Science vs Religion or Science and Religion?

World's First Evidence of Yoga's Spiritual Powers Published in Scientific Journals

Who Really Discovered Deep-Sea Volcanoes?

The Marine Scientist, UK
The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMAREST),
London UK, No. 9, 4Q, December 2004, pp. 27-29. (PDF Version)

By Sanjay C. Patel (*Former monk*)

Please Read This Introductory Note

ONE OF SANJAY C. PATEL'S MANY OUTSTANDING contributions to the study of science and spirituality is the unique publication of his findings in three highly reputed, international, peer-reviewed, professional, and mainstream scientific journals.[1]

This overturns the criticism of skeptics that spiritual research is not robust enough to be worthy of publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals. In academia there is a maxim: "Publish or perish." It means getting a PhD or writing a university book is not always enough. If your research is truly valid, unbiased, and newsworthy it should get published in a peer-reviewed or other professional journal.

Patel's groundbreaking findings have met this highest standard.

His research presents evidence that ancient Indian yoga sages (yogis) had authentic knowledge of **submerged deep-sea volcanoes and hydrothermal vents** thousands of years ago, well before scientists could learn about them. This is because hydrothermal vents are hidden 1.5 miles beneath the ocean surface. Scientists discovered them only in 1977 when they used the state-of-the-art research sub Alvin to dive to the seabed.

So how did the ancient yogis acquire their intriguing knowledge of the submerged vents?

Patel's paper (below) proposes a physical explanation.

Since then, however, a curious twist has arisen. Re-analysis by some geologists undermines physical explanations. Only a spiritual explanation seems to remain. Indeed, it is the explanation given by the ancient yogis themselves!

Does this enigma simply require further discoveries in science to resolve? Or does it ultimately require a spiritual explanation? Please read new evidence for this on page 11.

PS. Though this is a scientific paper, you don't need a science background to understand it.

About Sanjay C Patel

Patel is a former monk of 20 years. He has a non-dogmatic and non-judgmental worldview. He has practiced and studied yoga and meditation in depth for 40 years. His peer-reviewed findings in this paper along with others have the capacity to deeply impact the academic and intellectual discussion of science and religion - as well as that of yoga, science, and spirituality. For more information visit sanjaycpatel.com or email sanjay@sanjaycpatel.com.

About IMAREST

IMarEST is "The international membership body and learned society for all marine professionals… It is the largest marine organisation of its kind with a worldwide membership of over 18,000 individuals based in over 120 countries."

After Patel's research was published as the center feature article in this journal he asked an editor what the response was from readers. He said, "No news is good news."

Patel asked him what he meant. He explained that the journal went out to about 18,000 experts in marine sciences. If there was anything wrong with the article he would have received numerous protests from them. He had received none.

Three to five anonymous university professors usually conclude the standard peer-review vetting process of research like this. Now another 18,000 experts had concluded it. You can't get better science than that.

WHO REALLY DISCOVERED DEEP-SEA VOLCANOES?

BY SANJAY C. PATEL

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Research of medieval and ancient Indian manuscripts dating as far back as 1500 BC has unearthed extraordinary descriptions of a submerged volcanic edifice and associated hydrothermal vents. Moreover, the location is precisely where geophysicists would point to today: India's northwestern continental margin. Sanjay C. Patel reveals the results of his research.

Evidence suggests ancient Indians were aware of a submarine volcanic structure in the Arabian Sea, off the country's NW offshore region, and deduced a little, at least, about its physical features and hydrothermal system. Ancient manuscripts contain descriptions pertaining to its submarine location, volcanism, 'plumbing', dynamics, chemistry and appearance.

A single parallel description might be discarded as a fluke coincidence, but 17 parallel descriptions become much harder to ignore (A compilation of what the ancients described is detailed in the Panel (bottom).

NOTE: The unconventional nature of this research has forced the author to adopt a presentation that does not fully follow the format of conventional papers. The classification of the ancient descriptions into clear categories has, however, pressed constraints on presenting the texts chronologically.*

The descriptions of a 'submarine fire' and 'volcano' located in oceanic waters unearthed in this research should not be disregarded because they have been found in what were previously interpreted to be purely 'mythological' texts.

The large number of real patterns and parallels to be found in these texts are clear and obvious and suggests the existence of authentic discoveries that must later have been mixed with mythology, or vice-versa.

The task, now, is to untangle and separate the two – the original discovery from the mingled mythology – to reveal what was known about the world and its oceans by the ancients.

If, indeed, these ancients were describing submarine volcanic structures, the repercussions for history could be vast.

Remarkable history

In 1971, Clive Lister of The University of Washington and Jack Corliss of Oregon State University published papers predicting the presence of hot seawater springs at oceanic ridges. Their postulation was that some seawater must enter the seabed, get superheated, rise and again emerge from openings in the seabed. Later, in 1977, scientists dived down 2500m on the Galapagos spreading axis near the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean, in the submersible Alvin. They discovered warm hydrothermal solutions gushing out from the seafloor.

