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Balavin Kural





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Kanchi Paramcharya explains about Bilva tree's existence referring to its sanctity from different puranam.

The verse in Cri suktam "Tava tanasadhilaataU

Science Snippets: "The Powerful Vitamin C", by Latha Chakravarthy



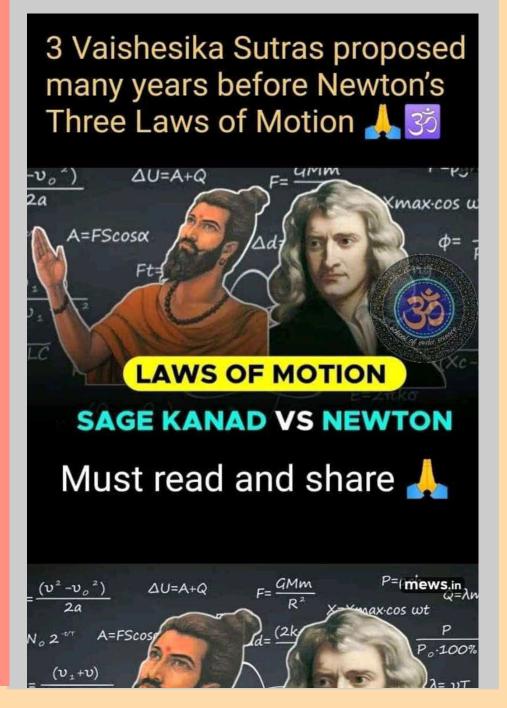
What do citruses, tomatoes, berries, cabbage, cauliflower and greens all have in common? The invincible vitamin C! Also known as ascorbic acid, Vitamin C is a water-soluble vitamin, an antioxidant powerhouse that is capable of boosting the immune system. Hundreds of years ago, consuming citrus fruits was correlated to preventing scurvy – a disease caused by weakened connective tissues. Vitamin C needs to be taken daily, as the body is incapable of storing it. Vitamin C also boosts iron absorption, improves collagen production, and protects the skin from UV damage. As an antioxidant, vitamin C is

Know your Mythology: "Nala learns game science", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy



During the exile, Yudhisthira met a great sage, Vrihadaswa and in sorrow, he asked the sage if anyone else in history had suffered so much because of gambling. Sage Vrihadaswa said, "Yes, long ago there was a pious, brilliant and powerful king who married an equally brilliant, gorgeous girl, and their marriage was tested and blessed by the Gods like Deveraja, Agni,

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Kanchi Paramcharya explains about Bilva tree's existence referring to its sanctity from different puranam. The verse in Sri suktam "Tava tapasodhijaataH vanaspatiH bilvaH" has references to penance performed by Lakshmi. The meaning of the word 'Tapas' arises from the root 'tap', which means to burn. Thus Tapas is something, which causes physical difficulty (vividha klesha janakam karma). Tapas according to "Ratna Kosha," means Brahma Sankalpa.

According to Yogini Tantra (1,5), Lakshmi went to SriSailam and performed a severe penance to please Lord Mahadeva. Pleased by her austerities, Lord Shiva granted her a place in Sri Vishnu's heart.

A Bilva tree grew in the place where Sridevi performed her penance.

This tree became a favourite of both Sri Lakshmi and Lord Mahadeva.

According to Vamana Purana, Sridevi performed a severe penance for the welfare of the entire universe in Kanchipuram, on the banks of river Neelaa. A Bilva tree sprouted from her right hand in that place.

According to Brihaddharma Purana, Lakshmi performed penance to please Lord Shiva in Kapaalamochana Kshetra. Pleased with her, Lord granted her his favourite Bilva tree.

According to Agni Purana, when Sridevi was roaming in the form of Kamadhenu, the celestial cow, Bilva tree grew on the dung that fell from her, in Kolhapur.

Skanda Purana, Kalika Purana and Brahmanda Purana also speak of Lakshmi's penance in a forest of Bilva trees. Since Lakshmi resides in the Bilva tree, its fruit is called 'Shriphala' and 'Lakshmiphala'. Just as Sri Parvati resides in Tulasi, Sri Saraswati in gooseberry tree, Sri Lakshmi is said to reside in Bilva tree. Bilva leaf consists of three Dalas (petals or leaves), which represent Brahman, Vishnu and Rudra and its stalk represents Adi Shakti (Jnana Bhairava Tantra 6th Patala). It is also believed that the Bilva tree took its birth on the third day of Shukla Paksha in the month of Vaishakha. This day is celebrated as Bilva Jayanti.

