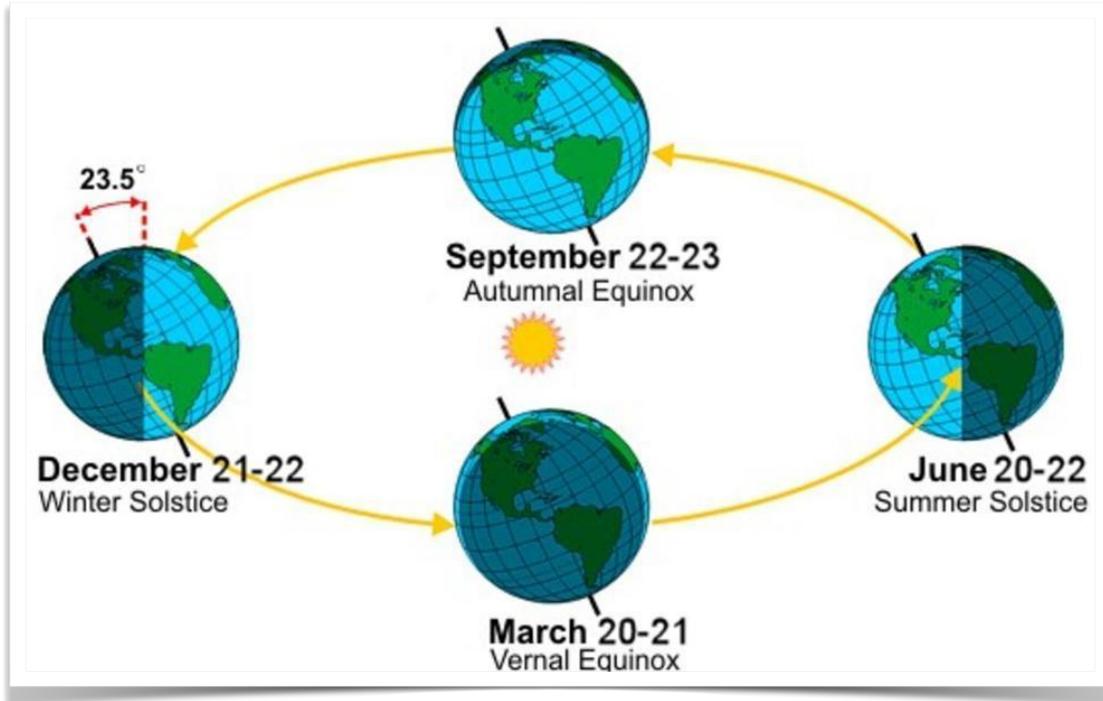




The Astrophile Newsletter

One Fond of Starlore: An Amateur Astronomer

Insta: [@astrophile_edu](#); Facebook: [@astrophileeducation](#) Twitter: [@astrophileedu](#)



Spring Equinox 2021

On March 20 at 03:07 PM IST or 9:37 UT, Northern hemisphere will observe spring equinox.

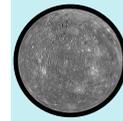
Spring equinox is the day of the year when the Sun crosses the equator and starts moving northwards in sky. It also marks the ending of Winter and start of Spring season in Northern hemisphere. While in southern hemisphere, it is called as autumn equinox and marks the end of summer and beginning of autumn. It is interesting to note that the seasons are just opposite in the two hemispheres.

Every year between March 19-21 the spring equinox occurs and for people living on the equator can observe their shadow disappearing at local noon. Interestingly it also marks the day of equal day and night. The length of the day gets longer while the length of night gets trimmed with each passing day until summer solstice.

Moon phases and dates

Important phases and dates for Moon to plan your observation

06/03/21	First Quarter	07:00
13/03/21	Half Moon	15:51
21/03/21	Third Quarter	20:10
29/03/21	New Moon	00:18



Mercury

Mercury will be rising early morning hours this March. The Planet will be at its maximum western elongation on March 6.



Venus

Venus will be extremely close to the Sun thus month and hence shall not be seen through the telescope.



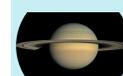
Mars

The red planet will be visible in the evening hours till midnight and shine very bright in the sky this month.



Jupiter

Jupiter will be visible this month minutes before the sunrise. For good observation, one shall wait till the last week of March.



Saturn

Saturn will be visible this month minutes before the sunrise. For good observation, one shall wait till the last week of March.

Asteroid Search in April from 05 - 30.



Astrophile Asteroid Search Campaign

April 05 - 30, 2021

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: March 27, 2021

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

Eligibility: Grade 9 to 12, Indian School

Last date for registration: March 27, 2021

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

Eligibility: Grade 9 to 12, Indian School

Last date for registration: March 27, 2021

Astrophile is proud to bring Astrophile Asteroid Search Campaign back to students this April. The campaign will see 10 teams comprising of 2-5 students each hunting unknown asteroids to help astronomers study their potential threat to earth.

The project starts with a training program on a specialised software which is an essential tool in searching for the known and unknown asteroids. The students will receive data from Pan-STARRS observatory telescopes which is pioneer in searching for the small asteroids in the solar system.

The students will receive a certificate for discovery when confirmed in this NASA supported study. A total of 131 asteroids been discovered in the previous campaigns. For more details: <https://astro-phile.com/aasc-april-2021/>

EarthKAM Mission 73 to start from 2-5 March.



ISS EARTHKAM - MARCH 2021

A classroom with the ultimate view!

MISSION 73
MARCH 02ND - 05TH, 2021

Participation via online Training Program

<https://astro-phile.com/earthkam/> Eligibility: Grade 6 to 9, Indian Schools

astro-phile.com astrophile.edu@icloud.com [@astrophileeducation](https://www.facebook.com/astrophileeducation) [@astrophile_edu](https://www.instagram.com/astrophile_edu) [@astrophileedu](https://www.linkedin.com/company/astrophile-edu) [astrophile.edu](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8j9K1K1K1K1K1K1K1K1K1K1) [astrophile_edu](https://www.tiktok.com/@astrophile_edu) [astrophileeducation](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8j9K1K1K1K1K1K1K1K1K1K1)

ISS EarthKAM is a NASA initiative in which the middle school students can take the opportunity to capture images of the Earth from a camera on-board International Space Station.

The images are then used to study the features on Earth like forests, rivers, mountain range, cities etc. The images can also be used for quick study as to how the cities have grown, deforestation taken place, how the rivers have changed its course etc.

The project is aimed to give students an understanding as to how the research work on Earth can be carried out from space and how it gives us a completely different perspective of our planet earth.

The mission 73 will start from March 2nd. For more details, visit: <https://astro-phile.com/earthkam/>

BRING BACK DARK SKIES - CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT FOR EVERY INDIAN

Science is for the benefit of the community and hence the participation of community is very important. With that in mind, Astrophile Education Services started a Pan-India Citizen Science Project called "Bring Back dark Skies".

The project encourage participation from the people even if they have very little or no knowledge of the sky. The participation require oneself to measure the amount of light pollution by counting the number of stars visible in a specific constellation during the moonless time of the month and report the same back to us on our website.

The projects aims to collect the data of stars visible in the sky by estimates the amount of light pollution in your area. The estimations and the study will be provided to various state and central government departments which can help us eradicate the light pollution and hence bring back the dark skies so that more and more people can enjoy the majestic skies.

Light pollution has slow but harmful effects not only on humans but also on birds, animals and insects. The ambient light has affected the pattern of humans and animals a like and this irreparable damage will only get worse in the times to come.

To learn more about the same, please visit: <https://astro-phile.com/bring-back-dark-skies/>

