

An online course on Historical Development of Astronomy in India

It is a pleasure to announce an online course on the historical development of astronomy in India. The course will start in April/May 2025 and will continue for about a year with 90-120 minute sessions once a week.

The course aims to introduce the historical development of astronomy in India from ancient times to the colonial era and early decades of Independent India. This historical context is crucial for understanding the foundations of modern astronomy. After briefly introducing key concepts in Indian astronomy, the course will cover seven thematic topics addressing historical inquiry, ranging from cross-cultural exchanges to computational methods and social history. We will focus on the distinct computational methods/models deployed in Siddhantic astronomy, the role of technological advances through observational tools, the interplay between ideas and models from across cultures, and the relationship between astronomy and society.

The faculty will include experts from

- Indian Institute for Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali
- Indian Institute for Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune
- Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP), Bengaluru
- Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru
- Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE-TIFR), Mumbai
- and other reputed scholars

The course will be anchored by Professor T V Venkateswaran at IISER Mohali. Sessions will be scheduled on Saturday evenings and each session will be for 90-120 minutes.

The course is open to any interested person who has the required technical background. We plan to limit the enrollment to a maximum of 200 participants on a first come, first served basis.

A certificate of completion will be issued to participants who complete the course with not less than 70 per cent online attendance, and completion of all assignments including hands on work.

A limited number of slots may be available for senior academics who are not interested in the certification but wish to attend the sessions regularly.

Interested persons are requested to register online using [this form](#). Please note that the last date for registrations is March 25, 2025.

For any queries, contact astro@iisermohali.ac.in