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City Under the Sea — Dwarka?

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B.K. Parthasarathy writes about a spectacular underwater archaeological find by a joint British-Indian diving team that could rewrite history.

Who would have thought a city that could be older than the Harappan civilization could be lying beneath water right off the coast of Mahabalipuram?

Sometimes, it pays to listen to the stories of humble fishermen. Local fishermen in the coast of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu have for centuries believed in that a great flood consumed a city over 1,000 years ago in a single day when the gods grew jealous of its beauty.

The myths of Mahabalipuram were written down by British traveler J. Goldingham, who visited the town in 1798, at which time it was known to sailors as the Seven Pagodas. Legend had it that six temples were submerged beneath the waves, with the seventh temple still standing on the seashore.

Best-selling British author and television presenter Graham Hancock took these stories seriously. The hypothesis that there may be ruins underwater off the coast of Mahabalipuram has been around at least since the eighteenth century among scholarly circles.



"I have long regarded Mahabalipuram, because of its flood myths and fishermen's sightings as a very likely place in which discoveries of underwater structures could be made, and I proposed that a diving expedition should be undertaken there," said Hancock.

Hancock's initiative resulted in the Dorset, England-based Scientific Exploration Society and India's National Institute of Oceanography joining hands. In April this year, the team made a spectacular discovery

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Introduction

The SES announced: "A joint expedition of 25 divers from the Scientific Exploration Society and India's National Institute of Oceanography led by Monty Halls and accompanied by Graham Hancock, have discovered an extensive area with a series of structures that clearly show man made attributes, at a depth of 5-7 meters offshore of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu.

"The scale of the submerged ruins, covering several square miles and at distances of up to a mile from shore, ranks this as a major marine-archaeological discovery as spectacular as the ruined cities submerged off Alexandria in Egypt."

India's NIO said in a statement: "A team of underwater archaeologists from National Institute of Oceanography NIO have successfully `unearthed' evidence of submerged structures off Mahabalipuram and established first-ever proof of the popular belief that the Shore temple of Mahabalipuram is the remnant of series of total seven of such temples built that have been submerged in succession. The discovery was made during a joint underwater exploration with the Scientific Exploration Society, U.K."

NIO said:

- Underwater investigations were carried out at 5 locations in the 5 – 8 m water depths, 500 to 700 m off Shore temple.
- Investigations at each location have shown presence of the construction of stone masonry, remains of walls, a big square rock cut remains, scattered square and rectangular stone blocks, big platform leading the steps to it amidst of the geological formations of the rocks that occur locally.
- Most of the structures are badly damaged and scattered in a vast area, having biological growth of barnacles, mussels and other organisms.
- The construction pattern and area, about 100m X 50m, appears to be same at each location. The actual area covered by ruins may extend well beyond the explored locations.
- The possible date of the ruins may be 1500-1200 years BP. Pallava dynasty, ruling the area during the period, has constructed many such rock cut and structural temples in Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram.

The last claim is questioned by Hancock, who says a scientist has told him it could be 6,000 years old.

Durham University geologist Glenn Milne told him in an e-mail: "I had a chat with some of my colleagues here in the dept. of geological sciences and it is probably reasonable to assume that there has been very little vertical tectonic motion in this region [i.e. the coastal region around Mahabalipuram] during the past five thousand years or so. Therefore, the dominant process driving sea-level change will have been due to the melting of the Late Pleistocene ice sheets. Looking at predictions from a computer model of this process suggests that the area where the structures exist would have been submerged around six thousand years ago. Of course, there is some uncertainty in the model predictions and so there is a flexibility of roughly plus or minus one thousand years is this date."

If that were true, it would be a spectacular development. Previous archaeological opinion recognizes no culture in India 6,000 years ago capable of building anything much.

Hancock says this discovery proves scientists should be more open-minded. "I have argued for many years that the world's flood myths deserve to be taken seriously, a view that most Western academics reject. "But here in Mahabalipuram, we have proved the myths right and the academics wrong."

