

## Solar Eclipse Conference 2011

*SEC India*

*Chasing the Moon's shadow across the Earth!*

A Solar Eclipse is an experience, a thrill, a surprise, a shock, a beautiful sight, a feeling of vastness, of supernatural power, of mystical and mystery; but more than anything it is a lifetime of memory.

The Solar Eclipse Conference (SEC), celebrates the pursuit of humans to unravel the phenomenon of solar eclipses one at a time, to chase the umbral shadow across the surface of the Earth and to bring together on a single platform the excitement of travel, the joy of photography, the value of scientific research and recordings, of history and cultural implications, of demystifying this celestial event for public and to celebrate this event for fun and enjoyment.

The SEC celebrates the character/ the personality/ the hero called an 'Eclipse Chaser'. Who transcends boundaries and chases an eclipse from land, water or air! This character of an Eclipse Chaser is like that of a Phantom – living and thriving across generations, across regions, across cultures, adapting itself to times and technology – all the time pursuing the Moon's shadow falling across the surface of the Earth.

It celebrates this community of eclipse chasers, who share, network and prosper through mutual cooperation, support and help. They have found a way to meet and share their memories and experiences, beyond the digital world, through this conference.

**SPACE is proud to present the Solar Eclipse Conference 2011 (*SEC India*), first time in the Asia Pacific region, to be organised from *December 15-17, 2011* at New Delhi, India.**

It follows SPACE's remarkable journey over the years in the arena of Eclipse Chasing and Public Outreach. From 1996 till date it has popularized various eclipses and other celestial phenomenon and de-mystified them for the public. It has significantly contributed to myth breaking and development of Scientific Temper among masses. It is only organisation in India, which has done Eclipse chasing across Land, Water and Air! It has successfully organised Eclipse watches and travel to Turkey (TSE 06), Russia (TSE 08), Indonesia (ASE 09), China

(TSE 09), Patna (TSE 09), Maldives (ASE 10) and the upcoming Australia (TSE 12). It has also organised India's first commercial Eclipse Flight (TSE 09) and India's first Eclipse Cruise (ASE 10). It has also organised, three (3) editions of the very popular student competition "Heliodysey" that gives a chance for student community to compete for a sponsored trip to the site of a total solar eclipse.

*SEC India* aims to set a new benchmark in the eclipse chasing world, for its features, agenda, and organisation and for bringing the eclipse community closer to masses

Being organised for the first time in the Asia Pacific region, it opens up this community to a large enthusiast community in India, China and the whole AP region. These enthusiasts and chasers for the first time, have an opportunity to come forward and share their experiences and learn from the celebrities of the eclipse chasing world.

This edition of the conference also tries to bring the professional and the amateur community together and strives to bring the Youth/ the Young minds closer to this community for long term learning and sharing.

It links together various individuals, eclipse chasers, students, amateur astronomers, groups, companies, scientific institutions, government agencies, organisations through the common link of a Solar Eclipse.

**The agenda of the conference is spread over three intensive days that will cover Travel, Education, Research, Science, Culture, Mythologies, Public Outreach, Pro-Am linking and Student learning possibilities.**

The conference will also focus on "An Eclipse Plan" for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse 2012, focusing on Australia as the destination. Whether you want to observe the eclipse, photograph it, or show the eclipse to a large audience, all related aspects will be discussed to help you make definite plan.

*SEC India* is being organised in the backdrop of a Total Lunar Eclipse occurring on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 2011. Visible from India (check: [www.eclipsechasers.in/tle11](http://www.eclipsechasers.in/tle11)); it provides another opportunity for Eclipse Chasers to travel and experience the beauty, culture and vibe of India, while they see and photograph a beautiful lunar eclipse.

The conference will also focus on the rare spectacle of **Venus Transit (VT) 2012**.

## **About the Solar Eclipse Conference(s)**

Usually in a particular year when there is no total solar eclipse on the calendar, the eclipse specialists meet each other.

It is a platform where all the professionals, amateur astronomers, eclipse chasers & individuals from different parts of the world with diverse interest in solar eclipse (scientific, aesthetic, historical, imaging technologies, expedition planning, etc.) meet and discuss on the various aspects of solar eclipse. The professionals share their experience with amateur. The eclipse chasers discuss and experiment with their individual ideas. The experts give their views and share their past experiences. The individuals get a fair chance to showcase their work and achievements.

As there is no total solar eclipse in 2011, the solar eclipse experts and enthusiasts have a perfect time to mark their presence in the upcoming Solar Eclipse Conference which is scheduled for December 2011 in New Delhi, India.

Till date there have been three Solar Eclipse Conferences:

**SEC 2007 - Los Angeles, United States Of America**

**SEC 2004- At Open University of Milton Keynes, England**

**SEC 2000 – Antwerp, Belgium**

It is for the first time that Solar Eclipse Conference is organized in Asia Pacific & India.

## About SPACE

SPACE is a group that is popularizing Science, Astronomy and Space Sciences to the public, for more than a decade. It has changed the way, the concept and its business and philanthropic connotations are perceived. It is a Social Business that strives to make astronomy a commercially viable business while all the time contributing to the society.

SPACE is credited with bringing the concepts of Astronomy and Space into the mainstream in India.

