

International Moon Day Report

Society for Space Education, Research and Development (SSERD), in association with Genex Space and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), conducted Lunarathon-2022, a research hackathon and a Lunar Masterclass. Both events were a huge success with a staggering number of registrations. Lunarathon recorded 350+ registrations and the Lunar Masterclass recorded 250+ registrations.

Lunarathon:

This research hackathon was aimed at providing an opportunity to the students, undergraduate and above, with a research experience. It was an initiative to teach the method and techniques involved in research and to promote the idea of how research must be method based rather than results based pursuit. The event started with a very informative and engaging panel discussion. The panel consisted of:

- Dr. Shyama Narendranath, Scientist, Science Lead of CLASS experiment on Chandrayaan-II.
- Mr. Sreenatha Rathnakumar, Scientist/Engineer, India's DSN Network, ISRO.
- Mr. Yoav Landsman, Engineer and CEO of Moonscape.

Following these discussions, the participants engaged in research for the next 5 days using the open data available from Chandrayaan-II. The event ended with the presentations of the selected teams and a closing ceremony.

Lunar Masterclass:

This Masterclass was a set of 3 lectures imparting information about the moon and its characteristics, the past missions and the importance of scientific exploration. This event was aimed at school students and was an initiative towards scientific communication. The lectures were:

- On the physical characteristics of the Moon by Mr. Anirudh Salgundi.
- The past missions to the Moon by Mr. Garvit Srivastava.
- Lunar Exploration by Dr. Kumar Krishen, Scientist, NASA.

One of the important segments was, the talk by Dr. Kumar Krishen was hosted offline at the office of SSERD and Genex Space as well as streamed online. This offline event gave the students an opportunity to interact with a NASA Scientist and inspired them to reach for more!