In this Rik, Bilva is referred to as 'Vanaspati'. Vanaspati means a tree without flowers, but having fruits (ApuShpaaH phalavantaH). Bilva is also called a Vanaspati because of its medicinal properties. Its power to cure various diseases is also attributed to the penance of Lakshmi. It is also used in Tantric alchemy and in Kayakalpa.

Tapasaa tasya phalaani maa yaa antaraa yaaH baahyaaH cha alakshmiiH nudantu - The usage of the word 'Tapas' for the second time indicates Anugraha (grace) rather than penance here. Or, it may also mean worship or Upasana. It is wished here that the Bilva fruits, sanctified by having been offered to Sridevi by means of Pooja, shall eliminate one's misfortune (Sri Sukta Bhashyam). When we analyse the word 'Alakshmi', here there are two types of Alakshmi, internal and external that are spoken of. Internal Alakshmi refers to ego, ignorance, greed, lust and other undesirable qualities. External Alakshmi refers to sinful activities, lack of cleanliness, laziness, disease, poverty and performing actions banned by the Vedas. Thus, one prays to Sridevi to eliminate one's Alakshmi by asking for Her infinite grace. Here, the word 'Maa' is taken to mean 'Maam' (me) or mayi (in me). Sridevi is requested to eliminate AshriiH, present in the Sadhaka.

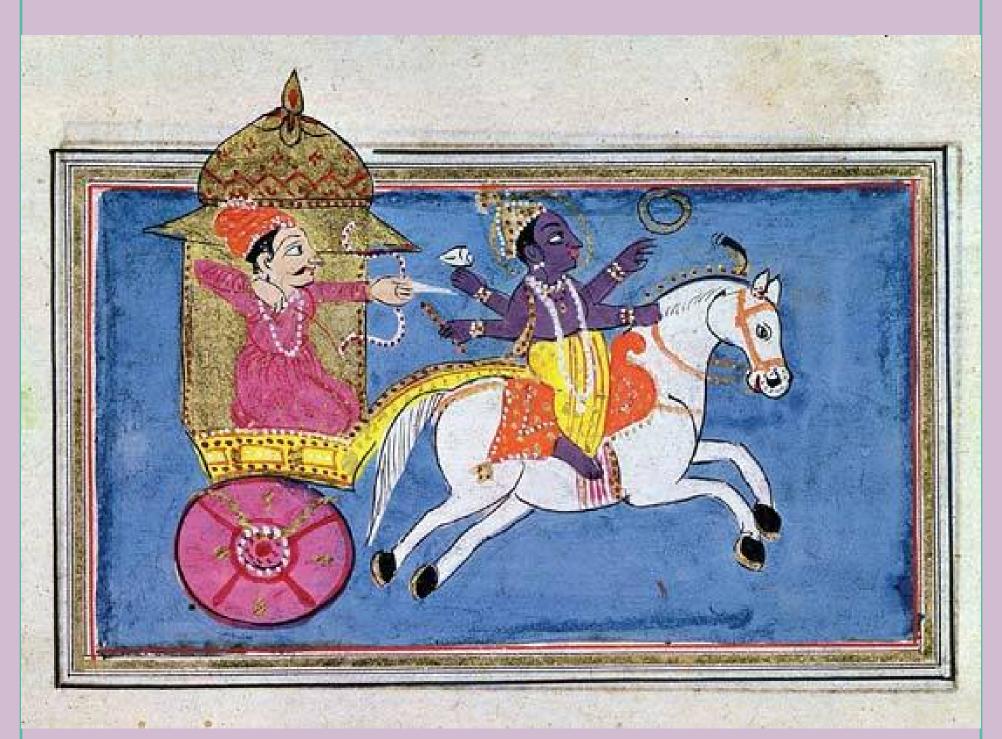
Gratitude and reverence to Kanchi Paramcharya Kamakoti.

Balambika Charanam.

Image courtesy:

www.onmanorama.com

Know your Mythology: "Nala learns game science", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy



During the exile, Yudhisthira met a great sage, Vrihadaswa and in sorrow, he asked the sage if anyone else in history had suffered so much because of gambling. Sage Vrihadaswa said, "Yes, long ago there was a pious, brilliant and powerful king who married an equally brilliant, gorgeous girl, and their marriage was tested and blessed by the Gods like Deveraja, Agni, Varuna and so on. Yet, when bad luck Kali latched onto that King, he suffered severe loss of everything, including his kingdom in gambling. He was cast out of his own kingdom and had to endure many sufferings. His name was Nala, and his brilliant spouse's name was Damayanthi."

