

The Cosmic Egg—An Indian interpretation on the creation of the universe



Ananya · Follow

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We all know that the universe is massive and contains everything that we have ever discovered from the big bang. I personally like to think of it as — the humans took everything they know about outer space and put it in a commonplace called the Universe.



The Observable Universe

There's a common misconception that people have when it comes to differentiating between the “universe” and the “**observable universe**”.

What is the observable universe?

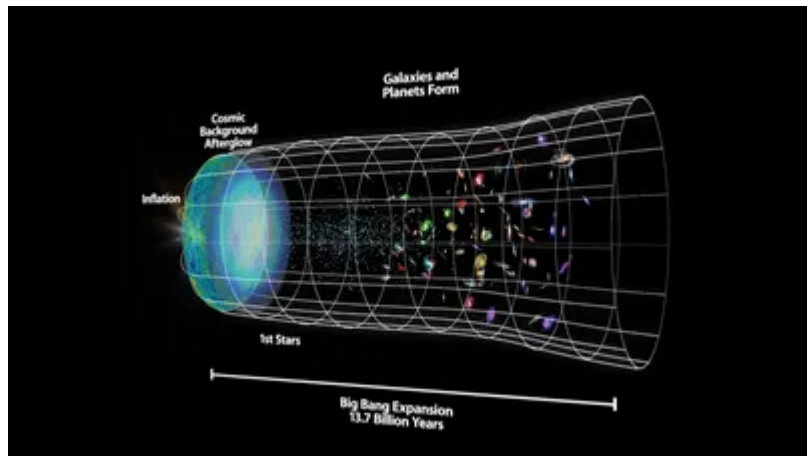
It is simply the extent we, as humans, can see (and have discovered) different celestial objects in outer space. These objects can be stars, planets, galaxies, black holes, quasars, and even dark energy. This is the extent we have been able to

observe with the current level of technology we possess. We are intelligent enough to know that there's more to this universe, but not intelligent enough to be able to explore that... yet.

So, we call, what we have been able to discover, the “observable universe”. It is measured to be **46 Billion Light Years** long.

Ever since the Big Bang, scientists believe that the universe has been expanding at a rate of 73.3 kilometers per second per megaparsec, give or take 2.5 km/sec/Mpc. American astronomer, Edwin Hubble, discovered that the universe is expanding by noticing how the other galaxies were moving farther away from us and the farther they were, the faster it was moving.

So, according to the Theory of Cosmic Inflation proposed by Dr. Alan Guth, if it is assumed that the universe started expanding after 1e-37 th of a second after the Big Bang, and the size of the universe before the inflation began was age times the speed of light, then, that would mean that the universe is currently 150 sextillion times larger than the size of the observable universe.



Cosmic Inflation

$t = 0.0000000000000000000000000000000001$ seconds ($t =$ age of universe)

This implies that the current size of the universe is 150 Sextillion * 46 Bn Light Years. This is why it is important to know the difference between the universe and the observable universe.



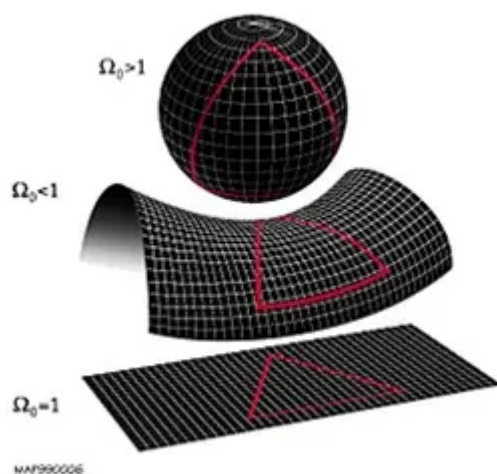
Value of one sextillion

It must feel impossible to even fathom how small we are in this large universe.

What is the shape of the universe?

This question is still under debate as scientists still have not been able to disprove that the universe is flat, nor have they been able to prove that the universe is a closed sphere. But, recent studies carried out by the **Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE)**, also known as Explorer 66, led by George Smoot and John Mather, who received a Nobel Prize in 2006 for making it a starting point for cosmology as a precision science, states that it is possible that there might be some curvature when it comes to the shape of the universe. The question is still under debate and there is evidence that supports both theories. But the COBE project really changed the opinion of some scientists.

