THE GENERAL EDITOR

Dr. N. Mahalingam is an eminent industrialist, educationist, technologist, planner and philanthropist of India. He is an innovative industrialist hailing from a family of traditional agriculturists and has been a pioneer in establishing agro-industries. In the realm of Sugar, Textiles, Tea and Transport his contribution to the economic development of the State of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka is significant.

Dr. Mahalingam's services in the cause of education attest to his abiding interest in making educational opportunity available to a large number of people, especially from the weaker sections.

Dr. Mahalingam has been a life member of the Senate of the University of Madras and has served on the Syndicates of Madras and Anna Universities.

As a member of the Madras Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1967 he played a key role in bringing about a number of development projects. He has served on the Board of Directors of several public sector undertakings. He has served as Chairman of the Madras fertilisers Ltd. He was a member of the Tamil Nadu Planning Commission during 1971-74 to draw perspective plans for industrialising the State.

Dr. Mahalingam is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers (India). The Bharathiar University has conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Laws; the Anna University has awarded the Degree of Doctor of Science. He has also been conferred the Indira Gandhi; National Integration Award.

Dr. Mahalingam is the author of a number of books. He is a philanthropist and ardent devotee of Saint Ramalinga Vallalar.
India from the misty dawn,

INTEGRATED IDSTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA: By L.S. Wakankar. THOSE ASTOUNDING STUPAS--AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FANTASTIC: By Eberhard Schneider. Both books. General Editor: Dr. N. Mahalingam. Published by the International Society for the Investigation of Ancient Civilizations. 102 Mount Road, Madras-600002. Rs. 30 each.

In his little booklet of 48 pages entitled "Integrated History of India" attractively produced with a political map of India in colour on the cover, L.S. Wakankar uses the word "history" in its widest possible sense (covering pre-history and geological history as well). Tracing the origin and history of this earth itself to its remotest beginnings as a backdrop to the ancient history of India. Starting with the formation of the earth, some 4.5 billion years ago the author presents a bird's eye view of the geological history of the earth. Commencing with the origin of the continents and discussing the concepts of the growth of the continents, the theory of cooling, the theory of continental drift, the theory of plate tectonics, the physical setting of the Indian sub-continent and the concept of the lost continent or Kamar Kanjam (Lemuria).

The author makes several stunning revelations based on the findings of eminent geologists and geographers. Ages before the Indus valley culture there existed another river valley culture in Kumari Kandam which got submerged in the Indian Ocean. The ancient habitat of the Tamil people was part of Gondwana land called in Tamil as Jambu Theevu.

These facts are corroborated by evidence furnished by Vednic literature and epics like Mahabharata and in support of his arguments the author has furnished the chronology computed by Chidambaranar in his History of the Sangam Period based on such studies right from the period B.C. 30,000 - B.C. 16,500 when the first Tamil Sangam was held at what is known as "Then Madurai" (i.e. Madurai of those ages). There are therefore; unmistakable evidences for the possibility of Tamil being the oldest Indian language.

Providing glimpses of Indian prehistoric and protohistoric arc-aeology and focussing special attention especially on rock shelters occupied by man as old as 1,00,000 years and prehistoric rock art, the earliest examples of which are datable to 5000 B.C. the author concludes that the Rigvedic lost river Sa. rasyvath became the cradle of the oldest living civilization.

He therefore asserts that the old and time-honoured assumption that the Indo-Aryans entered a land of primitive savagery about the middle of the 2nd millennium B.C. and brought in all the civilization that India could boast of is totally untenable and even boldly dismisses the concept of Aryan immigration as a myth or a figment of imagination. However, some of the statements quoted by the author in these discussions such as "the Jews are Tamil Brahmins" and "the ancestors of Jesus Christ are Tamil" seem to be far fetched and lacking in authenticity.

This is a brilliant essay in which the author has attempted to establish the astonishingly remote antiquity of Tamil and the Tamil people drawing convincing evidence from geological history as well as Vedic literature.

Dr. Eberhard Schneider's fascinating Those Astounding Stupas makes a survey of select examples of the Stupa and related stupa-shaped structures and associated forms and figures from locations in widely separated countries all over the world such as India, Nepal, Tibet, Egypt, China, Thailand, Mexico and Central America revealing some of the world-wide connections between forms and figures related to the original sacred stupa shape.

In the present study the author has attempted to take a refreshingly new look at the fascinating structures, discussing the significance of their divine occupants and the symbolism of many of their associated features. Starting with a discussion of the significance of an Egyptian heiroglyph with striking resemblance to the figure, of a stupa, the author takes the reader through rambling glimpses into Egyptian archaeology, discussing topics like the legend of the "Winning Desk" and the phenomenon of electricity in ancient Egypt (said to have been produced by chains of jars which were assembled as batteries).

The author's observations on legendary and mythical aspects of stupas such as Deva Rathas or vehicles of God with 'portholes' through which the divine occupant could watch his surroundings and their deities hovering in glowing stupa shapes on coloured clouds 8l depicted in Tibetan and Nepalese cloth paintings are particularly interesting. Although essentially the stupa is a structure containing holy relics, the author cites instances of stupas (near Kathmandu) housing a deity whose eyes look out of the superstructure and scan the country thereby reminding us that human actions do not go undetected by the "all-seeing eye" of the deity.

Citing examples of the depiction of serpents and their association with the stupa from widely separated countries as Egypt, Nepal and Thailand, leading ultimately to the evolution of the figures of dragons as depicted in Chinese sculpture, the author examines the stupa-serpent connection which, according to ancient Mayan belief, symbolises the link between heaven and earth. Several examples of central American and Mexican sculptures depicting grotesque forms of serpent heads are also cited to illustrate the same theme.

The book is profusely illustrated (surprisingly, the illustrations are not captioned) and covers a vast array of fascinating facts within its concise limits and is indeed "An Investigation into the Fantastic" as claimed by the author in its sub-title.
INTEGRATED HISTORY
OF ANCIENT INDIA
INTEGRATED HISTORY
OF
ANCIENT INDIA

L.S. WAKANKAR
LIPIKAAR, I.T.R. PUNE 2

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS
AND
BHARATIYA ITIHAS SANKALAN SAMITI YOJANA
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FOREWORD

It was in a seminar on "The Origin of Aryans" held at Bangalore in 1991, I had the unique opportunity of meeting Bapu L.S. Wakankar, popularly known as LIPIKAR when I discussed with him the antiquity of the Tamil language. What surprised me most was the assertion he made to the effect that if the real home of the Rg Veda is to be found we have to search for it on the banks of the rivers Godavari and Cauvery. Dr. Wakankar has stated with unflinching logic in his booklet on 'Ganesh Vidya' that Maheswari was the original script from which Panini derived his Devanagiri Script and that the origin of Maheswari could be found at Chidambaram on the banks of Cauvery.

These words remind me of the words of Swami Vivekananda who said "It is out of the past that the course of future has to be moulded; it is the past that becomes the future. Therefore, the more the Indians study their past the more glorious will be their future and whosoever tries to bring the past to the door of everyone, is a benefactor of the Nation".

