

# भारती

**BULLETIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY,  
CULTURE & ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Vol. 42**

**2017-18**



**Editor  
Pushp Lata Singh**

***A REFREED JOURNAL***

**CENTRE OF ADVANCED STUDY  
DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY,  
CULTURE & ARCHAEOLOGY  
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY  
VARANASI - 221 005 (INDIA)**

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### **Book Review**

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF ROCK ART SITES OF ROBERTSGANJ BLOCK, DISTRICT SONBHADRA, UTTAR PRADESH

*Prabhakar Upadhyay, Swtantra Kumar Singh and Sadeq Mohammed Ali Rawdhan*

Rock art represents one of the earliest forms of artistic creativity of man that dates back thousands of years. It is principal evidence of the earliest stages of man's cultural history before the invention of writing creative expressions, economic and social activities, ideas, beliefs, and practices. It tells us different aspects of the imaginative and emotional life of man. It represents succeeding stages of the human adventure, from the early Age to the present day. Each painted canvas has been produced by generations of painters that belonging to different cultural stages of subsistence economy right from the hunting-gathering to food-producing stages and even during the subsequent period. The rock art of Sonbhadra region covered a very long duration of time from the Mesolithic period to the present time in the form of folk art. In present, it takes many forms including body decoration (painting, tattooing, cicatrizing), decoration of habitations or items of material culture, such as men's houses, and daily use things in Kaimur region. The present paper is based on the recent fieldwork, newly discovered and earlier reported rock art sites in the study area in Robertsganj, Sonbhadra. The aim of the present paper is to make a systematic study of recently discovered rock art sites, their scientific documentation, analysis of artifacts related to rock art found in course of exploration of the area and make a comparative study with other rock art sites reported from this region.

## **Study area**

Sonbhadra district was carved out from erstwhile Mirzapur district on 4th March 1989 (Fig.1). Sonbhadra has the geographical area of 6788 sq. km<sup>2</sup>. It is the second largest district of Uttar Pradesh. It lies in the extreme southeast of the state, between the Latitudes 23° 51' 54" N to 24° 46' 18" N, and Longitudes 82° 40' 24" E to 83° 33' 15" E. Bound by Mirzapur district to the northwest, Chandauli district to the north, Kaimur and Rohtas districts of Bihar state to the northeast, Garhwa district of Jharkhand state to the east, Korea and Surguja district of Chhattisgarh state of the South, and Singarauli district of Madhya Pradesh state to the west. To decentralize the authority in administrative setup the district is divided into 03 tehsils, 08 blocks, 67 Nyay Panchayat, and 501 Gram Panchayat.

## **Topography**

The southern hilly tract of eastern Uttar Pradesh, covering Mirzapur and Sonbhadra district forms a distinct geographical region called Vindhya plateau. Oldham (1856) was the first to use the term 'Vindhyan' for the entire group of rocks forming a prominent feature along the northern bank of Narmada River known as Vindhya Parbat or Vindhyanchal. The Vindhyan Supergroup has been lithostratigraphically subdivided into four groups; in stratigraphic order these are: Semri Group, the Kaimur Group, the Rewa Group and the Bhandar Group. The Older Alluvium of the Quaternary Period covers the area around Varanasi. First outcrop of the Vindhyan Super group is exposed near Adalhat, about 24 km from Varanasi. Close to south of Ahraura (about 32 km from Varanasi) the regular ENE-WSW

trending escarpments can be seen which are formed by the rocks of the Kaimur Group. The Dhandraul Sandstone comprising dirty white and buff, medium to fine grained sandstones exhibit profuse development of tabular and trough megacross bedding. It is underlain by brownish red massive sandstone belonging to the Scarp Sandstone (the Mangesar Formation of Sastry and Moitra, 1984). The Dhandraul Sandstone occupies the plateau area of Robertsganj, the district headquarters of Sonbhadra. Thick soil and laterites cover large areas of the plateau. Further south, the Son River has exposed excellent sections of both the Kaimur and Semri Groups by cutting the Kaimur plateau. About 150 m thick Dhandraul Sandstone is exposed in the section, as one descends from the top of the scarp (Kumar. S. 2012:6,18)

Most of the painted rock shelters of Sonbhadra are located in Kaimur range (table land) (Fig.2). In Sonbhadra, Kaimur range can be divided into two parts - western and eastern. Western sub-ranges are about 400 to 300 m high from the M.S.L. while the height of the eastern range varies between 630 m to 130 m from the M.S.L. in the way that the western one appears to be submerging in the northern lower plateau below the higher eastern range, near Churk/Dhandharul area. The southern part of Sonbhadra district represented by Chhota Nagpur Granite Gneiss Complex near Dudhi area. In the Sonbhadra district, the CGGC rocks are exposed in the south of the WNW-ESE striking Son-Narmada South Fault. The rocks of the CGGC are represented by the schist, gneiss, amphibolites with subordinate granite, magnetite and dolerites and marble at few places.

