

Raj Nambisan:

## Did Lord Krishna exist?

Most certainly, says Dr Manish Pandit, a nuclear medicine physician who teaches in the United Kingdom , proffering astronomical, archaeological, linguistic and oral evidences to make his case.

"I used to think of Krishna is a part of Hindu myth and mythology. Imagine my surprise when I came across Dr Narhari Achar (a professor of physics at the University of Memphis, Tennessee, in the US ) and his research in 2004 and 2005. **He had done the dating of the Mahabharata war using astronomy.** I immediately tried to corroborate all his research using the regular Planetarium software and I came to the same conclusions [as him]," Pandit says.

**Which meant, he says, that what is taught in schools about Indian history is not correct?**

**The Great War between the Pandavas and the Kauravas took place in 3067 BC,** the Pune-born Pandit, who did his MBBS from BJ Medical College there, says in his first documentary, *Krishna: History or Myth?*

**Pandit's calculations say Krishna was born in 3112 BC, so must have been 54-55 years old at the time of the battle of Kurukshetra.**

Pandit is also a distinguished astrologer, having written several books on the subject. Pandit, as the *sutradhar* of the documentary *Krishna: History or Myth?*, uses four pillars -- archaeology, linguistics, what he calls the living tradition of India and astronomy to arrive at the circumstantial verdict that Krishna was indeed a living being, because Mahabharata and the battle of Kurukshetra indeed happened, and since Krishna was the pivot of the Armageddon, **it is all true.**

**You are a specialist in nuclear medicine. What persuaded you to do a film on the history/myth of Krishna ? You think there are too many who doubt? Is this a politico-religious message or a purely religious one?**

**We are always taught that Krishna is a part of Hindu myth and mythology. And this is exactly what I thought as well. But imagine my surprise when I came across Dr Narhari Achar (of the Department of Physics at the**

**University of Memphis , Tennessee , in the US ) and his research somewhere in 2004 and 2005. He had done the dating of the Mahabharata war using astronomy.**

**I immediately tried to corroborate all his research using the regular Planetarium software and I came to the same conclusions. This meant that what we are taught in schools about Indian history is not correct.**

I also started wondering about why this should be so. I think that a mixture of the post-colonial need to conform to western ideas of Indian civilisation and an inability to stand up firmly to bizarre western ideas are to blame. Also, any attempt at a more impartial look at Indian history is given a saffron hue.

I decided that I could take this nonsense no more, and decided to make films to show educated Indians what their true heritage was. The pen is mightier than the sword is an old phrase but I thought of new one: Film is the new pen. Any ideas I have will receive wide dissemination through this medium. I wanted to present a true idea of Indian history unfettered by perception, which was truly scientific, not just somebody's hypothesis coloured by their perceptions and prejudices.

**3067 BC is when the Mahabharata war took place, says Dr Achar. How did he arrive at this?**

**There are more than 140 astronomy references in the Mahabharata. Dr Achar used simulations of the night sky to arrive at November 22, 3067 BC, as the day the Mahabharata war began. He used the references common to *Udyoga* and *Bhisma Parvan* initially, and so Saturn at Rohini, Mars at Jyestha with initially only the two eclipses, Lunar at Kartika and Solar at Jyestha.**

**Let me tell you how rare this set of astronomical conjunctions is.**

**The Saros cycle of eclipses is periodic at 19 years and so is the Metonic cycle of lunar phases.**

**So if I say that Amavasya has occurred at Jyestha, then this will occur again in 19 years, but if I say that a solar eclipse has occurred at Jyestha, then this occurs again at Jyestha only after 340 years. Add Saturn at Rohini and we**

**take this to 1 in 7,000 years. This set of conjunctions takes all of these into consideration, but also takes all the other data into consideration.**

**So now, we know about Balarama's pilgrimage *tithis* and *nakshatras*, and believe it or not, all that fits the 3067 BC date perfectly. And to top it all, so does the repetition of the three eclipses described at the destruction of Dwarka 36 years later. This would explain why so many other researchers tried and failed to find the date of the Mahabharata war as it is based on such a unique set of astronomy that it occurred only once in the last 10,000 years.**

**So essentially, your thesis is that since the Mahabharata war actually happened, as confirmed by astronomical deduction, Krishna was also a living entity since he's the fulcrum of the Great War?**

Not just that, but the fact that archaeology, oral and living traditions point to the same. And yes, we cannot separate the Mahabharata war from Krishna . If one is shown to have happened, then the other must be true as well.

**There is a gentleman named Ram Prasad Birbal, who said he has found many bones which are said to belong to the Kurukshetra battle. Has this been scientifically proved?**

Ram Prasad Birbal is a resident of Kurukshetra. I am not aware of carbon dating of those bones. But I am informed that thermo-luminescent dating of other relics as well as carbon-dating at other sites in Kurukshetra have given dates far older than the Indus valley civilisation. Further, Euan Mackie, an eminent archaeologist, had found a clay tablet of Krishna's Yamalaarjuna episode at Mohenjodaro, a site of the Indus Valley civilisation proving that even in 2200 BC, there was a culture of worshipping Krishna .

**You said Hinduism spread across South East Asia in those times ... how big was this religious empire?**

The Hindu religious empire extended across the whole of the Asian sub-continent to South East Asia, from Afghanistan to Thailand (where Ramayana and Krishna are still shown through dances), Burma, Cambodia (Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, Bayon, etc), Vietnam, Laos (little Kurukshetra and temples), Malaysia (which was Hindu until recent) up to Java (more temples), Bali (where Hinduism is still the religion) and Indonesia, where Bhima's grandson is said to have performed a thousand fire rituals at

Yogyakarta. Afghanistan was of course home to both the Yadu race and Shakuni (Kandahar or Gandhar).

**Dr Achar said the Kurukshetra war must not have happened on a full moon day...**

The Mahabharata war did not start on an Amavasya. That is straight forward. Krishna tells Karna "*Saptama chappi divasat Amavasya Bhivasyati*" and says that Karna should tell Drona and Bhishma to do the ayudha (weapons) pooja on that date. But not start fighting the war on that date. **Dr Achar interpreted verses from the *Bhism Parvan* and *Udyog Parvan* to arrive at various conclusions. One of them is that when Saturn in at Aldebaran (Rohini) it brings great bad tidings. The last time this happened was in September 2001, when 9/11 happened. When does this happen next?**

Actually Saturn at Rohini is long known to be a bad omen by astrologers. *Rohinim Pidyannasha Stitho Rajan Shanischarah*. This transit happened in 1971 where a million or so were killed, and again in 2001 September, when 9/11 happened. The next time is in 2030/2031 AD approximately.