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ASTRONOMY CLUB IIITDM KURNOOL



Webinar on

Bhaskara & Leelavati

"Facts can be
stranger than
fantasies"



Prof. Jayant V Narlikar
Founder & emeritus professor at Inter-
University Centre for Astronomy and
Astrophysics (IUCAA)
Pune.



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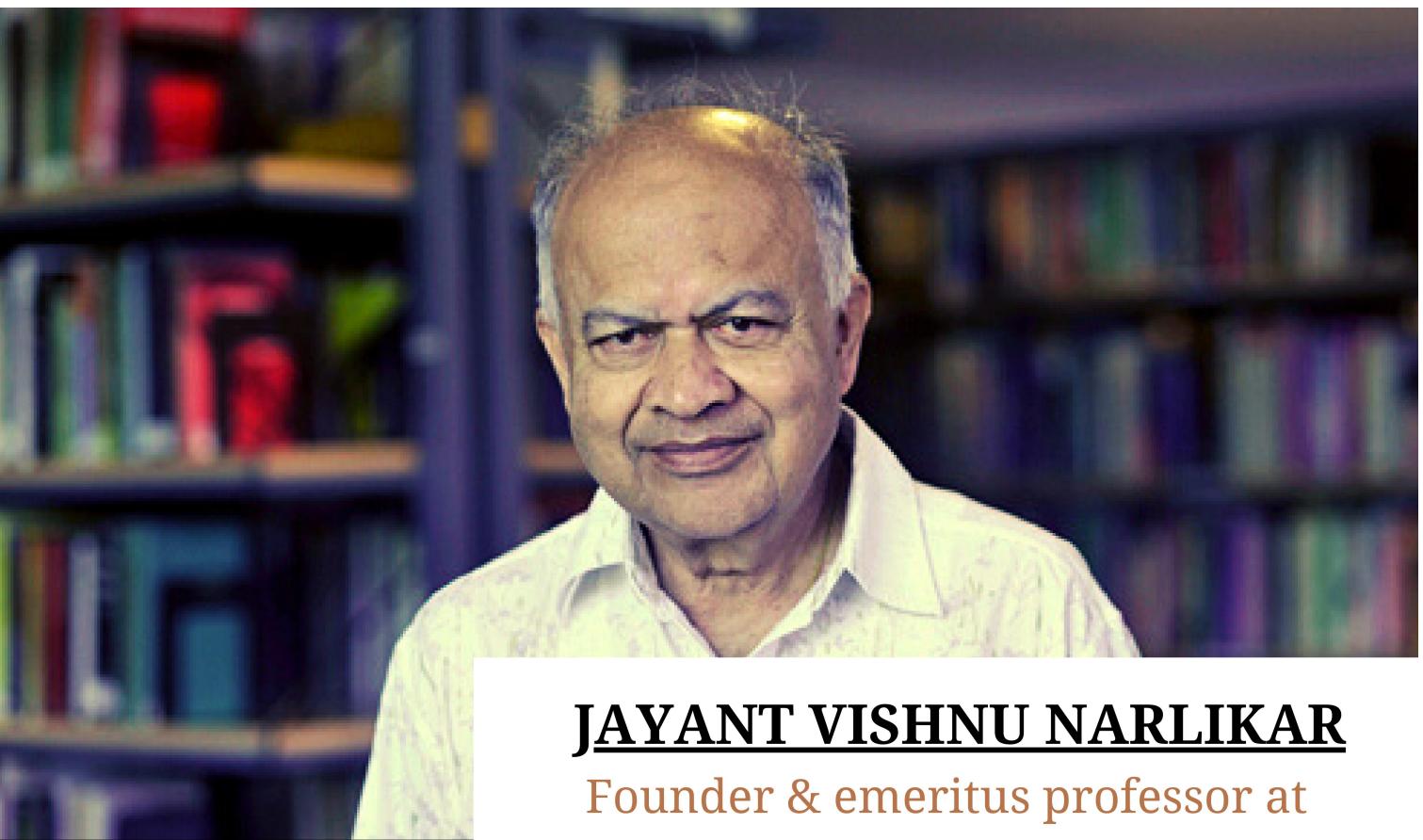


10:30 AM



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JAYANT VISHNU NARLIKAR

**Founder & emeritus professor at
IUCAA**

Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (born 19 July 1938) is a most celebrated Indian astrophysicist and founder of Inter-university Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune. He is globally known for his work on cosmology especially the steady state theory against the more popular big bang theory. His work with Hoyle on gravity led to what is today known as the Hoyle-Narlikar Theory of gravitation. Narlikar had his early education in the campus of Banaras Hindu University, and then went to Cambridge for his post-BSc studies in 1957. After 15 years in Cambridge, in 1972 he returned to India and headed Theoretical Astrophysics group at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai before becoming founding director of IUCAA in 1988. Narlikar has received many national and international awards and honorary doctorates. India's second-highest civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan, was awarded to him in 2004 for his immense scientific contributions. Prior to this, in 1965, he was conferred Padma Bhushan. He is a recipient of the Prix Jules Janssen of the French Astronomical Society. He is versatile writer and well known for his popular science books, science fiction novels and short stories in English, Hindi, and Marathi. In 2014, he received a Sahitya Akademi Award for his autobiography in Marathi. He is also the consultant for the Science and Mathematics textbooks of NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training, India).

Bhaskara & Leelavati



Leelavati is a celebrated text on Indian Mathematics by Bhaskaracharya (Written in 1150 BC). Bhakara's work addressed to his daughter leelavati constitutes the creative peak of Indian mathematics. The text leelavati is the series of most beautiful and poetic questions from Bhaskaracharya to his daughter leelavati when she was little girl. They are addressed to "Ae baale Leelavati". The questions are elegant problems in arithmetic, algebra, calculus and geometry seen in relation to the fantasy and imagination in the life and mind of a little girl. Learning is transformed into a creative and joyous activity to the Indian genius of interlink; interlink between poetics and hard numbers. No wonder that the little girl leelvati later became India's most well known women mathematician.

Bhaskara's questions reveal a world of that time – nature and environment of that time, flora and fauna of that time, prices of that time – prices of rice, dal, ghee and salt, prices of gold and diamonds, rubies, emeralds, pearls. What we see in the text Leelavati is a little girl at play, a mathematician at play, their mutual perception of cosmos at play. Rhythmically linking these is the constant of pure numbers – Chandralekha, Renouned Bhatyanatyam dancer on Leelavati.

Leelavati has been translated into Persian by Akbar's court scholar Abul Faizi in 1587. Prior to this there were many Arabic translations. Later these translations found its way into European scholars of renaissance.