My discussions with Bapu Wakankar revealed two important ideas. First, the word "Aryan" does not denote a race but a form of address; second, the possibility of Tamil being the oldest Indian
language cannot be ruled out. These were the ideas on which I have been toying with for over two decades and I was on the look out for a person who could give me evidence in favour of my assertions. I am particularly happy that a person like Wakankar who had specialised in the study of various languages and scripts at national as well as international levels could come forward to give supporting arguments for my convictions. Further, Dr. Wakankar has no prejudice or partiality towards any language. I requested him to send his notes in the form of an essay so that I may publish the same on behalf of the International Society for the Investigation of Ancient Civilizations. He sent first a script which, after revision, has taken the shape of the present publication. This, I expect, to be followed by an exhaustive book in the not distant future on which we are working. For the sake of the convenience of foreign readers, the wide-spread use of Sanskrit has been avoided.

The publication, I hope, will provoke the readers to contribute their views so that they may be included in the omni bus volume of the future.

Research has its limitations. Some of the arguments may appear like a story; but they are the results of thorough study. As the saying goes "He who seeks wisdom is nearer God."

Madras

May 1994

N. Mahalingam
INDICATIVE BLUE PRINT FOR NEW INTEGRATED HISTORY OF INDIA

"The Chinese, Indian and Egyptian antiquities are never more than curiosities. Real early history of India will be acted on and will begin with South India. But the time is not ripe, and at present, I must follow the old fashion"

Vincent Smith
The Early History of India, from 600 BC to Mohammedan Conquests
Oxford University Press, 1924.

Preliminary

Academic historians have been criticising the present history of India as unrealistic, beginning from imaginary Dravidian and Aryan race immigrations; but where is any alternative real integrated
historical picture? Is it not a wonder that there is no mention of South India in the existing early history of India? As if the South did not exist! I am not a qualified historian but due to my long devotion to study of the origin of the Indian scripts I came across much information which seems to have been neglected by history-writers so far. I remember my school-days textbook "Our World, a Human Geography" carried a Sanskrit sentence on its opening page - "Bhoomih sada Karma bhoomir Jananam", implying that the 'Earth is the stage on which human drama is played'. Scientific history of the World and India should really begin from the 'Birth of Earth'.

**The beginning**

I am indebted to Dr. D.M. Wagh for the following notes from his proposed History of Indian Geography.

As geo-chemists think our earth was formed some 4.5 billion years ago. Its three major realms are (i) the Lithosphere, (ii) the Oceans, and (iii) the Atmosphere. The study in Seismology has thrown much light on the nature of the Earth's interior. The study of the earthquake waves has confirmed that the solid Earth consists of three major concentric 2
layers: (1) The innermost layer is the Earth's Core having a radius 3471 kilometers thick; (2) the middle layer known as Mantle, is about 2867 kilometers thick, and (3) the outermost zone called the 'Crust' varying in thickness from 16 to 40 kms but having an average depth of about 33 kms. The oldest known rocks of the Earth's crust are 2 to 3 billion years old. They are largely Schists and Gneisses and lie in the heart of the continents. These relatively small patches of rock constitute the continental nuclei. Such large areas occur in North America and Africa and only small patches are found in the continental India, Australia, S.America and Europe.

The continental nuclei are also known as 'shield areas'. They are surrounded by, or contiguous with, much larger areas of igneous or metamorphic rocks of great age. All these rocks originated in the pre-Cambrian area, spanning the vast time range of from 600 million to more than 3 billion years before the present.

The crust of the Earth has two distinct layers. The upper layer, usually called 'sial' (Silicates-Alumina) is made of lighter rock material such as granite; the lower layer is made of relatively dense material such as Basalt (basic rock). It is believed
that the continents are largely made of light rock material of granite and they are floating upon the underlying dense material of Sima.

**Origin of Continents**

The geological facts suggest that the continents originated with relatively small nuclei and that they have grown throughout geological time by the formation of new marginal sets of island arcs and geosynclines, which, through mountain inbuilding activities, were converted into continental rocks of the granitic group.

**Growing Continents**

The concept of the growth of continents by accretion is based upon the recognisable pattern of mountain belts, representing ancient primary island arcs, surrounding central continental masses of ancient metamorphic and igneous rocks, the continental shields.

Most of the continental shields of the earth (such as the Canadian-Greenland shield or the Russian-Baltic shield) are surrounded by the mountain-arcs of different geological periods. However, the shield area of India, though enclosed
on the north by the Himalayan mountain arc, is completely isolated by the Indian Ocean basin on the south, a point which deserves special attention.

The theory of growing continents sketched above is the most recent of plausible explanations for the continental layers, but it is not the only hypothesis which enjoys strong support.

**Theory of Cooling**

An earlier theory holds that the earth's crust first solidified from a molten state and that the lighter mineral crystals (mostly quarts and feldspar) rose to the surface to solidify into an upper granitic layer, beneath which the denser minerals rich in iron and magnesium had settled to form the basaltic and ultrabasaltic layers of Sima.

To explain the continents, it would be necessary to suppose that the granitic layer in some manner broke up into pieces and that these somehow collected and were superimposed to form the continents. It has also been proposed that the granitic crust did not solidify as a continuous even layer over this earth, but it formed in a few island like plates which are now our continents. (Asia, North and South America, Africa, Australia, Europe and Antar-
tica are the seven continents). Geographically, India includes newly created Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as the sub-continent of Asia.

**Theory of Continental Drift**

It has been a highly controversial issue whether the present continents have maintained their geographical position throughout geological history or whether position has changed due to their surface drift.

One conservative view is that their original position has remained unaltered, though some modifications in their outline have occurred here and there on a very small scale.

However, in the last century, some different views on this problem were put forth, one of them being the hypothesis of the continental drift which tries to explain the origin of the continents. According to this hypothesis, the continental masses have changed their relative positions, possibly due to the fragmentation and drifting apart of an original larger land mass. This concept was first put forward by S.A. SChnieder (1858), developed by F.B. Taylor (1908), and further elaborated by Alfred Wegener (1910). In this hypothesis, it is proposed that 6
originally there existed one single plate called PANGEA of granite composition, lasting intact through the Palaeozoic era, but then it split into parts which drifted over the remainder of the globe to become individual continents we know today. A figure shows that the original supercontinent consisted of two land masses, namely Gondvana-land and Eurasia. When they broke up, their portions moved apart. The heart of the Gondvana land was the combined shield masses of Peninsular India, South Africa and Australia, whose rocks in many respects are uniquely similar. After the drifting of PANGEA, the super continent, South America and Africa began to separate in the Cretaceous era, as did America and Europe, but the two continents had retained contact in the north as late as the Quaternary.

During the westward drift of the Americas the western cordillaran ranges have been produced by compression at or near the leading edges, but the Antilles and the Scotia arc had lagged behind in the Atlantic. The Indonesian area had begun to open in the Jurasaic, but the principle movements took place in the Gretaceous and Tertiary. A large area to the north of India had cropped up in the path
of India during its northward movement to form the Himalayas and the associated mountain ranges.

Australia, the New Guinea had broken its connection with Antarctica in Eocene and moved northwards driving into Indonesian Archipelago in the late Tertiary.

The hypothesis was supported by a wide array of geophysical, geological and biological data. The hypothesis, however, was rejected on two counts: first that, the points of similarity between the parts of the continents can be explained without requiring their once having been in contact; second that, drifting of a rigid continental plate across the basaltic oceanic layer is a physical impossibility.

