



Archaeological Sciences Centre
Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar

How Deep Are the Roots of Indian Culture? — An Archaeologist Inquires



Public lecture by
Prof. B.B. Lal

The doyen of Indian archaeology investigates the roots of Indian culture, showing how some of them go back five millennia at least in the light of recent archaeological evidence: from Harappan figurines with *sindūr* at the parting of the hair or folding their hands in a *namaste* to farmers at Kalibangan (Rajasthan) ploughing their fields in a unique crisscross pattern that remained in use till recently. And much more.... Drawing from his vast experience, Prof. Lal will take us on a journey to the origins of some of our everyday gestures and customs.

Prof. B.B. Lal, born in 1921, was first trained in archaeology in 1944-45 and took part in or directed many excavations in the country (at Harappa, Hastinapura, Sisupalgarh, Kalibangan...), becoming Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1968. In the 1970s, he excavated several Ramayana sites (including Ayodhya and Shringaverapura). He is the author of *The Earliest Civilization of South Asia* (1997); *The Sarasvati Flows On: The Continuity of Indian Culture* (2002); *Rama: His Historicity, Mandir and Setu* (2008); *Piecing Together: Memoirs of an Archaeologist* (2011); *Historicity of the Mahabharata: Evidence of Literature, Art and Archaeology* (2013); *The Rigvedic People: Invaders? Immigrants? or Indigenous? Evidence of Archaeology and Literature* (2015), among other titles. Prof. Lal received the Padma Bhushan in 2000.



September 6, 2016, 5:00 p.m. at Block 1, auditorium 002, IIT Gandhinagar, Palaj Campus