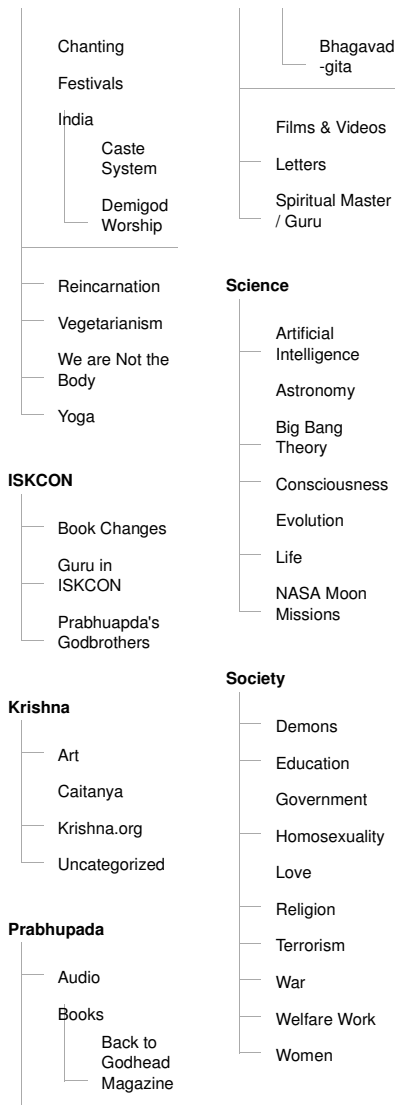
Hancock believes far more research needs to be done on underwater relics.

"Between 17,000 years ago and 7000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, terrible things happened to the world our ancestors lived in," he says. "Great ice caps over northern Europe and north America melted down, huge floods ripped across the earth, sea-level rose by more than 100 meters, and about 25 million square kilometers of formerly habitable lands were swallowed up by the waves.

"Marine archaeology has been possible as a scholarly discipline for about 50 years — since the introduction of scuba. In that time, according to Nick Flemming, the doyen of British marine archaeology, only 500 submerged sites have been found worldwide containing the remains of any form of man-made structure or of lithic artifacts. Of these sites only 100 — that's 100 in the whole world! — are more than 3000 years old."

Hancock, who was understandably resentful about the NIO's silence in his pivotal role in making the diving expedition happen — SES gave him full recognition — was himself quite generous about who deserved the greatest credit:

"Of course the real discoverers of this amazing and very extensive submerged site are the local fishermen of Mahabalipuram. My role was simply to take what they had to say seriously and to take the town's powerful and distinctive flood myths seriously. Since no diving had ever been done to investigate these neglected myths and sightings I decided that a proper expedition had to be mounted. To this end, about a year ago, I brought together my friends at the Scientific Exploration Society in Britain and the National Institute of Oceanography in India and we embarked on the long process that has finally culminated in the



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discovery of a major and hitherto completely unknown submerged archaeological site."

Interested readers can visit the following Web sites for more information. The Scientific Exploration Society's Web site at <http://www.india-atlantis.org/> And Graham Hancock's Web site at <http://www.grahamhancock.com/>

– B.K. Parthasarathy is a freelance writer based in Chennai.

Reference: <http://www.siliconeer.com/may2002.html>

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shree: why are you providing fake data... I am searching for bhagwatgita pdf that is not available on...

The Ten Offenses in Chanting the Hare Krishna Mantra (314)

Vanshika: Hare Krishna mataji! Sorry for interference :p You can sign in at Krishnaconnect.com. There you'll...

Tulasi Sevaka: You say that only someone who follows the four regulative principles may wear Tulasi kanthi mala and...

Krishna or Shiva? (52)

Gopinath das: In the Ramayana, Lord Rama desired to kill Ravana, an ardent devotee of Lord Siva. He is simply being...

Can a Computer Have a Mind? (1)

the hare krishnas: here is the answer) lets see this following conversation of Srila prabhupada : But they are...

The Four Philosophies: Impersonalism, Yoga, Personalism and Voidism (152)

manian: jesus was aa supreme devotee of KrilSHNA. He preched non violence which todys chrirtNA DO Not follow. They...

manian: when you say thanks it should in divine attitude. merely saying thatthanks is not offering. further chritians...

Questions From A Muslim With Answers From Khan (142)

Manab Mitra: The way you answered is excellent. But my dear friend, it is my suggestion to you that next when will...

Krishna says the One in Knowledge is Best (14)

Ronald Loeve: Love your posts! Hare Krishna!