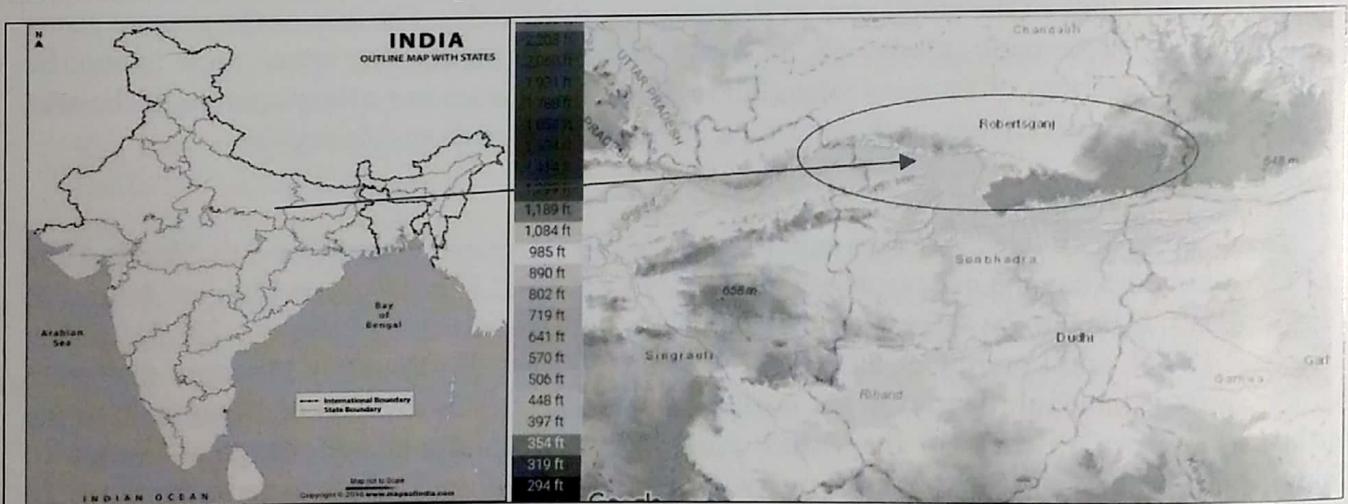


Fig. 1: Location of the study area and topographical map of district Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.

### Drainage system

The Son River flows through the Sonbhadra district from east to west direction, which forms the main drainage system of the area. It flows parallel to the strike direction of Vindhyan, in the softer rocks of the Lower Vindhyan Group. Its tributaries, Rihand, and Bijul rivers flow north to south to join the Son at a right angle. Geologically, the Son valley is an extension of Narmada valley. The Son has a steep gradient of 35-55 cm/km with a quick run off and ephemeral regimes. The river mostly receives all its tributaries only from one side i.e. from the south and Ghaghar river from the north. Ghaghar river is mostly draining through limestone country and joins Son river at Chopan. The Kanhar river flowing south to north and meets the Son river near Kota at the right angle. Similarly, Panda river flows south to north and meets Son river at Kon near the state boundary with Bihar (Gorikhan 2000: 359-379).

### Previous Work in Sonbhadra District

Archaeological surveys were started in the area under discussion by J. Cockburn in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He discovered a few painted rock-shelters comprising several scenes of hunting, dance and other activities of the human life. Later on, several scholars and researchers contributed fruitfully to enlarge the database incorporating their findings and discoveries throughout the twentieth century, finally proceeding towards the twenty-first century. Generations of archaeologist, anthropologists and other researchers have discovered and documented numbers of painted sandstone rock-shelter in this region. It begins with exploratory work of Rai Sahib Manoranjan Ghosh (Ghosh 1932: 15-20) followed by the teams of archaeologist of the Allahabad University, Banaras Hindu University and the U.P. State Archaeology (Sharma et al. IAR 1956-57: 11 and 14; Varma IAR 1959-60: 48; Pandeya IAR 1960-61: 67; Sharma et al. IAR 1962-63: 31-32; Narain and Pant IAR 1962-63: 33-34; Sharma et al. IAR 1963-64: 39 and 51-52; Narain and Pant 1962-63: 115-135; Sharma et al. IAR 1969-70: 35-38, Singh et al. IAR 1975-76: 56, 1977-78: 58, 1978-79: 24, 1979-80: 79; Jayaswal 1983: 127-133; Varma, 1986: 206-213, 2012; Pratap 2015; Chattopadhyay 2016: 251-270). During the last quarter of the twentieth century, extensive explorations were undertaken by Rakesh Tewari (Tewari 1982, 1982a: 1-16, 1984: 256-258, 1985, 1986: 25-29, 1986a: 105-112, 1987: 77-88, 1989: 94-106, 1990, 1992: 284-302, 1993: 1-13, 1997: 51-57, 1998: 57-67, 2010; Tewari and Pandey 1988: 97-102; Tewari and Singh 2001: 91-104; Tewari and Singh 2002: 91-96; Tewari et al. 1995: 55-131).



Fig. 2: Location of the painted rock shelters in the study area

**Kanda Kot group (24° 37' 52.8" N: 82° 59' 51.6" E)** This group of rock painted rock shelters are located on a high hillock that know as Kanda Kot by the villagers. Situated to the south-west of Robertsganj, at a distance of about 13km from Robertsganj, near the Bashaul and Bahour village and 1.3 km southwest from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (Sonbhadra). The hillock rises almost vertically from the surface making a very high cliff section on all the sides. More than seven painted rock shelters are reported earlier in this area. During the recent exploration, I found that maxim early phase of painted rock shelters is located right side in the middle part of the hill. All four painted rock shelters are located (24° 37' 53.1" N: 82° 59' 51.7" E) close to each other with the subject of, group hunt of deer, handprints', rhino, nilgai, fish, birds, man involved in different actions and geometrical motive (Fig. 3a, 3b). Shelters number 4 have some deposit. Number of microliths, flake, blade, and some finished geometrical tools also found on the surface. These paintings represent the early stage of human evaluation. Maxim motives are related hunting scene depicted very beautifully (fig. 3a, b), a group of deer marching in one direction show the of beauty of early man. On the other hand's subject matters of paintings those are located on the top of the western side related to early historical period. Alpana designs, elephants' riders (Fig. 4) (24° 37' 56.9" N: 83° 00' 01.7" E) horse riders, warriors with archers and swards few of them use masked are become more dominating (Fig. 5). All the painting has been executed in deep clotted blood shade. On the top of the hill, a Shiva temple that belong to the historical period and evidence of attempted to make to a fort on this hill are also found.