Depending on the value of the density parameter Omega, Ω , there are different cases that determine the shape. The density parameter is the average density of the universe divided by the critical energy density, that is, the mass-energy needed for a universe to be flat.



- If $\Omega = 1$, the universe is flat.
- If $\Omega > 1$, there is positive curvature.
- If $\Omega < 1$ there is negative curvature.

The results from this project indicate an uneven pattern in the radiation released from the decoupling of matter when the universe was just 300,000 years old. The blue and magenta patterns represent that there were areas slightly colder and

slightly warmer than average. Even though these variations are at a level of about 1:100,000, they are nearly enough to see the structures we see today.

What do the Hindu scriptures say about this?

The concepts of Hiranyagarbha and Brahmanda are comparable to the cosmic egg origin system.



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Hiranyagarbha, हिरण्यगर्भः, literally translates to the **Golden Egg**, which is poetically translated as the **Universal Egg**. It was first mentioned in the Rig Veda explaining the origins of the universe from the cosmic egg. It is the manifested cosmos in Vedic Philosophy.

Rig Veda — 10.121.1

हिरण्यगर्भः समवर्तताग्रे भूतस्य जातः पतिरेकासीत् ।

स दाधार पृथ्वीं ध्यामुतेमां कस्मै देवायहविषा विधेम ॥

hiranyagarbhaḥ samavartatāgre bhūtasya jātaḥ patirekāśīta |

sa dādharma prthvīm dhyāmutemām kasmāi devāyahaviṣā vidhema ||

In the beginning was the Divinity in his splendour, manifested as the sole Lord of land, skies, water, space and that beneath and He upheld the earth and the heavens

The golden embryo evolved in the beginning. Born the lord of what came to be, he alone existed.

He supports the earth and the heaven here — — who is the god to whom we should do homage with our oblation?

The Bhagavatha Purana, Brahmanda Purana, and Vayu Purana contain references to the initial process of the origins of the universe as a cosmic egg. The Bhagavatha Purana/ Srimad Bhagavatham contains the twelve-step process on the creation of the universe, including the history of Brahmanda.

This is also mentioned in the Vishnu Sahasranamam in stanza 8, where Lord Vishnu is considered the supreme being who descends in the form of an avatar when the world is threatened with evil, chaos, and destructive forces to protect Dharma.



ईशानः प्राणदः प्राणो ज्येष्ठः श्रेष्ठः प्रजापतिः ।
हिरण्यगर्भो भूगर्भो माधवो मधुसूदनः ॥ ८ ॥

**eesaanah praanadah praano jyeshthah sreshthah prajaapatih
hiranya-garbho bhoo-garbho maodharo madhu-soodanah.**

Vishnu Sahasranamam — Stanza 8

Jyeshthah -Older than all. The Infinite is That which was even before the very concept of space (Aakaasa) came into existence. The term is the superlative degree of the Aged. In short, the import of this term is the same as the more familiar term used in our sastras, the Ancient (Sanaatanah).

Sreshthah -The most Glorious One: Here again it is the superlative degree of glorious, Sreyah.

Prajaapati -The Lord (Pati) of all living creatures (Prajaa) .The term Praja means 'Children'. Therefore Prajaapati means the Great Father, to whom all beings in the living kingdom are His own children, In this sense, the term connotes One, who, as the Creator, creates all creatures.

Hiranyagarbha -One who dwells in the womb (garbha) of the world (Hiranya). The Upanishad declares: "All these are in-dwelt by the Lord." The "Golden Universe" is an idiom in Sanskrit where 'gold' means "objects of fulfilment and joy". One who dwells in them all is Hiranyagarbha. The term can also mean as He who, having become first the Creator, has come to be considered as the womb of all objects.

Bhoo -One who is the very womb of the world (Bhoo) The One from whom the world has emerged out. In the Cosmic Form of the Lord, this world occupies an insignificant though sacred portion, just as the foetus in the womb, constantly and lovingly nurtured and nourished by the very Essence in the mother. Or, Bhoo = the earth: the divine consort of Hari: Garbha = Protector.