Later discoveries revealed that vents can also occur in much shallower waters on the tops of rising submarine volcanoes such as around the hotspot islands of Iceland and the Azores. They have also been found at the Kurile Islands, Russia. It must be assumed that such springs exist, and have existed, above all the oceanic hotspots around the world. [1] This includes India's northwestern continental margin – which has had a remarkable history of volcanism – maybe more than any other place on earth.

Indeed, medieval and ancient scholars in India have described in detail what appears to be a deep-sea structure they called the 1) Vadvanal 2) Vadava 3) Jvalamukh 4) Jvalamala and 5) Agni. The first two words unequivocally mean 'submarine fire' (Sir M Monier-Williams, Sanskrit–English Dictionary, Revised Edition, Oxford University Press, 1989). The third and fourth words clearly mean 'volcano' (Monier-Williams) and 'chain of fire' (Monier-Williams) respectively. The fifth word also clearly means 'fire' (Monier-Williams).

The above descriptions – and many more – have been discovered in various ancient texts written in Sanskrit, such as The Skandamahapuranam, The Brahmamahapuranam, and The Sivamahapuranam – which are three of 18 Puranas (sacred poems) estimated by western scholars to date back to the 4th century at least and 7th century at most. However, some other estimates have put them between AD 500 and AD 1000. Other astonishing descriptions of the 'submarine fire' have been found recorded in Gujarati language such as in The Vachanamritam texts that date back to AD 1819 – 1829. More surprisingly, references to the 'submarine fire' have also been found in even more ancient Indian epics (in Sanskrit) – The Mahabharata – which dates back to at least 300 BC, and The Shri Valmiki Ramayana – which dates back to a similar period, if not earlier. Most astonishingly, references to the 'submarine fire' can also be found in The Rig Veda, which dates back to 1500 – 1200 BC. [2]

Mind opening

It is mind opening to think that medieval and ancient scholars were aware of submarine volcanoes and hydrothermal processes in the deep oceans as far back as 1500 BC.

However, on the basis of the extraordinary evidence presented in this article it is most probable that they must actually have seen such a structure several thousands of years ago, in the Arabian Sea, towering above sea level. How else could they have given such an involved and coherent picture?

The structure they had seen must then have undergone sea wave and weather erosion and probably, submergence due to subsidence of the seabed beneath it. This would have submerged the entire structure over a period of a few thousand years – or possibly even over a few hundred years, or even a few decades.
A simple, pointed illustration is that of the volcanic island of Surtsey, Iceland. It is an island that grew rapidly from an eruption 130m below sea level in 1963 to 170m above sea level and measured some 2.7 km². Today, erosion has worn away the island by more than 50%, leaving only 1.4 km².

Thousands of Icelanders witnessed the natural event with their own eyes. After the formation of the hot, lava island, various scientists have visited it regularly, since it lies only 33 km south of the Icelandic coast. Another 55 – 60 volcanic islands in Surtsey's vicinity have been completely weathered away and already disappeared beneath the water surface.