**The Theory of Plate Tectonics**

In the second half of this century, a new theory popularly known as Plate Tectonics, has come forward due to the combined efforts of geophysicists like Professor Harry Hesse, J. Tuzo Wilson and W. Jeson Morgon. The theory tries to explain the distribution of continents and oceans over the globe with references to the distribution of the zone of the continental tectonic activity.
According to the theory, the entire surface of the earth comprises a series of internally rigid, but relatively thin (thickness varying between 1000 to 150 km) plates. There are six major plates namely, Eurasian, Indian, Pacific, American, African and Atlantic. In addition there are six minor plates namely Arabian, Phillipines, Cocos, Nasce, Carribian and Scotra, all plates being variable in size. The plates may comprise either continental or oceanic crust or both. It seems that only those parts of the plate capped with oceanic crust participate in the main process of plate growth and destruction. The theory of plate tectonics is based upon the following assumptions: (i) That the sea-floor is spreading; new oceanic crust is continually generated (ii) That the earth is of constant surface area or, if not, the area changes at a very small rate; the earth's radius has not increased more than 5% during the last 600 million years. The plates are continually in motion both with respect to each other and to the earth's axis of rotation. Virtually all seismicity, volcanicity and tectonic activity is localised around the plate margins and is associated with differential motion between adjacent plates.

**Plate Growth and Destruction**

The mid-oceanic ridge is a feature of all the
major ocean basins. It is situated over the rising limbs of convection current in the earth's mantle. It represents a zone along which two plates are in motion 'away' from each other; yet they do not separate because new material is continuously added from the mantle to the rear side of each. The boundaries at which new surface is generated as a result of motion are called 'sources', whereas the net effect of the motion is to destroy the surface area called 'sinks'.

So the mid-oceanic ridges form the constructive margins of the plates where the new crust is generated and welded to the rear side of the moving plates. Destructive margin of the plates occurs at deep oceanic trenches where two plates approach each other (one of them being made of the oceanic crust) and one (of oceanic crust) slips down under the margin of the other (usually of the continental crust at an angle of about 45%).

The theory believes that both the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean basins were formed by the process of 'spreading', and by the rifting and drifting apart of the surrounding continents, including Peninsular India, as suggested by the continental drift theory.
In the map the constructive margins and destructive margins of the six major plates have been shown. The constructive margins almost coincide with the midoceanic ridges, the zone in which process of ocean floor spreading begins; that is, they are the 'sources'. The Indian plate extends from the mid-Indian ocean eastward to cover Australia and the surrounding area. In its western parts which itself is a minor plate, the plate is moving or extending northwards towards the Eurasian plate. Both the Indian (western minor plate) and the Eurasian plates meet at the destructive margin where the continental crust is estimated to be consumed at a rate of 5-6 cms per year. The zone where the crust is consumed is called the Benioff zone.

Since the Indian and Eurasian plates are made of continental crust, (lighter material), the crust is not carried to depths due to the buoyancy effects. The theory, therefore, believes that whenever two continents (in this case Eurasia and Peninsular India) collide at a destructive margin, a thickening of the crust will take place and a mountain range will form. Thus the Himalaya can be seen as the result of Peninsular India colliding with Asia over a Benioff zone.
Physical Setting of the Indian Subcontinent

Geologically and physically, the Indian subcontinent is divisible into three units: (i) Peninsular India, (ii) the Himalaya mountain system and (iii) the Indo-Gangetic alluvial plains.

Of the above noted physical units, Peninsular India is the oldest one. It largely consists of ancient crystalline rocks which are relatively more stable and metamorphised. They are very old (more than 600 million years). They form the basement rocks of the Peninsula and have been covered with later lava formations which turned greater part of the Peninsula into a 600 metre high (average) tableland. The Peninsular India is considered as a segment of the Earth's crust which was formed during the Archaean (the oldest) period.

According to Wegener, in early Palaeozoic era there existed in the South a large continent called the Gondvanaland which comprised two Americas, Africa, Peninsular India and Australia. Later on, the above land-units were subsequently broken and drifted to their present positions. The drift began in the Jurassic times (some 180 million years ago) and is still going on.
Though today the theory of the continental drift is not held in high esteem, the drifting of the western sector of the Indian plate towards north is conceded under the theory of Plate Tectonics. This plate is supposed to be moving northwards at a rate of 4 cms per year.

As the drift continued, the coast of N.E. Africa and the western coast of Peninsular India is flanked on both sides by the seas, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Due to faulting of the eastern side of Peninsular India the eastward and Southeastward movement of Australia, the Bay of Bengal came into existence during the Triassic period (Mesolithic era). In the beginning this bay extended upto Assam and North Burma, but during Cretaceous time (Mesolithic period), it was split up into two parts by the mountain-building of Arakan Yoma. This resulted in the formation of two water bodies, the Assam arm in the west and the Burma arm in the east. As the two arms of the sea were later on subject to depositions, they began to recede southwards until the present Bay of Bengal came into existence. At the present the mouth of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra are extending.

On the western side, the peninsular India
borders the Arabian sea. From the river Tapi in the north to the Cape Comorin in the South, this coastline shows the sign of fracture (there is line of springs from Bombay southwards to Travancore. This made older geologists believe that once the Peninsular India extended far to the west. The Western Ghats were the water parting of the big lands. The western portion was faulted and then subsided to give straight coastline along the western side of the Peninsular India. There is another view which holds that the western coast was the result of faulting and the height of the Western Ghats is due to the block-faulting. This faulting which shaped the western coast occurred in the early Tertiary times (Eocene times). Thus Bay of Bengal coast is older than the Arabian sea coast.

**Concept of Kumari Kandam (Lost Lemuria)**

At the beginning of every religious act Indians express the objective called SANKALPA, in which the geographical place of the proposed act together with the day, date, positions of the constellations etc., are mentioned without fail, beginning with 'In the second half-age of Brahma in Shweta-varaha Kalpa' in the Vaiwaswata Manu’s Period, in the first period of Kali, in Jambu-Dweepa, land of Bharat, on the
South or North of Ganga/Narmada/Godavari, etc.". Jambu=Rose Apple Tree, which is the shape of our Motherland. Ages before the Indus valley culture, there existed another river-valley culture in KUMARI KANDAM ( ... which got submerged in the Indian Ocean, which is named after its main river KUMARI. Wishar's. Cerve indicated to the Lost Continent by the name 'Lemuria' or 'Mu', but mistakenly tried to locate it in the Pacific. This ancient habitat of Tamil people was a part of Gondvanaland; in Tamil it is called "JAMBU THEEVU (see Manimekalai. XI.107). India of those ancient times was different in its share from our India of today. This reference was supported by Ernest Haeckel, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir T.W. Holderness, H.F. Blanford, Alfred Russel Wallace and other great geography scholars. Tamil literary tradition describes Tamil literary Academies, first of which was held in Then Madurai on river Paharuli which later on was devoured by the sea. Second Academy was held at Kapatapuram which also was submerged in the Sea; Kapatapuram is mentioned in Mahabharata Epic. The third Academy was convened at Madurai, which exists even today. Thiru Sattur Sekaran, a great linguist, has established that proto-Tamil language has genetic relation with all Indo-European languages and solves the etymological problems which even Sanskrit roots cannot solve.
Thiru Chidambaranar has computed the Chronology in his "History of Sangam Period" (as quoted by Dr.N.Mahalingam in his KUMARI KANDAM, pp.24-29), thus -

1. B.C. 30,000 to 16,500 B.C - First Tamil Sangam on Paharuli river at Then Madurai under ruler Muthalam Nilandaru Thiru Vir Pandiyan.

2. 16,500 to 16,000 B.C - Kumari Kandam was ruled by African Tamils.

