

Dear Sir/Madam

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announces the **15<sup>th</sup> National Space Science Symposium (NSSS – 2008)** to be held at **Radio Astronomy Centre (NCRA – TIFR), Udhagamandalam (Ooty)**, during **February 26 – 29, 2008**. The symposium sponsored by ISRO, in association with the Astronomical Society of India, is organised to provide a scientific forum for the presentation of new results and to discuss recent developments in space science, planetary exploration and space- and ground-based astronomy programmes/projects being pursued at various research institutions and universities in India. The symposium will cover the following broad areas:

- \* **Space- and ground-based astronomy and astrophysics, planetary science/exploration**
- \* **Solar radiation and its interaction with earth's near and distant environment**
- \* **Magnetosphere, ionosphere, thermosphere and middle atmosphere phenomena**
- \* **Space-based oceanography, meteorology, and tropospheric studies**
- \* **Climate changes and geosphere-biosphere interaction processes**

### Sessions of the Symposium

The symposium will include Special Plenary Sessions, Parallel Sessions, and Inter-disciplinary Lecture.

#### **1. Special Plenary Sessions (SPS)**

It is planned to organize three Special Plenary Sessions (SPS) with invited review talks. The chosen topics are: SPS-1: Space Astronomy, SPS-2: Microgravity: Technology Science and Application, and SPS-3: Space Meteorology and Geosphere-Biosphere Programme. The review talks will be organised by the session convenors.

#### **2. Parallel Sessions (PS)**

There will be three Parallel Sessions. Each Parallel session will include (i) poster presentation of all the contributory papers, (ii) invited review talks, and (iii) oral presentation of selected papers. Proposed Parallel Sessions are:

**PS-1:** *Space-based meteorology, oceanography, troposphere, geosphere-biosphere interaction, and climate changes*

**PS-2:** *Sun-Earth interactive phenomena, magnetosphere, ionosphere, thermosphere, and middle atmosphere*

**PS-3:** *Astronomy, astrophysics, and planetary science*

Invited talks will be of 20-min duration. Oral presentation of each selected poster paper will be given 10 min, including discussion. These sessions will be steered by identified coordinators.

### Symposium Venue

The venue of the symposium is the picturesque campus of the **Radio Astronomy Centre (RAC)**, at Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Tamilnadu. At this beautiful campus, two major research facilities of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are in operation: (1) the novel equatorially mounted Ooty Radio Telescope (ORT), which is used to make radio astronomical studies and (2) the Cosmic Ray Laboratory (CRL), which includes the GRAPES experiments.

Ooty, the capital of Nilgiri district, is popularly known as the 'Queen of hill stations'. It is situated at a distance of 85 km away from Coimbatore. The highest peak in the Nilgiri-Hill Range is the Doddabetta, which is at a height of 2623 meters. Ooty is well connected by frequent bus services from Coimbatore (3-hour journey time). Many buses run between Ooty and Bangalore. The Nilgiri's Hill Train is the special attraction to the tourists.

Temperature at Ooty during the end of February will be 25° to 10° C (maximum and minimum temperatures) and participants are advised to come prepared with warm clothes.

### Registration

All the participants should get pre-registered by sending duly filled in 'Response Form'. The Registration Fee will be around Rs. 1000/- per participant. Registration fee is waived for students and young scientists below 32 years of age.

The attached 'Response Form' may be duly filled in and sent to the Convenor, LOC, NSSS-2008 at the address given below on or before **November 10, 2007**, along with the application for travel support, if any. Please note that further

circulars, communications on registration fee payment details etc. will be sent only to the pre-registered participants.

### Call for Abstracts

Researchers are encouraged to submit abstracts of scientific papers, all of which will be presented in the form of posters in order to provide opportunity for effective scientific interaction. A limited number of papers will be selected for oral presentation. Abstracts must be presented in English with full names of all the contributing authors and their institutional affiliations. The postal address and e-mail ID of the corresponding author should be included. An abstract should not exceed 300 words and it should be prepared using 12-pt font (title with 12-pt bold) in the MS-Word document format only. Please do not include figures in the abstract. Please indicate the parallel session, in which the abstract could be considered.

Please send the abstract to the **Convenor, LOC, NSSS-2008** by e-mail to [nsss08@wm.ncra.tifr.res.in](mailto:nsss08@wm.ncra.tifr.res.in) and an additional copy by e-mail to [nsss08@isro.gov.in](mailto:nsss08@isro.gov.in).

