

Model of proposed  
Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

## Temple for Sri Rama in Ayodhya

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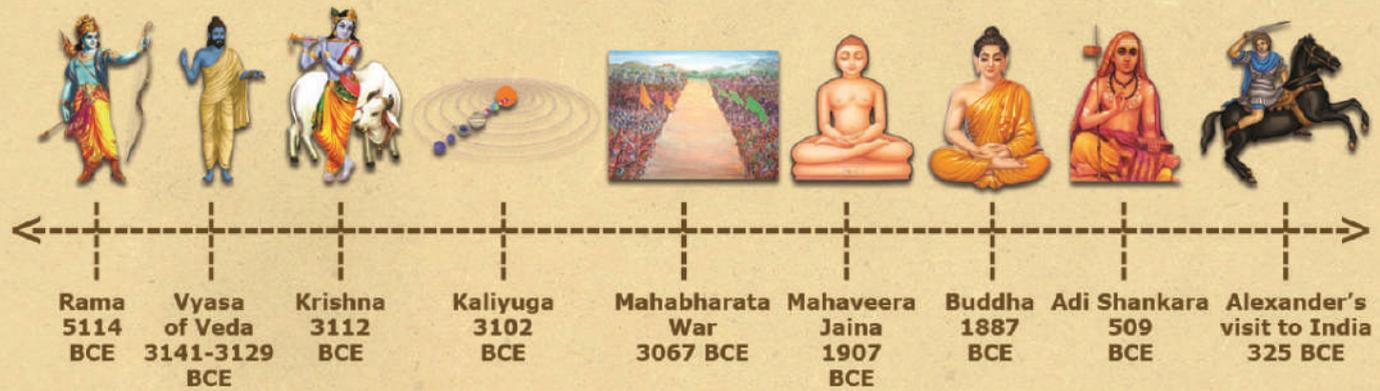
*Bharath Gyan, is a not for profit research initiative in Civilization Studies of India by D.K. Hari and Hema Hari, a couple based in Chennai. Through an interdisciplinary approach and the Archaeo-Astronomy technique, they have uncovered the historicity of ancient Indian events and personages along with demystifying many myths and mysteries around ancient Indian knowledge systems and cultural practices. Archaeo-Astronomy technique, especially using Planetarium Software precisely charts the sky in the past or in the future. Given a particular time the software can show the planetary positions at that time, and conversely, given a set of planetary configurations the tool can help identify the date of its occurrence either in the past or in the future. As ancient Indian literature is characterized by the descriptions of many sky observations, these can be used to date the heroes and events in texts like Ramayana and Mahabharata. This article presents in brief the new discoveries about Bhagavan Sri Rama and the significance of the Rama Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya.*

*Cover page artist: Sri Sudhir Mirage, Mumbai.*

### Ayodhya

The name Ayodhya signifies 'no war (Yuddha)' or 'a place that cannot be won in war'. Nevertheless, the city of Ayodhya has been embroiled in a war of faiths for the last 500-odd years. Even so, this centuries-long span of anguish is a relatively

short time-window, a passing and testing phase, in the history of a living civilisation that tracks time since the beginning of creation. The landmark Supreme Court judgment on the Rama Janmabhoomi case in November 2019, has once again emphasised that this city cannot be won over by war. It is indeed the grace of



Bhagavan Sri Rama that the long wait and struggle has found a peaceful end, auguring a promising new beginning.

### Timeline of Indian history

While writing the history of Indian civilisation, the colonial historians traced it only until 325 BCE, i.e., up to the time of Alexander's invasion of northwestern India. All events prior to this time was termed pre-historic and simply dismissed as mythology.

Now, with the beginning of the rebuilding of the temple for Bhagawan Sri Rama at his birthplace in Ayodhya, the year 2020 has become a milestone in the timeline of Indian history. This year will be remembered as one when Sri Rama, with the identification of his birthplace, came to be acknowledged as a great historical personage and not just a mythological character. This temple for an *avatarapurusha* also signifies the intertwining of history and the mystical dimensions of life.

