

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA IS A FASCINATING REALM THAT UNVEILS THE INGENUITY AND INTELLECT OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST CIVILIZATIONS. LONG BEFORE THE MODERN SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION, ANCIENT INDIA LAID DOWN FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES THAT INFLUENCED VARIOUS FIELDS SUCH AS MATHEMATICS, ASTRONOMY, METALLURGY, MEDICINE, AND ENGINEERING. EXPLORING THIS RICH HERITAGE NOT ONLY HIGHLIGHTS INDIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS BUT ALSO PROVIDES VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO HOW TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHAPED EARLY TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS.

THE DAWN OF SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT IN ANCIENT INDIA

THE ROOTS OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY IN INDIA TRACE BACK TO THE VEDIC PERIOD (CIRCA 1500–500 BCE), WHERE SCHOLARS BEGAN TO OBSERVE NATURAL PHENOMENA AND DEvised PHILOSOPHICAL FRAMEWORKS TO EXPLAIN THE UNIVERSE. THE ANCIENT TEXTS, INCLUDING THE VEDAS AND UPANISHADS, CONTAIN REFERENCES TO COSMOLOGY, THE NATURE OF MATTER, AND THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH, BLENDING SPIRITUALITY WITH AN EARLY FORM OF EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION.

ONE OF THE STRIKING FEATURES OF ANCIENT INDIAN SCIENCE WAS ITS HOLISTIC APPROACH—COMBINING OBSERVATION, EXPERIMENTATION, AND REASONING. THIS MINDSET PAVED THE WAY FOR SYSTEMATIC STUDIES IN DIVERSE FIELDS, MANY OF WHICH WERE CENTURIES AHEAD OF THEIR TIME.

MATHEMATICS: THE LANGUAGE OF THE COSMOS

MATHEMATICS HOLDS A PLACE OF PRIDE IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA. INDIAN MATHEMATICIANS INTRODUCED CONCEPTS THAT HAVE BECOME FUNDAMENTAL TO MODERN MATHEMATICS.

THE INVENTION OF ZERO AND THE DECIMAL SYSTEM

PERHAPS THE MOST NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION WAS THE CREATION OF THE CONCEPT OF ZERO AS A NUMBER AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DECIMAL PLACE-VALUE SYSTEM. THIS BREAKTHROUGH, DOCUMENTED IN ANCIENT TEXTS LIKE THE BAKHSHALI MANUSCRIPT AND FURTHER REFINED BY SCHOLARS SUCH AS ARYABHATA AND BRAHMAGUPTA, REVOLUTIONIZED CALCULATIONS AND MADE COMPLEX ARITHMETIC OPERATIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE.

ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY IN ANCIENT TEXTS

INDIAN MATHEMATICIANS ALSO MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY. THE SULBASUTRAS, ANCIENT INDIAN MANUALS ON ALTAR CONSTRUCTION (CIRCA 800–500 BCE), CONTAIN GEOMETRIC PRINCIPLES AND APPROXIMATIONS OF THE SQUARE ROOT OF TWO. ARYABHATA'S WORK INCLUDED SOLUTIONS TO QUADRATIC EQUATIONS AND TRIGONOMETRIC SINE TABLES, HIGHLIGHTING THE SOPHISTICATION OF INDIAN MATHEMATICAL KNOWLEDGE.

ASTRONOMY: MAPPING THE HEAVENS

ASTRONOMY WAS DEEPLY INTERTWINED WITH RELIGIOUS AND AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN ANCIENT INDIA. PRECISE OBSERVATIONS OF CELESTIAL BODIES HELPED DETERMINE THE TIMING OF RITUALS AND FARMING CYCLES.

ARYABHATA AND THE HELIOCENTRIC IDEAS

ARYABHATA, ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED ASTRONOMERS OF ANCIENT INDIA, PROPOSED THAT THE EARTH ROTATES ON ITS AXIS, EXPLAINING THE APPARENT MOVEMENT OF STARS. HIS TREATISE, THE ARYABHATIYA, ALSO CALCULATED THE LENGTH OF THE SOLAR YEAR WITH REMARKABLE ACCURACY. WHILE THE WIDELY ACCEPTED HELIOCENTRIC MODEL CAME MUCH LATER IN EUROPE, INDIAN ASTRONOMERS HAD CONCEIVED SIMILAR IDEAS, SHOWING AN ADVANCED UNDERSTANDING OF PLANETARY MOTIONS.