Fig.3a A group of deer and man inside the Square



Fig. 3b Boar hunting scene (D-Stretch photo)



Fig. 4 Elephant riders

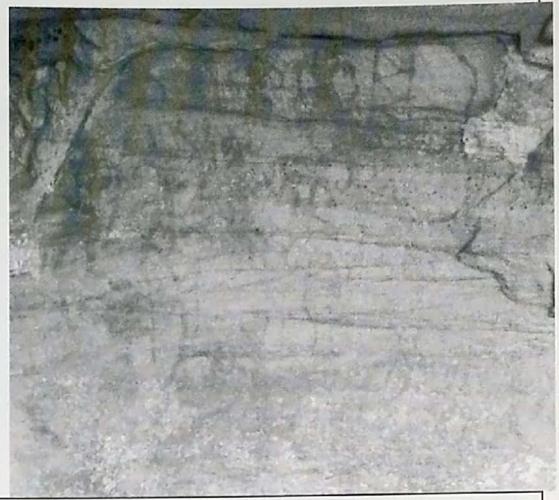


Fig. 5 Group of warrior

**Bahuar (24° 37' 45.48" N: 83° 00' 0.65" E)** This site is located 1.5 km to the north-west of Bahuar village, at a distance of 0.8 km south of Kanda Kot (mentioned above) and 13 km south-west from Robertsganj. Sonbhadra district headquarter is located 9.4 km to the north-west of the site -west from (Fig. 2). More than 10 natural rock shelters are found in the hill close to the village. Among these, a few are ideal for human habitation. Evidence of rock art is seen in two shelters. These painted rock shelters are located in the north side of this hill at 350 m (1240 fit from MSL) high from ground level. Just below the shelters is a deep Nala that joins River Son. It was a source of drinking water for the primitive cave dwellers who lived there for fishing and hunting. **Shelter-1 (24° 37' 45.48" N: 83° 00' 0.65" E)** Rock shelter 1 measured approximately 8.14 m in length, 4.71 m in width and 1.67 m in height. The shape of shelter is box type semi-circular which is located on the steep side of hillocks, overlooking the deep valley, on the bank of the Nala. The painted surface of the shelter contains a number of superimpositions that belongs to more than five phases of paintings, with a little variation in techniques and colors. The ancient painters used both the walls and the ceiling of the shelter as their canvas but maximum paintings are located on the walls. Paintings of first and second phases have similar subjects (a group of deer marching in one direction) but the second phase is superimposed on the earlier one. Paintings of phase one are painted in their natural attitude in flat wash styles with clotted blood; they look like box type of figures. Besides deer, depictions of fishing, rhino, and ostrich (?). are also noticed. Some other paintings seem to belong comparably late phase in which group hunting, trap scene, and buffalo in dark red color is shown (Fig. 6). A few paintings are painted both in white and red colors but are not clearly visible. Group dance, monkey, elephant rider and some geometrical motifs represent the historical phase. Few stone chip and microliths are also found inside the rock shelter **Shelter-2 (24° 37' 43.32" N: 82° 59' 56.29" E)** At the distance of 150 meters in the west from Shelter 1, another small painted rock shelter is located. It has a single depiction of a deer in x-ray style with a deep red outline



Fig. 6 Superposition of paintings show different time period of work

**Bajarahi Pahari (24° 37' 5.27" N: 83° 00' 9.11" E)** Bajarahi Pahari is located 1.5 km to the south-west of Bahuar. There is a large west facing rock cliff, about 370 m high from the ground level. Factually speaking, Bajarahi Pahari may be taken to be an extension of the same hill in which Bahuar rock shelters are located (Fig. 7a,7b). There are more than three painted rock shelters in this locality. On the basis of subject these paintings are look sillier to the others painted rock shelters of this region. In shelter one depiction of hunting's in which a group of three-man daunting deer depicted in stick style. All these paintings are a small in size varying from 5 cm to 9 cm in length.



Fig. 7a landscape of Bajarahi Pahari



Fig.7b Deer motive, Bajarahi Pahari

**Shelter 2** ( $24^{\circ} 37' 5.63''$  N:  $83^{\circ} 00' 8.39''$  E) This shelter facing west is located about 100 meters to the west of shelter I. This Shelter is nearly 14.5 m in length, 4.75 m in width and its height varies from 4m to 4.5 m. This painted rock shelter was suitable for habitation for primitive people. On the basis of subject and techniques, and color, we can say that these painting are earlier than that of shelter 1. Paintings are found only on the walls. There are more than two layers of painting overlapping one another. The earliest motives are probably of the animals like deer, boars, rhino etc. These paintings in red ocher color are in flat wash technique. The color has almost faded now. Another style of painting including deer marching in west, bison, hyena are depicted in flatwash and x-ray techniques. **Shelter 3** ( $24^{\circ} 37' 17.63''$  N:  $82^{\circ} 59' 54.445''$  E) Shelter 3 is located on the north side of shelter 2. This shelter measures approximately 11.51 m in length and 5.04 m in width and 1.98 m in height facing towards south. Subject of the painting are geometrical motifs and human figures within a circle of hand prints. It seems it is a depiction of some ritual activity (Fig. 8). On the basis of subject these paintings should belong to a historical period.

**SorhoGhat** ( $24^{\circ} 37' 7.61''$  N:  $82^{\circ} 59' 49.27''$  E) This shelter is located near a waterfall, locally known as SorhoGhat, at an elevation of 375 m from the ground level. It is nearly 6.54 m in length 6.15 m in width and 2.74 m in height. Local people and visitors have made lots of symbols and graffiti marks on the earlier paintings. They applied white and blue paint on the wall for writing religious catchwords. The subject of the primitive paintings at the shelter includes human and animal, deer group marching in one direction and rhino.