Worshiping the Demigods (8)

Nalini: Thank you very much for the wonderful post...

Off to War Again—Who's Side is God on? (1)

Wolfgang: The US is a sick, sick country. You invaded Iraq for absolutely no legitimate reason and bombed, shot and...

The Power of Prabhupada's Books [Science of Self Realsation] (9)

vanshika: Hari bol! Very nice!

Living Alone in a Secluded Place? (60)

Subhranshu Ganguly: These are the words that come out from a person who works a night shift and hibernates during the...

Subhranshu Ganguly: Guru Ji with lots of responsibilities not able to live a secluded life as has to work without...

Rare Photos of Balaji (from Lord Sri Venkateswara temple at Tirupati) (35)

jayaram: i like lord venkateshwara swamy videos or images soooooooooooooooooo much

Letter to a Buddhist about his "empty mind" philosophy (7)

TG: I came across this website through some general surfing. I believe there are infinite paths to reach god...

Divine: I would just want to ask 3 questions 1.Sometimes our parents make us eat bread. So are we violating the four...

The Spirit of Bhagavad Gita (1252)

sahil sachdeva: hi, i am a student pursuing C.A.. i am now free after my exams in November. i want to read &...

Srinivasamurthy K M says:

July 1, 2009 at 3:29 pm

Some paintings are still available, on impact of floods, Tsunami, accrued time immemorial throughout Indian Ocean burring many ancient towns, cities, include Mamalapuram, Ramasetu, Navagraha Temple, Rameshvaram.

This act has tilted the earth about 50 meters, Submerging land along Indian Ocean, and Raised along Malaysia, Singapore etc.,

Reply

Sebastian .P. Sankar says:

September 3, 2009 at 8:50 pm

I was beginning to think that orthodox archeology was the real thing. When I heard about the sunken city of the coast of Cambay, India, I was intrigued. Finally some solid evidence that I can work with.

My name is Sebastian Sankar I'm 17 years of age. My curiosity about the origins of man on earth and the origin of the universe exploded around the age of 10. Ever since then my life's goal is to find the answers that desire to find. I have spent hundreds of hours studying orthodox archeology and the theories of evolution. I am currently studying Advanced Level Science. I know that the theory of evolution has many problems, it's not even proven. But yet widely accepted by scientists because of how convincing the theory seems. It just makes too much sense to dismiss. I knew something was wrong with a lot of accepted science and with accepted archeology. I just couldn't find any solid evidence to work on. There was no link to follow. Every lead I took turned out to be a dead end. Mostly conspiracy theories that don't seem to have any evidence, or at least I couldn't find the evidence. I was beginning to think that maybe orthodox archeology was the real thing. When I heard about the sunken city discovered on the coast of Cambay, India that could have only been built at the end of the last ice age when there was dry land. I was intrigued. Finally some undeniable evidence that I can work with. The city was discovered in an area that was dry only approximately 10,000 years ago. Therefore logically the city had to be built when the land was dry, that would be 10,000 years ago.

To make things better the samples found on the site were dated to 9500 years ago. The same time the last ice age has ended.

This web site is as a result of archeological research. I would like to have any information you can give me that may influence or help my work in any way.

You can email me at sebastianinfinity@yahoo.com, Thank you.

Reply

warrier says:

February 26, 2011 at 4:08 am

Jai Gurupadar,

please make an article on the divine stone of Vishnu (the Salagramam)

Reply

Pingback: [The world is screwed, what are you going to do about it? | How to retire in 12 months](#)

The Thinker says:

August 29, 2011 at 6:50 pm

Because of multifarious sins committed by the earliest atheist & idol worshippers, Homos & the like ALMIGHTY GOD had destroyed many towns & cities depicted in the Muslims's Holy Scripture.

So you can discover many destroyed objects or cities underneath,
Thank You.

Reply

mind says:

The Best Welfare Work (106)

Rohit: Hare Krsna Madhudvisa dasa prabhujii. I am very glad to hear this comment (<http://krishna.org/srimad-...>)

Just What is the Bhagavad Gita? (153)

Hrishikesh: Hare Krsna, Prabhu I could not understand this line, "The world revolves because every living..."

