

International Conference on Mahakala: The Master of Time

“Timeless Traditions of Astronomy, Astrophysics and Cosmology”

Venue: Taramandal, Ujjain & Observatory Dongla (M.P.), India
वैशाख कृष्ण प्रथमा- तृतीया, विक्रम संवत् 2083, युगाब्द 5128- April 03-05, 2026

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Day 1- April 03, 2026 (Friday)

Venue: Taramandal, Ujjain (M.P.), India

Inauguration Programme

	Programme Detail
10:00 – 10:20 hrs	Inauguration of Ujjain Science Centre
10:20 – 10:30 hrs	Inauguration of Exhibitions on Mahakala: The Master of Time
10:30 – 13:00 hrs	Inaugural Ceremony of International Conference

LUNCH BREAK: 13:30 – 14:30 hrs

Session-I : What is Time? How was it measured? The Importance of Ujjain as the Meridian of the World.

14:30 – 16:00 hrs	Programme Detail	
	Speaker	Dr. Deepak Sharma Principal Scientist, CSIR-NPL, New Delhi
	Speaker	Dr. M.L. Raja S R Radhakrishnan Chair Rajya Sabha
	Speaker	Prof. Vinay Kumar Pandey Director, Vedic Vigyan Kendra, KHVV, Varanasi
	Speaker	Pandit Kailashpati Nayak Astronomer, Ashoknagar
	Moderator	Prof. Tadikonda Venkata Bharat Deptt. of Civil Engg, IIT, Guwahati
	Rapporteur	Dr. Narendranath Patra Assistant Professor, IIT, Indore

TEA BREAK: 16:00 – 16:30 hrs

Session-II : Kaala Chakra: Involution and Evolution of Civilization in Time and Space.

16:30 – 18:00 hrs	Programme Detail	
	Speaker	Prof. M.D. Srinivas Chairman, Centre for Policy Studies, Chennai
	Speaker	Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka Sanskrit University, Bengaluru
	Speaker	Prof. K. Ramasubramanian CTIKS, IIT, Bombay
	Speaker	Prof. Ram Narayan Dwivedi Mahamantri, Kashi Vidwat Parishad, Varanasi
	Moderator	Prof. Ganti S. Murthy National Coordinator, IKS, Ministry of Education, GOI
	Rapporteur	Dr. V. Ramanathan IIT, BHU

CULTURAL PROGRAMME: 18:30 – 20:00 hrs

DINNER: 19:30 – 21:30 hrs

Day 2- April 04, 2026 (Saturday)

Venue: Taramandal, Ujjain (M.P.), India

Session-III : Advances in Astronomy and Astrophysics

09:30 – 11:00 hrs	Programme Detail	
	Speaker	Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam Director, IIA, Bengaluru
	Speaker	Prof. Somak Raychaudhury Vice-Chancellor, Ashoka University, Sonipat
	Speaker	Prof. Yashwant Gupta Director, NCRA-TIFR, SPP Campus, Pune
	Speaker	Dr. Sendhil Raja Head-AEOS, RRCAT, Indore
	Moderator	Dr. Arvind Ranade Director, NIF, Gandhinagar
	Rapporteur	Dr. Suman Majumdar Associate Professor, IIT, Indore

TEA BREAK: 11:00 – 11:30 hrs

Keynote Address

Space Sector as ShaktiVel: Space Based Strategies for the Defence of Bharat	
11:30 – 12:15 hrs	Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Dr. Anil Kothari Director General, MPCST, Bhopal
	Keynote Address by Dr. V. K. Saraswat Member (Science), NITI Aayog, Govt. of India

Session-IV : 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.

12:15 – 13:30 hrs	Programme Detail	
	Speaker	Dr. Prakash Chauhan Director, NRSC-ISRO, Hyderabad
	Speaker	Dr. Abhiram J. Nair Founder CEO/Mission Director, ERETS, UK
	Speaker	Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri Chairman & MD, Ananth Technologies Ltd., Hyderabad
	Moderator	Dr. Nilesh M. Desai Director, SAC-ISRO, Ahmedabad
	Rapporteur	Dr. Sanat Kumar Biswas Associate Professor ECE Department, IIIT, Delhi

LUNCH BREAK: 13:30 – 14:30 hrs

**Visit to Varahmihir Astronomical Observatory, Dongla, Ujjain
14:30 hrs. onwards**

“Venue: Varahmihir Astronomical Observatory, Dongla, Ujjain”

