



सत्यमेव जयते  
Ministry of Education  
Government of India

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on Mahakala: The Master of Time महाकाल



April 3–5, 2026  
वैशाख कृष्ण प्रथमा-तृतीया  
विक्रम संवत् 2083, युगाब्द 5127

Ujjain  
Madhya Pradesh (India)



“Timeless Traditions of Astronomy, Astrophysics and Cosmology”

## ORGANISERS



## CO-ORGANISERS

# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

- Bharat's timekeeping stretches back into the mists of prehistory. This conference will be focused on the knowledge of time (Kaala jnana) and timekeeping (Kala ganana) of Bharat and the world.
- The main goal will be to bring the attention of the world to the Indian traditions of timekeeping and the pivotal role of Ujjain in the traditions of timekeeping not only for Bharat but for the entire world. The world used Ujjain as a reference point until two centuries ago.
- Various methods of timekeeping and astronomical observations, Vedanga and Siddhanta Jyotisha will be discussed. Methods of Panchanga, observational astronomy and the need for reconciliation of errors in various panchangas will be discussed by scholars. The influence of time and the evolution of various important activities such as agriculture, navigation and development of culture with time will also be discussed.

## LOCATION

Ujjain - Dongla, (MP) India

## DATES

(April 3–5, 2026)

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## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Revival of Ujjain as Meridian of the world
- Promise of the Space Economy for Viksit Bharat
- Latest advances in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Cosmology
- Indian traditions of Kala ganana and Khagol vignan



## ASSOCIATED EVENTS

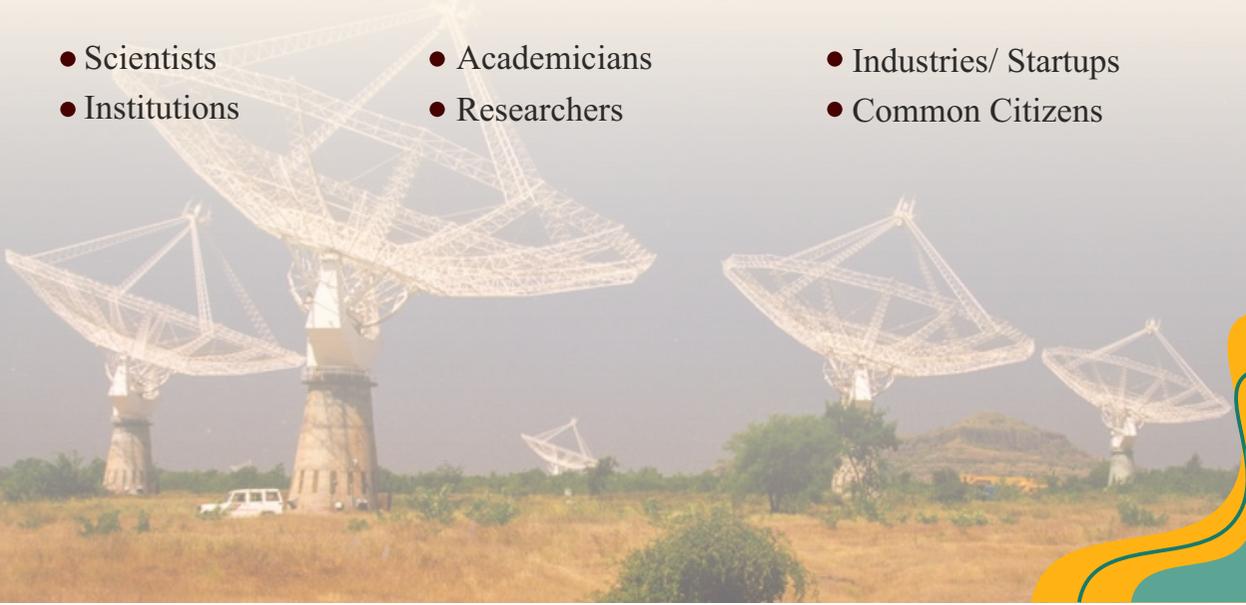
- Key Note Speeches
- Panel Discussions
- Parallel sessions
- Open sessions
- Presentations - Corporate, Research-Academic Institutions
- Expo - Showcase relevant and appropriate technologies along with solutions manifested into reality
- Visit to Dongla observatory
- Workshop and Competition
- Space science startups conclaves
- Book Release
- Cultural Events

## EXPECTED SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

- Prominent national and international thinkers and experts
- Academicians
- Scientists and traditional scholars of Jyotisha and Khagol vignan
- Research scholars
- Industry Leader in space science

