



Cleveland Astronomical Society
Thursday, November 6, 2003 Meeting Announcement

CanalWay Center, Cleveland MetroParks, Off E. 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights

Speaker: Dr. Kul Bhasin

Scientist, NASA Glenn Research Center (This talk is based on his personal travel.)

**"Jantar Mantar:
An Indian King's Quest for Discovering Secrets of the Cosmos"**

Sawai Jai Singh II, the Rajput king of Jaipur in India (1688-1743 A.D.) wanted to bring about a renaissance in practical astronomy among both Indian astronomers and the general population. He directed the construction of a set of masonry astronomical instruments, collectively known as the "Jantar Mantar." The Jaipur king believed that small brass astronomical instruments used by others of his time were faulty, incapable of fine measurement. The Jantar Mantar instruments with fixed axes and large graduations were used for measuring time, predicting eclipses, determining planet declinations, and other observations. This complex of different-size instruments, with one over 90 feet high, is one of the most visually startling and modern-appearing monuments of India. Kul Bhasin will give us a visual tour, describing the technical nature and history of this famous observatory.