

A BRIEF REPORT OF FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF ROCK ART SOCIETY OF INDIA, GOA

The 15th Congress of the Rock Art Society of India was organised in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India, Goa Circle at the auditorium of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Indian Council for Agricultural Research in Old Goa from 18th to 20th February, 2011. The main theme of the Congress was Rock art of Coastal area with special reference to Goa. It was sponsored by Archaeological Survey of India and Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi.

The Inaugural function of the Congress was held in the morning on 18th February. Shri Pravin Srivastava, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India was the Chief Guest. Dr S.V.Venkatesiah, Regional Director (Southern Region), Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore, Dr. S.P.Singh, Director, ICAR, Old Goa, Shri P. N. Parameshwaran, Manager, Canara Bank, Old Goa, Prof. V. H. Sonawane, Shri S. B. Ota, Regional Director (Central Region), ASI, Bhopal were the guest of honour. Dr V. Shivananda, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Goa Circle welcomed the guests and delegates of the conference. Prof. R.C. Agrawal, President RASI, delivered his Presidential address. Chief Guest Shri Shrivastava appreciated the activities of the Rock Art

Society of India and emphasized the need of involvement of academic societies to work with the government organizations for preservation of the rock art heritage and other monuments.

On this occasion of Inaugural function, Dr P. P. Shirodkar, Former Director, Archives and Archaeology Government of Goa was felicitated by RASI and ASI. Shri Pravin Srivastava honoured him by presenting shawl. Dr Shirodkar gave a power point presentation on rock art of Goa and shared his experience about the history of the rock art study in Goa and its adjoining area. Shri Amarnath Ramakrihna, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Museum Branch (Western Zone) and the local organizing Secretary of the Congress presented vote of thanks.

Dr V.S.Wakankar Memorial Lecture of the Congress was delivered by Dr Giriraj Kumar, Prof in Indian Culture and Rock Art Science in Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra. Prof V. H. Sonawane introduced late Dr. Wakankar and Prof Kumar to the audience. Prof. A. Sundara was the Chairman of the Memorial lecture and Key Note address. The title of the lecture was Mission Rock Art. Prof Kumar presented



1. Inauguration of the Congress by lighting of lamp :
from left to right- Prof.V.H.Sonawane , , Shri P.N. Parameshwaran,
Shri Pravin Srivastava, Dr.S.P.Singh and Dr.R.C.Agrawal)



2. Dignitaries on the dais (from left to right-Dr.S.V.Venkateshaiah,
Dr.S.P.Singh, Shri Pravin Srivastava, Shri P.N. Parameshwaran,
Prof.V.H.Sonawane and Shri S.B.Ota)



3. View of the delegates listening during inaugural function.



6. Group photograph of Delegates in front of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra



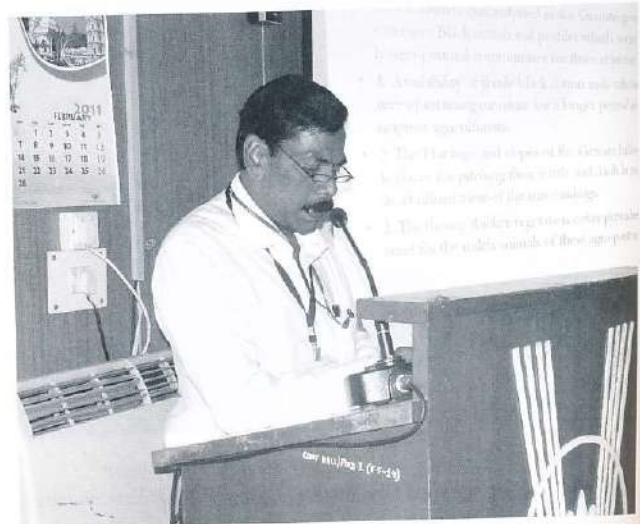
4. Dr.P.P.Shirodkar, Former Director, Department of Archives and Archaeology, Govt of Goa being felicitated by Chief Guest Shri Pravin Srivastava, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India



7. Prof. Giriraj Kumar delivering Dr.V.S.Wakankar Memorial Lecture.



5. Chief Guest of the function Shri Pravin Srivastava addressing the delegates



8. Dr.N. Chandramauli delivering Keynote Address.



9. Dignitaries on the dais in the valedictory function (Left-Dr.T.S.Sridhar, Principal Secretary Tamilnadu; Middle- Dr. Ishrat Alam Member Secretary, ICHR, Right- Dr. V.Shivananda, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Goa Circle

his vision for Rock Art Discipline in India and emphasised the need for working with missionary zeal to materialise this vision. By presenting the examples of late Dr V.S. Wakankar and his own contributions, especially through the EIP Project, he emphasised that one must have adventurous and creative spirit to unfold the secrets and need dedication to accomplish the task. We have to follow evolutionary model instead of the diffusionist Eurocentric model if rock art study is to grow in a scientific discipline. He concluded that the EIP project has made India a pioneering country in the world for study of early petroglyphs and pushed back the antiquity of rock art to Lower Paleolithic which is much older than the European cave art. He



