
RECONNECTING THE TRAJECTORIES OF BHARAT VARSA, VEDIC ARYANS AND SAPT SINDHU REGION

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ABSTRACT

Historically, Indian region and its surrounding area are known as Jambudvipa which means island of Jamun trees. Jambudvipa is further divided into nine varsas or countries and one of them is Bharat varsa in which Bharata clan was inhabited. In the Bharat varsa, there took place many historical and ancient events. And the Battle of Ten Kings or Dash Raja ka Yudh is a major historic event of Sapt Sindhu region of Bharat varsa in which ten kings fought against King Sudasa of Bharata clan. The Sapt Sindhu region is a very significant region as Rig Veda is developed here hence, the well known Aryans or Rig Vedic civilization also developed and flourished in the same region. Sapt Sindhu region means the land where seven rivers flows i.e., Indus, Jhelum, Ravi, Chenab, Beas, Satluj and Saraswati and this region extend from present Pakistan, Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Eastern Punjab and Haryana. Although, Sapt Sindhu region is the heartland of Rig Veda and it has clearly described the term Aryan or Arya and their identity, which was later misinterpreted by western intellectuals. Therefore, the present study aims to understand that Aryans are the natives of Bharat varsa. In addition, the study also reveals that the Rig Vedic civilization is a Sapt Sindhu civilization.

KEYWORD: Aryans, Bharat Varsha, Identity, Jambudvipa, Rig Veda, Sapt Sindhu Region.

INTRODUCTION

According to Puranic cosmography, the entire earth has been split into a seven parts or called continents (dvipas) which consists Salmalidvipa, Plaksadvipa, Kusadvipa, Kroncadvipa, Sakadvipa, Puskaradvipa and Jambudvipa. These continents are apart from each other and surrounds with seven different oceans. The one which is denoted as Jambudvipa, ruled by the mighty King Agnidhara and the Jambudvipa consists of nine varsas (country) and it was enormous dvipa, enriched with glory and encompassed it by nine circles and it was surrounded with salty ocean. Hari varasa, Bhadrasha, Ketumala, Svetavarsha, Hiranyanka varsa, Ilavrita varsa, Haimavata varsa, Kuru varsa and Bharat varsa are the nine varsas. Out of nine varsas, Bharat varsa is one of them and king Agnidhara divided his empire into his nine sons. The southern varsa, also referred as 'Hima' granted to his son Nabhi and Merudevi and Nabhi's son named Rsabha the heir of the kingdom then in Rsabha's hundred sons, the eldest one Bharata who is courageous and fearless bequeathed the southern varsa (Dakshinvarsa) after him the intellectuals referred the region as Bharat varsa. In Jambudvipa, the Bharat varsa is recognized as the most favorable place. Visnu Purana also describes Bharata as one of the finest place of Jambudvipa

because it is known as land of action (*karma*) whereas on the other hand, others are of enjoyment (*bhoga*). The Bharata is the land of action and people inhabited in it have a strong faith in action it was not only a piece of land (Kumar, 2023).

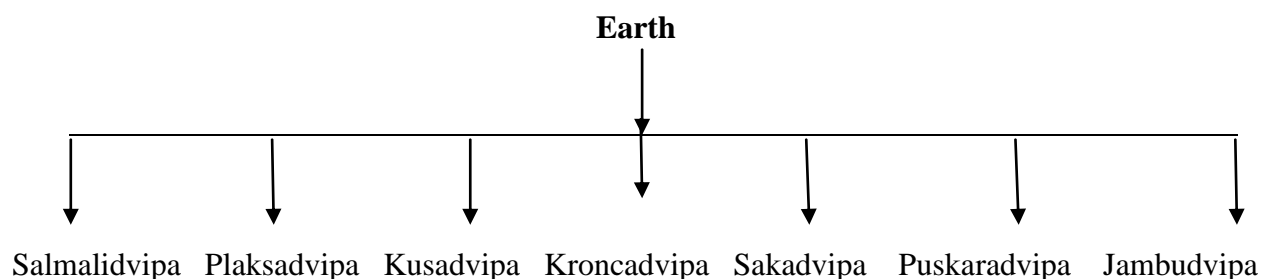


Figure No.: 1.1

Figure No.: 1.1 display Earth is divided into seven continents (Dvipas)