Blessed by the Devas, Nala possessed the science of the horses; his

choice of horses and the speed at which he could ride them. Damayanthi, through some very impressive investigation, identified that Nala is potentially in Ayodhya with King Rituparna as a cook/charioteer. Rituparna was an equally super intelligent and powerful King. Damayanthi had a strategy, she sent a message to Rituparna's court saying, "'Bhima's daughter, Damayanti, will hold another Swayamvara. All the kings and princes are going there. In my calculation, the ceremony will take place tomorrow. She will choose a second husband tomorrow after the sun rises, as she does not know whether the heroic Nala lives."

King Rituparna had to make haste, he persuaded Vahuka and said 'You're the only one who could possibly help me, I have to be there at Damayanti's Swayamvar in a single day.' Nala had disguised himself with the help of the massive snake Karkotaka who he freed from Narada's curse. He'd been living out his days as a horse trainer and cook. Upon hearing about the Swayamvar, Nala's heart burst in sadness. He pondered for a second and thought to himself 'Is she doing this out of sadness? Or is this another one of her schemes for my sake? I suppose I shall find out.". They set out immediately, the speed at which they covered ground was shocking. During their rapid journey, Rituparna's upper garment accidentally slipped and fell to the ground. In a moment of concern, he turned to Nala and urgently exclaimed, "I must retrieve it. Varshneya, who accompanies us, can fetch it for me." However, Nala, mindful of their progress, responded, "It's quite a distance behind us now. We have covered a yojana since then. Going back would be arduous." Rituparna was astonished, and then he came across a Vibhitaka tree bearing fruits in the forest. Eager to showcase his exceptional mathematical skills, the king swiftly asserted, "Allow me to demonstrate my proficiency in calculation. This tree serves as an example. Its fallen leaves exceed those remaining on the tree by one hundred and one. Moreover, the two branches boast leaves and two thousand ninety-five fruits." fifty million Vahuka, however, remained sceptical. He proposed a practical solution, suggesting, "Let me confirm this by direct observation. I'll count the leaves and fruits after cutting down the Vibhitaka tree. Evidence will settle our speculation. Varshneya can take charge of the horses' reins momentarily." Although Rituparna was in a hurry, Vahuka reassured him, saying, "I can still reach the destination on time. If you're in a rush, proceed with Varshneya as your charioteer. The route is direct and straightforward."

Faced with Vahuka's determination, Rituparna felt compelled to act. He urged, "You are my only charioteer; no one else possesses your skills. Please don't delay me. If you are confident about our timely arrival, go ahead and verify my calculation." Upon Rituparna's request, Vahuka swiftly climbed over the chariot door and skillfully brought down the tree. To his amazement, upon counting, he found the fruits to match the king's description precisely. Filled with wonder, Vahuka acknowledged, "Your power is indeed extraordinary. I am eager to learn the art that enabled you to calculate this accurately." Though Rituparna was in a hurry, he decided to share his knowledge. "I am well-versed in both dice games and numerical calculations," he

explained. Responding to Vahuka's request, Rituparna agreed, "I will teach you this science of dice, and in return, let my knowledge of equine skills remain with you."

Rituparna imparted his knowledge to Nala. As Nala became proficient in mathematics and dice games, the malevolent spirit Kali, who had afflicted him, was forced to leave his body. Kali, plagued by Damayanti's curse, begged for protection. He revealed, "Since the time Damayanti cursed me in her anger after your abandonment, I have suffered, residing within you. I seek your mercy. If you spare me, those who recite your story shall be safe from my influence." Hearing Kali's plea, Nala controlled his anger and spared him.

