

Seminar on “Magnificent Destination: An Incredible Story of race to the moon” “The Legacies of Apollo” and “India's Footprint in Space”

Date: 20-07-2019

Participants: 100

Dr. Nisha Patel, Department of Physics, Sir P. T. Sarvajanic College of Science, Surat

Dr. Pruthul R Desai, Department of Physics, Sir P. T. Sarvajanic College of Science, Surat

Dr. Dhiraj Shah, Department of Physics, Sir P. T. Sarvajanic College of Science, Surat



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Sir P T Sarvajanic College of Science
Physics Club

Celebrates 50th Anniversary
of
“Humanity’s Historic
First Steps on the Moon”

Events

- Poster / Cartoon making Competition
- Essay Writing (Topic : One small step for a man, a giant leap for mankind)
- Screening of Documentary
- Invited Talk

20th July, 2019 | 10 am onwards

Event Coordinator
Dr. Pruthul Desai

For Registration Contact
Dr. Dhiraj Shah
Mob. No.- 94291 60805
Mail on-
ptsphy@gmail.com

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Physics Club

Celebrates 50th Anniversary of
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Abstract

“Magnificent Destination: An incredible story of race to the moon”

Since the existence of humans on the planet Earth, the moon has been cynosure for all eyes. Earlier, we could view our cosmic partner only with the naked eye, then with telescopes and finally in the 20th century for the first-time humans were able to visit Earth’s moon in person. Thanks to Apollo missions, we now know a lot about the moon. Starting from the lunar exploration vehicles of 1950s and early 1960s, rapid development in aerospace technology within a decade enabled us to take that final step of landing on the moon. Neil Armstrong with his first steps on the moon, fulfilled a dream as old as humanity. This talk includes the highlights of man’s journey into space. A timeline of the major events of Apollo missions will be discussed.

“The legacies of Apollo”

Apollo program goes well beyond its celebrated aim of demonstration of superiority of America’s technological prowess over the Soviets. It was also aimed at carrying out scientific research. Over half a century of study of geological observations and collected samples of moon rocks we have gained deeper insights into the Moon’s origin and history. The partnership created between NASA and industry to commercialize technologies developed for Apollo mission has its echo even today. Apollo spinoffs in different field will be discussed.

“India’s footprint in Space”

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the great visionary and father of Indian space program, quickly recognized the benefits of space technologies and as a result, activities related to space research were initiated in India during the early 1960’s. Since inception, the Indian space program has been three distinct elements such as, satellites for communication and remote sensing, the space transportation system and application programs. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has achieved various mile stone in space program and it has become one of the six largest space agencies in the world. Chandrayaan-2 is India’s second lunar exploration mission after successful Chandrayaan-1 mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III) on 15th July 2019. It includes a lunar orbiter, lander, and rover all developed indigenously by ISRO. In this talk, the history of Indian Space program, the major outcomes of the Chandrayaan-1 and some of the challenges in Chandrayaan-2 mission before it will be set in to Lunar orbit and Vikram lander having a soft controlled landing on Lunar surface will be discussed.

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Brief Report:

The Physics Club, Sir P T Sarvajanic College Science report is different celebrated the 50th anniversary of “Humanity’s Historic First Steps on the Moon” on 20th July, 2019. Various activities for the students were planned on this special occasion.

In morning session, three talks were organized.

Dr. Nisha Patel delivered a talk on “Magnificent destination-an incredible story of race to the moon”. She had initiated her talk with the history of mankind in space and then she narrated the incredible story of the race to the moon between Russia and United States. The time-line of Russian lunar mission and US Apollo missions was also included. The story was ended with Neil Armstrong’s first step on the moon with which a dream of whole mankind was fulfilled and the race to the moon was won by US.

Second Interesting talk was delivered by Principal Dr. Pruthul Desai on “Legacies of Opollo-11”. He explained in his talk that Apollo program went well beyond its celebrated aim of the demonstration of superiority of America’s technological prowess over the Soviets. Over half a century of the study of the geological observations and the collected samples of the moon rocks, we have gained deeper insights into the Moon’s origin and history. The partnership created between NASA and industry to commercialize technologies developed for the Apollo mission has its echo even today. Apollo spinoffs in different field were also discussed.

Dr. Dhiraj Shah explained “Indian’s footprint in Space” in his wonderful lecture. He started his lecture by introducing Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the great visionary and father of Indian space program, quickly recognized the benefits of space technologies and as a result, activities related to the space research were initiated in India during the early 1960’s. Further in his talk, Dr. Shah discussed the history of Indian Space program, the major outcomes of the Chandrayaan-1 and some of the challenges faced by Chandrayaan-2 mission before it set in to Lunar orbit and the Vikram lander which had a soft controlled landing on Lunar surface.

In afternoon session, a poster/cartoon presentation competition was organised for the students. This competition received a wonderful response; thirty-three participants from all over South Gujarat region participated with great enthusiasm. Prof. Anil Bhatt from Navyug Science College and Prof. Vipul Kheraj from SVNIT, Surat served as the judges in this competition. Winners of the competition were awarded with a prize in the valedictory function.