



Veda Jyotih:

JURNAL AGAMA DAN SAINS

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VEDIC ASTRONOMY AND ASTROLOGY AND ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION IN MODERN ERA: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

India also has a very long history of traditional science through the ages through its various epoch-making traditional scriptures. Major traditional scientific texts and scientific elements are composed directly or indirectly in the Sanskrit Language and are mostly related to ancient Indian Vedic literature. Among several branches of traditional Indian sciences, the most ancient branches are, in most cases, astronomy, medicine, etc. India also has a very long history of astronomical sciences (*jyotiḥ-sāstra*) and medicine (*āyur-veda*). Indian classical astronomical sciences are roughly divided into mathematical astronomy (*gaṇita-jyotiṣa*) and astrology (*phalita-jyotiṣa*). All these scriptures directly or indirectly influenced Indian culture and life. Even today Indian people are following the directions of these sacred texts. Here I would like to do a case study of the only hospital related to Indian Astrology and Astronomy. The name of the hospital is 'Unique Sangeeta Memorial Hospital' and it is dedicated to the service of mankind with a mixture of traditional Vedic Astrology and Astronomy and modern Medical knowledge.

Key words: astrology, astronomy, astro-medical hospital, 'Unique Sangeeta Memorial Hospital'.

1. Introduction

The history of natural sciences is as old as the history of mankind. When people created society, they could not survive without certain scientific knowledge of the nature in which they lived. They started to systematize their knowledge with the help of language and its scientific interpretation. This system grew into natural sciences. In a broader sense, our natural sciences can be divided into two major groups: modern science and traditional sciences. Some people opine that modern science happened to be created in Europe. But it is not correct. It is a fact that during our present era, it is developed in Europe, but it incorporated several traditional sciences from other parts of the world especially the Indian subcontinent through Vedic and its allied scriptures during its development and spread over the world, where several non-European scientists also contributed to its development, soon after its creation.

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The Veda in its real and original meaning is “knowledge”. All the knowledge collected by the ancient Indian sages was compiled in the four books i.e., *Ṛg*, *Sāma*, *Yajur*, and *Atharva* and that is why they are called the Vedas. Their precise dates cannot be easily fixed yet and only an assumption is made by various scholars regarding the period of its compositions. All the Vedas are written in Sanskrit. As time flew by, the exact

meanings of the texts became unintelligible. Hence, *Brāhmaṇa*-s were written to explain the original Vedas. Still later, *Āraṇyaka*-s, *Upaniṣad*-s, *Vedāṅga*-s were written with so many commentaries, and all these with many other similar related compositions are called the Vedic literature. This is the glory of Sanskrit. It is, therefore, reasonable to expect that the Vedic literature must be full of knowledge. It is also quite likely that Science, being a part of knowledge, would be present in the Vedas of great India. But, so far, very few people have attempted to reveal the scientific knowledge hidden in the Vedic and allied literature which are written in Sanskrit.

Sanskrit is an ancient and classical language of India in which the very first book of the world i.e., *Rgveda* was compiled. Sanskrit language must have evolved to its expressive capability before that. Even before Vedic-era linguists acclaimed that there was a developed language in the pre-Vedic era and it is called Proto-Indo-Aryan Language. Sanskrit literature is as vast as the human life. Though lots of Sanskrit literature has seen the light of day but still much more Sanskrit literature is lying in the form of manuscripts and waiting for publication and many of them are lost for all time to come due to long foreign invasion, rule, and their hostile nature towards Indian scientific wisdom.

Among several branches of traditional Indian sciences, the most ancient branches are, in most cases, astronomy, medicine, etc. India also has a very long history of astronomical sciences (*jyotiḥ-sāstra*) and medicine (*āyur-veda*). Indian classical astronomical sciences are roughly divided into mathematical astronomy (*gaṇita-jyotiṣa*) and astrology (*phalita-jyotiṣa*).

Astronomy was called *Nakṣatravidyā*, *Jyotirvijñāna*, or *Jyotiṣa* in ancient India. The word *Nakṣatradarśa* is used for an Astronomer in *Śuklayajurveda* (30/10) and *Nakṣatravidyā* for Astronomy in *Chhāndogya Upaniṣad* (7/1/2). The earliest references of Astronomy are found in the *R̥gveda* the oldest and the most important one in Vedic Literature. The Vedic Seers always appreciated the appearance of the light in the sky. They also adjudged that the Sun holds the earth and the celestial region and simultaneously the Sun is the attracting power of all heavenly bodies (*Taittirīyasamhitā*, 3.4.10.3-4). So as per the motion of various planets, we feel various impacts. Many stars are mentioned in *Atharvaveda*. We also find natural scientific observations regarding the course of the planets. To perform the Vedic rituals and sacrifices, the calculation of the appropriate time for various sacred sacrifices was necessary and this need introduced the '*Vedāṅga-Jyotiṣa*' of Lagadha the first treatise on Astronomy in the history of Indian Astronomy. It is exclusively devoted to the calculation of time. An attempt to cast a calendar is also found in this *Vedāṅga*.