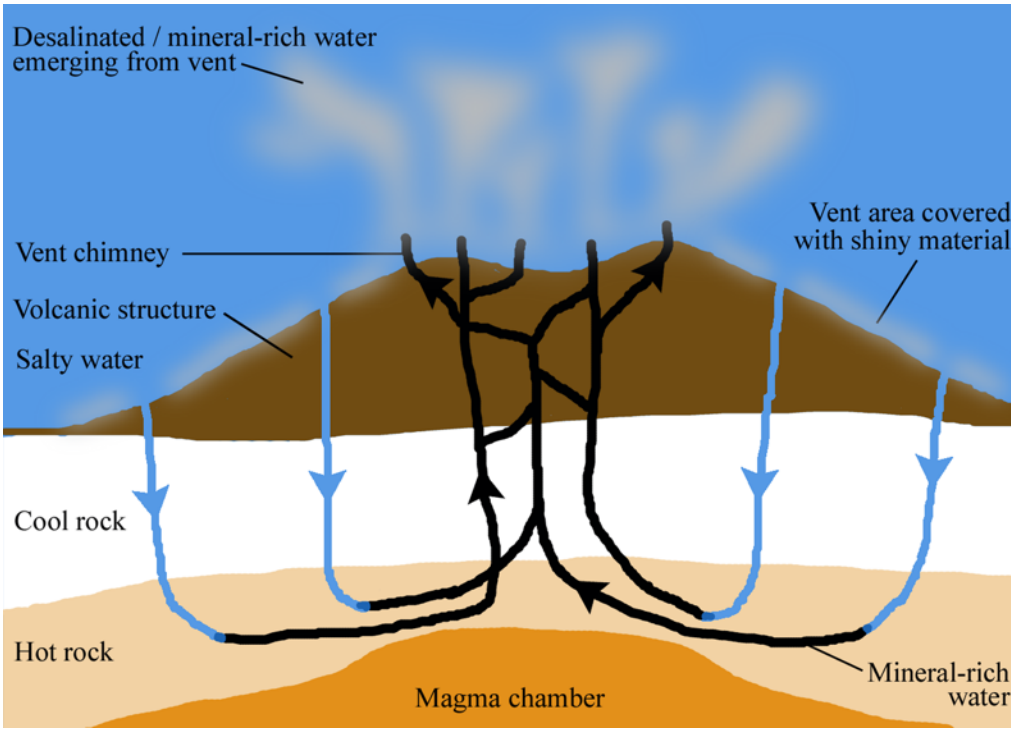
Conclusion

The scientific research described shows that similar volcanic events ages ago must indeed have occurred near the northwestern continental margin of India – with the probable emergence of volcanic islands from beneath the sea and

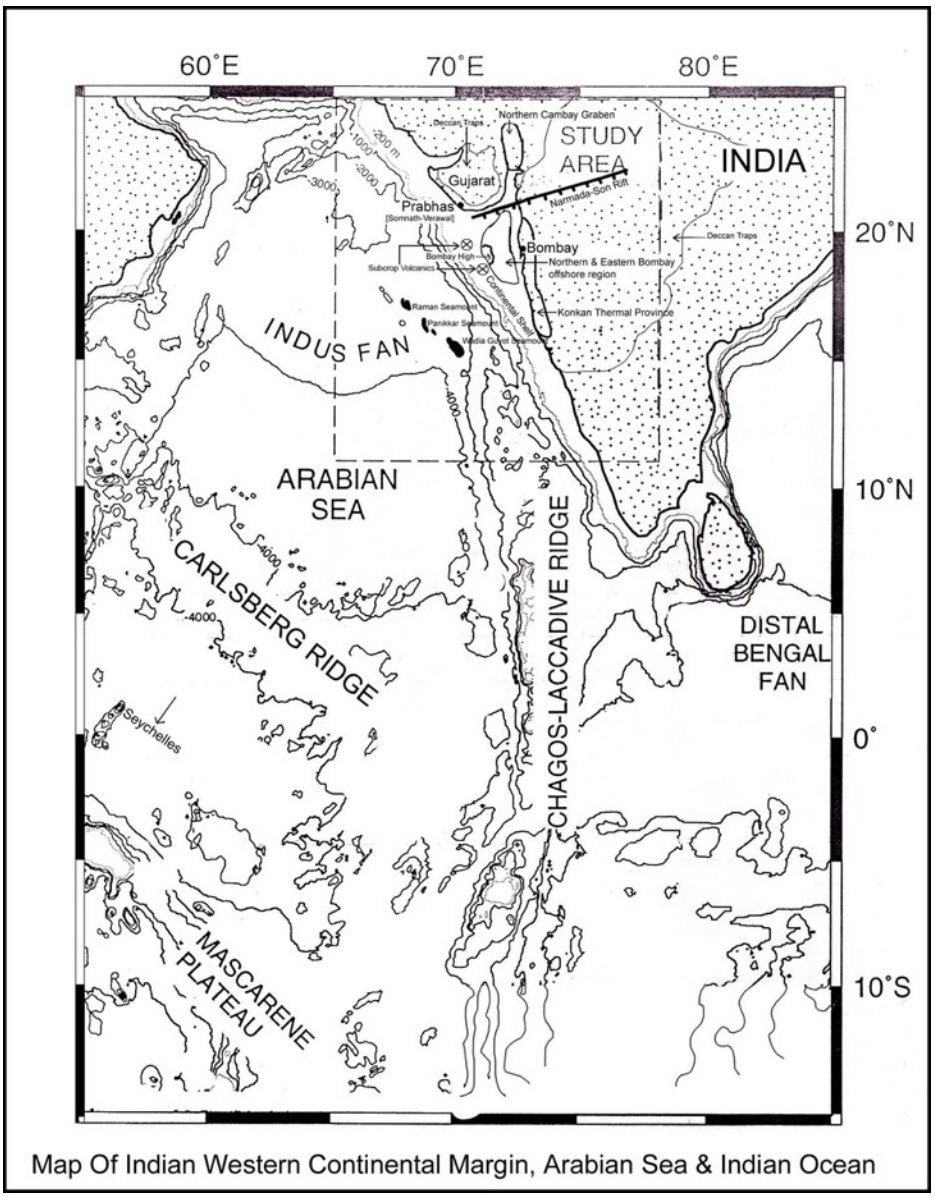
subsequent erosion of the islands by ocean waves together with subsidence of the seabed.