However, the extremely southern region Bharat varsa (approx. present day India) and the extremely northern region Airavata varsa known as (Siberia) these both are bow shaped regions and this bow-shaped region to the south of the Himalayas is identified as Bharat varsa. Here, the bows are an allusion to the shape of the Indian peninsula, Hemkuta/ Kailash refers to the Himalayas northern mountain ranges in Tibet and the Indus and Brahmaputra valleys, often known as the Himavat Varsha, which are located in between these ranges. Tibet is recognizable as Hari Varsha, which is located beyond Hemkuta/ Kailash. The Kunlun Mountain ranges (Kunlun Shan), also known as the Nishadha Mountains, formed Tibet's northern border. The Tien Mountain (Tien Shan), also known as the Nila Mountain, is the mountain range located to the north of Kunlun. The Pamir Mountain, are located in between Tien Shan and Kunlun Shan and the lowlands that encircled them are known as the Ilavarta region. The Altai Mountain, which may be distinguished as the Sveta Mountain, is located north of Tein Shan and the area which includes Lake Baslkash and Dzungeria valley in between Tein Shan. A plain that is identified as the Hariyanka varsa, lies beyond the Altai Mountains in both Northern Kazakhstan and Mongolia. The southern border of Siberia (recognized as the Airavata varsa) is formed by the Saya Mountains (recognized as Srngavan Mountain). The following people who were resided in the six Mountains: In the Himavat Mountains, Rakshasas resided, on the Hemkuta (Kailash) Mountain Yakshas (Guhyakas) inhabited. The Nishada Mountain is the home of Sarpas, Nagas and Gandharvas and in the Nila Mountains Brahmarishis lived. Sveta Mountain is used to be live by the Devas and Asuras and whereas on Srngavan Mountains Pitris resided (Ravi, 2019).

In the historical epic Mahabhart, there was a description of Bharat varsa which was dear nation or Desh by God Indra and Vaivsvat Manu. All the almighty Kshatriya kings and warriors including Vananndan Prthu, Mahatma Ishvaku, Yayyati, Ambrish, Mandhata, Nhush, Muchukund, Usheenrputra Shibhi, Rishab, Ilanandn Pururba, Raja Nrug, Kushik, Mahatma Gadhi, Somak, Deleep etc. they all were fond of Bharat varsa. The Bharat varsa also includes seven almighty Mountains i.e., Mahendra, Mlye, Shhye, Shuktiman, Rishban, Vindhya and Pariyatra and around these there were thousands of mountains which were unknown and have expanded and unique peaks and all these peaks consists of valuable gems. Besides all these, there were also small unspecified mountains in which tiny beings were inhabited and were dependent of them for their survival. *Arya, Mallech and Sankar jati* people were lived in Bharat varsa and these people were dependent on the rivers like Ganga, Sindhu, Saraswati, Godavari, Narmada,

Bahuda, Mahanadi, Shatdru, Chandrabhaga, Mahanadi Yamuna, Drshdvti, Vipasha, Vipapa, Sthulba luka, Vetravti, Krishnvena, Iravati, Vistasta, Pyoshni, Devika, Vedsmrta, Vedvati, Tridiva, Ikshula, Krumi, Kreshini, Chitravaha, Chitasena etc. (VedVyas, 2019).

According to the Hindu traditions, the oldest texts are well known as Vedas which comprises of four books i.e. Rig, Yajur, Sam and Atharva Vedas. The Vedas majorly consists of hymns, prayers, religious practices, rituals and fire sacrifice. The oldest of all Vedas is the Rig Veda and it is assembled in ten parts. This oldest text used actively in the world and one of its hymns i.e. *Gaytri Mantra* which is chanted everyday by many people and mostly Hindus considered, it the most sacred texts. In the Rig Vedic landscape, the central point is Sapt Sindhu which means land of the seven rivers was also known as the Rig Veda's heartland (Sanyal, 2013).

