

THE UNIVERSE THAT IS GOD

The Book and The Author

The Book

The Universe That Is God by the renowned scholar Dr. I. Panduranga Rao is the collection of the names of Lord as contained in the *Viṣṇusahasranāma* and their interpretations.

In the Foreword, Rajarshi Dr. Karan Singh writes - ‘ It is an excellent commentary on *Viṣṇusahasranāma*, one of the most important hymns in the great corpus of Hindu literature. Dr. Rao has brought all his devotional equipment as well as scholastic talent to presenting what will be a widely read commentary’

Each chapter highlights the subtle metaphysical nuances linked with the various names of the Almighty and explains its relationship with the ephemeral and eternal.

It was indeed a happy co-incidence that the book saw the light of the day in the inaugural function of the National Seminar on *Dhvani*. The author himself pays his homage to *Om*, The primordial sound, fountain-head of all knowledge.

The Author

Which aspect of Dr. I. Panduranga Rao’s multifaceted personality deserves better projection, is a difficult proposition. He is an erudite scholar, excellent speaker, brilliant interpreter,

great thinker, visionary and above all a devotee of the Lord. He has authored about fifty books on various aspects of Indian culture, philosophy and literature, published in different languages. He has lectured on these subjects in several universities and other institutions in India and abroad.

The visitors to *Jñāna-Pravāha* often have had the occasions to taste the drops of nectar of his discourses on the *Vālmīkīya Rāmāyaṇa*. As a true mathematician, Dr. Rao has rightly calculated and arrived at the judicious conclusion that the goal of all learning and scholarship is *Bhagavannāma*, i.e. remembering and realising the names of Lord and their interpretation and dissemination. Hence the present work : The Universe That Is God.

The book was released in the galaxy of scholars assembled from distant quarters of the country at *Jñāna-Pravāha* to participate in the National Seminar on *Dhvani*, the inaugural function of which was graced by Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, an academician par-excellence as Guest in Chief and presided over by another great scholar Padmabhushana Prof. Vidya Nivas Misra.