3. 16,000 B.C to 14,500 B.C - Mahendramalai Tamil Sangam convened by Irayanar.

4. 14,500 B.C to 14,490 B.C - Manimalai Tamil Sangam inaugurated by Sengo.

5. 14,490 B.C to 14,058 B.C - Mongolian Tamils ruled Kumari Kandam.

6. In 14,058 B.C King Kumarvel defeated Sura-Padman.

7. 14,058 B.C - First deluge occured submerging parts of Kumari Kandam.
8. 14,058 B.C to 14,004 B.C - Kumaravel shifted his capital to Tiruchendur where he convened a Tamil Sangam.

9. 14,004 B.C to 9,564 B.C - Kumariyatri Ten Madurai Talai Sangam.

10. 9,564 B.C - Cataclysm submerged a large part of Kumari Kandam.

11. 9,564 B.C to 3,105 B.C - Rule of Rakshasas owing allegiance to Ravana's ancestors.

12. Mudukudumi Peruvazuthi of Kumari defeated the Rakshasas.

13. 7,500 B.C to 6,900 B.C - "Aindram" was released officially in a great Tamil Sangam.

14. 6,900 B.C to 6,805 B.C - Rakshasas bring whole of Kumari under their sway.

15. 6,805 B.C to 3,105 B.C - At Kapatapuram, on the banks of old river Tamraparani, Pandyan King Muduthiru Maran Pandyan convened a great Tamil Sangam. South was invaded in 3,015 B.C by Dwarakai Koman. Occurrence of the Mahabharata War.
16. Advent of Kali Yuga. This date agrees with that given by Prof. K. Srinivasaraghavan.

17. One more deluge eats up more parts of Kumari.

18. 2,939 B.C to 1,915 B.C - A Sangam was held at Thiruparankundram.

19. 1,715 B.C Last deluge.

20. 1,715 B.C to 23 A.D - Kadai Sangam Kalam. About this continuity, the question is whether this chronology of Kumari is supported by the writings of foreign writers.

The unearthing of Harappa and Mohenjodaro, dead cities, and many other related archaeological sites, made Dr. Diringer to remark that - "Twenty five years of excavation, exploration and study have added two thousand years to the history of India, an achievement which may be considered one of the most remarkable in archaeology. The old assumption that the Indo-Aryans, about the middle of the second millenium BC, entered a land of primitive savagery, and created all the civilization of any importance in India, has, in consequence, proved totally wrong." (The Alphabet, Ch.IV, 1953, p.81).
Pre-Historic Archaeology

After the historical background of the Earth provided by geophysical science, further story of evolution of man is provided by the science of prehistoric archaeology, which describes man's development through the traces of the art that he has left behind. At one time the history of man's art started from the evidence of it in the subterranean caves of France and Spain, where the study had begun. Very little evidence of true art in the Stone ages was available from India as in Western Europe, particularly of Dordogne in France and Santander in Spain. Let us see what Dr. H.D. Sankalia of Deccan College, wrote in his Pre-Historic Art in India (Heras Memorial Lectures, 1978) -

"Firm ground was prepared about pre-Historic art of India whose age was determined in the Carbon-14 test of bone figurine-pieces by excavators in the N. India -Dist. Mirzapur, U.P. which was found in Belan gravel Physical Research Laboratory (P.R.L.) and by Groningen Laboratory of engraved ostrich shell pieces found at Patna (Dist. Jalgaon, S. India) of around 20,000 years B.P. (before present) which confirm the slightly earlier evidence of a truely Upper Palaeolithic History. The precise date given was 19,715 +240 BP consistent with the time span of the Upper Palaeolithic age in Europe and Western Asia.
Attention must also be drawn here to another form of Early Palaeolithic art made known by the Acheulian site of Hunsgi, Dist. Gulbarga, Karnataka. Small nodules of haematite were found here, which appear to have been brought by man for use as a colouring material (p.5). Although we were aware of the existence of Indian Rock Art for the last hundred years, specific knowledge was lacking which we now have after its scientific study. Fortunately I had the occasion to guide these when Shri V.S. Wakankar, with his extra-ordinary knowledge of Rock Art, spent some time at the Deccan College. We could then organise it in some definite time sequence. The truth was tested by Dr. V.S. Wakankar and Dr.V.N. Misra, during their excavations at Bhimbethka near Bhopal (Preface, vi). (V.S. Wakankar was honoured with title "Padma Sri" for his outstanding contribution to Archaeology, and was awarded Watumull Award, posthumously).

"A century ago hardly anything was known of Indian Rock-art, either pre-historic or historic. Today India with many other countries of the world, can boast of a long history of development (p.80). The first detailed attempt was made by Dr.V.S. Wakankar in 1973; his study has a two-fold significance. Himself an artist, an intrepid explorer, and well-versed on several branches of archaeology, Wakankar was ideally qualified for the difficult task of bringing some order to the riddle of drawings, etchings
and engravings. There are sites which are not easily approachable by any conveyance, and have to be seen on foot. Then all the specimens at any site cannot be photographed, but drawn on the site. An artist alone can do proper justice to them. Above all one must be able to distinguish between the various layers of superimposition, and this required an intimate knowledge of the subject depicted: that is the various items or objects shown in the ancient pictures, and their probable time-range (p.81).

These rock-shelters have been continuously occupied by man for the last 1,00,000 years or so. According to the evidence from rock-shelters, the earliest examples of art would belong to about 5000 B.C. (p.81). Thus far, all our knowledge of art in India has come from regions where there are sandstone, or limestone, or granite caves, or rock-shelters amidst a comparatively thin forest. The whole of Deccan plateau consisting of basaltic lava is devoid of such natural cave rock-art. The Vindhyaas which run across India in the form of an arc, from Bhopal in the west to Mirzapur in the east, with occasional openings and rolling plains, have provided an ideal setting. The caves and rock-shelters are comparatively large, with plenty of flat surfaces at various levels for man to work. More than this advantage, man must have had a much easier and richer life than in Andhra-Karnataka, with
Madhya Pradesh having more regular rainfall than its southern neighbours, and good soil yielding bumper crops. Wakankar has divided the various regions into 36 groups, there are more than 150 "areas" with several sub-sites in M.P. and U.P. two in Bastar (Gopansar on Chitrakota), two in Orissa, 14 in Karnataka, 3 in Andhra and three on border. We may add two from Kerala, the Edakkal cave and the Marayoor shelter. What is presented here is largely based on Wakankar’s work. This group of caves and rockshelters was discovered by Wakankar as far back as 1957”

**Proto-Historic India**

The credit for discovery of Indus valley sites is taken by the Director-Generals of Archaeology in India, but actually the site of Harappa was first excavated by the Deputy-Director Dayaram Sahni in 1921 and later Madhu Sarup Vatsa 400 miles north of Mohenjodaro. Another highly placed archaeologist, Rakhaldas Banerji, in pursuit of supposed 12 pillars erected by Alexander, was wandering for five years, along the banks of Indus, and in the winter of 1922 climbed a mound where he saw a flint lying there; on investigation one Kushan period Buddhist stupa was discovered. Later at that very place seven layers of dead cities were excavated which was called
by local people as the "City of Dead" (Mui-unjo-Dado网络营销 a corruption perhaps of "Mahendra-Dwara", which put a stop to all speculative hypotheses about foreign origin theories for the Ashokan Brahmi script. Dr. David Diringer, on this, remarked thus:

"Twentyfive years of excavation, exploration and study have added two thousand years to the History of India, an achievement which may be considered one of the most remarkable in archaeology. The old assumption that the Indo-Aryans, about the middle of the second millenium B.C, entered a land of primitive savagery, and created all the civilization of any importance in India, has, in consequence, proved totally wrong" (The Alphabet, a key to the History of Mankind, 1953, p. 81).

