



Dr. J. J. Rawal

Dr. J. J. Rawal is a Ph.D. of University of Mumbai through TIFR in Astrophysics. He is the Founder President of the Indian Planetary Society. Dr. Rawal was born in Halvad, a small town of Surendranagar District of Gujarat on March 30, 1943, three months after the death of his father Shri J. M. Rawal who was a billionaire businessman but suffered a cent percent set back in his business. Dr. Rawal was raised in extreme poverty by his great mother Smt. Kamalaben J. Rawal. In the 70s and 80s he studied the formation of the Solar system and satellite systems of planets and predicted the existence of the outermost rings around planets Saturn and Uranus, full ring system of Neptune and new satellites going around the giant planets which were later on confirmed by earth based telescopes and by the pioneer and voyager space probes when they flew past these planets.

Dr. Rawal conducted research on Rings around Galaxies, Clouds of Comets around the Solar and Satellite Systems, Lagrangian Points, Planetary Distance Law, Resonant Structures in the Solar System, New Asteroidal Belts in the Solar and Satellite Systems, Intra-Mercurial Planets, whether there are satellites around Mercury and Venus. He also studied Einstein's Theory of Relativity and published five research papers. So far he has published 30 research papers. He was the Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Indian Physics Association (Mumbai Chapter) during 1992-2001.

He has been on the Advisory Boards of several Planetaria, Science Centers and the Councils of Science and Technology in India. He is a recipient of Shri Munubhai Mehta Award, Marathi Vigyan Parishad's Smt. Manoramabai Apte Award, National Council of Science, Technology and Communication, Dept. of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India's Award for Science Communication in the Country, Award for Science writing by Govt. of Gujarat, Gujarat Ratna Award, Halvad Ratna Award and several other awards. He was honoured for his discoveries in the Solar System by Marathi Vigyan Mahasangh and Marathi Vigyan Parishad combined at the hands of Professor B. M. Udgaonkar, very senior Professor of TIFR. He has been honoured by Shri Narendrabhai Modi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat on the eve of Republic Day 25 January 2010. Dr. Rawal has been writing Weekly Science Column in Janmabhoomi Pravasi for the past 30 years. He has also written articles in almost all leading National Newspapers.

Dr. Rawal has written over 2000 articles on Science and Astronomy in various newspapers and magazines in Gujarati, Hindi and English and given as many lectures at various places in the country and abroad and also given scores of radio and TV Programmes. He has written 8 science fiction stories. His series of radio talks in Gujarati on the Life and work of Einstein ran for 80 talks in 2005 on the occasion of the Centenary Year of Einstein's Theory and was talk of the town. He has given many such radio talks in series of ten, fifteen or twenty talks. He is the President of Janseva Kendra, Borivali since the year 2000. He is also Visiting Professor in the Dept. of Physics, University of Mumbai for the past 12 years. He has been given Civil Honour by Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Corporations of Rajkot, Halvad and Bhuj. He won the UGC School of Einstein Theory of Relativity Award which was held at Kolhapur in 1982. He has received Awards from various Organizations like Amrita, Saurashtra Education Foundation. He has received Aryabhata Award from All India Ramanujan Mathematics Club. In connection with International Conferences and Short Visiting Fellowships and Professorships, he has visited USA, Japan, Germany, Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Korea, Iran several times. He is Hindi Kovid, Sanskrit Bhushan, Sanskrit Kovid and has Diploma in German Language.

He has written several booklets on Astronomy and Science. Dr. Rawal was Director Research, Nehru Planetarium and also Director of Nehru Planetarium of Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai and has an experience of over 35 years in research, running a Planetarium, Science Center and arranging scientific activities and programmes, International & National Conferences in the country. He is now heading The Indian Planetary Society in its endeavor to popularize Astronomy and allied subjects and to carry out research in these fields. Dr. Rawal has interest in music, singing, drawing, reading, art, history, philosophy and travelling.

Dr. Rawal has married with Devika Laxmishanker Dave and has one daughter Pratiksha.