July 13, 2012 at 4:37 am

Its not because of athiest and those who oppose the idol worshippers, there were tsunami, earthquake etc etc. its because of those sinners who worship and do sincerely sin knowingly and continuously. Because Nature is Nature and because nature worship was changed and then idols occupied the place for profit the natural "nature" calamities started. Why cant the real god punish the athiest alone and make the thiest happy, why should he be giving punishment to all? unfair justice! But one fact is real that is destiny thats written for all, even God can not change his decision, written is written!. You will accept my points in future. When God himself is rich and the omnipotent why do temples have boxes to be filled with money and jewels, can't you identify the sinners? You try to understand the real fact for earthquake.

Reply

sarath kumara says:

November 26, 2011 at 7:53 am

Please be kind to publish relative photographs of said ruwins to see us. i think it will help to all Thanks – Sarath

Reply

sunil motwani says:

December 31, 2011 at 8:33 am

all monuments and underwater pyramids archeological research must definitely be done on the divine stone of lord vishnu i would request

B.K. Parthasarathy to write more about a spectacular underwater archaeological find by a joint British-Indian diving team that could rewrite history.

we can only keep in mind that super power supreme personality of godhead

lord krishna resides everywhere. the act of god : impact of floods,Tsunami, accured time immemorial throughtout indian ocean burring many anciant towns, cities, include mamalapuram, ramasetu, navagraha temple rameshvaram.

GOD IS ALMITY AND POWERFUL JAI SHREE KRISHNA

Hancock's initiative resulted in the Dorset, England-based Scientific Exploration Society and India's National Institute of Oceanography joining hands. In April this year, the team made a spectacular discovery

I THINK IT SHOULD BE RE-CONSTRUCTED AS A MONUMENT

IN mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu.

LORD VISHNU RESIDES IN THE MONUMENT

AS PER THE SCRIPTURES

ONE SHOULD MAKE A TEMPLE WHICH CAN BENEFIT THE COMPLETE STATE AND THE COUNTRY .

Reply

tony welby says:

January 23, 2012 at 5:24 am

I would like to know more about the sunken city off the shore from Bombaywhich is reported to be 10.000yrs old.Also i would like to know if the remains of cities beneath the dead sea have been further investigated.I saw a tv programme that claimed that there were a number of dome shaped roofs on the sea bed.Further investigation was brought to a halt because of civil unrest.Are any further plans to find out if they are the possible ruins of Sodum & Gommorah.This is what was thought by the diving team untill the were forced to stop by the government at the time.Please let me know more.Looking forward to your reply.Yours.Tony Welby.

Reply

John Doe says:

January 31, 2012 at 12:01 am

Please comment on the why the ice melted in the last ice age? It is nice that scientist are finding whole city's under the water that were above water at one time. Which clearly means water levels were lower

7,000 years ago than now. Let's move on to the real story. Let's ask the real question, "why is there an elephant standing in the middle of the room".

What melted the ice? Was it because man had global warming problems back then too. Was it because man was using cars running on evil carbon dioxide fossil fuels to cause a green house gases effect. NO!.

Finally the gig is up. We as mankind are not causing global warming. Yes we pollute, but that is not why the earth is warming up or cooling down. The science is in. Stop believing a lie and start believing in facts. Solar flares, Volcano's, the Earths Axes moved, meteor hits, Sun spot, are just to name a few on why the earth heats up or cools down. It might even be simpler than that, it could be, "that is what the earth does all on its own."

Wind power is nice, solar power is nice, even nuclear power is nice. But don't say we have to use alteratives fuels to oil because the sky is falling.

Have a brain and don't let the con men of global warming fool you. Let the light bulb go off in our heads and finally say, enough is enough.

This is all I can do to help out with society evolution. Thank you very much for reading my input. From your local Science monitor. Tony C.

Reply

SUBHASBABU says:

September 12, 2012 at 12:40 pm

When India is free from Corruption?

Reply

Jeevamoney Abisheganathan says:

January 28, 2014 at 3:12 am

Its very interesting..and I believe these are all so true

Reply

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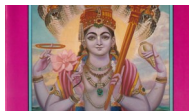
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b-k--parthasarathy

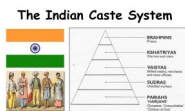
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CHANT: Hare Krishna, Krishna, Krishna
Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama, Hare
Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare and be
happy!

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