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CO₂ Science

MILLENNIAL-SCALE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE EASTERN ARABIAN SEA

A D SINGH, D KROON and R S GANESHARAM

The above paper published in the Special issue of Journal of the Geological Society of India on Indian Monsoon (JGSI, v 68, pp 369-377) has caught the attention of scientists abroad and elicited the following comment

“The findings of the study help to demonstrate the global nature of the millennial-scale climatic oscillation that pervades both glacial and interglacial periods alike, and these two aspects of the phenomenon suggest that it likely has an extraterrestrial origin, most probably centered in the Sun. The existence of this spatially- and temporally-pervasive climatic oscillation provides strong support for a global Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age, which is something climate alarmists are generally loath to acknowledge, for the development and demise of these two extreme climatic states over a period of relative constancy in atmospheric CO₂ concentration suggests that the recently established Current Warm Period may well have nothing to do with the historical rise in the air’s CO₂ content but likely everything to do with the unrelated phenomenon that produced the analogous Medieval Warm Period and antithetical Little Ice Age.”

(source: <http://www.CO2science.org>)

THE WORLD’S LARGEST FLYING BIRD

The aerodynamics of the giant bird *Argentavis*, the world’s largest bird from the Miocene of Argentina has been studied by Sankar Chatterjee and his colleagues. The bird had a large mass (75 kg) and the wingspan of 21 feet, about the size of ‘Jatayu’ in Ramayana and was not capable of continuous flapping flight or standing takeoff under its own muscle power. Like extant condors and vultures, *Argentavis* would have extracted energy from the atmosphere for flight, relying on thermals present on the Argentinean pampas to provide power for soaring, and it probably used slope soaring over the windward slopes of the Andes. It was an excellent glider, with a gliding angle close to 3° and a cruising speed of 67 kph. *Argentavis* could take off by running downhill, or by launching from a perch to pick up flight speed. Other means of takeoff remain problematic.

(source: http://www.gesc.ttu.edu/Fac_pages/chatterjee)