



F.No.- NESTS/H-2/19/Space Lab/2025-26/345

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CIRCULAR

Subject: Guidelines for Optimum Utilisation of Space Labs in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) – reg.

Space Labs have been established in EMRSs with the objective of promoting scientific temper, nurturing curiosity in space science and technology, and providing experiential learning opportunities to students. In order to ensure the effective and optimum utilisation of these Space Labs, the following guidelines are issued for implementation by all functional EMRSs having space labs:

1. Every EMRS shall constitute a Space Lab Committee comprising the Principal, Science and Mathematics teachers, the Space Lab Coordinator and student representatives to oversee the functioning and utilisation of the Space Lab. Further, a “Young Space Explorers Club” may be established in each school with participation of students from Classes VI to XII, with special encouragement to girl students.
2. Each EMRS shall organise a minimum of two structured Space Lab sessions per month for students of each class, incorporating hands-on activities and experiments. Further, all students shall be provided an opportunity to participate in Space Lab activities at least once every fortnight. The activities undertaken in the Space Lab should, to the extent possible, be integrated with the regular curriculum of Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Environmental Science and Computer Science, including themes such as satellite applications in agriculture, weather forecasting and planetary science.
3. Schools may organise the following space-related activities and competitions to promote interest in astronomy, satellite applications and space technology among students:
 - (i) Space Quiz Competitions on themes such as ISRO missions, astronomy, space technology and tribal contributions to science.
 - (ii) Poster-Making Competitions on themes such as Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, Space for Sustainable Development, and Tribal Knowledge and Space Technology.
 - (iii) Model-Making Competitions on themes such as rockets, satellites, space stations and lunar habitats.
 - (iv) Essay-Writing Competitions on topics such as India's Future in Space, "My Dream Space Mission" and the role of satellites in supporting tribal communities.
 - (v) Any other innovative activities related to space science and technology, as deemed appropriate by the school.
4. Students selected through school-level competitions may be encouraged to participate in Inter-EMRS competitions, as and when organised by NESTS in coordination with the respective State/UT EMRS Societies.
5. NESTS proposes to organise an annual EMRS Space Olympiad for students of EMRSs at the School, Regional, State and National levels with themes relating to astronomy, satellite applications, coding, robotics and other allied areas of space science and technology. Detailed guidelines regarding the modalities, eligibility criteria, syllabus and conduct of the EMRS Space Olympiad shall be issued separately by NESTS.

6. EMRS students may be encouraged to participate in various programmes and activities related to space science and technology, including educational visits to **ISRO Centres** and participation in the **YUva Vigyani KAryakram (YUVIKA)**, a flagship programme of ISRO aimed at imparting basic knowledge of space science, space technology and space applications and encouraging students to pursue higher studies and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). As the participants for YUVIKA are selected through an All-India level competition, schools shall encourage and facilitate the participation of eligible students. Further, students who excel at the Inter-EMRS and Zonal level competitions may be provided an opportunity to participate in the **Jayankar Programme**, a one-week residential programme envisaged on the lines of YUVIKA to provide advanced exposure to space science and technology. Participation in such programmes and activities shall be undertaken in accordance with the instructions issued by NESTS from time to time.
7. EMRSs may organise Space Awareness Programmes and outreach activities, including demonstration of Space Lab activities for parents, community members and students from neighbouring schools, with a view to promoting awareness and generating interest in space science and technology among the wider community.
8. Teachers may be encouraged to participate in capacity-building programmes relating to Space Lab operations, astronomy, satellite applications and project-based learning. They may also be encouraged to participate in the ISRO Space Education and Training Upgradation (SETU) Programme, a specialised online capacity-building initiative of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) and the Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), aimed at enhancing teachers' knowledge of space science, satellite technology and their practical applications. The teachers so trained may serve as resource persons and master trainers within their respective schools.

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(Bipin Chandra Raturi)

Joint Commissioner, NESTS

Copy to :

- i. All Nodal Officers, State/UT EMRS Societies – for information and necessary action.
- ii. All Principals, EMRSs (as per list) – for information and strict compliance in their respective schools.
- iii. IT Division, NESTS – to upload on NESTS Website.