Other new discoveries have also revealed the expertise and passion for sea travel of ancient Indian mariners, as supported by the recent discovery of the legendary Lothal Naval Dockyard – probably the world's first – at the head of the Gulf of Khambhat (Cambay) (21 N; 74 E), dated 2500 BC, close to the south coast of Gujarat, along India's northwestern continental margin. [3]

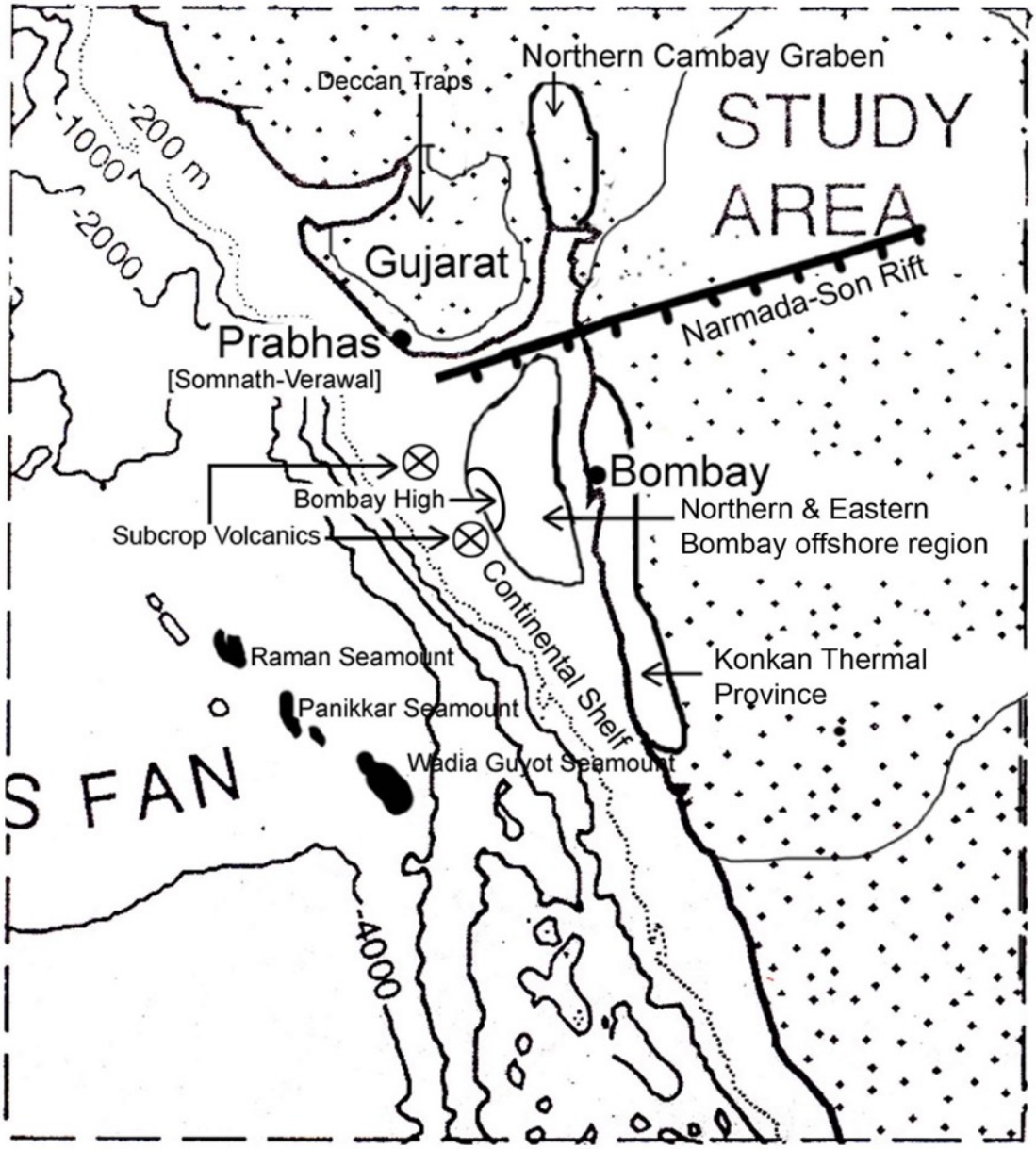
As the ancient descriptions suggest, Indians inhabiting the area must have witnessed the birth of a volcanic island and later its erosion and submergence – like Icelanders witnessed the birth and erosion of Surtsey. India's ancient mariners (and scholars) could have traveled to the island (like scientists today to Surtsey from Iceland) from Lothal when it was above sea level and even later, when it was only slightly submerged. Thus, they were in a position to make firsthand the earliest recorded observations of deep-sea volcanic activity and its detoxifying effects on the ocean's waters.