It is the first and till date the only organisation, to pursue and successfully integrate Astronomy education in the School Education system. It has over the years, educated more than 25000 students in astronomy and star gazing. Conducted more than 3000 star parties and run many student projects for the first time in India. It has partnered with Science and Technology dept of GOI (states) to train teachers and students alike in effective science learning. Its program “Universe in the School” and its model “Centre for Student Excellence in Astronomy and Space Sciences”, are revolutionizing the way Indian students learn and prepare themselves for the future Space Age.

It has also brought the concept of ‘Astro-Tourism’ on the tourism map and got the mass, esp. in India, interested in travelling for the same. It has partnered with leading Travel and Tourism companies, from time to time, to promote all forms of Tourism be it Inbound, Outbound or Domestic. It has also worked with State Tourism Boards (HPTDC, DTTDC) to bring Astronomy, Space and Star gazing to travels and to promote tourism.

SPACE has a special interest community by the name of “Eclipse Chasers Athenæum” (ECA) that specializes in Eclipse chasing and sharing. It also acts as an online platform for chasers in India, to share and exchange ideas and work for research and study of eclipses.

SPACE has also, started for the first time, modern retail for products of astronomy, space sciences and sky watching and photography; by opening special outlets in malls and science centers called ‘Space Arcades’ and a special website to sell online.

It has also ventured into Digital Portable Planetarium technology and sells DigiSky, India’s first fully portable digital mobile planetarium. It also develops in-house, special learning shows on various aspects of space and astronomy, these shows are developed with Indian context and suitability in mind and feature animated characters for enjoyable learning for kids.

SPACE also has in its fold a thriving amateur community called ‘Astronomica’ that shares and together explores the concept.

## *SEC India*

Is a three (3) day extensive conference, to be held in New Delhi, India from December 15-17 2011.

The conference will bring the Stars of the Eclipse Chasing world to India and would give a perfect opportunity to Indian and Asia-Pacific eclipse chasers, science enthusiasts, scientists, solar researchers, photographers, students, teachers, government representatives and the media; to hobnob with the International Community and learn from their experiences.

The agenda of the conference is spread over three intensive days that will cover Travel, Education, Research, Science, Culture, Mythologies, Public Outreach, Pro-Am linking and Student learning possibilities.

The conference will also focus on “An Eclipse Plan” for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse 2012, focusing on Australia as the destination. Whether you want to observe the eclipse, photograph it, or show the eclipse to a large audience, all related aspects will be discussed to help you make definite plan.

As the conference is happening in the back drop of the Lunar Eclipse, special packages will also be made available for conference attendees to view and photograph the eclipse from the scenic locations in India.

### **Agenda for participants**

*SEC India* will witness people of all age group and background collected under one roof for the common cause. Showcasing and learning about their passion which is chasing Solar Eclipse and appreciating one of the most beautiful celestial showcases in the Universe. Every participant will have the agenda behind attending this conference and they have been classified under the following headings:

**Education:** A large part of the participant or attendees (from India) will be students of school, colleges, Institutes, departments and Science centres, where they can find information about facts and science behind the eclipses. They can meet the eclipse chasers from all over the world, and learn about their experiences which may fascinate them towards solar eclipses and eclipse observation. They can also learn about eclipse photography.

**Tourism:** All the eclipse chasers travel to the lengths and breadths of the Earth while chasing the eclipses. Sometimes they are at the right place at the right time to witness the celestial show whereas other times they are just at the wrong place or at the wrong time. In this conference, they

can learn about planning an eclipse trip, dos and don'ts and travel advice. Also they will be learning about "India as an interesting place for Astro-Tourism". This will be important for all the chasers as they will be travelling to different parts of the world including India for some of the key events happening in 2012.

**Eclipse Chasers:** As an eclipse chaser, you will be discussing about eclipse circumstances which will be shared by the experts in the field. You will understand the technical side of eclipse planning. And also learn about the logistics side of eclipse chasing. You will also be learning about the planning and circumstances of eclipses and also analysing the information for your best usage. You will be learning about photographing the sun with more complex equipments and styles and we encourage you to also deliver the talks.

**Pro-Am:** Pro-Am is the collaboration of Professional Astronomers and Amateur Astronomers and it will provide a gateway for both the groups to interact and look into others domain. Professionals will look forward to have a nice and constructive association and amateur will like to explore the options where they can work with professionals and contribute towards Astronomy. Professionals will showcase their work and experiences of the past, while amateurs will give presentations about their interests in astronomy and passion for night sky.

## Call for Participation

**If you are an Eclipse Chaser or a Solar Scientist or a Researcher in eclipses or a Public Science Communicator; we call upon you to come forward and share your experiences. You can present a Talk; give a Presentation; show a Demonstration; present a Lecture; participate in Group Discussions and Chats; offer your work (books, papers, pictures, videos) for showcasing during the conference and any way else that you feel you can. Just reach out to us at: [sec11.space@gmail.com](mailto:sec11.space@gmail.com)**

*NEXT:*

- a) *We will be out with the Registration procedures and participation formalities*
- b) *Announce the venue and suggested accommodation options*
- c) *Announce the TLE and Conference package and options*
- d) *Take it on from there....*