

Preface to the First Edition

While making a reconnaissance of ancient Indian literature it was found that it contains a gold mine of knowledge in hydrology. This encouraged the Institute to attempt a thorough study of various available ancient literature to arrive at a document compiling the wealth of hydrological treasures hidden in Indian literature. The report attempts at compiling information on various component processes of hydrology and their interaction.

While carrying out the studies on hydrological information in ancient Indian literature, it was heartening and revealing to note that the hydrological concepts which are coming to be discovered & invented in last 3 centuries were known and well documented in ancient Indian literature even as early as 3000 B.C.

Like other sciences, the science of water also was well developed in ancient India. It is regrettable that at present sufficient attention and respect is not being paid to our ancient Indian sciences. This is because somehow, we have developed a notion that ancient Indian sciences have lost all their utility in the face of modern sciences, which have developed so much to their present position. But this concept of ours will prove false if one tries to realize the real merits of the ancient Indian sciences. It is expected that present report will be able to porove this thing in the area of hydrology.

The attempted study reveals that the field of hydrologic-cum-indological investigation remained totally unearthed and unexplored. This sort of report exploring the knowledge of hydrology as contained in the ancient Indian literature had become a crying need of the day, specially when hydrology has come to occupy its rightful place in India in the modern era. I am sure that if the ancient Indian hydrology is revived and brought to practical use it will prove of much benefit to the India in particular and to mankind as a whole.

This valuable document has been prepared by Shri T.M. Tripathi, Scientist 'B' and other scientists and staff of the Institute. A number of libraries of the country were consulted however special mention needs to be made of libraries of Gurukul Kangari University, Haridwar and Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi.

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