

# At Astrofair, hundreds gaze into sky

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**Pune:** Neither the cloudy skies, nor the steady drizzle could dampen the spirit of the 100-odd amateur astronomers who gathered at the Kalyaninagar Mitra Mandal grounds on Friday to gaze at the stars, planets and learn more about the universe on the first day of Astrofair.

The three-day event has been jointly organized by the city-based group Astrosight and Sky magazine to celebrate the World Astronomy Day.

As many as eight telescopes have been put up at the venue. People started gathering 7pm onwards and waited in long queues for hours for a glimpse of the celestial wonders. "I waited for half an hour to see the moon through a telescope. I felt as if I have been transported to the moon. I made sure that all my friends attended the fair," said 11-year-old Aryan Singh, a resident of Kalyaninagar.

Not only children, but also professionals, housewives



Amateur astronomers at the fair held at the Kalyaninagar Mitra Mandal grounds on Friday

and grandparents from various areas reached the venue for the experience. "My grandchildren brought me to the fair as they wanted to see how the planets look like from a telescope. I too got very interested," said Kavita Sharma, a resident of Viman-nagar.

Shripriya Modale, who

gave her standard X board examinations this year, said, "I am very interested in the study of stars and constellations. I have read a lot of books about them, but this experience is different. I would like to thank the organizers for coming up with such a good idea."

People also attended the

photo-exhibition and watched documentaries being screened at the venue. "I have always wondered about the universe and today, I learnt about Jupiter and its moons. I want to pursue this field and read more about it," said Tushar Pillay, a resident of Shastrinagar.

Pravin Ohol and Azhar Shaikh, residents of Camp area, were thrilled to see Jupiter and the moon from close. "I saw the brown band on Jupiter and craters of the moon. It is a magical experience. We only read about them in school. I did not know that Mars is reddish in colour," Ohol said.

The organizers were overwhelmed by the response as many wanted to know more. "Many people came to us on the first day to enquire about the classes and how they can learn more about astronomy," said Kirti Lele, manager of Astrosight.

The Astrofair will be held at Katraj dairy on Saturday and at the SP College grounds on Sunday.