

**All India Asteroid Search Campaign 2014 – SPACE conducted specialized training workshop for selected students on 23rd April, 2014 at Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar**

*As part of 5th year of the well-renowned All India Asteroid Search Campaign by SPACE, the organization conducted thorough workshops to train the student participants in the usage of specialized software for hunting asteroids. The students were thrilled to learn all about asteroids and the importance of searching them in our universe. The workshop was held on 23rd April, 2014, from 10 am to 4 pm at Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar.*

**New Delhi, 23rd April, 2014:** SPACE brings AIASC 2014 phase I, II and III in India for the fifth year in a row, for students, and amateurs. It is an exciting opportunity to be involved in real time science and to be at the forefront of research at an international level. Participants throughout India have applied for this opportunity and have been selected for this campaign. About 90 school students from various schools attended the day-long workshop with their school coordinators.

Dhruv Sain from Step by Step School, Noida said “It was a wonderful experience ... provided by the SPACE team. Thanks a lot for giving undergraduates a chance to hunt for asteroids.”

Deepali R. Sawhney, teacher with Presidium School, Ashok Vihar said, “It’s amazing to know through SPACE what all even school students can contribute and discover. Children are enjoying the way they are being lead into such an exciting journey.”

As part of this campaign, SPACE provided a *highly specialized and advanced training workshop today at Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar* to facilitate the participants in understanding the advanced astronomical software *Astrometrica*. This is the software that is used to search for asteroids by analyzing the images of the sky taken with the 24", 32" and 30" telescopes at the Astronomical Research Institute (ARI) Observatory, located at Charleston, Illinois.

SPACE, the pioneer organization in India working towards the development of science and astronomy in India, created history when students discovered a rare Trojan Asteroid under AIASC 2011 (All India Asteroid Search Campaign), and marked their names in the international scientific community.

*Students and amateurs in India make original discoveries of Main Belt Asteroids and other Near*

*Earth Objects by analyzing this data. The new discoveries of the objects and other observations or*

*reconfirmation of the previously discovered objects contribute to the NASA Near-Earth Object*

*(NEO) Program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (Pasadena, CA).*

This programme was started by SPACE in India in 2010 with the aim to boost passion for science, astronomy and scientific research in Indian students, especially school students. The project has provided opportunities to more than 600 students and amateurs in India to discover asteroids and *Near-Earth Object*. While doing so they have been helping international agencies to catalogue these object so that threat from the asteroids can be tackled with success.

**About AIASC:**



AIASC is conducted in collaboration with International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC, Hardin-Simmons University, Texas, USA). SPACE is the coordinator for this highly recognized programme in India, where participants get exclusive access to images of the sky taken by 24” and 32’ telescope positioned in Astronomical Research Institute (ARI) Observatory, USA. They download and analyze the data with specialized software to search for asteroids, which could be potential discoveries. All observations contribute to the Near Earth Object (NEO) data compiled by NASA and Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL).

**About SPACE:**

SPACE, the pioneer organization working towards the development of science and astronomy in India, is an ISO 9001:2000 certified company which has been changing the face of science and astronomy awareness, education and innovation in India through path-breaking concepts, services and programmes. SPACE has not only successfully implemented astronomy and space science curriculum in Indian education system but has also provided international platforms to Indian students, where they distinctively contribute in scientific discoveries at a very early age. We constantly strive to use scientific and astronomical programmes to foster scientific temperament in society, especially among the youth who are the harbingers of India’s future.

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