Schematic representation of deep-sea hydrothermal processes. Image updated Dec. 14, 2011



Map Of Indian Western Continental Margin, Arabian Sea & Indian Ocean



Enlarged Map of Study Area Along India's Western Continental Margin

PANEL. Compilation of the descriptions of a volcanic submarine fire given in various ancient texts.

Submarine location of fire

1. The fire is located in the ocean ("agnim samudra vaasasam" – The Rig Veda, Book 8, Hymn 102/4).

2. The fire was elongated and arose from the ocean ("uddyannityut yan samudrat" – The Yajur Veda, Taittiriya Samhita, Hymn 4/6/7)

3. The fire is not just submarine, but submerged in the ocean ("addrashyaha sagare krutaha" – The Skandamahapurana, Chapter 29 Verse 93), i.e., it had once grown above sea level, but then submerged or disappeared later due to subsidence of the seabed, or erosion by waves, or sinking under its own weight, or all three.

Volcanism

4. The (submerged) submarine fire is clearly stated to be a gentle volcano ("saumya jvalamukham" – The Sivamahapuranam, Chapter 20 Verse 7), and not a fiery ("abhidipitaha" – The Sivamahapuranam, Chapter 20 Verse 21) one, like when it was above sea level.

5. The fire did not exist at just one spot, but is described as a chain of fire ("jvalamala" – The Sivamahapuranam, Chapter 20 Verse 21), somewhat spread out like a coalesced, volcanic ridge.

6. It is a structure that vomits ("udgirad" – The Mahabharata, Pratham Khanda, Verse 22) fire. The verb "vomit" is appropriate for emerging liquid magma under hydrostatic pressure.

7. The structure has a fire chamber ("agnikundam" – The Skandamahapuranam, Chapter 29 Verse 93, like all volcanic structures.

8. The fire is identified to be primordial ("aditaha" – The Brahmamahapuranam, Verse 201, i.e., from the earliest origins of the earth.

Plumbing

9. The object is accurately described – remarkably – to be a structure that has TWO other types of openings related to its plumbing: from where it takes in water and another from where it ejects water! The process by which the water enters the object is accurately described as being drawn in ("pibate" – The Skandamahapuranam, Chapter 29 Verse 96), rather than merely percolated into.

10. The process by which the water leaves the object is also accurately described as being ejected ("kadhi nakhe chhe" – The Vachanamritam, Vartal section, sermon No. 3), rather than just exiting.

11. The openings through which the structure draws in water are accurately described to be the size of a pinpoint mouth ("suchi vaktraha" – The Skandamahapuranam, Chapter 29 Verse 96, i.e., minute pores in the basalt seabed or in the flanks of the oceanic structure.

12. The oceanic structure is accurately described as drinking water very slowly ("shanaihi, shanaihi" – The Brahmamahapuranam, Verse 211.

13. The openings through which water is drawn into the structure are accurately described to shrink ("krutam ghatika puranam" – The Skandamahapuranam, Chapter 29 Verse 95 – 96) to the width of a needle hole or the neck of an hourglass, i.e., the constriction of capillaries and veins due to precipitation of minerals from the seawater and sedimentation from above.

Chemistry

14. The progression of the seawater through the hot oceanic structure is also accurately described to remove certain salts and pollutants ("pani mithu thai chhe" – The Vachanamritam, Vartal section, sermon No. 3) from the water, making it depleted to some extent, as is known to happen when magnesium salts amongst others, react with the hot rocks in the seabed and when the vent plumes react with the cold seawater above.

Appearance

15. The oceanic structure is described as having an enormous body ("mahakayaha" – The Skandamahapuranam, Chapter 29 Verse 96 and "evo moto chhe" – The Vachanamritam, Gadhada section 1, sermon No. 72), as volcanic edifices usually are.

16. The oceanic structure is described as appearing golden and glittery ("shaata" – The Skandamahapuranam, Chapter 29 Verse 95, i.e., covered with shiny metal sulphides and pyrites.

Location in the Arabian Sea, off India's Northwestern Continental Margin

17. The submerged volcano(es) and associated vents were close to India's northwestern continental margin, south of Prabhas, Gujarat ("Prabhase" – The Brahmamahapuranam, Verse 210, and "shri someshad dakshinataha" – The Skandamahapuranam, Chapter 29 Verse 97).

Indeed, there is enormous geophysical evidence to suggest their past existence in the area stated:

1) Seamounts and guyots have been discovered south of Gujarat such as the Raman and Pannikar Seamounts and the Wadia Guyot. [4]

2) Subcrop volcanics (volcanic structures now buried under deep sediments) have been discovered on the Arabian seabed, just south of Prabhas (today known as "Somnath-Veraval"). [5] The subcrop volcanics infer the presence of active hydrothermal vent systems there in the past. The area has also undergone significant subsidence which would account for the submerging of the volcano as described.

