

Hiranandani Upscale students make rare discovery



Kishore Kumar, Sivamagadev, Vishweshwar and Vishwath

A team of students from Hiranandani Upscale School, Egattur, and Shri Natesan Vidyasala Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mannivakkam, have discovered three asteroids, as part of a nationwide campaign of the International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) programme, United States, to popularise astronomy.

Vishwath Ramachandran of class IX and Vishweshwar Ramanakumar of class X of Hiranandani Upscale School (HUS) in Kelambakkam have made two provisional asteroid discoveries, said a release. As part of the project, students got to access images of the sky taken by the 'Pan Starrs' (The Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System) Telescope, which is located at Hawaii, US and uses a 1.8m (60 inch) telescope to survey the sky to look for asteroids, comets and Near Earth Objects (NEO), said the release.

The provisional discovery has been confirmed and officially recognised as an asteroid discovery by the international agencies concerned, said the release. The asteroids have been given designated numbers and will be named after the students.