



## DISCOVERY OF ROCK- ART AT NANDURI FROM NASIK DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA.

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### **Abstract:**

*Rock-art is one of the most delicate forms of art which gives expression to human thoughts and feelings. In ancient time, man was only a cave dweller; he painted his rock shelters to satisfy his aesthetic sensitivity and creative urge. Indian rock art is well known in the world for its uniqueness and for its great message, (Chakravarty & Bednarik 1997, Nuemayer 1993, 2010, Brooks & Wakankar 1976). In Indian subcontinent, rock paintings are found in rock shelters and caves mostly in the Central India, Vindhya Hills of Madhya Pradesh, Utter Pradesh, Gujarat, Ajanta Range of Maharashtra and other parts of the southern India such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, etc. Primary investigation began in the late 1867-68 (Chandramouli 2002).*

### **KEY WORDS:**

Discovery of rock- art , Geographical location , Archaeological.

### **INTRODUCTION-**

During the Archaeological exploration of Nanduri village in April 2014, I found a small evidence of rock art. The main importance of rock art is a beautiful painting of the fighting warriors. This paper is deals with setting of the site and a study of the rock art.

### **GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

Nanduri Village is located in Kalavan Tehsil of Nasik District of Maharashtra. It is lies on Latitude 20°23'48" N and Longitude 73°54'41" E and appear on Survey of India toposheet map 46 H/15 of 1:50,000 scale. Recently, Archaeological exploration has been carried out in the village. During the exploration a rock-art were observed within a distance of 2 km from village, on the southern foothill of Sahyadri range (Fig. 1).



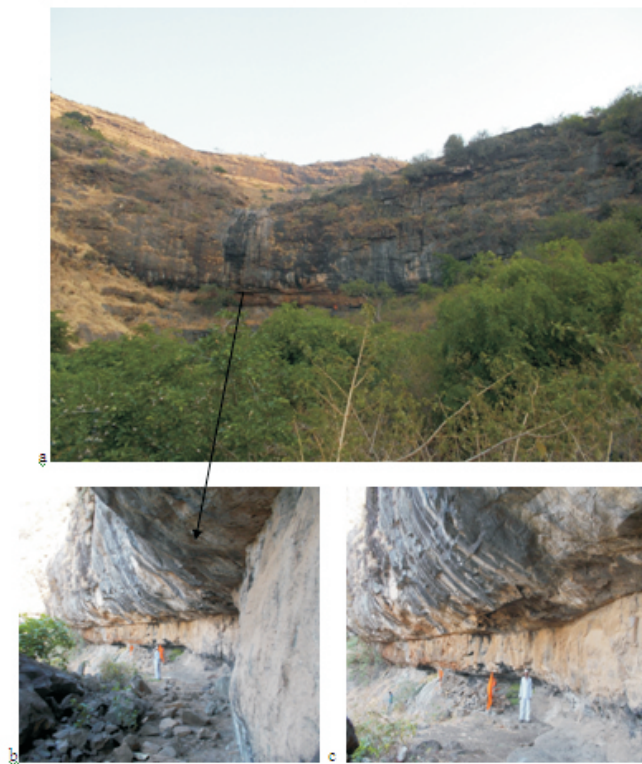
Fig.1: Location map of the site (based on Survey of India toposheet 46,H/15 of scale, 1:250,000).

**Rock shelter:**

This shelter is formed by natural geological activities in basalt rock of Deccan Trap region (Fig. 2). This shelter having 100×6×4 meters. As per as the current condition of this structure is concern, the left half part of the shelter is intact i.e. good condition, while the right half is collapsed and bad condition (Fig. 3). These white colored paintings are present at the roof of the shelter and represent the scene of war (Fig. 4). In the shelter, total four images are present, out of which, in two images of persons represents fighting scene by using sword and Shield. Third and fourth paintings belong to soldiers in standing in war position, in which one image is faint, while the fifth one image is not identified properly because of its irregular nature (Fig.5).



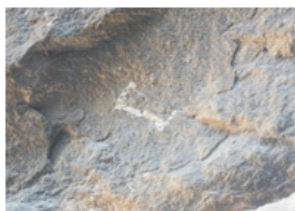
Fig. 2 Shows the general view of the rock shelter (a: aerial view and b: front view).



**Fig. 3 Shows the picture of rock shelter (a: side view, b and c: close view).**



**Fig. 4 Rock Painting shows war scene on Deccan Trap basalt rock (a: actual picture and b: drawing).**



**Fig. 5.**

**Water Tank:**

A small water tank is found in the middle part in the rock shelter (Fig. 5). This tank is 1.56 sq. mts in dimension. This tank is having continuous supply of water. Two back sides of the tank were collapsed. On the basis of study, this tank belongs to the medieval period.



**Fig.5 Shows the picture of water tank in the rock shelter.**

**Modern Sculpture:**

At the middle portion of the shelter found of three sculptures of Hanuman, Shivlinga and Nandi (Fig. 6). According the local peoples, these images are present here from last 50 years old.



**Fig.6 Shows the modern Sculpture of Hanuman, Shivlinga and Nandi.**

## CONCLUSION:

The present study reveals the following conclusions:

- 1) On the basis of the observation of weapons and dress codes in the painting images of soldiers indicate the medieval period.
- 2) On the basis of type of construction activities of the water tank present in the shelter indicate its medieval origin.
- 3) This rock shelter is present on the bank of a perennial stream channel and in forest area. Therefore, in this area permanent water source and hunting facilities were available.
- 4) This site is a good example of continuity of rock art to the medieval times.
- 5) On the basis of above observations, there might be chances of existence of medieval settlement in this area.

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