



## ROCK ART AT BRIHASPATIKUND DISTRICT BANDA

**Anshika Mishra**  
**Ahimrshmi Dwevedi**

Research Scholar  
Department of Ancient History Culture  
And Archaeology  
University of Allahabad, Allahabad

Art is the manifestation of innate beliefs outlook and purpose expressing the materialized vitality of activities of man born out of his experience. According to Herbert Kuhn "Art is the beginning of Culture, the beginning of the human existence together."

An literature on prehistoric art the earliest discovery is associated with Altamira in Spain. About 130 years ago, hardly anything was known about the Indian prehistoric rock art. But today India can boast of being, a long study.' The results of the researchers present as complementary sources of information, which together furnish us a better understanding of the people of an age long past.

A.C. Carlyle was first to report their discovered paintings in the caves and rock shelters near Sohagi Ghat in the Northern Scrap of the Kaimur Range and

the Northeastern extended part of Vindhya in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh. A.C. Carlyle, John F., and Cockburn discovered some faded out paintings at Ghomanagar Lekhahia, overhanging rocks of the Kaimur Range in Baghelkhand. A number of scholars have listed the new areas such as Fawcett, C.A. Silbered, C.W. Anderson, Hiranand Shastri D.H. Garden, V.S. Wakankar, Jagdish Gupta, S.K. Pandey and Shankar Tiwari.

Rock Art had a wide special distribution and is found in state of Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa and Bihar.

The entire history of rock researches in India can be seen into three broad periods. During the period which ranges between 1867 to 1931, explorers, mostly amateur, enthusiastic, made personal efforts to bring to light the new rock art sites. During second period ranging from 1932 to 1972, more attention was paid to faithful recording. A maximum number of sites were discovered during this period. During third period which ranges



1973 to present, more attentive excavations of painted rock shelters scientific reproductions of rock art.

Evidence of prehistoric man in Bundelkhand is found in the form of rock painting at many places in the Banda and Chirtakoot district. Several rock shelters are found in this area. Banda is the eastern most district of Bundelkhand. The general slope of the district is from southwest to north-east, along with the course of Baghein river. There are mainly three rivers in the district namely Ken, Baghain and Yamuna.

This district falls into two sharply defined portions-one is upland called patha, situated on the Vindhyan plateau in the South of Mou and Karvi tehsil (presently known as Chitrakoot district, the other is low lands of alluvium (presently known as Banda district. Banda is located in the Chitrakoot Dham division of Uttar Pradesh, It lies between Lat 24°53 and 55N° and Long 80.07 and 81.34 E. It is bounded in the east by the district of Chitrakoot in the west by the

district of Hamirpur and Mahoba and in the south by Satna, Panna and Chattarpur the district adjoining Madhya Pradesh. No lakes exist in the district still there are a few fairly large depression which always retain water. There are numerous tanks.

Banda has an important place in the geologically and Precambrian rocks which are found in this region. There is rich Flora and Fauna.

Time to time numerous sites are reported in this preliminary survey was done in the areas. Johan Cockburn had reported in 1899 Markundi and Sarhat, Malwa Kuriakund, Karpatia, Arnuwa, Uldan and Bargarh, V.S. Wakankar reported such shelters in Chitraha. The published description indicates that mostly paintings are painted in red ochre. These discoveries revealed the importance of Patha and Alluvium region in the context of "Rock art' however a large number of them were yet to be explored. A huge numbers of sites are situated in various hills and bank of rivers but they are not reported nor excavated. I have



got information from regional sources that a large number of sites are located in this area. But they are inaccessible and are still covered with forest. I find rock painted shelter such as Ranipur, Kauakhoh, Magarmuha, Pathar Kachar, Kauhari, Brihaspati Kund, Pahara, Etor, Rehutia, Bheekhampur, Marjadpur. Above shelters are situated in very dense forest which are not easily accessible.

I visited Brihaspatikund which is located in Banda district. This site is far 55 K.M. from Banda city. It is on Kalinjar Satna road. Kalinjar coordinates is 24<sup>0</sup>50' 30<sup>0</sup>N, 80<sup>0</sup>29' E.

Most of the paintings are found in aris near the scraps of a hill. There is very natural beautiful rainfall and is meditation place of Brihaspati "Rishi", hence this place is popular as Brihaspatikund. The ability of the paint on the aris without fading for a long time. All the paintings of this site are in red ochre.

On the basis of development of rock paintings, it had been that earliest group of paintings have very limited range of

subject matter. Only animal's figures in a naturalistic style are depicted. When human figures are introduced in the paintings, the subject gets wider scope. In this site mostly paintings are hunting, dancing, riding on elephant, human figures and wild animals.

It is very unfortunate that Indian rock art studies have attempted the interpretation of rock art, but have often disregarded the technical aspects of pigment used by ancient artisans. Analysing paint samples for preparation techniques and studying the various compounds used, allows us to determine the technology of early painters. Studies and analysis of rock art pigment can tell us about their sources, the treatment they may have subjected to, etc., and they may result in detection of residue or remains such as airborne matter, brush fibers and other identical inclusions. At Brihaspatikund palaeolithic artists used two main colours: red (iron oxide: natural hematite or heated goethite) and black (charcoal or manganese oxides). These pigments could be prepared in different ways

(grinding, mixing with extender and/or binder or by heating) in order to enhance the properties of the paints.