Sapt Sindhu means where seven rivers flows i.e. Satluj, Jhelum, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, Sindhu and Saraswati whereas some historians argued that Khubha or Kabul river is the seventh river. The Sapt Sindhu region consist area of Pakistan, Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), Eastern Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh. The region of Sapt-Sindhu boundary extends from Afghanistan up to India (Delhi). When Maharaja Ranjit Singh rule in the enormous region of North-West of India i.e., the Sapt Sindhu region, Maharaja didn't only set India free from foreign invasions but also laid foundation of geographical and political unit. But after the demise of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1850 British authority occupied the region of Sapt Sindhu or Punjab earlier known as *Panchnad* they started breaking the unification policy of Maharaja for their own motives and benefits in which they laid the foundation of today's Pakistan. In 1901, British authority separates present Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Punjab and named it as North West Frontier Province. Like this they made Baluchistan and Sindh as separate administrative units and the region of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit and Baltistan forming them as different administrative unit. British were successful to divide Sapt Sindhu or Punjab into many administrative units. Muslim League and British Government to make Sapt Sindhu region as a different sovereign country, named as Pakistan. But they also initiated one false narratives which was set by their thinkers or intellectuals to play dirty politics of divide and rule policy i.e. Aryan Invasion Theory in which they considered that Aryans have European origin and they entered through Middle Asia and attacked Sapt Sindhu region and make the native population their slaves and move them towards southern part of India (Agnihotri, 2023). They started misinterpreted the Indian texts, scripture etc. and created their own theories which suited them.

Hence, the major objective of the research paper is to highlight that Aryans are the natives of Bahrat varsa and the study reveals that the Rig Vedic civilization is a Sapt Sindhu civilization.

Rise of the Aryan Theory

The origin and meaning of the term 'Arya' or 'Aryan' are at the core conundrum of the ancient Indian history. A specific understanding of what Aryan is meant to imply forms the basis of contemporary historical interpretations of ancient Indian history that have emerged in the previous one hundred fifty years. Aryans, specific group of people who displayed specific racial kind-normally light skinned kind of Caucasian. It was believed that in between 4000 and 2500 BCE, the Indo-Aryans and the progenitors of all Indo-Europeans, including the Irish and Iranians, shared a familiar motherland in Central Asia or Eastern Europe. After 1500 BCE, an enormous migration took place by this group of people who leave their motherland to overpower world from Bengal to Persia, Anatolia, Italy, Greece, Scandinavia and Ireland. But here, the question arises, what were the forces behind this massive migration of people, why they travelled

in various direction and how they were able to overcome human and natural hurdles in addition to conquering their new homeland was a difficult one to solve and raises serious questions about the theory (Rajaram & Frawley, 2018).

Although there are many perspectives behind their origin and migration: different scholars have offered a variety of explanations. Prof. Max Mullar asserts that Aryans were indigenous to Central Asia, but some foreign scholars believed that North Germany and South Russia were the original homeland of Aryans'. In contrast, Indian scholar Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak linked them to the Arctic, Swami Vivekanand connected them with Tibet and Dr. Sampurnanand believes that the Sapt Sindhu region was their original homeland, he was primarily backed by a number of notable intellectuals, including Pandit Ganganath Jha and Dr. Rajbali Pandey. Dr. Sampurnanand believed that the Sapt Sindhu region (present-day Punjab and North West border Province) was the original homeland of Aryans on the basis of the Rig Veda's signs and geographical area. They were divided into two groups: those who followed the *Devas* and those who followed the *Asuras*. Both took part in the battle known as, and once the *Asur* devotees were vanquished, they left the Sapt-Sindhu region, travelled to west, and eventually settled in Iran. According to Dr. Rajbali Pandey the Madhya desh (present-day Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) was where the Aryans originated and from there, they spread across the rest of India, and some of its branches even went as far as Central and Western Asia via the western passes. It was never even discovered that Bhartiya Aryan was an outsider in the vast body of knowledge that present in Indian literature. Pandit Ganganath Jha believed that Kashmir and the Himalayan states were their original motherland, and that India was the home of the Bramharishi nation and the Aryans. The Veda, Purana, and other Hindu texts never described the arrival of the Aryans, nor do they state that they have ancestors (Pitra Bhumi) and an action land (Karm Bhumi) outside of India (Bhagrav, 2011). Various scholars have different perspective regarding the origin and migration of Aryans but the most appropriate and logical one is given by Dr. Sampurnanand mentioned that the Sapt Sindhu region is the homeland of the Aryans which is supported by many other intellectuals and various Hindu scriptures and texts in which it never mentioned any kind of mass arrival of foreign people in the Sapt Sindhu region. Ancient scriptures also mentioned the connectivity of Vedic Aryans on Sapt Sindhu region.

But later on, there has been always a controversy between intellectuals regarding the native homeland of the Aryans and it was led by British historians who came with the East India Company to India. Indeed, they were surprised to see overall development in the cultural, social and civil sphere of India. When some of its nobles learnt the Sanskrit language, an abundance of information that their ancestors had assembled during their arduous voyage and stay on this hallowed soil—now known as Duggar—was preserved (whole of Jammu, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh)(Dogra, 2022). Western intellectuals set their own narratives for their benefits and then demean indigenous people or tribes.

