

Our Rich Heritage

April 18, is the World Heritage Day. India is an ancient nation, endowed with most rich heritage, vivid national ethos and morals of exemplary standards. The Greek ambassador Megasthenes, who adorned the court of Chandragupta Maurya from 302-298 BC has explicitly testified to it in his historic compendium on India, entitled 'INDIKA' by stating that the masses in Bharat, then in 300 BC had such high self righteous virtues in their conduct and behaviour that even during war time, when the armed forces of enemy kings were engaged in fighting, the village folks and farmer-families continued to work fearlessly in their farms, as the national ethos of "Dharma" were so firmly ingrained into their mind and conscience that they never thought of hurting civilians, of even the enemy kingdom.

All our vast scriptural treatises are replete with immense and ultimate scientific intellect as well as diverse doctrinal wisdom of social and behavioral sciences and they encompass all dimensions of knowledge and human conduct. The scriptural legends compiled in very intricate but highly meaningful linguistic verses, speak of an eternal and ever-perpetuating culture of highest ethical standards, embedded with scientific temper and advanced civilizational traditions. The Vedic texts from among this vast treasure of scriptures, are unanimously accepted worldwide, as the oldest available texts on our planet wherein the Rigved has been declared as part of ancient world heritage. The vedic and Pauranic literature of Bharat explicitly delves in deep, about the infinite expanse of our cosmos with ceaseless and unhindered spate of creation and extinction of galaxies. Vast range of cosmic and astronomical attributes along with several deeper intricacies of human physiology and unique scientific facts of, the physical and life sciences, as well as historical antiquities are dealt very meticulously. The Naasdiya sookta of vedas, the creationism of Puranas and the works of hundreds of astronomers and mathematicians like Aryabhata, Varahmihir, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta etc. talk of cosmic perpetuity, intricate celestial phenomena, scientific laws of motion & gravitation and so on aptly. The second verse of the 26th chapter of Yajurved so explicitly talks of the biological fact of electrical impulses of our heart's ventricles, that is corroborated today, as on the basis of the same principle, we aid them (heart's impulses) with a pacemaker based upon a silver ion battery as an electrical heart-implant.

The verse says "Angi gun hridaye ashani gun hridayagren (अग्निं १ हृदयेण शनिं १ हृदयाग्रेण) Here 'ashani' (अशनि), as per Sanskrit Nighantu (i.e. Sanskrit thesaurus) is a synonym for electrical impulses. Scientific epidemiology of most of the words in the Sanskrit Niruktas is so meaningful that they reveal immense treasure of scientific and other information. A single example of the term 'Yashad' standing for Zinc is enough. It reveals about the metallurgical chemistry; that zinc after ignition can be collected on a Copper plate alone, which acts as a reducing agent. The epidemiology says 'Tamrah Yash Pradaayate iti Yashadah' (ताम्रः यश प्रदायते इति यशदः). Likewise the world's oldest and more than two millennia old as well as hitherto the most systematic Sanskrit-grammar of Panini, today also has no parallel. In league with Panini's Ashtadhyayi the world's equally old and oldest among the available texts is the two millennia old Kautilya Arthashastra which talks of an advanced economy of ancient era.

The Valmiki Ramayan mentions 4 tusked elephants at more than one place, which had lived on the earth since 25 million years and turned extinct just one million years ago. This epoch is coinciding with the Treta Yuga which is narrated to have commenced since 21, 25,119 years and ended 8,69,119 years ago according to the Puranas. No other scripture, related to later era mentions about 4 tusked mammoths except the Valmiki Ramayan. This testifies for Ramayan period to have lapsed in Treta Yuga, as corroborated by the antiquities and archeological findings of one million year old 4 tusked mammoths.

In the area of Astronomy as well, the western astronomers were not aware of the precession of equinoxes called Ayan Chalan (अयन चलन), which (live precession) completes its one full circle in 26,000 years. India has acknowledged it, calculated it accurately and sustained in calculating the monthly sankrantis or the 12 solar transits along with the nomenclature of Hindu months and so on. Now the western astronomers too agree to this phenomenon of precession of equinoxes, occurring due to swing in the spin of the earth. In the pre-Mahabharat era the names of Hindu months which were Madhu, Madhav, Shuchi etc., were changed, keeping in view the precession of equinoxes when the full moon of these Madhu, Madhav and Shuchi etc 12 months begun to fall in the constellations of Chitra, Vishakha, Jyeshtha etc. So, they are now called Chaitra, Vaishakh, Jyeshtha, Ashadha and so on, based on the moon's constellation on Prunima. No calendar of the world is so calibrated with advanced astronomical phenomena on an ongoing manner. Ignoring all our scriptural sources, the modern historians had even pegged the Ramayan era to 1500 BC and Mahabharat era and period of lord Krishna within 700 to 1000 BC, and have

