

ORIENTATION

Seventeenth Congress of Rock Art Society of India, Badami- 2012: A brief report

The Seventeenth Congress of Rock Art Society of India was held at Badami from 16th to 18th Nov, 2012. It was hosted by Shri Shrimadveershaiva Shivayoga Mandir Samshte, Shivayoga Mandir, Badami. The inaugural function of the Congress was held at the courtyard of Shri Kumareswar Yatri Nivas on 16th November, 2012 in the divine presence of His Holiness Jagadguru Shri Sanganbasav Mahaswamiji, Shivayoga Mandir and presided over by Shri M.K.Pattanashetti, M.L.A Badami. Shri P.C.Gaddigoudar, M.P. Bagalkot was the Guest of Honour. The inaugural function was started by singing of national song by the girls of the school, followed by lighting the lamp before the photograph of the Guru of Shri Veerashaiva sect. Shri M.B. Hangaragi, Local Organizing Secretary of the Congress welcomed the guests on the dais by garlanding and also delivered his welcome address. Prof Giriraj Kumar, Secretary General of RASI presented the annual report-2012 of the Society and publication of Purakala 22, 2012. Prof R.C. Agrawal, President RASI highlighted the contribution and achievements of RASI in the field of the rock art research in India.

A photo exhibition on the monumental heritage of Karnataka was organized by the Dharward



Fig. 1. Lighting a lamp by His Holiness Jagadguru Shri Sanganbasav Mahaswamiji, Shivayoga Mandir.

Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India. It was inaugurated after the inaugural function. His Holiness Jagadguru Shri Sanganbasav Mahaswamiji in his address in Hindi appreciated the research and other activities being carried out by RASI in the field of rock art and blessed for grand success of the Congress. Volume 22, 2012 of Purakala, the journal of the Rock Art Society of India, was released on the occasion by Holiness and other dignitaries on the dais.

Prof A. Sundara delivered Keynote address of the Congress highlighting the contribution of Karnataka in rock art research in India. On the occasion RASI honoured Prof. Sundara by presenting a shawl. More than 80 delegates participated in the programme. Dr Shilakant Pattar, the main coordinator of the conference offered vote of thanks at the end of the function.

Afterwards, the delegates visited the Manuscript Library of the Asharam under the guidance of Shri Hangaragi and Dr Silakant Pattar. The delegates got an opportunity to see some of the rare manuscripts including many on *tadpatra* in the collection.

Dr D. Dayalan, Regional Director (Southern Region), Archaeological Survey of India Bangalore delivered the Dr V.S. Wakankar Memorial lecture on, Rock art of Tamil Nadu and its archaeological perspective, on the next day. Prof A. Sundara chaired the session. Shri Ramesh S. Mulimani, Superintending



Fig. 2. Girls reciting the prayer in the inaugural function of the RASI congress



Fig. 3. Shri M.B. Hangaragi, the Secretary General, Shri Shrinadveershaiva Shivayoga Mandir Samshte, Shivayoga Mandir, welcoming the delegates of the congress.



Fig. 6. His Holiness Jagadguru Shri Sangambasav Mahaswamiji, Shivayoga Mandir blessing the conference.



Fig. 4. Shri Gaddigoudar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bagalkot delivering his speech.



Fig. 7. Shri Shilakanta Pattar offering a vote of thanks.



Fig. 5. His Holiness Jagadguru Shri Sangambasav Mahaswamiji releasing Purakala Vol. 22, 2012.



Fig. 8. Ancient manuscript on tadpatra in Kannada language housed in the library inside the temple complex.

Archaeologist, ASI, Excavation Branch-VI, Mysore introduced the speaker. In his lecture Dr Dayalan described the salient features of the rock of south India

particularly that in Tamil Nadu.

Sixteen research papers were presented in five academic sessions in the two days. The sessions were



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Fig. 9. Prof. A. Sundara delivering Keynote address of the Congress.



Fig. 11. Delegates participating in the academic sessions of the Congress.



Fig. 10. Dr. D. Dayalan delivering Dr. V.S. Wakankar Memorial lecture in the Congress.



Fig. 12. Photo exhibition on monumental heritage of Karnataka by ASI, Dharwad Circle.

chaired by senior scholars like Prof Padigar, Prof A. Sundara and Prof Agrawal. In the RASI Executive Committee and General Body Meetings held in the evening of 16 Nov, 2012. They were presided over by Prof R.C. Agarwal, President, RASI. In the meetings RASI business, especially the venue of the next RASI congress was discussed.

The valedictory function of the congress was held in the presence of the representative of his holiness Mahaswamiji in the evening on 17 Nov, 2012. Prof R.C. Agrawal, Prof Giriraj Kumar from RASI, Dr D. Dayalan, Regional Director (Suthern Region), ASI, Bangalore, Dr I. Mahadeviah, Superintending Archaeologist, Aurangabad Circle, Shri M.B. Hangaragi, Local Organising Secretary and Prof A. Sundara were on the dais. On this occasion, Prof R.C. Agarwal was facilitated and honoured by Swamiji by presenting books. The organizers presented mementos to all the delegates. The RASI Executive Committee and delegates offered heartfelt thanks to the local

organizing committee especially Shri M.B. Hangaragi and Dr Silakant Pattar and their team under the blessings of his holiness for their excellent arrangements and hospitality in organizing the congress in successful manner and providing all facilities in the sub-urban area. They also extended their sincere thanks to the authorities of Indian Council of Historical Research for providing financial support for the Congress. They were able to take help from agencies like Minority Credit Co-Operative Society Ltd., Grain Bazar Badami.

The delegates visited the rock art site and monuments of Badami on 18 Novemebr, 2012 and had discussions on the spot and made the trip to Badami RASI Congress a memorable event.

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