

REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF SKY WATCHING PROGRAM DURING SATURN AT OPPOSITION HELD ON 08.09.2024 AT HELIPAD, PUDUCHERRY

Sky watching programme during the Planet Saturn at Opposition was conducted on 08.09.2024 from 6:00 P.M to 9:00 P.M at Helipad, Lawspet. Prior to the conduct of the program, dissemination about the significance of the Planet Opposition was informed to the Innovation Hub students for participation in the program. Accordingly, students along with their parents turned up to the venue and attended the program.

The program was started at 6:00P.M. Due to dark sky at the evening at first we projected our natural satellite -the moon. A half-shaded moon with bright images of craters on the surfaces brought us a fabulous vision to our eyes. Orderly arrangement for visiting the moon was arranged by our security staff of our centre. Soon more crowded people with children joined the queue and felt excited on seeing the surface of the moon which is difficult to witness in our naked eye.

Power point presentation by Dr. Mathivanane was arranged in parallel to the telescope viewing arrangement. Visitors who had witnessed the moon were advised to attend the presentation organized for this purpose. Late we projected the planet Saturn. The resource person explained the significance of the day by conveying the visibility of the brighter ring with close appearance than in the usual day of the seeing the planet Saturn. Such a rare event will happen once in 365 to 378 days period and the next Saturn Opposition will happens on 21st September 2025. Various doubts about past occurrence conjunctions (viz., Transit of Venus, Mercury) were clarified by the resource person.

A very good response from the public (200 nos.) were witnessed. They visited the telescope in order at one end and attended the technical lecture delivered by the resource person. More visitors put forth their agenda about conducting similar program every month. Many Press and Media persons gathered there in the spot for coverage. Press news about the program appeared in majority of the leading dailies on the next day. The program concludes at 8 P.M. In a nutshell, witnessing the ring of the planet in the telescope and awareness about the Opposition in PPT by the Resource Person put forth a good show for the visitors. Staff of Dr. AKSC&P along with a security staff who is currently attending the gallery duty participated in the program.

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PHOTO SESSION