Pañcasiddhāntikā of great astronomer Varāhamihira mentions five *siddhānta*-s of earlier Astronomy in which a complete system of Astronomy is presented lucidly. The Indian Astronomy is closely associated with astrology. According to great astronomer Varāhamihira there are three branches of *jyotiḥ-sāstra* - (a) *Tantra*, the astronomic-mathematical branch, that is devoted to calculative astronomy; (b) *Horā*, which is devoted to the casting of horoscopes and (c) *Samhitā*, which teaches natural Astrology; the discipline about forecasts that are deducible from natural incidents.

Again, mathematics in India has been cultivated in connection with Astronomy. Like the other streams of knowledge, the early references to mathematics, are also found in the traditional Vedic literature. The word *Rāśividyā* is used for mathematics in *Chhāndogya Upaniṣad* (7.1.2).

India is the birthplace of several mathematical concepts including zero, the decimal system, algebra, algorithm, square root, cube root, calculus, etc. Āryabhaṭṭa in his *Āryabhaṭṭīyam* explains a small anthology of mathematical teachings and the special system of writing numerals and it was introduced by Āryabhaṭṭa alone. He deals in his work with evolution and revolution, area and volumes, progressions, and algebraic identities. Brahmagupta's work *Brahmasphuṭasiddhānta* covers very briefly the arithmetical operations, square and cube roots, interest, progressions, geometry and simple algebraic identities. Bhāskarācārya the great astronomer, enjoys a high reputation as a mathematician also. His work *Līlāvātī* is a famous book on mathematics. The second book *Bījagaṇita*, is the fullest and most systematic account of Indian algebra. *Gaṇitasārasaṅgraha* of Mahāvīrācārya, *Triśati* of Śrīdhara, *Bījagaṇita* of Nārāyaṇa are some prominent Sanskrit treatises on Indian Mathematics. All these scriptures directly or indirectly influenced Indian culture and life. Even today Indian people are following the directions of these sacred texts. Here I would like to do a case study of the only hospital related to Indian Astrology and Astronomy. The name of the hospital is 'Unique Sangeeta Memorial Hospital' and it is dedicated to the service of mankind with a mixture of traditional Vedic Astrology and Astronomy and modern medical knowledge.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1 The Unique Sangita Memorial Hospital

At a time when medical advancements have ushered mankind into a new era, a hospital in the Indian State of Rajasthan has adopted a unique method to treat its patients by combining medical science and astrology. The ‘Unique Sangeeta Memorial Hospital’ is an Astro-Medical Hospital and it is situated in Pink City Jaipur’s Vaishali Nagar area in the state of Rajasthan, India. This hospital was founded by Professor Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, a veteran astrologer and Sanskritist and Secretary of, the Indian Institute for Ancient Astrological Research in the loving memory of his wife Late Mrs. Sangeeta Sharma. This Astro-Medical Research Project of *Bhāratīya Prācyā Jyotiṣa Śodha Samsthāna* i.e., Indian Institute for Ancient Astrological Research is dedicated to his i.e., Professor Akhilesh Kumar Sharma’s beloved wife, Late Mrs. Sangeeta Devi who passed away in 2015. Again, through this project, an Astro-Medical Hospital was undertaken for the first time in the history of the world, and for this, the guidance was provided by the then Rajasthan’s Honorable Chief Minister, Ms. Vasundhara Raje on 17. 02. 2016 at the premises of this Institute. As per the wish of the founder of this hospital, Professor Akhilesh Kumar Sharma – ‘Let Astrology receive its Scientific Worth in the world and be put to use by masses for their welfare.’ This unique hospital has introduced a new approach to curing ailments that have perhaps never been tried anywhere in the world. This Astro-Medical Hospital has ‘Unique’ in its name and it is unique given how it diagnoses its patients. The Unique Sangeeta Memorial Hospital is now diagnosing patients with

the help of Vedic astrology. Doctors here said that using astrology in medical science is not only helping them to detect the disease but is also providing required psychological counselling to the patients. This is the unit of the Indian Institute for Ancient Astrological Research. The parent body of this hospital is a Non-Government Organisation (NGO). The details of this great NGO are as follows.

NGO ID	RJ/2017/0156557
Registration with	Registrar of Societies
NGO Type	Registered Societies (Non-Government)
Registration No.	230/Jaipur/88-89
Act name	Rajasthan Societies Registration Act 1958 (Rajasthan Act No.28 of 1958)
Register City	Jaipur, India
Register State	Rajasthan, India
Registration Date	1988-09-28
Key Issues	Education & Literacy, Health & Family Welfare, Any Other
Operational Area-States	Rajasthan, India
Operational Area-District	Jaipur district of Rajasthan
Address	Gom Defence Colony, Valmiki Marg, Vaishali Nagar, Jaipur
City	Jaipur
State	Rajasthan, India
Mobile No	9414278708
Email	prachyjyotishjpr@gmail.com

The sign-board of this hospital is –



2.2 Case Study

In a time when humans are successfully building numerous space stations and organizing various moon landing missions, it is difficult to even relate to someone who believes that their destiny is guided by the positioning of the stars and planets. Yet, we all know friends and family members who turn to newspapers every morning to check their horoscopes in India. You may dispel them as just a few blinded individuals, but the belief in the tenets of astrology among Indians is more rampant than others think. The practice is so prevalent that I recently came across a hospital in Jaipur that treats its patients only after analyzing their horoscopes.