3) The presence of melt accumulation has been indicated beneath a sheared and thinned out lithosphere. This is due to India's speedy journey northward after it split from Gondwanaland and collided with Eurasia. India's lithosphere has thus become exceedingly weak, faulted and fractured. [6]

4) Volcanic up-warping of India's western continental margin has been shown to be due to accumulated melt beneath the lithosphere. [7]

5) The passing of western India over a massive plume in the mantle known as the Reunion Hotspot, 65 million years ago, caused massive basaltic, volcanic floods known as the Deccan Traps.

6) The separation of Seychelles from India about the same time implies there existed a spreading ridge between the two landmasses – today identifiable as the Carlsberg Ridge.

7) The volcanic (but aseismic) Chagos-Laccadive Ridge running far north, right up to the south coast of Gujarat, India.

It can be seen clearly that the seabed south of Gujarat has had a truly remarkable history of volcanism in the past and extending up to Bombay High, still has a high heat flow anomaly even today. [8]

Observed geothermal gradients in these areas are still high (36-78°C/km), indicating high crustal temperatures (e.g. 890-1060°C at 30 km). The entire Bombay offshore region is associated with moderate seismicity and in large sections, uplifting and vertical/lateral motions are still taking place. [9]

IMPORTANT

Please Read About New Findings On The Following Page
Thank you

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Extraordinary New Discoveries

An important fact of context that isn't mentioned in this paper[1] is that the ancient texts describing these rigorous parallels with modern scientific discovery are spiritual.

So were the ancient 'scholars.' They were actually mystical yogis sitting meditatively on a mountain or beside a river or deep in a forest. They certainly were *not* mariners or explorers of the physical kind. They clearly stated that they experienced the entire world – and divinity – right where they were sitting during their meditative practice of yoga. They didn't have to travel anywhere to gain knowledge of this world. They proclaimed:

"The steadfast perceive everything with [their] eye perfected through yoga."

Shrimad Bhagavatam 3.11.17

Following are more facts to be considered:

Originally, as you've seen in this paper, I provided a hypothesis which suggests the ancient parallels with modern discoveries have a physical explanation. That is, ancient Indian mariners from Lothal could have studied hydrothermal vents that are normally submerged about 1.5 miles beneath the ocean surface.

All they needed to do was to visit a subaerial volcano that might have arisen from the deep ocean near India (like Surtsey near Iceland) a few thousand years ago and study any shallow vents around it.

Although the yogis had given a yogic explanation, I suggested the Lothal dockyard scenario because it provided a physical alternative. Moreover, there was little proof at the time that the discoveries were spiritual.

But things have changed since then: a new analysis by some geologists undermines physical explanations. Accordingly, it was impossible for Indian mariners to study shallow hydrothermal vents around a rising volcano near India a few thousand years ago.

Following are the reasons:

1. Though India and the Indian Ocean had experienced remarkable volcanism millions of years ago, it is severely problematic to apply those prehistoric conditions – even anomalously – to the sea around India just a few thousand years ago.
2. This is because, unlike Surtsey, India hasn't been over a hotspot for millions of years. There is therefore no physical source for the tremendous volume of magma/lava needed to build an island like Surtsey reaching from the seabed to above sea level.
3. You can't get lava from nothing and you can't build the volcano without lava, geologists have commented. Even by 'special pleading' or 'anomalous occurrences.'
4. There is simply no way such a vast volcanic event could have occurred so recently in the past.
5. Human beings didn't exist millions of years ago when such volcanoes did climb above sea level in the Indian Ocean. So humans couldn't have studied them then.
6. Humans two thousand years ago could not build an Alvin to dive to the seabed to study vents.

So a scientific dilemma has emerged: scientists agree that the similarities between the ancient yoga texts and deep-sea hydrothermal vents are rigorous and real.

That's why they published them.

Yet now they themselves undermine physical explanations.

The inadmissibility of physical solutions seems to open a door to a spiritual one, the one given by the mystical yogis themselves.

But this isn't all. After the publication of my paper, I continued my research and many more extraordinary correspondences with hydrothermal vents emerged.

Below are a few of them. I discovered that:

- The yogis did not say that the emergence of the volcanic structure in the Indian Ocean was a recent event 2500 years ago corresponding to when Lothal was built.
- They said it occurred soon after a part of coastal India was ablaze with volcanic fire.
- They said this was around 120 million years ago.

Do these mystical claims correspond with modern discoveries?

Yes!

A coastal part of India was indeed ablaze with volcanic fire around 118 million years ago and was closely associated with the emergence of huge volcanoes from the Indian Ocean.[2]

This is extraordinary.

Geological studies suggest all this happened approximately between:

118 – 100 million years ago.