**Likhaniya group (RJP)** ( $24^{\circ} 37' 07.1''$  N:  $82^{\circ} 58' 03.7''$  E) In the history of rock art research in India Likhaniya group of the rock shelter play a very important role it is 16 kilometers south-west of Robertsganj on the southern scarp of the Kaimur overlooking the Son valley. The rock shelter is measured approximately 19.6 m in length, 2.6 m in width and 2 m in height. The subject of painting in the shelter is included young bison, fish, deer in a group, sambhars, rhinoceros, etc. beside animals hunting scenes, human figures and various symbols are also depicted. style of these painting is the maxim in outline in whitish outline and another part or empty space of the stomach has been filled by horizontal and vertical lines, a group dance scene in which dancers in a row holding each-others hand dance-scenes is very in the context of organized social activities (Fig. 9,10). Deer are most favored animal for depicted in shelters, and hunting scenes besides, there is a number of the symbol in the shape of spirals, circles, etc. and in some shelters painting of different periods superimpose one another, thus making it difficult to follow the lines of particular figures with accuracy.



Fig. 9 human inside the round shape handprint

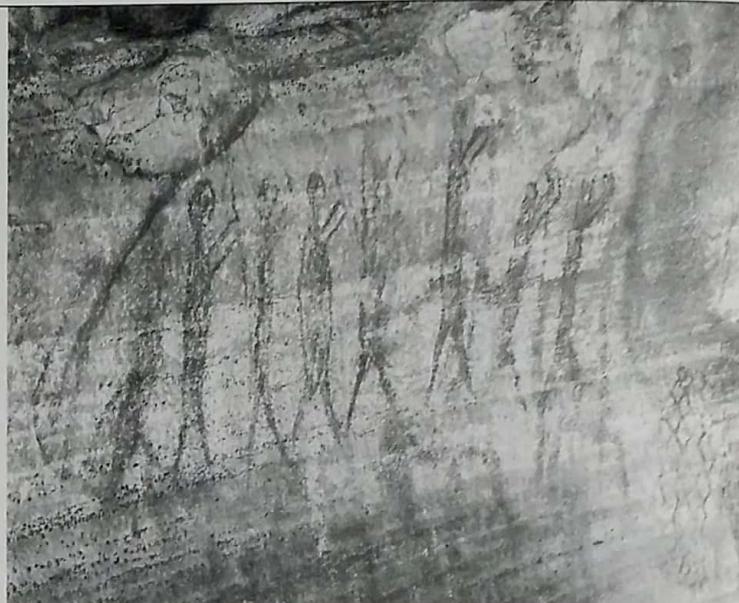


Fig.9A group of hunters



Fig.10 Depiction of Lorikayan and some other early stages of work

**Jhandi Pahari** Jhandi Pahari is located 1.5 km in the west direction from ShorhoGhat on the same hill. There are two painted rock shelter at this Pahari.

**Rock Shelter 1** (24° 37' 3.4" N: 82° 59' 24.5" E)

The first shelter measures 6.65 m in length 3.53 m in width and 2.5 m in height. The subjects of the paintings are deer and peacock - all in dark brown colour (Fig. 11a and 11b). Interestingly, the paintings are depicted only on the ceiling of the shelter. The style and colour of the painting are similar to human figure depicted on the ceiling of Bahuar shelter 1.



Fig. 11a: Depiction of deer, Shelter 1, Jhandhi Pahari.



Fig. 11b: Depiction of peacock, Shelter 1, Jhandhi Pahari.

**Rock Shelter 2 (24° 37' 6.35" N: 82° 59' 15.25" E)**

It is one of the most important painted rock shelters of this area with depiction of rhino and other motifs like that of bison, deer, group hunting with bow and arrow and some other geometrical motifs. According to local villager's bison and some geometrical motifs are related to marriage activity. The bison and rhinos are depicted in a very expressive way and are shown in various actions of movement (Fig. 12B).



Fig. 12a: Depiction of group buffalo, Shelter 2, Jhandhi Pahari.



Fig. 13B: Depiction hunting scene with bow and arrow, Shelter 2, Jhandhi Pahari.

**Raunp or Panchmukhi group (24° 39' 06.1" N: 83° 04' 09.7" E)**

One of the most important groups of painted rock shelters in this region near village Raunp, 5 Km from Robertsganj, situated on right side of Robertsganj-Churk road. There is Panchmukhi Shiva temple on the top of hill dated to early historical period possible the region why villagers call it Panchmukhi Pahari. Maxim painted rock shelters are on the southern face of the hillock. This group of painted rock shelter reported earlier but during the recent exploration, I found some newly painted rock shelters. Now There are more than 17 painted rock shelters are documented in this small hill. Shelter no. 1, 2 and 3 are the biggest among the whole group. Shelter nos. 1 and 3 contains the best-preserved painting and shelter no. 2,

microliths. Shelters no. 1 it faces south towards the valley. This shelter has been formed by a massive overhanging rock. The shelter is open from three sides. Only the ceiling and the walls are painted. In this shelter, they use symbols for depicting human, birds, and animal. Red ochre they use for painting and sometime dirtyish white has been also used. This Pahari covered a very long history of human activity from the prehistoric period to the medieval period and still the Shiva temple in worship. Hunting scene in which a man shoots at a rhinoceros with an arrow. The rhino having been struck by the arrow runs forward with head bent low and tail up in the air (Varma. 2012:119). Is one of the most important depiction belong to the Mesolithic period (Neumayer. 2013: 139). It has been painted in naturalistic style in outline in ochre and the empty space has been filled by lines. Other shelters are very small in size There are few mural designs on the wall which seem to be quite recent. The shelter no.6, which contained a number of palm impressions and stylized figure of men, no longer exists now, as it has been destroyed with the quarry stones. Shelter no. 2 called cave. It is near the ridge of the hillock, towards the west of the temple. Cavity area in this cave or shelter both on wall and ceiling was used for paintings by the prehistoric man that provides him a smooth surface compared to other parts of the shelters but a lot of modern human activity that badly damage this shelter. Shelters number 6 painted with lots of animal, birds, human, circles, lines and some unidentified motives. Some of the painted symbols are comparable to those depicted on punch mark coins (Tewari et al. 1995: 55-131) Shelters number 12-13 which is different to others shelters are because of in Sankha script (Fig. 12). These inscriptions are depicted in dull ochre color. Near the shelter 13, there are some other small shelters are also located in which several Alpana and flower designs are found.