10. Deeply engraved labyrinth on laterite bed. Usgalimol, south Goa. Megalithic I.

also emphasized for preservation of rock art sites and suggested that government organizations like ASI and NGO like RASI can work together to achieve the goal. Key Note address of the Congress on The archaeology of rock art in Peninsular India was delivered by Dr N. Chandramauli, Associate Professor in the department of History, Pondicherry University. He presented the current status of rock art research in peninsular India in archaeological perspective. He also highlighted the regional characteristic features of rock art in the four southern states and their place in Indian rock art.

Academic Sessions:

More than 85 delegates and scholars participated in the congress from 14 states i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. More than 20 research papers were presented in different academic sessions of the Congress chaired by scholars like Prof. A. Sundara, Shri S.B.Ota, Dr. N. Chandramauli, Dr Somnath Chakraverty, etc. Rock art of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Orissa was specially discussed in detail in a special session on rock art of the Coastal area.

Field Trip to Usgalimol (Pansaimol) rock art site:

In the afternoon on 19th February 2011 the delegates of the Congress were taken on a field trip to the rock art site at Usgalimol (Pansaimol). There was on the spot discussion and observations in which many of the delegates including senior scholars like Dr Shirodkar, Prof Sundara, Prof Sonawane, Shri S.B.Ota, Prof R.C.Agrawal, Prof Giriraj Kumar, Prof Ashwini Kumar Sharma, Prof Somnath Chkravarty, Prof Pratima Kamat, etc. participated.

RASI Executive Body & RASI General Body Meeting

The executive body meeting was held on 18th Feb and General body meeting was held on 19 Feb, 2011. The resolutions passed in the Executive body meeting were presented before the members in the General body Meeting. The issues discussed and decided include payment of dues of last Purakala publication, Editing of Purakala, Secretary's Post, Next Congress of RASI, Invitation to deliver next Wakankar Memorial Lecture and Key Note address etc. There



11. Dr. Ishrat Alam, Member Secretary, ICHR addressing the delegate during valedictory function

were two proposals to host the 16th RASI Congress, one by Shri T. Sridhar, Principal Secretary on behalf of State Archaeology, Tamil Nadu and the second by Prof. D.P. Tewari, Department of AIHC & Archaeology, Lucknow University. It was decided to accept the proposal of Tamil Nadu State Archaeology for 16th Congress at Chennai and to consider Lucknow for next congress. Somehow, the first proposal could not be materialized, hence the second proposal was accepted to hold 16th RASI Congress in Lucknow. The Life Membership of the Society was also enhanced to Rs.5000.00 and the Annual Membership to Rs.1000.00 which became effective from 1st April, 2011. Prof R.C. Agrawal, President RASI informed that Dr G.L. Badam had submitted his resignation from the post of Secretary General and editor of RASI prior to the RASI Congress, Goa. Hence, Purakala 20 could not be



12. Delegates discussing at the Usgaimol rock art site.

published in time and released in the RASI Congress. He also proposed the name of Prof Giriraj Kumar for the post of RASI Secretary General and editor. This proposal was unanimously accepted in the RASI General Body meeting.

The Valedictory Function of the Congress was held on 20th Feb, 2011. Shri P. Sridhar, Secretary, Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest, Dr Ishrat Alam, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi was the chief speaker. The other dignitaries on the dais were Dr. Sivananda V., Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Goa Circle, Prof. R.C. Agrawal, President, RASI. On this occasion, a book on Rock art of Tamilnadu published by the Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu was presented to Prof. R.C. Agarwal by Shri Sridhar. Shri Sridhar delivered a lecture on rock art of Tamil Nadu through power point presentation.

For organizing the 15th Congress successfully and making it memorable by the affectionate behavior of the organizers Prof R.C. Agrawal, President of RASI offered vote of thanks on behalf of the RASI to Dr. V. Shivananda, Superintending Archaeologist and his team of Archaeological Survey of India, Goa Circle, Old Goa, Shri K. Amarnath Ramakrishna, Local Organizing of the Congress and Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Museum Branch (Western Zone), Old Goa and his team. The arrangements for stay were excellent, food was delicious, the venue of the Congress was nice and field trip to the rock art site was memorable. The congress was supported by Indian Council of Historical Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Canara Bank, Old Goa; Broadway Book Centre, Panaji, Goa; Ketak Nachinolkar (Conservation Architect), F.B. Balehosur & Associates, Goa. The local print and electronic media covered the deliberations of the Congress.

Many scholars interested in the rock art accepted the life membership of the Rock Art Society of India during the Congress.

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