What timeframe did the yogis give? 2500 years ago? 6 trillion years ago? No. They gave between:

120.9 – 117.5 million years ago.

This is a remarkable numerical parallel with scientific estimates. Especially when you consider it in context of the previous descriptive parallels. (See Workshop 1).

How could ancient yogis millennia ago give twenty accurate details including the timeframe of a volcanic phenomenon that occurs well outside of our normal experience 1.4 miles beneath the oceans, and occurred around 120 million years ago in India and in the southern Indian Ocean?

How did they arrive at all these correct facts?

Workshop 1

"In the first Treta age
of this era (manvantara),
[the fire] is hidden in the sea
in the southern direction."

Skanda Purana, Prabhasa Khanda 7.1.29:93-94 & 7.1.34:34-37
(Ancient yoga text, about 2000 years old)

Clearly, the volcanic fire disappeared into the sea south of India sometime during the first Treta age of

this manvantara. By implication, it means the fire must have scorched India shortly before this era during the Satya Yuga or more probably during the last Kali Yuga ('dark age') of the previous manvantara.

What do these terms 'Treta,' 'Satya' and 'Kali' of a 'manvantara' era refer to?

The ancient yogis spoke of immense time scales when they spoke of the history of our Earth and universe. They divided it into various eons, eras, epochs, and ages.

These were kalpas, manvantaras, maha yugas, and yugas:

- 1 Kalpa is 4.32 *billion* years long.
- 1 Kalpa consists of 14 manvantaras along with some brief and negligible transition periods.
- 1 Manvantara consists of 71 epochs known as 'Maha yugas' or 'Chatur yugas.'[3]
- Each Chatur yuga is 4.32 million years long.[4]
- 1 Manvantara is therefore about 308.5 million years long.
- 1000 Chatur yugas equals 1 Kalpa.
- Each Chatur yuga comprises 4 ages called Satya, Treta, Dvapara, and Kali.
- Satya lasts 1,728,000 years.
- Treta lasts 1,296,000 years.
- Dvapara lasts 864,000 years.
- Kali lasts 432,000 years.

We're currently in the beginning of the Kali Yuga of the 28th Maha Yuga of the 7th Manvantara, called the Vaivasvata Manvantara. (*Markandeya Purana* 50.7)

It's traditionally believed that Kali began about 5,000 years ago.

This means the *first* Treta age of this manvantara that saw the submergence of the volcanic fire in the Indian Ocean began (counting backwards):

Part Kali + 1 Dvapara + 1 Treta + 1 Satya + 26 Maha Yugas + 1 Kali + 1 Dvapara + 1 Treta
= 5,000 + 864,000 + 1,296,000 + 1,728,000 + (26 x 4.32 million) + 432,000 + 864,000 + 1,296,000

= 118,805,000 years ago

and ended:

Part Kali + 1 Dvapara + 1 Treta + 1 Satya + 26 Maha Yugas + 1 Kali + 1 Dvapara
= 5,000 + 864,000 + 1,296,000 + 1,728,000 + (26 x 4.32 million) + 432,000 + 864,000

= 117,509,000 years ago

This is roughly between 118.8-117.5 million years ago.

The era before the first Treta age of this manvantara, that is the Satya Yuga, or more probably the last Kali Yuga of the previous manvantara, that saw the emergence of the volcanic fire in India began (counting backwards):

Part Kali + 1 Dvapara + 1 Treta + 1 Satya + 26 Maha Yugas + 1 Kali + 1 Dvapara + 1 Treta + 1 Satya + 1 Kali
= 5,000 + 864,000 + 1,296,000 + 1,728,000 + (26 x 4.32 million) + 432,000 + 864,000 + 1,296,000 + 1,728,000 + 432,000

= 120,965,000 years ago

The entire episode from scorching of India by volcanic fire to the submergence of this fire in the Indian Ocean occurred between

= 120,965,000 to 117,509,000 years ago

This is roughly between 120.9-117.5 million years ago

This timeframe from the yogis is remarkably similar to that given by science.

But it gets even better when we include official margins of error.

ACCOUNTING FOR SCIENTIFIC MARGINS OF ERROR

Though the yogic timeframe does not cover the entire scientific range which extends to **100 million years ago**, the yogic timeframe is still remarkably accurate. It is even more accurate when we consider the dating inaccuracies and errors which scientists acknowledge are inherent in their own measurements.

The real figures could be up to 3.5 million years to 9.9 million years +/- the stated scientific figures.[5]

Therefore the actual scientific range could be anywhere between:

128 – 90 million years ago.

This very well encapsulates the ancient yoga timeframe of

120.9-117.5 million years ago.

How could ancient yogis know or guess this timeline so precisely? There is no physical explanation.