Unfortunately, the subject, under the cloud of Aryan-Dravidian controversy, gave birth to speculations which took the decipherment of the writing to absurd controversial region, at the cost of scientific archaeological thinking. None, except Pt. K.T. Jetley, cared to study the local 13 varieties of Saindhavi letters published by Capt. George Stack in his 'The Grammer of Sindhi Language', 1849 A.D. Most of the English-educated people think that the script of Sind is Arabic, which misleads scholars from actuality.
Here, we need not enter the subject of the Indus script decipherment. Nor shall we go deep into the Indus culture, except some words of Dr. H.D. Sankalia:

"The presence (of statue) in India, 2000 years earlier, makes us wonder whether, in this all important matter, Greek artistry could possibly have been anticipated by sculptors of a far off age, on the banks of the Indus. Marshall drew the right conclusion, that we also had drawn independently, namely that the Indus engraver could and did anticipate the Greek in the delineation of animal forms".

Archaeological excavations, after the discoveries of the well-known two abandoned Indus cities, have brought into light hundreds of ancient settlements in the South as well as North. Most stirring discoveries made through the land surveys and the satellite data, have brought into limelight the paleo-channels of the lost Vedic river Sarasvati and its tributaries, and their disappearance, which we shall not describe here. This Rigvedic 'lost river' became the cradle of the oldest living civilisation. As already shown, South Indians were important participants in its creation and further evolutions and flowering.
After the early rise of the Himalayas, and the rise of highly agricultural development of the northern plains, through the ancient Isthmus at the Vindhyan arm of north-central hilly route, Shiva and his followers went and established in Kailas range, after which the richer North started getting more important for pilgrimages, more political happenings took place in North than the South, which remained free from foreign invasions. The texts including those of the Vedas have always regarded the South as the land of their forefathers and their God Yama, as already told. In most ancient times the ancestors of Man, fanned out from South, and evolved into Homonids in the sub Himalayan Sivalik ranges.

"Discovery of Homonid (early man) fossils in Sivalik, named as Ramapithecus, the anthropologists confirm, has established that the Homonid was the predecessor of Curranthorpus Australopithecus and early Homo Erectus branches. Ramapithecus was in existence on the Upper Sarasvati river banks in the Sivaliks over one crore years ago. Earlier Australopithecus was a Homo Sapien, while Ramapithecus was a Homonid (Grey 1925, Lewis 1934). Lewis gives a chart in his book on page 174 where the Ramapithecus is shown as the ancestor of Homo Africanus Homo Sapien, Australopithecus Africanus,
Australopithecus Robustus, who evolved into Homo Erectus and Homo Sapien. Remains of Homo Erectus Narmadiya and Homo Sapen Bhimbethkan established that Upper Sarasvati was the nucleus of earliest human intellectual, which came to be known as Vedic. The South Indian peninsula is an older habitat of man and is older in age to the necrogene of Himalayas and Tibet plateau. Vedic civilisation of the banks of 'lost' river Sarasvati gave the Vedas to the humanity at large as its oldest living linguistic heritage which has become the fountainhead of all later religions of the world.

**Proto-History**

Every historical society preserves its own traditions. In the western people the Old Testament preserves their ancient tradition of their ancestor being Adam (Adi Manava) and his wife Eve created and driven out of heaven after they ate the forbidden fruit being lured in the sin by a serpent. An old Jew had told Baba Savarkar that their "original land was Ceylon where there is an impression of Adam's foot on the Adam's Peak (Shree Padam) where Adam landed with Eve after their expulsion from the heaven. Their progeny crossed the shallow waters via the Adam's Bridge, which Hindus call as Rama's
bridge and went towards the Mediterranean. When they were persecuted they took refuge in Kerala (south India); the Jews are Tamil Brahmins". The series *People at Many Lands* (Publ: A&C Black, London) mentioned that People of Palestine resemble the South Indians and that the ancestors of Jesus Christ were Tamil; the family was Tekan and held the honour of Asari (Acharya). After his crucifixion, he was taken down after darkness fell, and was carried away and treated for recovery by Saints of Essan school. Dr. Notowitch found a manuscript in the Himas monastery in Tibet and had published "The Unknown Life of Jesus" in Latin and translated and published in German in 1873 A.D which was later confiscated - Indian PURANAs also contain the Indian mythical interpretation about the Cosmology; after studying the Puranas for over 40 years F.E. Pargiter brought out his "Ancient Indian Historical Tradition" (Oxford 1922). His conclusion was: Aryans of Manva (of Manu) stock dominated whole of North India down to Vidarbha, except Ayodhya, Videha (Bihar) and Vaishali in the east (p.295). There was outflow of Aila and of Drahyu through North-West into the countries beyond and introduced there their own Indian religion (J.R.A.S., London, 1910,p.264). In footnote 7 he wrote: "Perhaps the argument used to prove the advance of the Aryan from Afghanistan into
Punjab, might simply be reversed (p.298). Perhaps the country \textit{llavarta} is the region from which they came. Word Aila occurs in Rig Veda; it is more ancient than the fable of Manu’s daughter Ila and may meet credence (p.299).

Even Prof. Kieth (J.R.A.S., London, 1913,p.412) is of the opinion that daughter Ila was older than Manu and came from Ila aavarta from North (Kimpurusha and Uttarakuru)"

Pergiter opposed the myth of Aryan immigration from outside with the following arguments: (1) Vedic literature says nothing about the arrival of the Aryans from the North-West of India. (2) The Northwest region was never sacred, venerated or esteemed in Indian tradition, (3) Ailas were the earliest dynasties of India, (4) Only mid-Himalaya was sacred to all, (5) Aila domination agrees with Aryan, geographically, linguistically, accurately, unostentationally, (6) First hymns were composed by Vishvamitra, who was a non-Aryan Brahmin or Brahma-Kshatriya, (7) Current North-West theory is against all traditional data, (8) It must be investigated whether the North-west theory is fabricated, (9) If North-West theory is false, the point 5 is right, (10) Literary historical sequence is Rig Vedic, Iranian (Zoroastrian) and Bogozkoi of 1,400 B.C mentioning
the gods Mitra, Indra, Varuna, Nasatya. Mittani arrived earlier from India in 1,600 B.C. (p.300).

I have given these notes, just because they are overlooked by many.