One of the important tasks, while compiling knowledge of ancient Indian civilisation, is to trace the historical timeline of ancient India prior to the colonial benchmark of 325 BCE. This pegging of our ancient history as discovered from traditional Indian texts, bridges the chasm between the unknown origins of our ancestors and

the deep, widespread influence of their wisdom.

### Historical events and people

It is beyond the scope of documentation to prove the blending of divinity and historicity in personages such as Sri Rama and Sri Krishna who figure in the two traditional historical accounts of India – Ramayana and Mahabharata. Their divinity will always be a matter of faith. But their historicity, which is a matter of existence, can be established through words and figures.

Using an integrated and interdisciplinary approach, in tune with modern methods of tracking time and history, Bharath Gyan has placed the historicity of Sri Rama, Sri Krishna and other legendary figures of ancient India in the timeline given above.

Sri Rama is the farthest dateable Indian historical personage. With this it makes a fascinating study to discover the spread of his influence through his descendants, even 7100 years after his time.

### Spread of Sri Rama's Lineage

Tracing the history of Ayodhya and its descendants, we find traces of Sri Rama's Solar dynasty, all over India and across the world – stretching from Korea in Far East, to Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia in Southeast Asia, and

Russia, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey and many other lands to the West.

In fact, going by India's view of the world in terms of East and West, we find ancient Americas considered as a land to the East of India, approached via the Pacific Ocean. In this ancient America too, we find imprints of Lord Rama.

### **Spread within India**

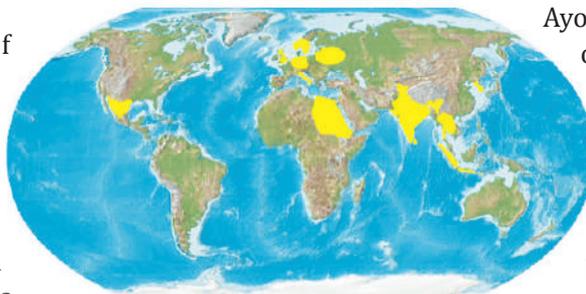
The ancestry of King Shuddhodana, the father of Buddha, has been traced in Buddhist works, to the *Ikshvaku* lineage, the same *Surya Vamsa* or Solar dynasty of Sri Rama.<sup>1</sup>

The Sikhs of the Sodi and Vedi (Bedi) clans are respectively the descendants of Luva and Kusha, the twin sons of Sri Rama. Guru Gobind Singh, the 10<sup>th</sup> Sikh guru was a Sodi and thus a descendant of Luva.<sup>2</sup> Sant Guru Nanak Dev Himself, a Vedi, also traces His lineage to Kusha. This makes the Sikhs joint stakeholders of Ayodhya, Sri Rama, and the temple at Sri Rama Janmabhoomi.

In fact, Sant Guru Nanak Dev was a contemporary of Babar. He is probably the last Indian saint to have visited the temple at Ayodhya before it was demolished. As narrated to Bhai Mardana, his disciple, Sant Guru Nanak Dev was visiting Ayodhya and the birth place of Sri Rama because, as a descendant of Kusha, it was his ancestral home.<sup>3</sup>

### **The spread to the East**

The kings of Thailand consider themselves to be a part of Sri Rama's lineage. Even now they are anointed with the name of Rama and the present king is known as Rama X. When



*Spread of Sri Rama's lineage/ethos the worldover*

the Indonesian King signs any proclamation, he does it with the words *Paduka Seri* i.e., 'at the feet of Sri Rama', revealing their connection with Sri Rama. A princess from Ayodhya went to Korea and married the Korean King, giving rise to the Kim dynasty of Korea. The people there acknowledge their descent from Ayodhya and Sri Rama's lineage.

