

Board to propose change in Saraswati river nomenclature



Prof KC Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of Kurukshetra University, addresses the international conference on Saraswati river on Sunday. Tribune photo

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The Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB) may table a resolution before a panel of experts to discard pronouncing the Saraswati as a mythical river tomorrow.

Sources said the proposed step was planned in view of multi-disciplinary scientific studies submitted before the Central government recently.

Also, the HSHDB, which is headed by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, is expected to raise a demand to change the Indus Valley Civilisation as “Saraswati-Indus Valley Civilisation”.

Experts from India and abroad from diverse research fields are attending a seminar on the Saraswati river at Kurukshetra University (KU).

The two-day conference being organised by the university and the HSHDB will conclude tomorrow and the conference is tipped to pass a two-point resolution.

Sources said a report submitted by Prof KS Valdiya of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), which was commissioned by the Water Resources Ministry, was the key claim of the basis of the proposed move to change the nomenclatures in context with the Saraswati.

The seven-member committee, headed by Valdiya had concluded that evidence from palaeochannels — remnants of defunct rivers — suggested that the Sarsuti or Saraswati-Markanda rivulets in Haryana were the water courses of the “eastern branch of a Himalayan river” and the Ghaggar-Patiali channels were the western branches.

He said these branches met in Shatrana near Patiala and flowed as a large river emptying out into a sea that is now the Rann of Kutch.

“Now, water traces at various places in Yamunanagar along the identified path of the ancient river buttress the claim of a river as mentioned in the Rigveda, considered to be the oldest scripture in the world. In-depth studies conclude that buried water sources along the marked Saraswati belts were up to 22,000 years old. Remains of an ancient civilisation in the Haryana-Rajasthan region also reaffirm that planned residential colonies were possible only due to fresh water in the vicinity,” said Valdiya, a noted geologist.

Prof AR Chaudhri, a geologist from KU, said evidence of a river with an origin in glaciers in the upper Himalayas was first surfaced after sediment analysis near Kalayat in Kaithal district in 2006. Later, excavation at Bhor Saidan village near Kurukshetra by archeologists from Shri Krishna Museum in December 2006 also reaffirms the claims of a river flowing off the region centuries ago that was indicated by layers of sediment deposits at the site, he said.

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