also been dubbing the Indian scriptural sources as myth. The marine- archeological excavations, undertaken since 1980s by the National Institute of Oceanography, near the Dwarika-coast have already unearthed rich archeological relics of ancient Dwarika, including a 30 feet wide fortification wall of the then Dwarika town which was raised 5 millenniums ago, when the Dwarika town was founded, to protect the town from sea waves. Building blocks of that era with pottery and other objects of iron and copper, all depicting very advanced architectural and metallurgical skills of Indians dating back to 5 millennia. Indeed, the Radio-Carbon and Thermoluminescence dating of the aforesaid objects found under water, near Dwarika coast, corroborate for being more than 5000 years old, in conformity with the ancient Indian pauranic writings which describe lord Krishna's era i.e., Krishna Janma Samvat or year of birth falling as 5243 in 2017 AD.

Besides, the archaeological relics or the remains of ancient Dwarika town, there is immense irrefutable evidence of much older civilizations like an ancient port near Dwarika with more than a thousand anchors lying in the sea bed are also enough to amaze every one. Moreover, the remains of another 12000 year old sea port at the nearby cambay (Khambhat) region of Gujarat, with more than 2500 anchors scattered on the sea-bed help to further corroborate with even our rigvedic descriptions of conduct of sea trade much before the Mahabharata era. Rigved the oldest book of the world included in UNESCO's list of world heritage mentions of sea trade through 'Shatritra' i.e. an ocean-going ship with 100 oars. Moreover, if India had such vast sea ports more than 12 millennia back i.e. dating back to 10 millennia B.C., it is a conclusive evidence of our inheriting very rich heritage comprising an advanced civilization, depicting well developed industrial economy, supported by commensurate trade and commerce.

The geographical spread of our ancient heritage was also up to Indonesia in the far east, till 15th century just before the fall of 'Majaphit empire' after the Jehadi aggressions and up to Europe in the west. According to Adams and Phythian, the European archeologists, there is not a single European museum which is devoid of relics of 'Mitra' a vedic synonym for the 'Sun God' as per their book 'Mitraism in Europe'.

Several sections of scholars ignorant of the ancient history of Bharat, hold the belief that Bharat was for the first time integrated as a unified nation by the British, forgetting that Bharat had its frontiers, encompassing entire Srilanka and South-East Asia during the reign of Chola King Rajendra, coronated in 1014 A.D. Earlier to him, the Buddhist King Kanishka (127-150 AD) and the Kushan empire had 4 capitals at Patliputra (Patna), Mathura, Taxila and Purushpur (Peshawar now in Pakistan) to a rule in area spread to Central Asia, including Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan as well as Kashgar, Khotan and Yarkand (Part of Xinjiang Province of China), Tibet (Trivish tap), Nepal Afghanistan. He had also built a 560 feet high Buddhist Stupa, and relics of it were seen by Biruni (973-1048 A.D.), who has described it in his book. Even the Mayyan Temples of Sun and several Latin American practices, of their pre-evangelization era, reflect several Hindu traditions of Bharat.

Global governance was not an unheard concept to ancient rishis, as it was in vogue in Vedic age. One single verse of ved testifies for a universal constitution regulating the global governance speaking of one nation from the land-mass up to the oceans "Prithivyaye Samudra Paryant ek raditi" (पृथिव्यार्थ समुद्र पर्यन्ताया एक राडिति). In this hymn, utmost welfare is solicited for all empires under the reign of a common constitution for the world, whether ruled by monarchy (साम्राज्य) welfare state (भोज्य) where the empire is called bhojya and the ruler is called 'Bhoj'. Or a feudal empire (वैराज्य) where the ruler is called Virat and empire is called Vairajya and so on. Bhojya empire was there in Bhojpur-Nepal, Bhojpur-Bihar, Bhojpur UP and Ujjain etc. and rulers were called King Bhoj. The Taittiriyaopnishad has dealt with various types of governance under a common rule of universal governance. All these need to be popularised and be brought in public domain.



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