

ASI SCAI-26
22-24 January, 2026
IUCAA, Pune

22 January 2026 : Thursday

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| 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Registration Foyer of Chandrasekhar Auditorium |
| Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium | |
| 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Session 1 : Inauguration of ASI SCAI-26 (draft) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome by LOC Chair 2. Welcome Address by ASI President 3. Welcome Address by Director, IUCAA 4. Welcome Address by Centre Director, NCRA-TIFR 5. Recorded messages from Directors IIA and ARIES 6. About ASI SCAI-26 by SOC Chair <p>Samir Dhurde (IUCAA) Devendra Ojha (TIFR) S. Srianand (IUCAA) Yashwant Gupta (NCRA) Annapurni Subramaniam (IIA) & Manish Naja (ARIES) Niruj Mohan Ramanujam (IIA)</p> |
| 10:00 AM - 10:10 AM | Logistics information Samir Dhurde (LOC Chair, IUCAA) |
| 10:10 AM - 10:40 AM | Session on Prof. J.V. Narlikar and his science communication legacy Ajit Kembhavi (IUCAA) , Ashish Mahabal (Caltech) and Arvind Paranjype (Nehru Planetarium), Anchor: Samir Dhurde (IUCAA) |
| 10:40 AM - 11:00 AM | About IUCAA SciPoP SciPoP Team |
| 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM | Tea Break Foyer of Chandrasekhar Auditorium |

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| Session 2 : Plenary Talks Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium Chair: TBD | | | |
| 11:20 AM - 11:40 AM | Eighty-One Years of Inspiring Astronomy: The Journey of Jyotirvidya Parisanstha Atharva Pathak (Jyotirvidya Parisanstha) | | |
| 11:40 AM - 12:00 PM | From Hobby to Career: Astronomy Communication and Outreach by the Astro Club, Fergusson College, Pune Raka Dabhadse (Fergusson College) | | |
| Session 3 : Parallel Talks | | | |
| Session 3a : Amateur astronomers and organisations Venue: Bhaskara 3 Chair: TBD | | Session 3b : Planetarium shows and public outreach at planetaria Venue: ACE Lecture Hall Chair: TBD | |
| 12:10 PM - 12:25 PM | Astronomy clubs in Vadodara-History and present scenario as well as contribution of amateur astronomers Atman Desai (The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara) | 12:10 PM - 12:25 PM | Interweaving Cultural Astronomy and Science Communication in Informal Science Education Lal Rinkimi (Mizoram Science Centre) |
| 12:25 PM - 12:40 PM | Three Decades of Celestial Outreach: Inclusive Astronomy Engagement by Astronomy Club Vadodara Bhargav Joshi (The Amateur Astronomers Association of Vadodara) | 12:25 PM - 12:40 PM | Storytelling the Skies: Integrating Common Knowledge and Local Culture in Developing Planetarium Shows Jayant Ganguly (Regional Science Centre and Planetarium Calicut) |
| 12:40 PM - 12:55 PM | Access to astronomy and open scientific thinking for underprivileged learners - Vatsalya Society Kartikey Gupta (Vatsalya Society) | 12:40 PM - 12:55 PM | Live Discovery in the Dome: Using ZARTH for Real-Time Astronomy Outreach Ashish Mahabal (CalTech, USA) |
| 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Lunch Break Venue: Chittaranjan Recreation Centre | | |
| Session 4 : Posters and Demonstrations Venues: Bhaskara-3 Foyer & ACE Foyer | | | |
| 2:00 PM - 2:55 PM | Setting up and viewing posters and demonstrations by all | | |
| Session 5 : Parallel Talks | | | |
| Session 5a : Novel hands-on activities and demonstrations Venue: Bhaskara 3 Chair: TBD | | Session 5b : Outreach based on history of astronomy in India Venue: ACE Lecture Hall Chair: TBD | |

