



The Astrophile Newsletter

One Fond of Starlore: An Amateur Astronomer

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Venus shows life supporting Phosphine



The chemical found on Venus can exist due to life on Venus.

Phosphine, a toxic gas made up of one phosphorus and three hydrogen atoms (PH₃), commonly produced by organic life forms but otherwise difficult to make on rocky planets, was discovered in the middle layer of the Venus atmosphere. This raises the tantalising possibility that something is alive on our planetary neighbour. With this discovery, Venus joins the exalted ranks of Mars and the icy moons Enceladus and Europa among planetary bodies where life may once have existed, or perhaps might even still do so today.

It's critical to point out that this detection does not mean that astronomers have found alien life in the clouds of Venus. Far from it, in fact. But the existence does support some form of life may be present on the planet either today or in the past.

Moon phases and dates

Important phases and dates for Moon to plan your observation

10/10/20	Third Quarter	06:09	
17/10/20	New Moon	01:01	
23/10/20	First Quarter	18:52	
31/10/20	Full Moon	20:19	Blue Moon



Mars

The red planet is shining brightest nearing its closest approach to earth on Oct. 6th. Also the planet will be at opposition on October 13. Perfect time to view the red planet.



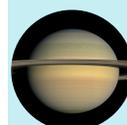
Venus

The sister planet is now visible in the morning skies and can be seen early in the morning 2-3 hours before the sunrise. The planet is showing half the disk and currently growing.



Jupiter

Jupiter is now rising late afternoon and will set after the midnight. The planet is shining bright in the evening skies and giving photographers and observers a chance to explore.



Saturn

The ringed planet is now rising late afternoon and will set after the midnight. The planet is shining bright in the evening skies and giving photographers and observers a chance to explore.

Astrophile Asteroid hunting from Nov09-Dec04



Astrophile - International Asteroid Search Campaign

November 09 - December 04, 2020

Participation via online Training Program

Certificates by NASA

For Registration & Details, Visit
www.astro-phile.com

Eligibility: Grade 9 to 12, Indian School

Last date for registration: October 31,

astro-phile.com [@astrophileeducation](https://www.facebook.com/astrophileeducation) [@astrophile_edu](https://www.instagram.com/astrophile_edu) [@astrophileedu](https://twitter.com/astrophileedu) astrophileeducation@gmail.com

Students of grade 9 onwards registered with any Indian school now get an opportunity to join us in a 4 week long asteroids hunting project organised by Astrophile Education and IASC. The project will start from November 09 and registration will end on October 31. In the current campaign students have discovered 67 asteroids so far.

The project will allow students to work on real-time scientific data to assess and identify the previously unknown asteroids in the solar system. The students will get training online where they can join us Zoom to learn.

Read details here: <https://astro-phile.com/aasc-nov-dec/>

Registration starts from October 7th till October 31st.

World Space Week 2020 - Events, activities & Fun



WORLD SPACE WEEK

OCTOBER 04 - 10, 2020

Theme: **Satellites Improve Life**

Join virtual events and get goodies. Best participants to win prizes. Visit us for more details.

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Astrophile Education is organising a 7 day event to celebrate World Space Week 2020. The theme for this year is "*Satellite Improve Life*". The celebrations have already started and the entries are coming in with lots of amazing ideas and content. If you have not participated yet, do not wait any further. Visit astro-phile.com/wsw2020 and read the details.

The participation is free of cost and requires only the skills you have got. Events like drawing, poem writing, essay writing, podcast making and and astronomy quiz are being organised. Your participation will make you part of global celebrations of this UN designated event. Last date for entries is October 10, 2020. Hurry up! Act before its too late.

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT FOR PRESERVING NIGHT SKIES

Astrophile Education is committed to create environment for everyone to be involved in science and the best way forward to via citizen science projects. The students and the grown ups are all facing a severe challenge to view the stars from their cities due to increasing light pollution.

The development of the city, with more flyovers and commercial complexes, wider roads, and growing cities has caused major light pollution. With air pollution also increasing, the light pollution will become severe and hence we need to quantify.

The project will encourage students and grown ups to participate by evaluating our skies through a systematic manner. The data collected will be evaluated for quantification of light pollution in the city. This will help us understand the amount of light pollution and then in future how the changes have been taking place. If you have an idea to reduce the light pollution, we would like to incorporate in our studies of the sky and hence we would like to reach out to the government for implementation of the ideas.

This is not a short term project and requires commitment and dedication from the observers and contributors. The data needs to be collected on a regular basis and also should be accurate in terms of the sky conditions. This will enable us to fight the problem together and win our skies back. Visit the link: <https://astro-phile.com/citizen-science/> for more details.