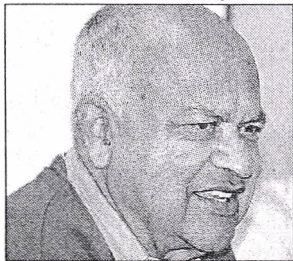


# Narlikar opposes astrology in curricula

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** Astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar has opposed the inclusion of astrology in universities' curricula. Speaking at an interactive session organised by 'Nature Walk' on Friday, the Padmabhushan award winner said the discipline should not be referred to

Shyam Sonar



The astrophysicist at the interactive session

as a science at all.

Narlikar had earlier done an experiment which involved mixing 100 'kundalis' of mentally challenged students with 100 kundalis of bright students. "After dividing the 200 kundalis into groups of 40, we had asked the astrologers to identify which belonged to whom. Less than 50 per cent results were right and none had passed," he said.

During the interaction, Narlikar said according to the

'Big Bang' theory, the universe is 13.7 billion years old whereas his research in 2005 has found stars that are as old as 20 billion years. "In the same research, we discovered three new species of bacteria in the upper atmosphere. The bacteria, highly resistant to ultraviolet radiation, are not found elsewhere on earth, leading to speculation on whether they are extra-terrestrial in origin. The experiment detected 12 bacteria, nine of which showed greater than 98 per cent similarity with known species on earth," he said.

"According to the theory of blackhole, one spoonful of a blackhole weighs as much as several tons and so it attracts all objects, even light. If you see that the objects are moving with a high speed in a particular direction, you can gauge the existence of a blackhole there. A blackhole can absorb tachyons and reduce its own surface area," he said.

The scientist also stressed the need for more astrophysicists in India in the near future because of the rise in emergence of high-frequency telescopes such as the hubble telescope.

'Nature Walk' works in the field of nature education. Astronomy expert Prakash Tupe spoke with Narlikar.