

Bhavan has also announced a Talk on “The Myth of Aryan Invasion in Ancient India” by Internationally Renowned Scholar and Historian Dr. Navratna S. Rajaram, PhD on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2004 AT 6.30pm, Venue: Ethnic Community Council Hall, 221 Cope Street, Waterloo (10mts from Redfern Station). Bhavan proposes to organise similar talks and lectures during 2004.

New Findings About Ancient India  
and Their Ramifications  
Speaker: Dr N.S. Rajaram

## **Background**

For more than a century, Indians have been told that their history begins with the invasion of Eurasian nomads called the “Aryans”. This Aryan invasion which Western scholars of the colonial period placed in 1500BC is not recorded in any ancient works. Nor are there any archaeological traces of such an invasion. It was created essentially to explain some similarities between Sanskrit and European languages.

According to this theory, the ancestors of the Vedas and the Sanskrit language were brought by the invading Aryans who went on to create the Vedic civilization. When archaeologists uncovered ancient cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, dating to before 2500 BC, scholars claimed that these were Dravidian cities destroyed by Aryan invaders whose inhabitants were driven south.

More recent research and scientific studies have shown all this to be false. We have an emerging scenario for ancient India that is radically different, which is in much better agreement with data. They may be summarized under the following:

### **1. Sarasvati River**

The Rigveda lauds Sarasvati as the greatest river flowing to the east of the Indus. This was regarded as mythical. The satellite photos and field investigations have shown that such a river did indeed used to flow. It dried up around 2000 BC. So the invading Aryans coming in 1500 BC could not have described a river that had dried up 500 years before.

### **2. Vedic-Harappan Connection**

Beginning about 1996 Natwar Tha and N.S. Rajaram showed that the language of the Harappan (or Indus Valley) civilization was Vedic Sanskrit. Tha also made the breakthrough needed to read the thousands of inscriptions created by the Harappans. These readings show that the Indus Valley Civilization was Vedic, with intimate connections with the Upanishade.

By this Tha and Rajaram showed that Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro and other sites represent the archaeo-logical remains of the civilization described in the Vedic literature. Vedic and Harappan civilizations are one.

### **3. Maritime Civilization**

A careful reading of the Rigveda without any preconceptions shows that the Vedic poets were intimately familiar with the oceans and navigation. David Frawley pointed out that this rules out land-locked Central Asia as a possible Aryan homeland.

So he (and Rajaram) suggested that the most ancient settlements of what became the Vedic (and Harappan) civilizations would be found in the coastal regions. This was confirmed by the discovery of underwater cities off the coast of Gujarat and Tanul Nada dating to before 7000 BC.

#### **4. Southern Connections**

Genetic and other evidence suggests that there is no Aryan-Dravidian divide. Also the flora and fauna of India are much closer to the south and southeast Asia than to Central Asia or Europe.

All these suggest that the history books have to be re-written to reflect progress.