

For Immediate Release

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Hands on Science to measure Mother Earth

The Deputy Chief Minister, Government of NCT of Delhi, Mr Manish Sisodia has encouraged SPACE to aware all the students about the hands on learning techniques to study Astronomy and Space Sciences, especially, less privileged ones so that students will gain practical knowledge inspite of conventional theoretical classes of Science.

New Delhi: SPACE the pioneer organization working towards the development of science and astronomy in India, conducted its flagship programme Project Paridhi, a hands on project to measure circumference of Earth, with Deputy Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi, Mr Manish Sisodia as the Chief Guest and 75 students from different schools of Delhi at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on September 23, 2015. The Autumn Equinox will be celebrated by SPACE pan India throughout the week.

Inspiring the young Earth Scientists, **Mr Manish Sisodia** said, "Space is within us. We should explore space and learn Science from such hands on activities like Project Paridhi. I am glad to be a part of today's event. I always think that our classrooms should produce scientific minds and then only we can get rid of lots of misconceptions and obsolete traditions. I am really impressed with the activities and work of team SPACE". Making the first shadow marking for the activity, he also said that such science activities should be taken forward to students of all kinds of schools to make science accessible to all and he invited SPACE to join hands in this endeavour.

Stating the experiment as a unique practice, **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), SPACE, Mr Sachin Bahmba** said that "SPACE will take this kind of hands of activity to all schools and foster an enjoyment of science through such simple attractive projects."

On the occasion, CMD, Mr Sachin Bahmba and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Amit Verma of SPACE welcomed the Chief Guest. The Scientific Officer of the organisation, Ms Mila Mitra initiated the experiment with the Chief Guest and briefed him about the activity. The programme has been graced by the presence of President, SPACE Foundation, Mr CB Devgun; Director, SPACE, Ms Shalini Bahmba. The Director (Monuments) of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Dr M Nambirajan and Superintending Archaeologist (Delhi Circle), ASI Mr Daljit Singh were also invited for the activity.

SPACE conducted the activity with a large group of students at Jantar Mantar, Delhi and in different schools across Delhi. For the first time, this project was taken pan India and conducted at different locations in Chennai and Ludhiana also. The students measured the shadows of objects as cast by the sun, and used simple geometry and trigonometry to find the circumference of the Earth. Students were also taken around Jantar Mantar and the usage of the ancient instruments was explained. This activity is a hand on science activity that illustrates that science is best learnt by doing. The activity replicates one originally done by ancient astronomer Eratosthenes in Greece 2300 years back. 13 schools participated including The Aditya Birla Public School, Kotputli; DPS Ghaziabad; JBM Global School, Noida; Amity International, Sec 46, Gurgaon; St Thomas School, Dwarka; Indraprastha International School, Dwarka; Amity International School, Pushp Vihar; The Heritage School, Vasant Kunj; Amity International School, Saket; Manav Rachna

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International School, Faridabad; DPS Sec 45, Gurgaon; GD Goenka Public School, Sec 9, Rohini; Greenway Modern Senior Secondary School; Indraprastha World School, Pashchim Vihar. This project is also being conducted in Chennai and Ludhiana for the first time.

About Project Paridhi

Project Paridhi is a flagship project initiated by SPACE FOUNDATION in the year 2010, in order to popularize Hands on Science. Under this project, SPACE educators will replicate and in fact take actual measurements of the shadows made by the Sun to measure the circumference of Earth as done 2300 years back by astronomer - Eratosthenes. SPACE has been conducting this project previously at various national heritages like Jantar Mantar, Qutub Minar and also by using the giant sundial constructed at Barapullah during the commonwealth games. In this experiment students have been able to calculate the circumference of earth to an accuracy of 99% with comparison to the real circumference. With the help of this project SPACE has highlighted that such Indian monuments can be used as tools to demonstrate and get the common man interested in science.

This project has also been accredited in a report on Astronomy in public places and highways by French Professors, Mr. Prof Denis Savoie and Prof Bonnet Bidaud.

About SPACE

SPACE came into existence in 2001, with the goal of popularizing science and inculcating scientific temperament among masses specially students in India. Its aims and objectives are derived from the Constitution of India – Part IV-A Fundamental Duties of Citizen, Article 51 A (h), says – “It shall be the duty of every citizen of India - to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform”. SPACE has been changing the face of Science and Astronomy awareness, education and innovation in India through path-breaking concepts, services and programs. We are constantly striving to use these programs to foster scientific temperament in society, especially among the youth who are the harbingers of our future. The ultimate intention is to create an intelligent, analytic and space savvy global community who will be the future leaders in mains exploration of space and the universe, in a world that is rapidly heading to a space age. SPACE is also a part of the advisory panel for the restoration of our national heritage and scientific observatory Jantar Mantar.

Our Flagship Projects

- Project PARIDHI
- All India Asteroid Search Campaign- AIASC
- ISS Earth KAM (Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students)
- Project Dark Skies
- Kalpna Chawla Quiz Contest
- Internet Telescope
- Project Khoj
- Heliodysey
- Hydro Rocketry Design Competition

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