Session-V : The Present and Future of Astronomy and Space Research in India

16:00 – 17:30 hrs	Programme Detail	
	Speaker	Prof. Dipankar Banerjee Vice-Chancellor, IIST, DOS, Valiamala, Kerala
	Speaker	Prof. Anil Bhardwaj Director, PRL, DOS, Ahmedabad
	Speaker	Dr. Tarun Kumar Pant Director, SPL, VSSC, ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram
	Speaker	Prof. Yasuhide Hobara Professor, UEC, Chofu, Tokyo
	Moderator	Prof. Dibyendu Nandi IISER, Kolkata
	Rapporteur	Dr. Sudita Sasmal Associate Professor & Co-Founder, Institute of Astronomy, Space and Earth Science, Kolkata

HIGH TEA: 17:30 – 18:00 hrs

**CULTURAL PROGRAMME
&
NIGHT SKY WATCH: 18:00 – 19:30 hrs**

DINNER: 19:00 – 20:30 hrs

Day 3- April 05, 2026 (Sunday)

Venue: Taramandal, Ujjain (M.P.), India

Session-VI : Panel Discussion on Way Forward

Programme Detail		
09:30 – 11:00 hrs	Panel Experts	1. Padmashri Dr. Bhagwati Lal Rajpurohit Indologist & Thinker, Ujjain 2. Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam Director, IIA, Bengaluru 3. Prof. Gobardhan Das Director, IISER, Bhopal 4. Prof. Yashwant Gupta Director, NCRA-TIFR, SPP Campus, Pune 5. Prof. Dipankar Banerjee Vice-Chancellor, IIST, DOS, Valiamala, Kerela 6. Prof. Anil Bhardwaj Director, PRL, DOS, Ahmedabad 7. Dr. Tarun Kumar Pant Director, SPL, VSSC, ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram 8. Dr. Ashish Mahabal (Online) Astronomer & Data Scientist Caltech, Pasadena, USA
	Moderator	Dr. Abhirup Datta Dean R&D & Professor, DAASE, IIT, Indore
	Rapporteur	Dr. Saurabh Das Associate Professor & HOD DAASE, IIT, Indore

HIGH TEA: 11:00 – 11:30 hrs

Session-VII : Valedictory Function (11:30 – 13:00 hrs)

LUNCH BREAK & DISPERSAL: 13:30 – 14:30 hrs

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Venue: Taramandal, Ujjain & Dongla (M.P.)

PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

Day 1- April 03, 2026 (Friday)

Venue : Taramandal, Ujjain (M.P.), India

Workshop : Workshop on Space Technology for College Students.

Time	Workshop Name	Target group
09:30 – 16.00 hrs	Workshop on “Satellite Making (1U Cube Weather Satellite)”	College students

Agenda: A hands-on CubeSat workshop where students learn, design, build, test, and simulate a satellite launch, integrating sensors, data, and real-world aerospace concepts.

Outreach : Safe Solar Observation with Telescopes.

Time	Workshop Name	Target group
10:00 – 11.00 & 14:30-15:30	Live Observation of Sun (Sunspots)	<u>Open to all</u>

Interactive Session : on Mega Science and Mega Mission Projects for Teachers and Students.

Time	Programme Detail	
16:30 – 18:00 hrs	Popular Talks	Popular Talk from SKA India Collaboration and LIGO India
	Activity 1	Outreach activity for SKA
	Activity 2	Outreach activity for LIGO
	Moderator	

Outreach : Night Sky Observation with Telescopes.

Time	Workshop Name	Target group
19:00 – 20.30 hrs	Night Sky Observation (Moon, Planets & Deep sky)	<u>Open to all</u>

Day 2- April 04, 2026 (Saturday)
Venue : Taramandal, Ujjain (M.P.), India

Workshop: Workshop on UAV/RC Plane for School Students.

Time	Workshop Name	Target group
09:30 – 01.30 hrs	Workshop on “RC Plane Building”	School Students

Agenda: A dedicated, experiential session where students construct working flight systems, translating chalkboard physics into tangible aerospace engineering.

14:30 Onwards

Venue : Varahmihir Astronomical Observatory, Dongla, Ujjain

Outreach: Outreach event on Sky Gazing with Telescopes.

Time	Session Name	Target group
19:00 – 20.30 hrs	Night Sky Observation (Planets & Deep Sky)	<u>Open to all</u>

Please Note: Sky observation is subjected to weather conditions.