The deadline for submission of abstract is **December 7, 2007**. The abstracts will be reviewed by the respective session coordinator and the decision on the acceptance of the paper will be communicated to the corresponding author by **December 31, 2007**.

### Presentation of Poster and Oral Papers

Each poster will be provided with a display space of size ~1m x 1m. Efforts will be made to display all the poster papers from the first day to the end of the symposium. Authors are requested to be present at the venue on **February 25, 2008**, to mount their posters. LCD and overhead projectors will be made available for oral presentations.

### Travel Support

Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for raising funds for travel and accommodation. Efforts are being made to subsidise the accommodation charges. ISRO will extend financial support to young scientists (below 32 years) and also to first authors of papers from universities as per the train fare eligibility on request. Formal request (on plain paper) for travel support should accompany the attached 'Response Form'. The decision on the travel support will be communicated by post/e-mail.



## Tentative Programme

### 25 February 2008 (Monday)

1600-2000: Registration and Fixing of posters  
(Transport will be provided from the respective hotel to the conference venue)

### 26 February 2008 (Tuesday)

0830-1000: Registration  
1000-1100: Inauguration  
1100-1130: High Tea  
1130-1300: Special Plenary Session – 1 (Space Astronomy)  
1300-1400: Lunch  
1400-1600: Parallel Sessions – 1, 2, and 3  
1600-1700: Special Interest Group Discussion / Tea  
1700-1800: Break  
1800-1930: Cultural Programme  
1930-2100: Hosted Dinner by Chairman, ISRO

### 27 February 2008 (Wednesday)

0900-1000: Prof. A.P. Mitra Memorial Session  
1000-1030: Tea  
1030-1200: Special Plenary Session – 2 (Microgravity)  
1200-1300: Poster Viewing  
1300-1400: Lunch  
1400-1600: Poster Viewing / Tea  
1600-1800: Parallel Sessions – 1, 2, and 3  
1800-1900: ASI General Body Meeting / Special Interest Group Discussion (in parallel)  
1930-2100: Hosted Dinner by Director NCRA

### 28 February 2008 (Thursday)

0900-1030: Special Plenary Session – 3 (Space Meteorology and Geosphere–Biosphere Programme, Part 1)  
1030-1100: Tea  
1100-1230: Special Plenary Session – 3 (Part 2)  
1230-1330: Poster Viewing  
1330-1430: Lunch  
1430-1600: Parallel Sessions – 1, 2, and 3  
1600-1615: Tea  
1615-1800: Parallel Sessions (contd.)

### 29 February 2008 (Friday)

0900-1000: Inter Disciplinary Lecture  
1000-1030: Tea  
1030-1130: Rapporteurs (20 min for each parallel session)  
1130-1230: Panel Discussion / Recommendation  
1230-1300: Prize Distribution  
1300-1330: Feedback from the participants  
1330-1400: Wrap up  
1400 : Lunch

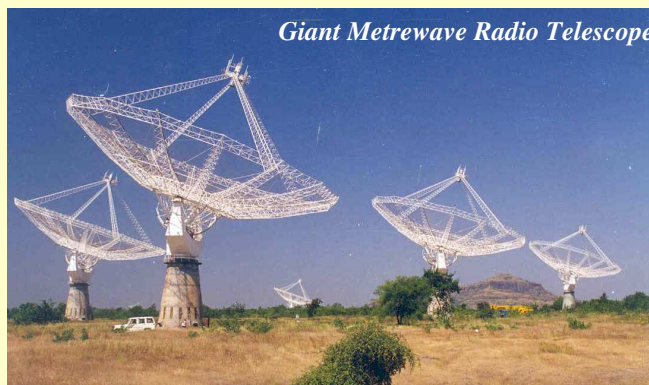
## Important Deadlines

Receipt of filled-in Response form: **November 10, 2007**

Abstract Submission Deadline : **December 7, 2007**

Decision on acceptance of papers & approval of travel support : **December 31, 2007**

Please bring this circular to the notice of all interested persons. More photo copies of the 'Response Form' can be made or downloaded from the NSSS-2008 web page (<http://rac.ncra.tifr.res.in>).



## For further information contact

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# **FIFTEENTH NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM (NSSS – 2008)**

**February 26 – 29, 2008**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS**

*Sponsored by*



**Indian Space Research Organisation  
Bangalore**

*Organised by*



**Radio Astronomy Centre  
National Centre for Radio Astrophysics  
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research  
Udhagamandalam (Ooty)**

