

Astronomical calendar for 2020 launched by ARIES

An Astronomical Calendar for the year 2020 based on the recent astro-photography has been launched by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) an autonomous institute of Department of Science & Technology.

The astronomical calendar which can guide the general public about astronomical events that will take place this year, was launched during a recent observational exhibition and eclipse viewing camp organized by ARIES which was attended by more than 100 students of class IX and X Govt and Private Colleges of nearby area along with ARIES campus residents and general public.

The programme was organized by AERIS in collaboration with District Administration of Nainital for students and general public at ARIES campus on Thursday 26 December 2019 starting at 7:30am.

Three telescopes had been mounted for observations including 6-inch Vixon telescope with neutral density filter, 90 mm Coronado H α PST, and other equipment for projection of the eclipse on a white screen. The first contact of the eclipse for Nainital was at 08:21Hrs. After first contact Moon came over the Sun disk. This critical event was shown to the students by projecting the eclipse. Students observed the Sun through different telescopes and through Solar goggles supplied to them by ARIES and local administration.

The solar eclipse observation was also accompanied by a Planetarium show, interaction with ARIES scientists and discussions about other possible methods of observation of Sun like Mirror projection method, observation through Pinhole camera and welding glasses.

After observing the eclipse, students assembled in ARIES auditorium and attended a talk on "Solar Eclipse" by Dr. Shashi Bhushan Pandey. The main objective of this programme was to develop scientific temperament behind the celestial events like eclipse among students and general public.