

Indian School Trips To NASA, Why Not ISRO?

Anu Bansal

PGT Maths
Mastermind Classes

With Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander touching the surface of the Moon in August last year, India became the 4th country in the world to land on the lunar surface. This mission was not only indigenous but also a very cost-effective mission. ISRO also launched its first dedicated Sun-observing spacecraft, Aditya L1. These ground breaking feats further solidified India's position as the 5th country with complete space research and development capabilities. Indian schools often organize trip to NASA which costs minimum 5 Lakhs per student. If they are willing to take students to such educational tours but unaddressed question remains – Why don't they take ISRO into consideration. India's space agency is easier to visit, cost effective and it will make students of Indian schools know about India's great achievements in this field. This will also encourage them to pursue options here in future rather than utilize their talent for the development of other countries.

Why parents willing to pay this big an amount to send their children? Is it worth it?

Most of the parents who are willing to pay for this kind of trips just want to brag about their kid's NASA trips as if their love will be measured by their paying capacity. Most of them don't consider the fact their kids get to learn something useful and helpful in building their careers. And those who can't pay feel terrible about their limited income. Teachers are also made to force children to go on such trips by the higher authorities of school which is an entirely an added pressure on teachers also considering that their primary responsibility is to educate children the best without giving any financial strain to their parents especially to those who belong to Economically Weaker Section. Although 10% reservation in private schools has made them share classroom with children from well to do families, yet they have been deprived of these kind of experiences.

What is the solution for this?

Schools can organize virtual tours for children at auditoriums and make them learn about the same cost effectively. They can also organize trips to India's own space agency ISRO which will also let the children grab same knowledge, if not more. Who knows in future ISRO may surpass NASA and other equivalent agencies and the reason for that will be our own children if only we make them connect our own institutions which will also prevent draining of our talent outside.