Fig. 11 Rhino Hauntings scene

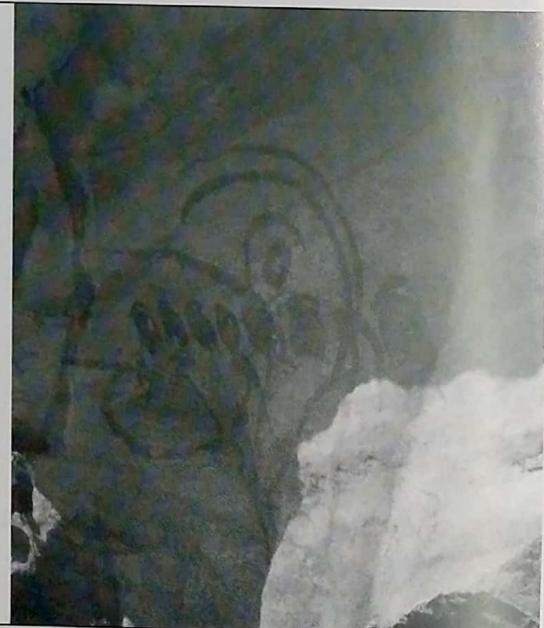


Fig. 12 Sankha script

#### Lodhi (24° 38' 51.6" N: 83° 02' 51.7" E)

Another site was located atop a hillock in Lodhi village near the DM office. It is near the Panchmukhi group of painted rock shelters. On this wall are several clusters of picture

sequences including highly enigmatic and even abstract ones, while others seem more or less rational hunting scenes. In this shelters exist one of the largest painted rock walls in the region (fig. 13).



Fig. 13 front view of Lodhi painted rock shelters

### Tribes and Semi-Tribes and their Life Style

Sonbhadra is the Scheduled Cast (22.6%) and Scheduled Tribe (20.7%) dominated bordering district of Uttar Pradesh. Agriculture, supplemented with mining or forestry, is the mainstay of the economy. Some important tribes and semi-tribes in the study area are Kola, Gond, Agaria, Kharwar, Baiga, Panika, Bhuiya, Chero, Parahiya, Dhuria, Bhunia, Khairwar, Pankha etc. Their dominance is reflected in the folklore and tradition. Bhar community is said to have established their rule in most part of the district in the medieval period. We find settlements of Bhar with settlements of Chero, Kols and Kharwars communities in many parts of the district. It is said that up to 5th century there was the rule of 'Kol' kings on Vijaygarh fort. Each tribe had some mythological stories related to their origin and belief. They worship numerous local and tribal deities along with Brahmanical deities. Several deities like Shitla Devi, Birmha Devi, Sitala Mata, Mahadani Devi, Bhawani Devi, Raja Chandol and Nauhar Baba etc. are very popular in tribes. Their religion is a curious mixture of animism, totemism, and crude polytheism. They treat the supernatural with more fear than reverence and perform various rituals to propitiate the gods and win their favor. Some important festival and fasts are quite interesting. Each festival has a story related to its origin which differs from area to area and community wise. Among them, Ram Navami, Sheetala Ashtami, Nag Panchami, Diwali

and Bhaiya Dooj are very important for the understanding of primitive / rock art. During the field trip in the study area, we noticed several paintings and motifs on the walls of their houses (fig. 14a, b) which are, colour, technique and subject wise, very similar to the paintings of the rock shelters of the region.

