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ASTRONOMY DAY

Astronomy enthusiasts gathered in Nehru Planetarium to celebrate International Asteroid Day on June 30. About 200 students from primary school to university students attended the event in Delhi. The unifying factor between everyone at the event was their passion for astronomy. Several of the students were provisional discoverers of asteroids, meaning they confirmed the existence of a particular asteroid earning them international fame. Aryan Mishra, 17, became a provisional discoverer three years ago, and he described the Asteroid Day celebration as "amazing" because he was given the opportunity to meet other like-minded individuals. The event began with a video about the solar system and asteroids played on the planetarium dome. Stressing upon the importance of international collaboration, Patrick Michael, an astrophysicist from Nice, France, stated, "Science is an international exploration with no frontier," over a video conference. CB Devgun, president, Space Foundation, introduced the history of asteroids and origin of Asteroid Day in order to motivate more students to study astronomy.

SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

Macmillan Education, a publisher of several English teaching materials, announced its intention to introduce International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) curricula to over 5,000 Indian schools and 5,00,000 students over the next two years. From class II to class XII, the ICAS programme tests students' mastery of academic subjects while giving them individual attention. Rather than simply assessing students' ability to memorise facts, ICAS studies students' unique mistakes and helps them improve their thinking and problem-solving processes. Moreover, ICAS provides reports for parents and teachers to compare a student's progress to that of other students in the class, region, and world.

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SMART CLASSROOMS

Schools across Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, will soon gain access to exceptional technology supplied by Google for Education, as announced at the India Foundation Day for Smart Cities Mission event. Under the terms of the deal, 31 schools will be given Chromebooks with advanced software. M Hari Narayanan, IAS, managing director and CEO, Greater Visakhapatnam Smart City Corporation Limited, said, "Our aim is to accelerate learning for students and encourage creativity and critical thinking." Also, teachers will be trained to use the technology effectively.