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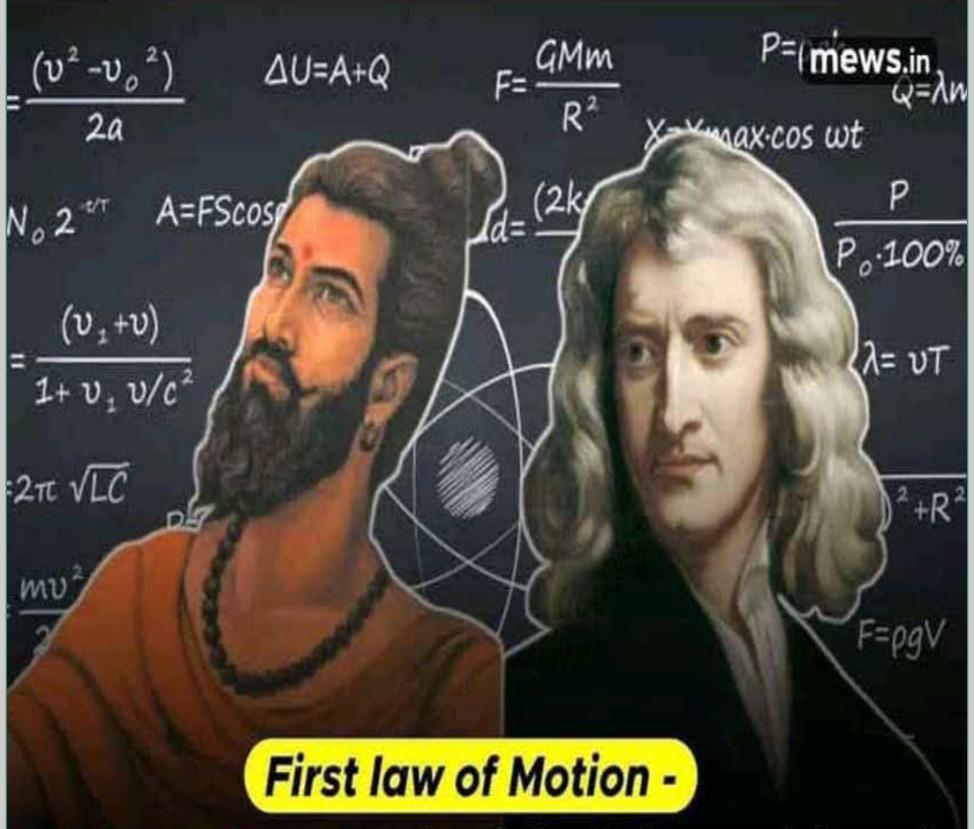
https://mexpostfact.blogspot.com/2015/09/ fast-as-wind.html Did you know? "Newton's three laws of motion was first proposed by Sage Kanad"

3 Vaishesika Sutras proposed many years before Newton's Three Laws of Motion 4 30



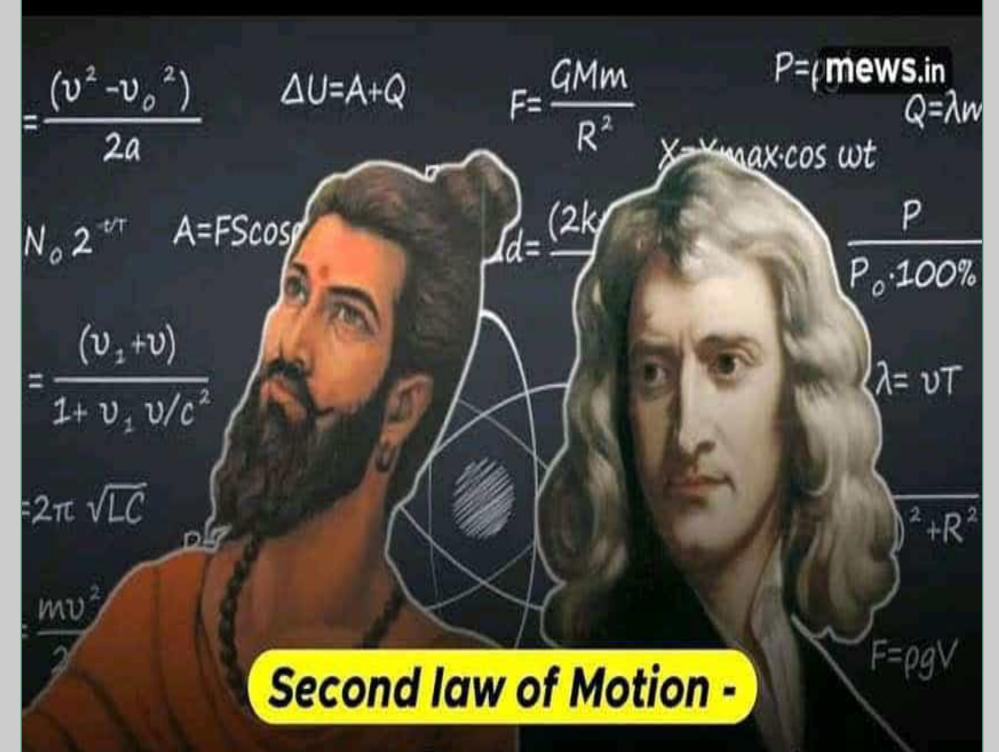
Must read and share





By Sage Kanada - वेगः निमित्तविशेषात कर्मणो जायते। Translation: Change of motion is due to impressed force. (6th century BC)

