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# Ancient history to get ICHR push

By **Heena Kausar** in New Delhi

**OBSERVING** that no significant research on ancient and medieval history of India has been carried out in the last few decades, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) chairman Y.S. Rao has vowed to take steps to promote research on those periods.

Speaking at a programme organised by Delhi University's Sanskrit department, Rao said that the few historians who have written about ancient Indian history did not have knowledge of Sanskrit and hence their work depended on translations of ancient Sanskrit works.

"To be honest, no important work on ancient and medieval history has come out since Independence. ICHR has not done much work on these subjects but now efforts would be made to do meaningful research on those periods. Sanskrit department is doing a project on Aryans and ICHR would extend help to do academic research," said Rao.

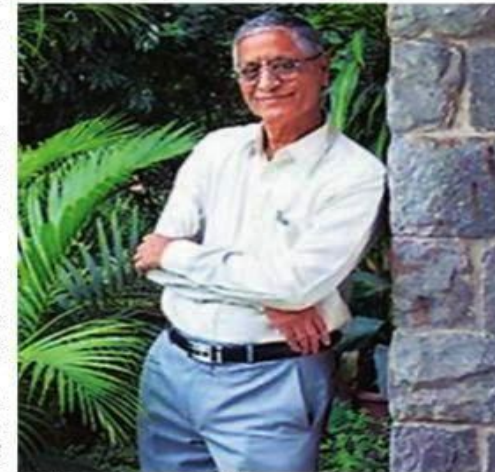
The talk titled 'Sanskrit Studies and

American Orientalism' also saw Rajiv Malhotra, founder-director of Infinity Foundation based in Princeton, criticising Padma Shri awardee and historian Sheldon Pollock for allegedly distorting the historical facts by misquoting Sanskrit references.

"Scholars like Pollock are distorting historical facts by misquoting Sanskrit references to prove that Sanskrit and its scriptures are the promoters of discrimination and oppression of certain class in the society from the beginning," said Malhotra.

He warned the audience that such American orientalists are taking help from cultural and industrial leaders of India in the name of promoting Sanskrit. Pollock is also the founding editor of the Murty Classical Library of India.

"Their hidden motive is to tarnish the image of Sanskrit and Indian culture. They are systematically working on their vicious programme of recolonising by raising huge fund. I ask Sanskrit scholars to refute their thesis vehemently but logically on scientific grounds," Malhotra said.



ICHR chairman Y.S. Rao

