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NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY – 2014

Open House at IUCAA attracts many students

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Pune: The National Science Day 2014 was observed at the Astronomy-Research Centre at the Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), on Friday.

An Open House was organised on this day, which got an overwhelming response from school and college students of the city, along with parents, who visited IUCAA to see the different types of exhibits on display.

The curiosity to learn was evident as students thronged to IUCAA in large numbers. Students saw the statues of four great scientists, Newton's apple tree, Sky-Dome, Foucault Pendulum and the Samrat Yantra in the science park.

Science Day is observed every year on February 28 to commemorate Nobel Prize winning scientist CV Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect.

Rushikesh Bidkar



INFORMATIVE: A large number of students were present for the question and answer session, which was organised by IUCAA, on Friday.

Ajit Kembhavi, Director, IUCAA, told Sakal Times that IUCAA has been observing Open House for several years. "There have been times when we had around 10,000 visitors. This is one of our public outreach programmes and we want to expose the concepts of basic science to the masses. It is like a science fair," he said.

According to the director, IUCAA is involved in two big projects — Ligo India, which is related to gravitational waves and a thirty meter telescope.

Students learn through interactive session

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Pune: It was an interesting session for the students, teachers and parents, when their doubts were cleared by noted astrophysicist Jayant Naralikar at Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), on Friday.

The occasion was a question-answer session organised by the Astronomy Research Centre on the National Science Day.

Ajit Kembhavi, Director, IUCAA, also answered some questions and encouraged students to pursue a career in astronomy.

The hour-long session revealed some interesting facts like why starts twinkle, whether space has three dimensions or more, the role of mathematics in science, concepts like doppler effect and whether life is possible on other planets.

Naralikar said that considering the available technology it is not be possible to go on other planets.

He also cleared doubts like whether micro-organisms existed on other planets and brought any diseases to earth. "If we have to attract students to science, more such interactive programmes should be organised," Kembhavi said.



Prof Jayant Naralikar (*Centre*) interacts with students at a session organised by IUCAA on the National Science Day, on Friday. Also seen Ajit Kembhavi, Director, IUCAA (left) and Samir Dhurde.

IUCAA DIRECTOR SPEAKS

- "If we have to attract students to science, more such interactive programmes should be organised," said Ajit Kembhavi, Director, Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).
- He also said that there are plans to revamp the science park in the next few years.

QUOTE-UNQUOTE



The Open House at IUCAA is a eye-opener for someone like me, who is interested in astronomy. I have gained a lot of knowledge. I will pursue astronomy and this open day will certainly help me.

— **Simran Goindani,** *Jaihind Junior College*



I have enjoyed the Open House at IUCAA. I am interested in astronomy and watching through the telescope was really eventful. This open day has given me knowledge which I would have otherwise not received.

— **Ruta Kamble,** *University of Pune*



This is my first time at IUCAA. The Open House is an exciting event, which has given me information about the different aspects of basic science. It will indeed help me in my studies in college as well.

— **Suyog Baldota,** *AISSMS*



This Open House has changed my approach towards science. I am interested in astronomy and hence I can term this day as an eye-opener.

— **Mayur Kulkarni,** *Sinhagad Institute of Technology and Science*



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LEARNING YOUNG: A girl observes a sunshine recorder, which records the duration for which there was sunshine in a day, at the India Meteorological Department, on Friday.