



# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

## Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning Anantapur Campus Department of Physics (Physics club & Space Club)

### A report on the program organized on National Space Day 2024

In commemoration of India's advancements and contributions in the field of space exploration and technology and in recognition of the historic achievement of the landing of Chandrayaan III in the southern polar region of the moon on August 23, 2023 our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi declared August 23 as the "National Space Day" to be celebrated by all the educational institutions across the country.

With the Divine Blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Department of Physics organized various programs spanning over a week to mark the National Space Day at the Anantapur Campus, August 23, 2024. The events were jointly organized by the Space Club and the Physics Club of the Department of Physics.

#### **Stargazing event:**

As a forerunner to the grand Space Day Celebrations, the Space Club organized a Full Moon view through an astronomical telescope and a Sky watch using the app Stellarium at the Campus grounds on 20th August 2024 from 7.30 pm onwards. The Physics club members assisted in the conduct of the session.

The session was very enthusiastically received and saw an attendance of about 400 students and 20 staff members. The session was very vibrant due to the excitement and interest of the participating students as they watched the details on the lunar surface through the telescope, and identified various stars, planets and constellations in the sky using the Stellarium app.

#### **Elocution competition:**

An elocution competition was conducted for the undergraduate and postgraduate students of the campus on the topic "**Inspiring Insights from the life of a Space Scientist**" in three languages - English, our national language, Hindi, and in the state language, Telugu, on 22 August 2024. The event was conducted with the support of the Cultural Club of the Campus. The student participation



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was very encouraging with more than 60 students participating in the competitions. The prize winners were given an opportunity to present their talks on the insights they gained from the lives of their chosen space scientists on 23rd August in front of the audience.

**Collage Art competition:** A Collage Art competition was held on the Space theme on 19th August 2024 with the support of the Fine Arts Club, in which 62 students submitted their colorful thematic entries. Both competitions were judged and prizes were announced and awarded. The winning entries of the collage art competition were prominently displayed in the auditorium.

## **Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga, 23rd August, 2024:**

On 23rd August, a program titled "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga" was organized in the Anantapur Campus auditorium. The program commenced at 8.45 am with a resonating chant of verses from the Taittiriya Upanishad on the origin of space and the elements by the students of the B. S. Physics program, which was followed by opening remarks by Dr. C. Prathibha, Associate Head, Department of Physics. The Director, Prof. Rani P. L., warmly welcomed the invited guests and the audience, which consisted of the faculty, research scholars and the entire student body of the Anantapur Campus. The audience then listened to the divine message of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the types of Akasa and their basis and significance

Sri G. Ananda Chandran, Scientist SG (Retd.), Consultant for SPROC and NETRA projects, UR Rao Satellite Center, ISRO, Bangalore, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mrs. G. Usha, alumna of the Department of Physics, Anantapur Campus, who currently serves as Scientist SF UR Rao Satellite Center, ISRO, Bangalore, and who contributed as Project Manager of Chandrayaan 2 and 3 missions was an invited speaker. Mrs. D. Utkarsha, also an alumna, working as Optical Design Engineer, Pixxel Space, Bangalore, was also an invited speaker. The speakers emphasized the importance of the space missions of the country and the role of science and technology in their respective research areas that has led to the success of these missions.

The talks by the invited speakers was followed by a video on the genesis of the Indian Space Research

## **Space food:**

Organization (ISRO), its visionaries and pioneers, and the various national space missions undertaken.



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The Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences organized an interesting and informative program on various aspects of food and nutrition while in space, titled 'The Astronauts Grub'.

The session in the auditorium concluded with the vote of thanks by Prof. Deepa Seetharaman, Department of Physics and mangala aarti to Bhagawan.

## **Digital Exhibition:**

A digital exhibition on the national space missions was arranged at the Department of Physics on 23rd and 24th August, which showcased the missions- Chandrayaan-2 and 3, Aditya-L1, Mangalyaan, Gaganyaan, NAVIC and others undertaken by the ISRO through videos to educate the audience about these missions, the participating institutions, and scientists behind these achievements. The exhibition also featured presentations on interesting topics of popular interest related to space, like, types of stars, stellar evolution, black holes, unknown space facts, space debris, etc. The students of the space club and physics club explained the digital exhibits using videos and powerpoint presentations to the audience. A digital space quiz and a rocket launch simulation was also arranged as fun activities for the students. Prizes were given away to the best performers. The exhibition and the quiz was visited by the invited guests and by about 250 students.

## **Participants:**

About 40 faculty members of all other departments of the Campus attended the program

Number of student participants: Nearly 500 students belonging to all the programs at the Anantapur Campus participated in the program.

Faculty of the department of Physics (4 teachers) helped organized the event. The members of the Space Club and the Physics Club played an active role in the organization of the various programs. Students of III B.Sc (Hons) Physics, II B. S. (Physics) and I B. S. (Physics) helped in the arrangement

## **Link to Brochure:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rs6vB9Mm8WcsF04h6sdKP2\\_2L\\_qUI9uO?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rs6vB9Mm8WcsF04h6sdKP2_2L_qUI9uO?usp=sharing)



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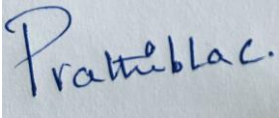
## Links to geotagged pictures:

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## Links to photos:

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## Program Coordinators:



Dr. C. Prathibha



Prof. Deepa Seetharaman