

NEWS

SEMINAR ON INDIAN ASTRONOMY AND JAI SINGH — A REPORT

Report by:

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An all India Seminar on 'Indian Astronomy and Jai Singh' was organised on May 9-10, 1990, at Jaipur under the auspices of B.M. Birla Science Centre and B.M. Birla Planetarium. Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan was the chief guest. The inaugural session was presided by Ms Pushpa Jain, the Minister of Tourism. The following papers were presented in the Seminar:-

Ansari, S M R	'A critical study of Astronomical Tables of Jai Singh'.
Babu, G S D	'Jantar Mantar Instruments'.
Bandhopadhyay, A	'Jai Singh's contribution towards developing of observational astronomy in India'.
Chakravarty, A K	'Astronomical studies in Raja Jai Singh's Period'.
Sambhasivan, R	'On the design and performance of some of the Jai Singh's Masonary instruments'.
Sarkar, R	'Jai Singh — The Visionary Astromer who became a victim of history'.
Sharma, S D	'Instruments on Kāśī Manmandir and their Accuracy'.
Sharma, S R	'Torquetum and Samrātyantra'.

An welcome address and a few observations were presented by B G Sidharth. An overview assessment was also made by S.M.R. Ansari. A Vedio Film show on Instruments of Jai Singh was also arranged.

In last session the following resolutions were passed:-

1. that Delhi and Banaras Jantar Mantar be renovated.
2. that the primary source materials of City Palace Library and Khas Mohar Collection, Jaipur should be made available to scholars.
3. that an Indian Society of History of Astronomy be formed.

INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS

The Fifty-first session of the History Congress was held at the University of Calcutta on 28-30 December 1990. It was inaugurated by Prof S Nurul Hasan, the Governor of Bengal. In his Inaugural address Prof Nurul Hasan emphasized the need for a scientific study of history to avoid distortion of facts.

The Congress had five major sessions. It also organised two special symposia on Ideology and Social Changes and Three Hundred Years of Calcutta. Quite a good number of research papers dealing with history of science, technology, archaeology, architecture and monuments were presented in this congress. These are as follows:

Bera, Harekrishna	The Food Habit of the Vedic Aryans
Georgia	Artisans and Craftsmen in Medieval South India with Special Reference to Weavers in Pondicherry.
Kumar, T Vijaya	Colonial Policies and Agricultural Practices in Andhra During the Second Half of 19th century.
Kunhikrishnan, K V	East India Company and the Malabar Forests: Acceptance of Private Ownership of Forests and Consequences.
Ramaswamy, Vijaya	Some Oral Traditions of South Indian Crafts Persons.
Rawat, Ajay	Wild Life Management in British India.
Samanta Arabinda	Malarial Fever: Its Impact on the Supply of Labour to the Tea Estates of Assam, 1926-1931
Sinha Sandeep	Man, Malaria and British Bengal: A Review of the Epidemic, 1850-1920
Singh G P	A Fresh Literary Discovery of the Sea Seals of Dvārka in the Epic Age as a Supplement to Archaeological Discovery by S.R. Rao
Singh Indumati	Studies in Early Trade and Commerce of Mithila.
Varma V K	The Determination of the Periods of Mahābhāratha War by Astronomical Method.