Therefore, the Aryan Invasion theory was created on the basis of assumption that the Aryans attacked and overpower native culture who was less in number but in the Vedic battle which was held between power of light and darkness was misinterpreted as the Aryan Invasion Theory in which light skinned people overpowered the dark skinned native people and they were tagged as rough and uncivilized. The Vedas indeed depict conflicts and battles, just like a lot of literature does. Since, there was no other indication that was interpreted as suggesting an invasion. This necessitates making the assumption that the conflicts shown were between the native people and the invading Aryans, which the literature does not support but instead, illustrates conflict within

the similar culture. A lot of information has to be disregarded, especially the belief found in Vedas and Puranic texts that Aryan culture originated in India and expanded from a homeland located along Indian rivers such as Sarasvati and Ganga (Rajaram & Frawley, 2018). But the western intellectuals misinterpreted texts for showing their cultural superiority while tagged Aryans with European origin.

Battle of the Ten Kings or Dasrajan Ka Yudh

Aryans were divided into numerous qbilas, which they named it 'Jan' and the major Aryan qbilas, or jan, were Bharat, Puru, Anu, Druhyu, Tubarshu, or Yadu. The battle of Ten Kings, also known as *Dash Raja ka Yudh or Dashraj Samar* was the bloodiest of these qbilas' conflicts. The King Sudasa of Bharat qbila (Tutsu caste) vanquished the ten qbila kings who had formed an alliance against him in the battle. From time to time, the great kings extended his domain. Aryans engaged in lengthy combat with non-Aryans outside of these conflicts, but in the end, the well-organized military system the Aryans had created proved to be too strong for them. Several non-Aryan states were subjugated by the Aryans, who dubbed them as Das or Dasyu. Some of these people hid in the jungles and mountain caves, where their descendants still reside. According to Rig Veda, denounces Dasas or Dasyus, saying that "Aryans and non-Aryans engaged in a protracted conflict that ultimately resulted in a decisive victory for Aryans over Dasyu or Dasa (Non-Aryan)." After the fight, the Dasas managed to survive in huge numbers. Then they managed to get away from the Aryans and sought refuge in the forests and caves of the mountains, or they chose to accept their dominance. The title 'Das' was later used to refer to slaves, and many members of the Dasa clan were made into slaves (Bhagrav, 2011).

But, it was argued that the Rig Vedic people were iron-wielding 'Aryans' who were engaged in ceaseless conflict with their opponents, the 'Dasas' (Hrrappan or aboriginal tribes). Although it was frequently used in Sanskrit literature and the term 'Arya' was never used in a racist connotation. Since it is described, as cultured or noble individual, all organizations seek to identify as Aryans and their opponents as non-Aryans. The word is used racially in modern Europe and ancient Iran, but not in India. In a similar vein, we must exercise caution when referring to non-Aryan opponents as Dasas, particularly in light of the fact that Sudasa, son of Divodasa, the greatest of the 'Aryan' chieftains listed in the Rig Veda, is a Dasa himself (Sanyal, 2013). The Battle of Ten Kings is regarded as the most significant and extensive battle in human history. In this conflict, the Aryan King Sudasa of Trstu Bharata qbila vanquished all ten kings on the bank of the river Ravi and established his authority, which is known as the conflict of Ten Kings. Previously, it was believed that the Aryans overcame the Non-Aryans and made them Dasas or Dasyus, which means slaves. However, in Hindu texts and scriptures, the term 'Arya' was never employed in a racial context; rather, it referred to a cultured or noble person. Even King Sudasa, an Aryan, used the name 'Dasa' for himself. The confusion was created by some notable intellectuals or scholars who were misinterpreted the scriptures or texts which are present in Sankrit language.