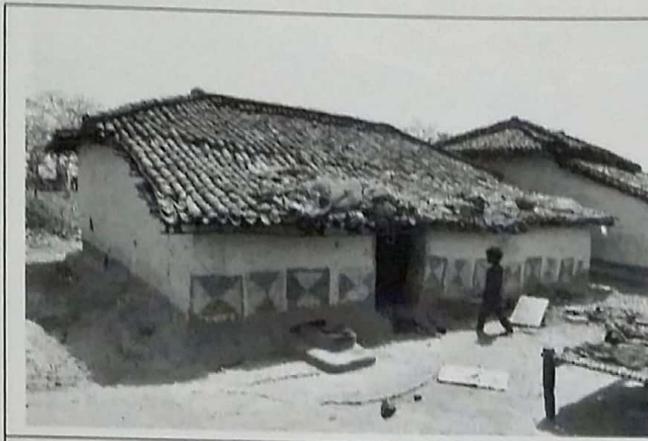


Fig. 14a wall paintings

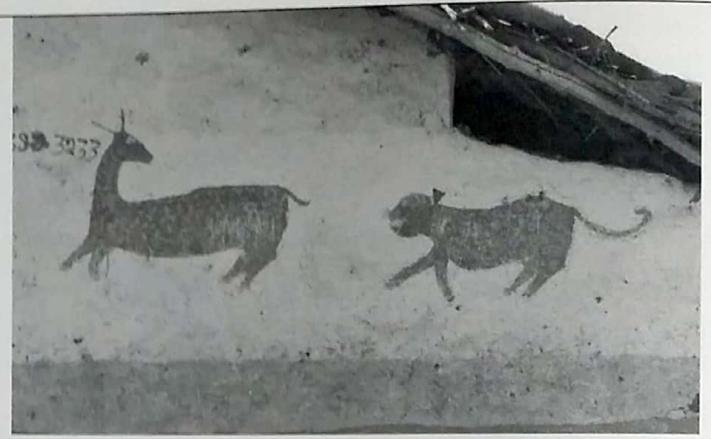


Fig. 14b deer and lion motive of the wall

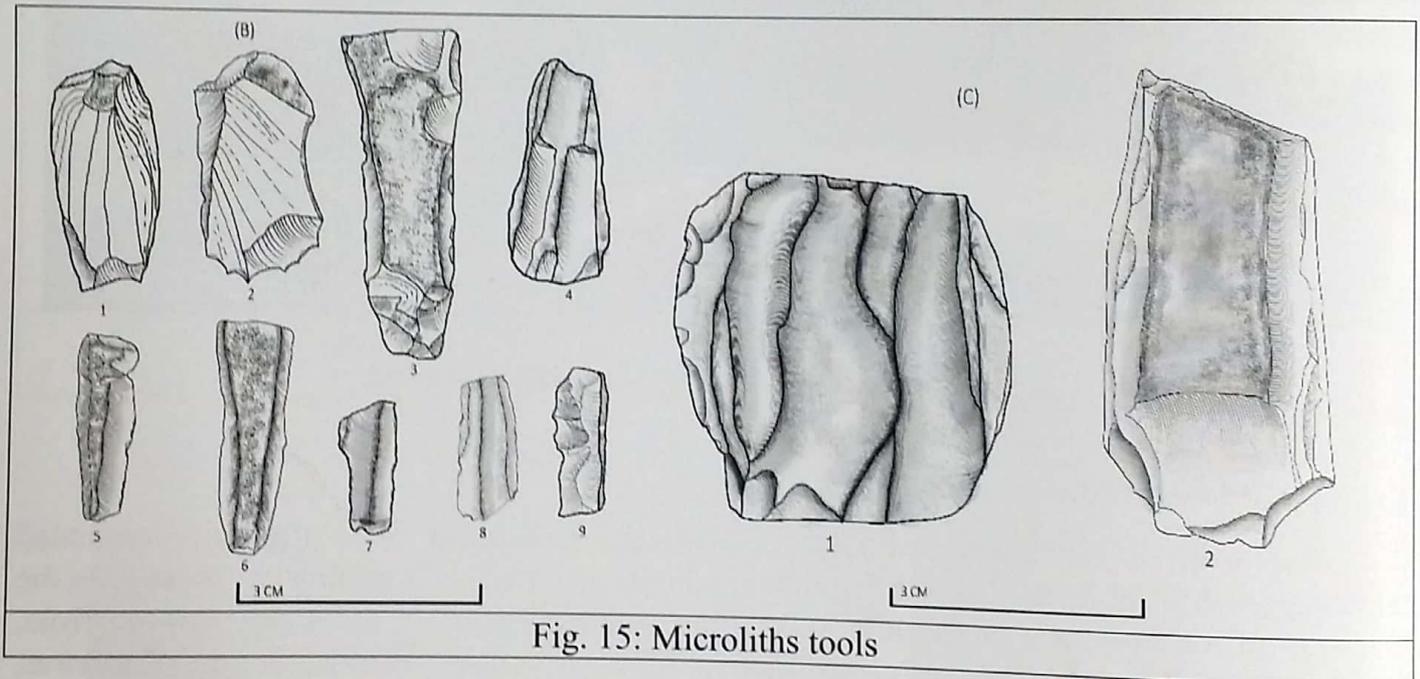


Fig. 15: Microliths tools

Table 1: list of painted rock shelters in Robertsganj block, District Sonbhadra

S.N	Site and coordinates	Color	Microliths/Pottery	Depiction /Remarks
1	Bahuar Shelter 1(24° 37' 45.48" N: 83° 00' 0.65" E)	Dark , red, brownish, white, black	Microliths and stone chip	Group of deer, ostrich (?), group hunting, trap scene, fish, monkey, and elephant rider.
2	Shelter 2(24° 37' 43.32" N: 82° 59')	Red	Nil	Only single deer

	56.29" E)			
3	Bajrahi Pahari - Shelter 1 (24° 37' 5.27" N: 83° 00' 9.11" E)	Red	Nil	Deer, hunter, and few geometrical motifs.
4	Bajrahi Pahari - Shelter 2 (24° 37' 5.63" N: 83° 00' 8.39" E)	Ocher red, white	Microliths/Pottery/hematite ore	Deer, rhino, bison, hyena and nilgai
5	Bajrahi Pahari - Shelter 3 (24° 37' 17.63" N: 82° 59' 54.445" E)	Dark brown, red	Single blade	Hand prints, human, geometrical motifs, and some ritual motifs
6	Bajrahi Pahari - Shelter 4 (24° 37' 20.478" N: 83° 00' 19.004" E)	Red	Nil	Animal and human
7	SorhoGhat - Shelter 1 (24° 37' 7.61" N: 82° 59' 49.27" E)	Mostly red	Microliths	Deer, human and animal
8	SorhoGhat - Shelter 2 (24° 37' 6.31" N: 82° 59' 40.67" E)	Dark red, faded red	Microliths	Bison
9	Jhandi Pahari - Shelter 1 (24° 37' 3.4" N: 82° 59' 24.5" E)	Dark brownish	Nil	Peacock and deer,
10	Jhandi Pahari - Shelter 2 (24° 37' 6.35" N: 82° 59' 15.25" E)	Red, black	Near the shelter few microliths	Bison, rhino, hunter with bow and arrow
11	Kanda Kot (7 PRS) (24° 37' 52.8" N: 82° 59' 51.6" E)	Deep clotted blood shade, black	Both inside and outside of the shelters and on the top of the hill/pottery and brick of early historic	Elephant and horse rider, warier boars, sambhars, hand print,

