

Natesan school students discover asteroids



Natesan school students who discovered asteroids are seen along with their principal.

TALK TEAM

Three asteroids have been discovered by a team of students from Natesan Vidyasala School, Mannivakkam, and Hiranandani Upscale School, Egattur, as part of a nationwide campaign of International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) programme, USA, in association with SPACE organisation to popularise astronomy in the country.

The provisional discoveries made by students, Vishwath Ramachandran and Vishweshwar Ra-

manakumar, have been designated as 2016 OL4 P10w65E and 2016 PR2 P10w89g and the discoveries by Kishore Kumar T and Siva Magadev M have been designated as 2016 OP4 P10w65D. These discoveries have been confirmed and formally recognised as asteroids by the international agency,' said the zonal business manager - south, SPACE, S Venkata Narayanan during the event.

'Under the project, participants got access to the images of the sky taken by 'Pan Starrs' (The Panoramic Survey

Telescope and Rapid Response System), run by the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy. It is an 1.8-metre telescope on Mount Haleakala in Maui Hawaii, United States, which has a very large camera with a seven square degree field of view to survey the sky to look for asteroids, comets and Near Earth Objects (NEO). Our students searched for asteroids after downloading and analysing data with special software,' he added.

Correspondent of Natesan school, N Ramasubramaniam, said, 'We have a long association with SPACE organisation and I am impressed with their efforts to enhance scientific temper in the field of space technology.'

Students, Sivamagadev and Kishore Kumar of the school, said, 'Earlier, we didn't know anything about asteroids but post-training, we were fully equipped to take on the challenge. Many thanks to our teachers and SPACE team for making this discovery happen.'