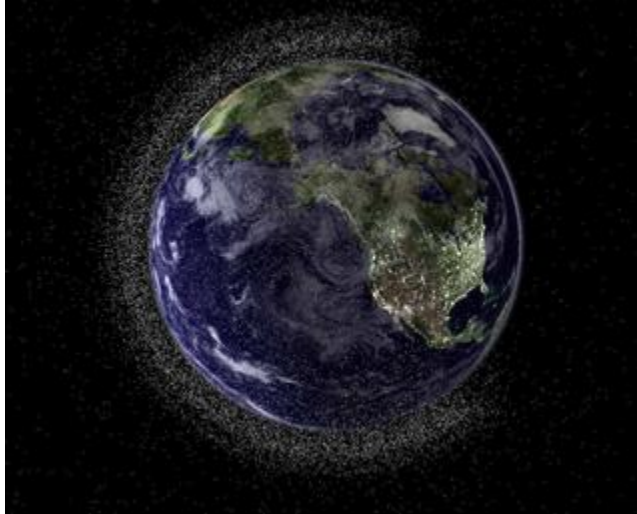


Space debris poses danger

Staff Reporter

October meet to discuss impact of manmade objects up there



ALL THAT JUNK: There are half a million or more objects comprising space debris in low earth orbit. Debris on the eastern side of the image is in the earth's shadow and so not visible to the eye. FILE PHOTO: AFP

How often have we lauded a new rocket that has blasted off successfully into space? We, as lay people, often forget about them after a while. There are many such abandoned manmade objects floating around, forming a dangerous layer of space debris.

To discuss this new threat, Bangalore Media Centre, in association with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, is organising Pollutetech India 2010, a futuristic two-day seminar and expo on environment and pollution here in October.

Orbital junk

Space scientists will discuss the rapid accumulation of orbital junk which will have an immediate impact on weather forecasting, global positioning navigation, television signals and international phone connections among other things.

The debris is also said to affect other functioning spacecrafts through space abrasion due to repeated small-particle impact or a catastrophic fragmentation in case of collision with a large object. The debris may well pose a threat to us earthlings also.

The seminar will also explore other topics, including waste management and recycling, air and water pollution in urban areas and solutions to contain it, and deliberating environmental policies and sustainable development.

The seminar will be held on October 29 and 30 at the J.N. Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science.

For details, call 080-22370656.

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- *The seminar will be held on October 29 at the Indian Institute of Science campus*
 - *It will be a joint effort between Bangalore Media Centre and the State Pollution Control Board*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/article590631.ece>