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Scientists
- Academics
- Industries/ Startups
- Institutions
- Researchers
- Common Citizens



# PRE- CONFERENCE EVENTS

| S. No. | City      | Organization   | Dates        |
|--------|-----------|--|--------------|
| 1      | Delhi     | Indraprasth Vigyan Bharati & Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Delhi                                     | 24 Feb, 2026 |
| 2      | Kashi     | Vedic Vigyan Kendra, Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi & Purvi Uttar Pradesh Vigyan Bharati, Uttar Pradesh | 9 Mar, 2026  |
| 3      | Puri      | Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri  | 10 Mar, 2026 |
| 4      | Ujjain    | Taramandal Parishar, M.P. Council of Science & Technology, Ujjain & Vikram University, Ujjain                  | 18 Mar, 2026 |
| 5      | Bengaluru | Jain University, Bengaluru   | 23 Mar, 2026 |

## Associate Events and Competitions

National Competitions to make astronomical instruments for observational astronomy

Teaching observational astronomy and panchanga to students (as per NEP 2020)

Workshops on Khagol and Space Science



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

| Date                                 | Program   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Day 0</b><br><b>April 2, 2026</b> | Pre-conference Workshop on astronomical instrument making   |
| <b>Day 1</b><br><b>April 3, 2026</b> | Inauguration of the International Conference<br><b>Session 1:</b> What is Time? How was it measured ?<br>The importance of Ujjain as the Meridian of the World<br><b>Session 2:</b> Kaala Chakra: Involution and Evolution of civilization in time and space<br>Parallel Session: Workshop on Khagol Vignan for students<br>Cultural Program Performance on Kaala and Mahakaala<br>Exhibitions  |
| <b>Day 2</b><br><b>April 4, 2026</b> | <b>Session 3:</b> Space Economy for Vikasit Bharat: Space Technologies in the service of the Nation: Reinvigorating Prof. Dhawan's vision for next century. Evolving private space sector in India and opportunities for youth<br><b>Session 4:</b> Space Sector as Shakti Vel : Space based strategies for the defence of Bharat<br><b>Session 5:</b> The Present and Future of Astronomy and Space Research in India<br><i>(This session will be held at the Varahamihir Astronomical Observatory, Dongla approximately 35 km from Ujjain)</i><br><b>Parallel Session:</b> Workshop on Space Science for students, Poster, National Finals<br><b>Cultural Programs:</b> Local Madhya Pradesh Artists<br>Exhibitions |
| <b>Day 3</b><br><b>April 5, 2026</b> | <b>Session 6:</b> Advances in Astronomy and Astrophysics<br><b>Session 7:</b> Summary Reports by Panel Chairs & Mukta Chintan<br>Valedictory Ceremony   |

# DETAILS OF SOME SPECIAL SESSIONS

## 1. The Importance of Ujjain as the Meridian of the World

Preamble : Ancient Indian astronomical texts are deeply rooted in calculations made using the meridian of Ujjain as the primary reference. Consequently, Ujjain became the natural reference point for the calculation of time or Kala Ganana. In the present era, the calculation of time is commonly referenced to the Greenwich Prime Meridian. However, this is largely a result of Western influence and colonization rather than scientific necessity. This session will discuss the historical, scientific and philosophical justification for aligning the Prime Meridian with Ujjain.

## 2. Kaala Chakra -

### **Involution and Evolution of civilization in time and space**

Kala Chakra, the Wheel of Time, is a profound Indic framework for understanding the involution and evolution of civilization across time and space, integrating cosmology, consciousness, ethics and social order into a single cyclic vision. Unlike linear historical models that assume perpetual progress or inevitable decline, the Kala Chakra conceives time as rhythmic, recursive, and multi-layered, operating simultaneously at cosmic (brahmanda), terrestrial (bhumandala), and human (jiva) scales. In this view, involution is not degeneration but a withdrawal of manifest complexity into subtler principles—knowledge becoming ritual, wisdom condensing into symbols and lived dharma crystallizing into tradition. Conversely, evolution is the re-unfolding of these latent principles into new cultural, technological, and ethical forms, responsive to changing spatial and material conditions. Civilizations thus rise, stabilize, fragment and re-integrate in accordance with shifts in collective consciousness (citta), moral orientation (dharma) and ecological balance, rather than purely economic or technological drivers. The Kala Chakra also situates human history within a cosmic ecology, where astronomical cycles, geographic space and societal organization codetermine civilizational possibilities. Crucially, this model allows for renewal without erasure knowledge lost at one phase re-emerges transformed in another enabling continuity across apparent ruptures. In contemporary terms, the Kala Chakra offers a powerful counterpoint to linear modernity—suggesting that sustainable futures arise not from unchecked acceleration, but from attunement to cyclical time, spatial limits and the ethical maturation of consciousness.

