



GENERAL

## Maiden National Space Day 2024 celebrated in a befitting way, young participants take centrestage

ITANAGAR, Aug 23: Arunachal Pradesh joined the rest of the country in celebrating the maiden National Space Day across the State, marking successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon.

In the main programme at the capital, the National Space Day 2024 celebration organized by Arunachal Pradesh Science Centre, APSCS&T, Itanagar, was a remarkable success.

The event was a week-long celebration, in observance of National Space Day and India Space Week from 15th to 23rd August. It was aimed at enhancing public understanding of space science and to encourage the younger generation to pursue careers in science and technology.

The programme featured a vibrant painting competition, followed by a DIY Rocketry Show.

The painting competition was conducted in three categories.

In junior category (Class I-V: theme - famous cartoon characters on Moon), Mojom Ete (Class-III, Rockford School Naharlagun) won the top prize; Kipa Kampong (IV, Donyi Polo Vidya Bhawan) bagged the second prize, and Nyasum Nyorak (III, VKV Chimpu) got the third prize.

In intermediate category (Class VI-VIII: theme - Moon Mission), the first three prizes were clinched (in order) by class VIII students - Biri Myra (VKV Itanagar), Sakshi Kumari Jha (Bunny's Fantasy World School) and Tame Raja (Govt Middle School, Niti Vihar).

In senior category (Class IX-XII: theme - Space Technology in India), the first prize was secured by Rakhi Yigam (XII, Mallo Tarin GHSS), second prize by Tagru Yazum (Class-X, Mallo Tarin GHSS), and the third prize by Rei Takar (JP Public School).

A total of 19 students won consolation prizes.

The immersive planetarium show 'Back to the Moon for good' was displayed for parents, teachers and students, exploring the history, science, and future of lunar exploration. Special screening of short movies on the theme 'India's Space Sage' provided by ISRO was also shown for the attendees, gaining insight into one of India's most significant achievements in space exploration.

The programme was graced by APSCS&T Director cum Member Secretary CD Mungyak & Curator APSC Vivek Kumar.

Earlier, the programme began with an insightful webinar on National Space Day by P Aravinda Kumar, Sci/Engr 'SG' & Group Head, Bhuvan Content Generation Group, ISRO. His engaging presentation explored the latest advancements in space technology and the significant role of ISRO's Bhuvan platform in space data management. The session provided valuable insights into India's space endeavours, inspiring the attendees and enhancing their understanding of the nation's space capabilities.

To further the enthusiasm, the event featured three shows daily.

The weeklong event concluded with a valedictory ceremony today, highlighting the creative and intellectual contributions of the young participants.

RONO HILLS: Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) proudly celebrated the 1st National Space Day today, marking a significant event in the academic and scientific calendar of the country. The event, held on the university's main campus, was attended by distinguished guests, faculty members, university and school students, and space science enthusiasts from across the region.

The program at RGU began with the live streaming of an address by President Droupadi Murmu from Bharat Mandapam, setting the tone for the day's events.

Attending the event as chief guest, RGU vice chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha talked about the glorious history of the country and the significance and relevance of Indian knowledge system, and emphasized on the importance of taking pride in India's successful space missions. He also spoke about the prominence of science and technology in ancient India and encouraged everyone to take pride in India's achievements.

Later, the VC also inaugurated an exhibition showcasing India's technological advancements and space missions.

The celebration featured a lively and interactive keynote address by Prof Som Kumar Sharma, the head of the Space and atmospheric science division, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad. He talked about the historical development of ISRO, the importance of lunar missions and that of atmospheric science and remote sensing devices.

He also spoke about the scope of installation of a new LIDAR in RGU, Arunachal Pradesh. His lecture also touched on various PRL centers across India that focus on space science and showcased in-house developed technologies like Raman LiDaR, ASPEX, and the DISHA Payload, which are instrumental in studying the atmosphere and celestial bodies like the Sun.

Further, Prof Sharma emphasized the significance of atmospheric science, particularly the role of clouds in assessing pollution levels, besides introducing the Aditya-L1 mission and previewing future space missions planned for Venus and Mars.

RGU Registrar Dr N T Rikam spoke about the importance of NSD celebration and encouraged the students to dedicate themselves for space technology development.

Controller of Examination in-charge (RGU), Dr David Pertin called upon the young generation to take pride in the momentous milestone that India has achieved in space explorations.

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