

Narlikar defends 'outside of Earth' theory

Anand Chai

REPORTER

reporters@sakaaltimes.com

Pune: Noted astrophysicist Jayan Narlikar has defended the theory that life on Earth could have originated outside of the Earth - a theory that has been opposed by biologists.

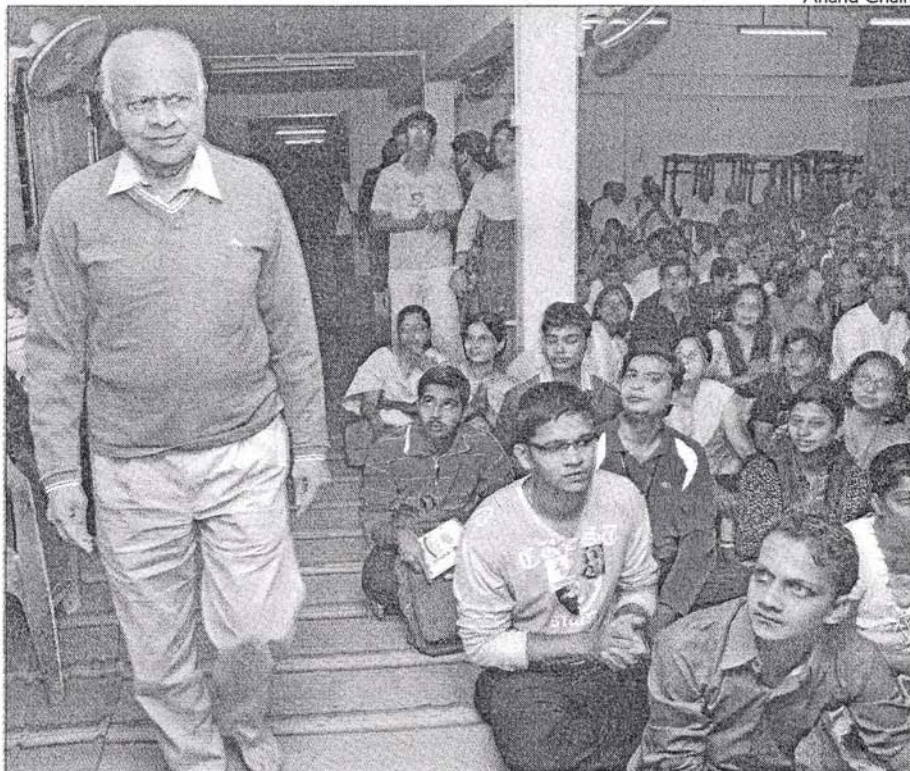
It may be recalled that an inter-stellar experiment had been carried out a few years back wherein balloon, carrying an experimental payload, was projected into the atmosphere from the Hyderabad balloon facility.

The payload had carried 16 sealed sterilised pipes which could be opened and closed at various heights. Prof Narlikar, at a talk on Friday organised by Nature Walk, an organisation dedicated to serve the cause of environment, informed that upon examination of the payload after its return back to Earth from a height of 41 kilometres, it was found that it carried twelve differ-

ent types of bacteria - nine of them similar to the ones found on Earth while three others were absolutely new strains.

Even the nine that were found similar to the ones on Earth, a stark difference was observed. They could survive even ultra violet radiation. Microorganisms on Earth have not been found to survive UV radiation. The three new strains of bacteria were named after renowned astrophysicist Fred Hoyle, Aryabhata and ISRO.

Biologists have questioned the theory on the ground that the microorganisms could have been carried from the Earth to such a great height. Prof Narlikar has an open mind to the objection and he has not ruled out the possibility. But he points out that it may be possible to transport microorganisms to a height of even 20 km but their migration to a height of 41 km was close to impossible.



ENTHUSIASTIC - An enthusiastic gathering eagerly awaits noted astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar to deliver his talk at the NMV Girls School on Friday.

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