

Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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Jagannatha Samrat

Born (India), circa 1657

Died (India), circa 1744

Jagannatha, the famous guru of Savāī Jai Singh, originally hailed from Maharāstra. His father was Ganeśa, and grandfather, Vitthala. At the suggestion of Jai Singh, Jagannatha studied Arabic and Persian and became proficient in both. He translated works on astronomy and mathematics from Arabic into Sanskrit. His major work, *Samrat Siddhānta* or *Siddhāntasārakaustubha*, is based on Tūsī's version of Ptolemy's *Almagest*; the first 13 chapters of *Samrat Siddhānta* run parallel to the 13 books of the *Almagest*. Jagannatha also translated Euclid's *Elements* into Sanskrit in 1719, and the latter work is called *Rekhāganita*. He compiled a glossary of technical terms in Sanskrit and composed a work on instrumentation called *Yantraprakāra*. Jagannatha was himself an observer and regarded observations as the *pramaṇa*, or deciding factor, whenever there were discrepancies between theory and observation. He admired Ulugh Beg and the advances in astronomy and mathematics in the Islamic world. Jagannatha did not use telescopes in his observations, nor did he include telescopes in his work on astronomical instruments.

Narahari Achar

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