Consider this. Statistically, through sheer fantasy, the yogis could have given any timeline whatsoever from 1 year ago to infinite years ago. But they didn't. They chose 120 million years ago. What are the chances of that? 1 in infinity. And what is the probability of all their correct physical descriptions of oceanic volcanoes and hydrothermal vents coming together by chance with this correct timeline? Zero.

SUMMARY

1. There are numerous similarities of ancient yogic discoveries and hydrothermal vents.
2. The similarities meet the highest standards of scientific rigor and have achieved publication in mainstream scientific, professional, peer-reviewed journals.
3. Even the prehistoric timeline agrees with science.
4. All the agreements appear inexplicable by any current physical theory or hypothesis.
5. Now the only remaining explanation is spiritual.

6. It is the same explanation given by the ancient yogis themselves.
7. They said they knew of all these things through spiritual intuition or *Samadhi through yoga*.

But wait. There are even more correspondences with science.

You may naturally ask: If the yogis knew about our oceans through spiritual means, they should also have known about other things such as our planet and universe.

Did they? It appears they did.

It is emerging from studies of other ancient texts that the yogis described our Earth, Universe, and Big Bang cosmology in authentic detail.

These parallels are as rigorous as those of the hydrothermal vents. Internationally reputed astrophysicists such as a writer for the highly acclaimed **University of Cambridge Monograph Series (Cambridge Monographs on Mathematical Physics), Oxford University Press, and the science journal The Scientific American** have approved these parallels as authentic.[6]

These ancient cosmological similarities with modern discoveries also have only a spiritual explanation.

Copyright and Humble Request

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6. Prof. Pankaj S. Joshi, writer for the highly acclaimed CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY Monograph Series and Contributor to The Scientific American journal, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba – Mumbai 400005, India

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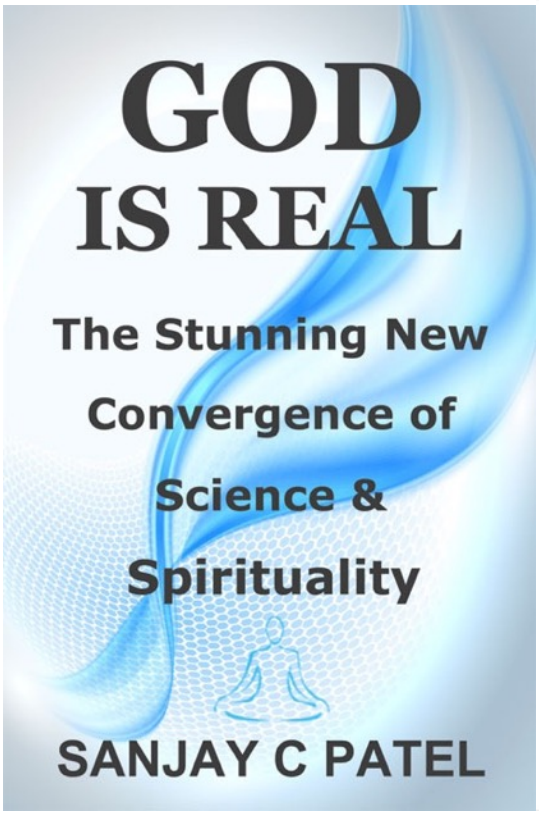

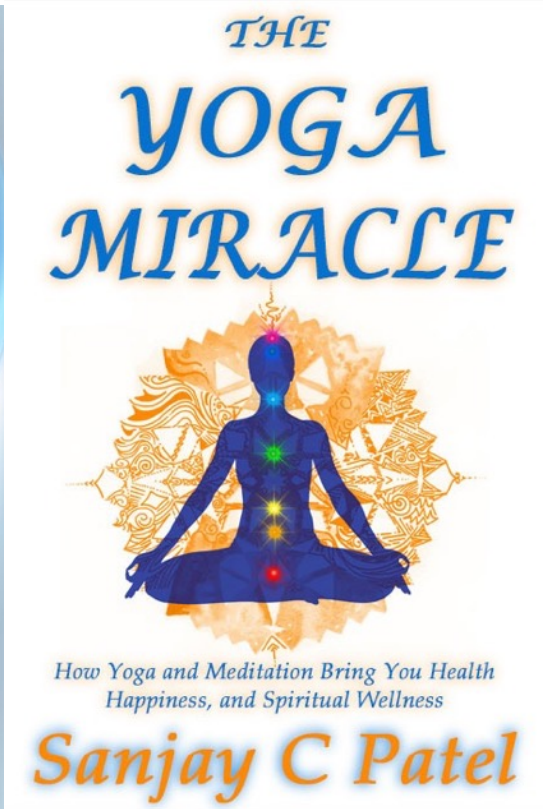

Below: Sanjay as a monk and later as a speaker at The International Congress of Historians of Science