



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & CULTURE, JMI &
INSTITUTE OF OBJECTIVE STUDIES

*Cordially invite you to attend a
Lecture*

on

**Aryans in India and Iran: A synthesis of linguistic,
literary, archaeological, and genetic evidence**

By

Professor Rajesh Kochhar

Honorary Professor, Panjab University, Chandigarh

Author of "The Vedic People"

Prof. R. P. Bahuguna

Honorary Director, Arjun Singh Centre for Distance and Open Learning, JMI

will preside over the session

Date & Time

Monday, February 18, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

Venue

Seminar Room

Department of History & Culture
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi-25

Prof. Nishat Manzar

*Head, Department of History
& Culture, JMI*

Prof. Syed Jamaluddin

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Aryans in India and Iran

A synthesis of linguistic, literary, archaeological, and genetic evidence

When and where was the Rigveda composed? How are the Vedic people related to the vast Harappan archaeological tradition? These quintessential questions have no direct answers. The following hypothesis however is consistent with all known pieces of evidence.

The Harappan civilization whose roots go back to Neolithic times went into decline in 2000 BCE because of ecological reasons. The resulting vacuum was filled by new people, the Indo-Aryans, who came from the northwest. Indo-Europeans, speaking related languages, had been stationed in Eurasian steppes from where they moved out in waves over an extended period of times.

The Indo-Iranians were the last ones to leave, after 2000 BCE. Passing through Central Asia, they arrived in Afghanistan and East Iran where the Avesta and the older portions of Rigveda were composed. The Indo-Aryans arrived in India with most of the Rigveda as a memorized text. River and other names which they had left behind were selectively re-used in their new and final home.

Professor Rajesh Kochhar

Dr Rajesh Kochhar is honorary professor in Mathematics Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh. An astrophysicist by training he has published original research in a number of fields: history and sociology of science, technology and education in the Subcontinent during modern period; Western science and the non-West; science and education policy; world history of astronomy through ages; ancient Indian history; and modern astronomy and astrophysics. He is the author of the well-regarded *The Vedic People* (Orient Black Swan, 2000).

His papers and articles have been well-cited by researchers; policy and opinion makers; as also by the on-line Wikipedia. His views have been sought and published by magazines like Science and Nature as also by BBC Radio.

He has lectured extensively in India and abroad including at Harvard, Cornell, University of Texas at Austin, Belfast, Brighton, Royal Dublin Society, Tubingen, Copenhagen University, and National Museum Copenhagen. Professor Kochhar has been a Jawaharlal Nehru Fellow, a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer, a Visiting Scholar at University of Cambridge, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, and President of International Astronomical Union Commission on History of Astronomy.

He is the recipient of Indira Gandhi Award for Popularization of Science, 2014. He has been the Director of National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR), New Delhi, and Professor at Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore.