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In 2013, the National Geographic Society initiated a five-year annual conference called “**Dialogue of Civilizations**” to encourage scholarly and public discourse about five ancient, literate civilizations of the world: Egypt, Mesopotamia, South Asia, China and Mesoamerica. The conferences attempt to show how the study of the past can inform our present and future.

The first conference in the series was held in Guatemala in 2013, followed by Turkey in 2014 and China in 2015. The fourth dialogue in this series will take place in India from 8th to 15th October 2017. IIT Gandhinagar will have the privilege of hosting academic sessions. The conference will conclude at Dholavira in the Rann of Kachchh.

The academic sessions at IIT Gandhinagar will have the following themes:

- New Insights into Harappan Civilization
- Craft production, technologies, trade and communication in ancient civilizations
- Town Planning, Water and hydrology in ancient civilizations
- Writing system in ancient civilizations
- How new technologies provide insights into ancient civilizations, e.g. subsistence, remote sensing, palaeoanthropological studies, etc.

Three of the most leading archaeologists of India, Dr. S.B.Ota (Joint Director General, ASI), Dr. M. Nambirajan (Region Director West, ASI) and Dr. Anil Tiwari (Superintending Archaeologist, Varoda Circle, ASI) will grace the occasion.

Foreign scholars include: Dr. Chris Thornton, Prof. Aslihan Yener, Prof. Tom Levy, Dr. Anabel Ford, Dr. Francisco Estrada-Belli, Prof. Monica Smith (all from U.S.A.), Prof. Barbara Helwing, Dr. Anna-Latifa Mourad (both from Australia), Prof. Augusta McMahon, Dr. Renee Friedman (both from UK), Dr. Yukinori Kawae (Japan), Prof. LI Xinwei (China).

Indian scholars, from ASI, MS University (Baroda), Deccan College (Pune), TIFR (Mumbai), BSIP (Lucknow) and a few more institutions include: Dr. R.S. Bisht, Dr. Amarendra Nath, Dr. S.K. Manjul, Dr. Jitendra Nath, Dr. Bhuvan Vikrama, Prof. S.R. Walimbe, Deccan College, Prof. Vasant Shinde, Deccan College, Prof. Ajit Prasad, Prof. K. Krishan, Dr. K.C. Nauriyal, Prof. Jeevan Kharakwal, Dr. Y.S. Rawat, Dr. K.S. Saraswat, Dr. Nisha Yadav, Prof. Michel Danino

All sessions will have some time for questions and answers; a detailed programme will be circulated on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Students are warmly encouraged to attend some of the sessions, as this will be a unique opportunity to interact with archaeologists of international repute as well as vastly experienced Indian archaeologists.

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