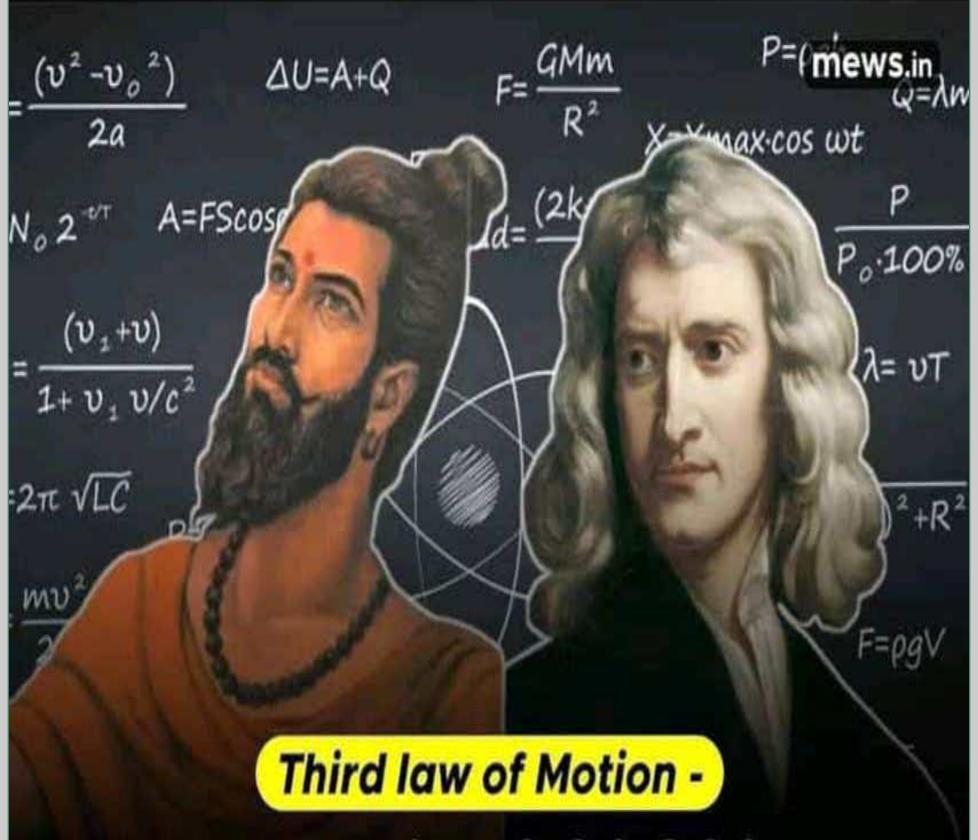
By Newton - Every object moves in a straight line unless acted upon by a force. (16th century AD)



By Sage Kanada - वेगः निमित्तापेक्षात कर्मणो जायते नियतदिक क्रियाप्रबन्धहेतु |

Translation: Change of motion is proportional to the impressed force and is in the direction of the force. (6th century BC)

By Newton - The acceleration of an object is directly proportional to the net force exerted and inversely proportional to the object's mass. (16th century AD)



By Sage Kanada - वेगः संयोगविशेषविरोधी | Translation: Action and reaction are equal and opposite. (6th century BC)

By Newton - For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. (16th century AD)

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What do citruses, tomatoes, berries, cabbage, cauliflower and greens all have in common? The invincible vitamin C! Also known as ascorbic acid, Vitamin C is a water-soluble vitamin, an antioxidant powerhouse that is capable of boosting the immune system. Hundreds of years ago, consuming citrus fruits was correlated to preventing scurvy – a disease caused by weakened connective tissues. Vitamin C needs to be taken daily, as the body is incapable of storing it. Vitamin C also boosts iron absorption, improves collagen production, and protects the skin from UV damage. As an antioxidant, vitamin C is believed to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and dementia, and prevents cellular damage that leads to premature aging. High heat and light destroy this vitamin, and that is why eating foods rich in vitamin C provides the most optimal results if taken raw/ripe, or with minimal

cooking. That is the reason why we do not heat the lemon rice after squeezing the lemon and sprinkling its juice over the rice. No dwadashi meal is considered complete without the consumption of 'agathi keerai' and 'nellika pachadi'. This also is for a good reason; the leafy greens rich in iron along with the Vitamin C in the gooseberry make a great combo for ridding the body of toxins, perfectly timed after a whole day of Ekadashi fasting. Mango chutneys, lemon rasam, kosmali sprinkled with lemon juice, lemon pickle with curd rice are all delicacies that stimulate our palate as well as heal our body. Herbal face masks containing lemon juice are known to promote skin tone and offer antioxidant protection. From inside to outside, this powerful vitamin has all you need to stay healthy and young.....so make it a part of your daily regimen as you plan your breakfast, lunch and dinner!

Image courtesy:

https://plantura.garden/uk/green-living/nutrition/ vitamin-c-fruits