**North-Eastern India**

Like South India, the North-Eastern regions have also been deliberately neglected in history books, again for imperialistic intentions. I visited North-East India in 1985 for the study of tribal phonemes in Guwahati, Imphal, Manipur, Kohima (Nagaland), Dipha, Haflong and Lakhimpur-Itanagar. The locals of Assam according to Dr. Sunitikumar Chatterji carry their antiquity back upto 2,000 B.C. (Makati Memorial lectures, Guwahati, 1955). The Sino-Tibetan contacts continued via Nepal to East Punjab and Ganga Valley to South of Sind, Bastar and Orissa, at the end of the Vedic period (p.11). Kamakhya near Guwahati is a very ancient Shakti Peetha. Mahabharata in *Sabha Parva* gives lists of States which participated in the War (Pandava's victories) and in Book V *Udyoga Parva* about the preparation for the War out of which Pragjyotishpur of *Kamakhya* was a non-Vedic Mleccha kingdom ruled by Bhagadatta, who presented to Yudhisthira fleet of Horses, Jewels, Ivory sword handles China
was named after Ts'in dynasty (221 BC) called 'Pragjyotishpur'; the capital of Assam as Pau (Hill) Gar (Hill) Jo (high) tik (long) i.e., Land of high and long mountains; Brahmaputra was called as Bullam Buhur (=Gurgling noise). Inscriptions are found mentioning 'Kamrup in Samudragupta's Allahabad inscription onwards. Samudragupta's contemporary Bhaskaravarman (650 A.D), was contemporary of Hiuen Ts'ang who describes the inhabitants as of "Small stature and dark yellow complexion". Bhaskaravarman was a wide-awake ruler with an intelligent international outlook in both politics and culture, which was rather rare in those days in all lands, and particularly in India". "Buddhism in China had a close connection with Taoism, the philosophy of TaoTzu (4 century BC) and both read each others scriptures (p.24)". The history of Assam from 650 to 1200 AD, and later is well known.

Dr K.B. Deka informed in an article in Assam Tribune of 22 July 1990: Lohit-Sagar is mentioned in Ramayana. Sadia, the eastern part of Brahmaputra, was strategically important and was controlled first by Chutias, then Ahoms, and lastly by the British. Sadia used to wash near Garo, Khasia, Jaintika and Kochar hills which were connected by
land route to China, Afghanistan and Southeast Asia. The word Chutia comes from SWAT, CHU, TAN, CHUTIA. Their habitat went up to Yu Nan, which was named Gandhar in very early days. They were allied with Bana and Narakaasuras who were in Sind, Cutch, Bhishmaka (Vidarbha). Naraka ruled in Pragjyotish and Bana in Tezpur. Naraka was a son of Bhumi and Prithvi and was brought up by Janaka of Mithila. His descendent Bhagadatta and his army was annihilated in the War of Mahabharata. Kalki Purana says "Naraka cleared the Kiratas and made his general Hayagreeva the gate keeper of the East up to Yu Nan (Thailand) whose capital was named Mithila. Naraka is mentioned in Atharva Veda, xii, 4.36. Ancient Assamese traded in copper brought from Malaya through their port Tamraliti. Naraka crossed Patloi and reached Cambodia which was founded by sage Kambu. Chutiyas were great fighters who had resisted the Ahoms, the Burmese and also British on the east side of Parashurama Kunds.

From the birth of the Earth considerable happenings have been experienced by the earth in geological and archaeological past according to earth scientists and palaeo-historians. Over a hundred generations before the epic story of Mahabharata
War there came wet and dry periods, changes took place in continents and according to Indian tradition the great memorable flood, similar to the Biblical Noah's story, in which Yama from the Southern home of our forefathers landed in Sub-Himalaya Mana peak, at Il'syaspada earning the name 'Manu'. In another such flood his son Priyavrata Dravideshwarā was guided to safety by the Fish incarnation. His brothers and descendants established colonies all over lands known in many continents, and kingdoms of which most outstanding were the Sun dynasty at Ayodya where Ikshvaku was enthroned and great kings like Pruthu, Styavrata, Trishanku, Sagara and the Moon Dynasty at Pratisthan founded by Manu's daughter Ila, married to Budha Soma in which great kings in pre-vedic composition times were Nahusha, Yayati, Puru, Dushyanta, and Bharata. From 64 generations before Mahabharata War Vedic hymn composition began and ended before the great historical conflict. During these happenings in the North, the main continent of Deccan saw the happenings of submergence of the Kumari Kandam and the successive Tamil academies, together with rule of many kingdoms in the North-East area, all giving a fascinating and creative History of Integrated India, whose extent knew no political boundaries.
The astronomical heritage of India is unique and in all schools of Indian Calendars the Zero Meridian line crossed the Tropic of Cancer near Ujjain, the seat of Great Time, Mahaakaala, at the Centre and on the north went through Kurukshtetra towards the high Meru mountain and on the South over original Lanka, to the west of modern Ceylon, Simhala Dweepa:

**CHAPTER II**

**Chronology**

The first victim of the believers in the date of 'Creation' as 23rd October 4004 BC, at 9.00 AM, proclaimed by Rev. John Ussher, the Arch Bishop of Ireland in 1,664 A.D, prompted Sir William Jones and his successors to wrongly identify the contemporary king of Magadha 'Chandragupta', when Alexander tried to win India in 326 B.C. Alexander's real contemporary was Gupta Dynasty 'Chandragupta', but he was confused with Maurya dynasty 'Chandragupta I' who was enthroned in 1,534 B.C., through which trick they could reduce Indian chronology by 1212 years; this was the 'bedrock' of the Oxford histories of India.

In a lecture on "India 3000 years ago" at the
Asiatic Society of Bombay in 1856, to president, John Wislon first appears to have mooted the concept of an imaginary Aryan 'race', and as soon as Rev. Caldwell wrote his newly concieved 'grammer of Dravidian Language', Edward Thomas launched at the Royal Asiatic Society (London) Meeting on 9th August 1866, under the chairmanship of Rt.Hon. Viscount Strngford, his tell-tale story of 'Aryan immigration' from the Northwest (report published in Athenoeum newspaper, and repeated in JRAS, new Series, V,p.420 and in Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. This, since then, became the first lesson of Oxford Indian History. The geological and archaeological findings through land-surveys and the Satelite imageries help us to see a quite different picture.

The Sanskrit books, which had no chance of tampering with, are the Rigveda and Panini's grammar, of which the Vedas give glimpses of pre-history and proto-history of India.

**Geological Past**

Real history which was enacted on the theatre of the Earth should really begin with the birth of the Earth 4.7 billion years ago. Geo-physicist
William Haxby of the Columbia university completed the map of the ocean floors from the Satellite data sent by US-Navy's GEO-SAT, launched in 1984 revealing a terrain as diverse as any of the seven continents, reinforcing geology's most unifying concept of formation of a land 'Pangaea' about 250 million years ago, which began to break into 6 major land masses. The Indo-African plate named 'Gondvana' moved northwards 40 million years ago colliding with the Euro-Asian plate resulting in the uplift of Tibetan plateau and the Himalaya mountains and the draining of the Tethys ocean, creating deluges between 30 to 16 thousand B.C., which swallowed up the island continent of Kumari Kandam. Present continent of India is called 'Jambu Dweepa' in Sanskrit and 'Navalan Theevu' in Tamil, which is perhaps the oldest living language of the earth. Deluges have been occurring from time to time 16,000 B.C., 14,056 B.C., 9564 B.C., 2939 B.C., 2387 B.C and 1715 B.C (Ibid, p.45). In 1715 B.C., the seat of the First Tamil Sangam was in Then Madurai, the Second Sangam was held at Kapatapuram (mentioned in Mahabharata), and the Third at existing Madurai, which is named after the earlier one. Seas on the west (Rajputana or Sarswat sea) and on the East (Ganges sea) was called Erythrean (Arabic) sea by the Greeks (Ibid p.50).
Discovery of Homonid fossils in Sivalik (lower Himalayas) of the Ramapithecus have now established that the Homonid, the predecessor of Curanthorpus Austrelpithecus and early homoerectus branches. Ramapithecus was in existence on the upper Sarasvati river bank in the Sivalik over one crore years ago. Austrelpithecus was a homosapien, while Ramapithecus was Homonid (Grey 1925, Lewis 1934). Levis gives a chart on page 174, wherein Rampithecus is shown as the ancestor of Home Africanus, Homo Sapien, Australpithecus Africanus, Australlepithecus Robustus, who evolved into Homo Erectus and Homosapien. Remains of Homo Erectus Narmadiya and Homosapien Bhimbethkan, establishing that Upper Sarasvati was the nucleus of earliest human intellectual development called the Vedic civilization. The South Indian peninsula is the older habitat of the people as it is older in age than the neogene of the Tibetan plateau and the Himalayas, where people of ancient ages were attracted by the majesty and the agricultural fertility of the plains watered by numerous perennial rivers. The banks of the 'now-lost' Sarasvati later became the cradle of high Vedic civilisation, whose literature, called the Vedas, is considered to be the oldest living text of the world (Dr.V.S. Wakankar, Manthan monthly, Delhi, 1987, p.29-36).
That the South was materially more advanced than those of the Ganges basin, is borne by the epic of Ramayana, Ravana being well-versed in Vedas and master of Sri Lanka, a golden and bejewelled paradise. Even in the next epic of Mahabharata the richness of Deccan is described and mention is there of the great Pandyan armies taking part in the battle on behalf of the Kaurava brothers.