12	Panchmukhi group (17 PRS) (24° 39' 06.1" N: 83° 04' 09.7" E)	Red ochre, clotted blood, white, black	Near the shelters number 2, 12,13 and some others/ in some shelters pottery also	Birds, rhinoceros, deer, human, wariar, Sankha inscriptions, Alpana
13	Likhaniya(24° 37' 07.1" N: 82° 58' 03.7" E)	Burnt red, dirtyish white, red ochre,	Near the shelter	Deer, bison, human, trap scene, spirals, circles
14	Lodhi	Red	Full of microliths, core, flack, finished and unfinished near the shelter	Deer, masked man, honeycombs

### Observation and conclusion

On the basis of recent field survey in Robertsganj block and earlier reported rock art sites. we can say that in the Kaimur region, especially in Sonbhadra district, rock paintings belonging to prehistoric to historic times occur rather often. The similar pattern is also observed during our recent field survey of rock shelters of Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh and Kaimur district of Bihar (Upadhyay 2017: 74-75, also see table 2). A good number of shelters, both painted and unpainted, have evidence of occupational deposits some important excavated rock shelters in this region are Baghai Khor, Lekhahia, MorahanaPahar, Lahariadih,). Large numbers of stone chips, microliths and fluted core along with raw materials have been found during our recent exploration from the shelters or some time near the shelters (Fig. 15).Some important earlier reported microliths from this region Baghma, Chanain man, chatmapahar, Kurhuletc). This clearly shows human activity in the Kaimur region right from the Mesolithic period. We find a very large number of natural rock shelters, perennial source of water in the form of deep Kunds, waterfalls, deep Nalas and n river Son, variety of raw materials for tool making and preparation of colors, a large number of flora and fauna all these components of the Kaimur region in Robertsganj area might have attracted the primitive man from the earliest time.

Rock art of this area can be divided into three groups in which subject, color, style, play a very important. The First group represents hunter-gatherer society belongs to the Mesolithic period. For the painting mostly they user black, clottish blood red and yellowish ochre color, Figures of the first phase are realistic, naturalistic, lifelike and some time in "X-ray style". A thematic analysis of these pictures clearly indicates they were made by food-gathering people, but formally and stylistically, they are comparable to the painting of the Chalcolithic Period. The second group represents Pastoral life belong to Neolithic/ Chalcolithic phase in which

Geometrical forms, Arrow and spear-head, Man in a row holding hand, chariots, and bulls with large horns are generally repeated. The illustration comprising inscriptions, costumes, and war- scenes belong to the third group (historical phase) in which Brahmi-liters, figures in the triangular body, war-scene become more dominated, some folk-lore's, Horse riders in bright Ocher and White, Nagari inscription are common.

**Table 2: Newly discovered rock art shelters / microlithic sites of the region**

SN	Site name	Reference
<b>District Sonbhadra, U.P.</b>		
1	Mahuwaria (24° 39' 20" N: 82° 57' 03.96" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
2	Railahwa (24° 38' 25.98" N: 82° 44' 19.97" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
3	Kohbarwaghat (Nawdihwa) (24° 38' 9.97" N: 82° 42' 27" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
4	Channasawa (24° 39' 24.98" N: 82° 48' 20" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
5	Bhandra Kalan (24° 38' 51" N: 83° 2' 52.98" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
6	Kohabarwa Ghat I (24° 38' 26.4" N: 83° 43' 0.7" E)	Visited as team member of IGNSA lead by C. M. Nautiyal on 17/04/15
7	Kohabarwa Ghat II (24° 38' 22.1" N: 82° 42' 58.1" E)	Visited as team member of IGNSA lead by C. M. Nautiyal on 17/04/15
8	Chhatta painted rock shelter (24° 38' 48.2" N: 82° 41' 58.5" E) mughalmara (Sonbhadra, U.P and Singurali, M.P border)	Visited as team member of IGNSA lead by C. M. Nautiyal on 17/04/15
9	Railahawa-Basawan Ghatia (24° 38' 26.3" N: 82° 44' 23" E) with microliths	Visited as team member of IGNSA lead by C. M. Nautiyal on 16/04/15
10	Baghamanwa painted rock shelter (24° 33' 44.6" N: 83° 09' 51.9" E) Bahera	Visited as team member of IGNSA lead by C. M. Nautiyal on 18/04/15
11	Naudihawa (24° 38' 8.3" N: 82° 41' 27.4" E) (Sonbhadra, U.P and Singurali, M.P border) Graval deposit in Nala section and microliths in the area	Explored in 2015
12	Parwania Shelter 1 (24° 39' 27.9" N: 82° 48' 31.1" E)	Microliths, inside and outside the shelter, as a team with Shashi Mehra
13	Parwania Shelter 2 (24° 39' 23.6" N: 82° 48' 51.1" E)	Microliths near the shelter Recently discovered with Krishnmohan Dubey and

