

'India had a superior civilisation'

BANGALORE, Oct. 11.

India may have had a superior civilisation with possible contacts with extra-terrestrial visitors, and the flying devices called 'Vimanas' described in ancient Indian texts may underline their possible connections with today's aerospace technology, an Italian scientist told the World Space Conference here today.

Dr. Roberto Pinotti asked the delegates to examine in detail the Hindu texts instead of dismissing 'all the *Vimanas* descriptions and traditions as mere myth.'

The importance of such studies and investigations could prove to be shocking for today's man because the existence of flying devices beyond mythology can only be explained with a forgotten superior civilisation on earth,' he said.

Pointing out that Indian Gods and heroes fought in the skies using piloted vehicles with terrible weapons, Dr. Pinotti said they were similar to modern jet-propelled flying machines.

32 secrets: He said certain descriptions of the *Vimanas* seemed 'too detailed and technical in nature to be labelled as myth.' He cited various texts to show there were 32 secrets relating to the operation of *Vimanas*, some of which could be compared to modern day use of radar, solar energy and photography.

Quoting from '*Vymanika Shastra*,' he said the ancient flying devices of India were

made from special heat absorbing metals named '*Somaka, Soundalika and Mourthwika*.'

He said the text also discussed the seven kinds of mirror and lenses installed aboard for defensive and offensive uses. The so-called '*Pinjula Mirror*' offered a sort of 'visual shield' preventing the pilots from being blinded by 'evil rays' and the weapon '*Marika*' used to shoot enemy aircraft 'does not seem too different from what we today call laser technology,' he said.

According to the Italian expert, the 'principles of propulsion as far as the descriptions were concerned, might be defined as electrical and chemical but solar energy was also involved.

For instance, the '*Tripura Vimana*' mentioned in '*Vymanika Shastra*' was a large craft operated by 'motive power generated by solar rays,' Dr. Pinotti said, adding 'its elongated form was surely much closer to that of a modern blimp.'

Sophisticated design: According to Dr. Pinotti, the huge '*Shakuna Vimana*' described in the text 'might be defined as a cross between a plane and a rocket of our times and its design might remind one of today's space shuttle.'

'Surely, it expresses the most complex and sophisticated aeronautical design among all the other descriptions of

Vimanas mentioned in the '*Vymanika Shastra*,' he said. He described the author of the treatise '*Vymanika Shastra*' as a man 'attempting to explain an advanced technology.'

Dr. Pinotti, who has made an exhaustive study of the history of Indian astronautics, said another text, '*Samarangana Sutradhara*' had 230 stanzas devoted to the principles of building *Vimanas* and their use in peace and war.

He said ancient Aryans knew the use of the element 'fire' as could be seen from their '*Astra*' weapons that included *Soposamhara* (a flame belching missile), *Prasvapa* (which caused sleep) and four kinds of *Agni Astras* that travelled in sheets of flame and produced thunder.

He said the car that was supposed to go up to *Suryamandal* (solar system) and the *Naksetramandala* (stellar system) cannot be dismissed as a myth because of the 'technical nature' of its description.

Dr. Pinotti said depictions of space travel, total destruction by incredible weapons and the fact that *Vimanas* resembled modern unidentified flying objects would suggest that India had a 'superior but forgotten civilisation.'

'In the light of this, we think it will be better to examine the Hindu texts' and subject the descriptive models of *Vimanas* to more scientific scrutiny,' he said. — PTI