

Voyage through the Cosmos

*Exploring the History, Models, Theories, Latest Images &
Foundational Issues in Understanding the Universe*

March 16-22, 2026 • Online Mode

Program Schedule (Tentative)

Date/Day	Time (IST)	Topic and Speaker
Day 1: March 16, 2026, Monday	5pm-6pm	Inauguration and Guests Talks Guest of Honor: Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, <i>Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram</i> Guest of Honor: Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam, <i>Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru</i> Chief Guest: Dr. A. K. Anil Kumar, <i>Director, ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), India</i>
	6pm-7pm	Topic: Is There Something Missing From Our Current Understanding of the Cosmos? Wendy Freedman, <i>Dept. of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Univ. of Chicago, IL, USA</i> (Speaker Local Time: 6.30am)
	7pm-8pm	Topic: Searching for Extraterrestrial Technological Artifacts Near Earth Avi Loeb, <i>Director, Institute for Theory & Computation, Harvard University, USA</i> (Speaker Local Time: 9.30am)
Day 2: March 17, 2026, Tuesday	5pm-6pm	Topic: Time to take the Big Bang out of the Big Bang Theory Paul J. Steinhardt, <i>Dept of Physics, Princeton University, USA</i> (Speaker Local Time: 7.30am)
	6pm-7pm	Topic: The Story of Black Hole: Life and Death of Massive Stars in the Universe Pankaj S. Joshi, <i>International Center for Space & Cosmology, Ahmedabad University, India (Former Senior Professor, TIFR, Mumbai)</i>
	7pm-8pm	Topic: Universe or Multiverse? Andrei Linde, <i>Stanford University, USA</i> (Speaker Local Time: 6:30am)
Day 3: March 18, 2026, Wednesday	5pm-6pm	Topic: Is Dark Energy evolving with cosmic time? Ofer Lahav, <i>Department of Physics & Astronomy, University College London (UCL), UK</i> (Speaker Local Time: 11:30am)
	6pm-7pm	Topic: Plasma Cosmology Tim Eastman, <i>(formerly) University of Alaska, USA</i> (Speaker Local Time: 8.30am)
	7pm-8pm	Topic: The nature of the Universe: The Big Picture George Ellis, <i>Mathematics Department, University of Cape Town</i> (Speaker Local Time: 3.30pm)

Day 4: March 19, 2026, Thursday	5pm-6pm	Topic: An Optical Illusion at the Crossroads of Cosmological Models Louis Marmet, <i>York University, Toronto, Canada</i> (<i>Speaker Local Time: 7.30am</i>)
	6pm-7pm	Topic: Is Earth Exceptional? Mario Livio, (<i>Formerly</i>) <i>Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, Maryland, USA</i> (<i>Speaker Local Time: 8.30am</i>)
	7pm-8pm	Topic: Quantum Theory, Gravity, and the Cosmos Tejinder Singh, <i>Ex-Professor, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai & Visiting Professor, IUCAA</i>
Day 5: March 20, 2026, Friday	5pm-6pm	Topic: A Fortunate Universe - Life in a Finely Tuned Cosmos Luke Barnes, <i>Western Sydney University, NSW, Australia</i> (<i>Speaker Local Time: 10.30pm</i>)
	6pm-7pm	Topic: Does Universe have a Purpose? Vasudeva Rao, <i>President, Bhaktivedanta Institute (Alumnus, IIT Kanpur)</i>
	7pm-8pm	Topic: The Universe: Its Beginning, Its End, and The Role of Humanity in Universal History Frank J. Tipler, <i>Professor of Mathematics, Tulane University</i> (<i>Speaker Local Time: 8.30am</i>)
Day 6: March 21, 2026, Saturday	10am-11am	Topic: String theory in the 20th Century: A Personal Perspective John Schwarz, <i>California Institute of Technology (Caltech), USA</i> (<i>Speaker Local Time: 9.30pm – Friday night for him</i>)
	11am-12:00	Topic: Bubbles and Voids versus Fancies - Oh My ! -- David Dilworth, USA (<i>Speaker Local Time: 10:30pm – Friday night for him</i>)
	12:00-13:00	Topic: Cosmology and Consciousness: <i>Search for a Complete Story of our Universe</i> Varun Agarwal, <i>Director, Bhaktivedanta Institute (Alumnus, IIT Kanpur)</i>
Day 7: March 22, 2026, Sunday	10am-11am	Topic: Cosmology in Vedic Tradition Manoranjan Sinha, <i>Dept. of Aerospace Engg. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, India</i>
	11am-12:00	Topic: Concept of Physical Time in the Vedas R. N. Iyengar, <i>Centre for Ancient History & Culture, Jain University, Bangalore (Former Chair Professor, IISc Bangalore & Raja Ramanna Fellow, DAE)</i>
	12:00-13:00	Topic: Essential Features of Indian Astronomy M S Sriram, <i>President, Prof. K.V. Sarma Research Foundation, Chennai (Former Professor, Department of Theoretical Physics, University of Madras)</i>
	13:00-13:35	Topic: A Voyage Through Our Heliosphere to study our nearest Star, the Sun Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, <i>Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram</i>