South Indian seers had taken part in the composition of Vedic hymns, which I have spotlighted from the use of a typically South-Indian phoneme, L' in the very first line of the First book (Mandala) of Rigveda and the First Canto of the last Hymn, Book (Mandala X,191.1).

The South Indian seers were: Vishwamitra school - Kushika, Gathi, Rishabha, Devavat Vaishvamitra (formerly Shunas-shepa Ajigarti); Bhardwaj school - Angirasa, Deerghatamas, Brhaspata Bhardwaja; Kanwa School - Ghora, Medhatithi, Pragaatha, Bharga, Kali, Haryaat, Saubhari, Gautama Raahugana, Bhargava Jamadagni, Garga, Payu; Atri School - Bhauma, Budha, Isha, Gaya, Sootambhara, Sasa, Aarchanaanasa, Paura, Awaasyu, Shatahavya, Uru Chakri, Swati, Pratiratha, Babhru, Gaatu,
Poetesses Apaala and Vishvavaaraa (that Atris were not northerners is evidenced by the fact that they did not refer to the river Sarasvati of Kurukshetra); Angiras School - Kutsa, Viroopa, gopavana; Others - Kavasha Ailusha, Samvanana, etc. The South Indians, generally, were linguists, grammarians taking little interest in power politics and hence do not find mention in Puranas; their participation was important and leading in cultural and religious activities even of the north, as it is seen even today. This is why the Smriti mentions - Deccan south of the Vindyas, where flow the rivers Godavari and Kaveri is, and will be, the preserver of Vedas and Yajnas.

Foreign travellers wrote more about the prosperous and colourful North than the stony difficult South. Long ago a fiction and romance was written for the empress Juliana by an Athenian Philostratus in 43-44 A.D who had visited North India; it was not a historical account. The first modern history of India was written by Mount Stuart Elphinstone based on Persian accounts which were easily available to him. Tamil Antiquity, ii, 1903, p.4 had mentioned that History of India should have begun from the South, from the basins of rivers Krishna,
Cauvery, Vaigai than with the Ganga plains as it has been now long, too long, the fashion'.

A shallow strip of land existed between the Vindhyas and the Ganga plains at Chitrakoota, from where Shiva from the South went up to the Kailas where he made his abode. Seven Sages went with him one of whom was the First Agastya. Some Agastya descendant had come down by the Chitrakoota passage (before Rama) and had married Lopamudra, princess of Vidarbha, and then came right down to the Podiya Hill. He wrote the first grammar of Tamil and presided over a Tamil Sangam. He has composed some hymns which are incorporated in the Vedas. It is mentioned in Valmiki Ramayana how Rama, crossed over from the Chitrakoota passage to South and reaching Nasik via the eastern route into Andhra; he had avoided the rivers Narmada and Tapi which were very turbulent, and this is why these rivers are not mentioned in Valmiki’s Ramayana. Still earlier Kubera went up and established in Meru for fear of Ravana, and became the treasurer of the Devas. Atharva Veda describes the perimeters of Jambu Dweepa as place of Soma and Kuber in North, Indra the God of easterly winds and monsoons in the East,
Yama the God of forefathers in the South, and Varuna the God of Westerly winds and monsoons in the West. Even today, during daily Pooja and Sandhya (daily oblations), the directions are recited of the Jambu Dweepa as -

----  Towards EAST I bow to Indra (We do not accept Indra as leader of invading 'ARYANS')

----  Towards South East, I bow to Agni, God of Fire.

----  Towards South I bow to Yama the God of Forefathers; (it is not allowed to direct your feet towards South, while sleeping).

----  Towards South West, I bow to Niritis.

----  Towards West I bow to Varunas, who rule the Indian ocean. (This description is not true of Northwestern lands)
Towards North-West I bow to Vayu, God of winds, that gather against our country from time to time.

Towards North I bow to Kubera, the divine treasurer.

Towards North-East, I bow to Eshwara Pashupati in Nepal.

Towards the Sky, I bow to Brahman, the Creator.

To Underneath I bow to Eternal Space in which our Earth spins.

If we do not recognise the imaginary races of ARYANS and DRAVIDIANS which are mischievous creations of the European brain, true history of India cannot be acted upon, as suggested in clear words by Mr. Vincent Smith.

The god-head of South is Shiva; Tamilakam was Siva-Poomi. The classification of Articulated Sounds is the Gift of Shiva Maheshwara Nataraja,
who gave it to Sanaka and other Siddhas (sages), at Chidambaram. He is Mahesha, Maheshwara, Rudra Mahadeva, Shambhu, the inspirer of Dance, Music, Rhythm, Melody, Eloquence and all Philosophies. Due to His grace South India is the preserver of Pure Arts, Architecture, Temple Art, Traditions, Vedas, Literature and grammars. Chidambaram, 132 miles from Madras and 65 miles from Tanjore is called Bhooloka Kai lasam, called KOVIL by Shaivites. Its temple, according to Fergusson, is one of the oldest in South. It has five Halls called Sabhas - Chit Sabha, Kanaka Sabha, Deva Sabha, Nritta Sabha and Raja Sabha. At Chit-Sabha the Lord is said to have danced in the presence of his two devotees Vyaghra Pada and Patanjali, incarnations, tiger-footed and snake-bodies respectively. Image of Nataraja is in the dancing pose of Ananda Tandavam. Lord Shiva is worshipped here as AAKASH and a garland of golden Bilva leaves is seen here. Kanaka Sabha is in front of Chit Sabha and has a golden roof. Deva Sabha is the meeting place of Dikshitars for administrative purposes. Nritta Sabha consists of a Mandapa adorned with wheels and prancing horses on either side, supported by 56 pillars, about 8 feet high, most delicately carved from top to bottom (J. Fergusson describes it as "most graceful and more
elegantly executed than any other of their class, so far as I know in South India"). Raja Sabha contains thousand pillared Hall of 350' X 250' from which a good view of the inner shrine can be obtained. If Shiva is worshipped here as AAKASHA. He is worshipped as WAYU (Wind) at Kaalhasthi, as TEJAS (Fire) at Tiruvannamalai, as AABA (Water) at Jambukeshapuram and as PRITHIVI (Earth) at Kanchipuram. In the North PANINI of Takshashila University visited Pataliputra and was defeated by the disciples of Kaanbhuti, so being ashamed, he went to all places on pilgrimage ultimately reaching Kedar, did penance by living on vegetables, then water and lastly air, when Maheshwara appeared and gave him the 14 Aphorisms and its significance, from which he wrote his Grammar Ashtadhyayi. The well-known Ode to PANINI also confirms this credit to Maheshwara. According to Gatha, the outstanding FOUR grammarians were Maheshwara, Brihaspati, Indra (Purandara) and Panini. The first three were from the South and Panini from Takshashila and Shalitura on the banks of river Kabul. The first three grammars are lost, but of them the AINDRAM still lives in Tamil THOLKAPPiyAM, which according to Prof. Ilakkuvanar (Madurai, 1963 was written somewhere between 800-700 B.C., which describes
original elementary letters which were expanded afterwards in Sanskrit). They are -