### **3. Varahamihira Observatory, Dongla - International Astronomical Research Centre**

Separate session on the potential of Dongla observatory to be established as an International Centre in Astronomy and Astrophysics research and innovation. Discussions on the current status and uniqueness of the observatory and accessibility to school and college students of M.P. and neighbouring states.

### **4. The Present and Future of Astronomy and Space Research in India**

Separate sessions on ground-based mega science projects and space based ISRO roadmap for current and future directions in astronomy and planetary science

#### **Ongoing Ground-Based Mega Science Projects- SKA, TMT, LIGO etc Roadmap for future and frontiers of space research in Astronomy and planetary science**

Plenary and invited speakers from eminent institutes of India and Abroad along with ISRO participation.

### **5. Space Economy for Vikasit Bharat- Space Technologies in the service of the Nation**

Reinvigorating Prof. Dhawan's vision for next century

Preamble : ISRO and private entities will showcase the current landscape of space technology in India and outline the roadmap ahead, including milestones such as the Bharatiya Space Station (by 2035) and an Indian human landing on the Moon (by 2047). Special emphasis will be placed on domains particularly relevant to the state of Madhya Pradesh. With a growing number of space startups based in the state, their participation will enrich the discussions and make the session more impactful and meaningful.



## PATRONS



**Dr. Mohan Yadav**

Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Madhya Pradesh



**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**

Hon'ble Minister of Education  
Govt. of India

## MENTORS

**Shri Suresh Soni**

(Special Advisor)

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Cultural Advisor, HCM MP

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VC, Vikram University, Ujjain

**Prof. Anil Bhardwaj**

Director, PRL

**Shri M. Sankaran**

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**Prof. Yashwant Gupta**

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# ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

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PMB Gujarati Science College, Indore

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**Prof. Neetesh Purohit**

Director, SGSITS

**Dr. Mukesh Kumar Mishra**

Director, DTSS, Bhopal

**Dr. Dilip Soni**

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**Dr. Vivek Katare**

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Vijnana Bharati

**Shri Saket Singh Kaurav**

Regional Science Centre, Bhopal

**Dr. Bhupesh Saxena**

MPCST, Bhopal

# EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

## Convener

**Dr. Vikas Shende**

MPCST, Bhopal

**Dr. K. Venkataraman**

Gujarati Science College, Indore

**Dr. Sunil Garg**

MPCST, Bhopal

# INVITED SPEAKERS



**Shri Suresh Soni**  
Vicharak, Margdarshak  
& Samajsevi



**Dr. V. K. Saraswat**  
Member, NITI Aayog,  
GOI



**Dr. Shekhar C. Mande**  
National President,  
Vijnana Bharati



**Dr. Ajay Sood**  
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**Dr. Shiv Kumar Sharma**  
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**Dr. Brian P. Schmidt**  
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National University,  
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**Dr. Saul Perlmutter**  
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**Dr. Pavan Goenka**  
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Chairman, Ananth  
Technologies

# JANTAR MANTAR

## INDIA'S LEGACY OF ASTRONOMICAL BRILLIANCE

### Samrat Yantra (Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh)



The Samrat Yantra is a massive sundial designed to measure local time with remarkable accuracy. Built using precise geometric calculations, it reflects the advanced understanding of astronomy and timekeeping in ancient India. The shadow of its central gnomon moves steadily to indicate time.

### Jai Prakash Yantra (New Delhi) – Mapping the Celestial Sky

The Jai Prakash Yantra consists of hemispherical structures used to observe the position of celestial bodies. Astronomers could step inside the instrument to track stars, planets and constellations, showcasing hands-on observational techniques from centuries ago.



