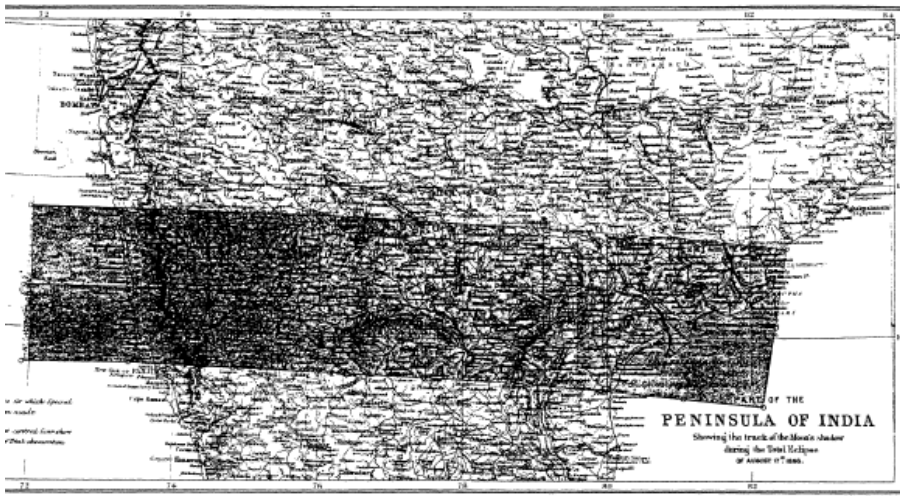


# Discovery of Helium from Andhra Pradesh

## 150th anniversary of fingerprinting the Universe

Dr. Niruj Mohan Ramanujam



Path of totality on 18 Aug 1868 (calculated by Major Tennant)



Norman Pogson (1829-1891)  
Director, Madras Observatory



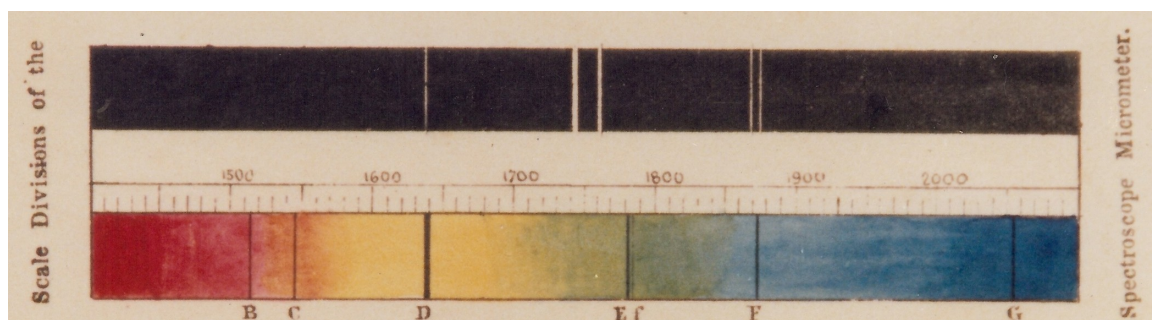
**Venue : Ramanujan Auditorium, IMSc**

**Date : 17th August 2018**

**Time : 17:00 – 18:30**

**18 August 2018** marks the 150th anniversary of the **discovery of the element Helium** that happened during a Total Solar Eclipse observed by European astronomers from **Machilipatnam and Guntur in 1868**.

**Helium** remains the only element to have been discovered first in space, before being found on Earth. The story of this discovery itself is fascinating – the truth behind who among Janssen, Lockyer and Pogson (of **Madras Observatory**) should get the credit, was cleared up only a few years ago. More importantly, this discovery truly marks the beginning of modern Astrophysics. This beginning is intricately linked with the history of thermodynamics, atomic theory, and chemistry.



Spectrum during totality (**N. Pogson, 1868**)

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