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| 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM | Radio Meteor detection using Home Built SDR based Radio Telescope Ram Mohan (Association of Bangalore Amateur Astronomers) | 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM | Astronomy awareness for laypersons from a cultural approach Shylaja B S (Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Bengaluru) |
| 3:15 PM - 3:30 PM | Developing a science popularization program in a university, for diverse students in National Capital Region (NCR) Avik Dasgupta (SGT University) | 3:15 PM - 3:30 PM | Using Calendars for Astronomy Outreach Alok Mandavgane (Aryabhat Foundation, Bhopal) |
| 3:30 PM - 3:45 PM | Hands on Astronomy Jagadeeswaran Mani (Tamilnadu Astronomy & Science Society) | 3:30 PM - 3:45 PM | Celestial Heritage: Astronomy Outreach Through Architecture, City Planning, and the Night Sky Harshit Tiwari (Yatharth Labs) |
| 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM | Tea Break Venue: Foyer of Chandrasekhar Auditorium | | |
| 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | The IAU and the astronomy communication ecosystem (IUCAA Colloquium, All are welcome) Kelly Blumenthal (Office for Astronomy Outreach, International Astronomical Union, Japan) Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium | | |
| 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM | The Brightest Pulsars In The Universe (Chandra Public Lecture, All are welcome) Duncan Lorimer (West Virginia University) Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium | | |
| 7:45 PM - 9:30 PM | Dinner Venue: Chittaranjan Recreation Centre | | |
| | | | End of Day |

Day 2 : 23 January 2026 : Friday

| Session 6 : Plenary Talks Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium Chair: TBD | | | |
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| 9:30 AM - 9:50 AM | Using dark and quiet skies, astro-tourism, for public engagement Dorje Angchuk (Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Hanle, Ladakh) | | |
| 9:50 AM - 10:10 AM | Inspiring Learning in Underprivileged Children Through Astronomy Tejpreet Kaur (IIT Kanpur) | | |
| 10:10 AM - 10:30 AM | Hands on activities in understanding basics of astronomy Usha Kulkarni (Independent science communicator, Dharwad) | | |
| 10:30 AM - 10:55 AM | Tea Break Venue: Foyer of Chandrasekhar Auditorium | | |
| Session 7 : Parallel Talks | | | |
| Session 7a : Institutional astronomy communication Venue: Bhaskara 3 Chair: TBD | | Session 7b : Astronomy in school education Venue: ACE Lecture Hall Chair: TBD | |
| 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | 25 Years of Celebrating National Science Day at the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope Divya Oberoi (National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune) | 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | Basic astronomy concepts with physical models Ravindra Godbole (Independent science communicator) |
| 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | Activity-Based Demonstrations for Astronomy Outreach in Resource-Limited Environments Chrisphin Karthick (Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru) | 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | Bringing Astronomy and Science to the public using "The Velogyaneshwari" Bicycle Rupesh Labade (IUCAA, Pune) |
| 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM | From Local Outreach to National Recognition: A Case Study in Building a Sustainable Astronomy Ecosystem in Ratnagiri Babasaheb Sutar (RPG College of Arts & Science And RVJ College of Commerce, Ratnagiri) | 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM | Engaging Students with Astronomy through Hands-on Activities and Science Projects Aravindaraja D (Directorate of School Education) |
| 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Communicating the Whispers of the Universe Saurabh Salunkhe (IUCAA, Pune) | 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Print vs. Digital: Analyzing the Chekhumuki Model for Astronomy Outreach in Rural and Urban India Priya Shah Hasan (Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad) |