Credit — [Sivakumar](#)

What is being proven in modern sciences in the 21st century can have parallels drawn to similar concepts proposed in indigenous civilizations centuries ago. It's time we credit our ancestors with full pride for all the contemplation they made toward understanding the nature of one's existence.

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I see myself as a philomath. There are lots of things in this universe that are beyond my capability to comprehend, but I sure do enjoy trying to learn them.

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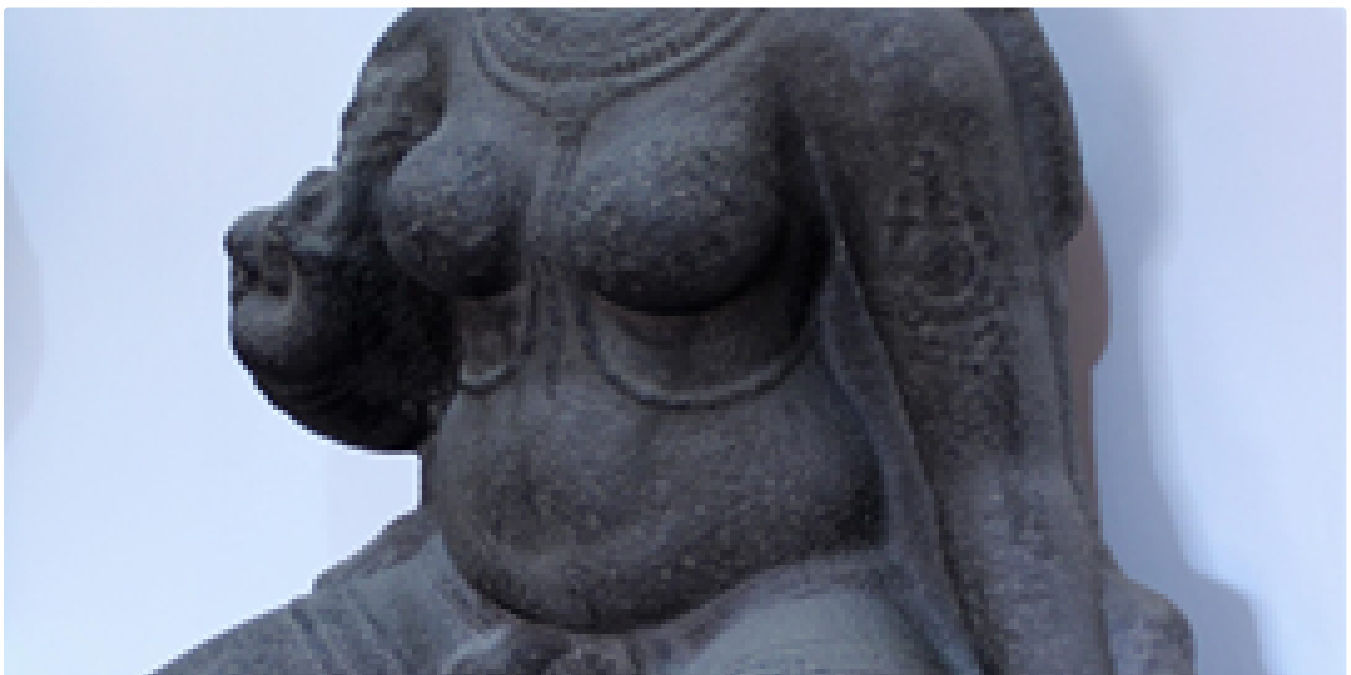
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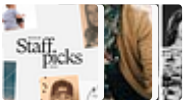


