

UGC decides to set up departments of Vedic astrology in universities

'Vedic Astrology is not only one of the main subjects of our traditional and classical knowledge but this is the discipline which lets us know the events happening in human life and in the universe on time scale.'

The distinguishing feature of the subject is that it makes us familiar with time, its nature and feature and its effects on human life and other events and that way it helps to manage and make optimal use of time.

It is a common feature that despite best methods adopted for estimation the events happen in a different way and add to worries, tensions and frustration in life. Here Vedic Astrology can help to see the unforeseen, being the subject dealing with the time.

Starting of the courses in Vedic Astrology in the universities will not only impart the knowledge of this subject to the people but will also add a new dimension for research in the fields of Hindu–Mathematics, Vastushastra, Meteorological Studies, Agriculture Science, Space Science, etc.'

Under the Title of Courses and Duration it is mentioned that they will be graduate, post-graduate and Ph.D. level. There would also be certificate courses of one-year duration and Diploma courses of two year duration. Doctors, Architects etc. would be able to take those courses.

—From the UGC guidelines for setting up of departments of Vedic Astrology

I would not have believed it. The UGC has actually accepted that the study of time is best done through Vedic astrology. Atomic clocks, biological clocks, carbon, uranium or potassium dating were never invented. Copernicus, Newton and Einstein never happened. In any case not being Vedic they are not as holy or valid as Vedic astrology. If you want to know the age of the earth or the universe itself all you need to do is to consult the appropriate places in texts of Vedic astrology. After all that is also a science. If in America some people demand equal time for the Biblical theory of Creation done in seven days, why can we not go to our own cultural past and resurrect our own science of Vedic astrology?

Now it will be possible for us to predict earthquakes more accurately than geophysicists, the weather and climate with greater accuracy without the need of

ground-based and satellite observations or mathematical models. All uncertainties would be wiped out by going back to our traditional wisdom of astrology. Even the mathematics we use will come from the Vedas. Why just this much only? We will be able to tell whether we are going to be mugged by a ruffian, lose money on the stock market, win an election, become a minister, or marry a millionaire. All this because we will finally have an accurate insight into the nature of time and its interaction with us. Yes, astrology was done in many cultures and is still a popular amusement amongst the masses in many countries. But then, is that Vedic astrology? There are some that say that Indian astronomy stopped progressing even in the days of Jai Singh because the main motivation shifted to making of horoscopes. On the other hand it was a magnificent time when beautiful structures like the Jantar Mantar were primarily dedicated to human purpose, to give solace to our rulers and jagirdars and not for esoteric things of the kind in which Galileo dabbled.

It is suggested that doctors, architects and many other professionals will gain through the study of Vedic astrology. Some of them might not be able to spare the time to get a Ph D in this field but uncertainties about diagnosis and treatment of disease would be removed even after a certificate or diploma course because we would know what Time has in store for the patient. Architects would demand to see the horoscopes of owners, future residents or the plot of land itself before making a final design of a building. The horoscopes would also tell them whether there would be a flood, fire or earthquake during the occupancy of their client. Agriculture scientists will be able to suggest new strategies of sowing, planting and reaping different crops because they would be helped by accurate foreknowledge of the rainfall, temperature variations, floods, droughts or cyclones. Not only that, they would also know the likely prices they are likely to get for their produce, and – why not – about the dumping or otherwise by other countries! What more can you ask of a university scholar?

Astrology came about through early human's urge to seek correlation between the rather regular movements of planets

and chaotic, unpredictable turns in the lives of individuals. This curiosity led to the science of astronomy and remarkable capabilities in mathematics. Now we know that alignments and conjunctions of planets have minimal impact on the earth and certainly none of it selectively on a person, depending on time or place of birth. Through astronomical observations we might be able to tell whether a comet or an asteroid is on a collision course with the earth, but it is patently ridiculous to suggest that a possible collision would depend on the horoscope of any one here. We cannot blame the horoscope of an earth inhabitant for the collision that led to the disappearance of dinosaurs!

One could go on but to what avail. I would only say that those academics who really believe in the utilitarian aspects of astrology, even Vedic astrology, should diligently work to abolish the conflicting studies, and departments, of astronomy, cosmology, physics and many other branches of knowledge.

I do not want to be misunderstood. I have no objection whatsoever to studying the sociology and anthropology of the era in which astrology was born and the influence it has had on human history. This was an important step in the growth of human cognition. The manner in which this grew in different settings in the world was an important passage in the cultural history of humans. This needs to be studied and understood better. But all this is best done in one or more of the existing departments, preferably in collaboration with each other. This is very different from establishing structures to apply, with a utilitarian passion, the received wisdom of the distant past. Setting up, almost like religious seminaries, separate departments protected from other sensible ways of thinking would be a horrible mistake. Heaven knows we already have a surfeit of dross floating around our country. We also have enough evidence in our world as to where such pursuits might end. Let us desist. I hope no self-respecting university would ask to start such a department.

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