agrawal, Shri S.B. Ota, Shri V.N. Prabhakar, Dr. M.L. Sharma, Capt. R.S. Thakur, Shri M.L. Meena, Shri Arakhita Pradhan and Dr. Giriraj Kumar. The meeting was presided over by Prof. R.C. Agrawal, President of RASI. The issues discussed and decisions made are as follows:

1. RASI Congress, Bhanpura should maintain the standard of RASI events.

2. In order to understand the nature of the megalith like cultural remains on the bank of

Chaturbhujnath nala and their relationship with the rock art of the site RASI should undertake excavation and exploration programme at Chaturbhujnath nala and in the surrounding region as a continuation of the EIP project in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of Dr. Giriraj Kumar, Secretary, RASI.

3. RASI should enhance its endeavours for the protection and conservation of Daraki- Chattan.
4. RASI should organize an International workshop for the study of the excavated material and the site Daraki- Chattan in 2007-08.
5. RASI office should have some assets like a Lap top, GPS, Movie Camera, Steel Camera, LCD projector etc.
6. Dr. V.S. Wakankar memorial lecture in the RASI Congress, Bhanpura, 2006 will be delivered by Prof. Subrata Chakravarty of Viswa Bharati University, Santiniketan.
7. Shri R.K. Pancholi should be felicitated in the RASI Congress, Bhanpura, 2006.

Secretary, RASI

#### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

We congratulate and welcome the following persons for joining RASI family as Life Members during 2006.

**Dr. B. L. Nagarch,**  
E-121, Sector, NOIDA  
District Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.)  
Phone No- 0120-2541563

**Ms Shipra R.Upadhyay,**  
Survey No. 79, CEN/21  
Jai B hawani Nagar, Near Bankar Udyan  
Hadapsar, Pune- 411 028.

**Dr Dhanpat Singh Dhania,**  
Block R, 26 G  
Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110 095.

**Dr. K.P. Poonacha,**  
Director (Conservation)  
Archaeological Survey of India,  
Janpath, New Delhi-110011

**Shri Ram Shekhar, Singh,**  
401, Anant Vikas Apartment, Ved Nagar,  
Rukanpura, Patna-800014, Bihar

**Shri Umesh Kumar Singh (IPS),**  
DIG of Police,  
Shahabad Range, Rohtas Deharion-Sone,  
District-Rohtas. Bihar

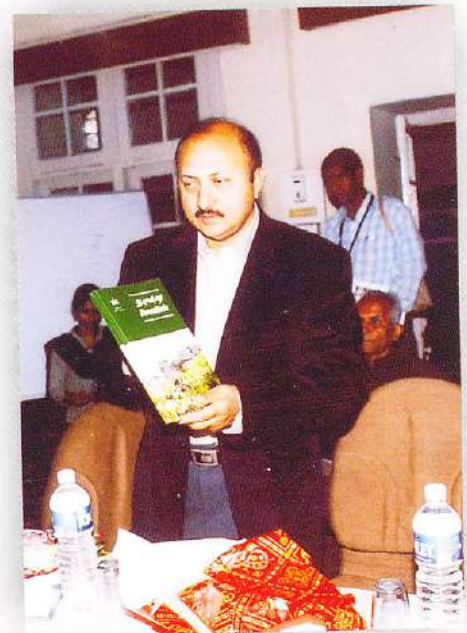
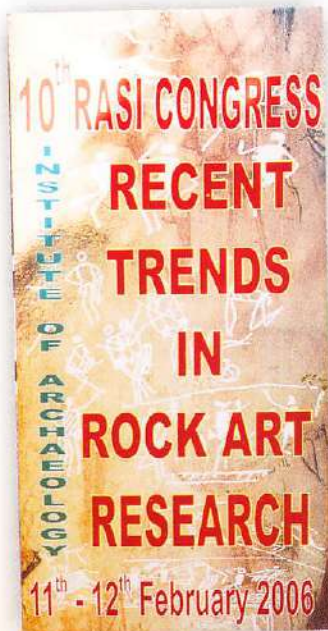
**Ms Urmi Biswas**  
63, Nandiswar L&T Complex,  
New Sama Road, Vadodara-390008

**Shri Arvind Srivastava**  
Chairman, Travelogue India  
Block No.5, First Floor, Flat No.3,  
Raj Kamal Apartment, Fatehabad Road, Agra-282001

**Er. Anil Singhal**  
Designer's Group  
F-11, Dayal Arcade, Opp. Shree Cinema  
Bye Pass Road, Agra-282005  
Mobile No-9837038042

**Shri Umrao Singh**  
S/o Kana Singh  
Village & P.O. -Tathera  
Via- Ajitgarh  
District Sikar, Rajasthan-332 001  
Phone: 01572 257473

Secretary, RASI



Some of the reflections of the Inaugural Ceremony of the 10th RASI Congress, Institute of Archaeology, ASI, Red Fort, Delhi, 11-12 February 2006.



Some of the reflections of the Academic Sessions and other activities of the 10th RASI Congress, Institute of Archaeology, ASI, Red Fort, Delhi, 11-12 February 2006.