

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE ROCK ART OF INDIA

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The present study deals with the development of musical instrument in early times as depicted in the rock paintings of India. Irrespective of the controversy surrounding the chronology of the Indian rock-painting it can be said that the instruments depicted in the rock-paintings are the primary source of information about the earliest form of different type of musical instruments. These, however, have been analysed in the proper perspective of four broad classifications i.e. String, wind, percussion and solid instruments.

On the basis of these we are able to develop culturally continuous ethnographic parallels between musical instrument of the remote past and those played upon by the people of India, now by both tribal and urbanites. The prevalence and number of the instrument in early times is surprising and the purpose is varied. The instruments of all types are quite close to the nature in their shape and material. The occasions for the use of instruments vary from sheer entertainment to celebrations on occasions of birth, marriage, harvested, success in hunt and victory in war. Nevertheless they were also used for the purposes of war and hunting as is done till today. There is no reason to conclude that music was inspired merely by ritualistic utility. A wide range of musical instruments ranging from trumpets, drum, harps, flutes and others are found depicted which may be called the precursors of the present day instruments.

Their living continuities can be traced in the modern *Dhol, Tabla, Nagara, Vina, Sitar, Ektara, Vanshi, Turhi, Singa* and Cymbals, etc.