

Prof. Roddam Narasimha releases a book on “Parasatantra”

A book authored by Prof. R N Iyengar, Director of Centre for Disaster Mitigation & Centre for Ancient History & Culture, Jain University was released today. **The book “Parasatantra”, an ancient Sanskrit text on astronomy and natural sciences, reconstructed text with translation and notes is brought out by Jain University Press in association with The Mythic Society, Bangalore.**

The book is released by noted Indian aerospace scientist and Honorary Professor at JNCASR Prof. Roddam Narasimha. Dr. B V Subbarayappa, Former President, International Union of History & Philosophy of Science (ICSU-UNESCO) received the first copy & Dr. M K.L.N Sastry, President, Mythic Society, Bangalore presided over the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Narasimha said, “Prof. Iyengar’s book is scholarly, logical, convincing and fascinating. I am sure it will greatly influence our thinking about our history. It answers several questions pertaining to the History of Indian Astronomy.”

Dr. Chenraj Roychand, President, Jain University Trust was the Guest of Honour. He applauded the efforts of Prof. Iyengar in bringing out Parasatantra. “In my opinion the biggest strength of this book is its appeal for both the common man and scholars. Jain University Press intends to continue to add value to society through many more such publications,” he remarked.

About the Book

Parāśaratantra - Ancient Sanskrit Text on Astronomy and Natural Sciences, a reconstructed text with translation and notes by R.N. Iyengar is divided into 21 chapters with an intellectually lettered introduction. These chapters present a compilation of Sanskrit texts by Parāśara, a sage and scholar from ancient India dispersed in the commentaries of scholars such as Varāhamihira, Utpala, Ballālasena and Bhaskarayogī living between 6th and 13th centuries. Through his book, Iyengar has thrown light on the knowledge that existed in pre-historic India on the sky, atmosphere, planets, stars, eclipses, comets, earthquakes, rainfall and even dreams. He also brings forth how people in ancient India inferred what the observed anomalies in celestial and natural events portended to the society and the common man. Parāśaratantra, a Sanskrit text, combined with working translation and modern analysis by the author holds great appeal not only for scientists, historians and Sanskrit scholars but also for anyone interested in Indian history and culture.

About the Author

R. N. Iyengar is renowned for his contributions to Earthquake Engineering, Random Vibrations, Mathematical Modeling, Structural Dynamics and Nonlinear Systems. As faculty at IISc, till his retirement in 2005 as KSIDC Chair Professor, Iyengar has published nearly 200 papers and technical reports, apart from writing general articles and books. He has lectured extensively in India and abroad by invitation. Recipient of the Visvesvaraya award of the Govt. of Karnataka and several other honours, Iyengar is Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, Indian Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, India and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany. He held the Distinguished Schmidt Chair at the Florida Atlantic University in 1995. He was Director of CBRI-CSIR during 1994-2000. ***At present, he heads the Centre for Disaster Mitigation at Jain University with a unique Fire Engineering Laboratory. He has been instrumental in the establishment of both the Centre and the Laboratory. His findings on comets, eclipses, earthquakes, natural disasters and the Pole Star Dhruva in ancient India have attracted worldwide attention.***

Brought up in a family where Sanskrit was a revered language, Iyengar received basic training in Sanskrit from a very young age. His interest in the language given its cultural importance propelled him to become an avid reader of ancient texts in the original. He has developed, combining textual evidences with modern methods, a new line of studies on ancient Indian chronology, including that of the Mahābhārata.

About Jain University

A deemed-to-be-university since five years now, it is ranked No. 1 among top private universities in South India & ranked No.17 among top 50 universities in India by India Today Nielson Best Universities Survey '13. Founded in 1990 as SBMJC by Dr. Chenraj Roychand, an eminent entrepreneur & educationist with over 35 yrs of experience, it has the vision to foster human development through excellence in quality education, research & entrepreneurial development. There are over 60 innovative programmes at the UG, PG, research levels, managed & imparted by 500 sharp minded senior faculty members who mentor over 7800 students nationally & globally. Its 10 robust Centres of Excellence are for Social Sciences & Education; Disaster Mitigation; Aerospace Engineering & Management; Emerging Technologies; Nano and Material Sciences; Ancient History & Culture; Indian Psychology and Advanced Studies in Biosciences, Pure & Applied Sciences and Center for Post Graduate Studies. JU advocates sports and creative talents. JU alumni have emerged successful sportsmen, entrepreneurs and celebrities globally. It enjoys close to 20 international collaborations with world's leading universities and organizations in UK, Germany, USA, Canada, Russia etc. 'JGI LIFE', its social responsibility model has provided free education to 2200 children from 106 villages in Kanakapura (Karnataka) and Amethi (UP) and subsidized education to 1200 children from 50 villages in MP. JU believes in nation building through Education, Entrepreneurship & Employment which is formulated by Chenraj Roychand Centre

for Entrepreneurship. It creates opportunities for young talented individuals to realize their entrepreneurial potential. It's the first varsity in Bangalore to launch community radio 90.4 MHz that empowers socially deprived class. ***For more information, please visit: www.jainuniversity.ac.in***