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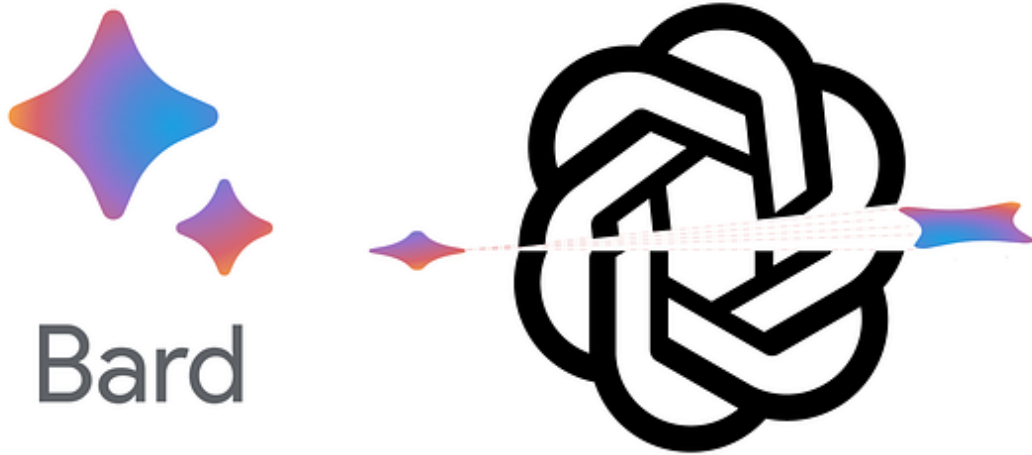
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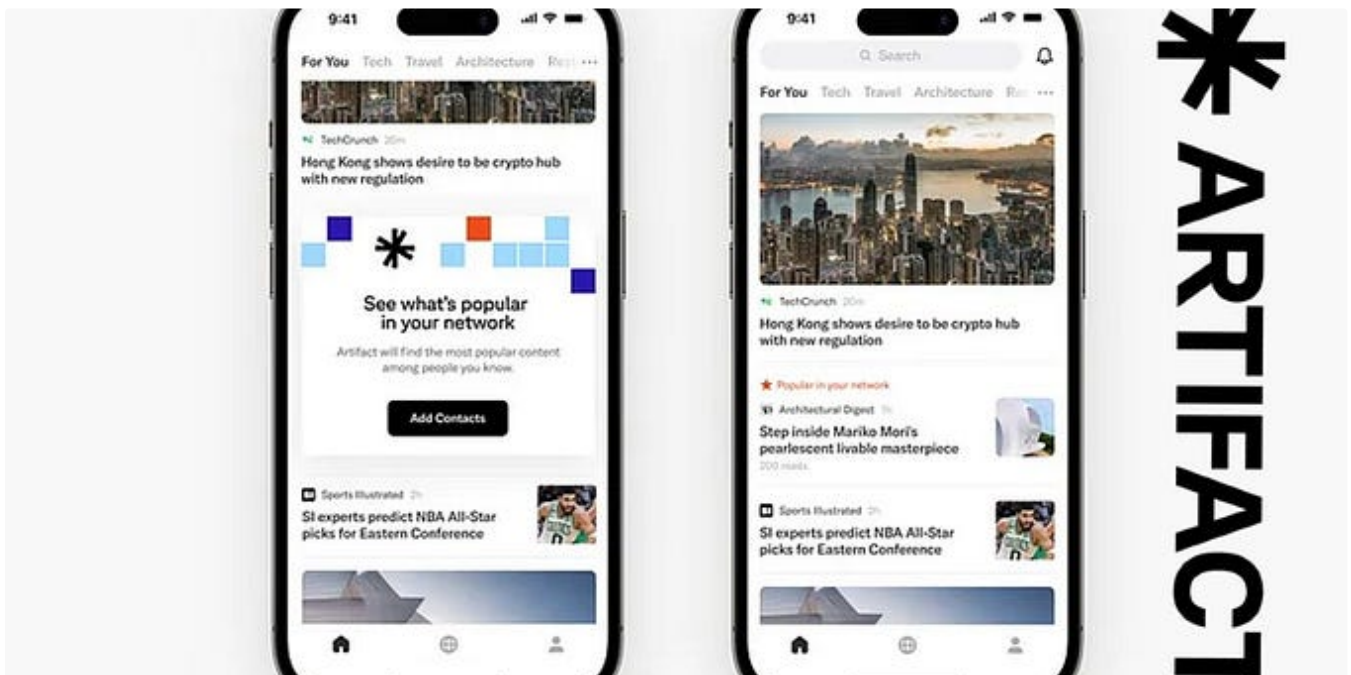
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