### **The spread to the West**

When the Egyptian Pharaohs took on the name Ramses, i.e., RMS (Ra Ma Sa) in the local language, they were openly claiming their link with the Sun, the Solar dynasty, Sri Rama and Ayodhya. Again, when the Mittani and Hittite kings in the region of Anatolia (Turkey), Sumeria and Mesopotamia signed treaties, they did it under the names found in the lineage of Sri Rama like Dashratha and others. The cliffs in Iraq bear carvings of figures like Sri Rama and names like Rama, disclosing the movement of those connected with Sri Rama and Ayodhya, through those regions as well. In the ancient civilizations of America, Sri Rama and his consort Sita held a special place as an ideal couple and were known as Rama-Sitva. There were festivals celebrated in their honour, as noted by Sir William Jones, a British High Court Judge, linguist and luminary of the 1780s.<sup>4</sup>

People in all these foreign regions may not belong to the Hindu religion now. Yet, they all are stakeholders of the lineage of Sri Rama, the *Surya Vamsa* and thereon to Ayodhya, the place of birth of their ancestor. With the placing of Sri Rama's birth historically at 10 January 5114 BCE, we have an antiquity going back to 7130 years. Thus, Ayodhya with the site of Sri Rama's birth

as its epicenter, is one of the oldest continuously occupied cities in the world and a world heritage city.

Knowledge of all these facts, uplifts Ayodhya and its temple to Sri Rama as a monument of universal significance. Even though today's generation across the world is unaware of this history, India is answerable to the future generations of the world when they wake up to lay claim on this legacy which is also their roots.

### A monumental personage

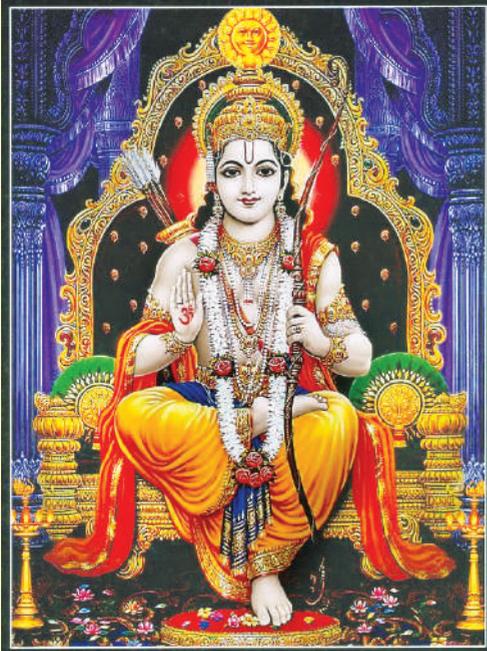
Out of the many kings in the entire world, if people across the world chose to venerate Sri Rama and connect with his dynasty the most, it shows that Sri Rama embodies something very special. Before writing the Ramayana, Valmiki met Narada and asked him if there was any person, living or dead, who manifested the sixteen noble traits that a human being can aspire to. Narada then revealed that there indeed was one such person living amidst them

in the form of Sri Rama. This then is the uniqueness of Sri Rama – he exemplifies the sixteen noble qualities. And for this he was, and is even today the role model for mankind, the *Maryada Purushottama*.

Valmiki then wrote the Ramayana as a canvas to bring out the nature of these sixteen qualities in Sri Rama, highlighting them through various challenging events in his life. In world literature and history, Sri Rama is the only one to have exhibited these sixteen qualities. In our modern world which is experiencing dwindling personal and social values and ideals, it is our sacred duty to uphold the personality and life of Sri Rama as a universal role model.

