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**A brief report on the International Seminar  
"Determining Cultural continuity since Vedic and Epic Eras....."  
on 23-24 February 2014 at New Delhi.**

**ANCIENT INDIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE: WAS MAHABHARATA WAR FOUGHT IN 1792 BC?**

Eminent Scientists have claimed that it is possible to determine the exact dates of ancient events in a purely scientific manner! It was also claimed that history of civilization in India is more than 9000 years old and there are scientific evidences of cultural continuity in India for last more than 7000 years.

This was claimed by several eminent scientists, who had come from India and abroad to participate in the International Seminar titled "Determining Cultural continuity since Vedic and Epic Eras....." on 23-24 February 2014. It was organized by the Delhi Chapter of the Institute of Scientific Research on Vedas in CSOI Auditorium, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. This Chapter of the Institute had earlier published in 2012, a path-breaking book titled: '*Historicity of Vedic and Ramayan Eras*'.



While delivering the inaugural address, Hon'ble Dr. Karan Singh, Member of Rajya Sabha and Chairman of ICCR, said that Vedic civilisation is probably the oldest civilisation of the world and that Vedas are not only superb poetic compositions but also contain the divine truth perceived through the elevated consciousness of great seers. He said that, people tend to take the achievement of the past to the extreme- either dismissing the achievements completely or going hyperbolic. Neither is correct. He lauded the efforts of I-SERVE and added that scientific and critical approach will help in enhancing our knowledge & looking at things objectively.

Dr kapil Kapoor, an eminent author, linguist and scholar, declared that much injustice was done to the history of ancient India during the British Rule. He explained in a very scholarly and convincing manner that Aryans were the original residents of the Indian subcontinent, that the world's oldest civilisation flourished in India and that Sanskrit is the oldest language.

Dr. Ashok Bhatnagar, Technical Director of I-SERVE, presented the sky views generated through planetarium software, showing the position and transit of various stars and planets mentioned in Rigveda, Ramayana and Mahabharata. These could actually be seen between 7000 BC and 1700 BC, indicating that these were probably seen and thereafter narrated. He determined 1792 BC as the date of Mahabharata war.

Dr. Gyaneshwar Chaubey, a well known Genome Scientist from Estonian Biocentre, stated that several tribes mentioned in Ramayana and Mahabharata, e.g. Bhil, Gond and Kol etc., have existed and developed in India for thousands of years. Supported by research data, he announced that this ancient genepool matches the genepool of modern populations of India and that there was no influx from outside.

During this extra-ordinary congregation of senior scientists from different disciplines, Dr. B.K. Bhadra, eminent scientist from ISRO presented the satellite images of paleo-channels of ancient Saraswati river from Mansrover to Dwarka. These revealed that 6000 to 8000 years back (during Ramayana Era) Saraswati was flowing with full majesty; however it almost dried up by Mahabharata time i.e. around 1700 BC, visible only as ponds and sub-surface drainages. Their findings corroborated the astronomical dates of these Epics.

Some famous Archaeologists like Prof. Vasant Shinde, Shri Kulbhushan Mishra & Dr. Vimal Tiwari said that remains of cities, houses, plants, metallurgy, modern art, craft, paintings, excavated from several sites, including Takshila, Gandhar, Hastinapur, Kosala and Lahuradeva, Jhusi etc. are dated more than 5000 years old.

Prof. Krishna Bihari pandey, former V.C. of Kanpur University made very convincing and interesting presentation on the achievements in the field of science and technology in ancient India? He reminded the participants about the inventions of Sushrut, Charak, Aryabhata and Bhaskaracharya etc. and emphasized the need for disseminating the scientific knowledge contained in ancient Sanskrit books.

Known worldwide for their knowledge of respective subjects, these scientists claimed that civilization and culture have been constantly developing for last ten thousand years and it is possible to scientifically determine the exact dates of events of the remote past. Smt. Saroj Bala, Chief Coordinator of this research, recommended that the subject 'History' should be now placed under the Faculty of Sciences as a Multi-disciplinary Science subject so that the true and precise history of the world particularly of Indian subcontinent is written. The future of the mankind also depends on the true appreciation of the past.

Some more prominent scientists like Prof. B.N. Narahari Achar (USA) also made their wonderful presentations during the technical sessions of the Seminar.

During Valedictory Function, Shri Manbir Singh, Member of UPSC, opined that while religion may be a matter of faith, researching into the true heritage is of utmost importance. Justice Som Nath Aggarwal, while delivering the Valedictory address, spoke about the antiquity

of India's rich cultural heritage and threw light on our legal inheritance, particularly in family laws and principles of governance under Ram Rajya. He added that cultural heritage of India is much older than what is normally believed and a lot of efforts are yet to be made for unearthing the true facts. While lauding the efforts made by Smt. Saroj Bala and her team members from I-SERVE for carrying out multi-disciplinary scientific research, he highlighted that much remains to be still done and that 'there are miles to go before you sleep'.



During this session a wonderful work titled “The Origins of Astronomy, Calendar and Time” by Kosla Vepa Ph.D, California, USA, which depicts the continuity of Indian Astronomical traditions from the Vedic period to the present date, was released by Justice Somnath Agarwal. This is a publication of I-SERVE.

Saroj Bala  
Director, I-SERVE Delhi Chapter