

2nd R C Gupta Endowment Lecture

of the
**Astronomical Society
of India**

organized by
**Indian Institute of Science
Education and Research, Mohali**

Origin & Growth of Astronomy in India

Speaker - Professor Mayank Vahia

Ever since the humans realised the beauty of the skies, they have been fascinated by it. They have used it for time keeping, calendrical, navigational purposes and have uploaded their stories to the skies. Hence the study of the heavens is as old as the arrival of human culture. **In the present talk, we will look at the evolution of astronomy from prehistoric period to the present by dividing it into 4 stages** - of prehistoric astronomy, astronomy of early settlements, astronomy of civilisation and modern astronomy. We will discuss the salient features of each of these phases and show how it is sensitive to other parameters of the intellectual evolution of the civilisation in the subcontinent.

View the lecture at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/IISERMohaliOfficialChannel>

Date & Time

January 9, 2021

4:00pm



About the Speaker

Mayank Vahia completed his PhD in Astrophysics from TIFR and worked there till 2018. His early work was on satellite based telescopes. More recently he has been interested in the history of science and astronomy and human evolution. He guided the Astronomy Science Olympiad programmes in India for more than a decade. He is a fellow of several national and international academies. He is on the Governing Council of Deccan College, Pune and has also been an active member of various advisory committees of the National Council of Science Museums. After retirement he started the School of Mathematical Sciences, at the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, a Deemed university in Mumbai.



Prof. Mayank Vahia



Prof. R C Gupta

About the Lecture Series

Professor Radha Charan Gupta (1935-) was born in Jhansi. He earned his Ph.D. in the history of mathematics from Ranchi University in 1971 with the historian of Indian mathematics T.A. Sarasvati Amma. In 1991 he was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. In 2009 he was awarded the Kenneth O. May Prize alongside the British mathematician Ivor Grattan-Guinness. He is notably the first Indian to get this prize. He was an active member of the Astronomical Society of India and set up the endowment for lectures on history of astronomy.