रामाय रामचंद्राय रामभद्राय वेधसे । रघुनाथाय  
नाथाय सीतायाः पतये नमः – one of the popular slokas on Sri Rama reveals what he meant to people around him. To father Dasaratha he was 'Rama', the radiant son and the delight of his heart; to his mother Kausalya he was 'Ramabhadra', her fortune and blessing; to his

### Maryada Purushottama Sri Rama's 16 Virtues



- 1) गुणवान् = endowed with excellent qualities
- 2) वीर्यवान् = with prowess
- 3) धर्मज्ञः = knower of righteousness,
- 4) कृतज्ञः = who is filled with gratitude
- 5) सत्यवाक्यः = truthful in his statements,
- 6) दृढव्रतः = firm in his vows
- 7) चारित्र्येण युक्तः = is endowed with good conduct
- 8) सर्वभूतेषु हितः = benefactor of all living beings
- 9) विद्वान् = learned man
- 10) समर्थः = competent
- 11) एकप्रियदर्शनः = delightful in appearance to everyone
- 12) आत्मवान् = self-restrained
- 13) जितक्रोधः = who has conquered anger
- 14) द्युतिमान् = is endowed with splendour,
- 15) अनसूयकः = who is free from envy
- 16) कस्य बिभ्यति देवाः च संयुगे = whom even the devatas fear to engage in battle.

step-mother Kaikeyi he was 'Ramachandra', the adorable child, lustrous like the moon; to his guru Vasistha he was 'Vedase', the learned; to the rishis he was 'Raghunatha', the protector of the clan of Raghu; to his wife Sita he was 'Natha', her protector and lord of her heart; and to his father-in-law Janaka he was 'Sitapati', husband of Sita. As seen earlier, sages Valmiki and Narada saw him as the embodiment of sixteen divine qualities. And to the devotees he is the Lord himself.

### Need for a monument

Each society erects monuments to symbolize the ideals, principles and truths manifested by a towering personality who is its role model. For example, Bhagavan Buddha has monuments dedicated to him at Lumbini, his birthplace, and at Bodhgaya, where he attained enlightenment. Buddhists and even people of other faiths from across the world visit these two places to venerate him and be inspired by his teachings. Similarly, it is but natural, to have a monument for Bhagavan Sri Rama at his birthplace, where his descendants, followers, and others from the world over can offer their respects and prayers. This monument is now taking shape in Ayodhya as the Temple of Ram Lala. This temple will restore the glory of Ayodhya as the source of many societies across

the world, establish the connect of avatarhood and historicity, inspire countless people to awaken in themselves the noble qualities epitomised by Sri Rama, and act as the focal point of a global legacy – a legacy inherited biologically or as an inspiration.

### A chain of events

The millennia long practice of making a pilgrimage to Sri Rama's Ayodhya was broken when the Ram Janmabhoomi temple was demolished 500 years ago. The efforts to reclaim the land and rebuild the temple began right then. But, it is perhaps to remind us of the travails that Sri Rama himself had to undergo, that the efforts to rebuild his temple prolonged for 500 years, causing anguish to millions of people and also claiming the lives of many men and women.

However, a series of events over the last two centuries, beginning in 1822 with the filing of a case in the court of British India, paved the way for the construction of the temple which began with the laying of the foundation stone on 5 Aug 2020. Persistent efforts of countless people, in various roles, have today resulted in this restoration of the national ideal – the goal of Rama Rajya. Let this be the beginning of a new phase of peace and prosperity in the history of India. ✽



*Note: Literature on the historicity of Sri Rama and Ayodhya includes the trilogy, Historical Rama, Ramayana in Lanka, Ayodhya: War and Peace. These books and other material are available at [www.bharathgyan.com](http://www.bharathgyan.com). Email: [bharathgyan@gmail.com](mailto:bharathgyan@gmail.com)*

### References

- 1) *Dating the Era of Lord Ram*. Pushkar Bhatnagar
- 2) *Revisiting The Date of The Mahabharata War - Astronomical Methods Using Planetarium Software* by Dr.B.N.Narahari Achar, University of Memphis, 2014, available in Scribd
- 3) *Rama Setu*, Including Proceedings of the International Seminar on Scientific and Security Aspects of Setusamudram Channel Project held in Chennai on 12 May 2007 made available in Academia.edu by Dr.S.Kalyanaraman
- 4) All these data and corroborations are available in detail, in the book, *Ayodhya – War and Peace*.