**Figure and its analysis:**

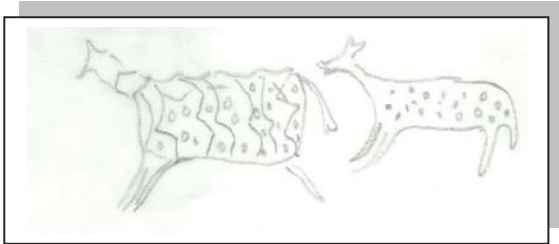


Figure : 1

There seems three running animals. The third figure is certainly deer but the other two animals are not identified. They may be deer. These animals are part of a hunting scenes depicting a hunter. Picture colour is red and in flat wash style.

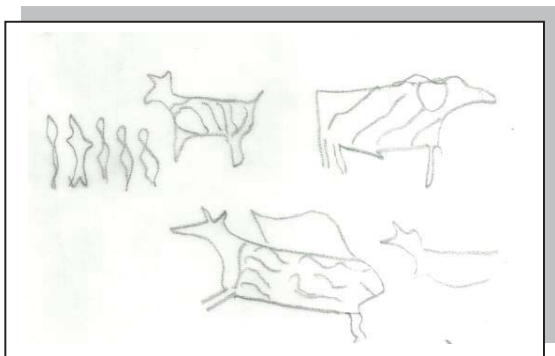


Figure-2

Here these animals are drawn in red ochre. Two figures are certainly deer but one may be bull. On the bottom

some figures are not identified. The third figures of deer are drawn in hunting position.

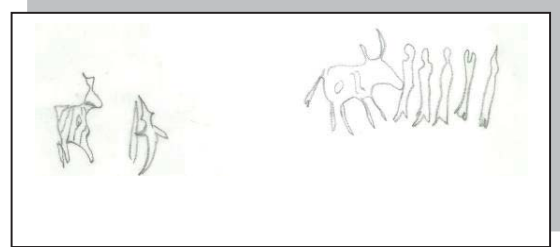


Figure -3

There are drawn human and animal figures. We can observe that first figure of armed warrior and ready to attack. The second figure bull is standing and some warrior is ready to attack.

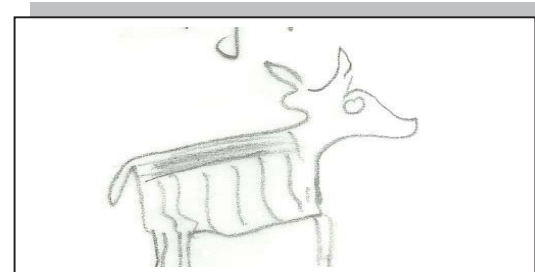


Figure-4

There is depicted with liner drawing and three figures of rhinoceros are seemed.

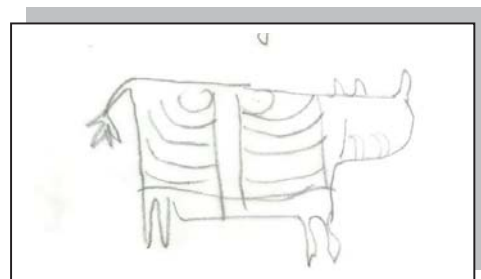


Figure-5

This painting seems rhinoceros and filled with decorative circle lines.



**Reference-:** Mishra, V.D., 1977. Some Aspects of Indian Archaeology, Prabhat Prakashan, Allahabad.

1. Pandey, S.K., 1969. Painted Rock Shelters in Madhya Pradesh (Ph.D. Thesis, Sagar University, Sagar)

2. Pandey, Shyam Kumar, 1992. "Central Indian Rock Art" in Michel Lorblanquet in Rock Art of Old World, pp. 249-72, Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts, New Delhi.

3. Sankalia, H.D., 1978. Prehistoric Art in India, pp. 80-94, Vikas Publications, New Delhi.

4. Sharma, G.R., 1980. History to Prehistory: Archaeology of the Ganga Valley and the Vindhyas, pp. 88-97. Published by Deptt. of A.I. History Culture and Archaeology, Allahabad (U.P.)

5. Tyagi, G.S. 1992. "Decorative Intricate design patterns in Indian Rock Art", in Rock Art of Old World, (Ed.) by Michel Lorblanquet, Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts, New Delhi.

6. Verma, R.K. 1964. Stone Age Cultures of Mirzapur, D.Phil. Thesis, Allahabad University, Allahabad.

7. Cillberrad, 1907. Rock Rainting of Banda District J.R.A.S.B., Vol-VIII.

8. Mukherji, Ajit, "Indira Primiton art.

9. Varum, Dangli Prasad, 1988. Uttar Pradesh District Gagetters Banda, Lucknow.