		Shashi Mehra
14	Parwania Shelter 3 (24° 39' 17.1" N: 82° 49' 30" E)	Recently discovered with Krishnmohan Dubey and Shashi Mehra
15	Domakhri (24° 39' 30.1" N 82° 49' 20.5" E)	-do-
16	Domakhri Shelter 2 (24° 39' 11.719" N 82° 49' 42.505" E)	-do-
17	Domakhri Shelter 3 (24° 39' 11.591" N 82° 49' 41.279" E)	-do-
18	Daramapur (24° 35' 26.844" N 83° 16' 20.387" E) (near Daramapur primary school)	-do-
	<b>District Mirzapur UP</b>	
20	Gobardaha (24° 59' 33" N : 82° 50' 42" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar 2017: 195; Upadhyay et al. 2017: 2015, Pl. 1.
21	Rajapur (JhariNursary)- Ritha Baba Ki Pahari (24° 57' 17" N : 82° 40' 29" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar 2017: 197; Upadhyay et al. 2017: 217, Pl. 4.
22	Lohara (24° 54' 30" N: 83° 00' 42" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar 2017: 202; Upadhyay et al. 2017: 226, Pl. 14.
23	Sukrit (24° 55' 10" N : 83° 00' 42" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar 2017: 203; Upadhyay et al. 2017: 227, Pl. 15.
	<b>District Chandauli, UP</b>	
24	Gahijana Baba Pahari Shelter I (24° 52' 30.972" N: 83° 20' 57.263" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
25	Shelter II (24° 52' 36.156" N: 83° 21' 15.876" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
26	AurwaTand (24° 51' 58.392" N: 83° 21' 11.447" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
27	Shelter II (24° 51' 59.832" N: 83° 21' 12.636" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
28	Mangrahi - Baghawa Mand (24° 49' 25.572" N: 83° 17' 25.691" E) with Microliths	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
29	Mangrahi - KhairahwaPahad - Shelter I (24° 49' 12.468" N: 83° 18' 40.68" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
30	Shelter II (24° 49' 13.26" N: 83° 18' 43.199" E) with Microliths	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.

31	Pandi(24° 55' 36.912" N: 83° 20' 6.288 " E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
32	Shelter II (24° 55' 37.272" N: 83° 20' 6.468" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
33	Shelter III (24° 55' 36.912" N : 83° 20' 7.187" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
34	Shelter IV (24° 55' 36.912" N: 83° 20' 7.44" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
35	Shelter V (24° 55' 36.192" N: 83° 20' 7.619" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
36	Shelter VI (24° 55' 36.588" N: 83° 20' 8.232" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
37	Kunadaili Dari (24° 55' 23.52" N: 83° 20' 34.332" E) with Microlithic site (24° 55' 23.628" N : 83° 20' 27.384" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
38	Kuandhar (24° 55' 22.8" N: 83° 20' 55.859" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
39	Shelter II (24° 55' 47.928" N : 83° 20' 56.58" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
40	Dudhagarhwamand (24° 55' 23.268" N : 83° 20' 46.428" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
41	Chitawadkund (24°52' 20.64" N : 83° 19' 23.556" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
42	Dantaduara (24° 52' 58.368" N: 83° 20' 9.204" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
43	Tikuria (Kudwa Dari) (24° 45' 40.104" N: 83° 15' 40.644" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
44	Ramnagaridari (24° 57' 2.916" N : 83° 20' 29.652" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
45	Majhirati (Near AamchuaKund) (24° 57' 37.44" N: 83°13' 49.079" E) – two shelters	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
46	Hanuman Dari-Shelter I (24° 57' 10.836" N: 83° 14' 0.6" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
47	Shelter II (24° 57' 11.124" N: 83° 13' 59.879" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
48	Kachhuakund Dari, Shelter I (near Ledahavillage) (24° 55' 9.697" N: 83° 16' 43.103" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
49	Shelter II (24° 55' 13.548" N: 83° 16' 40.547" E)	Upadhyay, P. 2017: 53-75.
50	Chilbile Dari (24° 55' 54.3" N: 83° 17' 49.847" E)	Upadhyay, P. 2017: 53-75.
51	Tapaka Dari (Between Pandi and Ledaha villages) (24° 54' 51.732" N: 83° 18' 10.512" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
52	Tala (24° 59' 19" N: 83° 19' 03" E) Dhrahanpur	Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:342, Kumar 2012, Pl84
53	Tenui (24° 59' 42" N: 83°19' 03" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:341, Pl.37.6
54	Nasopur (24° 01' 13" N: 83° 17' 46" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:343, Kumar 2012, Pl.87
55	Kharauli (24° 00' 57" N: 83° 20' 13" E) Mathia pahar	Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:343, Pl.37.7
56	Arjikalani (25° 00' 51" N: 83°18' 22" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar

	KapishaPahar	2016:340, Kumar 2012, Pl.72-73
57	Kaurihar Khas (25° 00' 25" N: 83° 15' 217" E) KapishaPahar	Upadhyay 2008:5-6, Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:341, Kumar 2012, Pl.74-77
58	Ghurahupur group of shelters (25° 00' 51" N: 83°19' 217" E) KapishaPahar seven painted rock shelter)	Upadhyay 2008:7, Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:341, Pl. 37.3-5, Kumar 2012, Pl.73
	<b>District Kaimur, Bihar</b>	
59	BhaismarwaPahad (BhaluBudanghat) (24° 59' 26.304" N: 83° 21' 52.992" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
60	Diha (25° 01' 47" N: 83° 25' 51" E)	Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:343, Kumar 2012, Pl.97-98
61	Ratanpurva (25° 00' 50" N: 83° 19' 45" E) group of seven painted rock shelter	Kumar 2012, Pl.102-104, Upadhyay and Kumar 2016:344, Pl.37.8
62	Shelter II (24° 59' 26.736" N: 83° 21' 52.992" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
63	AamPahadi (village BhaluBudan-I) (24° 58' 33.24" N: 83° 22' 38.207" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
64	Shelter II (24° 57' 41.724" N: 83° 22' 34.499" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
65	Lekhanipahadi (village BhaluBudan) Shelter I (24° 57' 3.312" N: 83° 22' 28.379" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
66	Shelter II (24° 57' 2.916" N: 83° 22' 27.407" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
67	Shelter III (24° 57' 2.52" N: 83° 22' 26.796" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
68	Magardah (village BhaluBudan) Shelter I (24° 58' 1.308" N: 83° 21' 46.044" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
69	Shelter II (24° 57' 1.956" N: 83° 21' 45.72" E)	Upadhyay, P 2017: 53-75.
70	Tala (24° 46' 13" N: 83° 33' 14" E) painted rock shelter and microlithic site	Upadhyay and Bind, 2017:80- 89

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