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| 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM | The scope of SCOPE: IIA's bridge to the public Vikranth Pulamathi (Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru) | 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM | From Cosmos to Climate Action: Connecting Astronomy to Environmental Stewardship Vidhya Ramamoorthy (Naavi) |
| Session 8 : Parallel Talks | | | |
| Session 8a : Using digital tools and AI for communicating astronomy <i>Venue: Bhaskara 3</i> Chair: TBD | | Session 8b : Astronomy communication in regional languages <i>Venue: ACE Lecture Hall</i> Chair: TBD | |
| 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM | CosmicVarta: From Science Writing to AI-Powered Outreach Robin Thomas (Cosmic Varta) | 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM | Communicating Science in Vernacular at Planetaria Guruprasad B R (Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium) |
| 12:15 PM - 12:30 PM | OMG : One Million Galaxies - A citizen science project to classify galaxies based on morphology Atharva Pathak (IUCAA, Pune) | 12:15 PM - 12:30 PM | Communicating the Cosmos in Assamese: Navigating Strengths and Challenges in Regional Astronomy Outreach Kamal Kumar Tanti (MSSV Nagaon, Assam) |
| 12:30 PM - 12:45 PM | VASCSC's Initiatives in Digital Resources for Astronomy Learning Masoom Jethwa (Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad) | 12:30 PM - 12:45 PM | Regional language as a tool for astronomy outreach: Experiences from Kannada science communication Pavan Gramapurohit (Indian Institute of Astrophysics) |
| 12:45 PM - 1:00 PM | Astronomy for Beginners: Designing Bite-Sized YouTube Lectures for Conceptual Learning Akshat Singh (Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai) | 12:45 PM - 1:00 PM | Experiences of Communicating Astronomy in Regional Languages and Non-Urban India Snehith (Bangalore Astronomical Society) |
| 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Lunch Break <i>Venue: Chittaranjan Recreation Centre</i> | | |
| Session 9 : Parallel Talks | | | |
| Session 9a :Pseudo-science, misinformation, and promoting scientific temper <i>Venue: Bhaskara 3</i> Chair: TBD | | Session 9b : Astronomy in school education (contd.) <i>Venue: ACE Lecture Hall</i> Chair: TBD | |
| 2:00 PM - 2:15 PM | The Challenges of Teaching Astrobiology: Navigating Enthusiasm, Ethics and Evidence Pallavi Kajrekar (UK Centre for Astrobiology, The University of Edinburgh) | 2:00 PM - 2:15 PM | Teaching the shape of earth and day/night cycle at upper primary level: A 'Knowledge rich' approach to curriculum using history of science T.V. Venkateswaran (IISER Mohali) |
| 2:15 PM - 2:30 PM | Dispelling the shadow of superstition during the 2025 Total Lunar Eclipse - a campaign led by IIA. Prasanna Deshmukh (Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru) | 2:15 PM - 2:30 PM | Science to Sustainability: Empowering Lives Through Space Science and Astronomy Sachin Bahmba (Space Foundation) |
| Session 9c :Science and astronomy journalism <i>Venue: Bhaskara 3</i> Chair: TBD | | | |
| 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Birthing a science story Anjali Marar (The Indian Express) | 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Reaching for the Sky: A Multi-Lingual and Multi-Tiered Approach to School Astronomy Outreach Durva Sonawane (Fergusson College, Pune) |
| 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM | The Beyonder's Newsletter: A case study of Astronomy and Space journalism Sibsankar Palit (LIFE-To & Beyond Foundation) | 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM | Exploring Moon Phases through Roleplay: Insights from Vigyan Pratibha Classrooms Mukul Mhaskey (Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai) |
| Session 10 : Posters and Demonstrations <i>Venues: Bhaskara-3 Foyer & ACE Foyer</i> | | | |
| 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM | Viewing posters and demonstrations by all | | |
| 3:45 PM - 4:15 PM | Tea Break Same venue as poster sessions | | |
| Session 11 : Flash talks for posters and demonstrations <i>Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium</i> Chair: TBD | | | |
| 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM | Flash talks 1 minute per poster and demonstration | | |
| 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM | Open Session | | |

