

REVIVAL OF RIVER SARASWATI:

A magnificent work has been done by the Indian scientists in reviving River Saraswathi, the oldest river flowing underground since time unknown in the history of Bharat. It had vanished from the surface of the earth some 2000 years ago.

The ancient literatures of the world, the Vedas, say that River Saraswathi takes birth in the Himalayas, flows through the Rann of Kutch and joins the Sindhu Sagar. She was very wide and was flowing with tremendous force. These Vedas and the Aryan culture flourished on the banks of river Saraswathi. It is because of this that the rishis (ascetics) revered it as the Goddess of Learning.

Since the river vanished 2000 years ago, historians started doubting whether it really existed or it was only an imagination of the rishis. Due to the enthusiasm and organising skills of Moropanth Pingale of Nagapur, the search for truth started several decades ago. The scientific community started the work of tracing the origin of River Saraswathi led by Dr. V.S. Wakankar.

They started the research based on the epic information cited in the Mahabharata where Balarama traversed the banks of River Saraswathi. The satellite photo available with Eridjune Research Centre at Jodhpur was very useful.

According to this photograph, scientists have come to the conclusion that there are evidences to show that, about 8,000 years ago, there was a river flowing from the Himalayas to the Sindhu Sagar and it was eight kms wide.

It had dried up about 5000 years ago, reducing itself into small pools and about 2,000 years ago, it had completely vanished.

When Prof. Wakankar tallied this photo with that of the path taken by Balarama as cited in the Mahabharata, it matched exactly the same. Even now people believe that river Saraswathi does exist and can identify the place where Balarama took bath.

Prof. Narahari Achar of Memphis University, USA, utilising the advanced computer technology situated at NASA, calculated all the 170 panchangas of that time and according to it, the Mahabharata war took place about 5000 years ago. Accordingly, he came to a conclusion that Bala-rama's yatra and the drying up of River Saraswathi happened 5000 years ago.

Scientists and experts in the fields of geology, oceanography and science of glacier have done extensive research and have found out that the river vanished due to series of earthquakes for a span of 400 years and lack of rains due to the vagaries of nature. It is interesting to note that the Saraswath Sect of people have recorded the same in their Vamsha Charitre.

Archeologists who have done research all along the path traced by the scientists, have found more than 2,000 sites which reflect the Harappan culture.

Prominent among them are the Dholveera and Kalibhangan which were the trade centers. Also, Lothal and Betdwarika were scientifically built cities. In all these places, buildings built on burnt bricks, wide roads, well- designed underground drainage system and rain water harvesting system were seen.

In addition to that, it has been established that they were having trade relations with Sumerian civilisation of those days.

Dr. S. Kalyana Raman, who was an administrator of Asian Bank, took immense interest in reviving this river so that it flowed on the surface once again. He quit his job and started Saraswati Nadi Shodha Samstan at Chennai. During that time, the Government of India took up the task of joining all the Indian rivers for which he was put in-charge. Dr. Kalyana Raman took up this task and along with it the revival of River Saraswathi.

Today in Haryana, the Thar desert of Rajasthan, and in Gujarat, this river has made the parched desert into a fertile land of greenery, bringing joy, prosperity and peace to thousands of people. With the active co-operation of all the State Governments situated on the banks of the river Saraswathi, her water is being utilised fully among the riparian States.

Lauding this herculean task, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, exclaimed: "Delighted to see the hard work in realising the reality from epic information. "

CM to dedicate book on River Saraswathi tomorrow

An illustrated book about River Saraswathi and its revival will be released tomorrow at a function to be held at Kalamandira in city by Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda. Pejawar Seer Sri Vishwasha Theertha Swamiji and Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji will grace the occasion. The book is ideal for the students of middle school, high school and college level. It is published in 14 languages of India.

Akhila Bharatiya Itihasa Sankalana Samiti, New Delhi, having its branch office at Mysore, is the research wing of Sri Baba Saheb Apte Smarak Samiti, Bangalore. Haribavu Vaze, the Samrakshak of this organisation, is pioneering this cause.

In view of creating awareness among the youth, and for posterity, both the institutions have joined hands in bringing out the book meant for free distribution among select in-stitutions.

It consists of the rousing story of the mighty river which was once flowing on the surface, how it disappeared over time due to natural calamities and was running underground unknown for thousands of years and how in the last fifty years it has been redeemed and made to appear again to bless us all.

A souvenir is also being brought out to commemorate this momentous occasion.

A unique powerpoint presentation will be shown on this occasion along with a dance-drama titled "Saraswathi Sindhu Matha."