Rig Vedic Civilization

The Rig Vedic civilization was considered as the rural civilization, they prefer using gold and silvers in tools and in the 'Yajur Veda' the use of iron was mentioned but on the other hand, the Sapt Sindhu civilization was urban and they were also aware of using gold and silver but they used more of silver than gold and they make many tools by using bronze and copper but they were unaware of using iron. Marshall again mentioned that there were no sign of *Agnikund* in

excavation of the Harrappa and Mohenjodaro cities of Sapt Sindhu civilization and they concluded there was no prevalence of *Ygya* (Sacrifice Ritual) but there was a lot of significance of *Ygya* in Aryans lives. But, later on there are addition of excavations took place on these sites which unfold hidden truths that was not present on Marshall Time period for e.g. on the site of Lothal (Gujarat) got the clay figures of horses and excavating on the Surkotda (Gujarat) and other sites found the bones of horses. In the new excavations in Kalibanga, Lothal and on other sites the religious rituals and beliefs were mentioned in detailed on the *Agnikund* or fire pit and some intellectuals considered it the *Ygya Bhumi*. According to Rig Veda, there was a special shower which was taken place after the completion of *Som Ygya* and it might be possible that vast bathroom of Mohanjodaro were used for that purpose. According to Buddh Prakash, on the other sites of Mohenjodaro found the piles of utensils which have the possibility to use as a sacrificial vessel (*Ygya Patra*) and on the time of *Ygya* it was used at the time of death ritual offering (*Pind*) (Thaplyal & Shukl, 2019). Earlier, the excavated sites were less in numbers that's why it is difficult for many archeologists as well as historians to get confused in Rig Vedic civilization or Sapt Sindhu civilization. However, as more excavated sites were opened, some glimpses of hidden truths emerged, raising the possibility that Rig Vedic Civilization is also a Sapt Sindhu Civilization.

Many historians and archeologist were of the opinion that Sapt Sindhu civilization genetically and culturally have no influence on present day India. The well known historian, Romilla Thappar, belief that material culture shows no continuities but on the other hand the former Director General of the Archeological Survey and B.B. Lal, and other renowned archeologists of India believed that Indian cultural traits are rooted in the Sapt Sindhu civilization or Harappan civilization' for e.g., In Indian culture, *Namaste* is a gesture of reverence towards both people and gods. A figure with palms joined in *Namaste* is shown on a number of clay figurines from the Harappan sites. Even ceramic figurines of ladies with red vermilion marks on their foreheads were present. The discovery of chess pieces at Harappan sites is particularly intriguing as they bear a striking resemblance to their contemporary counterparts. Though the origins of chess are well known to have been in India, it was remarkable that the game—or something quite similar—was played over 4,000 years ago (Sanyal, 2013).

According to Brajvassi, the geographical area of Rig Vedic and Sapt Sindhu civilization was quite similar. In Rig Veda, river Saraswati was mentioned in several times, Yamuna river was mentioned thrice and Ganga was once mentioned. There were many urban places and villages in between Shoturghai (Afghanistan) to Aalmgirpur (Uttar Pradesh) of Sapt-Sindhu civilization in which they were against of the perspective which said Aryan invaded and supported the belief that as per the data collected by biological science in 4500 B.C to 800B.C. that shows continuity and there was no evident proof that shows people came from outside. It was concluded by this that there was no difference between the geographical area of Rig Vedic civilization and Sapt Sindhu civilization, neither in people and nor in eras and many intellectuals believed that Sapt Sindhu civilization was Rig Vedic civilization (Thaplyal & Shukl, 2019). The Sapt Sindhu civilization has a great significance on the modern civilization of India. In fact, it reveals the cultural continuity that is present in the current period. For example, in the excavation sites, a figure with palms united in *Namaste* is portrayed on a variety of clay figurines from the Harappan sites; it represents old Indian cultural signs and symbols that preserve cultural continuity. Even after some studies and excavation it was also confirmed that the area of both the

Civilization i.e., Rig Vedic civilization as well as Sapt Sindhu Civilization both were quite similar.

CONCLUSION

The Bharat varsha lies on *Jambudvipa* where the Bharat clan was inhabited, and on the Bhārata varsha, lies the Sapt Sindhu region where seven rivers flow. There are several historic events in the Rig Veda that occurred on the territory of Sapt Sindhu, and *The Battle of Ten Kings or Dasrajan ka Yudh* is one of the most significant. However, many Western intellectuals and historians subsequently misread original historical texts and sources. They misconstrued the Aryan Invasion Theory, claiming that Aryans migrated from Central Asia while dominating the indigenous people. They created their own narrative of divide and rule. Later on, many historians and intellectuals believed that the Sapt Sindhu civilization was a Rig Vedic culture because fewer excavations were conducted and evidence was limited earlier. However, several discoveries and new information have emerged in recent years, claimed that both civilizations i.e., Rig Vedic civilization is a Sapt Sindhu civilization. Overall, it reconnected the trajectories of Bharat varsha, Vedic Aryans with the Sapt Sindhu region.

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