USE OF INSTRUMENTS AND OBSERVATORIES

ANCIENT INDIAN ASTRONOMERS UTILIZED SOPHISTICATED INSTRUMENTS LIKE THE GNOMON AND WATER CLOCKS TO MEASURE TIME AND TRACK CELESTIAL MOVEMENTS. THE OBSERVATORIES BUILT BY LATER SCHOLARS, SUCH AS THE JANTAR MANTAR IN JAIPUR, REFLECT THE CONTINUATION OF THIS SCIENTIFIC TRADITION.

METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING MARVELS

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA WERE NOT LIMITED TO THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE; PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FLOURISHED, ESPECIALLY IN METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING.

THE IRON PILLAR OF DELHI

AN EXTRAORDINARY EXAMPLE IS THE IRON PILLAR OF DELHI, DATING BACK TO THE GUPTA PERIOD (CIRCA 4TH CENTURY CE). THIS PILLAR, MADE FROM A UNIQUE IRON ALLOY, HAS RESISTED CORROSION FOR OVER 1,600 YEARS, SHOWCASING ADVANCED METALLURGICAL TECHNIQUES. THE PRECISE COMPOSITION AND FORGING METHODS USED REMAIN SUBJECTS OF STUDY AND ADMIRATION.

URBAN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

THE CITIES OF THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION, SUCH AS MOHENJO-DARO AND HARAPPA, DEMONSTRATE REMARKABLE URBAN PLANNING WITH WELL-LAID STREETS, DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, AND STANDARDIZED BRICKS. ANCIENT INDIAN ARCHITECTS ALSO MASTERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPLES, STEPWELLS, AND WATER RESERVOIRS THAT COMBINED AESTHETIC BEAUTY WITH FUNCTIONAL DESIGN.

MEDICINE AND AYURVEDA: THE SCIENCE OF HEALING

ANCIENT INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO MEDICINE THROUGH AYURVEDA REMAINS INFLUENTIAL EVEN TODAY. THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA IN HEALTHCARE WERE HOLISTIC, INTEGRATING PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING.

SUSHRUTA AND SURGICAL TECHNIQUES

SUSHRUTA, OFTEN REGARDED AS THE FATHER OF SURGERY, AUTHORED THE SUSHRUTA SAMHITA, WHICH DETAILS OVER 300 SURGICAL PROCEDURES AND 120 SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS. TECHNIQUES SUCH AS RHINOPLASTY (RECONSTRUCTIVE NOSE SURGERY) WERE PRACTICED WITH PRECISION, HIGHLIGHTING ADVANCED MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.

HERBAL MEDICINE AND PREVENTIVE CARE

AYURVEDA EMPHASIZED THE USE OF HERBS, DIET, AND LIFESTYLE ADJUSTMENTS TO MAINTAIN HEALTH AND PREVENT DISEASE. TEXTS LIKE CHARAKA SAMHITA OUTLINE DIAGNOSTIC METHODS AND TREATMENTS THAT FORMED THE FOUNDATION OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN MEDICINE.

MATHEMATICAL ASTRONOMY AND CALENDRIAL SCIENCE

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA ALSO EXTENDED INTO DEVELOPING SOPHISTICATED CALENDARS AND TIMEKEEPING METHODS CRITICAL FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

CREATION OF PANCHANGA (HINDU CALENDAR)

ANCIENT SCHOLARS DEVISED THE PANCHANGA, A LUNISOLAR CALENDAR BASED ON PRECISE ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS. THIS CALENDAR GUIDED FESTIVALS, AGRICULTURAL CYCLES, AND ASTROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS, REFLECTING THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF ASTRONOMICAL KNOWLEDGE.

MATHEMATICAL MODELS FOR PLANETARY MOTION

INDIAN ASTRONOMERS FORMULATED MATHEMATICAL MODELS TO PREDICT PLANETARY POSITIONS AND ECLIPSES. THESE MODELS WERE USED FOR CENTURIES AND INFLUENCED ISLAMIC AND EUROPEAN ASTRONOMY DURING THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD.

