

Wednesday 20th April, 2016

Chennai Students Snap Earth from Space Station Cam

● **Express News Service**

Around 57 students of three city schools were part of a NASA mission under EarthKAM (Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle School students) programme recently. They were provided with a unique opportunity to control a digital camera on board the International Space Station (ISS) to capture images of the Earth's surface as seen from space. These images can be used in class projects in Earth science, space science, geography, social studies and more.

SPACE, a Delhi-based NGO providing astronomy among the school students, runs the educational outreach programme of NASA in collaboration with Education Pvt Ltd in India. The workshop was held in Chennai from April 12-16. Students of GT Aloha Vidhya Mandir, Neelankarai, DAV Public School, Velachery and Shri Natesan Vidyasala Matric Higher



(Above) Students request images from the ISS; and (left) an image of Chennai clicked by Anirudh A, a student ● **Express**



Secondary School, Manivakkam participated in the mission.

This is a NASA mission administered by Sally Ride Science. Students were also permitted to write messages for astronauts onboard the ISS, which will be compiled by SPACE and sent to the mission team. As a part of the programme, participants can log in to the website and request images from the camera mounted on the ISS. Over 100 high resolution colour images of dif-

ferent locations of earth were captured through ISS camera.

Since 1998, the ISS EarthKAM has captured over 50,000 photos during 50 missions on the space station via this programme. The ISS, which orbits at a height of 354 km over the Earth, had a special camera installed to take pictures as requested by the students.

The kids were excited with the mission. "It motivates us to become astronauts," said Anirudh S, a 7th grader. "We learnt many new things, added R P Amirthavarshini, an 8th grader.

DECCAN Chronicle

City students write to astronauts aboard ISS

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, APRIL 19

Chennai school students wrote messages for the astronauts onboard the International Space Station, which orbits at a height of 354 km over the earth.

"I also want to become an astronaut and to study about space, my best wishes for your researches. Thank You," wrote A.S. Tharini, one of the participants in the educational outreach programme conducted by SPACE. She is a class seven student from Shri Natesan Vidhyasala.

Another student Ojas Parashar, class 8 student from GTA Vidhya Mandir, said that living in space was fun. "Astronauts are the greatest people ever, I always want to become like you all, living in space is a lot of fun," he wrote.

These messages will be compiled by SPACE and sent to the mission team. About 60 students from three schools in the city have participated in the Sally Ride EarthKAM

● **Some have also captured images of the earth as seen from space using the camera mounted on International Space Station (ISS)**

workshop recently conducted by SPACE at GT Aloha Vidhya Mandir School, Neelankarai.

It has allowed the students to request photographs of the earth by a special camera mounted on the International Space Station.

The programme was inaugurated by Vinola Murali, Principal, GT Aloha Vidhya Mandir, Neelankarai.

During this programme, participants logged in to the website and requested images from the camera mounted on the ISS.

Participants got the chance to capture select images of the Earth's surface as seen from space. These images can be used in class projects in Earth science, Space science, Geography and Social Science.