

Celebrating National Space Day at IIT Hyderabad a staggering response of students with creative space technology ideas

Highlights:

- *Nearly 424 school students have participated in various programs including innovative space-theme based model exhibition, poster exhibitions on various themes, quizzes, painting competitions.*
- *The program is hosted by Dr K Mruthyunjaya Reddy, former senior scientist, National remote sensing centre, ISRO, India.*

Hyderabad, August 24, 2024: As announced by the Honourable Prime Minister, the Government of India has designated August 23rd each year as "National Space Day" to honor the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. This mission achieved a significant milestone with the safe and soft landing of the Vikram Lander at 'Shiv Shakti' point (Station Shiv Shakti) and the deployment of the Pragyaan Rover on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023. India became the fourth country to land on the moon and the first to reach its southern polar region on August 23, 2023. The goal of National Space Day is to engage and inspire the nation's youth about space technology and its applications. The proposed theme for National Space Day 2024 is "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga."

IIT Hyderabad commemorates this special occasion on August 23, 2024, with a series of events, including a day-long program featuring participation from 16 nearby schools and colleges with approximately 424 students and 44 teachers. The chief guest for the event was Dr. K. Mruthyunjaya Reddy, former Director General of Andhra Pradesh State remote Sensing Application Center (APSRAC) & Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMS) and Senior Scientist (retired), NRSC, ISRO, Government of India. He delivered a reflective talk on "Touching lives while touching the moon: India's space saga" commemorating the journey of the Indian Space Research program through different stages of evolution. He also mentioned future directions and answered many queries from inquisitive minds. Prof B S Murty, director, IIT Hyderabad provided motivating opening remarks which inspired students from different ages.

An overwhelming response has been obtained from students: nearly 424 students have participated in various activities: 84 students build space-based models for rockets and spaceships with innovative ideas, 60 students have participated in the posters. Despite rain and poor weather conditions, the responses of the students are remarkable. A large participation was observed for students with painting competition, content creation, video blogging based on space themes. A special dedicated session was organised where faculties and PhD students explained different space topics to students in layman languages. A gallery was setup using GSLV, PSLV, Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan space satellite models, thanks to NRSC for such a support. During the prize ceremony, an unique event was organised where school students and teachers can directly interact with faculties and researchers who are already established their career in Space physics. This includes online participation of international students who are in abroad now.

The Chief Guest Dr K Mruthyunjaya Reddy added, "The journey of ISRO is quite remarkable. It does create an impression only on researchers, scientists and academicians but also on the common man. It is now the responsibility of the next generation to fly our flag high and take the journey onwards which we could not even imagine."

Prof B S Murty, Director, IITH, said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all space science enthusiasts and future scientists. IIT Hyderabad is committed to fostering innovation and excellence in the years ahead. We have established one of the best telescopes among the academic institutions in India on our campus to enable detailed studies of planets and stars, thereby enhancing our knowledge of space. We are always here to guide and support the students, the future leaders in Science and Technology for our country."



The organizer of the program, Dr Mayukh Pahari, Department of Physics, added, “The enthusiasm and space-theme based innovative ideas and knowledge demonstrated by students as young as standard eight is simply remarkable and beyond imagination. Nurturing and supporting such brilliant young mind and elevating their innovative ideas to the height so that it can be connected to national and international space research and technology developments are the aim of the space research group at IIT Hyderabad.”

Electronic Release (Video Abstract): <https://youtu.be/T3ljDC1-RTE>

About IIT Hyderabad:

IITH, established in 2008, as one of the second Generation IITs, has reached a respectable position in both academics, research, technology development and startups in the short span of 15 years. In the recent Indian National Ranking (NIRF-2024), IITH is placed at 3rd in Innovation and 8th among Engineering institutes in India.

It has 320+ full-time faculty, 5,200+ students (PG + PhD students accounting for about 60%). The institute has a strong research focus with Rs. 1100+ Cr of R&D funding, 10,600+ publications, 295+ Patents, and about 190+ startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs and a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr). Follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Koo](#), and [YouTube](#) for the latest updates.

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