LEGACY AND INFLUENCE ON MODERN SCIENCE

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA HAVE LEFT A LASTING LEGACY THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE. THE TRANSMISSION OF INDIAN MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS VIA ARAB SCHOLARS PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SHAPING GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS. MOREOVER, THE HOLISTIC PRINCIPLES OF AYURVEDA ARE GAINING RENEWED INTEREST WORLDWIDE AS COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE.

UNDERSTANDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANCIENT INDIAN SCIENCE ENCOURAGES A BROADER APPRECIATION OF HOW CIVILIZATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE CONTRIBUTED UNIQUELY TO THE COLLECTIVE HUMAN KNOWLEDGE. IT ALSO SERVES AS A REMINDER THAT INNOVATION OFTEN THRIVES AT THE INTERSECTION OF OBSERVATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND PRACTICAL NECESSITY.

EXPLORING ANCIENT INDIA'S SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE PROVIDES A FASCINATING JOURNEY THAT CONNECTS THE PAST TO THE PRESENT, REVEALING HOW EARLY THINKERS LAID DOWN THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MANY DISCIPLINES INTEGRAL TO MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT WERE SOME KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANCIENT INDIA TO MATHEMATICS?

ANCIENT INDIA MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MATHEMATICS, INCLUDING THE INVENTION OF THE CONCEPT OF ZERO, THE DECIMAL SYSTEM, AND IMPORTANT WORKS IN ALGEBRA, GEOMETRY, AND TRIGONOMETRY, EXEMPLIFIED BY SCHOLARS LIKE ARYABHATA AND BRAHMAGUPTA.

How did Ancient Indian Science Influence Modern Medicine?

Ancient Indian science laid the foundation for Ayurveda, one of the world's oldest holistic healing systems, emphasizing balance in bodily systems and using natural remedies, which continue to influence modern alternative medicine and holistic health practices.

What Technological Advancements were Made in Ancient Indian Metallurgy?

Ancient India excelled in metallurgy, producing high-quality iron and steel, exemplified by the famous Iron Pillar of Delhi, which demonstrates advanced knowledge of corrosion resistance and metalworking techniques centuries ahead of their time.

How did Ancient Indians Contribute to Astronomy?

Ancient Indian astronomers like Aryabhata and Varahamihira made groundbreaking observations and developed accurate models of planetary motion, the concept of the Earth's rotation, and calculated the solar year with remarkable precision.

What Role did Ancient Indian Texts Play in the Development of Science and Technology?

Ancient Indian texts such as the Vedas, Sulbasutras, and treatises by scholars like Charaka and Sushruta compiled extensive knowledge on subjects ranging from mathematics and astronomy to medicine and engineering, serving as foundational references for scientific thought and technological innovation.

Additional Resources

Science and Technology of Ancient India: An Analytical Review

Science and Technology of Ancient India represent a rich tapestry of knowledge that significantly contributed to the development of human civilization. Spanning several millennia, this body of knowledge encompasses diverse fields such as mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, medicine, and engineering. The influence of ancient Indian innovations is evident not only within the subcontinent but also across the globe, as many foundational concepts were transmitted through trade, scholarship, and cultural exchange. This article explores the science and technology of ancient India from a professional perspective, highlighting key advancements, methodologies, and their enduring legacy.

Historical Context and Significance

The timeline of ancient Indian science and technology stretches from the Indus Valley Civilization (circa 3300–1300 BCE) through the Vedic period, and into the classical age marked by the Gupta Empire (circa 320–550 CE). Each era contributed uniquely to the corpus of scientific knowledge. Unlike isolated discoveries, the scientific achievements of ancient India were deeply interwoven with philosophical and spiritual traditions, particularly in areas such as astronomy and medicine. This integrated approach often resulted in holistic systems that combined empirical observation with theoretical rigor.

One of the distinguishing features of ancient Indian scientific development was the systematic codification of knowledge, often documented in Sanskrit texts. Works such as the **Sushruta Samhita** in medicine and Aryabhata's **Aryabhatiya** in mathematics and astronomy serve as primary sources that provide insight into the methodologies and technologies of the time.

MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY: FOUNDATIONS OF PRECISION

MATHEMATICAL INNOVATIONS

MATHEMATICS IN ANCIENT INDIA WAS NOT MERELY AN ABSTRACT DISCIPLINE BUT WAS APPLIED EXTENSIVELY IN ARCHITECTURE, ASTRONOMY, AND COMMERCE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DECIMAL NUMERAL SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE CONCEPT OF ZERO AS A DIGIT, STANDS AS A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT. THIS INNOVATION SIMPLIFIED COMPLEX CALCULATIONS AND IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL MATHEMATICS.

