

Brief C.V. of Prof. (Dr) B. R. Mani

Prof. (Dr) B. R. Mani (born 1955) is a distinguished archaeologist, numismatist, and art historian. He served as the Founder Head of the Department of Archaeology at the Indian Institute of Heritage (IIH), Noida and is the former Director General of the National Museum, New Delhi, as well as the former Vice Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Heritage (IIH), Noida.

A renowned field archaeologist, numismatist and art historian, he earlier served as Additional Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) until April 2015. During his tenure as Director General of the National Museum and Vice Chancellor of IIH, he established two new academic departments, namely Archaeology and Palaeography, Epigraphy & Numismatics and also founded the IIH Museum of Art and Archaeology.

Prof. Mani has an outstanding academic record, having secured first-class-first position throughout his education. He obtained his Master's degree from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1976, standing first in the university and receiving both the Altekari Gold Medal and the BHU Gold Medal. In 1980, he was awarded a Ph.D. from BHU for his doctoral thesis titled "Life in the Kushan Age."

From 1978 to 1984, he taught at Banaras Hindu University and the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies. In 1984, he joined the Archaeological Survey of India as Deputy Superintending Archaeologist.

Since then, he has been actively involved in the conservation and preservation of monuments in Maharashtra, Goa, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir. During his explorations, he discovered numerous archaeological sites in these regions as well as in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Prof. Mani has directed more than twenty excavation projects across India, including Lal Kot and Salimgarh (Delhi), Muhammad Nagar and Harnol (Haryana), Siswani, Sankisa, Ayodhya (Ram Janmabhoomi), Lathiya (Uttar Pradesh), and Kanispur and Ambaran (Jammu & Kashmir).

During 2013–2015, he conducted re-excavations at the important archaeological sites of Kapilavastu, Rajghat, and Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh. He is also the first Director General of the National Museum to have undertaken excavations at the Early Harappan site of Kunal in Haryana. At present, he is directing excavations at the Painted Grey Ware (PGW) site of Kurdi in Uttar Pradesh.

Prof. Mani is a member of several national and international academic organizations and has travelled extensively across Europe, America, and Asia to participate in seminars, conferences, and scholarly meetings. He has authored six books and published nearly 200 research papers in reputed national and international journals.

He is currently serving as the Vice Chairman of the Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi, and is the Editor of the prestigious journals *Puratattva* and *Purapravaha*.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Indian archaeology, heritage studies, museum development and cultural preservation, Prof. (Dr) B. R. Mani was awarded the Padma Shri by the Hon'ble President of India on 25 May 2026.