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| 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Dinner Venue: Chittaranjan Recreation Centre | | | |
| 9:30 PM - 11:00 PM | Special Skywatch Venue: IUCAA Kund | | | |
| End of Day | | | | |
| Day 3 : 24 January 2026 : Saturday | | | | |
| Session 12 : Plenary Talks Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium Chair: TBD | | | | |
| 9:30 AM - 9:50 AM | Audio Overviews in NotebookLM as a tool for making Multi-Lingual Podcasts: Enabling astronomy outreach in regional languages Yogesh Wadadekar (National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, TIFR, Pune) | | | |
| 9:50 AM - 10:10 AM | Breaking the Chain of Misconceptions: Impact of Teacher Training Workshops on Astronomy Understanding Moupiya Maji (Formerly at IUCAA, Pune) | | | |
| 10:10 AM - 10:30 AM | Reimagining Astronomy Education with the Spacetopia Learning Ecosystem Mila Mitra (STEM & Space) | | | |
| 10:30 AM - 10:55 AM | Tea Break Venue: Foyer of Chandrasekhar Auditorium | | | |
| Session 13 : Parallel Talks | | | | |
| Session 13a : Inclusive, equitable, and ethical practices Venue: Bhaskara 3 Chair: TBD | | Session 13b : Teacher training and student engagement in schools Venue: ACE Lecture Hall Chair: TBD | | |
| 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | Bringing the Universe Closer: A Journey of Inspiring Curiosity in Villages and Tribal Regions through Astronomy Outreach Abhishek AS (Gravity Science Foundation, Chamarajanagar) | 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM | Bridging Science and Society: Astronomy Education through Theatre BS Shubha (Indian Institute Of Astrophysics, Bengaluru) | |
| 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM | Astronomy communication for diverse communities Syed Najamul Hasan (Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad) | 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM | Designing Wonder: Transforming School Astronomy through Experiential Engagement Sonal Thorve (WOW Astronomy) | |
| 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Promoting Women-led Astropreneurship: Perspectives from the “C-STERC Women AstroPreneurs’ Collective” (CWAPC) Anupama Pradeepan (C-STERC Techno Science, Coimbatore) | 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM | GMRT Online National Science Project Competition & Exhibition Nilesh Chhadawelkar (Indian Institute of Knowledge, Pune) | |
| 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Rural Libraries as astronomy centres - IIA’s experiment with 5888 Arivu Kendras Yashaswini K S (Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru) | 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM | Integrating Experiential Astronomy and Amateur Radio Communication in School Education: A Multidisciplinary Model for Public Engagement and Scientific Temper Mahesh MB (Excel Public School, Mysuru) | |
| Session 13c : Large scale campaigns, building networks and communities Venue: Bhaskara 3 Chair: TBD | | 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Stars Over Hills: Empowering Teachers and Students through Astronomy Outreach in the rural school communities of Uttarakhand Aasheesh Raturi (DIBNS, Dehradun) | |
| 11:45 PM - 12:00 PM | IIA COSMOS-Mysuru: How to build a district-wide Astronomy education and outreach program from the ground up Amoghavarsha N (Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru) | Session 13d : Using dark and quiet skies, astro-tourism Venue: Bhaskara 3 Chair: TBD | | |
| 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM | Elevating Amateur Astronomy: Science Projects for Sustained Engagement Aniruddha Deshpande (Jyotirvidya Parisanatha, Pune) | 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM | Dark Skies and Sustainable Livelihoods: Institutionalising Astro-Tourism through Policy and Capacity Building in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Anupama Pradeepan (C-STERC Techno Science and Open Space Foundation) | |

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| 12:15 PM - 12:30 PM | Propagating Scientific Temper Across India: The Outreach Activities of Aryabhat Foundation Kartikey Dixit (Aryabhat Foundation, Bhopal) | |
| Session 14 : Posters and Demonstrations Venues: Bhaskara-3 Foyer & ACE Foyer | | |
| 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM | Viewing posters and demonstrations by all | |
| 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Lunch Break Venue: Chittaranjan Recreation Centre | |
| Session 15 : Breakout Sessions Venues: There different venues | | |
| 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Breakout Session 1: Topic TBD Venue: Bhaskara 3 | |
| 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Breakout Session 2: Topic TBD Venue: MVS Lecture Hall | |
| 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Breakout Session 3: Topic TBD Venue: ACE Lecture Hall | |
| Session 16 : Plenary Talks Venue: Chandrasekhar Auditorium | | |
| 3:10 PM - 3:30 PM | Summary of breakout sessions by moderators | |
| | General Discussion and the Way Forward | |
| 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | 1. ASI Vision Document & the ASI POEC 2. General Discussion | Niruj Mohan Ramanujam (SOC Chair & Indian Institute of Astrophysics) Moderated by Niruj & Div? |
| 4:45 PM - 5:15 PM | Feedback and Closing Session | |
| 5:15 PM - 6:00 PM | Tea Break Venue: Foyer of Chandrasekhar Auditorium | |
| 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Dinner Venue: Chittaranjan Recreation Centre | |
| End of Day | | |
| Day 4 : 25 January 2026 : Sunday (GMRT Trip) | | |
| 6:45 AM | Assemble outside NCRA Reception | |
| 7:00 AM | Depart for GMRT | |
| Around 6:00 PM | Arrive at NCRA, Pune | |
| End of Symposium | | |