ARYABHATA (476–550 CE) WAS A PIONEERING MATHEMATICIAN AND ASTRONOMER WHO INTRODUCED CONCEPTS SUCH AS TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS, THE APPROXIMATION OF π (PI), AND ALGEBRAIC TECHNIQUES. HIS WORK LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE SCHOLARS AND INFLUENCED ISLAMIC AND EUROPEAN MATHEMATICS.

OTHER NOTABLE MATHEMATICIANS LIKE BRAHMAGUPTA AND BHASKARA II EXPANDED ON ALGEBRAIC SOLUTIONS, INCLUDING RULES FOR ARITHMETIC OPERATIONS ON ZERO AND NEGATIVE NUMBERS. THE USE OF ZERO AND PLACE VALUE NOTATION DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED COMPUTATIONAL EFFICIENCY, FACILITATING ADVANCEMENTS IN ENGINEERING AND ASTRONOMY.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS

ASTRONOMY IN ANCIENT INDIA WAS HIGHLY ADVANCED, MARKED BY PRECISE OBSERVATIONS AND SOPHISTICATED THEORIES OF CELESTIAL MOVEMENTS. INDIAN ASTRONOMERS ACCURATELY CALCULATED THE LENGTH OF THE SOLAR YEAR, ECLIPSES, AND PLANETARY MOTIONS. THE *SURYA SIDDHANTA*, AN ANCIENT ASTRONOMICAL TREATISE, DESCRIBES VARIOUS INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS THE GNOMON (A DEVICE TO MEASURE SHADOWS) AND WATER CLOCKS USED FOR TIME MEASUREMENT.

THE HELIOCENTRIC MODEL WAS CONTEMPLATED IN LATER PERIODS, AND INDIAN ASTRONOMERS DEVELOPED METHODS FOR PREDICTING ECLIPSES CENTURIES IN ADVANCE. THESE ACHIEVEMENTS REFLECT A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF OBSERVATIONAL TECHNIQUES, MATHEMATICAL MODELING, AND EMPIRICAL VALIDATION.

MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

THE AYURVEDIC TRADITION

ANCIENT INDIAN MEDICINE, PRIMARILY REPRESENTED BY AYURVEDA, IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST HOLISTIC HEALING SYSTEMS. THE *CHARAKA SAMHITA* AND *SUSHRUTA SAMHITA* ARE FOUNDATIONAL TEXTS THAT DETAIL ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, AND SURGICAL TECHNIQUES. SUSHRUTA, OFTEN CALLED THE "FATHER OF SURGERY," OUTLINED PROCEDURES SUCH AS RHINOPLASTY (NASAL RECONSTRUCTION) AND CATARACT SURGERY, DEMONSTRATING AN ADVANCED UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN ANATOMY AND SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

AYURVEDA EMPHASIZED THE BALANCE OF BODILY HUMORS (DOSHAS) AND INCORPORATED HERBAL REMEDIES, DIETARY REGULATIONS, AND PHYSICAL THERAPIES. THIS INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE NOT ONLY TREATED DISEASES BUT ALSO FOCUSED ON PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND OVERALL WELL-BEING.

PHARMACOLOGY AND SURGERY

THE PHARMACOPOEIA DEVELOPED IN ANCIENT INDIA INCLUDED HUNDREDS OF HERBAL COMPOUNDS AND MINERALS, MANY OF WHICH ARE STILL USED IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE. THE METICULOUS CLASSIFICATION OF DRUGS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BODY ILLUSTRATES A SOPHISTICATED LEVEL OF CHEMICAL AND BOTANICAL KNOWLEDGE.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS DESCRIBED IN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS REVEAL A HIGH DEGREE OF PRECISION AND SPECIALIZATION. PROCEDURES SUCH AS CESAREAN SECTIONS, FRACTURE SETTING, AND DENTAL SURGERIES WERE WELL-DOCUMENTED, INDICATING A COMPREHENSIVE SURGICAL PRACTICE.

METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING

URBAN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION IS RENOWNED FOR ITS ADVANCED URBAN PLANNING, CHARACTERIZED BY WELL-LAID-OUT CITIES LIKE HARAPPA AND MOHENJO-DARO. THESE CITIES FEATURED GRID PATTERNS, SOPHISTICATED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, AND STANDARDIZED FIRED BRICKS, REFLECTING EXPERTISE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING AND MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT.

LATER PERIODS SAW THE CONSTRUCTION OF MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURE SUCH AS STUPAS, TEMPLES, AND STEPWELLS, SHOWCASING MASTERY IN STONE CARVING, STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING, AND HYDRAULICS.

METALLURGICAL MASTERY

ANCIENT INDIAN METALLURGISTS ACHIEVED REMARKABLE FEATS, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH-QUALITY STEEL KNOWN AS “WOOTZ” STEEL, FAMED FOR ITS STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY. THIS STEEL WAS TRADED EXTENSIVELY AND INFLUENCED WEAPON-MAKING IN OTHER CULTURES.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE USE OF ALLOYS SUCH AS BRASS AND BRONZE, ALONG WITH ADVANCED CASTING TECHNIQUES. THE IRON PILLAR OF DELHI, DATING BACK TO THE GUPTA PERIOD, STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO ANCIENT INDIA’S EXPERTISE IN CORROSION-RESISTANT IRONWORKING.

SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION

UNLIKE THE MODERN WESTERN SCIENTIFIC METHOD, ANCIENT INDIAN SCIENCE OFTEN COMBINED EMPIRICAL OBSERVATION WITH PHILOSOPHICAL REASONING. THIS SYNTHESIS FACILITATED A UNIQUE APPROACH WHERE EXPERIMENTATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND THEORETICAL CONTEMPLATION WERE INTERTWINED.

EDUCATION SYSTEMS SUCH AS THE TAKSHASHILA AND NALANDA UNIVERSITIES PLAYED CRITICAL ROLES IN PRESERVING AND DISSEMINATING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE. MANUSCRIPTS WERE METICULOUSLY COPIED AND COMMENTED UPON, ALLOWING FOR KNOWLEDGE CONTINUITY AND REFINEMENT ACROSS CENTURIES.

IMPACT AND LEGACY OF ANCIENT INDIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA NOT ONLY SHAPED ITS OWN SOCIETY BUT ALSO LEFT A LASTING IMPRINT ON GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS. THE TRANSMISSION OF MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS, ASTRONOMICAL KNOWLEDGE, AND MEDICINAL PRACTICES THROUGH TRADE ROUTES AND SCHOLARLY EXCHANGES INFLUENCED CIVILIZATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND EUROPE.

CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARS RECOGNIZE THAT MANY MODERN SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES HAVE ROOTS IN ANCIENT INDIAN DISCOVERIES. THE INTEGRATION OF THEORETICAL INSIGHTS WITH PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS REMAINS A HALLMARK OF THIS TRADITION, INSPIRING ONGOING RESEARCH IN FIELDS SUCH AS MATHEMATICS, MEDICINE, AND MATERIALS SCIENCE.

IN ASSESSING THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ANCIENT INDIA, IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT THIS HERITAGE EMBODIES A SOPHISTICATED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH THAT CHALLENGES SIMPLISTIC NARRATIVES ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC

Science And Technology Of Ancient India

science and technology of ancient india: Aspects of Science and Technology in Ancient India Arun Kumar Jha, Seema Sahay, 2023-03-14 This book critically examines different aspects of scientific and technological development in Ancient India. It studies the special contribution of the history of science in our scientific understanding and its relationship with the philosophy and sociology of science. The volume: Discusses diverse and wide-ranging themes including Tibetan Buddhist tradition of neuro-biology; Sheds light on the unique developments within iron technology and urbanization in ancient Odisha; Studies the trajectory of proto-historic astronomy in India and the science of monsoon in early India; Evaluates the legacy of Aryabhata based on his major works related to astronomy and mathematics through a multidimensional perspective; Analyses the traditional knowledge of medicine in early India, the golden age of surgery with reference to the ancient Greek and Arabic systems of medicine, and the Buddhist influence on the science of medicine in Tibet. This book will be an essential read for scholars and researchers of ancient history, Indian history, history of science, history of technology, science and technology studies, and South Asian studies.

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