

Speech of the Hon'ble Governor for a National seminar from 4th to 6th January, 2018 on the theme "Influence of Vedic thought in the Modern World"

Dignitaries on the dais and other esteemed audience. First of all my gratitude to Darshanam which is organizing the national conference in association with Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. At the same time I also extend my warm welcome to all the delegates who have converged here from across the nation to this state which is famous for its lush green natural beauties.

The word 'Veda' comes from the word 'vid' which means knowledge. The Vedas therefore are the storehouse of knowledge. Vedic thought is the core foundation of India's culture and heritage. The Vedic thought are as relevant in the modern world as it was in the ancient times.

Vedic thought can be classified into three sections (i) Jnana, (ii) Vijnana and (iii) Prajnana. Jnana is knowledge of the world, Vijnana is knowledge of science and Prajnana is knowledge which is intellectual or philosophical as is found in the Upanishad.

The Vedas have contributed greatly in the field of art and architecture, music, martial arts, astronomy, medicine such as Ayurveda, the mathematical system based on number ten, along with yoga and philosophy.

Vedic mathematics is still relevant today and it is contributing to world progress. Vedic mathematics goes back to 2500 BC. Together with Greek and Roman culture, it has contributed a great deal to the developments and inventions that we enjoy in the modern world. The vedic system had invented the zero, which is one of the greatest developments in the history of the world. The vedic mathematics had developed the system of tens, hundreds and thousands etc. which have made the calculation system easier. The weights, measures and scales have been found from the Vedas which are quite accurate even today.

The Vedas also gave us knowledge of vedic astronomy. Jyotish is an ancient vedic science which is popular even in the west. Vedic astrology which

is called the “eye of the Vedas” has a dominant influence on the truth of life and self knowledge. It assists in discovering one’s personality, character, qualities and traits and points out what will be the best for one’s career. It acts as a mirror to an individual without which the individual may not know how to tackle the problems of life.

Vedic astrology also deals with the concept of time which is the basic concept and the source of power that rules the universe. Astrology is the philosophy of discoursing and analysing past impulses and future actions of both individuals and nations in the light of planetary vibrations. Over 10,000 years ago the vedic seers in their super conscious state know that there were energies in planets and they send out different rays at different angles which have influence on the things and living beings on the earth. Thus through different positions of the planets we know different tendencies and inclinations of an individual but this can also be altered or modified by human effort.

Medicine is an important part of vedic knowledge. In 600 BC Sushruta performed complicated surgeries like caesareans, cataract, artificial limbs, fractures and even plastic surgery and brain surgery. Even use of anaesthesia was known in ancient times. Deep knowledge of anatomy, physiology, embryology, digestion, metabolism and even developed fields like genetics and immunity were found in vedic texts and these are relevant even today.

The vedic age is well known for the science of Ayurveda which is relevant even today. The word ‘ayus’ means life and ‘veda’ means knowledge. So, Ayurveda is the science of healthy living and is not merely concerned with the treatment of diseases or medicines. By following the science of ayurveda we can understand the way to have a sound body, mind and spirit. References of ayurveda is found in the Rigveda.

Vedic thought always preach unity which is a great necessity in the present day situation. The fact that the Vedas preach oneness, it acts as a great inspiration to pave the way for religious unity. The philosophy of the Vedas and the Upanishads can inspire the people to overcome hatred and forge unity.

World peace is the crying need of the time. The Vedas are the greatest inspirer of world peace.

Vedic age is inspiring not only to our country but to the whole world. The Vedas urge upon men to assemble on a common platform, to think together and work together for achieving a common goal. By now we must have understood in nutshell the influence of vedic thought in the modern world.

Once again thanking the organizer for having organized the conference I wind up my brief observations here.

Thank you all

Namaskar

Jai Hind.