The doctors at the hospital i.e., The Unique Sangita Memorial Hospital use astrology to find out what ails the patients. This is a unique Astro-medical treatment centre where patients are diagnosed using both astrology and medical science but treated only with medical science. The hospital has an in-house astrologer team with fifteen proficient astrologers under the able leadership of Professor Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, a veteran astrologer and Sanskritist and Secretary of, the Indian Institute for Ancient Astrological Research, who works in tandem with the medical unit, comprising about 18 medical doctor staff members including five renowned doctors. When the doctor walks in, both the medical and astrological diagnoses are compared and then treatment is started using the most modern medical equipment.

Sangeeta Memorial Hospital has attended approximately 80% of cases wherein the astrologer accurately predicted the disease and it matched the medical diagnosis. The 15 astrological staff of

this hospital are working on 25 to 30 new cases by cursory analysis of horoscopes every day and are trying to prepare a new course that could integrate astrology into medical sciences for treating examined patients. (<https://www.indiatimes.com/news/this-jaipur-hospital-looks-at-kundli-before-diagnosing-disease-and-treating-patients-368092.html>, Sylvester Tamang, Updated on May 28, 2019, 11:28 IST). This Jaipur hospital's methods are outta this world. (<https://www.timesnownews.com/mirror-now/society/article/unique-hospital-in-rajasthan-merges-medical-and-astrological-diagnoses-to-treat-patients/426829>, Updated May 28, 2019 | 17:21 IST). This could be the first to do so. Here Astrological assessments are used primarily for diagnosis and not treatment. Once the medical and astrological diagnoses are compared, doctors get a clear picture of the disease that is affecting the patient and as per them, this process satisfies the patients (<https://twitter.com/ANI/status/1133217012484780038>, ANI, May 28, 2019) and here the treatment is done with advanced technology.

According to Doctor Mahesh Kulkarni, Surgeon of the said hospital – “Here we are trying to incorporate astrology into medical sciences. It surely helps us to detect the disease among the patients. In Indian culture, astrology holds a lot of importance. We have one astrologer here Pandit Akhilesh Sharma. When a patient comes, he is subjected to astrological evaluation & astrological diagnosis. The medical & astrological diagnoses are then compared. Treatment is done with advanced technology but we take the help of astrology for diagnosis. Patients are satisfied.” (<https://www.dnaindia.com/jaipur/report-as-jaipur-hospital-merges->

astrology-and-science-netizens-predict-doom-2754723, Updated: May 29, 2019, 05:50 AM IST)

3. Culmination and Suggestion

Astrology is a very strong tool to explore human life in terms of health and ailments. The astro-medical format could help plug in the gaps and bottlenecks therein and explore the challenges thereof. I feel astrology is the more definitive science behind the bewildered modern world. The results of this small project are amazing, and the study will be applied to a huge number of patients to assess the diseases even before their onset. This project could be the key turning tool for human beings to allay the tormenting disabilities and mortalities. This is a unique and daring endeavour of practical and scientific application of Astrology etc. Such type of more operational experiments should be done with the patronage of various central, and local governments along with various wealthy organizations devoted to the betterment of mankind. The astrological principles will be applied to a huge series of patients so as to unfold the veil to comprehend the diseases even before their onset or before birth. This could be the greatest leap in the evolutionary cycle of disease management, helping human beings to allay the tormenting disabilities and mortalities and to enjoy life to the fullest magnitude in all means.

The members of the research team for this great project, through their in-depth investigation, have highlighted many points of medical astrology so that the correlation

between astrology and medicine can be verified. Medical science includes the structure and functioning of the human body, the origin of disease, its condition, advanced therapeutic management, etc. Here, astrology is divided into three parts: *Siddhānta*, *Samhitā*, and *Horā*; these are called *Triskandha*. In the above-mentioned three *Skandha*-s, *Horā* has been called the ornament of astrology. In astrology, 12 houses, 12 zodiac signs, and 9 planets clearly represent the parts of the human body and various aspects of human life. It is like a predetermined system, which includes the structural and functional aspects of the human body. The human mind, body, and future life take shape according to the same system. It is on the basis of the auspicious orders and instructions of this complex system that human beings get happiness or suffering, which is called “fate.”

In conclusion, the movement and position of the planets moving in the twelve zodiac signs around the sun have a definite and specific effect on the lives of living beings. In astrology, we consider a particular person as the basis. This well-built system of zodiac signs and planets is similar to the genotype and phenotype of science. This basis has aroused interest in exploring the relationship between medical science and astrology. Unveiling these relationships will definitely help in filling various gaps and facing challenges. Thus, this research will establish a deeper understanding of Vedic and ancient Indian knowledge and enrich the entire world with the glorious light of knowledge.

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