TAMIL SPEECH-SOUNDS

Primary                     Secondary
(Uyir-Mey                    (Saarp Eluthu)
VOWELS (Uyir)               Short i Short u Aytham (three dots)
CONSONANTS (Mey)            Short Long
a i u e o                  a i u e o a i a u
HARD (Vallinam)             SOFT (Mellinum)
K C T th p R               n n n n m N
MEDIAL (Idayyinam)
Y R L V L' L' (zh)

It seems that the existence of the above 30 primary sounds in Tamil was in vogue even before Tholkapiyar for he puts it as sayings of others.

Ganapati tradition (Ganapatya school) is credited with the designing of the Vedic Script Maheshwari made of 'crescents' (Ardhendu lasitam) by
Brahmanaspati. The inherent vertibar for a vowel 'A' was introduced by Ganesha of Mahabharata period. In historical time of the Gupta dynasty, Ganendra Naaga, king of Padmavati (Pawaya, Central India) added the ornamental non-phonetic 'headline' which became the unique characteristic of Devanagari.

Since "writing" is a unifying art, a little attention must be paid to it. At a time (by about 1884) when scriptologists were intent upon thrusting foreign source on Ashokan Brahmi script, in spite of the expressions of Roth, Bohthling, and others who felt that it was impossible to prepare complex books on Vedic Shiksha (general phonetics), Pratishakhyas, (Applied Programmes, mathematical and astronomical treatises without the existence of developed art of 'writing', much ado was made of the Frog hymn in Rig Veda VII.103.3 by Vasistha that students only repeated orally what the teacher taught and when Indian pandits were unable to show a single word in Rigveda from the root Likha, 'to write' (because such words are found in Yajurveda, Atharva veda and later books only) our Pandits sat baffled. In 1962 my brother late Dr.V.S. Wakankar and myself brought from the archives of Musee Louvre (Paris) and the British Museum (London) visible evidence
of the Pre-Ashokan Brahmi writings of Vedic Maheshvari epigraphs, the picture began to change. In 1966 and after, we could find definite references to 'incising' texts by use of the root Taksha (to incise), existence of the art of writing in Vedic period was established beyond any doubt. Tholkappiyam is very definite about written 'phoneme' of 'Aytham' with 'three dots'; when Panini differentiates between use of 'nasal dot' and the writing of 'Class nasal-forms' (para Savarna) this is only possible when texts are 'written'. Much can be written about this aspect, but it will a diversion from the main subject before us. Writing was scientifically and logically evolved in India, from where the concept of Alphabets, consonants and vowels, went westwards by 'idea-diffusion' process.

Even from pre-vedic days South Indians spread our cultural heritage towards West and the East, which they do even now, but their stress was on peaceful education, co-existence and tolerance; no political warfare took place on account of South Indians which could be recorded by traditional accounts because their philosophy of life was based on purity of heart, morality and accommodation with others.
The period of Vaivaswat Manu, the Yama of South is computed by Prof. Srinivasa Raghavan as 8576 B.C. F.E. Pargiter in his ancient Indian Historical Tradition, Oxford, 1922, p.257 makes mention about Manu's son Satyavrata Dravideshwara in whose hand came a small fish, which was incarnation of Vishnu, but he let it down in the water of the river Kritamala (which guided him to safety when another deluge came. This story is confirmed by Bhagawata Purana.

Vishwamitra of South Indian school mentioned three goddesses in Rigveda III. 4.8 which were Ila, brilliant Goddess of Earth, Bharati family goddess of the Bharata and Saraswati venerated by all. Plagiarism by Vasistha Mitra Varuni by incorporating this stanza in his Hymn (R.v.VII.2.8) became the cause of their long rivalry spreading over three generations of War of Ten Kings. The War of Ten Kings is itself a long historical affair, which I need not describe here fully.

Dr.N. Mahalingam and Sathur Sekaran bring out that "If the influence of the Tamil or proto-Tamil is acknowledged frankly, then the Rigveda mysteries are capable of solution (Kumari Kandam,
1990, p.53). The 'Siva' rulers of Kumari Kandam... held sovereignty over Jambu Dweepa before the exploits of King Kumaravel who defeated Soorpadman in 14,058 B.C., on the Pahrule river bank (according to Tamil tradition). Tamil Sangam first, of "Then Madurai", was perhaps convened by Muthualam Nilandaru Thiru Vir Pandyan whose predecessors were known as Siva, his dynasty having held supremacy over the entire continent prior to 16,500 B.C (Ibid, p.56). The date of Daksha has been fixed as 18,000 B.C by Prof. Srinivasa Raghavan on the basis of Vedic information (Ibid, p.57). The northern boundary of the kingdom of the Sivas extended upto the Himalayas. Daksha ruled over the north-western territory of Dakshasila (takshasila). Siva established Daksha's son Vaivaswatha as his vassal, also called Manu, the father of Royal dynasties in 8,576 B.C. Siva was worshipped as "Dakshinamurti" in Tamilnadu (p.59). The study of local Puranas (Sthalapuranas) will help to write the history giving place in it from North to South and to the tradition in the east upto Kamarup (Pragjyotishpur). Local historians have enough work.
BAPU

L.S. WAKANKAR

Bapu L.S. Wakankar popularly known as LIPIKAR, and founder Director of the Institute of Typographical Research, Pune, has to his credit immense research output on various languages of India. He is a Sanskrit scholar who has established a name for himself on his own right. His work Ganesh Vidya has been widely acknowledged as the most authentic on the origin of languages. His books 'Random Indological Notes' and 'Aryan's Indian Antiquity' have been praised by scholars at home and abroad.

Dr. Wakankar has been the recipient of many national awards, the most important of which was the First Vinoba Bhave Award 1993.

The present booklet indicates his views on antiquity of Sanskrit and throws light on the pre-historic glory of the Tamils.

Dr. Wakankar has widely travelled and his researches on the antiquity of scripts have been applauded in UK and Europe.
ABOUT THIS BOOK

This work deals with growing continents, theory of continental drift, the theory of plate-tectonics, the physical setting of the Indian sub-continent, and the concept of Kumari Kandam; it also gives supporting arguments in brief for the possibility of Tamil being the oldest Indian language.

Swami Vivekananda has said, "it is out of the past that the course of future has to be moulded; it is the past that becomes the future. Therefore, the more the Indians study their past the more glorious will be their future and whosoever tries to bring the past to the door of everyone, is a benefactor of the Nation".

In this background, this work deals with various aspects which will be of interest to those who are interested in ancient civilizations.