



भौतिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला, अहमदाबाद Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

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57_PRL Ka Amrut Vyakhyaan

Wednesday, 31 August 2022

@ 04:00 PM (IST)

**“The Sarasvati River and the Indus
civilization”**

Prof. Michel Danino

Visiting Professor,
Humanities and Social Sciences,
IIT Gandhinagar.



<https://youtu.be/N80PW5CkaOg>



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Title: “The Sarasvati River and the Indus civilization”

Speaker: Prof. Michel Danino

Visiting Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Gandhinagar

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Abstract

From the 1850s, European scholars identified the seasonal Ghaggar-Hakra bed with the lost Sarasvati of Vedic literature. This talk will present recent scientific investigations in the Sarasvati river’s basin, in particular, geological studies and the issues they have addressed, such as the Sutlej’s and the Yamuna’s contributions to the Sarasvati system, the existence of a mega-river and the age of its disappearance; a phase-wise evolution of the Sarasvati river system will be proposed. We will then revisit the oft-debated question of the river’s contribution to the Indus or Harappan civilization..

The Speaker

French-born Prof. Michel Danino has lived in India since 1977. A student of Indian civilization, he has written on protohistorical India (The Lost River: On the Trail of the Sarasvati, 2010) and Indian culture (Indian Culture and India’s Future, 2011; Sri Aurobindo and India’s Rebirth, an edited volume, 2018).

Since 2011, he has been teaching courses on Indian civilization and knowledge systems at IIT Gandhinagar, where he has been assisting its Archaeological Sciences Centre. He is also convener of a CBSE committee for the course Knowledge Traditions and Practices of India whose two-volume textbook he co-edited (with Prof. Kapil Kapoor, 2013 and 2015).

He is a former member of ICHR, a member of the Central Advisory Board on Culture, and of the National Steering Committee for the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020. In 2017, he was awarded Padma Shri for his work on education and culture.



About PRL

The Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), known as the “cradle of space science” in India, is one



of the premier research institutes founded in 1947 by Prof. Vikram Sarabhai, a renowned Cosmic Ray Scientist, a great visionary and institution builder. PRL played a seminal role in producing a highly motivated cadre of space scientists and the technologists of highest international repute. The first scientific rocket launched from Thumba on 21st November-1963 and many other rockets launched thereafter contained payloads developed at PRL. Dr. Sarabhai initiated many of these scientific and technical activities at PRL which eventually led to the formation of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Therefore, PRL is known as the “cradle of space science” in India. Further, the research in the area

of Plasma Physics expanded to the formation of the Institute of Plasma Research (IPR).

As an institution PRL is unique in that it conducts fundamental research in a wide range of research areas from the Earth to the cosmos, and comprising Astronomy and Astrophysics; Solar Physics; Space and Atmospheric Sciences; Theoretical Physics; Geosciences; Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, Astrochemistry; and Planetary Sciences and Space Exploration. PRL is one of the rare research institutes of international repute wherein research in such diverse fields of sciences is carried out using several state-of-the-art experimental facilities that exist under one umbrella.

Along with the ongoing research, several new initiatives have been taken up during the last few years. The Multi-Application Solar Telescope (MAST) at Udaipur Solar Observatory has been operationalized. PRL initiated scientific programmes in frontier areas of research, which include a search for exo-planets, laboratory studies of interstellar grains, laboratory synthesis of cold astro-molecules and experimental studies in the field of quantum optics. PRL is also developing several scientific payloads as a part of ISRO’s larger vision and contributing to roadmap for competitive scientific exploration of the solar system and beyond. In particular, PRL has been contributing significantly not only in building instruments for space missions, such as Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2, AstroSat and upcoming Aditya-L1, Chandrayaan-3 and planetary and space missions, but also by bringing out new and insightful science results.

PRL contributes to several national and international research programmes and to human resource development through its Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Programmes, capacity building programmes, such as UN Course on Space Science, and science and engineering internship programmes. PRL contributes significantly to society through its Outreach Programmes by periodically organizing science exhibitions and Open Houses, planned visits of students of various school and college to PRL, and popular talks at various institutions to not only share the excitements of the advancements of contemporary scientific findings but also to encourage students to take up sciences as their research career.