### Ram Yantra (Jaipur, Rajasthan) – Measuring Altitude and Azimuth



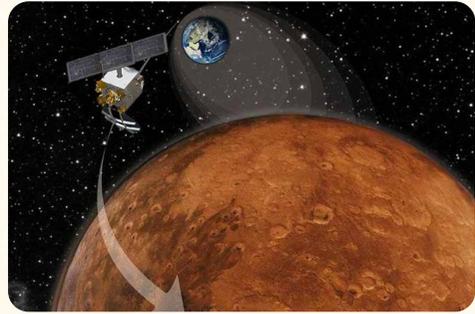
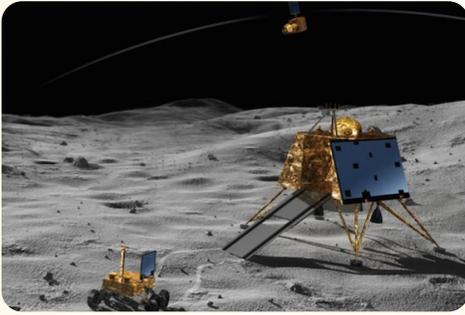
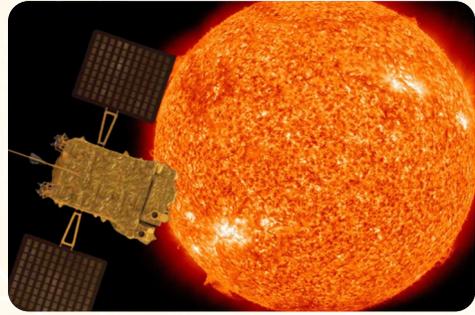
The Ram Yantra is an open cylindrical structure used to calculate the altitude and direction of celestial objects. Its symmetrical design allowed astronomers to achieve accurate measurements, highlighting India's sophisticated approach to observational astronomy.

### Jantar Mantar (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)

The Jantar Mantar at Varanasi, built under the patronage of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, reflects the city's long-standing tradition of astronomy and timekeeping. Situated near the banks of the River Ganga, this observatory was used to study celestial movements, calculate time and support calendar making practices.



# SPACE SCIENCE



## ABOUT ORGANISERS

The Madhya Pradesh Council of Science & Technology (MPCST) is an autonomous organization under the science & technology Department Government of Madhya Pradesh. Instituted in 1981, the council was established with a view to identify the areas where science and technology input may accelerate the development of the state in various sectors, contribution towards development and improvement of science and technology capabilities in the state, ensure better utilization of the resources of the state and to promote modernization of the state through science and technology interventions. The MPCST may also advise government on policies and measures necessary to promote utilization of science and technology for achieving the socio-economic objectives of the state. The paradigm of science and technology is handled by different centres and divisions in MPCST. The council has strong network of scientific organizations, universities, colleges, grassroot innovators and NGOs which facilitate in implementation and realization of objectives and scientific activities & programmes of the council.



The Indian Knowledge Systems Division (IKS Division) of the Ministry of Education (MoE) was established in October 2020, with a vision to promote interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research on all aspects of IKS, preserve and disseminate a deeper understanding and appreciation of IKS for further research, and societal applications. The main objective of the IKS Division is to go beyond merely acknowledging the existence of Indian Knowledge Systems and to rejuvenate and mainstream it by integrating it into the fabric of our education research ecosystem for the contemporary world. It further seeks to bridge the gap between Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems and contemporary knowledge systems. By doing so, the IKS Division aims at cultivating a living tradition that fosters the creation of new knowledge and inspires the development of future innovators and scholars based on Bharatiya paradigms of knowledge generation and transmission.



Vigyan Bharati (VIBHA) is a national movement and India's premier voluntary organization, launched in 1991, dedicated to the integrated development of Bharat through the intervention of Science, Engineering and Technology and public engagement in science. VIBHA bridges formal science institutions with grassroots initiatives, promoting innovation, knowledge sharing, and societal applications of science, while fostering national pride in India's scientific achievements and heritage. Eminent scientists, academicians, Policy Makers and Social Workers are the torch bearers of this movement. VIBHA takes the spirit of "Swadeshi" along with the ethos of our culture. It emphasizes that science and spirituality should go hand in hand. VIBHA works towards rural development technology transfer and social empowerment so as to bring the fruits of advancement of science and technology for the benefit of the society.





## CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT Conveners

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नित्याय त्रिगुणात्मने पुरजिते कात्यायनीश्रेयसे सत्यायादिकुटुम्बिने मुनिनन.प्रत्यक्षचिन्मूर्त्ये।  
मायासृष्टजगत्त्रयाय सकलान्नायान्तसंघारिणे  
सारंताण्डवसंभ्रमाय जटिले सेयं नतिः शोभते।।— शिवानन्दलहरी (56)

"O Omnipresent, the embodiment of all virtues, the creator of this cosmic universe,  
the King of dancers, who dances the Ananda Tandava in the twilight, I salute thee".

## ORGANISERS



## CO-ORGANISERS

