

INTRODUCTION OF INDO-PERSIAN ASTRONOMY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE INSCRIPTIONS OF QUADRANTS

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ABSTRACT

Indeed the astronomical instruments are considered as pioneer tools to fulfill people's basic astronomical demands. The Indian astronomical literature, as well as instruments, were introduced during the earliest time of Vedic period and some of them are still extant in various libraries and museums of the world. But after the 12-13 century A. D., the Indian astronomy amalgamated with Islamic astronomy that made a catalytic change in the promotion of Indian astronomy. This co-existence of Indian and Islamic scientists followed by a mass production of great astronomical literature as well as instruments, the most popular of them are: Astrolabe, Celestial Globe, Armillary Sphere (Gola-Yantra), Quadrants (Turya-Yantra), Qibla Compass, Sundials and Horary Bowls (Tas e Gharyali) etcetera. This article traces the records of the emergence of Persian astronomy. In India till the decline of Mughals with the special reference of Quadrants (Turya-Yantra). It provides unparalleled information about the specimens of Indian quadrants which were designed with Persian and Sanskrit inscriptions. There are two kinds of Quadrants exist 1: Sine Quadrant and 2: Horary Quadrant. So this study is supposed to explore the shining past of Indian astronomy with a special study of the inscriptions engraved on the existing specimens of Horary and Sine Quadrants.

KEYWORDS: Indo-Persian Astronomy, Quadrant, Sultanate Period, Mughal Period, Shabnuma (Night Pointer)-wa-Roznuma (Day Pointer), Padmanabha & DhruvabhramaYantra